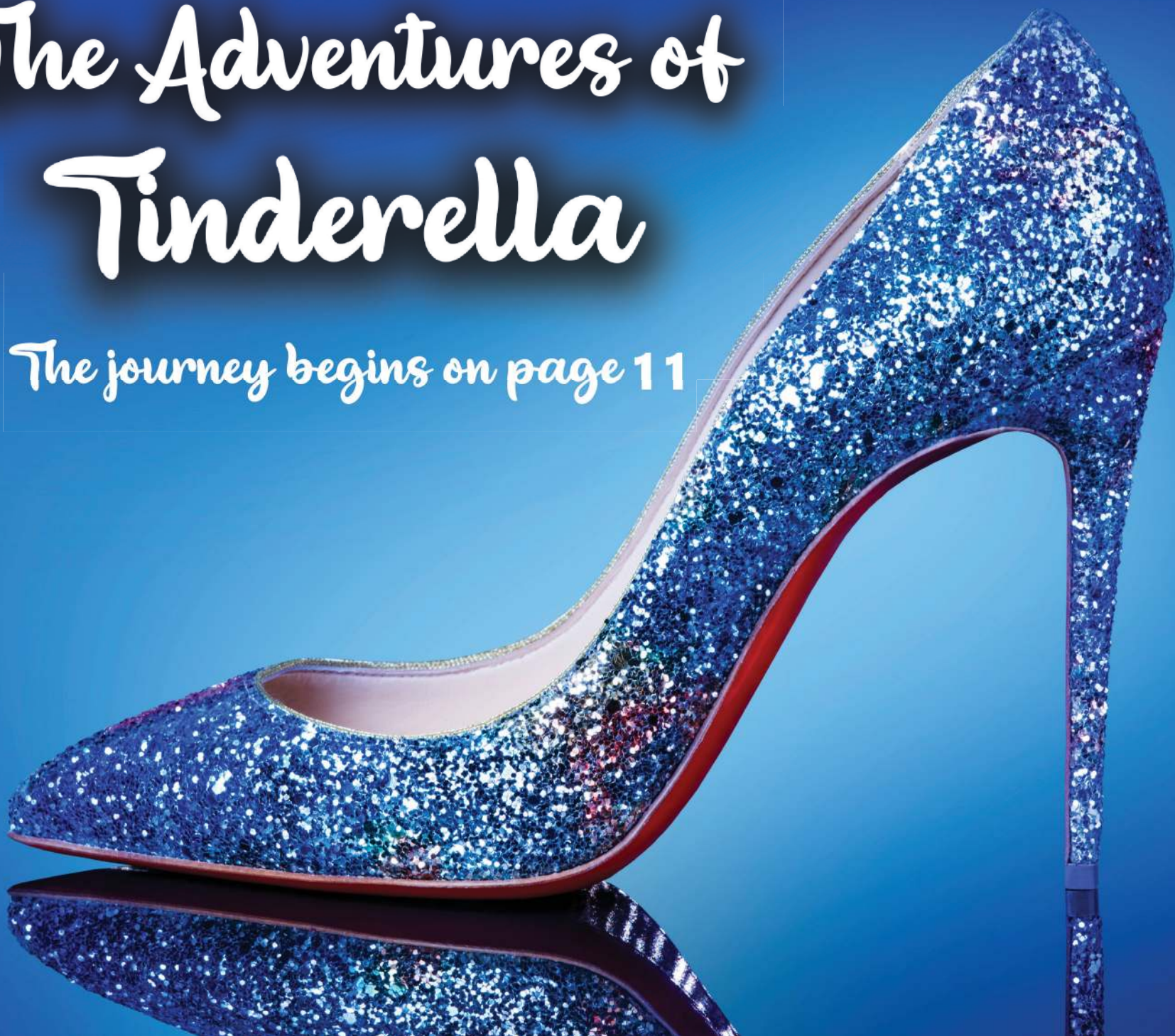


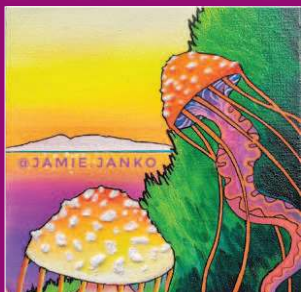
# ANCHORAGE PRESS

## The Adventures of Tinderella

The journey begins on page 11



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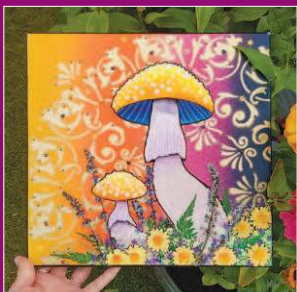
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# “FEEL LOVE” WITH THE JANGLE BEES THIS SATURDAY

Like a lot of Alaskan bands, The Jangle Bees have spent the past two years creating a new album. Now with Covid restrictions easing, they are finally ready to share their new album “Feel Love” with a live audience. This Saturday at 49th State Brewing Company, you can celebrate what I think may be their best work so far.



BY O'HARA SHIPE  
MANAGING EDITOR

Best described as an eclectic and collaborative mix of tracks ranging from pop to acoustic, “Feel Love” will have you jiving on the dance floor.

“I think of the album as an herbal tea sampler, but with tone. You know, and it’s for your ears instead of your mouth—unless you join us and sing along,” said drummer Chad Reynvaan.

Tickets are available at BrownPaperTickets.com and the music kicks off at 8pm with opener SunDog.



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# Yup'ik and Iñupiaq Spelling Bee Offers Young Alaska Native Youth Access to Their Language

BY JOE SLOWINSKI

According to the Alaska Native Language Center, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, of an estimated population of 21,000, there are approximately 10,000 speakers of Yup'ik. Of the estimated 13,500 Iñupiaq in Alaska, 3,000 are speakers of the language. However, language acquisition programs like the Annual Yup'ik and Iñupiaq spelling bees are working to bolster those numbers.

"There are many goals for holding this [spelling] bee," explained the program's organizer and founder, Freda Dan. "It gives Yup'ik speakers an avenue for learning and communicating in their language. It also gives third through eighth-grade spellers a chance to learn definitions for words, a safe place to practice pronunciation, and to learn to spell."

Unlike traditional spelling bees, which focus on competition, in the Yup'ik and Iñupiaq bees, spellers are not eliminated when a word is misspelled. Instead, each participant earns a point for every word spelled correctly.

"It's really important to me that my children are connected to their Indigenous heritage. Language can be a really important part of culture and identity," explained Brevig Mission School teacher Angie Alston.

In the 2018-19 school year, Brevig Mission offered Iñupiaq as an elective for the first time with the help of Elder Helen Olanna.

"My daughter's grandfather, Fred Olanna, had agreed to help me teach an Inupiaq language class to high school students at Brevig Mission School," said Angie Alston. "After his death, I was overcome with a sense of urgency around language and what I could do to help my children and my students have experiences speaking Iñupiaq."

Alston's efforts paid off as her daughter, Kopeck Kaitlyn Alston, walked away with top honors at this year's Iñupiaq spelling bee on April 16.

To prepare, the Alston's used flashcards and recordings. "I practiced flashcards with her, and then I would quiz her on words, and she would write them on a giant whiteboard," Alston said. "Kunaq Tahbone of Nome and Suzzuk Huntington from the Bering Strait School District provided sound recordings of the words. We played those recordings for Kaitlyn so that she could hear pronunciations by speakers with a higher degree of Inupiaq proficiency."



PHOTO BY MAX DAN

Yup'ik spelling division-1st place-Pasrataar Alayna Canoe.

"Aullagniaqtunja is my favorite word. It's my favorite because I think it's easy to spell. The English translation is 'I am going to leave.' It's a whole sentence in one word," added Alston's daughter with glee.

The Yupik division included thirteen participants from Anchorage, Akiak, Akiachak, Dillingham, Nunam Iqua, and Stebbins. Seventh-grader Pasrataar Alayna Canoe, a student at Nunam Iqua School in the Lower Yukon School District, walked away a winner.

"It was a long, tough match and an intense draw for second and third in the Yup'ik division. It was a tight match between top spellers. All 35 words were used, and additional words were selected to continue the bee. When those words were used, the field was narrowed down to the top three spellers with tied points for second and third place," remarked Dan. "Very difficult words were selected to finalize the play."

The tight competition wasn't entirely unexpected as each speller had to participate in local and district competitions before making it to the state finals.

"It is a challenge, but there are words that are similar to [our] native Filipino language," explained Alain Bjorn M. Paje. An educator from the Philippines teaching in Stebbins, Paje had two children competing.

"Their selection and participation in the Yup'ik spelling bee is a great joy for me and my wife because my children have adapted to the ways of village life and their willingness to learn a new language. Learning is everywhere, and being

new to the country and to the State of Alaska, I encourage my children to explore and learn as much as they can," said Paje.

Paje's son, Naaqista Blaine Paje, secured third place in his first state championship and is excited to continue his language studies.

## 2021-2022 YUP'IK AND IÑUPIAQ SPELLING BEE FOR BEGINNERS STATEWIDE SPELLING BEE RESULTS

### YUP'IK SPELLING DIVISION:

- 1st place: Pasrataar Alayna Canoe, 7th grade, Nunam Iqua School
- 2nd place: Maqaruaq Tieran Ignatius, 7th grade, Nunam Iqua School
- 3rd place: Naaqista Blaine Paje, Tukurngailnguq School

### IÑUPIAQ SPELLING DIVISION

- 1st place: Kopeck Kaitlyn Alston, 5th grade, Brevig Mission School
- 2nd place: Ikiituk Donald Olson Jr., 8th Grade, Martin L. Olson School
- 3rd place: Kimasuq Danielle Tocktoo 5th grade, Brevig Mission School

(L) 3rd place Kimasuq Danielle Tocktoo, (C) 1st place Kopeck Kaitlyn Alston, (R) 2nd place Ikiituk Donald Olson Jr.

