



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Jim Johnsen pitches importance of UA in 'State of the University' speech. » A4

Pot bust nets \$604K in plants

Staff Report
NEWSROOM
@NEWSMINER.COM

Alaska State Troopers seized marijuana product and plants valued at \$604,000 from an illegal grow operation Wednesday near Tok, according to a trooper news release.

The grow operation was located near 1316 Mile Alaska Highway.

Investigators seized 10 pounds of processed and packaged marijuana and 296 marijuana plants, troopers said.

The Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit out of Fairbanks began an investigation Tuesday after troopers in Tok received a tip that day. On Wednesday, the drug unit traveled to Tok and, along with Tok troopers, contact-

ed occupants of the residence.

Troopers say the property owner then gave troopers consent to seize the illegal marijuana plants. The news release did not indicate how many people were at the residence or whether the property owner was one of the occupants.

The marijuana grow operation was believed

to be on property adjacent to the residence, according to troopers.

Troopers searched the area and found 10 pounds of processed marijuana packaged into quarter-ounce bags, which were in a shop behind the residence. An old maintenance shop contained the 296 marijuana plants, which troopers said were in various

stages of growth. It was not clear from the trooper news release whether the maintenance shop was also the shop in which the bagged marijuana was located.

Troopers are forwarding three counts of felony drugs misconduct charges to the District Attorney's Office.

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

Suspect had a 'weird vibe' about Gojdics

Major Workman testifies that he was defending himself when he shot reality TV personality

By Dorothy Chomicz
DCHOMICZ
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Major Scott Workman's attorney told a Fairbanks jury Thursday that his client acted in self-defense when shooting James Gojdics nine times with a Glock 9mm pistol on the afternoon of May 3, 2015.

Workman is charged with one count of first-degree murder for allegedly shooting Gojdics at his Old Elliott Highway property just hours after Gojdics pepper-sprayed his tenant Mary Ella Davis' dog.

Workman's attorney, Kirk Schwalm, declined to give opening arguments when the trial began last week, opting instead to wait until Assistant District Attorney Earl Peterson rested his case.

Schwalm began Thursday by detailing the evidence presented, including the discovery of shell casings on Davis' side of the property that matched Workman's Glock. Schwalm also said Workman was "scared of what might happen" that afternoon because he knew Gojdics carried a gun and "was not someone to be trifled with."

Davis, who was and is Workman's girlfriend, lived in a cabin at the back of Gojdics' property behind a small creek and near Gojdics' shop. The morning of the shooting, Davis and Workman left the dog, named Gumbo, chained to a stake near Davis' cabin and went to brunch at the nearby Silver Gulch Brewery. When they returned at about 1:30 p.m. they discovered Gumbo had been

TRIAL » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper teens. Light winds. Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows around 8 below, except in the lower teens on the hills. Light winds.

High today 16
Low tonight -7

WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, moderate displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to as far south as Talkeetna and visible low on the horizon as far south as Bethel, Soldotna and southeast Alaska.

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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UPSET SPECIAL

Nanooks women beat Seattle Pacific

SPORTS
Page D1

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"To say I'm glad the Quest is almost over would be criminally dishonest."



Healy musher and race veteran Dave Dalton drives his team into the finish chute for a 10th-place finish Thursday afternoon during the 2017 Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race. This year marked Dalton's 27th race, a record, his 21st finish, a record, and his 10th top 10 spot, with only Hugh Neff, John Shandelmeier and Frank Turner having more. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Happy endings

Barring unforeseen developments, Yukon Quest likely draws to a close today

By Sam Friedman
SFRIEDMAN
@NEWSMINER.COM

The Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race is expected to end today, with the final dog teams projected in Fairbanks at about 2 a.m.. As of press time,

Musher takes a wrong turn. » A8

12 of the 21 mushers who left Whitehorse on Feb. 4 had finished. Seven mushers had scratched: Jason Campeau, Ed Stielstra, Laura Neese, Yuka Honda, Hank DeBruin, Brent Sass and Gaetan Pierrard.

Two mushers — Ben Good and Sébastien Dos Santos Borges — remained on the trail between Chena Hot Springs and Fairbanks.

A banquet is planned to celebrate

the end of the race at 5 p.m. at the Fairbanks Westmark hotel.

By recent standards, this was a slow race, with Two Rivers musher Matt Hall crossing the finish line Tuesday in a time of 10 days, 1 hour and 3 minutes. Lead mushers were slowed by deep cold between Circle and Central. Others deeper in the pack were slowed by high winds over Eagle and Rosebud summits.

The last year a win-

ENDINGS » A8

For rookie Ben Good, Quest is tough, worth it

By Sam Friedman
SFRIEDMAN
@NEWSMINER.COM

TWO RIVERS CHECKPOINT —

It was warm and calm Thursday for the final mushers at the last Yukon Quest checkpoint before the Fairbanks finish line — almost mockingly calm for the dog teams who pushed through high winds over Rosebud Summit to get here.

In the afternoon, North Pole musher Ben Good bootied the nine remaining dogs on his team for their run into Fairbanks. By a margin of more than four hours, he was the

ROOKIE » A8



North Pole rookie Ben Good puts booties on his lead dog, Poppy, before his final run into Fairbanks on Thursday.

SAM FRIEDMAN / NEWS-MINER

Trump raps 'criminal' leaks, 'dishonest' media, 'bad' judges

By Julie Pace
AP WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — Aggrieved and spoiling for a fight, Donald Trump used a marathon encounter with reporters Thursday to denounce the "criminal" leaks that took down his top national security adviser and revived questions about his own ties to Russia. But he offered only a lawyerly denial that his

President's supporters love his combative style with the press. » A5

campaign aides had been in touch with Russian officials before last fall's election.

"Nobody that I know" he said in the first full-length news conference of his presidency.

TRUMP » A3



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference Thursday in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

AP PHOTO/
PABLO MARTINEZ
MONSIVAIS



OBITUARY

Mark 'Big Foot' Rosser

Mark Lawrence "Big Foot" Rosser, 67, died peacefully Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, at his home in downtown Fairbanks.

He was born Oct. 16, 1949, in Murphysboro, Illinois, and raised in a farmhouse on Oil City Road in Cassopolis, Michigan. He was the oldest of eight siblings.

