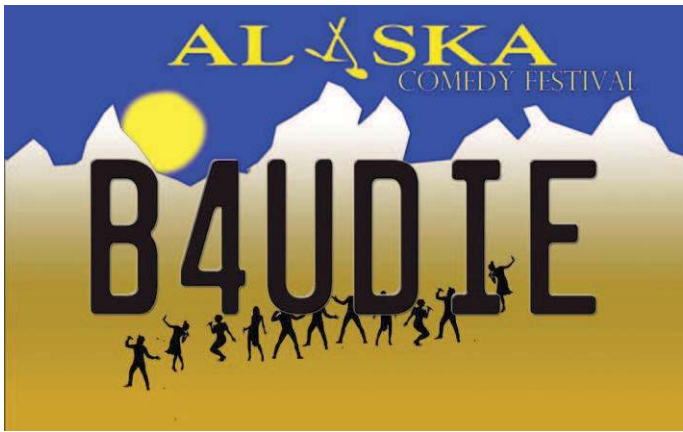




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Top 10 reasons Alaskans die

*Fair lady, throw those costly robes aside,
No longer may you glory in your pride.
Take leave of all sour carnal vain delight,
I'm come to summon you away this night.*
--- Medieval verse from "Death and the Lady"
(Roud, 1031)

If you want to know why Alaskans died in Alaska, you go to the Alaska Vital Statistics 2020 Annual Report, the most recent version available. It was released late last year and updated



BY LARRY D. WEISS

earlier this year. It is weighty reading and covers lots of other topics such as births, marriages, adoptions, etc. But we'll focus on deaths. Before we jump into the top ten reasons Alaskans died, here are a few interesting facts of note:

5,183 Alaskans died of all causes in 2020

December had the most deaths by

month (529)

- the average age of death for men was 64, but the oldest male decedent was 104 years old
- the average age of death for women was 69, but the oldest female decedent was 106 years old
- in 2020, the top ten leading causes of death were responsible for 3,755 deaths, or 72 percent of all deaths

Speaking of the top ten leading causes of death, let's jump right in. The top 10 leading underlying causes of death (defined as "the injury or disease that initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death") accounted for 72 percent of all deaths. They were, in order:

#1 Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer): 1,043 deaths

Cancers made up 20 percent of all deaths, with an age-adjusted death rate of 145 deaths per 100,000 population (age-adjustment is a statis-

tical process applied to rates of disease, death, or other health outcomes which allows groups with different age structures to be compared). However, American Indian/Alaska Native residents had the highest age-adjusted death rate by race, at 217 deaths per 100,000 population. Cancers were responsible for the deaths of approximately 129 men for every 100 women. Bronchus and lung cancer were the leading type of malignant neoplasms, and were responsible for 239 deaths, or 23 percent of all malignant neoplasm deaths

#2 Diseases of the Heart: 915 deaths

Diseases of the heart made up 18 percent of all deaths, with an age-adjusted death rate of 143 deaths per 100,000 population. American Indian/Alaska Native residents had the highest age-adjusted death rate by race, at 246 deaths per 100,000. Men in general did not fare well. Diseases of the heart were responsible for the deaths of approximately 165 men for every 100 women.

#3 Accidents (Unintentional injuries): 465 deaths

Accidents made up 9% of all deaths, with an age-adjusted death rate of 66 deaths per 100,000 population. American Indian/Alaska Native residents had the highest age-adjusted death rate by race, at 136 deaths per 100,000. Compared to women, men were especially hard hit. Accidents were responsible for the deaths of approximately 188 men for every 100 women.

Unintentional injuries were also the number one leading cause of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) which measures the impact of premature mortality. It is defined as the difference between an expected natural lifespan of 75 years, and the actual age of death before that time. Accidents were responsible for 12,862 years lost (YPLL) in 2020.

Poisoning or exposure to noxious substances were the leading type of unintentional injury, and were responsible for 179 deaths, or 39 percent of all unintentional injury deaths. This was followed by motor vehicle accidents, which



Statue of Death, personified as a human skeleton dressed in a shroud and clutching a scythe, from the Cathedral of Trier in Trier, Germany. Source: Wikipedia.

Deaths, On Page 5

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Lu Young's Children's Fund can keep her former husband Don's legacy alive

BY JOE SLOWINSKI

With the unexpected passing of U.S. Representative Don Young this past weekend, all Alaskans have lost a fighter. One of the causes dear to his heart was the Lu Young Children's Fund. Young's first wife Lu Young created her Children's Fund in 2004 to support Alaska Native Youth.

As the LYCF website reads, "she wanted the less fortunate, the sick, and homeless children of Alaska receive the resources and help they need to continue with healthy, happy lives."



Lu Young

Lu Young, a Gwich'in Athabascan Native, was the third of John Fredson and Jean Ribaloff's ten children. Her father John was the first Alaska Native to graduate from university. This accomplishment was a source of great pride and likely her charitable work's motivation.

She met her husband when he moved to Fort Yukon, to become a school teacher in the town. Young wanted to experience life above the arctic circle. They were married

for 46 years and together had two daughters and fourteen grandchildren.

She was the catalyst for him to enter politics. And, her contributions in support cannot be overstated as he successfully moved from the Mayor of Fort Yukon to the Alaska State House and Senate to the U.S. Congress, where he served until his death this past Friday. Lu Young was his rock, teammate, and life love and certainly helped to shape his will to fight for all Alaskans.

In a March 19th statement, President Joe Biden wrote of Young, "he always stayed true to who he was and the people of Alaska he represented. Tough. Loyal. A consensus builder.... There is no doubt that few legislators have left a greater mark on their state.... In the enhanced protections for Native tribes he championed. His legacy will continue in the America he loved."

To support the Lu Young Children's Fund, Don Young brought congressional members and other donors to Seward every August for their annual fishing trip, its hallmark annual fundraiser.



At last year's event, which included 60 donors, including eight Congressional members (AK, AR, GA-2, NC, MO, SC, TX), Young exclaimed "take care of my kids!" to organizational representatives who were present to share the impact of the LYCF's funding. He was referring to the Alaska Native youth the organizations served. It was evident that he cared deeply for Alaska Native people and honored the legacy of his wife's nonprofit.

The Lu Young Children's Fund has five central goals. These include: (1) To help Native children find comfort and solace for their grief in the loss of a loved one; (2) To provide assistance with mental health challenges; (3) To nurture healthy child development; (4) To reduce the effects of trauma

among children living in temporary housing; (5) To help the children understand the effects of suicide and how to cope.

"We are looking to provide Alaska Native children assistance with mental health challenges, nurture healthy child development, reduce the effects of trauma among children living in temporary housing and provide them with the tools to cope with challenges and obstacles that may stand in their way" reads the LYCF website.

Lu Young passed away in 2009. Don Young's boisterous, booming voice and hearty sense of humor made him a memorable presence and were pivotal in sharing the mission of the LYCF. With his passing leaves a void for the advocacy work he did to champion the Lu Young Children's Fund.

Timeline for AK special election set

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — State election officials on Tuesday announced plans for a June 11 special primary and an Aug. 16 special election to fill the U.S. House seat left vacant with last week's death of U.S. Rep. Don Young.

The winner would serve the remainder of Young's term, which ends in January.

Officials are planning for the special primary to be conducted by mail given the short timeline to hold the election, said Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer, who oversees elections in Alaska. The special election, meanwhile, is expected to coincide with the regular primary.

The special elections to fill the House vacancy will be the first in Alaska conducted under a new elections process approved by voters in 2020. That means a primary in which the top four vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the special election in which ranked choice voting will be used.



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AK Board of Game again behaves outrageously and disrespectfully at the fatal trapping of pets

The maddening charade continues, unabated.

As Nicole Schmitt recently learned in a disheartening way, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) continues to pretend that it treats all residents' perspectives openly, fairly, and respectfully when determining the rules that regulate hunting and trapping in our state; but in fact the board remains dismissive of those Alaskans whose values differ from its own members, mostly older white guys who represent the narrow interests of trappers, "sport" hunters, and big-game guides. (The two other current members are Alaska Natives, also male, who represent subsistence perspectives.)

BOG members have learned to be polite and appear respectful in public. They'll even pretend to reach out to those who represent different principles and ethical standards. But in the end, the board doesn't understand compromise or embrace broader perspectives, especially when dealing with wildlife advocates.

Schmitt, executive director of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA), got a painful reminder of this when she and the AWA spearheaded an effort to enact a trapping buffer along recreational trails in the Mat-Su region.

Even more than discouraging her, the BOG's actions outraged Schmitt, who believed its members to be sincere in placing minimal trapping restrictions on a small number of trails in the Mat-Su Borough. Instead, the board set her up, then completely shut down her effort to find some compromise.

I'm guessing that most Alaskans—and even most Mat-Su residents—would consider the efforts of Schmitt and her allies to be reasonable, even admirable. The AWA's original proposal would have prohibited traps being placed within 50 yards of multi-use recreational trails and trailheads in three game-management units that encompass the Mat-Su borough. (The fact that there aren't already such buffers is itself ridiculous.)

As the group's proposal explained, the intent was to "protect people who recreate and their pets on the area's most utilized multi-use trails."

"While most trappers set traps a responsible distance from multi-use trails, dangerous trap placements by some (trappers) close to trails and trailheads have incurred serious consequences..."

During the 2020-21 trapping season, those "serious consequences" included five dogs caught in traps, including one that was killed in what's called a "conibear" trap, and also a motocross rider pulled off his bike when he struck a snare placed across a trail.

"The goal of this proposal is not to unduly restrict trapping, but to protect and reduce the uncertainty for users of multi-use trails by providing defined boundaries on trap placements."

As I wrote in support of the proposal, it's "a common-sense and much-needed (and long-overdue) action, given the dangers to dogs and the consequent impacts on their human companions."

The danger remains a very real one. As of late February, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska this winter and two were killed in traps placed on or alongside trails. This is unacceptable. As I noted in my letter to the board, "We've all heard the horror stories

of people whose dogs were trapped—and sometimes killed—when walking their canine companions in popular recreational areas that didn't have a substantial buffer or any buffer at all."

Furthermore, there is precedent for such trapping buffers, two notable examples being Anchorage's "backyard wilderness," Chugach State Park, and also Juneau, where BOG-initiated setbacks have long been required in areas where trapping is allowed.

What this really is about, Schmitt and I and others have argued, is the greater public good, with a minimum of hardship—if any—to those who do recreational trapping along popular multi-use trails. To prevent the tragedy of a dog being seriously injured or even

killed, at minimal inconvenience to trappers, how can that not be a good thing?

The AWA's original proposal included multi-used trails that are considered "regionally significant" in the Mat-Su Borough Recreational Trail Plan. Out of thousands of trails that occur within the borough, slightly more than 200 were proposed. "In short," Schmitt notes, "we asked for only the highest quality trails with multi-use recreation, as defined by the communities who identified them."

The BOG maintained that the AWA was asking for too much. It deferred making a final decision while buffer proponents and trappers negotiated a smaller, compromise list of trails. Taken at face value, that seemed reasonable enough, and Schmitt admits she was initially encouraged. The BOG seemed to be taking the proposed trapping buffer seriously. "We embraced this opportunity to talk face-to-face and figure out a compromise," she says, adding that board member Lynn Keogh seemed to run the negotiation meeting "in good faith."

But of course there was a catch. More trappers were invited to participate than setback proponents, which meant that "everything had to be consensus." In the end, the trappers would agree to only 18 trails or trail systems, a tiny fraction of what AWA had included in its proposal.

"This 'compromise' was hardly a fair split," Schmitt notes, "but I felt at least there was some progress."

Though disappointed, Schmitt felt the process "reflected a promise of good faith that the BOG and trappers were willing to compromise, if even a little bit, with the tens of thousands of Alaskans who use these trails for hiking, skiing, and biking each winter."

Any sense of fair play and compromise quickly evaporated, however, when the full board met in Fairbanks on March 11. In short order and with minimal discussion, the BOG voted 6-1 against the compromise, then voted 7-0 against the original proposal.

So much for give and take. So much for fair play or respectful treatment of people willing to seek some middle ground.

"When the BOG ruled against the negotiated (and amended) proposal, I was honestly shocked," Schmitt says. "Here we had reached consensus with the trapping community, under the direction of a Board of Game member, and still it was rejected."

"The BOG received almost 500 written comments in support of setbacks and only 36 comments against them, and still these handful of trails were rejected. We 'compromised' at a 95%-5% split (losing 95% of the initial request) and, with almost no dis-



CITY WILDS BY
BILL SHERWONIT



cussion, they brushed that aside. The vote signaled to me that the Board of Game is not interested in public participation, nor is it interested in carrying out the agreements of a stakeholder group they themselves developed and organized. If they don't listen to literally hundreds of commenters who don't meet their worldview, or the stakeholders they called together to negotiate, who do they listen to?"