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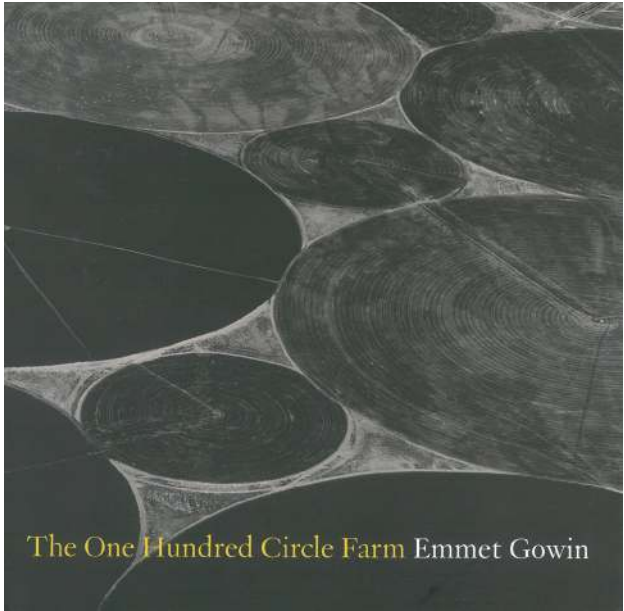
# Who owns water?

BY ART SLEUTH  
BY JEAN BUNDY

Climate Change got pushed aside with Covid, and now Putin’s war continues to place Global Warming on Earth’s proverbial backburners. So here are two books worth putting on summer reading lists: one visual, the other literal, both broaching water management. James Salzman writes, “There is plentiful water on Earth (Salzman 271).” Emmet Gowin photographs, “It remains to be shown whether beauty can also be an agent of understanding or of change (Gow 17).”

Gowin’s book, ‘The One Hundred Circle Farm,’ explores the ambiguities of center-pivot-irrigation. The circular indentations on soils are beautiful when aerially viewed yet devastating up-close. Driving through Midwestern farm country, giant sprinklers on both sides of roadways metaphorically braise your side mirrors. At rest, these massive machines resemble arm-in-arm militia. On the move, they circulate like state fair carousels. Gowin writes, “Today, approximately fifty-seven thousand farms in the United States depend on water delivered by powerful pumps from aquifers deep underground. Within my own lifetime, these water sources have been gravely diminished (Gowin 17).” His photographs examine beauty versus the bestial. Gowin’s titles are like scientific field notes. Presented here are four aerial images.

1: ‘Center-Pivot Irrigation Circles, Looking South near the Big Bend of the Columbia River, Benton County Washington’, 1991 resembles a traditional three-tier landscape. Instead of dense forests with cavorting nymphs, this scene, except for the water and skyline in the background, is barren. Circles are reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright’s (1867-1959) NYC Guggenheim, which has rings embedded into flooring, an homage to the repeating geometry in his buildings. In this work, multiple circles recede as they dance into the distance — beautifully destructive.



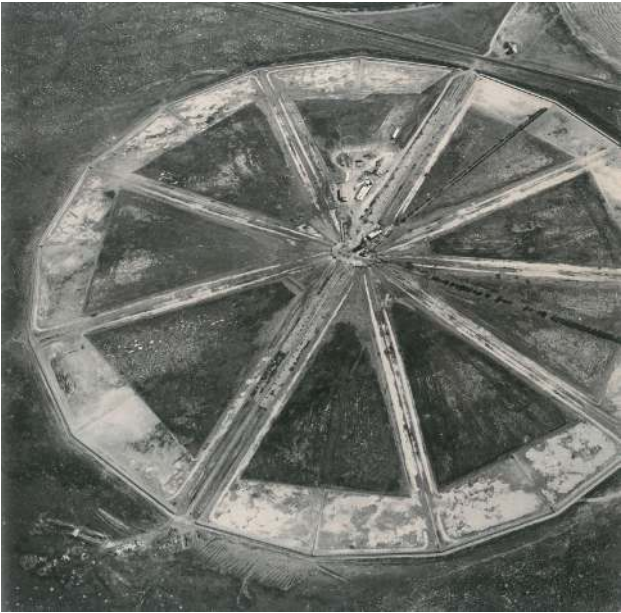
2: ‘Early Morning Pivot Agriculture near the Grand Coulee Dam, Lincoln County Washington’, 1989. Looking out windows, when flying over the Midwest, clouds part to reveal patchwork quilted farmlands. A large ghostly circle images the stump of a once growing evergreen in this photograph. A few trees are visible in the foreground, reminding viewers of the verdant landscape slaughtered for agriculture.



3: ‘Irrigation Circle with a Lively Streambed and Drainages near Liberal, Kansas’, 1995. Why is farming, with all its chemical components, accomplished so close to a waterway? In this photograph, undulating textures resemble the sonogram of a fetus or a sonogram of Earth, envisioning the need for preservation.



4: ‘Center Pivot Irrigation Circle Converted to Hold Livestock, Southern Idaho’, 1988. Why did markings made from this machine become a livestock pen? Midwest agriculture provides ingredients for cheesy pizzas and fruit pies, which this image conjures. The battle between the farmer and cowman has been ongoing since the West was “settled.” The industrialization of cattle ranching and large-scale farming may mediate here, but this segmented circle also becomes a trope for over-consumption of beef and realizations of timeworn soils. According to anthropologist Lucas Bessire, “Gowin depicts an environmental catastrophe that is no less consequential than melting glaciers or dying reefs (Gowin 123).”



While water is coveted for agriculture, it is also needed for all vegetation and animals to survive. Salzman’s historical and anecdotal book, ‘Drinking Water’ offers the tug-of-war about H2O being “a basic human right or tradable commodity...All water is atmospherically trapped; surprisingly, we drink what the dinosaurs drank (Salzman 221, 248).

Rome was the first city to manage water bureaucratically. Today, Westerners take plumbing for granted, while Third World countries access polluted groundwater or communal wells, if available, collected by female labor. Salzman writes, “Unsafe drinking water is the single largest killer in the world (Salzman 10, 11).”

During the Industrial Revolution, building municipal water systems was spurred on by polluted rivers and incessant cholera plagues. Public drinking fountains appeared as social gatherings for germs, too (Salzman 104-106). This critic remembers the Nineteen-Fifties Polio Epidemic when adults warned children not to swim in public pools.

Now, let’s talk about Global Warming. The plastic bottle of water “is now the nation’s dominant beverage, surpassing even soft drinks....and often has the highest markup

on a restaurant menu (Salzman 17, 195).” However, is bottled water really healthier than tap water? According to Salzman, “no water source can ever be completely risk-free, whether from the tap or bottle...The need for bottled water goes back to the very first societies [crafted from] goatskin, gourds, or clay pots (Salzman 21, 181).” In the Middle Ages, abbeys got rich selling pilgrims bottled water and souvenir relics.

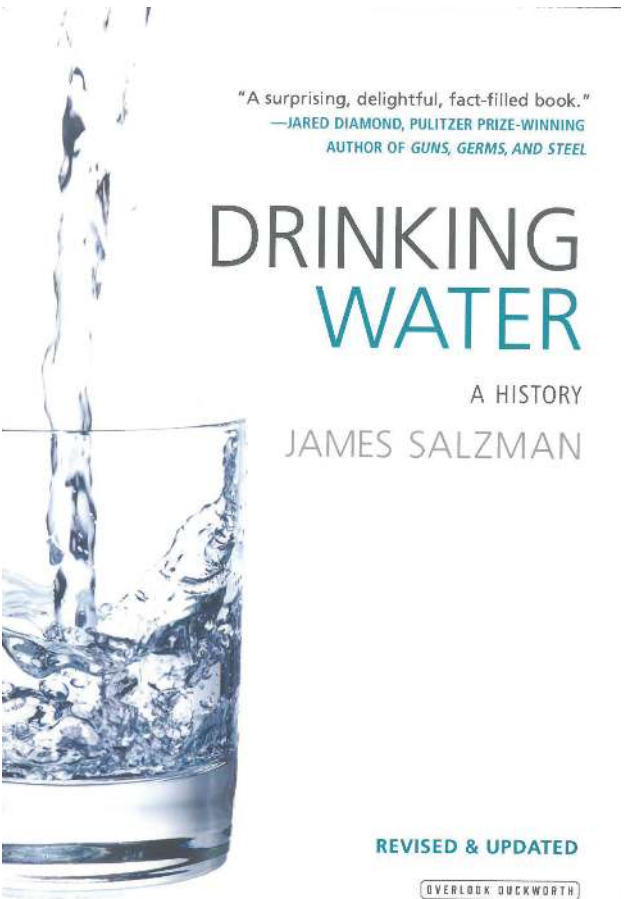
By the Mid-Nineteenth Century, the elite vacationed at spas; you could take out their mineral waters, too. This critic’s great-grandfather, Dr. Cyrus Allen, co-owned The Avon Inn in Upstate New York, which provided Sulphur bathing. Although taking the waters continues, it was reduced in the 1900s when chlorine was added to public waters. Salzman remarks, “It has been claimed that chlorination of drinking water saved more lives than any other technological advance in the history of public health (Salzman 100, 101).” In the 1920s, the portable water bottle grew into a large refillable glass container and moved into offices, becoming the water cooler gossip niche, a cliché in movies.