If you met Mark, you would never forget him. An epic storyteller with a booming laugh and a wide circle of friends, Mark loved a good party. He was a legend in the union hall and on the job site, at the Big I, The Boatel and the Hideaway, and in his river boat, which he loved to pilot down the Chena River on sunny summer days. You'd recognize him by his strong, 6-foot 4-inch frame, size 15 feet and big, friendly wave complete with missing middle finger.

Mark and his wife, Michelle ("Mikki"), were married for 44 years, with two daughters and three grandchildren, of whom he was incredibly proud. Mark and Mikki were married in 1972 in their hometown, Cassopolis, and headed off to Alaska in 1973 on Mark's suggestion — much to Mikki's surprise. They jumped right in to the Alaska lifestyle, home-steading on a 5-acre plot near Talkeetna inaccessible by road. They lived in their 12 feet-by-16 feet cabin for eight years. They kept a dog team and used it to get to town for supplies, to visit friends and frequent the Fairview. In 1982, Mark ran the Iditarod, starting in 50th place in nothing but bunny boots and a Refrigerator suit, and finished 21 days later in 32nd place with the notable distinction of being the only racer to cross the finish line with a hitchhiker in the sled.

Mark was a proud union laborer and in 1974 he joined Laborers Local 942. He worked out of the hall until his retirement in 2001 at age 52. For a few years after his retirement, he had the pleasure of driving camera crews from "Ice Road Truckers" up the Haul Road and regaling them with stories of his days working on the pipeline and on the Slope. Mark (and Mikki, of course) will long be remembered for their generosity and the open-door policy at their home on Denali Way. Many friends and family members stayed with the Rossers for a few days, a few weeks and even years, benefiting from the support of honest, hardworking people who loved to laugh and share a good meal. Mark was a second father to many, a caring big brother and a loyal friend.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Charles Rosser and Isabelle Ann Rosser. He is survived by his wife, Mikki; and two daughters, Nara Rosser (Matthew Mattson) and Jessica (Joel) Burger; three grandchildren, Sawyer Burger, and Lola and Delilah Mattson; and his seven siblings, Mary Murray, Kathy (Larry) Harper, Ellen (Marc) Sulkosky, Julie (Gary) Thompson, Tony Rosser, Joseph Rosser, and Maureen Rosser; and his many nieces and nephews. He also is survived by Darrell Edie (Courtney Eggleston); and Darrell's daughters, Lydia and Lacey.

A celebration of life is planned from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, upstairs at the Elks Lodge, 1003 Pioneer Road. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mark's name to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Hospice Services, 2001 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Please visit www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsminer to sign an online guest book.

Obituaries are provided as written by the family of the deceased or by a funeral home. Obituary submission guidelines and pricing information are available online at www.newsminer.com/site/forms. Or call the News-Miner at 459-7572 for assistance.



Rosser

TRIAL

Continued from A1

pepper-sprayed and the door of the cabin was ajar. Davis called Gojdics to find out whether he had done something and Gojdics admitted he pepper-sprayed Gumbo because he was afraid the dog would bite him.

Workman said he had no intention of confronting Gojdics the afternoon of the shooting and had simply returned to Davis' cabin to box up her stuff after the dog incident. Workman said he had been told by "at least two people" that Gojdics carried a gun.

"I had a weird vibe about him," Workman said. "He seemed to be really critical of Mary. They'd been having problems. He seemed to be there a lot, there always seemed to be some kind of issue. Mary Ella wouldn't tell me what they were. I just wanted to take her out of the

situation. It wasn't worth dealing with anymore," Workman said.

Workman said he usually carried his pistol in his truck but sometimes wore it in a holster when he felt he needed personal protection. He said he put the pistol in his shoulder holster when he got to Davis' cabin because he felt Gojdics was "confrontational."

"Carrying a firearm is like wearing a seat belt in your car. You don't need it until you need it," Workman said.

Workman said he got out of his truck and saw Gojdics pacing back and forth, waving his arms around and yelling at him from the other side of the creek, which was in flood at the time. He said Gojdics repeatedly told him "We're going to settle this" and beckoned for Workman to come closer.

Workman said Gojdics' behavior "kind of set off a bunch of alarm bells" and he was afraid of what

might happen. He saw Gojdics drop his hand toward his pocket and reacted instinctively.

"I thought 'Jimmy's gonna shoot me,'" Workman said. "I remember reaching across my chest for my gun. I don't remember getting it. I thought I didn't get it."

Workman said he also didn't remember pulling the trigger or hearing the shots but realized he had shot Gojdics when he looked down "two seconds later" and saw the gun was empty and the slide locked back.

"Everything happened so fast. It was like turning off an old tube TV — everything just closed down to a pinpoint," Workman said.

Workman said he saw Gojdics on the ground and "just panicked." He went back to his house on Goldstream Road and remembers "sitting on my picnic table, just shaking." He drank a few beers and called Davis because he

didn't want her to go back to her cabin.

Workman turned himself into troopers later that night. He consented to a blood draw, a DNA test and a search of his truck, after which troopers drove him home. Workman was charged with murder two months later.

Workman also testified about hunting and fishing as a youth in rural Ohio and about his background as a auto body painter, miner and gun shop employee. Workman said he had been shooting guns since age 8 or 9 and estimated he shoots recreationally about three times a week.

Workman's testimony is set resume at 8:30 a.m. today. Schwalm said he also plans to call an expert witness who will testify about the use of deadly force in combat situations and human limitations in stressful situations.

Contact staff writer Dorothy Chomick at 459-7582. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMerime.

TRUMP

Continued from A1

The 77-minute event amounted to a free-wheeling airing of complaints, with the new president attempting to find his footing after the rockiest launch in recent memory. Trump slammed a "bad court" of appeals judges for blocking his refugee and immigration executive order and denied that his White House was paralyzed by chaos and infighting among top advisers.

"This administration is running like a fine-tuned machine," he boasted.

With his signature hyperbole betrayed by reality, Trump said there has never been a president "who in this short period of time has done what we've done." He blamed any problems on the outgoing Obama administration — "I inherited a mess at home and abroad" — and the news media.

Standing in the stately, chandeliered East Room, Trump lambasted the "out of control" media — long his favorite foe. He appeared to delight in jousting with reporters, repeatedly interrupting their questions and singling out stories he disagreed with, well aware his attacks were sure to be cheered by loyal supporters who share his views.