The answer to that last question is easy enough to answer: the BOG listens to—or seriously considers—only the minority of like-minded Alaskans whose views and values match their own.

I have watched online the board's March 11 "deliberation," which lasted less than 15 minutes and did not include any reasonable explanation for voting down the compromise.

Some members insisted that the final list of 18 trails wouldn't have made any real difference, because those trails are rarely if ever used by trappers anyway. And board chair Jerry Burnett has suggested that "passing this regulation would be more of a 'feel good' action than one that actually solved a problem."

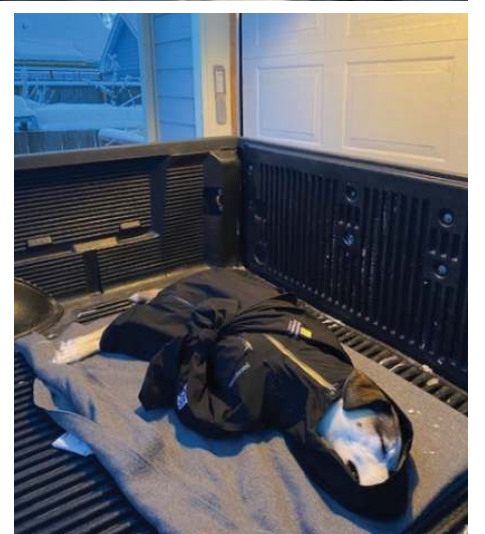
That's because trappers at the negotiation meeting wouldn't agree to include trails where a 50-yard buffer would have made a difference. Using Burnett's logic, the AWA and its supporters were trapped in a Catch 22 situation. They were destined to lose out, one way or another.

Contrary to what Burnett argues, I think the BOG was afraid that putting setbacks along even a handful of trails would set a messy precedent in the Mat-Su region. Members needed to appear reasonable and willing to compromise, but had no desire or intent to do so.

In short, the BOG was playing a game of gotcha. There was never any true desire to reach a compromise, it was all a set up.

I've sat through enough BOG meetings and submitted enough comments over the years to experience firsthand, and on numerous occasions, the way Alaska's wildlife-management system is rigged (as I've explained in the past).

That's why I and many other longtime wildlife-conservation advocates rarely sit through BOG meetings anymore. And it's why I empathize so strongly with Nicole Schmitt, who now says, "I honestly



feel naïve to think that the BOG intended to find a compromise. Now, I'm not sure that they ever planned to really listen. And that's discouraging."

For all her discouragement and outrage, I hope that Schmitt and other wildlife advocates continue to participate in the process. It's critically important that a new generation of Alaskans do so, if only because we need to bear witness to the sham—and shame—that has long been the state of wildlife management in our state.

I'm confident that someday things will change and a more open, fair-minded and ethical group of Alaskans will populate the BOG. I'm hopeful that Nicole Schmitt and others of her generation will see the start of such a shift.

In the meantime, I'll participate in whatever small ways I can. If nothing else, now and then I can remind Alaskans how poorly the larger population and the greater good—including Alaska's wildlife—is nowadays served by the BOG and, too often, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, even as they pretend to do otherwise.

Anchorage nature writer and wildlands/wildlife advocate Bill Sherwonit is a widely published essayist and the author of more than a dozen books, including "Living with Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey" and "Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife." Readers wishing to send comments or questions directly to Bill may do so at akgriz@hotmail.com

Nick Begich deserves an endorsement

Editor's Note: This story was filed before the passing of Rep. Don Young

When Alaska Republican Party delegates meet in Fairbanks next month there will be many internal party matters that the delegates will be attending to but they should not overlook an opportunity to make an impact this year. And a big way that the delegates could make an impact going into this year's election cycle is to



THE DOWNTOWN CONSERVATIVE
BY CEEZAR MARTINSON

pass a resolution of endorsement for the congressional campaign of Nick Begich. The reason to do this is just as simple and as was the reason the central committee

of the party endorsed Kelly Tshibaka over Senator Lisa Murkowski this year. Rep. Don Young has like Senator Murkowski taken actions that have proven detrimental to the state of Alaska and in light of these actions it is time for change.

First and foremost Congressman Young was a supporter of Deb Haaland to become Secretary of the Interior.

It was clear from her record in Congress, especially her support of the Green New Deal that she would be a strong opponent of resource development in Alaska and would actively work to shut down resource development projects in the state.

Since she has taken the helm at the Dept. of the Interior there has been a policy shift in a very radical direction that has directly harmed the state. Aside from supporting Deb Haaland, Congressman Young has demonstrated that he is a loyal vote for the AFL-CIO and the disastrous policies that organization has been pushing at the federal level. One example of this is Congressman Young's support

for the PROAct, a major rewrite of US labor law that among other things would overrule states that have right-to-work statutes in effect and would impose regulatory burdens on businesses who have independent contractors. Because of these actions Republican delegates must take a firm stand at the state convention and give support to the candidacy of Nick Begich.



Nick Begich III

Nick, it should be noted, is on the opposite side of Congressman Young on many issues. First and foremost he has made it clear that he would have advocated against Deb Haaland's confirmation as Interior Secretary and that he will be a no vote on legislation sponsored by the AFL-CIO. In his public appearances he has made it clear that he will be a conservative voice in the House in the mold of someone like Senator Mike Lee of Utah. Nick by making his positions on these and many other issues clear has demonstrated that he is someone who stands up and works to turn conservative principles into policy.

And he will be a fighter in the House that Alaska needs at a time when two out of our three federal delegation members have caved to the Biden Administration and the far Left.

The same reasons that members of the state central committee gave for supporting Kelly Tshibaka are the same reasons delegates to the state conventions should pass a resolution of endorsement for Nick.

If they fail to do this then they are being silent at a time when silence is not the answer to the challenges we face. Hopefully come next month delegates will realize the importance of the moment and there will be a movement for Nick Begich that not only gets him an endorsement but sends him to Congress in November 2022.



Gustave Doré Death on the Pale Horse (1865) - The fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse. Source: Wikipedia.

Deaths From Page 2

per 100,000 population. American Indian/Alaska Native residents had the highest age-adjusted death rate by race, at 100 deaths per 100,000. Seniors were most likely to die from COVID-19, with 78 percent of COVID-19 deaths occurring among residents aged 65 and over, and an average age at death of 74 years old. Once again, men did not do well. COVID-19 was responsible for the deaths of approximately 154 men for every 100 women.

Moving right along, the last 6 causes of death are:

#5 Cerebrovascular Diseases (Stroke): 212 deaths

#6 Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases: 205 deaths.

#7 Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide): 204 deaths

Interesting side note here. Suicide was the most common cause of firearm-related death, at 133 deaths. Suicides made up 76 percent of all firearm-related deaths.

#8 Diabetes: 174 deaths

#9 Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis: 167 deaths

#10 Alzheimer's Disease: 139 deaths.

Drugs per se are not listed separately among the top 10 causes of death in Alaska. Nevertheless, they are an important cause of death. It's complicated. Drug-induced mortality includes deaths due to drug overdose, medical conditions from the chronic use of drugs, or the misuse of drugs or drug combinations. These can be due to use of illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs. It does not include injuries, or other causes indirectly related to drug use.

In 2020, there were 179 drug-induced deaths, with an age-adjusted death rate of 24 deaths per 100,000 population. American Indian/Alaska Native residents had the highest age-adjusted death rate by race, at 47 deaths per 100,000 population. Drug overdoses (regardless of intent) were responsible for 160 deaths, or 89 percent of all drug-induced deaths in 2020.

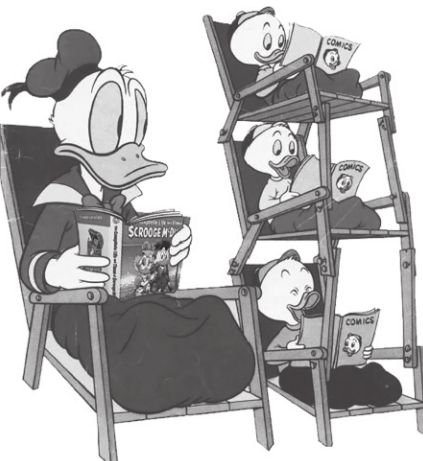
Opioids, psychostimulants, and benzo-

Drugs per se are not listed separately among the top 10 causes of death in Alaska. Nevertheless, they are an important cause of death. It's complicated. Drug-induced mortality includes deaths due to drug overdose, medical conditions from the chronic use of drugs, or the misuse of drugs or drug combinations. These can be due to use of illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs. It does not include injuries, or other causes indirectly related to drug use.

diazepines are three of the most common general classes of drugs involved in overdose deaths. Opioids were found in 112 overdose deaths, or 70 percent of all overdoses. Non-methadone synthetic opioids, the class of opioid that includes synthetic opioids such as fentanyl was the most commonly found opioid, identified in 62 percent of opioid overdoses (with fentanyl or one of its chemical analogues being referenced in the descriptions of 66 overdose deaths).

Psychostimulants, the class of psychotropic drug that includes illicit methamphetamine, were found in 77 overdose deaths, or 48 percent of all overdose deaths. Methamphetamine specifically was referenced in 65 overdose deaths. Benzodiazepines, a class of sedative drugs, were found in 21 overdose deaths, or 13 percent of all overdose deaths.

Well, that's it. Death in Alaska. Want to know more? Maybe you are interested in births or adoptions or other vital statistics? Check out <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats>. Not just numbers, but real Alaskans living their lives. Each one has a story...



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What should I do when homeless people ask me for money?

This question has caused a great rumbling in my heart for a very long time. It all started for me at 19 when I moved to New York City. It seemed as if every street and hidden space had another person in a makeshift cardboard house, someone with a shopping cart toting their things around, someone wrapped in a blanket trying to keep warm, or someone sitting on a park bench in tattered clothing with a faraway look or talking to themselves.

I felt overwhelmed. My hand was constantly in my pocket, sharing what I had and buying sandwiches for what seemed like an endless amount of people. I felt helpless to stop it. Sometimes I would think, Is there really a God? Because if there is, where are They!? I felt so deeply for these people and wanted to do anything to stop this from happening.

I continued giving even though I was barely getting by financially myself. Eventually, I was led to an organization where we made sandwiches and distributed them to the large homeless population in Grand Central station. Now that I was not alone, I could

get closer and start to talk to some of these people (those that were willing or able to talk). But the pain inside of me continued. There was always another person to help and to give to—it was never-ending.

One day someone said something so profound to me: "The only way you can help someone else is by helping yourself first." I didn't really understand that concept fully, but a seed was planted inside me that started to grow inside over the years until one day I finally understood.

I had just moved back to New York with a hope, a dream, three kids, a husband, and very little money. I was slowly rebuilding my business and my family's life, but barely getting by. My three young kids and I had just gotten off the subway on our way to Washington Square Park to have a picnic when I noticed a homeless man on the platform. I had just bought a baguette and some lunch meat to make sandwiches for our lunch. I walked over to him and asked him if he was hungry. "I have some food if you'd like?" He smiled a smile that warmed my heart. "What's your name?" I asked. "Daniel," he said. We started talking. He told me he just found out he had cancer. He saw my face and he assured me it was ok. "Sometimes that's just life," he said, smiling. I started to give him the baguette and the meat. "That's too much," he said. My kids also chimed in. "Mamma, that's too much." I knew from the look on my kids' faces and Daniel's that they were trying to help me learn that I was over-giving. "You need to keep some food for you and your children," Daniel continued. I stopped and finally realized that this moment was the sun shining on that seed to grow. I hugged Daniel, gave him half the food, and cried as we left the subway (my tears watering the seed).

For most of my life, I never really felt at home anywhere. I always felt a moment away from being on the streets, either metaphorically or physically. Back when I was 19 and had moved to New York, I found myself homeless for four days with nowhere to go. It was terrifying, and now I was the head of a family still struggling to keep us safe.

From that day we met Daniel, things started to change. I began to build a solid foundation for myself and my family. As my self-love grew inside me, I stopped believing that it was my job to take care of everyone. I also became aware that I had pitied these people, somehow believing I was somewhat better than them because I had something material that they didn't. I know now I am only a fellow traveler on this road, no better nor worse than anyone else, and I'm not here to judge anyone on their journey. As I started to believe that there was a higher power—which I choose to call God/Universe—I began to trust I would instinctively know where to give and how.

I was led to a homeless program called Ready Willing



ASK OSKAR BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Ask Oskar, On Page 18

Russian lawmaker demands Alaska back



Dunleavy's public meltdown: Fear and Loathing of the coming vote-by-mail election

Gov. Mike Dunleavy's rude attempt to belittle an Anchorage Daily News reporter Tuesday shows just how scared he is of being blamed for the vote-by-mail primary election set for June 11 to begin the process of replacing Rep. Don Young.