Salzman credits the Mid-Seventies running craze, which stationed plastic bottles at checkpoints, as the culprit. The New York City Marathon, 1979, uniquely witnessed six thousand runners sporting Perrier-sponsored T-shirts; thus began the designer water container fad.

The inception of TSA airport processing after 9/11 saw many half-empty plastic water bottles tossed into trash cans. Presently, fountains for refillable thermoses are slowly popping up in public areas. Look at how much plastic it took to curtail Covid: syringes, medical garments, and water bottles!

There are projects worldwide addressing water redistribution: towing water, desalination plants, and recycling wastewater. While relocating water is increasingly necessary, making the process energy efficient is the puzzle. Salzman provides a narrative to the age-old dilemma, “Who really owns the water, anyway (Salzman 23)?” Gowin photographs paradoxes found when soil is stressed, thus remarking, “There is, I think, an unintentional beauty in these circles, traces left behind by humans working in their fields (Gow 17).” So this summer, while you mix that Arnold Palmer, with or without Vodka, remember it’s brought to you by clean water—oh, and use a glass container.

Mini Sleuth: ‘The One Hundred Circle Farm’ by Emmet Gowin and ‘Drinking Water’ by James Salzman at Amazon. Thanks to Jodi Smith at Princeton Univ. Press, and Yale Alumni Academy’s James Salzman.



Jean Bundy, MFA, Ph.D. is a writer/painter living in Anchorage. She is a VP at AICA-International and serves on Governance for Pictor Gallery, NYC.  
Email: 38144@alaska.net

# Big Lake State Recreation Areas could stay closed for the summer

BY AMY BUSHATZ

A trio of popular state-owned lake recreation areas will shutter for the 2022 summer season unless state officials can find a contractor to manage them, state officials said this week.

Big Lake South, Big Lake North and Rocky Lake State Recreation Sites provide boat launch ramps, picnic areas and a total of about 100 campsites for tents and RVs. Popular for fishing, swimming and boating in the summer, the areas just outside Wasilla are regularly a top destination for seasonal outdoor recreation.

Like several other recreation sites, including the state's Matanuska Glacier campground and cabin, the areas are typically operated by a contractor known as a concessionaire. But no qualified companies have thus far submitted applications, said Stuart Leidner, the state park superintendent for the MatSu Region. And without someone to manage the bathrooms, oversee campsite and boat ramp use and perform other seasonal upkeep tasks, the areas simply can't be open for use, he said.

"The camping areas, the day use area — we simply don't have the staffing to adequately manage it," he said. "That would be a big blow for recreationists potentially."

This isn't the first time the state has had a hard time finding a contractor to operate a recreation area. In 2021 they were unable to find a contractor to run Matanuska Lake Recreation Area's parking and campsites. Although they originally planned to leave the gate there locked for the summer, they did ultimately open the area, using state park staff to perform minimal management. With no contractor yet in place there for 2022, they'll likely follow the same plan this year, he said.

But that's not an option for the Big Lake-area sites, he said, simply because they are much farther away from state park maintenance facilities.

"That's one that's further away from any of our shops and it does create a logistical problem for us," he said.

Information on the state's recreation area contractor proposal request can be found on the State Park website.

If and when that contractor can be secured and the snow melts, those areas will be ready for users. Big Lake North, for example, has recently received some structural upgrades with several updated picnic pavilions and parking lot maintenance, he said.

Meanwhile, the park system is preparing for the season through a variety of other construction projects and upgrades, not unlike work done in most years, Leidner said.

For example, a revamped boat ramp will be poured at Finger Lake as soon as the ice melts, he said. At Kesu-



BY AMY BUSHATZ

*A locked gate blocks the road to Matanuska Lake State Recreation Area. Officials said they plan to open the gate for the summer season despite not finding a contractor to manage the area.*

gi Ken in Denali State Park an interpretive sign project is slated for completion. And in the Hatcher Pass Recreation Area, several tent pads and one composting pit toilet were installed at Reed Lakes late in the season last year. A second toilet is now waiting for installation there once snow melt allows access. But perhaps the most noticeable change will be for those who regularly purchase day parking passes. Rather than pay parking fees with cash or a check placed in the metal box known as an iron ranger, more locations will instead have electronic kiosks, he said. About six new sites are slated to receive the

machines, including Willow, he said. Those kiosks allow state park employees to avoid collecting cash from the boxes. And because they don't hold cash, they are not a target for thieves, he said.

Those electronic kiosks will be installed in time for the summer season. Parking at state recreation areas is \$5 to \$10, depending on the area. Boat ramp fees run from \$10 to \$25. Annual parking passes are \$60. Annual boat ramp passes are \$150. Camping fees vary by location. A free state parks camping pass is available for disabled veterans who are Alaska residents. Camping passes are not sold.

## Grounded, Alaska Airlines suspends Alaska-Hawaii nonstop during summer

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alaska Airlines says its canceling nonstop flights between Anchorage and Honolulu during the summer months, primarily because of limited staffing.

The suspension will last from June until November. Alaska Airlines Public Affairs Manager Tim Thompson said no other major nonstop routes to and from Anchorage were affected, KTUU reported.

Alaska Airlines has struggled with staffing levels this month, as pilots protested and the airline said it encountered a backlog in its training program while it worked to bring on more pilots. The company had 63 fewer pilots ready to fly in April than it had planned on in January, it said.

Travelers between Alaska and Hawaii may have to use connecting flights in Seattle; Portland, Oregon or Los Angeles as alternatives.



An Alaska Airlines spokesperson said in an email to The Associated Press that the airline has offered seasonal service on the Anchorage-Honolulu route in the past.

The airline also plans to resume nonstop service from Anchorage to Maui and Anchorage to Kailua-Kona on the Big Island in the fall. The airline doesn't operate these routes during the summer.

# Even Sen. Ted Stevens would have no home in a GOP aiming to purge Sen. Lisa Murkowski

For more than a year, Kelly Tshibaka has been claiming that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "can't run as a Republican."

It's still not true, even as a few hundred Republican Party right-wing zealots do their best to purge Murkowski with a bumbling effort that is part



BY DERMOT COLE

the GOP enforcers will erase Murkowski's image from photographs and penalize anyone who puts up a Murkowski sign or mentions her name.

The GOP will also try to purge a small number of Republican legislators who joined the coalition in the state House with Democrats.

In trying to ditch Murkowski and others, the Republican cancel culture enthusiasts are saying there is no room in the organization for anyone who questions Donald Trump or veers from Fox News talking points.

Ted Stevens would have no place in this party and neither would Wally Hickel, Jay Hammond, Clem Tillion, John Butrovich, Arliss Sturgulewski, Terry Miller and dozens of others who had the ability to think for themselves.

What the GOP zealots forget is that both major parties are minor parties in Alaska. There are 340,000 voters who are undeclared or nonpartisan, compared to 77,000 Democrats and 142,000 Republicans.

The zealots also forget that Murkowski has the backing of key Republicans not named Trump. Sen. Mitch McConnell is correct when he says she is "a key player in advancing bipartisan legislation." McConnell has pledged to spend \$7 million on her behalf.

Murkowski has shown a talent for getting things done in Washington, D.C., instead of just talking and whining. By any measure, she is one of the most successful political leaders in state history, having long since escaped her father's shadow.



Kelly Tshibaka

I disagree with her on many big issues, but she takes her job seriously, works hard and is smart. The cartoon portrait of her that Tshibaka is trying to sell is a fraud.

Suzanne Downing, public relations organ for the GOP zealots, claims the new party rules will change all registered Republicans in Alaska from members of the party to "participants."

Candidates will be "members," under the GOP junior-high-level wordplay scheme, and members will have to demonstrate their allegiance to the party zealots.

This is straight from the "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is" playbook.

Membership in the party will now be determined by a membership committee. The membership committee claims it will have the power to write Murkowski and others out of the picture. The GOP wants to ban Murkowski from being listed as a Republican on the ballot, along with other Republicans.

GOP National Committeewoman Cynthia Henry, whose family owns HOPS Hallmark stores in Alaska, will chair the 17-member membership committee, along with GOP National Committeeman Mike Tauriainen.

It will be their job to claim Murkowski and others are not members of the Republican Party, inventing a purity test that the offenders will fail.

Downing claims the attorney general and the Dunleavy administration will probably back the purge. They will "probably not want to go against a political group that limits its membership by forcing it to accept members."

The party will try to pursue the eviction, perhaps with Dunleavy's help, but I doubt it will succeed.

This scheme is illegal. It reeks of the authoritarian impulse to claim that truth is whatever the party bosses claim it is.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski is a registered Republican, so that is how she will appear on the ballot, notwithstanding the attempt by a few hundred right-wing zealots to purge her from the GOP.

Candidates have the option of listing their "political affiliation" on the ballot. The candidate can ask that the affiliation on the voter registration card be used or that the candidate be listed as nonpartisan or undeclared.

Murkowski remains affiliated with the Republican Party. It's not up to the party zealots to decide how she prefers to be listed on the ballot.

Alaska law permits a candidate to seek a nomination if he or she is registered to vote as a member of the political party. Changing the word "member" to "participant" is the GOP attempt to evade the law.