Polls show Trump retains support among Republicans, and solid majorities of Americans say he is following through on his promises and is viewed as a strong leader, according to a Gallup survey. But on other questions Americans express deep reservations.

Majorities say he doesn't inspire confidence and is not honest and trustworthy.

Trump's job approval rating is much lower than those of past presidents at the same point in their administrations. According to a Pew Research Center survey, 39 percent of Americans approve of his job performance while 56 percent disapprove.

Trump's first month in office has been chaotic by any measure — a flurry of self-inflicted wounds and poorly executed policy. On Monday, he demanded the resignation of his national security adviser Michael Flynn following revelations that Flynn misled Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Russia. The next day, The New York Times reported that Trump advisers were in touch with Russian intelligence advisers during the election campaign.

Trump panned the report as "fake news" and said he had "nothing to do with Russia."

"To the best of my knowledge no person that I deal with does," he added.

That answer, couched with a caveat similar to one routinely used by witnesses on a trial stand, appeared to give him wiggle room.

The president more clearly defended Flynn's calls with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. during the transition period after his November victory. He said that while he did not tell his adviser to discuss sanctions with the envoy, "I would have directed him if he didn't do it."

The president said that while Flynn was "just doing his job," he was "not

happy" that the adviser had misled the vice president. Trump knew for some time that Flynn had given Pence an inaccurate accounting of his discussions with Russia, but the president did not tell his No. 2 for about two weeks, according to a timeline supplied by the White House.

The president has yet to announce Flynn's replacement. His top choice, Vice Admiral Robert Harward, turned down the job Thursday, largely because of family concerns, according to a White House official who would not be named because Harward's decision has not been publicly announced.

Trump repeatedly tried to steer questions away from his and his advisers' potential ties with Russia, saying attention should rather be focused on why a steady stream of classified information is making its way into news reports.

He took a friendly posture toward Russia during the campaign and has spoken favorably about Russian President Vladimir Putin. He's yet to fully define what a better relationship between Washington and Moscow would look like, though he has said he wants to increase cooperation with Russia in the fight against the Islamic State.

On Thursday, he seemed to lower expectations for the success, pre-emptively blaming media reports for hurting his chances of making good on campaign promises to build a better relationship.

"If you were Putin right now, you would say, 'Hey, we're back to the old games

with the United States, there's no way Trump can ever do a deal with us,'" he said.

Trump vowed to move forward next week on his stalled plans to enact "extreme vetting" measures for people coming to the United States. He said he would sign a "new and very comprehensive order" aimed at addressing legal issues in his initial directive, which had temporarily halted the entire U.S. refugee program and all entries from seven Muslim-majority nations while the government worked on new vetting procedures.

A federal appeals court rejected the measure, and Trump said his administration would be "appealing." Shortly after, the Justice Department announced it did not want a larger appellate panel to review the ruling and would instead replace the ban.

The president took questions Thursday from 17 reporters, far more than at most presidential news conferences. His answers were often unwieldy, almost stream of consciousness, and some of his responses were startlingly strange.

He said the "greatest thing" he could do was "shoot" a Russian spy ship lingering off the East Coast of the United States. He asked an African-American reporter whether she could help set up a meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus. He wrongly stated that his Electoral College victory had been the largest of any president since Ronald Reagan, then dismissed the inaccuracy, saying he'd been "given that information."

If you forget to bring along a designated driver, remember... you can always rent one.



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FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 20 at 5:30 p.m.
Special Meeting: Student Discipline, to include a possible executive session to consider confidential student discipline matters

February 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Work Session: Travel Policies & Procedures and 2017-18 Budget Work

February 21 at 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

February 22 at 6:00 p.m.
Superintendent's Budget Forum (Ryan Middle School, 1450 Cowles Street, Fairbanks)

February 23 at 5:30 p.m.
Parent Engagement Committee Meeting

February 23 at 5:30 p.m.
Citizen Budget Review Committee Meeting

February 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Citizen Budget Review Committee Meeting

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, 520 FIFTH AVENUE

Please check the school board website for the most up-to-date information regarding upcoming school board meetings and events

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

Golden Valley Electric Assn.
Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Members welcome to attend:

6:30 p.m. Open Session

758 Illinois Street, Fairbanks

The meeting agenda is posted on GVEA's website: gvea.com/boardmeetings.

As a courtesy, management asks members interested in attending to notify the co-op's executive administrative assistant at (907) 458-5721 prior to the meeting.

Board meetings are typically held the fourth Monday of the month. Notices of special meetings, including time, date and place are posted in the lobby of all GVEA offices at least 24 hours before the meetings, except in the case of emergencies.



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FAIRBANKS DRAMA ASSOCIATION &

Fairbanks Ultrasound

PROUDLY PRESENT:

Escanaba
In Da Moonlight

PERFORMANCES:

February 3, 4, 10, 11,
17, 18 at 7:30pm
February 5, 12, 19 at 2:00pm

TICKETS:

\$25 Adults;
\$20 Seniors, Military
& University Students;
\$15 Teens ages 13 - 18 years

A Comedy By Jeff Daniels

Directed by Natalie Neubauer

CALL FOR
RESERVATIONS:

456-7529

M-F 10:30am-5pm
Hap Ryder Riverfront Theatre
1852 2nd Avenue

The box office opens one
hour prior to show time
for walk-up sales

FINAL WEEKEND!



NEWS

GOP unveils new health law plan; split remains

By Alan Fram
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Top House Republicans unveiled a rough sketch of a massive health care overhaul to rank-and-file lawmakers Thursday, but a lack of detail, cost estimates and GOP unity left unresolved the problem that's plagued them for years: What's the party's plan and can Congress pass it?

At a closed-door meeting in the Capitol basement, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and other party leaders described a broad vision for voiding much of President Barack Obama's

2010 statute and replacing it with conservative policies. It features a revamped Medicaid program for the poor, tax breaks to help people pay doctors' bills and federally subsidized state pools to assist those with costly medical conditions in buying insurance.

Lawmakers called the ideas options, and many were controversial. One being pushed by Ryan and other leaders would replace the tax increases in Obama's law with



Ryan

new levies on the value of some employer-provided health plans — a political no-fly zone for Republicans averse to tax boosts.