As his latest state-managed press event, Dunleavy shifted into angry junior-high-principal mode, trying to ridicule James Brooks, the Juneau reporter of the Anchorage Daily News. Brooks was online.

"James, do you know who runs the elections in the state of Alaska?" said Dunleavy.

Brooks and every reporter who has been in Alaska for 15 minutes knows that the lieutenant governor and the Division of Elections run elections in the state of Alaska.

I'm guessing that Brooks didn't say "yes" only because he was surprised and the first thing that popped into his head was "Please tell me."

With this, Dunleavy stepped in it. "You don't know? If you don't know you really shouldn't be reporting on this. Do you know?" Dunleavy said.

"I know. Do you?" Brooks responded. Given that he was being set up, this somewhat flippant response was justified.

For people of my age, the response immediately triggered the memory of the famous question that President Richard Nixon should never have asked of Dan Rather of CBS in 1974.

"Are you running for something?" an irritated Nixon asked at a press conference.

"No sir Mr President, are you?" Rather responded. The irritated Dunleavy made matters worse for himself because he didn't listen to Brooks when the reporter answered correctly about who runs elections.

Dunleavy didn't want to listen. He wanted to insult. "You don't know," said Dunleavy, feigning disbelief at such ignorance.

"OK, who does?" he asked the assembled crowd at his state publicity show.

Someone gave the obvious answer and Dunleavy said, "Lieutenant governor. Thank you. Thank you."

Dunleavy was angry because of a short-lived tweet from Brooks the preceding day that I've been told said something along the lines of the governor's office deciding that there would be a vote-by-mail election for the primary to replace Young. I didn't see the tweet, but it was deleted pretty quickly and it certainly was not prominent enough to create political trouble for Dunleavy.

The interesting thing about Dunleavy's denunciation of Brooks is that it shows just how much the governor fears being blamed for the coming vote-by-mail election, which many Dunleavy supporters will denounce. The governor doesn't want anyone to say it's his fault.

The special primary election will be June 11, while the special general election will be Aug. 16. The winner of the special general election will hold the U.S. House seat temporarily.

The special general election will be on the same day as the regular 2022 primary, at which four candidates will qualify to proceed to the regular general election in November for the 2023-24 term.

What Dunleavy did not say at his staged press event was that he secretly tried to get the Legislature to do away with the special primary election—the vote-by-mail affair—by passing an emergency bill to amend the election ballot measure approved in 2020. This was the story that Brooks had been trying to piece together.

"Dunleavy and members of his administration considered other options," Brooks and Nat Herz wrote in the Daily News. "On Sunday, the governor asked legislative leaders by teleconference whether it would be possible to pass a law by Friday canceling the special primary in favor of a single election in August."

"Lawmakers declined. Though theoretically possible, agreeing to Dunleavy's request would require revising the language of Ballot Measure 2, the citizens initia-



REPORTING FROM ALASKA BY DERMOT COLE

Cole, on Page 19

Republican legislator's bias proves hairstyle protection bill is needed

"When is it OK for us to feel threatened?" That was one of North Pole Republican Rep. Mike Prax's many questions during Monday's hearing on House Bill 312—legislation that would protect people's right to wear natural hairstyles at schools and on the job (with exceptions where it'd be a health or safety issue)—making the point that the legislation is sorely needed.

The legislation, which was sponsored by Anchorage Democratic Rep. Geran Tarr, is an effort to specifically protect BIPOC (Black, indigenous and people of color) people from the kind of actions that led to a 16-year-old high school wrestler Andrew Johnson being forced to cut his hair moments before a wrestling match by a white referee. Several people testified in support of the bill, arguing it goes a long way to protecting the culture and health of BIPOC students and employees. The U.S. Army adopted similar changes last year to accommodate BIPOC soldiers.

It's a matter of health, culture and basic existence, argued Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks, and BIPOC people should not be forced by schools and employers into hairstyles that simply make their white colleagues feel comfortable. Like many other testifiers, she noted the legislation doesn't force anyone to love BIPOC hairstyles.

"The issue isn't necessarily what people think of us or how they perceive us. The issue comes in when that person that has a particular perspective of us or feeling of us is in a position of authority over us and lets that perception change the outcome of that



MIDNIGHT SUN BY
MATT BUXTON

job interview, class, whatever it is. It is the reason I've experienced so much is because people's right to discern me, people's opinions and perspective is more legally protected than my actual right to exist the way that I exist," she said, adding that it's not just about cultural representation and expression but about keeping hair healthy. "We braid and twist and lock our hair to keep our hair neat, to keep it healthy. ... This is something to keep our bodies neat. When we let these perspectives get in the way of that we are literally harming people's right to exist. What's more important? Somebody's right to discern or somebody's right to exist?"

Rep. Prax seemed more than ready to make the point as he gave long, rambling examples of a time when he and his son were felt uncomfortable around a man his hair in locks on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. "He looked, to me, scary. We went around him. We didn't want to associate with him." He then went onto question a bald testifier about how he was supposed to tell the difference between him and a skinhead.

"I would say I think that the purpose of this bill is people are not judged by their hairstyles but rather by their actions," replied Planned Parenthood's Morgan Lim. "If that person were to be a member of a skinhead or neo-Nazi movement that they would be judged specifically on that. ... We all seek not to be judged by our hairstyles."

Danyelle Kimp, the president of the Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators, testified in support of the measure. He referenced



the incident with the wrestler Andrew Johnson, noting discrimination is still very much an issue in schools and workplaces, including the committee.

"Those microaggressions even come in the form of an earlier comment from a gentleman legislator who said a man with locks was scary to him, right? You can't change how he feels, I understand that, but HB 312 can help prevent new discriminatory actions or inactions toward the man with the locks because someone thought he was scary," he said. "My son wears locks. HB312 will help protect him and other Black kids. ... Just because you won't be able to discriminate against BIPOC folks for their natural hairstyles, I say too bad, so sad."

Prax replied by asking if there were a set of pictures, he could provide to illustrate natural hairstyles so he could know what's acceptable and what's not.

"Is there some boundary that those of us who feel threatened, honestly, by certain people and certain appearances of people," he asked. "When is it OK for us to feel threatened and when should we react by accepting?"

As Kimp had said earlier in the testimony, the legislation isn't about requiring white people to change their minds about BIPOC people's existence, but about ensuring that BIPOC people don't suffer for it in school and in the workplace. As for the request for photographs, Kimp said it shouldn't fall on people of color to help educate everyone else on what's racist and what's not.

"The burden shouldn't always be on people of color, the folks who are historically repressed," he said. "Do some digging, get into it, find out for yourself, hangout with some Black folks, you know, and just get to know and understand what's going on."

LETTER: Time To Focus on the Kids, Not the Buildings: Vote No on School Bonds

To the editor,
We all want our kids to have the best chance of success in life. Our public schools play a vital role in that outcome. Unfortunately, we are hobbling our kids' academic opportunities by allocating far too many of our nation-leading education dollars to facilities. We continue to see the emphasis placed on facilities, not on educational outcomes.

I first became aware of this a few years ago when the current Clark Middle School building was constructed. The per-square-foot cost of the new middle school exceeded the per-square-foot cost of the Anchorage VA Medical Center which was built around the same time. How is that possible? At that time, the justification was that the fancy school facility was needed in order to improve student outcomes. Here we are, a dozen years later, still waiting for the promised improved educational outcomes.

Perhaps these actions would make sense if our student population was rapidly growing. But it's not; Anchorage School District (ASD) enrollment peaked 20 years ago at about 50,000 thousand students. Fall 2021 enrollment for ASD was below 40,000 (when accounting for charter school enrollment). The last time ASD had fewer than 40,000 kids in ASD school buildings was 39 years ago, in 1983. Current ASD demographic

projections indicate this trend will continue for some time. In fact, the latest ASD Capital Improvement Plan expects enrollment will drop by another 5,000 students by 2027.

With the rapid drop in student enrollment in the last 20 years, you would think there would be a corresponding drop in facilities. However, you would be wrong. The opposite has unexplainably happened. Since 1983, the last time we had so few students, the total size of ASD facilities has grown by 49.2%, a whopping 2.6 million square feet of extra space. Using a conservative number of \$25 a square foot a year for heat, light, and maintenance, the additional space costs \$65 million a year. When the extra cost of principal and interest are added in for this added footprint, the total additional cost to the residents of Anchorage is around \$95 million a year.

Why are Anchorage residents footing a \$95 million dollar bill for unneeded space, when student educational outcomes desperately need improvement? Alaska is ranked dead last in the U.S. in national reading scores for both low-income and upper/middle-income students. And before you think that the rest of the state is dragging ASD scores down, guess again; ASD is ranked 22nd in the state in language arts out of 54 school districts.

Imagine what could happen if that \$95

million dollars in facilities costs (over \$2,000 per student or a \$34,000 raise per classroom teacher with ASD average class size of 17 students per teacher) was redirected every year to improve student outcomes by retaining and attracting top teaching talent. ASD's Proposition 1 facilities bond mailer

includes the tagline "All of Our Children." It's time for ASD to focus on the "Children" by spending more money in the classroom and not on fancy spacious buildings. Join me in voting No on Proposition 1.

— Jodi Taylor
Anchorage

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Thursday March 24th

Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva Live 8p-11p
 Flattop Pizza & Pool –Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
 Garcia's Café & Cantina (Eagle River) – Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
 Humpys – Lil Trouble 7:30p-11p
 The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Karaoke with Kellie B.! 10p-2a
 The Nave Spenard – Music Industry Workshop: Booking & Promotion 6:30p-7:30p
 The Nave Spenard – Teen Open Mic Series at The Nave! 7:30p-9:30p
 Van's Dive Bar –Blue Grass is back w/ Todd Grebe 9p-12a
 Williwaw Social – Eternal Cowboys, Shane Russell, & Braided River 7p-12a

Friday March 25th

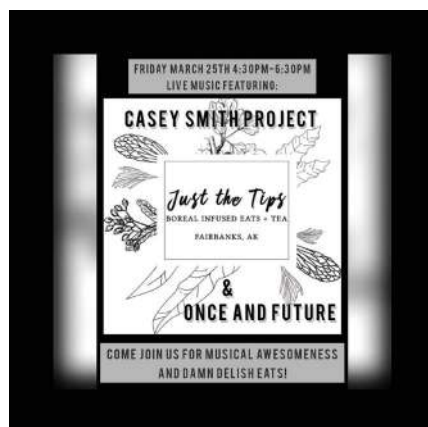
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Small Glories 7:30p-9:20p
 Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Brothers Paranormal 7:30p-9:40p
 American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 5:30p-9p
 American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night w/ Joe Schumacher! 6p-8p
 Arctic Valley Ski Area – Uncle Jim-Live 4:30p-7:30p
 Band of Brothers AK (Wasilla) – Keenen Brown Band 7p-9p
 Black Birch Books (Wasilla) – Open Mic Night 5p-7p
 Broken Blender - Comedy Fundroaster for Justin Lawrence Hoyt 7p-10p
 Dave & Busters – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
 Everett's (Wasilla) –Revenge of the 80's Comedy Show 7p-11p
 The Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – Larry Zarella 9p-1a
 The Flats Bistro (Kenai) – Robb Justice 8p-12a
 Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
 The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
 Humpys –The Sunday Night 9p-1a
 Kenai Joes Taphouse (Kenai) – Garrett Todd 9p-12
 Koot's – Local Roots w/ Void, Paul Jacks, & Concrete to Clouds 9p-12a
 Koot's – The Stack Live 10p-2:30a
 Koot's – Bubba Sparxxx Live in Alaska 10p-2:30a
 Just The Tips (Fairbanks) – Casey Smith Project and Once & Future 4:30p-6:30p
 Mad Myrna's – Divas on Broadway 9p-11p
 The Maverick Saloon (Soldotna) – The Ridgeway Rounders 9p-1a
 Mean Queen (Sitka) – Open Mic & Karaoke 8p-1a
 The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2:30a
 Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
 PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
 Red Carpet Entertainment LLC – DJ Chester Chomp's Zoom Room Dance Party 7p-7:40p
 Renee C Henderson Auditorium (Kenai) – Forever Dance Company: Among Dreams 7p-9p
 Roundup Steakhouse & Saloon (Fair-



banks) – Karaoke Weekends 9:30p-3a
 Sitzmark (Girdwood) – The Lightning Will 6p-9p
 UAA Recital Hall – Tonal Language: A Concert of New Music on New Scales 7:30p-9p
 Van's Dive Bar – Leo Ash Blues Band LIVE 9p-12a
 Wasilla Bible Church – Coffee-house Concert w/ Andrea Sandefur 7p-10:30p
 Williwaw Social – Friday Night Vibes in the Speakeasy 8p-12:30a
 Williwaw Social –Euphoria Night w/ DJ GRE 9p-1:30a