Even if the word game is accepted by the attorney general, Murkowski and others regarded as renegades could still accurately claim to be registered GOP "participants."

In 2018, the party attempted and failed to purge Homer Rep. Paul Seaton, claiming he was not a real Republican. Seaton, an excellent GOP legislator, opted to run as nonpartisan and lost. He accurately sized up the party campaign against him.

"I was a Republican for 50 years, and with the things going on now, I've decided that I change to non-partisan," he told KBBT.

"They're choosing a model of democracy that is similar to Iran or Hong Kong in China," Seaton told the Homer News.

I AM A TED NUGENT  
REPUBLICAN. WHO  
WOULDN'T WANT TO  
BE ASSOCIATED WITH  
SOMEONE WHO  
WOULD SHOOT A  
BEAR AND LET  
IT WONDER  
OFF TO DIE  
A SLOW AND  
AGONIZING DEATH  
FOR A BLOODTHIRSTY  
TV AUDIENCE?



Chuck LeBlond  
ANCHORAGE  
PRESS

## OTHER NEWS

by chuck leblond



# A most unusual encounter with a water strider

Until I spotted one during a recent woodland walk, I never imagined that a water strider could bring such a considerable measure of surprise, delight, and mystery into my adult life. But that’s exactly what happened when I met one of these common aquatic insects while hiking through Earthquake Park on the third Monday of April.



CITY WILDS BY  
BILL SHERWONIT

I have been aware of water striders since my boyhood days in Connecticut when I watched them skip and skate across the liquid surface of a neighborhood pond, just a long stone’s throw from my family’s yard.

I’m sure I felt some amazement when I first noticed their small streaking forms, and I’ve enjoyed watching their rapid, gliding movements upon water ever since those earliest encounters. But to be honest, I never thought much about the lives of water striders or the mechanics of their movements until now.

I also admit to some surprise when I discovered water striders inhabit Alaska’s ponds and lakes and wetland pools, though if I’d known more about them, I wouldn’t have been. Members of the Gerridae family are reported to occur widely throughout North America (and much of the rest of the world). But they never gained my attention the way some other northern insects like dragonflies, butterflies, bumblebees, and mosquitoes have.

All of that changed on my recent forest walk. My day had begun on something of a low note. I felt unsettled, out of sorts, when I awoke that morning, and a vague feeling of unease stayed with me much of the morning and into the afternoon, fed in part by some computer and Internet problems and a friend’s unexpected request for help, in an area beyond my expertise. Nothing seriously awful happened, but I continued to feel some low-level anxiety and what I’d call an emotional “heaviness.”

I figured my daily walk with Denali would brighten my mood and lift my spirits. And it did. But what really changed the course of my day and pulled me out of the doldrums was that water strider.

While walking through a section of the woods that’s a small, boggy, ponded wetland in summer, I noticed a bug upon the still-abundant snow. At first glance and seen from a distance, it resembled a spider. However, on closer inspection, I recognized the creature to be a water strider. At least, I thought it to be one; its presence in the snow made me question my identification.

I’ve kept track of Anchorage-area insects and arachnids (mostly spiders and some daddy longlegs) throughout the seasonal round for many years, and I’ve documented several different species crawling or perched upon the snow in winter and early spring. But this was the first time I’d seen a water strider in such circumstances, whether living or dead. This one was clearly alive, as it demonstrated by skipping a short distance across the snow when gently nudged by my finger.

Because I knew them to be aquatic bugs, and no open pools of water had yet appeared anywhere nearby that snowy field, I wondered how in the world this water strider had come to be there.

It just didn’t make sense. After the iNaturalist app on my iPhone confirmed the insect to be a water strider, I made it my mission to learn more about the critter.

I started by emailing Alex Wenninger, an entomologist with the Cooperative Extension Service’s Integrated Pest Management Program. She quickly responded with



Water strider crossing snow.

some helpful information, including a link to an online article about water striders, which explained, “During the winter, adults move to protected sites on land. Leaves, logs, holes in stream banks, or similar cover located near waterways are used for hibernation.” Alex added, “My first thought is that perhaps it had overwintered in leaf litter somewhere nearby, where it warmed up and came out to find a water body.”

I never suspected that water striders spend their winters on land. So it made perfect sense that the strider I encountered—perhaps an early riser from winter’s dormancy—was seeking open water, and I happened to spot it crossing an open expanse of snow. Pretty darn amazing.

That prompted me to wonder what else I might learn about the lives of water striders, and I began an online search. Here’s another amazing thing: how easy it is nowadays to learn all kinds of information about our wild neighbors. Here I’ll share just a bit of what I’ve gleaned from various online articles and blogs, with more to come. As with other life forms, water striders’ body structures, abilities, and lifestyles are way more complex—and remarkable—than most of us humans imagine them to be.

To begin, more than 1,700 species of water striders have been identified around the world. At least five species are known to inhabit Alaska, though it seems likely others occur here, and they range from the Panhandle to the Arctic.

Though most commonly known as water striders, these aquatic insects are also variously called pond skaters, skimmers, water scooters, water skippers, and Jesus bugs (the latter because of their ability to “walk on water”).

It appears that the small narrow bodies of most water striders measure between a quarter and a half-inch long, supported by six legs of varying lengths. The longer middle and back legs propel striders across water and allow them to quickly shift directions and “put on the brakes” when necessary, while the shorter front legs are for catching and grasping prey.

Their ability to walk—or skip or skate—across water

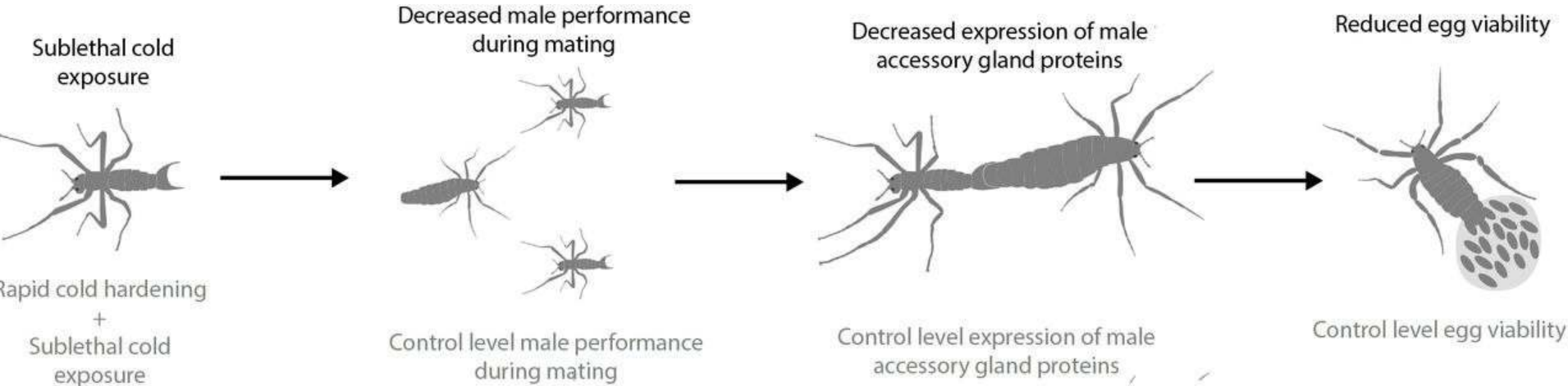
is possible because water striders have evolved legs that are covered by thousands of microscopic, grooved hairs. Those grooved hairs both repel water and trap air, which allows them to not only stand on the surface “membrane” of water but move easily and quickly across it. Studies have reportedly shown that they can move a hundred body lengths per second; researchers say a six-foot person would have to swim more than 400 miles an hour to match their speed. Wow!

As mentioned above, water striders are predatory creatures. They feed on flying insects that become trapped on the water’s surface or other aquatic insects that come to the surface for air. They have piercing mouthparts that inject paralyzing saliva that renders the prey helpless and helps to digest their tissue; the liquid is then sucked into the striders’ bodies—rather gruesome behavior for such lovely skaters.

There’s much more to be said about striders, including the details of their life cycles and unusual mating strategies. But for now, I’ll end with these strider curiosities: first, some water striders have wings while others don’t, depending on their circumstances.

And then there’s this: though buoyant, the legs and feet of water striders make dimples in the water surface they stand and skate upon. Those dimples act like lenses that refract sunlight. So when the sun is bright, and striders move upon clear, shallow waters, they may create dark, bulbous shadows on the pond bottom below. Sometimes, the shadows are more easily visible and more visually stunning than the insects themselves. And isn’t that a marvelous thing? It was almost as remarkable as finding a water strider skipping across the snowpack in early spring, searching for a pond of water to make its home.

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 Wildness: 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](mailto:akgriz@hotmail.com)





Get direct links to the event details at [AKconcerts.com](http://AKconcerts.com)  
Or read below if you just want to know the time & place.