"You have to legislate with a sense of political reality," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., who said backing that proposal "would set up an ad against you from multiple directions" during upcoming elections.

The scant health care progress mirrors a lack of movement on other issues in a capital run by the GOP. No proposals have surfaced to pursue President Donald Trump's campaign promises to build a border wall with Mexico or buttress

the nation's infrastructure, and Republicans have yet to coalesce around another priority, revamping the nation's tax code.

Senate Republicans have criticized a House GOP plan to change how corporations are taxed. Trump has said he will release his own proposal in the coming weeks, but nothing had been produced, drawing mockery from Democrats.

"At some point we need to move from imaginary made-up plans to things that you can read on paper," said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.

The health care outline was aimed at giving

Republicans something to exhibit during next week's congressional recess, at a time of boisterous town hall meetings packed with supporters of Obama's law. Ryan told reporters that Republicans would introduce legislation voiding and replacing Obama's statute after Congress returns in late February, but offered no specifics.

Many Republicans took an upbeat tone after Thursday's meeting, with Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., saying, "We're only 27 days into the new administration, so we have time."

But they have repeatedly failed for seven years to

rally behind a substitute plan, and there are no guarantees of success in replacing a law that has extended coverage to 20 million Americans.

"We're not going to get out of this overnight," Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Mich., said of the overall effort.

There are sure clashes ahead this time over crucial specifics that could jeopardize the entire effort. And lawmakers said they were awaiting official cost estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which could ignite other battles if the price tag is disconcertingly high.



Vice President Mike Pence swears in Mick Mulvaney as Director of Office of Management and Budget on Thursday in the White House complex in Washington as Pamela West Mulvaney holds the Bible.

AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

Tea party gains voice in budget chief

By Andrew Taylor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The tea party wing of the GOP gained a voice in President Donald Trump's Cabinet on Thursday when Mick Mulvaney was sworn in as director of the White House budget office.

Vice President Mike Pence administered the oath of office hours after the Senate confirmed the South Carolina Republican's nomination on a narrow 51-49 vote in the GOP-controlled Senate.

Pence praised Mulvaney's "extraordinary record" and said he "couldn't be more enthusiastic" about Trump's decision to choose him.

Not all Republicans shared Pence's sentiments.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who is emerging as perhaps the most vocal GOP critic of the Trump administration, opposed the former congressman based on his past House votes supporting cuts to Pentagon spending.

"Mulvaney has spent his last six years in the House of Representatives pitting the national debt against our military," said McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Senators also gave a tentative 54-46 procedural green light to Trump's choice to run the Environmental Protection Agency, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt. It was a signal that Pruitt should sail through on a final vote scheduled for today, despite being opposed by Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a GOP moderate.

Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, two of the party's more moderate members, backed Pruitt.

Trump has tapped some of the wealthiest Americans to serve in his Cabinet and ethics reviews

have slowed the confirmation process. So have Senate Democrats who have mostly opposed all the nominees and forced hours of debate.

Mulvaney's vote means that 13 out of 22 Trump Cabinet or Cabinet-level picks have been confirmed. Nominees to key Cabinet departments such as Interior, Housing and Urban Development, and Energy await confirmation.

Mulvaney's confirmation promises to accelerate work on Trump's upcoming budget plan, which is overdue. That's typical at the beginning of an administration.

IN BRIEF

Court to hold off on travel ban decision

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court says it will hold off on deciding whether to have a larger panel of judges reconsider a ruling that kept President Donald Trump's travel ban on hold.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals made the announcement Thursday after Trump said he planned to issue a new travel ban next week.

The administration had asked the 9th Circuit to put the case on hold until the new order is issued. It then wants the court to toss out last week's decision by a three-judge 9th Circuit panel that kept the ban on hold.

Trump, fond of executive orders, awaits more pens

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — It didn't take long for President Donald Trump to start running out of the custom-made Cross pens he uses to sign all of his executive orders.

The White House was expecting its latest batch of 350 gold-plated pens by today. They were shipped Wednesday by the 170-year-old New England company that's supplied its fancy pens to at least seven U.S. presidents.

Trump's transition team ordered 150 before the inauguration but Trump starting giving them out as souvenirs to lawmakers on the first day.

CIA: Agency isn't hiding intelligence from Trump

WASHINGTON — CIA director Mike Pompeo said Thursday that the agency is providing President Donald Trump with the best intelligence it can, disputing reports that the spy community is withholding information from the commander in chief.

"The CIA does not, has not, and will never hide intelligence from the president, period. We are not aware of any instance when that has occurred," Pompeo said in a statement aimed at quelling reports that the intelligence community and Trump were in conflict.

Pompeo's statement came on the same day that a senior White House official said the administration had asked a New York-based private equity executive — Stephen Feinberg, co-founder of Cerberus Capital Management — to lead a review of the U.S. intelligence community.

Top envoys say no quick changes to US-Russia ties

BRUSSELS — The Trump administration signaled Thursday there will be no change soon in U.S.-Russian relations, putting the onus on Moscow to prove itself if it wants closer cooperation with Washington. Russia's support for Ukrainian separatists was underscored as a test case of its willingness to change behavior.

At a NATO meeting in Brussels, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis made clear the United States isn't ready to collaborate militarily with its former Cold War foe against the Islamic State or other threats, a long-standing goal of the Kremlin's which new U.S. President Donald Trump says he wants, too. After meeting with Russia's top diplomat in Germany, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Moscow first must help stop violence in Ukraine.

From wire reports

Trump fans cheer his stance with the press

By John Raby
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Critics of President Donald Trump saw in his Thursday news conference a thin-skinned chief executive who continues to blame the media for the controversies roiling his administration.

His supporters saw something else: A champion of Middle America who is taking on the establishment and making good on his campaign promises to put the country first.

The Associated Press contacted Trump supporters across the country to see how they viewed a news conference in which the president said his administration was running like "a fine-tuned machine" despite the resignation of his top national security adviser, a court setback on his immigration order, a defeat for his nominee as labor secretary and reports of internal divisions.

Here are views of some of those supporters:

Richelle Kirk of Logan, West Virginia, watched some of Trump's news conference on Thursday and didn't see any head-scratching comments from the president.

"I back him 100 percent," said the 42-year-old stay-at-home mom. "You either love it or get out, is my opinion."

