

VERDICT

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they found Smith already occupying the dwelling and, after some time, an altercation occurred and the two hunters were both shot. Smith then stole the victims' inflatable boat and hunting equipment, and began floating downriver.

Troopers responded at daylight and transported both victims, who were suffering from gunshot wounds, to Kiana where a waiting medevac flight took them to Kotzebue and Anchorage.

Backup, including more troopers and members of the Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team, were flown to Kiana where they used planes and boats to stage a blockade for Smith who eventually surrendered without incident.

When Smith took the stand to testify last week, Earthman said he gave an explanation for how he got into the situation.

"His story was basically that he was ... being influenced by forces beyond his control," Earthman said. "He discussed voices and different things that he saw in his travels out there. He didn't assert that he was rational, but he did provide an explanation."

During the preparation in the two years between the incident and the trial, a motion was raised by the defense questioning

Smith's competency, but it was determined that he was fit enough to stand trial.

"We would have liked to have gotten to it sooner, but there was a lot at stake and reality, there still is," Earthman said of the delay. "The Buckels certainly had to be patient and I certainly told them that I appreciated that they were. It is a long term process."

The Buckel brothers also took the stand and explained that they showed up at the cabin and Smith offered help at first and invited them in.

"At some point, they needed to make a phone call and they had a (satellite) phone for that purpose (but) it was gone," Earthman said.

When one of the brothers went up into a loft to look for the phone, the other had his back turned to Smith.

"That's when, according to them, Smith produced a revolver and started yelling at them," Earthman said.

Shots followed the altercation and resulted in Charles getting shot in the chest and Paul in the shoulder, according to court documents.

While both men have mostly physically recovered from their injuries, there are still obviously lingering effects.

"But in the scheme of things (they were) lucky to survive this; that's probably the overwhelming result of this whole thing," Earthman said. "This easily could have been a double murder case."

MAGNET

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ment in Alaska. Less than seven percent of hospitals in the country are Magnet recognized and it is considered the highest honor in nursing for quality of care, according to a release.

"What Magnet does for an organization is it recognizes the organization for quality, for bringing that bedside wisdom of the staff to the forefront of decision making at the leadership level," said Richard Hall, ANMC Chief Nurse Executive, last week. "It strengthens a culture for the organization... a culture of process improvement and a culture of excellence in patient care."

What a hospital does with those guidelines makes all the difference when it comes to patient care, he added. And the whole process is joint effort between nurses, who make recommendations based on needs they see every day, and the administration, which facilitates and funds continuing education and innovations.

"It fosters communication and ensures that the folks that deliver care are part of the decisions that are made about the healthcare system that we develop," Hall said.

Andrea Akerelrea has worked as a registered nurse at ANMC for six years and said that the work environment at the center fosters top-notch patient care through positive reinforcement and valued input.

"There's an environment where we can find areas of need to improve and work on those areas," she said last week. "Some hospitals that aren't Magnet designated, when

nurses see areas that (need) improvement, they don't really get the opportunity to work on it."

Akerelrea specializes in pediatric intensive care, and said one of the most enjoyable facets of her job is working with a varied population, which includes Anchorage and patients from Rural Alaska. If patients need more care than is available at a village clinic or hub hospital, they are flown to ANMC for treatment, Akerelrea said.

"The structure of the hospital is incredibly unique," she said.

Nurses have the freedom to work on areas of improvement and work collaboratively with all levels of hospital staff, she added. And it's a place where nurses from all over the country apply to work, with surveys showing that ANMC is well-above national benchmarks for nursing satisfaction.

"You walk in the front door and everyone really wants to be here," she said. "The Magnet designation for ANMC is not something that everyone gets."

The process of Magnet designation is a lengthy one. The board looks at everything from patient outcomes to nurse compensation and satisfaction. There are 14 different areas that they examine in depth, via submitted documents and a site visit, to see if an agency is worthy of the honor.

"Our Magnet-recognized nurses strengthen both the care provided at the ANMC hospital and throughout the Alaska Tribal Health System," said Andy Teuber, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium chairman and president in a release. "Our talented nurses are helping ANTHC work toward our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world."

STORE

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town, good workers, are leaving because of the cost of living. It's not that they don't like the environment here, and they're getting paid well, but they're not able to save any money because the cost of living is so much."

By offering lower prices on staples that families buy every week — milk, cheese, bread — the other two grocery stores in town will follow suit, Piper said.

"There's no need to charge what they're charging right now," he said. "I understand we're all trying to make money, but if we don't have good clientele that frequently shop in town, then we're not going to make any money and it will be hard for the other businesses in town to keep employees here. Shipping costs are high, yes, but they're not so high that items need to be marked up that much."

The goal is lower monthly expenses for residents in Kotzebue, and for those in the surrounding villages as well, he added.

"People can't afford to be spending \$30 a week in milk if they're getting three gallons for their large family," Piper said. "We're trying to make it affordable so that people can get what they want and what they need for their families to be healthy. Right now, it's just too much."

Many in Kotzebue choose to shop online for food and household items at websites like Amazon.com, which usually offers free shipping on bigger orders. Shopping online might be more economical, but it doesn't put money back into the community.

"We want to try and keep that money in town so that it gets spent in town."

As of last week, the prices for staple items at the North Star Market hadn't been set officially, but Piper said North Star Market will offer more bulk items as well as individual items and are working closely with Alaska vendors to get the best price they can.