Thursday April 28th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The King and I 7:30p-10p  
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p  
Humpys – Jared Woods 7:30p-11p  
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic Night 8p-12a  
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Comedy Showcase 9p-11p  
Main Street Bar & Grill – Valerie Tosi 7p-10p  
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Karaoke with Kellie B.! 10p-2a  
Van’s Dive Bar – Queer As Hell 9p-12a  
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys & Lizzie Guil- lot 9p-12a



Friday April 29th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Classics & Cock- tails 7p-9p  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The King and I 8p-10:30p  
Alice’s Champagne Palace (Homer) – BenJammin and the Jammin Band 8p-12a  
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 5:30p-9p  
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Six Shots Deep! 9p-12a  
American Legion Post 33 (Chugiak) – Glacier Hoppers 8p-12a  
Birch Books (Wasilla) – Open Mic Night 5p-7p  
Dave & Busters – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a  
Dena’ina Center – Arctic Comic Con Kick Off W/ Tom Arnold 8p-9p  
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Valerie Tosi 7p-9p  
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a  
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Fri- day at the Eagles! 7p-12a  
The Gaslight Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p  
Humpys – Nothin But Trouble 9p-1a



Klondike Mike’s & the Main-Street Grill (Palmer) – Hot mess 10p-2a  
Koot’s – The Stack Alaska 10p-3a  
Koot’s – Jerry’s Situation 10p-3a  
Mad Myrna’s – Diva Variety Show: Kings 9p-11:30p  
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p  
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – H3 Hawaii Reggae 7p-10p  
Palmer Train Depot (Palmer) – Underground Pride: The Prom 7p-11p  
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p  
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Hand me Downs live 7p-12a  
Van’s Dive Bar – Fifth Friday with Hwy9 & The River Livers! 9p-1a  
Williwaw Social – MAGIC GIANT live w/ Bethlehem Shalom 7p-10:30p  
Williwaw Social – Life’s Too Short Indie Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 11p-2a

Saturday April 30th

49th State Brewery – The Jangle Bees Album Release ft. SunDog 7:30p-12a  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The King and I 2p-4:30p & 8p-10:30p  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Alaska Youth Orchestra: Spring Celebration 2p-4:30p  
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 Moose Lodge – Vintage Retro 8p-12a  
The Carousel Lounge – HarpDaddy Unraveled 10p-2a  
Carpenter’s Hall – Country Two Step Lesson 7p-11p  
Dena’ina Center – Arctic Comic Con Monster Ball w/ September Mourning & Rival Dads 8p-11:30p  
The Gaslight Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p  
Humpys – Unknowns 9p-1a  
Kharacter’s Alasan Bar (Homer) – BenJammin and the Jammin Band 10p-2a  
Klondike Mike’s & the Main-Street Grill (Palmer) – Hot mess 10p-2a  
Koot’s – Comedian Valerie Tosi 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p  
Koot’s – The Stack Alaska 10p-3a  
Mad Myrna’s – Diva Variety Show: Kings 9p-11:30p  
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – I Like Robots 7p-10p  
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – H3 Hawaii Reggae 7p-10p  
Palmer Train Depot (Palmer) – Talent Show & Creative Vendor Fair 4p-9p  
Serrano’s Mexican Grill – Hwy Acoustic Live 8p-11p  
T.K. Maguire’s (Juneau) – Gigi’s Drag Brunch 12p-2p  
Thunder Mountain High School (Juneau) – Juneau Sym- phony: Musician’s Favorites 8p-10p  
Van’s Dive Bar – Zen Trembles 9p-1a  
Williwaw Social – DJ GRE’s Guardians of the Galaxy Dance Party 9p-2a



Sunday May 1st

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The King and I 2p-4:30p & 7:30p-10p  
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a  
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p  
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p  
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Sunday Night Karaoke! 6p-12a  
Thunder Mountain High School (Juneau) – Juneau Sym- phony: Musician’s Favorites 3p-5p  
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday May 2nd

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 May 3rd

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/Uncle Jim! 6:30p-9:30p  
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a  
International Hotel & Bar (Fairbanks) – Comedy Night 7p-9p  
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Stret Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic 7p-10p  
Koot’s – Comedian Joe Gatto from Impractical Jokers 10p-12a  
Koot’s – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a  
Organic Oasis – Turnagain Blue 5:30p-7:30p  
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a  
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Jam with Spenard Husband 9p-12a

MAY THE 4TH  
BE WITH YOU



Wednesday May 4th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p  
Bartlett High School – May The Fourth Be With Our Seniors Band Concert 6:30p-8p  
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  
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Open Mic at The Marlin! 8p-2a  
The Nave Spenard – Collage & Blackout Poetry Work- shop Series 6p-9p  
Palmer – Dusty Green Bones Band Palmer House Party 5p-9p  
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a  
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p  
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a  
Spurs (Palmer) - Karaoke World Championship USA 8p-10p  
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  
Yukon Bar (Seward) – Karaoke 9p-2a

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## Thu 4/28

### Kinder Time April 28

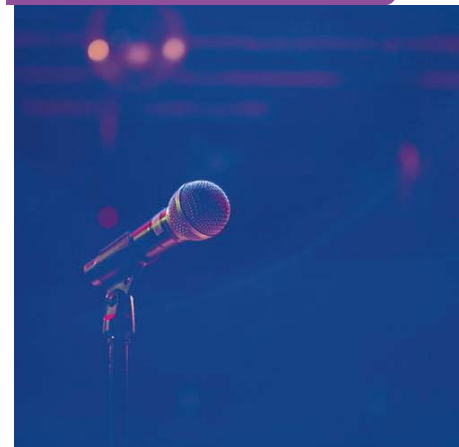
@ 6:30pm  
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

## Fri 4/29

### 4U2NV Lips & Lashes Brand Launch Party

@ 5pm  
4U2NV Lips & Lashes Launch Event with Give Aways, Red Carpet, Sips & Dips Bottoms Up Boutique, 320 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage. akbottoms@gmail.com, 907-274-1120

### Featured



### Arctic Comic Con Comedy Special featuring Tom Arnold LIVE!

@ 8pm  
Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, 600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage



### The King And I

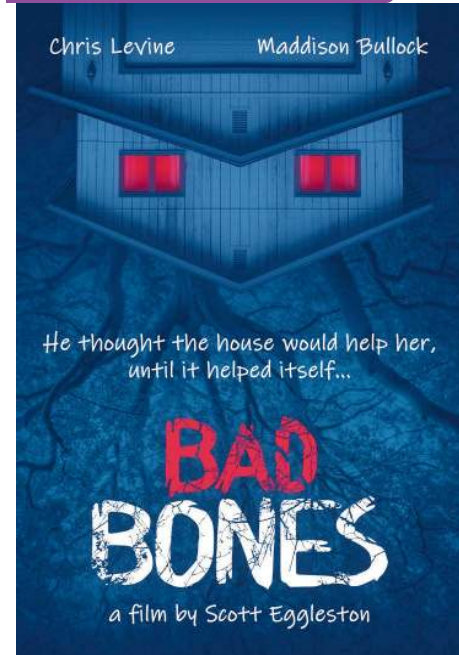
@ 8pm  
Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

## Sat 4/30

### Marionette Show for Children "The Monster and the Mouse"

@ 11am / \$7  
The Monster and the Mouse is an inspiring tale performed with string Marionettes for children age 3+ 3509 Kirby Pl, 3509 Kirby Place, Anchorage. krumbambu lipuppettheatre@yahoo.com, 415-465-4228

### Featured



### "Bad Bones" film screening

@ 6pm / \$10  
Anchorage premiere of the locally-produced sci-fi/horror/mystery feature film, "Bad Bones" Wilda Marston Theatre, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage. thefrugalfilmmaker@gmail.com



### TMNT Pinball tournament

@ 6pm  
Stern Pinball's TMNT game "launch party", \$20 per player, food and prizes! Williaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage. great-ak-flipout@outlook.com, 907-244-7434

### Anchorage Homeschool Prom 2022

@ 6pm / \$7-\$30  
Main Event Catering and Grill, 1041 East 76th Avenue, Anchorage

### Featured



Arctic Comic Con After Hours Concert feat. September Mourning  
@ 7:30pm  
600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage



### Featured



### The Jangle Bees: Album Release Show

@ 8pm  
49th State Brewing Co - Anchorage, 717 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage



### The King And I

@ 8pm  
Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

### Featured



Comedian Valerie Tosi  
@ 9:30pm / \$20  
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



## Sun 5/01

### Arctic Comic Con 2022

@ 12pm  
600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage

## Wed 5/04

### Collage and Blackout Poetry Workshop Series

@ 6pm / \$25  
Local Artist Jesse Rosenstein will lead a 5-week series where participants can make their own blackout poetry and collage board book and socialize safely with neighbors. The Nave, 3502 Spenard Road, Anchorage. info@thenavespenard.com, 907-793-1393

### Featured



### The Mommy Dance Pay-What-You-Can-Preview

@ 7pm / \$30  
Ah Motherhood! With the birth of a new baby, one new mother discovers all the ways her life has changed. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org



## Fri 5/06

### Featured



### Medium Rare- Photography Exhibition

@ 4pm  
The Studio is hosting a Photography First Friday showcasing work from ... The Studio, 245 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage. katiemverb@gmail.com, 208-850-6740

### First Friday with Sara Tabbert

@ 5pm  
Cyrano's Art Gallery presents Fray by Sara Tabbert. May 6, 2022 thru May 29, 2022 First Friday Opening, May 6 from 5p-7p Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

### The Mommy Dance

@ 7pm / \$30  
Ah Motherhood! With the birth of a new baby, one new mother discovers all the ways her life has changed. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

### Lex The Siren: Tony Taylor the Artist's Snow or Shine Tour

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

## Sat 5/07

### Amblin' for Alzheimer's

@ 9am / \$25  
Amblin' for Alzheimer's is a friendly, non-competitive fundraising walk for all ages. All funds raised for Amblin' for Alzheimer's stay in Alaska and support the organization's programs and services. Anchorage Golf Course, 3651 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. JProefrock@alaskagolf.com, 907-561-3313