Saturday March 26th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Anchorage Concert Chorus: New Voices 7:30p-9:30p
 Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Brothers Paranormal 7:30p-9:40p
 Alice's Champagne Palace (Homer) – Power Plant Comedy 8p-12a
 American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Fun and Food w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 6p-11p
 American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Saturday Night Karaoke! 9p-12a
 Anchorage Folk Festival (Livestream) – Bethlehem Shalom, Pipeline Vocal Project, & Witty Youngman 7p-9:30p
 Anchorage Moose Lodge – Danger Money Live at the Moose! 8p-1a
 Arctic Valley Ski Area – Luke Portera playing live! 12:30p-3:30p
 Arctic Valley Ski Area – Joe Schumacher-Live 4p-7p
 Broken Blender - Sassy Saturdays Live Cabaret 8p-9:30p
 The Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – The Acoustic Oosik 9p-1a
 Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – Harp-Daddy 4p-7p
 Hering Auditorium (Fairbanks) – North Star Ballet: Alice In Wonderland & Other Works 2p-4p & 7:30p-9:30p
 Humpys –Crazy Heart 9p-1a
 Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Danger Money Live 10p-3a
 Koot's –Revenge of the 80's tour w/ Michael Winslow & Marc Price 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
 Koot's – Bubba Sparxxx Live in Alaska 10p-2:30a
 Koot's – The Stack Live 10p-2:30a
 Mad Myrna's – Divas on Broadway 9p-11p



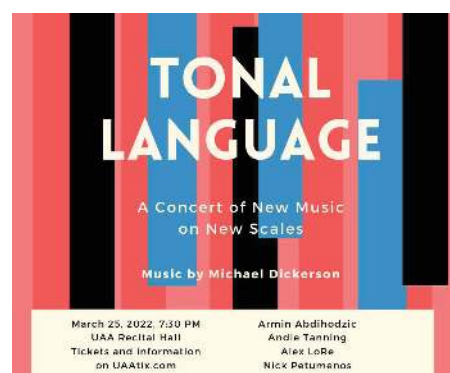
Mat-Su Central School (Wasilla) – 2022 Grad-Blast Fundraiser BBQ & Live Music w/ Scott Helle 5:30p-8p
 The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2:30a
 The Nave Spenard – Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Jamie Whiteman & Hollis Bryan 7p-9p
 The Palace Theater (Fairbanks) – The Small Glories 5p-6:30p
 Renee C Henderson Auditorium (Kenai) – Forever Dance Company: Among Dreams 2p-4p & 7p-9p
 Roundup Steakhouse & Saloon (Fairbanks) – Karaoke Weekends 9:30p-3a
 Van's Dive Bar – Hard Candy 9p-1a
 Williwaw Social –Nervis Rex 8p-11p
 Williwaw Social –DJ GRE's Pop vs. Rock Dance Party 11p-2a
 Williwaw Social – Saturday Night Soiree in the Speakeasy 9p-1:30a

Sunday March 27th

Arctic Valley Ski Area – The River Liv-ers-Live 1p-4p
 Arctic Valley Ski Area – Loaded Karma-Live 4p-7p
 Broken Blender - Whiskey & Waffles Burlesque Brunch 11:30a-1p
 Broken Blender - Jameson Unplugged at The Broken Blender 6p-12a
 The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
 Hering Auditorium (Fairbanks) – North Star Ballet: Alice In Wonderland & Other Works 2p-4p & 7:30p-9:30p
 Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
 Koot's – Free Comedy Workshop 8p-10p
 Koot's – SIN w/ The Millennial Falcons 9p-1a
 Mad Myrna's –Mad Myrna's Karaoke! 9p-12a
 The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Sunday Night Karaoke! 6p-12a
 Van's Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a
 Wilda Marston Theater – Irish Dance Academy of Alaska Spring Recital 2022 2:30p-5p

Monday March 28th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Monday Night Karaoke! 8p-11p
 Anaya Latin Dance – Beginner Salsa 6p-8p



Koot's –The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
 Van's Dive Bar – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-9:30p
 Van's Dive Bar – Mull Over Mondays w/ Ellie Kenealy 9:30p-12a
 Yukon Bar (Seward) –Open Jam w/ Ben Sayers 8:30p-12a

Tuesday March 29

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Song Circle 6:30p-9:30p
 Anaya Latin Dance – Salsa Suelta 6:30p-8p
 The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
 Koot's – The Eternal Cowboys 9p-2a
 Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
 Van's Dive Bar – Open Jam with Spenard Husband 9p-12a
 Williwaw Social – Lloyd's Noize's Y'all-ternative Tuesdays 8p-11p

Wednesday March 30th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
 The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
 Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
 Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
 Koot's – KASH Country Night at Koot's 8p-12:30a
 Koot's –Koots Karaoke 10p-2a
 Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Karaoke! 9p-12a
 The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Open Mic at The Marlin! 8p-2a
 Palmer Alehouse – Will & Regina 6p-9p
 Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
 PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
 Schwabenhof (Wasilla) – Open Mic 7p-12a
 Sitzmark (Girdwood) – Leaving For London 6p-9p
 Van's Dive Bar – The Wax Poetic w/ Nikki Now! 7p-9p
 Van's Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a
 Williwaw Social – DJ GRE's Slow Whine Wednesday 8p-11p
 Yukon Bar (Seward) – Karaoke 9p-2a

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Thu 3/24

Kinder Time March 24

@ 6:30pm
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

@ 7:30pm / \$12.50-\$60
William a Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Fri 3/25

Toddler Time: Session 1 March 25

@ 6:30pm
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Anchorage Wolverines | March 25

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25
Ben Boeke Ice Arena, 534 East 16th Avenue, Anchorage

Featured

Comedy Fundroaster
for Justin Lawrence Hoyt

A cancer benefit roast show. Celebrating life and buying more of it for JLH.

All proceeds will be split between St. Jude's and JLH

Place - Downstairs at the Broken Blender

Date - Friday, March 25

Time - 7:00PM

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Comedy Fundroaster

@ 7:30pm
Rubber Ptarmigan is proud to present our first combination roast/benefit show: a comedy fundroaster for good friend, filmmaker and comedienne Justin Lawrence Hoyt. It's going to be a sizzling show. The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. rubberptarmigan@gmail.com

Featured

The Small Glories in Alaska

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03.22 PETERSBURG
03.24 TALKEENTA
03.25 ANCHORAGE
03.26 FAIRBANKS
03.29 VALDEZ
03.31 KODIAK
04.02 CORDOVA

thesmallglories.com



the Small Glories
@ 7:30pm
Discovery Theatre, 621 W 6th Ave, Anchorage

Toddler Time: Session 2 March 25

@ 8pm
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Sat 3/26

Compost Made Easy

@ 1:30am
Mar 26th - Mar 25th
Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Anchorage Wolverines | March 26

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25
Ben Boeke Ice Arena, 534 East 16th Avenue, Anchorage

Featured

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EVERY SATURDAY

SHOW 8PM | DOOR 7:30PM | @ THE CHEEKY ROOM

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Sassy Saturdays Cabaret

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Sun 3/27

Featured

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DOOR 10AM

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Jazz Fighting Hunger
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John Damborg - sax • Nick Putnam - guitar
Bob Andrews - bass • Cameron Cartland - drums • Tamara McCoy - vocals



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akjazzworkshop.org • 907-332-3234

Jazz Fighting Hunger Benefit Concert for Food Bank of Alaska

@ 4:30pm / Free
Jazz Fighting Hunger Benefit Concert for Food Bank of Alaska, featuring Alaska Jazz Workshop Faculty Quintet, part of the Anchorage Lutheran Church Concert Series. March 27, 2022. 4:40pm-6pm All ages. Anchorage Lutheran Church, 1420 N Street, Anchorage. info@akjazzworkshop.org, 907-332-3234

Thu 3/31

Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

@ 7:30pm / \$12.50-\$60
William a Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Fri 4/01

Re:Visions First Friday

@ 5pm
First Friday art show from Re: Visions by Adrian Dube. Colorful digitally-enhanced images printed on canvas. Featured pieces include "Red Bridge", "Moonrise", and "The Punchline". Yak & Yeti Cafe, 1360 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. adriandube907@gmail.com, 907-441-0131

Featured

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Ballyhoo!

@ 9pm
Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sat 4/02

Crosscurrents · Tom Kizzia & Seth Kantner

@ 7pm / Free
In a live, on-stage conversation, authors Tom Kizzia and Seth Kantner will discuss how the state's fast-changing histories, ecosystems, communities, and cultures have shaped their writing and lives. The Nave, 3502 Spenard Road, Anchorage. info@49writers.org

Featured

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APRIL 2
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EVENTS:
3:00 Army vs. Air Force
7:00 Anchorage Wolverines vs. Chippewa Steel
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9:30 Meet and Greet with the Wolverines

HOSTED BY THE **ANCHORAGE WOLVERINES**

Army vs. Air Force Hockey Game

@ 3pm / \$20
Ben Boeke Ice Arena, 534 East 16th Avenue, Anchorage



Featured



Comedian Mike Cannon

@ 7pm / \$20
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Featured

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Free Spring Concert: Remembering the March King

@ 7:30pm
The Anchorage Community Concert Band presents its FREE Spring concert "Remembering the March King," a tribute to the legacy of John Philip Sousa. Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage. anchoragecommunityband@gmail.com, 907-312-0233



Wed 4/06

Jono Zalay: B4UDie Festival @ Chilkoot Charlie's

@ 9pm
Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

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Straight-shooting LA comic Amy Miller set to headline B4UDie Comedy Festival

BY MATT HICKMAN

After a two-year pandemic hiatus, the B4UDie Comedy Festival is coming back to Alaska April 6-10.

The brainchild of Anchorage-based comic Kass Smiley, this triumphant return features 17 shows with more than 55 comedians from Alaska and mostly down below. In 2019, well known comic Kyle Kinane wore top billing and three years on, B4UDie continues to draw big names, with the plus-sized comedy of Amy Miller taking the Koot's mainstage Saturday, April 9.

"It looked like a fun festival, I had a couple friends who had done it in the past," Miller said from her home in Los Angeles on Tuesday, three days ahead of a trio of sets she has booked in New York. "They emailed me one day. I said, 'how much?' and they said a number and that was that."

Originally from Oakland, Calif., Miller made her big breakthrough in the Portland comedy scene, winning the Helium Club's Funniest Comedian contest and was named the Willamette Week's Comic of the Year for 2013 and 2015.

In 2016 she released a comedy album called 'Solid Gold' that, according to laughbutton.com is 'filled with treasure.'

All this set the stage for her breakout showing on the ninth and final season of NBC's Last Comic Standing in 2018 where she earned the praise of judge Keenan Ivory Wayans, who said she told the "fiercest jokes he had ever heard."

"I did the final season and hopefully I didn't ruin it," Miller joked. "It opened me to other comedians and I had so much fun I didn't think much about the competitive aspect... It definitely helped me. It opens you to a broader audience."

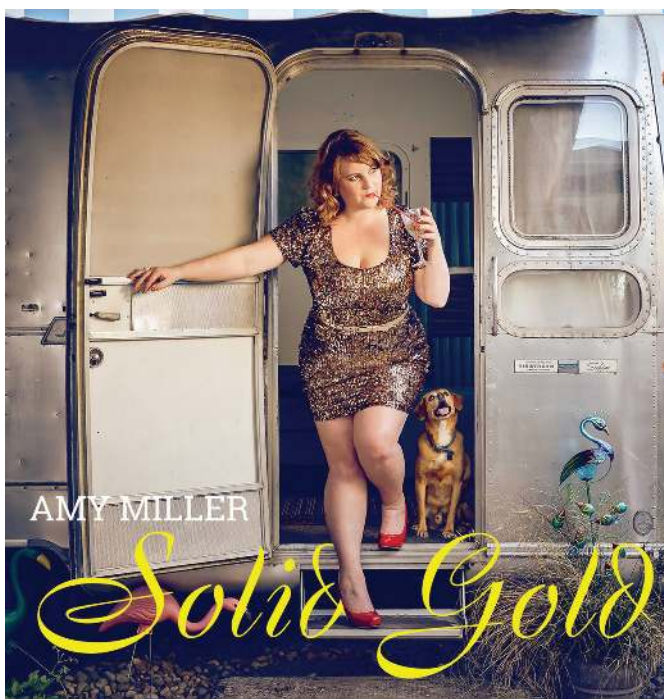
Last Comic Standing's ride into the sunset happened in concert with the meteoric rise of comics hosting personal podcasts, a trend Miller jumped all over and one that exploded out of necessity during COVID lockdowns.

