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Inside Today

Alaska students travel to Washington, D.C., for history contest . » SUNDAY FUN, K6

Midnight Sun Run costumes shine

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER. COM

An impressive amount of effort and creativity went into the many dozens of costumes runners donned for the annual Midnight Sun Run on Saturday night.

The competition was

filled with groups drawing inspiration from movies and television as well completely original entrants, like the Miami Mushing Team. a team of young men with shark print shirts pulling their friend in wheeled inflatable raft.

For some of the 3,000 participants, the 10kilometer race was serious, competitive business, but for many others, it was an opportunity to dress up for the summery Halloween contest on the steps for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center.

There was a group of "Downton Abbey" maids, sisters dressed as the three

blind mice and more than a few summer blockbusters' worth of superheroes.

Many groups poured on the detail for their costumes.

There was a group dressed like the "Wizard of Oz," complete with Toto in a wicker basket and a yellow brick road costume, and the mystery-solving crew from "Scooby-Doo," including a Mystery Machine with Alaska license plates. And of course, there was

MORE MIDNIGHT SUN RUN: See the race story and photos inside. » C1

the blood-stained boomerang wielded by toddler Daisy "Mad Dog" Bergeson, who was part of a family costume themed after "Mad Max."

COSTUMES » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms, with

Roberts attends Innocence Project fundraiser

Released **Fairbanks Four** member thanks supporters

By Brian O'Donoghue FOR THE NEWS-MINER

The surprise dinner appearance by a family member absent more than a decade left the tearful hostess scrambling.



highs in the mid-80s	3.
High today8	33
Low tonight	54

Sunrise: 2:57 a.m. Sunset: 12:47 a.m.

WEATHER » A7



A STONE'S THROW

Two Fairbanksans graduate from Stone Soup's culinary certificate program.

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I'm more about the costume than the runnin"



"He wanted to eat moose roast and French fries, but we didn't know he was coming so soon," said Hazel Roberts Mayo, explaining that her son, Marvin, paroled following 17 years in prison, wasn't expected to receive permission for a dinner visit until Sunday. "But we ate and it was just so awesome. We have pictures. Pictures of everybody."

Roberts' appearance at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall for "Solidarity on Solstice," Saturday's fundraiser for Alaska Innocence Project, came with a bit more notice. Just fewer than 120 supporters of Roberts and three others convicted of John Hartman's 1997 murder were on hand when the former inmate slipped in through the long cavernous hall's back door, hugged friends and family members, then awaited his turn on stage.

The 37-year-old former

Marvin Roberts hugs his mother Hazel Roberts Mayo during a fundraiser for the Alaska Innocence Project at the David Salmon Tribal Hall on Saturday. Roberts was released from prison a few days ago. Below: Roberts says a few words during the fundraiser. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER inmate with close-cropped

hair, thin mustache and blue sports shirt looked calm facing a crowd from the stage for the first time since delivering the salutatorian speech for Howard Luke Academy's class of '96.

"It's pretty wonderful to be here right now," he began, then stopping, clasping his hands behind his back. "Pretty emotional," he blurted, swaying. "A lot of times in prison I thought

about what I might say in a situation like this.

"Now that I'm here I can't think of nothing."

Laughs burst throughout rows of mostly empty chairs.

"But now," Roberts continued in a stronger voice. "On behalf of George, Eugene and Kevin and our families, from the bottom of our hearts we want to say, 'Thank you,' whoever

ROBERTS » A3



38 new fires spring up across Alaska as heat wave persists

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

Dozens of new fires sprung up throughout Alaska during the start of the solstice weekend with hot, dry weather continuing to fuel high fire danger throughout the state.

There were 38 new fires reported with most, but not all, caused by lightning strikes, said Alaska Forestry spokesman Tim Mowry.

That's a big bump in fire numbers. We haven't had any rain, and we still have red flag warnings," he said. "When there's a burn closure in effect you know it's serious. ... At this point it's just too dangerous and our resources are stretched pretty thin with the fires down south and now we're getting them here."

Burn bans that include campfires and charcoal grills are still in effect, as well as bans on wood cutting and fireworks. A temporary

flight restriction also was issued the Healy Lake Fire 35 miles southwest of Delta Junction.

Air quality alerts also were issued for Delta Junction, Big Delta, Fort Greely, Tok and Northway through Monday for the fires.

FIRES » A6







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FATHER'S DAY TODAY!