### Gathering & Bike Blessing

@ 10am  
We kick off each riding season with the Gathering at the Bike Blessing event at the in Anchorage. This year the event will be held on the south side of the Dimond Mall. Dimond Center, 800 East Dimond Boulevard, Anchorage. blessing@abateofalaska.com

### Featured



### Anchorage Farmers Market

@ 9am  
Farmers Market, outdoor, Saturdays May 7 - October 15 15 1420 Cordova St, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage. info@anchoragefarmersmarket.org, 907-277-1622



### Kentucky Derby Party - Alaska

@ 11:11am / \$22-\$325  
Beautiful people. Red Carpet & Fashion show. Mint Juleps & southern food. Music & dancing. Horse Betting Station. COVID SAFE. "Alaska's premier food & fashion event" (NBC Sports). Simon & Seafort's Saloon & Grill, 420 L Street, Anchorage. AlaskaLuxe@gmail.com

### Arctic Outlaws @ House of Harley

@ 1pm  
House of Harley-Davidson, 4334 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

### Featured



### Big Head Todd and the Monsters at Williaw Social

@ 7pm  
Williaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage



### Comedian Chris Franjola

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

### Sassy Saturdays Cabaret

@ 8pm / \$20  
Come see why we have been voted Best Burlesque Show 3 years in a row! Sweet Cheeks Cabaret at The Cheeky Room, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

### Comedian Chris Franjola

@ 9:30pm / \$20  
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

## Sun 5/08

### The Mommy Dance

@ 3pm / \$30  
Ah Motherhood! With the birth of a new baby, one new mother discovers all the ways her life has changed. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

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# JIM "HACKSAW" DUGGAN IN HIS OWN WORDS

BY O'HARA SHIPE

As a journalist, I rarely feel like my subject can do a better job articulating their story than I can. However, after talking with the legendary wrestler Jim "Hacksaw" Duggan on Tuesday morning, it became clear that there are exceptions to my longstanding opinion. So, with that, here is the Arctic Comic Con headliner in his own words.

Shipe: When I think of Comic Con, I think of Marvel, DC, and anime. What is pro wrestling's role in the conventions?

Hacksaw: At Comic Cons there is something for everybody. I know years ago, when they first asked me to do a comic con, I was like, "geez, I don't know." But I've learned to really enjoy Comic Con and Comic Con people. Nobody's judging each other and it's quite a community. I always tell folks that have never been to one come on and check it out.

Shipe: What is it about wrestling that makes it a global source of sports entertainment and fandom?

Hacksaw: A lot of folks don't realize the popularity it has! I've wrestled in every state in the union. Every province in Canada, including the Northwest Territories. Plus, 30 different countries. Wrestling is really huge throughout South America, Asia, and Europe. It's crazy because overseas people don't know Tom Brady, but when they see me, they'll scream "HOOOOOOOO!"

Shipe: That must be surreal! What initially got you into wrestling?

Hacksaw: Back then if you weren't somebody's kid or nephew, you didn't get into business. So it was a huge gift that a total outsider that knew nothing about wrestling got

brought into it. And it's been a great business for me. I never had to go to rehab for booze or drugs. You know, I did a lot of both, so I can't throw stones. But I just never got hooked. So it's been a great business for me. You always hear about the train wrecks, but wrestling helped me raise a family.

Shipe: You were wrestling back in the 80s and 90s, which a lot of people consider to be the good old days of the sport. What was it like back then?

Hacksaw: It wasn't a job. It was a lifestyle. I mean, people tried to compare us to sports teams, especially guys in my generation. In reality, we were more like a rock and roll band. You know, every night we're flying to a different city or different country. There was a lot of drugs, a lot of booze, and a lot of women (laughs). Nowadays, the kids are much more professional and they're more athletic. But I think our generation of guys, we were much more creative. You know, Hacksaw is part of me. Some writer didn't give me that character.

Shipe: Looking back at your career, what was your proudest moment?

Hacksaw: I grew up in a small little town called Glens Falls in upstate New York. I had three older sisters and my dad would always bring us down to New York City to Madison Square Garden to see the circus as kids. So you can only imagine what is was like as an adult to have my dad with me when we pulled up to the Garden and saw "Hacksaw Jim Duggan versus Andre the Giant" on the sign. It was a double whammy to be with Andre and be at Madison Square Garden. No matter what profession you're in, you sell out the Garden, you know, you sell out the Garden. We had 22,000 folks, and it was a rough night with Andre that's for sure! I tell folks that I could have killed Andre the Giant...he might have choked on my

bones after swallowing me whole.

Shipe: Speaking of maiming people, I read that there is a somewhat crazy origin story about the 2x4' you always carried around...

Hacksaw: Well, you know, back in the day, it was a much different business. If you thought it was fake, you could sign a waiver and you could come up in the ring with one of us to find out if it's fake or not. You had to fight every local tough guy wherever you were. So we were out in West Texas, and I was a bad guy, so just walking back and forth from the ring was dangerous because people hated your guts. People would spit on you and punch and kick you. So I'm sitting back in the dressing room and covered in blood and bruises, rethinking my career choice. My mentor comes in, and he says, "if you carry something to the ring, you can keep yourself safe." I looked down on like, well, here's a piece of wood, and I came out swinging away with that 2x4' and it was like parting the Red Sea. Those people scattered, and I got to the ring without getting punched or kicked. So, I just never put it down.

Shipe: Is there anything you'd like to say to your fans?

Hacksaw: Last week I was in Ohio and I was signing autographs. When I looked up, I saw this real tough-looking guy in line eyeballing me. When he finally got up to me, he grabbed my hand and shook it real hard. He looked me in the eyes and said, "Hacksaw, me and my dad used to watch you together." His eyes got watery as he told me about their ritual. It's humbling to have folks come up and share their stories. A lot of times, people have pictures of their mom or dad with them because wrestling was such a big part of people's lives back then. It's nice to be able to tell them thanks and to take some pictures. Of course, they usually ask some questions because a lot of folks have a lot of questions about wrestling, that's for sure!

TOM ARNOLD   MICHAEL BIEHN   KEITH COOGAN   WALLIS DAY   HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN   BAI LING   JENNIFER BLANC-BIEHN

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# The Adventures of Cinderella

The journey for love in Alaska begins

## A New Column by Cinderella

I still remember the day my first love played me the song “All My Life” by K-Ci & JoJo. We were 11 years old, and after spending the day riding bikes around Bayshore, we stopped at his grandma’s house for bologna sandwiches. After feasting on the front porch, he pulled out his Walkman, which he had skillfully cued up to the beginning of the song. I know some of you young readers can’t appreciate the effort it used to take to find your favorite song on a cassette player, but let me tell you, it was no small feat. As we leaned in close to share one headphone, I thought, “So, this is it. This is love.”

Two months later, summer ended, and my first love and I went on to different middle schools. He found a new love in a curly-haired, girly-girl and broke up with me over the phone. I was devastated but resolute. Surely, I would find my person soon. I did it once, and I could definitely do it again.

Fast-forward 25 years, and here I am, still single, still searching for love. That’s not to say that there weren’t detours on my journey. The was a fiancé. Well, two, actually.

The first was a jovial Irish boy I met in college. He was handsome and loved me fiercely, but we were still young and figuring out who we were. Neither of us had much dating experience, and it showed. After six months, we broke each other’s hearts in a pretty brutal fashion. He married a lovely woman who gave him two kids. He is still happily living the life I thought I would have by now. The second fiancé was the dreaded relationship built on the desperation that comes when you see all of your Facebook friends getting married. As you could have guessed, that relationship ended up being a massive dumpster fire, the likes of which I hope I never experience again.

Yet, despite my complete failure to walk down the aisle, I have remained hopeful that the love of my life is out there—somewhere. Though at this point, I have considered applying to be on shows like “Married at First Sight” and “Married by Mom and Dad.” But before relegating myself to reality TV infamy, I decided to give Tinder a try. According to DatingAdvice.com, over 17% of marriages now start with online dating. Suffice to say, the statistics seemed encouraging. However, after two years on Tinder—with a few breaks here and there—I have concluded that those blissfully married couples were not on Alaskan Tinder.

At this point, I have gone on well over 100 dates, and while some were perfectly pleasant, many were the dating version of hell. So, to kick off this new monthly column, I thought I’d start with one such disaster.

I met, let’s call him Chuck, in the summer of 2019. He was rugged, handsome, athletic, and bonus, he knew what punctuation was. Trust me, that is a rare combo these days. After a week of exchanging flirty messages, I suggested we meet for a First Friday event. I was so excited to meet Chuck that I got my hair done, got a pedicure and manicure, and even bought a brand-new dress. I was going all in because I was convinced that this would be the date that would have a movie ending. You know, the kind where you say “I love you” way too soon.

Well, I was wrong. When Chuck and I met at the Museum, I was pleasantly surprised to see that he looked exactly like his photos. To say that I was attracted to him would be a major understatement. I was nervous but did my best impression of a confident person as I walked through the exhibits with him. The conversation felt natural, and he was laughing—a lot. As my confidence increased, I “accidentally” brushed my hand against his. In turn, he put his arm around me while we pretended to care about the art on the walls.

