



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today

Spotlight: Fairbanks woman volunteers at hospital for almost 50 years. » A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny. Highs around 2 below. Light winds. Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 20 to 35 below. Light winds.

High today-5
Low tonight -27

WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Fairbanks and visible low on the northern horizon from as far south as Anchorage and Juneau.

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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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TRIPOD DAYS

Nenana takes tug-of-war victory in long-running competition.

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Michigan to offer prize for solutions for stopping fish.

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ICE SWEEP

Alaska women go 2-0 at curling nationals.

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I used to know cursive. Now I just scribble my signature and hope no one notices."



Ready to race



An archway over the 2017 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race starting line is pictured on Sunday. SAM FRIEDMAN/NEWS-MINER

Iditarod set for restart today

By Sam Friedman
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Iditarod Trail Committee CEO Stan Hooley said his staff is beginning to think of Fairbanks as a second home as the race again prepares to restart in Fairbanks.

The restart, the beginning of the competitive 968-mile race, will start at 11 a.m. outside Pike's Waterfront Lodge on Airport Way. This is the third time in 15 years the restart has taken place in Fairbanks because of bad snow conditions along the race's usual course.

The 72 mushers and 864 dogs are scheduled to leave from the start line in front of the hotel. Leaving the chute, they'll drop down onto the river at the Pike's Landing ice bridge sign, turning left to continue down the Chena and Tanana rivers to the first checkpoint in Nenana.

On Sunday night, Hooley and other officials addressed about 50 people at a media briefing inside the hotel.

Hooley said the report he received from the race's trail breakers helped make the call this year to move the race restart 300 miles up the Parks Highway from the usual restart location in Willow.

"When the same trail-breaking crew that was involved in the 2014 race — (in) which we took a fair amount of flack for setting the dog teams through the Alaska range — when they came back and said, 'It's worse than 2014,' that rang a bell with us," he said.

This year, the dog teams can expect a good trail between Fairbanks and Old Minto, said race

IDITAROD » A3



A sled dog ice sculpture is seen Sunday outside Pike's Waterfront Lodge.

If you go

Thousand of people are expected to turn out today to watch the Iditarod restart.

The restart begins at 11 a.m. in front of Pike's Waterfront Lodge. The 72 dog teams will leave the start line in two-minute increments.

Public parking won't be available at the start line and Airport Way will be closed westbound between the Mitchell Expressway and Dale Road during the restart. Public parking is available at the Carlson Center and free shuttle buses will run continuously between the Carlson Center and Pike's Waterfront Lodge from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Other places to watch the race beside the start line include several locations on Chena Pump Road: The Chena Pump House & Saloon,

(796 Chena Pump Road), Faith Baptist Church (910 Chena Pump Road), and the Chena Wayside boat launch near the confluence of the Chena and Tanana Rivers. The Pump House restaurant won't be open during the race, but Faith Baptist Church plans to open its doors and let the public come in to warm up.

Race organizers ask people to remember to dress warm for the forecast 20 below temperature and to not bring dogs. Pet dogs can interfere with the sled dogs, especially if they get loose.

How to access the airport: Because of the road closure on Airport Way, access to Fairbanks International Airport terminal during the start will go through a detour down South University Avenue and through the airport's East Ramp small plane area.

Cursive sees revival in school instruction

By Karen Matthews
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Cursive writing is looping back into style in schools across the country after a generation of students who know only keyboarding, texting and printing out their words longhand.

CURSIVE » A5



In this Wednesday, March 1, 2017, photo, students display some of their cursive writing work and exercises at P.S. 166 Wednesday in the Queens borough of New York. AP PHOTO/MARY ALTAFFER

Trump seeks Congress' help on wiretap claim

By Darlene Superville
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALM BEACH, FLA. — President Donald Trump turned to Congress on Sunday for help finding evidence to support his unsubstantiated claim that former President Barack Obama had Trump's telephones tapped during the election. Obama's intelligence chief said no such action was ever carried out, and a U.S. official said the FBI has asked the Justice Department to dispute the allegation.

Republican leaders of Congress appeared willing to honor the president's request, but the move has potential risks for the president, particularly if the House and Senate intelligence committees unearth damaging information about Trump, his aides or his associates.

Trump claimed in a series of tweets without evidence Saturday that his predecessor had tried to undermine him by tapping the telephones at Trump Tower, the New York skyscraper where Trump based his campaign and transition operations, and maintains a home.

Obama's director of national intelligence, James Clapper, said nothing matching Trump's claims had taken place.

"Absolutely, I can deny it," said Clapper, who left government when Trump took office in January. Other representatives for the former president also denied Trump's allegation.

The FBI has asked the Justice Department to dispute Trump's allegations, a U.S. official told The Associated Press on Sunday. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the request by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

No such statement has been issued by the Justice Department. DOJ spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores declined to comment Sunday, and an FBI spokesman also did not comment.

The New York Times reported that senior American officials said FBI Director James Comey has argued that the claim must be corrected by the Justice Department because it falsely insinuates that the FBI broke the law.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said without elaborating Sunday that Trump's instruction to Congress was based on "very troubling" reports "concerning potentially politically motivated investigations immediately ahead of the 2016 election." Spicer did not respond to inquiries about the reports he cited in announcing the request.