During Barack Obama's presidency, her husband was laid off from his coal-mining job, a loss they blamed on Obama's environmental policies. She said they lost a home and "everything we owned."

After West Virginia voters resoundingly rejected Obama during his 2012 re-election, "we didn't show our hind ends when Obama was re-elected," Kirk said. So she believes people shouldn't overreact to Trump, either.

She particularly agreed with the president when he took credit for an optimistic business climate and a rising stock market, saying Trump is beginning to fulfill his

campaign promise to put people back to work.

Reporters, she said, "need to leave him alone. He's just doing what he said he's going to do."

Kevin Felty of Norfolk, Virginia, said it was the "most impressive presidential press conference" of his life.

"Largely because it was so unorthodox," said Felty, 48, who works as a surgical assistant and sells life insurance. "It was hyper adversarial between the president and the press. And yet he was able to control the questioning and the tone and the mood in the room."

Felty said the media needs to move on regarding Russia and former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

"There was nothing illegal that General Flynn had done at that time," Felty said. "What he did do is make a mistake in not being accurate with the vice president."

He also said he believes Trump is trustworthy as president.

"He doesn't need the media to hide him to make the right decisions," Felty said. "It's something he's been doing well for decades."

Regina Lenoir of Pica-yune, Mississippi, enjoyed watching Trump's news conference and said the president "looked more relaxed."

Lenoir, 69, said she was most interested in the president's comments about the alleged leaks that led to the resignation of Michael Flynn as national security adviser.

"We don't know the conversation that happened between him and (Vice President Mike) Pence. Only they know. But the news media gets out there (and) says such and such with no corroboration," she said. "I'm sick of them making up stories. You know, we're intelligent people. We can make up our own mind on whether they're telling the truth."

She agreed with Trump's take on how the media has covered his administration and campaign.

Yukon Quest

A special THANK YOU to the three sponsors who have been supporting us since the first race in 1984!

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A shopper walks past a sign hanging outside the closed Marco's Fish Market on Thursday in south Philadelphia's Italian Market. In an action called "A Day Without Immigrants," immigrants across the country stayed home from school and work on Thursday to show how critical they are to the U.S. economy and way of life. AP PHOTO/JACQUELINE LARMA

'Day Without Immigrants': Protest closes restaurants in US

By Errin Haines Whack
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — The heart of Philadelphia's Italian Market was uncommonly quiet. Fine restaurants in New York, San Francisco and the nation's capital closed for the day. Grocery stores, food trucks, coffee shops, diners and taco joints in places like Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston shut down.

Immigrants around the U.S. stayed home from work and school Thursday to demonstrate how important they are to America's economy, and many businesses closed in solidarity, in a nationwide protest called A Day Without Immigrants.

The boycott was aimed squarely at President Donald Trump's efforts to step up deportations, build a wall at the Mexican border and close the nation's doors to many travelers. Organizers said they expected thousands to participate or otherwise show support.

It was unclear how many people participated, but in many cities, the actions were disruptive, if not halting. More actions are being planned for May 1 — known as May Day, the internationally recognized holiday honoring workers.

"I fear every day whether I am going to make it back home. I don't know if my mom will make it home," said Hessel Duarte, a 17-year-old native of Honduras who lives in Austin, Texas, with his family and skipped class at his high school to take part in one of several rallies held around the country. Duarte said he arrived in the U.S. at age 5 to escape gang violence.

The protest even reached into the U.S. Capitol, where a Senate coffee shop was among the eateries that were closed as employees did not show up at work.

Organizers appealed to immigrants from all walks of life to take part, but the effects were felt most strongly in the restaurant industry, which has long been a first step up the economic ladder for newcomers to America with its many jobs for cooks, dishwashers and servers. Restaurant owners with immigrant roots of their own were among those acting in solidarity with workers.

Expensive restaurants and fast-food joints alike closed, some perhaps because they had no choice, others because of what they said was sympathy for their immigrant



A group marches away from the Texas Capitol during an immigration protest Thursday in Austin, Texas. AP PHOTO/ERIC GAY

employees. Sushi bars, Brazilian steakhouses, Mexican eateries and Thai and Italian restaurants all turned away lunchtime customers.

"The really important dynamic to note is this is not antagonistic, employee-against-employer," said Janet Murguia, president of the Hispanic rights group National Council of La Raza. "This is employers and workers standing together, not in conflict."

She added: "Businesses cannot function without immigrant workers today."

At a White House news conference held as the lunch-hour protests unfolded, Trump boasted of his border security measures and immigration arrests of hundreds of people in the past week, saying, "We are saving lives every single day."

Since the end of 2007, the number of foreign-born workers employed in the U.S. has climbed by nearly 3.1 million to 25.9 million; they account for 56 percent of the increase in U.S. employment over that period, according to the Labor Department.

Roughly 12 million people are employed in the restaurant industry, and immigrants make up the majority — up to 70 percent in places like New York and Chicago, according to the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, which works to improve working conditions. An estimated 1.3 million in the industry are immigrants in the U.S. illegally, the group said. The construction

industry, which likewise employs large numbers of immigrants, also felt the effects of Thursday's protest.

Shea Frederick, who owns a small construction company in Baltimore, showed up at 7 a.m. at a home he is renovating and found that he was all alone, with a load of drywall ready for install. He soon understood why: His crew, five immigrants, called to say they weren't coming to work. They were joining the protests.

"I had an entire day of full work," he said. "I have inspectors lined up to inspect the place, and now they're thrown off, and you do it the day before the weekend and it pushes things off even more. It sucks, but it's understandable."

Frederick said that while he fundamentally agrees with the action, and appreciates why his crew felt the need to participate, he feels his business is being made to suffer as a result of the president's policies.

"It's hurting the wrong people," he said. "A gigantic part of this state didn't vote this person in, and we're paying for his terrible decisions."

No estimates of how many students stayed home in many cities were available. Many student absences may not be excused, and some people who skipped work will lose a day's pay or perhaps even their jobs. But organizers and participants argued the cause was worth it.

A school board official said that more than 1,100 students went on strike at Dallas Independent School District schools.