After an hour of playful banter and tentative physical contact, we decided to jet across town to watch The Jephries play a show at The Carousel Lounge. Before getting in his car, he surprised me with a passionate kiss. He then suggested we skip the show and go to my place. Admittedly, I was tempted. But c’mon, I was not going to miss a Jephries’ show for what already seemed like a guaranteed thing.

A savvier dater would have seen what happened next coming from 10 miles away. Sadly, I did not.

When we got to the Carousel, he placed his phone facedown on the bar and insisted we sit in the back to “get away from the crowd.” While I was falling deeper in love, his phone kept buzzing—nonstop.

“Maybe you should get that,” I suggested to him. He nodded in agreement, and as he turned the phone over, I got a glimpse of several text messages from “Karen,” who asked him to bring home milk for the kids’ cereal. He had never mentioned kids, but I wasn’t overly worried about that. I mean, I wouldn’t let someone I just met know too much about my family. However, this mysterious Karen had me worried.

“So, who’s Karen? She’s not your wife, right?” I asked facetiously.

“Oh, no, it’s my mom,” he responded.

“You have your mom saved under her first name?” I asked quizzically.

“Yeah, we don’t have a great relationship. It’s a long story,” he explained before excusing himself to go the bathroom.

For the next 30 minutes, I sat at the bar waiting for his return. By the time I had shredded the entire label off of my Angry Orchard, it occurred to me that something wasn’t right. Maybe Karen was his wife.

I sent an employee to the bathroom to check on him. When he came out, he let me know there was no one in there. So, I thought maybe he was outside getting some air. I circled the building twice before realizing his car was gone. It was my first “Irish goodbye.” If you’ve never heard of the term, you’re not alone. Before that night, I had never heard of it either.

I tried calling him to at least get a ride back to my car. In response, he blocked my number.

Humiliated, I called an Uber and waited outside, so no one inside would see me crying. When the Uber showed up, the driver immediately commented on my running mascara.

“What happened to you,” he asked in a thick Nigerian accent.

“Bad Tinder date,” I replied curtly, not wanting to recount the whole sad affair.

“It’s Friday night! A girl like you should be out having fun. Tell you what, how about you let me take you out?” he asked.

Stunned, I explained that I was not in the mood to be around people. So we sat in silence for the next 20mins until we got to my car.

“Please, you should let me take you out,” he said as I exited the car.

“I’m good. Thanks, though,” I yelled back, fumbling to get my door unlocked.

“Seriously, let me show you a good time,” he responded. “You’ve heard about the stereotypes. You know I can show you a good time.”

Luckily, I had parked my car next to my office, and my giant dog started barking frantically when he saw the shadows in the window. It was enough to stifle his unwanted advances. That night, I deleted Tinder and hugged my pup hard.

Together my dog and I swore off human men. Well, for at least a week, that is. Sometimes I really wish my damn optimism would just fuck off.



# Elysian Dank Dust India Pale Ale

BY BEER  
BY JAMES “DR. FERMENTO” ROBERTS

Brewers do some of the craziest shit. Case in point: Elysian Dank Dust India Pale Ale.

What’s in your head right now? Just the name of the beer has some implications. If you know what I’m talking about, then you know what I mean.

But, come to find out, not everyone’s in tune with dank. “Dank? What is dank?” Ms. Fermento asked, as did another friend when I asked her, “Hey, do you know what dank means?”

Oxford says dank is “disagreeably damp, musty, and typically cold.” The Urban Dictionary says “dark, sticky, gooey and potent.” It goes on to add, “It was originally a common word to describe disgusting basements and caves, etc. Then the world of pot took it over.” Finally, Dictionary.com reads, “When not describing something as ‘moist’ and ‘humid’ like a basement, dank is a slang term describing something as ‘excellent,’ especially marijuana.” I knew this, by the way.

Okay, now you know what I’m talking about. Wait until you try this stuff!

The product description on Elysian’s Dank Dust label describes it as “dank dust oscillating with the aromas of lush grapefruit, mango, and orange, backed by an extra herbal kick for added freshness. The sweet hop flavor and low bitterness nods to the classic Space Dust we all know and love, turned up a notch.”

Do you get any clues out of that description? It’s that “extra herbal kick” that got me wondering. I still don’t know what it is.

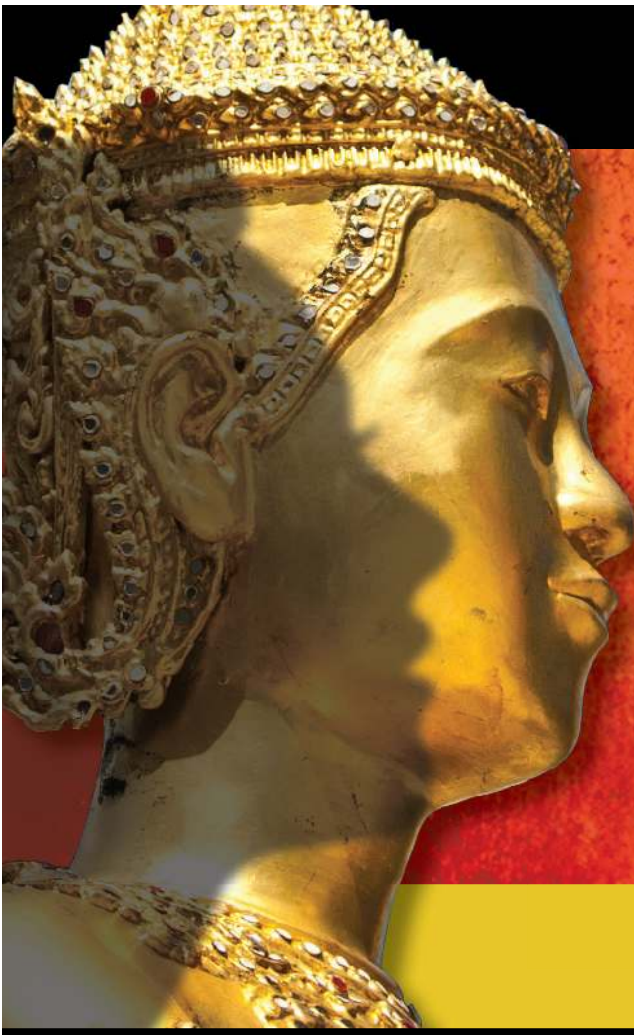
All I can tell you is this. If you open this can, even at normal arm’s length, even before bringing it close for a real nose hit, the full-on pot aroma does hit you square in the face. If you’ve never smoked the herb before, you should revert to the original definition of dank.

If you do get the same head smack sensation, like I did, which is kind of like when I smell partakers nearby, I’m not talking about the ragweed that old guys like me grew up with, I mean the good shit. The real good shit.

Elysian, continued on pageA16



Action Bronson with Dank Dust IPA courtesy of Elysian Brewing.



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# SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## Quelling your hungerbeast with Pedro's Mexican Grill

BY RESTAURANT REVIEW  
BY JIN CHONG

Mexican food might be one of the most misrepresented cuisines in the world. There's a reason why gringo tacos are a thing, and after seeing the same shortlist of items at every Mexican restaurant, one can't help but wonder if we've been relegated to wading in a figurative kiddie pool. Not to mention a certain fast-food franchise whose success hinges on reappropriating elements of Mexican cuisine to produce mere caricatures of the real thing—all in the name of living más.

But you know what? I'm pretty OK with that. After all, this is America, and western palates demand nothing short of the greasiest, most heart-clogging rendition of any given cuisine. Besides, there's nothing that curbs my hunger quite like a loaded combo plate adorned with a fistful of shredded cheese after finishing up a long hike.

I found myself in that very situation this weekend and strayed from convention by checking out Pedro's Mexican Grill for the first time. Before driving over to its location in housed in a dilapidated strip mall, I knew that this experience wouldn't differ too drastically from other, similar spots in town. But all I was looking for was some stick-to-your-ribs grub while curious to discover a few standouts along the way.

The décor and layout were about what I expected. Though the presence of several houseplants (including one enormous aloe vera—can't miss it) helps liven things

up and bring some cheer. The service was amicable as the gentleman taking my order was patient despite me having been struck with menu paralysis. Eventually, I settled on a few things: the lengua taco combo, a chile relleno, and two quesabirria tacos a la carte.

I thought this would be a good cross-section of their offerings and I was looking forward to trying their quesabirria. These Instagram-friendly creations have exploded in popularity over the years, and I, too, have been obsessed after trying them at OG purveyor Teddy's Red Tacos in Venice Beach.

My food was brought to the table in no time flat, so I opened by chowing down on some rice and beans. The grains of rice were well-separated, and I was happy that each morsel popped with a zesty, tomatoey seasoning. What took me by surprise was that this seemed freshly prepared as opposed to day-old remnants chiseled out of a steam pan. Maybe it's been a while since I've had Mexican rice, but this was seriously legit.

I thoroughly enjoyed the refried beans, too, for having a thick, creamy texture and deep earthiness without tasting too salty. Small onion bits were interspersed throughout both sides to lend a raw bite and break up the monotony. I was impressed that a higher degree of care and attention seemed to have been put towards these exemplary sides—so far, this was a great start!

Any Mexican restaurant worth their salt knows how to construct a proper taco—and here was no exception. Though I was initially taken aback by the pricing for the combo, I thought these were justified based on their size and the quantity of meat. The double-stacked tortillas were griddled long enough to stay warm and bring out their mildly sweet corn flavor. The lengua was superbly tender and seasoned well, which goes to show they didn't cut any corners with the extensive cooking process in which an entire cow's tongue is left in a pot to simmer for hours. The buttery richness from this undervalued cut of

meat necessitated a dash of fiery salsa and lime to make these tacos whole.

