



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Nanooks' Wilson, Galena's Buchanan named to All-GNAC Teams. » SPORTS, B1

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly sunny with highs in the 20s and winds up to 10 mph. High today20 Low tonight -6

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Fairbanks.

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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APPEAL FOR TOWER

Controversial communications tower proposal going to Planning Commission.

INTERIOR Page A4

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RECORD BREAKER

Astronaut Scott Kelly returning after a year in space.

SCIENCE & TECH Page B4

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "Anchorage sure is lucky we're so generous up here."



Anchorage to get 'snowed in'

Fairbanks 'donating' snow for ceremonial Iditarod start

By Robin Wood RWOOD@NEWSMINER.COM

Sometimes it takes modern transportation to facilitate a tradition celebrating old-time transportation.

A lack of snow in Alaska's biggest city has led to the Alaska Railroad transporting 300 to 350 cubic yards of snow from Fairbanks to downtown Anchorage for use in Saturday's ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and the Fur Rondy's Running of the Reindeer.

About seven side-dump railroad cars will be filled with snow Tuesday or Wednesday night and delivered by Thursday morning.

The Alaska Railroad is donating the time, labor and equipment to transport the snow, which will be collected from a snow dump on the railroad's property adjacent to Phillips Field Road in Fairbanks.

Alaska Railroad spokesman Tim Sullivan isn't sure of the total cost involved but said everything possible is being done to keep costs down — the cars were already

in Fairbanks and they will be attached to a regularly scheduled freight train.

Once the snow has reached Anchorage, it will be staged in the railroad's yard before being loaded onto trucks and taken into town, Sullivan said.

"It's an important thing for Anchorage, it's an important thing for the state, to make sure the Iditarod is able to go off like it should," he said.

In an emailed statement, Iditarod Trail Committee CEO Stan

Hooley said, "We are thrilled that our friends at the Alaska Railroad are willing to help us make downtown streets as winter-like as possible in preparation for the upcoming race."

Eighty-five teams are signed up for this year's Iditarod and are scheduled to run the 11-mile untimed ceremonial start from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip. They will then pack up their dogs and gear and head up the Parks Highway to Willow for the Sunday restart.

Contact staff writer Robin Wood at 459-7510. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMeity.

MELTING POINT



A water droplet falls from a melting ice shelf above a puddle forming along West Tanana Drive in front of the UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden as a vehicle passes Monday afternoon. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Alaska gears up for Super Tuesday

By Weston Morrow WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

Alaska's 28 Republican delegates are up for grabs today as the party gets set to host its 2016 presidential preference poll.

The Democratic Party's presidential caucus is scheduled for March 26.

The GOP poll, which is open to all registered Republicans, runs from 3-8 p.m. at dozens of locations throughout the state. For residents in the Fairbanks North Star

SUPER TUESDAY » A3

Sullivan: State strategically important to US

By Rashah McChesney ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU — U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan said Monday that Alaska is an area of strategic importance to the country, given its foothold in the Arctic and production of oil, seafood and other resources.

In an address to state lawmakers, he spoke about the state's role in improving its own fiscal standing and that of the United States.

He also highlighted several issues facing Alaska, including long-standing problems with domestic violence and sexual abuse, a veterans' health care system that he said is not working and rising number of opioid addicts.

While Sullivan said he's working to address the issues, his top priority has been advocating for defense policies that boost the state's military capability. That spending, he said, will bolster the nation's defenses and



Sen. Dan Sullivan heads toward the podium in the state House before his address to a joint session of the Legislature on Monday in Juneau. AP PHOTO/RASHAH MCCHESENEY

enrich Alaska's economy.

According to a report from the state's congressional delegation, distributed to state legislators, the state plays a key role in the Arctic to counter the threat of Russian expansion, missile defense to counter the threat of nuclear proliferation in North Korea and a strong air force to face

increasing Russian incursions.

After Sullivan's address, Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla, asked Sullivan about the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and how it has polarized Republican lawmakers and President Barack

SULLIVAN » A3

UA eases stance against gun bill

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

JUNEAU — The University of Alaska has softened its position on a bill allowing guns on campuses after most, but not all, of its concerns about the bill were addressed.

Fairbanks Republican Sen. Pete Kelly's Senate Bill 174 aims to lift a Board of Regent regulation against concealed carry on university campuses and got its first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday.

The bill was initially released to opposition from UA, which listed six concerns it had on the bill. Its main concern revolved around the university's ability to intervene in high-risk situations.

The new version of the bill incorporates four of those recommendations, allowing the Board of Regents to adopt regulations on guns and knives in situations where a student or employee "poses a risk of harm to self or others" or during a disciplinary process.

GUN BILL » A3

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