



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Former Nanook Dean Fedorchuk returns to UAF for first time since 1994. » B1

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly sunny with highs in the 20s and winds up to 20 mph with blowing snow.
High today22
Low tonight0

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be active. Weather permitting, active auroral displays will be visible overhead.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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YOUNG MUSHERS

Two Interior teens take top-10 spots in Junior Iditarod

KRIS CAPPS
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SPOTLIGHT

City girl Yana Crusberg adjusting to Fairbanks after moving from Ukraine.

INTERIOR
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EMOJI LUNCHES

Program gauges student satisfaction with emoticons.

HEALTH
Page B4

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Crossin' my fingers this year I guess right."



Hunts go first fax, first served

Underutilized moose hunting applications accepted starting Wednesday

By Sam Friedman
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Ladies and gentlemen, start your fax machines. Starting at 8 a.m. Wednesday morning, a series of remote Interior moose hunt opportunities will be offered on a first-fax-first-served basis.

Among the dozens of moose hunt opportunities that go up each year to randomized drawings, a handful each year don't get as many applicants as there were

spots. These hunt opportunities will be available to the first hunters who fax in applicants Wednesday morning.

This year there are 128 available hunt permits across seven Interior locations. That's a similar number as last year, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Jackie Kephart.

Hunters should be aware that these hunting opportunities didn't get much attention in the draw permit lottery for a reason,

they're in remote places that can be expensive to travel to.

The available permits include 45 bull moose hunts to the east of the Nowitna River corridor in Game Management Unit 21B and 33 bull moose hunts to the west of the river in the same area. There are also 15 permits in the Papa Willie Creek area in 21D and 11 in Unit 21C in the Dulbi River area.

To apply, hunters should fill out an application and fax it to the Fairbanks Fish and Game Office

after 8 a.m. Wednesday. Faxes sent before 8 a.m. will not be considered. Applications will be received until 5 p.m. March 23

For more information, contact Jackie Kephart at 459-7278. The Fairbanks Fish and Game fax machine number is 459-7332.

The application and a complete list of available hunts can be found online at 1.usa.gov/1CCK1mn.

Contact outdoors editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

Tripod raising



People gather to help raise the tripod on the Tanana River for the 100th anniversary of the Nenana Ice Classic on the Tanana River by Nenana on Sunday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Clock ticking on 100th Nenana Ice Classic

By Robin Wood
RWOOD@NEWSMINER.COM

Sunday marked the 100th time a tripod was erected on the Tanana River in the town of Nenana, with the express purpose of signaling when the ice breaks up and the start of summer nears.

A full weekend of Tripod Days events kicked off the Nenana Ice Classic, Alaska's most popular guessing game where people try to guess the exact date and time the ice goes out, with the potential to win hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A few dozen people waited on the river for the ceremonial raising on the warm and sunny, but biting-blastery, afternoon. Moments before the official 3:30 p.m. raising, dozens more poured from their cars and trepidatiously trod across the windswept ice, grabbed a rope and lent a hand.

Tripod builder Jeff Mayrand gave his brief and direct instructions. Mayrand asked for 15-20 people to grab each of two opposing ropes, then he explained one group would



Jeff Mayrand nails a support to the tripod on the Tanana River for the 100th anniversary of the Nenana Ice Classic on the Tanana River by Nenana on Sunday. Mayrand built the tripod. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

pull to raise the 26-foot, black-and-white striped tripod, while the other group made sure it didn't get pulled too far.

"Is that clear? It's kind of important," Mayrand said to the volunteers.

About 10 minutes later, the tripod's support legs were firmly nailed to the post. Forty inches of ice stood between the tripod and determining this year's winner as

TRIPOD » A8

THIS WEEK IN JUNEAU

Medicaid, budget on legislators' agenda

By Becky Bohrer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU — State senators had a cool reaction to agency estimates on the fiscal impact of legislation intended to contain costs within the state Medicaid program.

The Senate Finance Committee is working to finalize the bill but wants to hear more on the costs and savings. Medicaid is one of the areas that legislators have targeted for reform as they try to reduce the size of the state budget.

During a hearing Friday, committee co-chair Anna MacKinnon, R-Eagle River, asked that agency officials review their numbers. She and co-chair Pete Kelly, R-Fairbanks, both commented on the number of new employees that would be added.



Kelly

"It seems like we have a whole lot of new employees and not a lot of cost savings" from the fiscal notes reviewed Friday, MacKinnon said, adding later: "We're going to need a little bit more conservation on the dollars that you're expending versus the dollars that you're saving."

The bill is from Kelly and incorporates ideas proposed by Gov. Bill Walker's administration. It was shaped by a special subcommittee led by MacKinnon. State health commissioner Valerie Davidson said she's pleased with the bill and the process that led to it.

Kelly said the bill will yield long-term savings "in a big way." But he said he hadn't seen

JUNEAU » A3

Iditarod mushers set off from Willow

By Mark Thiessen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILLOW, ALASKA — Eighty-five mushers set off Sunday to conquer the toughest terrain this nation has to offer, vying to become the first to reach Alaska's western coast with their dog teams.

Scott Janssen, an undertaker from Anchorage who is known as the Mushing Mortician, was the first to leave across Willow Lake in the staggered started.

Dallas Seavey was only wearing a long-sleeved

shirt as he packed his sled under blue skies and warm temperatures. He said it felt just like another day for him and his dogs, doing their thing.

That could be bad news for the field as Seavey has won three out of the last four races.

"If we have a good race, we should have a good finish. If we can maximize this team, we'll get their fast," he said of the dash for the finish line under the burlled arch in Nome. The winner is expected in about nine days after traveling over

two mountain ranges, the Yukon River and battling the fierce winds along the Bering Sea coast.

He said there are "a lot of really good teams, there's a lot of people who could win. There's a lot of people that maybe should win that won't. That's actually why we go run the race, and we'll figure it out in a couple of weeks," he said.

Besides Seavey, there are six other former champions in the race, including four-time winner Lance Mackey.

Last year, Mackey strug-



Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race musher Mitch Seavey begins his race to Nome amongst a crowd of spectators on Sunday in Willow. AP PHOTO/MICHAEL DINNEN

gled to finish the race. The cancer survivor also has a condition which affects blood circulation

in his hands, and he had problems caring for his

IDITAROD » A5