"It almost can't be overstated. It changed things massively just as far as how you can make money in comedy," Miller said of podcasts. "Comedy clubs might say if you haven't been on major TV or movies, 'we don't know you; you have no draw,' but now people have their loyal followings through podcasts and they sell out theaters... It's always fun to poll people after shows about how they know me and you can't understate how much podcasts have helped. If people like your stand-up, or they like you on the show, they stay in touch every week."



Miller said conditions have improved for female comics in her 11 years in comedy, but as a 'plus-sized' comic, she still sees plenty of room for improvement.

"It's not ever a conversation around 'plus-sized' men. Men talk about being fat and no one cares — they succeed no matter what; succeed on TV and get to be the King of Queens. Nobody asks about why they talk about their bodies; they just do it. They got hot women who are thin to play their wives, from Jackie Gleason to now," Miller said, dismissing the notion that the mythology of the fat, laughing Buddha is more the result of that than institutional body-shaming of women. "I think it's just regular misogyny and an ongoing attempt to control women by making us change our bodies. It's a distraction, constantly focused on beauty and spending money on it — whatever it



means to stay in the industry. It makes is a lot harder... I think, in reality, yes, it is getting better, but I still always have to answer

questions about it."

'Being plus-sized in LA' remains Miller's most watched segment on YouTube, but, as she points out, that's only a small, albeit intentional, part of her body of work.

"That's not the backbone of my material, but I bring it up because I like to talk about shit that makes people uncomfortable," she said. "When I start those jokes people assume I'm being self-deprecating, that I don't like myself in some way. But my goal is that I'm on top of the situation by the end of the bit and, yeah, call out a lot of the hypocrisy around things like plus-sized women."

The B4UDie Festival will mark Miller's first trip to Alaska, and when she's not working she hopes to spot some whales.

"The whole festival is going to be really fun," Miller concluded. "But if you want to see whimsical, stand-up comedy delivered by a charming and beautiful woman, then come on out and see me."

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Home Court

Basketball star Damen Bell-Holter using the second act of his professional life to mentor Haida youth



BY MATT HICKMAN

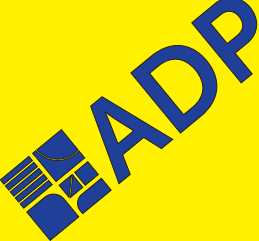
After more than a decade of globetrotting professional basketball career that included a cup of preseason coffee with the Boston Celtics, Hydaburg native Damen Bell-Holter is back in his tiny hometown on Prince of Wales Island, using basketball to improve opportunities for kids who grew up just like him.

Every bit of 6-foot-9, Bell-Holter, who is Haida, Tlingit and Black, was a dominant force at Ketchikan High School and went on to play collegiately at Division I Oral Roberts University, where Kyan Brown, another former Ketchikan High standout was an assistant coach.

“I had originally committed to Missouri State, but Oral Roberts was fresh off three NCAA appearances and they were looking for a good 4-man (power forward),” Bell-Holter said. “It was the perfect situation for me as a big man who has the ability to be the focal point of the offense.”

Though none of Bell-Holter’s four Oral Roberts teams made it back to the Big Dance — twice tripped up in the Summit League championship — Bell-Holter grew his game every year, posting 15.5 points and 9.4 rebounds in his senior year of 2012-13.

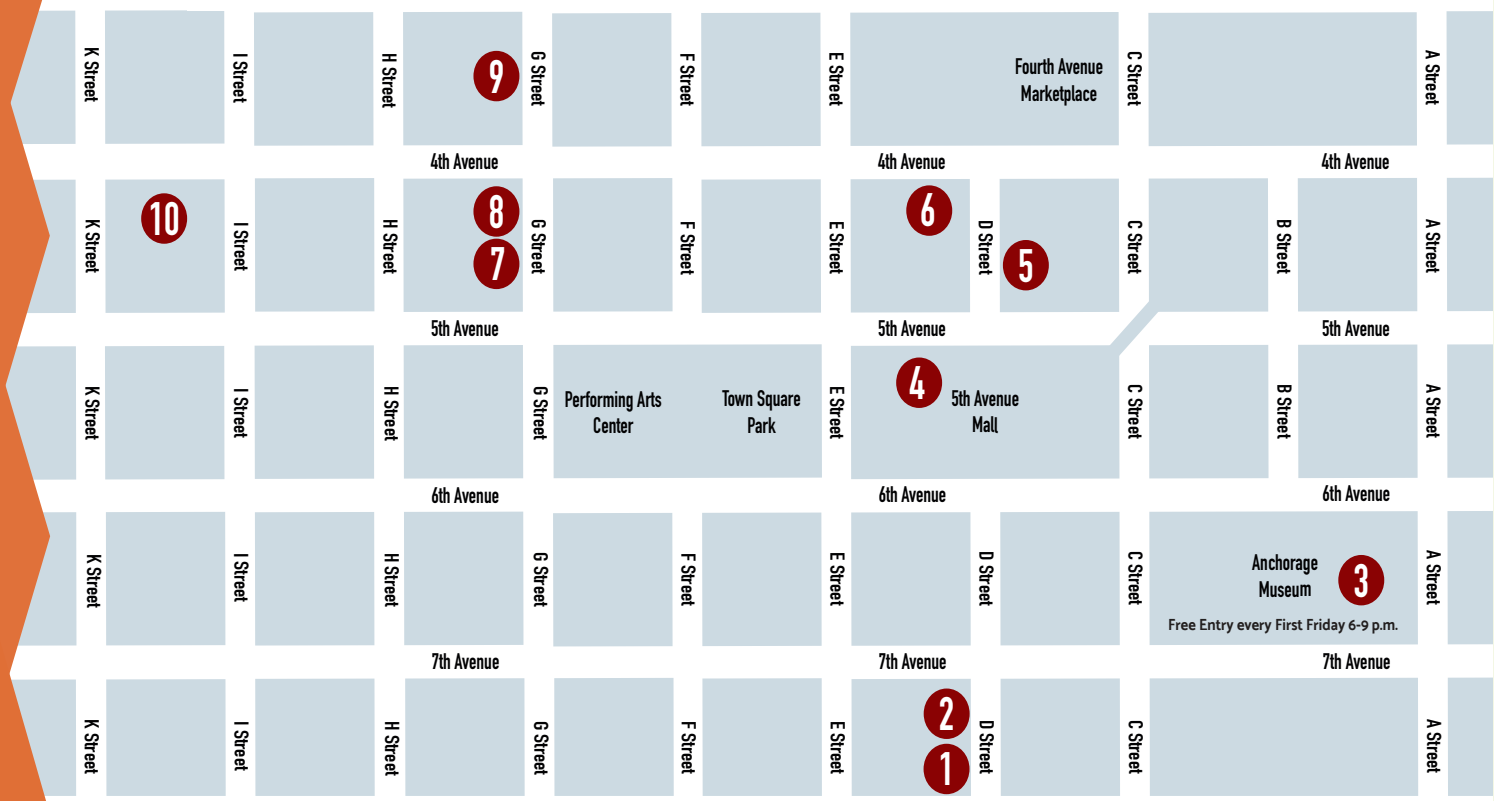
“By the time I got to college, I wasn’t a talented big. My biggest adjustment was competing every single play — a fight or flight type of thing for an athlete,” Bell-Holter recalled. “My first eight games I was on the brink of transferring — and that happens to freshmen. My coming out party was a game against Stanford when the Stanford coach considered me the best player on the floor, which included two future NBA players... My sophomore year I started and never came off the bench again. Something clicked for me... The most humbling thing for any athlete is to step into those spaces where



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April 1st, 2022







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3. Anchorage Museum - 625 C St. (6-9pm)

4. Apricot Lane Boutique - 320 W 5th Ave. (5th Ave Mall) (11am-7pm)

5. IGCA - 425 D St. (5-8pm)



6. Sara's Gift Cache - 408 W 4th Ave. (12pm-8pm)

7. Uncle Joe's Pizzeria - 428 G St. (11am-11pm)

8. Tiny Gallery - 706 W 4th Ave. (11am-8pm)

9. Seigny Studio - 312 G St. (10-9pm)

10. Stephan Fine Arts - 939 W 5th Ave. (6:30-8:30pm)

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you're not the most dominant, not the fastest, strongest and try to level the playing field. What am I going to build up?"

After his freshman year, Bell-Holter, who growing up would split time between his father's family in Seattle and his Alaska Native family in Hydaburg, came home to put on his first basketball camp. Needless to say it was a hit among the local youths and would be the first of many Bell-Holter would hold in rural Alaska and in the Lower 48.

"My first camp as a freshman was a success out of Prince of Wales Island, and we had Haida kids from Canada also come," Bell-Holter said. "The Haida had migrated over to Prince of Wales thousands of years ago and I was asked to come over to (Canada) and work with the Haida communities."

Getting there meant a five-hour boat ride, but soon one camp grew into two and then five. These camps also gave Bell-Holter the chance to speak to large groups of kids about things other than basketball.

"I picked up the ability to work with young people at those camps, community circles, speaking events — all around coaching," he said. "I've probably been to over 100 schools in the last decade, worked at over 1,000 locations, seen what works and what doesn't and came up with something grounded in social, emotional learning, really designing a plan for young kids to get the tools to pursue whatever they want."

Bell-Holter's stats at Oral Roberts and still-burgeoning athletic upside drew the attention of plenty of NBA scouts and though undrafted he was signed by the Boston Celtics, spending 31 days and playing three preseason games in the Association before being sent

to the NBA's Developmental League and the Maine Red Claws. Before long, he broke from the D-League and signed on with a professional team in Hungary, starting what would become a 10-year sojourn through international basketball.

And though his NBA dreams didn't exactly die, the practical benefits of keeping his game abroad became obvious pretty quickly.

"I thought about it but I was making good money in Europe," he said. "The hard part was with the Celtics I got a signing bonus for training camp and they took care of me in the D-League, but it was something you could only chase when you're young. Then, probably after the first year, I did have teams talking to me, but there was no guarantee you get a contract for training camp. The NBA is all about opportunity and timing. If you're not a first-round kind of guy, a very indispensable type of player, you're going to have a really hard time. Right there, when I was on the brink, I decided to play overseas and make better money."

Playing overseas also gave Bell-Holter the opportunity to experience vast reaches of the globe.

"Obviously, to be in the Big Show and dap up (Kevin Garnett) and other childhood heroes was great and I'll never regret it, but the NBA is such a hard place to be navigated. I was in D-League, the next year Turkey, Finland, Italy," Bell-Holter said. "My last year in Italy, I was in Agrigento, by the beach hanging out, confident it was my last year of basketball, but I did one more season in Vancouver and then called my agent and told him I was done with the game."

Bell-Holter already had the second act of his professional life on the ready.

"I reached out to all the tribal organizations and companies I had worked with the previous seven years full-time and asked if they would be interested in working with me," Bell-Holter said. "I had a bunch of stuff in mind for Alaska and Canada; I just had to put it out there, believe in myself."

At the core of Bell-Holter's idea was the fundamental improvement of education and opportunities through education for Native American and Alaska Native youths.

"My biggest issue is that education doesn't inspire kids to pursue what they want," he said. "We kind of put them in a box and leave them there. I want to build cohorts, like we're doing now. My role in the school is as a kind of 'certified uncle' in the sense that, if they need a sub I'm there in Haida, doing language and dance classes and basketball during the day."

Bell-Holter believes basketball can instill in the kids of rural Alaska of that sense of empowerment and inspiration it did for him.

"I have an extremely unique journey, growing

up in Haida, learning to dance, sing, hunting, fault, but they are your responsibility."



fishing... and since I look, visibly Black, folks would just think I was black or an Islander sometimes, but I spent every summer in Seattle with my aunt connecting with Black leaders in the Black community," he said. "I didn't meet by dad until I was 20, but my mom and my aunt (in Hydaburg) made sure to connect me to that culture."

Bell-Holter said he first began to take off in basketball in 7th grade when he enrolled at Mt. Edgecomb Academy and was able to travel to the Lower 48 to see NBA games live.

"It was a revelation type of thing for me watching Allen Iverson, Vince Carter and once I got to watch those guys — I took the image that basketball was something you could do for life," he said. "I was 5-foot-10 and 230 pounds then, overweight and out of shape, but I came home with a vision to do everything in your power to make that happen."

Bell-Holter said addressing generational trauma is also a major part of improving lives for Indigenous students.

"From as young as I could know, I knew about BIA treaty rights, which was like chattel slavery; my father, his side worked on plantations, so those are things that are kind of ingrained and gave me an interesting perspective," he said. "Black and Indigenous people had such severe trauma the first couple hundred years (of U.S. history). This is a lived experience and I want it to apply to work, my philosophy of coaching in the gym and applied to the classroom — you don't know all these things, and they're not your

In his worldwide basketball travels, Bell-Holter found no shortage of chances to educate people he'd meet on what it means to be an Alaska Native.