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WEATHER AND FORECASTS

FAIRBANKS 5-DAY FORECAST

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Chance of snow	Chance of snow	Partly sunny

▲ 16° ▼ -7° ▲ 12° ▼ -8° ▲ 8° ▼ -15° ▲ 3° ▼ -19° ▲ 0° ▼ -11°

ALMANAC	Snowfall:	SUN AND MOON
Statistics for Fairbanks through 5 p.m. yesterday.	24 hours ending 5 p.m. 0.0"	Sunrise 8:37 AM
Precipitation:	Month to date 3.7"	Sunset 5:32 PM
24 hours ending 5 p.m. 0.00"	Normal month to date 4.8"	Length of Day 8 hours, 49 min., 17 sec.
Month to date 0.10"	Season to date 58.8"	Daylight gained 6 min., 49 sec.
Normal month to date 0.25"	Normal season to date 53.0"	Civil twilight begins 7:49 AM
Year to date 1.06"	Temperatures:	Civil twilight ends 6:22 PM
Normal year to date 0.83"	Record High 44° in 1947	Moonrise 1:35 AM
	Record Low -47° in 1915	Moonset 10:15 AM
	Normal High/Low 11°/-12°	

ALASKA SUMMARY

A low pressure system will produce a chance of snow over much of southern Alaska, along with rain in parts of southeastern Alaska. Portions of northern and central Alaska will have a chance of snow due to a trough of low pressure.

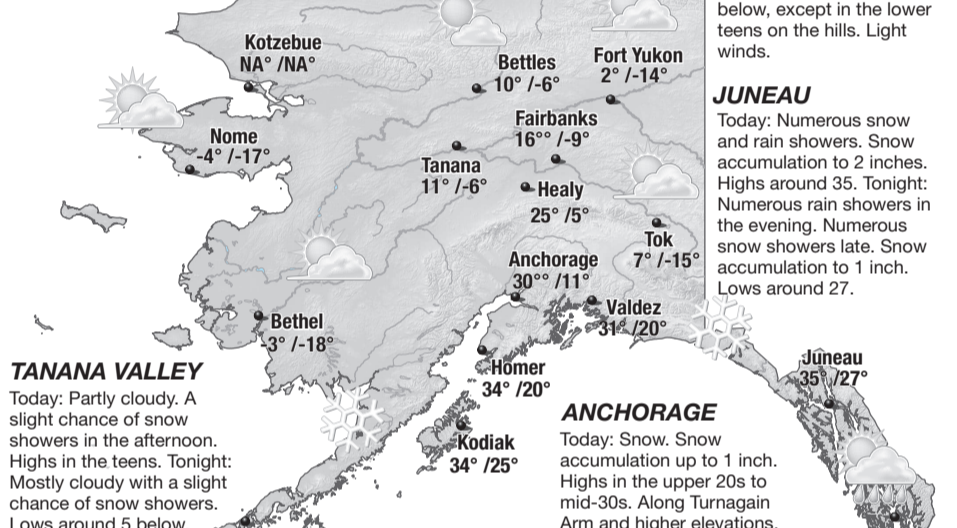
Last	New	First	Full
Feb. 18	Feb. 26	March 5	March 12

STATE AND REGIONAL FORECAST

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ARCTIC SLOPE

Today: Mostly cloudy. Patchy freezing fog. Flurries in the afternoon. Highs around 17 below. Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Patchy freezing fog. Lows around 24 below.



TANANA VALLEY

Today: Partly cloudy. A slight chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs in the teens. Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow showers. Lows around 5 below.

ALASKA EXTREMES YESTERDAY

High 45° at Metliakatla
Low -33° at Wainwright

MORE ALASKA CITIES

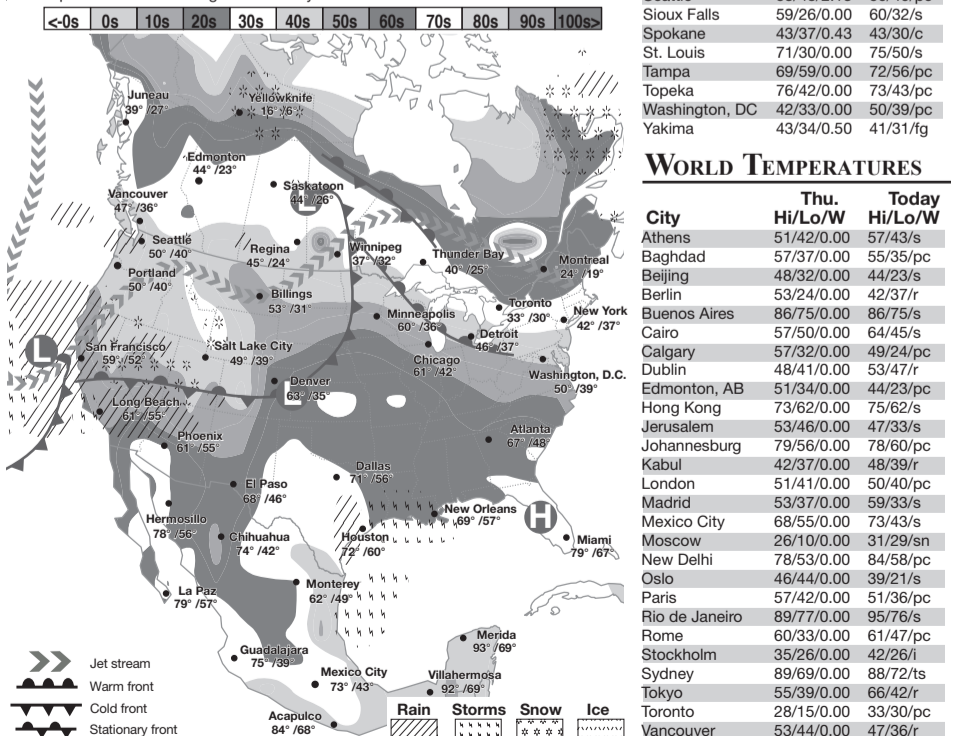
City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W
Arctic Village	5/1/0.01	3/-11/pc	Glennallen	37/14/0.00	24/-1/pc	Sitka	64/31/0.00	68/48/pc
Cordova	39/30/0.00	36/26/sn	Kenai	36/26/0.14	30/15/s	Talkeetna	33/21/0.00	28/9/sn
Dillingham	30/26/0.02	22/4/sf	King Salmon	31/26/0.05	25/6/sf	Unalakleet	5/-/6	-5/-18/pc
Earle	23/-/6	17/-2/pc	McGrath	15/-/3	10/-9/sf	Willow	33/24/0.00	31/4/sn
Fairbanks	17/-/6	16/-8/pc	Northway	21/-/8	7/-15/pc	Wrangell	37/33/0.00	37/33/sf
Galena	7/-/2	-1/-16/sf	Palmer	32/23/0.00	30/5/sn	Yakutat	39/25/0.00	37/27/sf

