



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Alaska Airlines plans \$30 million's worth of renovations to rural airports. » A2

Man accused of Iditarod attacks arraigned

By Amanda Bohman
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Bail was set at \$50,000 in the case of the 26-year-old Nulato man facing 12 criminal charges after authorities say he terrorized mushers and their teams, killing one dog, competing in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Arnold Demoski was operating a 2016 Ski-Doo 550F when he allegedly charged at and hit dog teams driven by Aliy Zirkle,

of Two Rivers, and Jeff King, of Denali Park, early Saturday morning as they traveled between Koyukuk and Nulato in the best-known race involving Alaska's state sport.

"If these allegations are proven to a jury," Magistrate Romano DiBenedetto — a former prosecutor — said, "it could amount



Demoski

to be an act of terrorism. If the state had asked for \$500,000, I probably would have granted it."

Demoski appeared via teleconference in state court on Sunday. He is being held at the Fairbanks Correctional Center. Attorney Bill Satterberg represented him, though Satterberg said he has not yet been retained. The lawyer declined to speak about the case.

These are the charges: two counts of felony third-degree assault, four counts of reckless endan-

germent and six counts of fifth-degree criminal mischief.

Satterberg asked DiBenedetto for several misdemeanor charges to be dropped, saying he doesn't see how they tie in to the case. DiBenedetto denied the request.

Demoski had reportedly been drinking, but alcohol is not mentioned in the criminal complaint nor reflected in the charges.

According to the complaint, Zirkle was about five miles out of Koyukuk,

headed to Nulato, when Demoski "came speeding up, hit the side of her sled and flipped two of her dogs."

His speed was estimated at about 40 mph. The complaints says he then turned around. Zirkle stopped, she grabbed a hold of her lead dog and Demoski sped at them.

"Demoski then turned the snowmachine sideways so it was perpendicular to Zirkle and her team, causing Zirkle to be scared Demoski was trying to kill her and she grabbed a race

marker that she held out in front of her toward the snowmachine, which then turned and headed away from her towards Nulato," the court complaint states.

An hour later, near Nulato, Demoski reportedly passed Zirkle going about 50 mph and started spinning brodies. He stopped and revved his engine then drove off.

The complaint goes on to say that Demoski was traveling about 100 mph

IDITAROD » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloud with a chance of scattered snow showers and highs in the mid-20s.

High today 27
Low tonight 11

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.

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SPOTLIGHT

King and Queen Regent Fred and Louella Hupprich have lived long lives in Alaska.

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NO. 1 4-DOG SLED

Pam Schamber takes first in 4-dog race at LNAC.

SPORTS
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SOURDOUGH JACK: "I don't get upset often, but hurtin' dogs gets me riled."



Multiple-block second-place winner talks ice art

By Amanda Bohman
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"Morning of the Universe" is one of the award-winning sculptures at the George Horner Ice Park this year.

It was inspired in part by the novel and subsequent films, "Solaris," about human encounters with alien life forms.

The piece won second place in the BP World Ice Art Championships Multi-Block Classic, in the abstract division, and is among dozens of icy creations available for viewing at the Ice Park through March 27.

The sculpture is by Russian artists Ivan Loktiukhin and Vadim Polin and Mexican carver Julio Martinez.

"It's a work for thinking," said Loktiukhin, who is from Kirovsk, which Lonely Planet describes as a grim miners town surrounded by snow-covered mountains. "It's an image. People need to think when you look at it."

The book "Solaris," a cult classic, was written by Polish author Stanislaw Lem and published in 1961. The story has inspired multiple films, the last of which starred George Clooney in 2002.

In the film, Clooney plays a clinical psychologist asked to visit a space station where strange events have taken place. As the story unfolds, reality clashes with a realm conjured up by some unknown alien life form.

The icy interpretation of "Solaris" looks a bit like an audience watching something dramatic or violent unfold as other-worldly creatures make contact.

Loktiukhin said spheres in the piece represent the



Above: Ivan Loktyukhin, Vadim Polin and Brian Soto's multi-block ice sculpture titled "Morning of the Universe" at the Ice Alaska Ice Park on Sunday. Below: Loktyukhin talks about the multi-block abstract sculpture he created earlier this week with Polin and Soto. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER



universe.

"The universe represents all materials, all power," he said. "It's galactic. All of the elements are in this

work — fire, water, air."

The carving is Loktiukhin's second entry in the ice carving competitions in Fairbanks, which draw

sculptors annually from all over the world.

Four years ago, Loktiukhin won eighth place, he said. He is a sculptor of

multiple mediums, including wood, sand, snow and metal.

Loktiukhin has partnered with Polin, primarily a wood carver, for 10 years. He studied to be an architect and ice carving was his hobby before he decided to make his living at it.

"In Russia, it's very popular," Loktiukhin said. "Very long winters."

The Ice Park is located at 3070 Phillips Field Road. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 6 and older. Children 5 and younger are free.

The park is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, visit www.icealaska.com.

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GOP hopeful Donald Trump stands by his campaign rhetoric

By Bill Barrow and Thomas Beaumont
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Showing few signs of trying to ease the nation's tense political atmosphere, Republican front-runner Donald Trump is standing by his antagonistic campaign rhetoric, rejecting any responsibility for violence at his rallies and defending his supporters who have been charged with assaulting protesters.

"We're not provoking. We want peace. ... We don't want trouble," he told a large crowd in Bloomington, Illinois, the first of three comparatively docile events from Illinois to Florida as he campaigned ahead of another critical slate of large-state primaries.

Trump's remarks came after a

... Trump continued to blame protesters, media and even Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders for the increasingly caustic campaign environment that his rivals assailed as "cause for pause" and certain "to do damage to America."

near-riot Friday night in Chicago as Trump canceled a scheduled rally amid widespread altercations among his supporters, detractors and authorities.

His three-state tour also came less than 48 hours before polls open in a five-state slate that could determine whether he wins the GOP nomination without a contested summer convention.

Against that backdrop, Trump

continued to blame protesters, media and even Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders for the increasingly caustic campaign environment that his rivals assailed as "cause for pause" and certain "to do damage to America."

Interrupted only sparingly at his events throughout the day, Trump assured his backers their frustration is righteous rage against a

corrupt political and economic system. He cast his naysayers as "bad people" who "do harm to the country."

Though by the end of the night, he seemed to miss the commotion.

In Boca Raton, where he spoke in an outdoor amphitheater on a balmy Florida night, he asked, 20 minutes into his speech, "Do we have a protester anywhere? Do we have a disrupter?"

Trump has tried since Chicago to shift focus to Ohio, where he faces a late push from the popular governor, John Kasich. The outcome will help determine whether Trump can reach the 1,237 delegates required for nomination and avoid a contested GOP convention this summer in Cleveland.

TRUMP » A8