"I try to help them understand that 'eskimo' is kind of a derogatory term because there's over 600 tribes on the national level and helping them realize it's not a monolith," he said. "People assume I'm Black, then I explain where I come from and that's really powerful because I know who I am. One of the most powerful things is identity."

Identity is a major part of Bell-Holter's blog on his website damenbellholter.com, which focuses on the challenges met by Black and Indigenous athletes.

"I started diving into that a couple of years ago after talking to my therapist I realized I needed to do some work because there's few resources out there for Black and Indigenous men," Bell-Holter said. "I look at the dynamics slavery has played out in the athletic world and getting folks to look at things from a different perspective."

After a year back in Hydaburg, Bell-Holter is building a house. He isn't sure how long he'll reside permanently there, but no matter how long he does, his footprint there will always remain.

"Haida culture is thriving; Haida art is thriving. I work on Haida songs with kids in the immersion school here and I'm grounded here in Haida culture, Haida values," Bell-Holter said. "There's amazing opportunities for our kids and our kids are really bright."





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- Get plenty of rest and stay hydrated.
- Take over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen to reduce symptoms.
- If your symptoms worsen, contact your health care provider.

If you don't have a health care provider, call the COVID-19 helpline at 907-646-3322 or your local public health center for guidance.

Visit dhss.alaska.gov for more information and COVID-19 resources.

Quickies

My boyfriend and I have not had sex for more than two years. When I first asked him about it, he hemmed and hawed. When I pressed him, he said he doesn't have any interest. I felt like he was not telling me the whole truth. When I suggested he tell his doctor, my boyfriend said he could not do that because his doctor is an old family friend. He won't go to another doctor. I don't know what to do. Staying in a long-term relationship without sex does not appeal to me. But I love him, so leaving him is not an option. On all other levels we have a great relationship. But I miss his cock and I miss intimacy. I have tried many things, but I am sick and tired of being refused. He will remove my hand from his cock if I touch it, and he does not seem to ever get hard anymore. I used to think that it was my fault but no longer accept the blame. What can I do?

— *Unhappy Not Having Any Penetration Play In Literally Years*



SAVAGE LOVE BY DAN SAVAGE

If you're going to rule out leaving, UNHAPPILY, your options are staying and enduring a sexless existence or staying and having sex with other people. If you don't wanna be accused of cheating, you'll have to ask your boyfriend's permission to seek sex elsewhere. If you don't wanna ask his permission or you ask and don't get it, well, then you'll

either have to endure a sexless existence or discreetly fuck other people when you have the chance. (I hesitate to describe that as cheating in a case like yours, UNHAPPILY, since you wouldn't be cheating your boyfriend out of anything he seems to want.)

I'm a 65-year-old gay man and over the past few years, I've completely lost interest in having sex with other men. Coincidentally, pleasure from the prostate has gone to a whole new level. I am now having the most intense and powerful prostate-induced orgasms one could ask for—like joining the universe intense. Do I need to see a therapist?

— *My Orgasms Are Now Sensational*

Only if you're unhappy, MOANS, and you don't sound unhappy to me. (And if you were, you might be better off seeing a sex worker.)

I broke up with my boyfriend about one month ago after almost a year together. I'm 22 and he's 20, and we met at work. A month after we started dating, his mom died. He is a jealous and controlling person, whereas I'm a very friendly and outgoing person, and he didn't like it that I had friends. He was constantly worried I was cheating on him, and I would reassure him as best I could. I tried to be understanding because, again, his mom had just died. But nothing helped. A month ago, he starts yelling that he now knows for sure I had cheated on him at least three times, even if he doesn't have any proof. (I never cheated on him.) So, I broke it off. But he continues to send me dozens of abusive text messages every day. At the same time, he makes excuses to see me. Two weeks ago, he came over to get his phone charger, which was not here. Today, he came demanding a sweatshirt, which I do not have. Between these surprise visits he sends text messages saying he would be happy if something terrible happened to me. What should I do? Blocking him isn't an option, as we continue to work together, and must communicate for work-related reasons.

— *Pushy Ex Abusing Confused Ex*

Get him fired, PEACE. Show his text messages to your boss or to HR, and demand they do something about the hostile work environment he's created for you, i.e., tell your bosses you expect them to fire him. If your employer won't fire your ex, PEACE, talk to a lawyer about suing your employer and, if you must, seek employment elsewhere. I'm sorry this is being done to you, PEACE, and in the future... a controlling, possessive piece of shit who "constantly worries" you're cheating on him needs to be dumped immediately. Because those sorts of "worries" always—always—become angry and sometimes violent accusations in the end.

Why do adult men want to look like pre-pubescent boys by cutting away their pubic hair? Hair is masculine and should be allowed to thrive in its natural habitat.

— *Bush Lover In Maryland*

Are you suggesting you can't tell the difference between a 30-year-old man who shaved his pubes and a pre-pubes-

cent 11-year-old boy who doesn't have any pubes to shave? Because if you can't, BLIM, you shouldn't be having sex with anyone.

Okay, wherever you are right now, BLIM, I'm sure you're saying, "Of course I can tell the difference!" To which I would respond, if it's unfair for me to suggest you can't tell the difference between a 30-year-old man and an 11-year-old boy unless there are pubes present, it's unfair for you to suggest that adult men who shave their pubes are trying to pass themselves off as pre-pubescent boys. (And why would they do that? To attract pedophiles who can't tell the difference?) You can make your preference for hairy adult crotches clear to potential sex partners without impugning the motives or tastes of people who prefer to keep their adult crotches shaved or trimmed.

P.S. I get a lotta unsolicited dick pics in my line of work—not complaining, just saying—and half the dicks I see in any given week have pubes. So, there are plenty of naturally hairy guys out there for you to choose from, BLIM.

I've been hooking up with someone for a while. It's been okay, but not great, and I don't want to do it anymore. She's perfectly good people, very friendly, but we're only fuck buddies and I'm not enjoying fucking that much. How can I end this nicely? A person can say, "Hey, it's not you, it's me," when breaking up with a romantic partner. Somehow saying, "Hey, I don't want to do this anymore," to someone you're just boning seems almost cruel, like I'm saying, "Hey, you suck in bed." Do I need to make up a white lie? I'm in an ENM marriage, so I could say, "My partner wants to close things up for now," but I kind of hate lying.

— *This Is The End*

Trust your instinct and lie—and that's what, "It's not you, it's me," is, right? It's a lie, TITE, and everyone knows it's a lie; the person who says it during a breakup knows it's a lie, the person who hears it during a breakup knows it's a lie. But it's a lie most of us are comfortable being told. Because when someone says, "It's not you, it's me," what they're saying to us, "Look, I know this sucks and it hurts and I'm sorry and I don't want to hurt you anymore than I have to and if it takes even a little bit of the hurt away for me to blame myself when we both know I don't blame myself and that I want out of this relationship because you're not who or what I want... I'm willing to do that."

So, while you can't avail yourself of the face-saving, ego-sparing, off-the-shelf "It's not you, it's me" lie, you can and should avail yourself of the lie you were workshoping there at the end of your question: "My partner wants to close things up for now."

I'm a 29-year-old queer boy with a language question for you. I LOVE seeing other people piss. Pissing at a urinal, pissing their pants, pissing in the tub, pissing on me. However, when I say to people, "I have a pee fetish," invariably the response I get is, "I don't want you to pee on me." I don't want to pee on them! That literally does nothing for me! I'm only interested in other people pissing on or near me! No judgment on people who vibe with that, as my fetish relies on those wonderful people. But I'm just not turned on by my own piss. So, my question is, can you think of separate words or labels to better distinguish between people who like to pee on, people who like to be peed on, and people who like both?

— *Pee Is Super Sexy*

Top/bottom/vers works for anal, it works for fisting, it works for BDSM, and it works for piss, too. And if telling someone you're exclusively a piss bottom doesn't do the trick, hand them a laminated printout of your question and my response. And if a guy still doesn't get it after reading this, PISS, he's probably not smart enough to find his dick and point it at you.

When the Bible says "come" it means cum. That seems rather important for deciphering its hidden meaning. It's all about the importance of sperm retention. Dry ejaculation is the desert, Israelites are sperm cells, Jacob's Ladder is fighting the urge to ejaculate, ejaculation is Christ rising to Heaven to meet God, Aaron's rod is his penis, Moses's staff is his penis. And so on.

— *Intense Biblical Studies*

I don't argue with crazy people on subways, in restaurants, on airplanes, or at family gatherings. So, whatever you say, IBS, whatever you say.

Send questions to questions@savagelove.net.



Free Will Astrology

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1904, it wasn't illegal to use performance-enhancing drugs during Olympic competitions. Runner Thomas Hicks took advantage of this in the marathon race. The poison strychnine, which in small doses serves as a stimulant, was one of his boosters. Another was brandy. By the time he approached the finish line, he was hallucinating and stumbling. His trainers carried him the rest of the way, and he was declared the winner. I recommend you make him your inspirational role model in the coming weeks. How might you cheat to gain a great victory? APRIL FOOL! I Lied. While it's true that a meaningful triumph is within your reach, you're most likely to achieve it by acting with total integrity, following the rules, and imbibing no stimulating poisons.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Science fiction aficionado Wil Wheaton suggests that all of us should have the following: 1. a nemesis; 2. an evil twin; 3. a secret headquarters; 4. an escape hatch; 5. a partner in crime; 6. a secret identity. Dear Taurus, I have doubts that you possess any of these necessities. Please embark on intensive efforts to acquire all of them. Your deadline is April 21. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. There's no way you could add all those things to your repertoire in such a short time. See if you can at least get a secret identity and a partner in crime. It's time to have wicked fun as you add to your potency and effectiveness.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I hate being on my best behavior," wrote Gemini author Colleen McCullough. "It brings out the absolute worst in me." In the coming weeks, I hope you avoid the danger she describes. Don't be on your best behavior! Emulate Gemini filmmaker Clint Eastwood, who said, "I tried being reasonable, but I didn't like it." APRIL FOOL! I lied. Here's the real truth: Being kind and generous and reasonable will be your secret weapon in the next three weeks. Doing so will empower you to make interesting and unforeseen progress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A Tumblr blogger named Alyssa complains, "I'm still peeved that I can't fly or set things on fire with my mind." You might share that feeling, Cancerian. But here's the good news: I predict that you could soon acquire, at least temporarily, the power to fly and set things on fire with your mind. Use these talents wisely, please! APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, you probably won't be able to fly or set things on fire with your mind anytime soon. However, you may acquire other superpowers that are only slightly less fantastic. For example, you could change the mind of an ally who has been ridiculously stubborn. You could uncover a big secret that has been hidden. You could mend a wound you thought would never heal. Any other superpowers you need right now?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I suspect that only a Leo would say what Leo filmmaker Stanley Kubrick once asserted: "You know, it's not absolutely true in every case that nobody likes a smart ass." In accordance with astrological omens, I authorize you to prove his assertion. Be the kind of smart ass that people like. APRIL FOOL! I'm half-joking. The truth is, I hope you will be the kind of smart ass that people absolutely adore and get inspired by.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In honor of your arrival in the most lyrical and soulful phase of your cycle, I offer you advice from poet Richard Jackson: "The secret is to paint your own numbers on the clock, to brush away those webs that cover the wild country of the soul, to let your star hover between the flowers of the moon and the flowers of the sun, like words you have never spoken yet always hear." APRIL FOOL! I partially lied. I don't think you should paint your own

