



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Alaska Attorney General denies sale of Point MacKenzie LNG plant. » INTERIOR, A4

Fairgrounds amp up security with cameras

By Amanda Bohman
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When vandals defaced property at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds last August, fair manager Joyce Whitehorn was so annoyed she wished she could have made them clean up the mess with a toothbrush.

Now maybe she can. The Tanana Valley State Fair has improved security by installing cameras throughout the fairgrounds.

Safety and security is a concern every year and this year is no exception, Whitehorn said.

Emergency medical technicians will be available if someone falls ill or gets hurt, and at least 25 security guards will be monitoring the fair at any given time.

The fair is open daily through Aug. 16, and security officials will be watching live footage from the security cameras, which are pointed at the midway, the cash room, the vendors and other areas where people congregate, looking for signs of trouble.

Whitehorn has a screen in her office, allowing her to monitor the fair from her desk.

“Be aware that we are watching,” she said.

Ten cameras have been installed with more to come. The cameras were installed in May and can be turned, zoomed in and zoomed out. And they are recording. The footage will be archived and shared with authorities if an incident takes place.

“It’s really nice to be able to have something we can look back at,”

Headed to the fair? »
Construction on College Road may get in the way. » A3

Whitehorn said. Along with security, safety is a big part of the fair. Whitehorn offered advice to fairgoers looking to enjoy their time at the fair safely.

“Slow down through the parking lots,” Whitehorn said. “Watch for children and animals.”

Bicycles, skateboards and roller skates are not allowed at the fair. Pets should also be left at home.

Do not leave a young child or a pet unattended in a vehicle, Whitehorn said. They will be removed from the vehicle and taken into custody by fair security.



Tanana Valley State Fair General Manager Joyce Whitehorn gestures to the screen in her office as she talks about the new security camera system installed throughout the fairgrounds on Friday morning. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

SECURITY » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny in the morning, then mostly could with isolated thunderstorms.

High today70
Low tonight56

Sunrise: 5:14 a.m.
Sunset: 10:36 p.m.

WEATHER » A11

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PURPLE HEART

Local chapter unveils monument in Veterans Memorial Park.

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SENIOR GAMES

See the photo from the 2015 opening ceremony at Pioneer Park.

SPORTS
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SOURDOUGH JACK:
“My chompers sure could use a cleanin’! Better get me down to that clinic.”



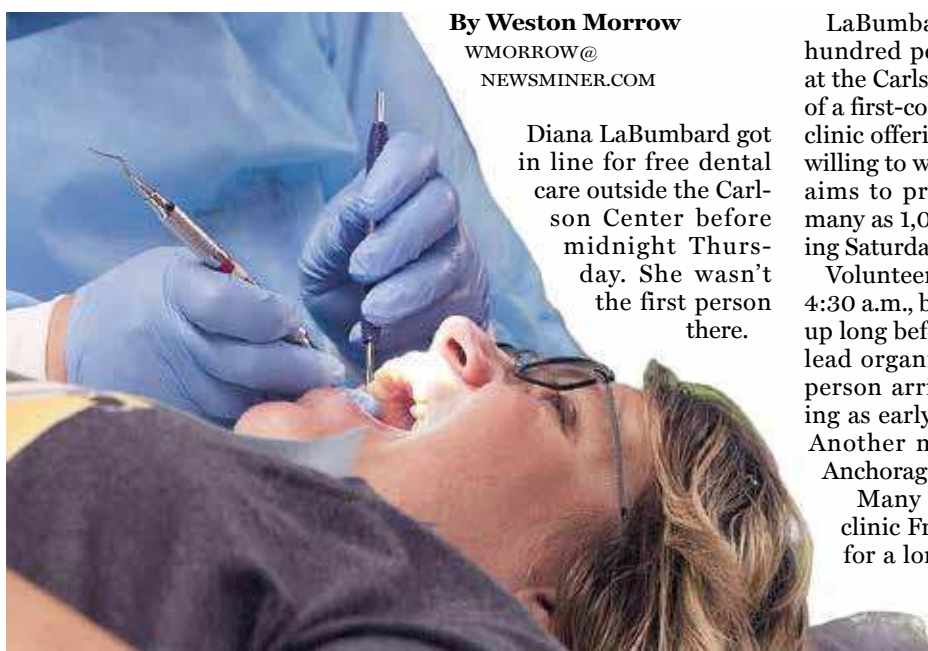
Fairbanks opens wide



People receive dental cleanings, fillings and other dental procedures during the Alaska Mission of Mercy, a free dental clinic made possible by more than 700 volunteers, at the Carlson Center on Friday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Free dental clinic brings a smile to hundreds

By Weston Morrow
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Jenny Johnson cleans Karilyn Putt’s teeth during the Alaska Mission of Mercy, a free dental clinic made possible by over 700 volunteers, at the Carlson Center on Friday. Doors open at 4:30 a.m. today. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Diana LaBumbard got in line for free dental care outside the Carlson Center before midnight Thursday. She wasn’t the first person there.

LaBumbard was one of several hundred people who showed up at the Carlson Center to make use of a first-come, first-served dental clinic offering free care to anyone willing to wait. The two-day event aims to provide free care to as many as 1,000 people before closing Saturday evening.

Volunteers opened the doors at 4:30 a.m., but people began lining up long before then. According to lead organizer Chris Willis, one person arrived and began waiting as early as 10 a.m. Thursday. Another man hitchhiked from Anchorage for care.

Many of the patients at the clinic Friday have abided pain for a long time before having the chance for treatment.

Heather Willis is a dentist in Fairbanks and one of the lead organizers along with her hus-

band, Chris. They were joined at the event by several local dentists, some of them retired.

Most of the resources were originally allocated to fillings, Heather said, but — after seeing the needs of people coming in — they were shifted to extractions. In an extraction, the tooth is fully removed from its socket in the bone, because the damage or decay is too far gone for repair.

“Some people have waited months for this event, just for that,” Heather said. “People are delaying dental care, and they are waiting until it hurts.”

Chris and Heather Willis worked together with Shannon Vargas and other Fairbanksans for months to make the clinic happen. Heather Willis brought the idea to Fairbanks after volunteering as a dentist at a similar event in Anchorage last year.

CLINIC » A3

Mississippi flag had no part in bridge display removal

Staff Report
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“The wear and tear on the flags was the only reason (the flags) were removed. All of the flags will go back up, as soon as funding is obtained.”

James Parrish, board chairman of Festival Fairbanks

Festival Fairbanks released a statement Friday saying concerns around the Mississippi state flag had nothing to do with the organization’s decision to remove the 50-flag display from the Cushman Street Bridge.

The nonprofit community development organization had for many years maintained a display of

flags on the bridge but took them down on Aug. 3. At the time, Executive Director Julie Jones said the organization had received comments about the Mississippi flag from both sides of the debate but that it was not the rea-

son all 50 of the flags were taken down. On Friday, James Parrish, board chairman of Festival Fairbanks, released a statement clarifying that the decision was made solely because of the flags’ condition.

“The wear and tear on the flags was the only reason they were removed,” he wrote. “All of the flags will go back up, as soon as funding (is) obtained.”

Parrish called the timing of the flags’ removal, amid national debate regarding

the Mississippi flag’s use of the Confederate battle flag, “regrettable.”

“Festival Fairbanks typically replaces these flags every year, and due to lack of sponsorship the state flags are in their third season,” he wrote. “The flags had become dirty and tattered — a downtown eyesore — and needed to be removed regardless of funding for replacement.”

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