"I expect our gallon of milk will be around \$7 or \$8 per gallon," he said.

North Star Market will use Costco, Sam's Club, and Alaska-based J.B. Gottstein, which distributes to Safeway and Carrs.

The 3,250-square foot building will primarily house a variety of groceries, cleaning products and other supplies, but will also sell various household items, like furniture, on a rotational basis. The business also has storage containers across the street for a bigger supply of non-perishable items.

Last week, Piper said they were still seeking out the most cost-effective products. One example he used was bleach tablets, which are less bulky, safer and cheaper to ship than gallon jugs of bleach.

"They're charging an arm and a leg for bleach here, but we've researched it and found different products that are drastically cheaper."

The market was trying to open for Thanksgiving, but had to push back the opening to this week. Employees have mostly been hired, but Piper said they're still looking for a few more local workers to fill out the schedule.


"What I've heard from people in town when I ask them about this is that they're all for it," Piper said.

The AC (Alaska Commercial) Value Center and Rotman Stores have been the two main grocery stores for years in Kotzebue and the Northwest Arctic. Rotmans is a smaller establishment with a long history in the North and provides additional items like sewing materials and some clothing. The AC Value Center is the largest retailer in rural Alaska with 33 stores spread across the regions, and has been in business for more than a century.

At the AC in Kotzebue, store manager Rob Boudreau said he doesn't know much about the new market and it's too early to say how it will impact his business, if at all.

"I can't honestly tell you whether it will affect us or not," he said. "But competition is good for everybody."

Editor's note: Jason Evans, who owns Alaska Media, is an investor in the North Star Market.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES NORTHERN REGION

Point Hope Runway Realignment Project
(DOT&PF Project # 63842)

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is proposing to realign the existing runway and construct other improvements at the Point Hope Airport in Point Hope, Alaska. The improvements are necessary to reestablish standard Runway Safety Area (RSA) dimensions and maintain the existing level of service for the community. As existing runway pavement has exceeded its design life and will require rehabilitation independent of runway realignment, the proposed action will also reestablish safe and efficient surfacing for aviation operations. The overall need for the proposed action is to maintain the existing level of safe, reliable year round air access to the community of Point Hope.

DOT&PF is conducting formal scoping to support the FAA with preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To assist this effort, DOT&PF is requesting assistance identifying environmental, cultural, historic, subsistence and other resources that may be impacted by the proposed action, as well as any other information valuable to the environmental documentation process.

DOT&PF will hold a Public Scoping Meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Qalgi Building, 530 Qalgi Ave, Point Hope, AK 99766. The proposed action will be presented, and public comment and other information sought to develop a final project design that avoids or minimizes environmental impacts.

This project is being developed in accordance with the following special purpose regulations including Sections 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act; 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management); 1990 (Wetlands Protection); 12898 (Environmental Justice); 11593 (Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment); and 13112 (Invasive Species).

Details of the proposed project, preliminary research on environmental impacts, figures of the project area and comment forms can be viewed at the DOT&PF website at: http://dot.alaska.gov/nre/p_hoairport/. If you desire to provide comments you may submit them by U.S. Mail or via email to the Project Manager Albert Beck, P.E. at the address below by December 19, 2014.

Albert Beck, P.E., Design Group Chief
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Persons with a hearing impairment can contact the Department at our Telephone Device for the Deaf; number (907) 451-2363. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The North Slope Borough (NSB) Department of Administration and Finance (A&F) is seeking construction bids for construction services for the SA-10 Oxbow Landfill expansion project in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The project consists of construction of an expansion of the Oxbow Landfill that includes construction of a new landfill cell, perimeter roads, and associated upgrades as defined in the construction documents.

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the NSB A&F, Attn: Chris Smith, Program Manager, 1265 Agvik Street, Barrow, AK 99723. The Request for Bids package may be obtained from (1) NSB website <http://www.north-slope-procurement.com>; (2) in Barrow at the NSB A&F Office, 1265 Agvik Street, Barrow, AK 99723, 907-852-0253, or (3) UMIAC office, 6700 Arctic Spur, Anchorage, AK 99518, 907-273-1807. Questions should be directed to the Project Administrator, Laura Strand, P.E., laura.strand@north-slope.org, in Anchorage at 907-273-1807.

Bids will be received until **1:30 pm**, local time on **December 17, 2014**, for the **Service Area 10 Landfill Expansion, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, Project No. 9031**, as described more completely in the Contract Documents entitled **Service Area 10 Landfill Expansion, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, Project No. 9031**. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at **2:00 pm**, local time at the A&F conference room at 1265 Agvik Street, Barrow, AK. Mailed bids addressed to the Program Manager, A&F Department, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, Alaska 99723 shall be considered received when date and time stamped by Program Manager or designee. Proposals received after the time announced for the bid closing will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Service Area 10 Landfill, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska at **2:00 pm**, local time on **December 4, 2014**. All potential bidders are required to attend this meeting in person. All attendees must register with UMIAC by **2 pm**, **December 2, 2014** with Names and Driver's License numbers for clearance through BP Alaska Security, and for transportation to site. Bidders must register as a plan holder on the Borough procurement website to receive electronic notifications and updates for this project. All questions are to be submitted in writing and turned in by **5:00 pm** local time, day of pre-bid meeting. Questions should be addressed to the UMIAC Engineer Travis Holmes and faxed to (907) 273-1831 or e-mailed to travis.holmes@umiacurrag.gov.