Astrology, Continued on Page 18

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PRESSIFIEDS

Super Crossword

BLOOMIN'
HUMANS

- ACROSS**
1 "Rabbit food"
6 Back-and-forth talk
12 Cold case solvers, often
20 Oven maker
21 Source of weather upheaval
22 This instant
23 MTV's first Latina video jockey
25 "Don't go anywhere"
26 Dresses up
27 Cubs' and Eagles' gp.
29 Mazda two-seater
30 Common conjunction
31 Social-climbing snob on "Keeping Up Appearances"
37 Gp. in the Arab League
40 Funny Conan
42 Blends to mush
43 35th president's mother
46 Banjoist Fleck
47 Inkling
51 Carve — career
52 Post-Q string
- 53 "The Sea, the Sea" novelist of 1978
56 Highway jam
58 Adhesive rolls
60 German king called "the Great"
61 Verb suffix in London
62 When Hamlet's soliloquy is recited
66 — New Guinea (island nation)
69 Li'l Abner's mother
71 Friend of Lucy van Pelt and Patty
76 Beef up
77 Clout
79 Gold, in Peru
80 "You can't — train"
83 Actress Dianne
84 Famed killer whale
86 "Lost Souls" novelist of 1992
90 Penpoint
93 Siberia locale
94 Chichi
95 Tehran locale
96 Vampiric TV housewife
- 100 Shorthand whiz, in brief
102 Poe's "radiant maiden"
103 Cleveland-to-Raleigh dir.
104 Aunt of Harry Potter
109 DJ's platters
111 Level, grassy plain
112 Pub fixture
113 Ball-shaped blooms
117 Aim for
121 Hippies (and an alternate title for this puzzle)
125 Tidied up
126 Novelist Gay
127 Trashed stuff
128 Declared
129 Declared
130 Busybody
- DOWN**
1 "Smooth Operator" singer
2 "Walk Like —"
3 Woody den
4 Actor Williams
5 Diary
6 God, in Latin
7 — -de-France
8 Actress Sheridan
9 Ignited
10 Last year before the first century
11 Busybody
12 HMO VIPs
13 Petty peeve
14 — Khan
15 Lymphoid organ in the neck
16 Moral code
17 Sort not to be trusted
18 Egg cake
19 Elbow grease
24 "Giant" novelist Edna
28 Wolf-headed Egyptian god
31 Inkling
32 "— -haw!"
33 Common conjunction
34 Uno plus dos
35 Ship's wheel
36 Romeo
37 Bit of expert advice
38 Writer — May Alcott
39 "Your Best Life Now" author Joel
41 ICU figures
44 Water, to Watteau
45 "Gadzooks!"
47 Dog collar attachment
48 Part of many an emoticon
49 Friendly introduction?
50 Sushi tuna
54 Keanu of the screen
55 Driving paths
57 Check-giving time at work
58 Fri. follows it
59 Arrid target
63 Film dancer Charisse
64 Wee kid
65 Ring victory, for short
66 Cooking vessels
67 Muhammad —
68 Guitar piece
70 Overly sweet
72 Suffix with journal
73 Celebrity tributes
74 Fighting forces
75 1983 Lionel Richie hit
78 Film holder
80 Health club
81 Blue Jays, on sports tickers
82 Decide
83 Triumph in the end
85 Keeps
87 Tube-shaped pasta
88 La — Tar Pits
89 Senator Paul
90 Big Apple's city and state: Abbr.
91 "I'd say," in a text message
92 Coarse sack material
97 Unwell
98 Spike of films
99 They may cry "Uncle!"
100 One napping noisily
101 Inserted plant shoots
104 Main course of action
105 Nobody — (mine alone)
106 Spanish bar appetizers
107 Link up
108 Messy impact sound
110 MIT business school name
113 Historical slave Scott
114 — facto
115 Countertenor
116 Filter slowly
118 Strep doc
119 Golf prop
120 Singular
122 Ending for Motor
123 Soggy
124 Suffix with journal

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LEGALS

The Terp Tavern, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #31026, doing business as The Terp Tavern, located at 148 West 91st

Avenue, Unit A, Anchorage, AK, 99515, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>.

Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Publish Dates 3/10/22, 3/17/22, 3/24/22

Broken Dirt, LLC, doing business as Catalyst Cannabis Company, located at 5001 Eagle Street, Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99503, is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306.400), license #10284 to Catalyst Cultivation, LLC, doing business as Catalyst Cannabis Company.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Publish dates: March 10, 17 and 24, 2022

Broken Dirt, LLC, doing business as Catalyst Cannabis Company, located at 9900 Old Seward Highway, #4, Anchorage, AK 99515, is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306.300), license #11638 to Catalyst Retail, LLC, doing business as Catalyst Cannabis Company.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Publish dates: March 10, 17 and 24, 2022

LEGALS

Northern Hospitality Group Inc, Is making application for a package store license, AS 04.11.150 Package Store License, doing business as 49th State Spirits and Gifts @ The Rail, located at 721 Depot Drive Suite #50, Anchorage, Alaska,99501. Interested Persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, Northern Hospitality Group Inc, 645 West 3rd Ave, Anchorage, Ak,99501 and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 W.7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, Ak, 99501or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.
Publish dates: March 10, 17 and 24, 2022

Joon Noh, dba The Liquor Store located at 867 E. Loop Rd. Anchorage, AK 99501 is applying for transfer of a Package Store AS 04.11.150 liquor license to Dong Jai Choe. Dba The Liquor Store and Hollywood MiniMart. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.
Publish Dates 3/17/22, 3/24/22, 3/31/22

Super Crossword

Answers

R	I	D	E	R	S		L	O	W	H	E	A	T		A	R	A	B	L	E	
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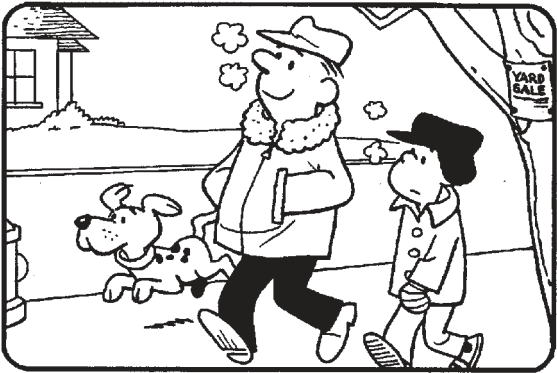
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lamp post is missing. 2. Dog's ear is moved. 3. Collar is different. 4. Leash is shorter. 5. Jacket is smaller. 6. Poster is different.



Across Alaska in one summer

BY NED ROZELL

“It is a very remarkable fact that a region under a civilized government for more than a century should remain so completely unknown as the vast territory drained by the Copper, Tanana and Koyukuk Rivers.”
So wrote Henry Allen in a government report on his muscle-powered journey from the mouth of the Copper River to the mouth of the Yukon, from where he returned by steamship to the civilized 48.

Pushing on when Native guides wouldn't join him for fear of starvation, Allen and a few tattered comrades traveled from near present-day Cordova up to what is now Bettles. They then turned around and then beat winter to St. Michael, where they jumped the last boat for San Francisco.

The U.S. Army lieutenant executed the journey from spring equinox to early September in 1885, completing an epic his commanding officer, General Nelson Miles, compared to the Lewis and Clark expedition of 80 years before.

After he visited Alaska one year before to check the progress of another explorer, Allen proposed the expedition, which he detailed in the compelling “Report of An Expedition to the Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk Rivers, in the Year 1885, for the Purpose of Obtaining all Information Which will be Valuable and Important, Especially to the Military Branch of the Government.”

Allen's mission was to map and describe the uncharted core of the immense land recently purchased from the Russians. He was also to report on the Native people and the threat they might pose to white settlers who would someday arrive.

Allen, who graduated from West Point in 1882, ended his career as a general and commander of occupation forces in Germany after World War I. He traveled the world as a military attaché to Russia and Germany and was a military governor in the Philippines. But one wonders if his most memorable adventure was splashing his way through Alaska during the summer he turned 26.

Despite the \$2,000 they were endowed, Allen and the few men who joined him were required to “live off the country.”

Working their way up the rotting ice of the Copper River in late March with soon-to-be-useless sleds, Allen “made the first attempt at eating the entrails of an animal — a porcupine. They were not relished then as they were at a later stage.”

At times guided by Natives who were themselves famished while waiting for the return of salmon, Allen never stopped for long. His small group sniffed out and raided caches and bartered for food with whomever they encountered.

His partner Private Frederick Fickett detailed much of the group's hunger in his journal, including this passage about moose scraps found on the ground at a Native camp near present-day Chitina: “These, that neither they nor their dogs would eat, we were forced by hunger to gather up and make a meal on. This is it. Allen's birthday, and he celebrated by eating rotten moose meat.”

Incredibly, Allen reported that he and his traveling partners never saw a moose or caribou in covering more than 1,500 river-valley miles. Allen attributed the lack to the animals being hunted out. His report has many passages similar to the one in which he describes a Native guide bringing back one snowshoe hare for a party of nine men. Hares were the number one subsistence food on the trip.

“For days and weeks almost our sole dependence was on



these little animals, and during a season when they did not possess a particle of fat.”

When the protein finally came to Allen's party, as the salmon returned in June to Suslota Lake in the Mentasta Mountains, Allen walked away from them, obedient to his task and faithful that more food would appear in the unknown ahead. Many times, he and his charges staggered into encampments to be saved by the meager amounts the Natives had to share. His men's feet swelled and skin blackened from scurvy.

Even when hungry, Allen drew fine maps of the river country, which he traveled in Native skin boats or traversed on foot. He also noted the farthest north volcano — steaming Mount Wrangell — and described ice lenses and permafrost. He bestowed names on features like the Robertson River (for Sgt. Cady Robertson at his elbow) but always wrote the Native name for a river or mountain if it was evident. Allen got to know Alaska Natives as few white men had. He adopted their footwraps (or went barefoot when paddling downstream), ate their food and coaxed some of them to guide him. He was frustrated with their “ignorance of methods of computing time” and disliked bartering with them, but admired their ability to survive.

In recommending what sort of U.S. forces might be sent to subdue these resourceful people if conflicts arose similar to recent skirmishes with the Cheyenne, Comanche and Sioux, Allen said the troops should be like the men who, unknown to him, would soon flood the country:

“Each man should be chosen for his obedience, strength, endurance, and ability to live in a country where food is difficult to obtain . . . I know of no class of men so capable of fulfilling these conditions as mineral prospectors.”

CUISINE SCENE

Finger-lickin' good: Anchorage meet 'mudbugs' at the Cajun Corner

Restaurant Review
by Jin Chong

For years, the people of Anchorage have enjoyed gateways into the world of Cajun and Creole food through the likes of Gumbo House and Roscoe's, both famous for authentic takes on classics such as gumbo, po boys and jambalaya. But one prominent Southern staple that has yet to make much of an appearance around these parts is the humble crawfish—known as “mudbugs” to enthusiasts and detractors alike.

But now that's changed thanks to Cajun Corner, where they serve up seafood boils with the tiny crustaceans being a clear standout. I distinctly remember my first taste of crawfish at Viet-Cajun restaurant Crawfish & Noodles in Houston, Texas; an event marked by an unfortunate incident in which spicy crawfish oil splattered directly into my eye. Despite the resulting pain, I very much enjoyed the act of dismembering and devouring the little critters like a savage. With that experience behind me, I felt primed to evaluate how this new joint stacks up to its Southern roots.

I arrived on a Friday night to find the atmosphere cozy and inviting, with large windows casting natural light and providing ample opportunity for people watching (or in my case, taking jabs at tourists) as crowds roll in and out of neighboring 49th State Brewing Company. The restaurant is aptly named as the entire space is on the smaller side, allowing tables to get intimately acquainted with the friendly waitstaff, who are seemingly tasked with doing a little bit of everything.

The menu is simple and divided into just a few categories, with customizable seafood “buckets” leading the charge. Besides the crawfish, tiger shrimp and red king crab are the only other marine life on offer with corn, potatoes, and andouille sausage to round out the package—each item has a fixed price, so you're free to add as much or as little as you'd like. Feeling extra bougie? There's the Cajun Corner platter, which totals out to \$120—not exactly chump change, though the pricing made more sense once it was explained that it feeds 3-4 with the king crab making up a significant portion at market price. I guess you could say there's somewhat of a value here if you have a leviathan-sized hole burning in your pocket.

We stuck with just the crawfish to share between the two of us in addition to the four-piece catfish entrée which usually comes with beans and rice—they were out for the day, so we subbed in a small side



of jambalaya instead. From there, we waited patiently as it took about half an hour for the food to arrive—something I was expecting as the dining room was rather full this day. In the meantime, we gratefully munched on a bowl of complimentary “extra fancy” nuts that would certainly pair well with one of several local beers available on tap or by the bottle.

Finally, one of the servers came to deliver a couple sheet trays worth of food—one of which was entirely devoted to the brilliantly hued crayfish wading in a pool of spicy garlic butter. What followed was engaging in the high meditative process of twisting off the tails, sucking on the heads, and peeling back the shell to reveal the sweet, succulent flesh. An optional (but highly recommended) step is to dip the meat back into the garlic butter for an extra coating of richness. All I can say is that it was finger lickin' good.

Thankfully, there were plenty of paper towels within arm's reach, as it's hard not to make a mess out of the proceedings. Given that the amount was enough to satisfy two small appetites, I would say this was well worth the cost of \$21.00 per crawfish serv-

ing.

Things went a little off the rails with the catfish as I found the breading to be inedibly salty—and that's coming from someone who considers himself a salt fiend. What's worse is that the fish was otherwise cooked to tender, flaky perfection, with a mild creaminess that made me wish it weren't such a struggle to finish. Still, I trudged through while rationalizing this as a fluke or at least something that could be easily addressed down the road.