NATIONAL TEMPERATURES

City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W
Albany	33/27/0.00	32/19/pc	Cleveland	30/25/0.05	50/40/pc	Little Rock	64/31/0.00	68/48/pc
Albuquerque	57/30/0.00	60/37/pc	Columbia, SC	64/32/0.00	72/44/s	Los Angeles	68/51/0.00	59/54/r
Aspen	50/13/0.00	47/29/pc	Dallas	66/41/0.00	71/56/pc	Louisville	54/32/0.00	66/46/pc
Atlanta	60/35/0.00	67/48/pc	Denver	75/39/0.00	63/35/pc	Memphis	61/32/0.00	68/52/pc
Atlantic City	41/32/0.00	45/32/pc	Des Moines	65/32/0.00	70/38/s	Miami	78/68/0.00	79/67/pc
Austin	70/40/0.00	73/55/pc	Detroit	34/26/0.00	46/37/pc	Milwaukee	38/29/0.00	54/39/pc
Baltimore	40/30/0.00	48/32/pc	Dover	38/30/0.00	45/36/pc	Minneapolis	42/27/0.00	60/36/pc
Baton Rouge	66/37/0.00	69/54/sh	Duluth	32/20/0.00	42/26/pc	Mobile	66/38/0.00	67/53/pc
Birmingham	61/32/0.00	68/48/pc	El Paso	62/32/0.00	68/46/pc	Nashville	60/27/0.00	68/49/s
Bismarck	54/25/0.00	46/27/pc	Fargo	44/29/0.00	47/32/pc	New Orleans	62/48/0.00	69/57/sh
Boise	58/37/0.04	50/41/pc	Flagstaff	54/18/0.00	44/33/sf	New York City	39/32/0.00	42/34/pc
Boston	35/30/0.29	34/23/pc	Hartford	35/27/0.02	36/21/pc	Norfolk	46/32/0.00	55/39/pc
Buffalo	26/19/0.00	35/33/pc	Helena	55/32/0.00	43/21/pc	Oklahoma City	69/31/0.57	69/47/pc
Burlington, VT	28/25/0.36	26/17/pc	Honolulu	68/40/0.03	82/60/ts	Omaha	67/31/0.00	71/36/s
Casper	58/37/0.00	55/31/pc	Houston	68/40/0.00	72/60/ts	Palm Springs	79/55/0.00	73/57/r
Charleston, SC	65/39/0.00	71/45/s	Indianapolis	48/29/0.00	62/43/pc	Phoenix	75/52/0.00	75/58/pc
Charleston, WV	44/29/0.00	60/40/pc	Jacksonville	67/44/0.00	72/50/s	Pittsburgh	28/23/0.03	49/38/pc
Charlotte	58/32/0.00	67/40/pc	Kansas City	73/33/0.00	72/45/s	Portland, OR	49/41/2.62	49/37/sh
Cheyenne	68/39/0.00	57/31/pc	Knoxville	54/29/0.00	64/41/s	Providence	37/32/0.09	41/24/pc
Chicago	41/30/0.00	61/42/s	Las Vegas	74/47/0.00	62/53/r	Provo	60/26/0.02	49/38/r

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Today's noon positions of weather systems. Today's highs and tonight's lows. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL EXTREMES

High: 83° at Indio, CA
Low: -9° at Champion, MI

A storm system will produce rain and snow over much of the West. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will be expected along the Gulf Coast, while most of the East will be dry.

WORLD TEMPERATURES

City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Today Hi/Lo/W
Athens	51/42/0.00	57/43/s
Baghdad	57/37/0.00	55/35/pc
Beijing	48/32/0.00	44/23/s
Berlin	53/24/0.00	42/37/r
Buenos Aires	86/75/0.00	86/75/s
Cairo	57/50/0.00	64/45/s
Calgary	57/32/0.00	49/24/pc
Dublin	48/41/0.00	53/47/r
Edmonton, AB	51/34/0.00	44/23/pc
Hong Kong	73/62/0.00	75/62/s
Jerusalem	53/46/0.00	47/33/s
Johannesburg	79/56/0.00	78/60/pc
Kabul	42/37/0.00	48/39/r
London	51/41/0.00	50/40/pc
Madrid	53/37/0.00	59/33/s
Mexico City	68/55/0.00	73/43/s
Moscow	26/10/0.00	31/29/sn
New Delhi	78/53/0.00	84/58/pc
Oslo	46/44/0.00	39/21/s
Paris	57/42/0.00	51/36/pc
Rio de Janeiro	89/77/0.00	95/76/r
Rome	60/33/0.00	61/47/pc
Stockholm	35/26/0.00	42/26/i
Sydney	89/69/0.00	88/72/ts
Tokyo	55/39/0.00	66/42/r
Toronto	28/15/0.00	33/30/pc
Vancouver	53/44/0.00	47/36/r
Whitehorse	30/14/0.00	22/5/s
Yakutsk	-23/-41	-20/-34/c
Yellowknife	23/19/0.00	16/6/c

Key: W=weather; s=sunny; f=fair; pc=partly cloudy; c=cloudy; hz=haze; fg=fog; sh=showers; r=rain; dr=drizzle; t=thunderstorms; sn=snow; sf=flurries; i=ice(sleet or freezing rain); wi=windy; mx=winy mix (rain and snow)

QUEST

Musher makes wrong turn

By Sam Friedman
SFRIEDMAN
@NEWSMINER.COM

A Yukon Quest musher appears to have made a costly wrong turn with less than 20 miles left in the 1,000-mile race.

French musher Sébastien Dos Santos Borges was comfortably in second-to-last place Sunday evening when his team took a four hour detour away from the trail toward North Pole,

according to GPS tracking data on the Yukon Quest website.

