



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today

Read what got thumbs up and thumbs down from this weekend. » OPINION, A6

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

The primo days just keep coming: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid- to upper 20s. High today26 Low tonight 10

WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, moderate auroral displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik 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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YOUTH AWARDS

Area teen, skate park group recognized at annual banquet.

KRIS CAPPS Page A3

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SPOTLIGHT

Father of four makes time for giving back as Meals on Wheels driver.

INTERIOR Page A4

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NCAA HOOPS

South Carolina advances to its first Final Four.

SPORTS Page B1

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "Can't wait 'til icy more of those sculptures!"



Two more days Cold March means more Ice Park

By Amanda Bohman ABOHMAN @NEWSMINER.COM

The cooler-than-normal March temperatures have bode well for the frozen forest animals, sea creatures, insects, race cars, castles, candlesticks and President Donald Trump that are scattered around the Ice Park.

The weather has extended the lives of the icy creations, so Ice Alaska is extending its 2017 schedule.

The host of the BP World Ice Art Championships announced Sunday it is postponing its closing date by two days. It will close 10 p.m. Sunday.

A few spots on the sculptures are melting and clouding, but most sculptures have kept their shape.

The candlesticks still had their icy little flames on a sculpture called "March Madness," depicting a scene from "Alice In Wonderland." It won first place in the realistic category in the GCI Multi Block Classic.

"The mushrooms, you can pretty much see the curve in the stem," Rajkiran Ramachandran Balasubraman said about the piece.

Balasubraman was on vacation from the Pacific Northwest.

"It's pretty amazing," he said of the sculptures' details.

Hank Bartos, president of the Ice Alaska board of directors, said the decision to extend their schedule was made after checking whether volunteers could help for one more weekend.

ICE PARK » A5



Above: "Sting," a single-block ice sculpture of a hornet by American sculptors Clinton Rich and Connor Walling, is on display at the Ice Alaska Ice Park on Sunday. Left: Ruby Davis, of Fairbanks, plays with her 4-year-old daughter at the Ice Park on Sunday.

AMANDA BOHMAN/NEWS-MINER

K9 shot, killed in trooper chase

Staff Report NEWSROOM @NEWSMINER.COM

A man fleeing Alaska State Troopers on the Parks Highway near Wasilla shot and killed a trooper K9 before being shot by troopers. The suspect later died.

The incident began about 2:40 a.m. Sunday when troopers attempted to stop a Subaru Legacy for a moving violation, according to a troopers news release. The driver of the Subaru failed to yield, driving well above the speed limit. Troopers deployed spike strips at 45.5 Mile Parks Highway, which disabled the Subaru after a 45-minute pursuit.

The driver of the Subaru, identified as Justin Smith, 36, of Wasilla, ignoring trooper commands, exited the vehicle and attempted to flee. A trooper K9 was sent after him. Smith turned and fired a handgun at the dog, killing him. Troopers returned fire, striking Smith. Smith was transported to Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, but died of his injuries.

Smith was wanted on two active arrest warrants out of Anchorage: a \$20,000 warrant for assault in the second degree and a no-bail probation violation. His next of kin have been identified.

The Parks Highway was closed during the investigation and has since reopened. No troopers were injured.

The Alaska Bureau of Investigation is taking over the case. The trooper or troopers involved in the shooting will not be identified until the completion of the standard 72-hour administrative leave, per department policy. No further information is available at this time.

The investigation is ongoing. Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

AP FACT CHECK

The week when Trump's wiretap accusation died

By Calvin Woodward and Jim Drinkard ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's accusation that his predecessor ordered snooping of his communications has fallen apart, slapped down by the FBI chief and again by the Republican leading the House intelligence committee, a Trump ally. The president gave up on arguing former President Barack Obama tapped his phones, and he doesn't give up on anything easily.

A look at how that sensational charge and a variety of other statements by the president met reality checks in the past week:

The wiretap that wasn't

Trump now says he never meant

FACT CHECK » A7

Blaming conservatives, president signals new openness to Dems

By Hope Yen ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday attacked conservative lawmakers for the failure of the Republican bill to replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, as aides signaled a greater willingness to work with moderate Democrats on upcoming legislative battles from the budget and tax cuts to health care.

On Twitter, Trump complained: "Democrats are smiling in D.C. that the Freedom Caucus, with the help of Club For Growth and Heritage, have saved Planned Parenthood & Ocare!"

The Freedom Caucus is a hard-right group of more than 30 GOP House members who were largely



President Donald Trump talks about the health care overhaul bill Friday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

responsible for blocking the bill to undo the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare." The bill was pulled from the House floor Friday in a humiliating political defeat

for the president, having lacked support from either the conservative Republicans or Democrats.

TRUMP » A7

