

**MOUNTAIN VILLAGE**

**Fire officials blame faulty furnace for blaze that destroyed store**

State fire officials said a faulty furnace caused Monday's fire that destroyed the Mountain Village store.

No one was injured in the fire, which caused damage estimated at more than \$450,000.

The 7,500-square-foot building was located in the center of the village. It was about 100 feet from several fuel storage tanks. Firefighters were able to keep the flames away from the fuel tanks.

The store was one of two that served more than 900 residents of the Yukon River community. It underwent extensive remodeling last year and reopened in December. The building was owned by the Azachorok Corp.

— The Associated Press

**EGEGIK**

**Underground pipe breaks, spills 400 gallons of gas at cannery**

Crews were working to clean up a spill of gasoline at a cannery in the Alaska Peninsula village of Egegik.

Officials with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said Wednesday that 400 gallons of unleaded gasoline spilled when an underground pipe broke at the Woodbine Cannery.

The spill occurred late Monday night and early Tuesday. As of Tuesday night, about 240 gallons had been recovered, DEC officials said.

Most of the fuel pooled in the soil, but officials also said an oil sheen 20-feet long was spotted on the Egegik River. The sheen disappeared when the tide went out and no additional sheen has been reported.

DEC officials said the site had been previously contaminated from a diesel fuel spill. Cannery officials were planning to resume cleanup of that spill early next month.

— The Associated Press

**JUNEAU**

**Police identify the woman who drowned in Gastineau Channel**

A woman found dead Sunday morning in Gastineau Channel has been identified by her fingerprints.

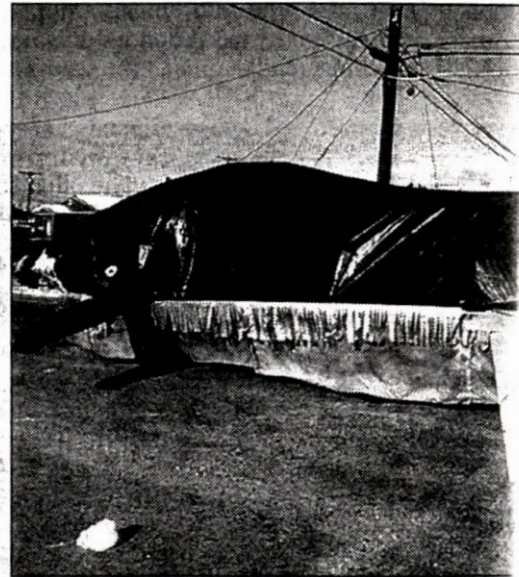
Juneau police said the woman found floating in the channel near a downtown park is Kimberly Potopinski, 35, of Juneau. She had been a resident for about one year.

An autopsy performed by the state medical examiner determined that Potopinski drowned.

Police said there was no evidence of foul play and they believe the death was accidental. Police said results of toxicology tests will not be known for several weeks.

# Alaska Digest

**CELEBRATING**



Above, Fred Kaleak gestures with a harpoon from an umiak motoring alongside a steam-squirting whale in the parade for Piuraagiaqta 2001, Barrow's spring festival. The vehicles, really four-wheelers in disguise, were sponsored by Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. and won best float in Friday's parade. At right, Kaleak carves an igloo that took second place in Sunday's igloo building contest. He had to build it twice; when the first one was almost done, kids ran over it with snowmachines.

Photos by LUCIANA WHITAKER AIKINS / Special to the Daily News

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