Quest spokeswoman Pixie Ingram said by text message Sunday night that quest officials were monitoring Borges' signal, but that he appears to be headed back to the marked trail.



Dos Santos Borges

At about 6:15 p.m. Borges' GPS tracker was headed down the trail where it meets the Chena River just upstream of Nordale Road. From here the trail continues downstream through Fort Wainwright and into downtown Fairbanks.

But Borges appears to have turned left instead of right, continuing upstream for another two hours before turning around at a Chena Flood Control Project seep-

age channel just north of Chena Lake. Borges appears to turn around at about 8:30 p.m., and as of 10:30 p.m. had not yet reached the section of trail he left at 6:15 p.m.

As of press time, it appears Borges will likely end the race in last place because of the detour. North Pole musher Ben Good passed Borges while he was on his detour and was less than two hours from the finish line.



Volunteers help Canadian musher Rob Cooke's team across Chena Hot Springs Road on Thursday. SAM FRIEDMAN / NEWS-MINER

ENDINGS

Continued from A1

ning musher took 10 days or more to complete the race was 2011 when Dallas Seavey won the race. Like this year, that year's race was also in the Whitehorse-to-Fairbanks direction.

However, Hall's time was fast when considering the entire history of the race. No musher completed the Yukon Quest in less than 10 days until Sebastian Schnuelle in 2009.

Hall was the second-youngest musher to win the race and first second-generation musher to win. Hall's father, Wayne Hall, has also completed the Yukon Quest.

Contact Outdoors Editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

RACE STANDINGS

As of 9:55 p.m. Alaska time Thursday, Feb. 17
(All times AKST):

- 1. Matt Hall**, into Fairbanks, 12:04 p.m. Tuesday
- 2. Hugh Neff**, into Fairbanks, 7 p.m. Tuesday
- 3. Allen Moore**, into Fairbanks, 10:05 p.m. Tuesday
- 4. Paige Drobny**, into Fairbanks, 2:40 a.m. Wednesday
- 5. Ed Hopkins**, into Fairbanks, 4:28 a.m. Wednesday
- 6. Torsten Kohnert**, into Fairbanks, 9:12 a.m. Wednesday
- 7. Katherine Keith**, into Fairbanks, 11:48 a.m. Wednesday
- 8. Jessie Royer**, into Fairbanks, 3:38 p.m. Wednesday
- 9. Ryne Olson**, into Fairbanks, 9:29 p.m. Wednesday
- 10. Dave Dalton**, into Fairbanks, 2:09 p.m. Thursday
- 11. Rob Cooke**, into Fairbanks, 6:16 p.m. Thursday
- 12. Brian Wilmshurst**, into Fairbanks, 8:03 p.m. Thursday
- 13. Sébastien Dos Santos Borges**, north of Chena Lake, 10:30 p.m. Thursday
- 14. Ben Good**, out of Mile 101, 4:40 p.m. Wednesday

- Gaetan Pierrard, scratched at Central
- Hank DeBruin, scratched at Eagle
- Brent Sass, scratched at Central
- Yuka Honda, scratched at Dawson City
- Laura Neese, scratched at Pelly Crossing
- Ed Stielstra, scratched at Pelly Crossing
- Jason Campeau, scratched at Pelly Crossing

ROOKIE

Continued from A1

last musher to leave the Two Rivers checkpoint, which is actually near the end of Chena Hot Springs Road, about 30 miles beyond the community of Two Rivers.

Good, 37, was the only musher in the race this year who had never started a 1,000-mile race before.

He looked relatively rested as he completed his mandatory eight-hour stop here. His dogs were perky, jumping to attention when Good offered them a snack. But Good sounded trail-weary when he described the race so far.

"I didn't have my expectations set quite right for this," he said. "It was a lot harder than I thought it would be."

Good had a particularly hard time the night before, when he reversed course to take shelter among dead trees on the side of Rosebud Summit.

He was in a convoy of five teams at the back of the pack that left Central the day before to attempt to cross two mountain passes after a windstorm had blown over the trail. Yukon Quest dog teams must cross two steep passes — Eagle Summit and Rosebud Summit — before they follow the Chena River watershed to the finish line.

Good's team made it over Eagle Summit but slowed down pushing through snowdrifts going up Rosebud Summit. He later heard the winds were blowing at 30 mph and



North Pole rookie Ben Good and his dog team cross the North Fork of the Chena River during their final run into Fairbanks at the end of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race on Thursday. SAM FRIEDMAN / NEWS-MINER

gusting to 50 mph, he said.

He could see the headlamps of the other mushers he had been traveling with work their way up a series of knobs along the summit ridge. Good was missing Piper, his 8-year-old leader he dropped from the team more than 600 miles ago. His younger leaders were struggling.

"I have a little 3-year-old female and she was very spooked by the wind," Good said. "I just couldn't get them to go through the drifts. I tried walking out in front of them and that worked for a little way, but eventually we just got bogged down and just kind of hunkered down."

According to his GPS tracking data, Good spent more than an hour on the alpine slope. He said he used his sled to shield his nine dogs from the wind.

"I thought I'd just wait it out and then realized we'd be a lot more comfortable if we went down into the trees where it wasn't so windy," he said.

So Good pointed his dogs the way they had come and in about 15 minutes they had taken him down below treeline.

His handlers saw his GPS tracker slow down and reverse and worried he was in trouble.

His progress was stalled, but he wasn't in danger. Good found abundant firewood among the dead trees and spent about five hours camped out and waiting for the storm to subside. His run to the end of Chena Hot Springs Road ended up being pleasant. The wind subsided and the trail was lit by moonlight and aurora. Good said he's glad he signed



North Pole rookie Ben Good puts booties on his lead dog, Poppy, before his final run into Fairbanks at the end of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race on Thursday. SAM FRIEDMAN / NEWS-MINER

up for the Yukon Quest despite the challenges that exceeded his expectations. But having nearly completed his first race, Good said he's not sure if he'll be back next year because he knows the race was hard on his

friends and family. "You tap into a lot of people's priorities when you do a race like this," he said. "We'll see." Outdoors Editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

Yukon Quest

The annual running of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race is made possible through the generous contributions of our sponsors. We encourage all Yukon Quest members, volunteers and race fans to show your support for the Yukon Quest by supporting these sponsors.

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