The jambalaya was good, if not atypical in its presentation what with the rice being served separately from the rest of the components. The sweet bitterness of bell peppers was the dominant flavor here, with tender chunks of chicken and sausage in a fragrant tomato broth leaving a lasting impression while the rice was pleasantly chewy. It was warm and comforting, but I think your money would be better spent throwing a little extra onto your seafood bucket instead.

Cajun Corner puts on a strong showing simply for offering something you won't find elsewhere in town. The crawfish was the definite highlight of our meal, and



after this first trip, it's tempting to consider going the extra mile with their deluxe platter someday—though perhaps on a special occasion. Adding a few more specialties and dialing in their catfish would go a long way towards making them a primo destination; for now, Cajun Corner has plenty to offer for those looking to get their hands dirty.

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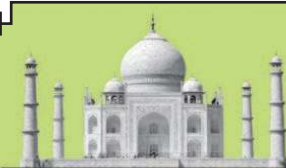
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Astrology, from Page 12

numbers on the clock. But the rest of what Jackson said is totally applicable and useful for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): “I want excitement,” declared Libra novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald, “and I don’t care what form it takes or what I pay for it, so long as it makes my heart beat.” In the coming weeks, I hope you will make that statement your motto. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. While I do foresee you being able to gather a wealth of excitement, I hope you won’t be as extreme as Fitzgerald in your pursuit of it. There will be plenty of opportunities for excitement that won’t require you to risk loss or pay an unwelcome price.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “If you can’t make fun of yourself, you don’t have a right to make fun of others,” said comedian Joan Rivers. I agree! So if you are feeling an irresistible urge to mock people and fling sarcasm in all directions, please prepare by first mocking yourself and being sarcastic toward yourself. APRIL FOOL! I lied. I will never authorize you to make fun of others. Never! In the coming weeks, I hope you’ll do the opposite: Dole out massive doses of praise and appreciation toward everyone. To prepare, dole out massive doses of praise and appreciation toward yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the traditional opera performed in China’s Sichuan province, magical effects were popular. One trick involved characters making rapid changes of their masks. The art was to remove an existing mask and don a new one with such speed that the audience could not detect it.

An old master, Peng Denghuai, once wore 14 different masks in 24 seconds. This is an antic I think you should imitate in the coming days. The more frequently you alter your persona and appearance, the more successful and popular you’ll be. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. I recommend that you gleefully experiment with your image and exuberantly vary your self-presentation. But don’t overdo it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A nutritionist

named Mark Haub decided to try losing weight by eating only sugary treats. For 10 weeks, he snacked on junk food cakes, cookies, and sweet cereals. By the end, he had lost 27 pounds. In accordance with astrological omens,

I suggest you try the metaphorical equivalents of this project. For instance, work on deepening your relationships by engaging your allies in shallow conversations about trivial subjects. Or see if you can enhance your physical fitness by confining your exercise to crossing and uncrossing your legs as you sit on the couch watching TV. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Here’s your real horoscope: For the next four weeks, take better care of your body and your relationships than you ever have before in your life. Make it a point to educate yourself about what that would entail, and be devoted in providing the most profound nurturing you can imagine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarius-born Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) was bravely heretical in his work as a philosopher, poet, mathematician, and friar. He angered the Catholic Church with his unorthodox views about Jesus and Mary, as well as his belief in reincarnation, his practice of occult magic, and his views that there are other stars besides our sun. Eventually, the authorities burned him at the stake for his transgressive ideas. Beware of a similar outcome for expressing your unusual qualities! APRIL FOOL! Luckily, no punishment will result if you express the rich fullness of your idiosyncrasies in the coming weeks. I’m happy about that, since I’m encouraging you to be as eccentrically yourself as you want to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Life is too complicated to accurately comprehend. There’s too much to know! It’s impossible to make truly savvy and rational decisions. Maybe the best strategy is to flip a coin or throw the dice or draw a Tarot card before doing anything. APRIL FOOL!

While it’s a fact that life is too complex for our conscious minds to fully master, we have massive resources available on subconscious and superconscious levels: our deep soul and our higher self. Now is an excellent time to enhance your access to these mother lodes of intelligence.

Ask Oskar, from Page 5

and Able, where I started to take my kids (pre-pandemic) to feed the participants on Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was an honor to be able to serve these men (with my hairnet and plastic gloves).

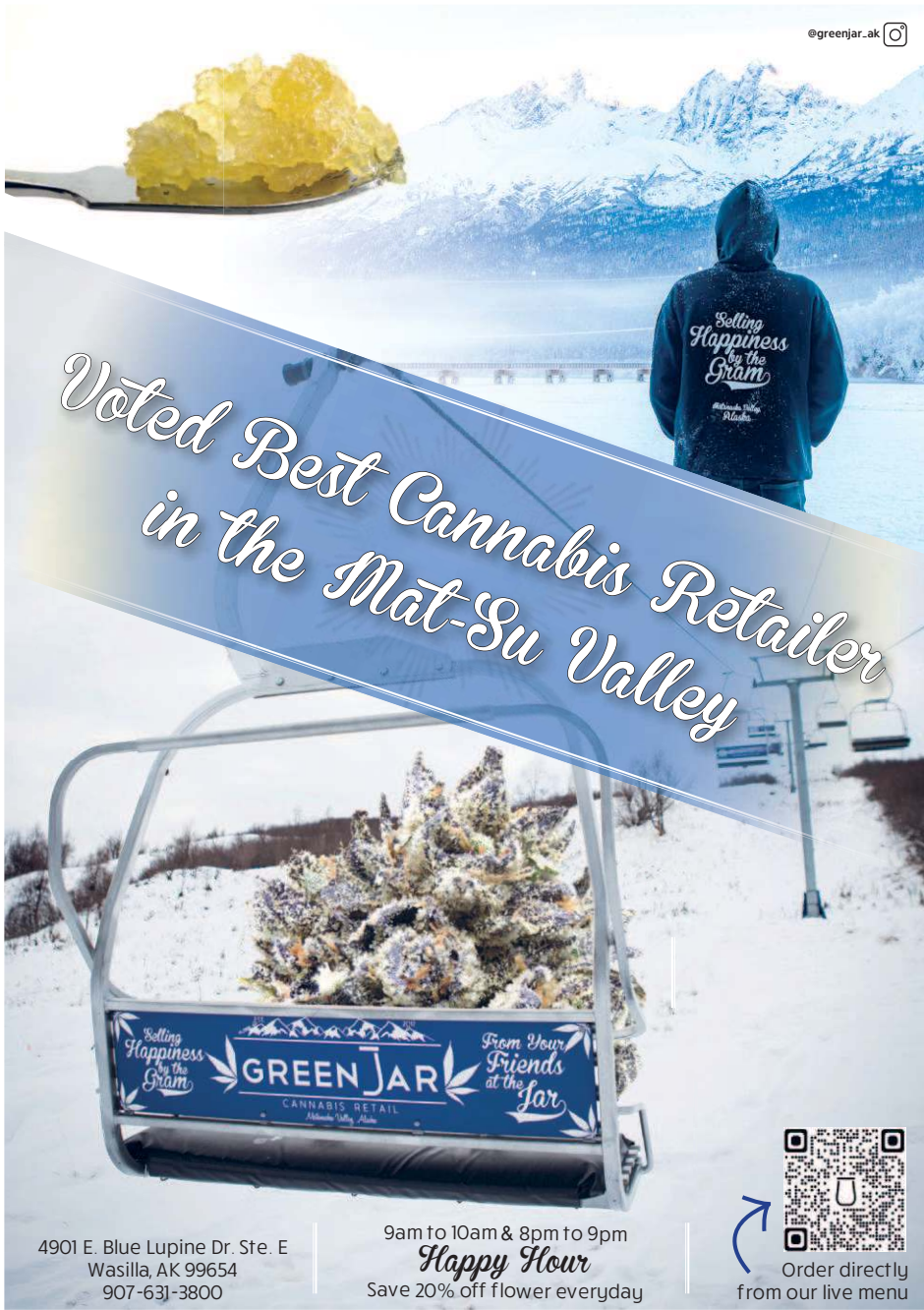
These days I live very close to a large population of homeless people, and each day I am touched by someone. I no longer feel overwhelmed, because I know we all walk this road together. Others have helped me when I needed it, and I, in turn, help others. I listen to my intuition, which guides me in the right way: Sometimes I give money, sometimes it’s just a hello, sometimes it’s a prayer, sometimes I buy a meal for someone. But whatever it is, I never give pity anymore. These people are brave to walk this humble journey.

During the pandemic, I made friends with Angel, a beautiful homeless man that I cooked for, and in exchange, he shared his incredible drawings with me. One day, I came to the bus shelter where I had found him over the weeks, with my rice and beans and Angel was gone...I still think of him, two years later. In November, I saw a young homeless man around the neighborhood. There was something so special about him. I could see his light shining. One night as it was getting cold, he was sleeping next to my apartment building with his arms tucked into the sleeves of his T-shirt, trying to keep warm. I felt the call... I went upstairs and looked for any old blankets I had. I found one of my children’s old blankets. I looked at it, held it to my face, breathed in the last of the little child smell, and headed back downstairs. I gently laid the blanket down. The man quickly opened his eyes, and I put my hand on his arm. “You’re safe, baby,” I assured him. “It’s ok.” He closed his eyes again and went back to sleep. I stayed a moment more, kept my hand on his arm, told him I love him, and asked the universe to please watch over him.

I can’t tell anyone what to do or how to live their life. All I can say is we are here for a short time, and to honor another person’s journey is a beautiful gift to give. Look into your heart the next someone comes to you, and you will know what to do.

Oskar Saville is the former lead Singer of 10,000 Maniacs from 2002 to 2007. She is a writer, podcaster of, Conversations with Oskar, and a Spiritual life Coach and Energy healer. She lives in New York City with her 3 awesome kids.

Email questions to osavilledoyle@gmail.com
Podcast: Conversations with Oskar - Spotify, Apple Podcast, Anchor FM
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Cole,
From Page 5

overhauling Alaska's election system that a narrow majority of participating voters approved in 2020."

Matt Buxton of the Midnight Sun blog also has a good piece on Dunleavy's celebration of Blame the Messenger Day.

"There was no attempt to override Ballot Measure 2," Dunleavy said of his secret attempt to change the election law. "The discussion just went to the idea do we need to have two elections for this? And if we didn't, then the Legislature would be the vehicle by which that changed. That was the nature of the conversation."

Having a single special general election is a terrible idea. And the Legislature is not about to override a key part of the ballot measure and allow the political parties to decide who appears on the ballot.

Rather than admit to the public that he wanted to amend the election initiative, Dunleavy tired to change the subject and throw a tantrum about a tweet.

Cyrano's Theatre Company is presents
'No More Harveys',
from April 1-17

No More Harveys follows the migration of females – both human and animal – against a backdrop of climate change. It's a world in flux where women emerge not as victims but as survivors. Whether hurricanes or Hollywood producers, "Harveys are fed and fatten by money and power and prey on vulnerable people. Especially women." Or so says the woman in NO MORE HARVEYS who has "migrated" from her abusive husband, also named Harvey. On her way to Alaska to reunite with two of her friends, she looks to the evolutionary path of whales to try to sort herself out and see a way forward.

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**2022 RAM 2500 CREW CAB
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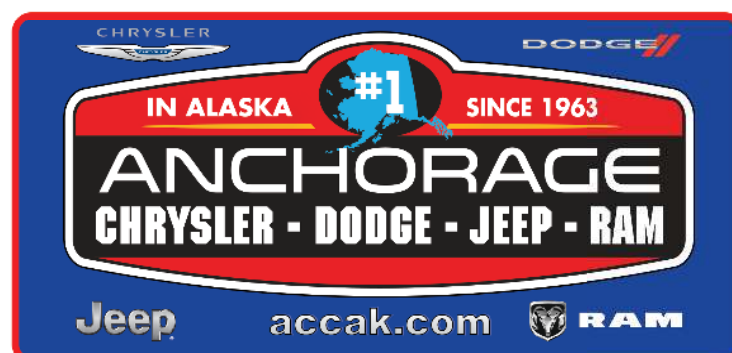
STARTING AT
\$59,300



#173118



Tax/DMV extra. Images do not represent actual vehicles. Documentation fees Included. Subject to prior sale. Price after incentives. 0% for 72 months applies to 21 MY Jeep Grand Cherokee (excl. SRT & TH), 21 MY Chrysler 300, 21 MY Dodge Durango (Excl. SRT Hellcat AWD) 21 MY Dodge Challenger + SRT, 21 MY Dodge Charger + SRT For more information, contact your Hometown Dealer, Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM. Sale ends 3_31_2022.



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