This was actually my first time trying chiles rellenos, which is odd given that jalapeno poppers (I guess something of a distant relative) are one of my guilty pleasures. But there's a stark difference in how these are made. They start with peppers coated in a light, eggy batter before they're fried and doused with ranchero sauce. The bitterness of the pepper wasn't something I expected to enjoy so much, but I kept coming back to this one for its mild, uncomplicated flavor.

Last up were the formidable quesabirria tacos. These were filled to the brim with braised beef and melted cheese that filled every nook and cranny in between two crispy tortillas. The foundation to this ever so popular dish is the birria itself. For those who haven't experienced this delicious dish, it's a complex, heavily-spiced stew that originally birthed the meat after a deep braise.

As I sipped the consommé, I recognized the fruity undertone of guajillo peppers and the warm, aromatic essence of cinnamon. I could easily deplete an entire bowl of this wonderful stuff. But its primary purpose in this context is for dipping your tacos, gracing them with a marvelous sheen of red. It's no wonder these were an instant classic! One drawback was that the meat was a little tough, but hey, at least there was some textural variance happening.

As indulgent as this entire meal was, I had to remind myself that I specifically came here to indulge. For me, there's a particular hunger that can only be satisfied with a heaping plate of sauce-covered goodness. Yes, this kind of food may only approximate the fine tapestry of regional specialties found only in Mexico. Still, this spinoff cuisine offers plenty of reason to exist. For some of the best in class, I recommend going over to Pedro's.

Pedro's Mexican Grill is located at 1565 Bragaw Street and they're open 10am-9pm Monday—Wednesday, 10am-12am Thursday—Saturday, and 11am-8pm on Sundays.



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# Quickies

*I'm a heavy sleeper, and my wife knows that, but not so heavy that I don't wake up when she periodically masturbates next to me and has the bed shaking pretty hard. She doesn't know this wakes me. How do I handle this? Do I offer a hand (or a dick) the next time? Talk to her when she's not having her moment and ask if she feels like our sex life is lacking? Or just let it go*



SAVAGE LOVE BY  
DAN SAVAGE

*and continue to pretend that I'm still asleep when this happens? Our sex life seems healthy to me otherwise.*

—Nocturnal Incidents  
That Erupt Necessitate  
Inquiries To Elucidate

The wife masturbating in the middle isn't by itself evidence your sex life is lacking, NITENITE. She's most likely waking up horny at 3 AM and rubbing one out to get back to sleep. You can and should tell her over breakfast—with a loving and supportive smile on your

face—that you sometimes wake up when she's masturbating, and that you're happy to help her out. But if all your wife wants and/or needs at 3 AM is a quick orgasm, she may not be interested in a full-blown sex session. And if “helping her out” means she's obligated to get you off before she can go back to sleep, NITENITE, don't be surprised if she passes (and slips out of bed the next time she needs to have a wank).

*Gay man here with a question about topping. I was a top with my college boyfriend but switched to being mostly a bottom in my early 20s. I'm in my late 30s now, and recently got out of a decade-long relationship, so I've been doing a lot of exploring and rediscovering what I want in bed. While I'm very experienced as a bottom, I feel a bit like a fish out of water when I'm topping. The guys I've fucked have all been very complimentary, so it doesn't seem to be a problem with my technique, but it's just not as intense for me. Also, I'm uncut and I find that if I'm pushing deep inside someone then my foreskin pulls all the way back while I'm inside to the point that it hurts. (This is especially a problem when a guy rides me.) I'm with a new boyfriend who has enjoyed bottoming for me, but all of this is kind of playing with my head so I can't just relax and enjoy myself when topping. Should I just accept that topping isn't for me?*

—Subpar Orgasms From Topping

You could accept that topping isn't for you and swear off topping forever... but that seems a little dramatic, SOFT, and a whole lot drastic. How about accepting this instead: while you prefer bottoming to topping and your orgasms are better when you bottom, you also enjoy topping occasionally, so long as you don't push too far in and/or get ridden too hard. You might also wanna accept the compliments you've been getting about your topping skills/style. Instead of assuming the guys you've topped are lying to you, give them the benefit of the doubt and assume they're telling the truth: you're a good top and bottoming for you is a good time. And with more experience, SOFT, you're likelier to get even better at it, earn more praise, and grow to enjoy topping more.

*I am a 60-year-old woman who has had a lot of lovers. My current lover does not enjoy cunnilingus, which happens to be the only reliable way to get me off. How can I make cunnilingus more enjoyable for him? I thought about getting a can of whipped cream to “sweeten the deal,” but will that work?—Exciting Additives That Make Eating Pussy A Lark*

It won't work.

First, putting whipped cream on your clit and labia isn't good for pussy—and since whipped cream rapidly melts after being applied to the body, EATMEPAL, it's not going to look sexy or taste good for long. Minutes after emptying that can of whipped cream, you're gonna look and smell like a newborn puked on your lap. Chocolate sauce, flavored lubes, whipped cream—none of those things have the power to turn someone who doesn't like eating pussy or sucking dick into someone who does. Pussy is not a sundae, dick is not a candy bar. If cunnilingus is the only thing that reliably gets you off, it's a new lover you need, EATMEPAL, not a dairy product.

*I'm a male who is curious about wearing a male chastity cage. I'm on blood-thinning medications and I very rarely get erections due to my health issues, but I want to experience the feeling of wearing a cage. Are there any long-term effects from wearing a cock cage for short periods of time that I need to know about? I am just curious how it would feel wearing one.*

—Looking Into Mysterious Pleasures

You'll be fine, LIMP. I've spoken to a few urologists over the years about the risks of chastity cages for men, and their only concern was potential damage to the erectile tissues when a dick gets hard (or tries to) in the confines of a cage. If you rarely get hard—or don't get hard randomly—there's no danger in wearing one even for extended periods of time, so long as it's not too tight, LIMP, and you keep it clean.

*I'm a 20-year-old woman who just started a new job. One of my new coworkers is a 20-something man who doesn't speak much English, but he's made it very clear that he's attracted to me. I found him on Facebook and realized he has a girlfriend in another country. So, as it turns out, he's in a three-year-long relationship, but he can't be with her currently. I've always considered men in relationships to be strictly “off limits,” but I've got an intense crush on this man and wanna get with him. I'm only interested in hooking up. I'm not looking for a commitment from him at all. Should I let him know I am attracted to him too and possibly ruin his relationship?*

—Possible Wrecking Ball

Unless you're planning to post to Facebook about fucking this guy and tag his girlfriend back home, I don't see how fucking you—even if he's not supposed to be fucking anyone while they're apart—will automatically ruin his relationship. Here's hoping he's allowed to fuck other women while they're separated like this, PWB, and here's hoping she's allowed to fuck other guys. But even if he were to break the rules to get with you, PWB, it doesn't mean that he would break her heart... so long as you're capable of being discreet.

*I learned that you helped pegging get its name. But is there a name for a man using a strap-on on a woman?*

—Strapped On Dude

In 2001 my readers decided—in a free and fair election—to give the name “pegging” to the act of a woman fucking a man in the ass with a strap-on dildo. Some pegging purists have argued that the word should continue to mean that and only that, but language evolves and changes. These days women peg men, men peg women, women peg women, men peg men, and enbys peg all comers.

Is it okay to get a quick “happy-ending” massage once a month if you are getting almost no sex in the marriage?

Reevaluating Understood Boundaries

It's okay with me.

questions@savagelove.net

## You are affection. You are the future.

### ARIES (March 21–April 19)

I recommend you adopt a limitation that will enable you to claim more freedom. For example, you could de-emphasize your involvement with a lukewarm dream so as to liberate time and energy for a passionate dream. Or you could minimize your fascination with a certain negative emotion to make more room



BY FREE WILL  
ASTROLOGY  
BY ROB BREZSNY

for invigorating emotions. Any other ideas? You're in a phase when increased discipline and discernment can be liberating.

### TAURUS (April 20–May 20)

“Imagining anything is the first step toward creating it,” wrote author and activist Gloria Steinem. “Believing in a true self is what allows a true self to be born,” she added. Those are excellent meditations for you to focus on right now, Taurus. The time is

ripe for you to envision in detail a specific new situation or adventure you would like to manifest in the future. It's also a perfect moment to picture a truer, deeper, more robust version of your beautiful self—an expanded version of your identity that you hope to give birth to in the coming months.

### GEMINI (May 21–June 20)

Gemini author William Butler Yeats won a Nobel Prize for Literature, so I conclude he had considerable talent and wisdom. But he cultivated interests and ideas that were at variance with most other literary figures. For example, he believed fairies are real. He was a student of occult magic. Two of his books were dictated by spirits during séances. In the coming weeks, I invite you to draw inspiration from his versatile repertoire. Welcome knowledge in whatever unusual ways it might materialize. Be eager to accept power and inspiration wherever they are offered. For inspiration, here's a Yeats' quote: “I have observed dreams and visions very carefully, and am certain that the imagination has some way of lighting on the truth that reason has not, and that its commandments, delivered when the body is still and the reason silent, are the most binding we can ever know.”

### CANCERIAN (June 21–July 22)

You know what's always good for your well-being? Helping people who are less fortunate and less privileged than you. To enhance your health, you can also fight bigotry, campaign against the abuse of animals, and remedy damage to the natural world. If you carry out tasks like these in the coming weeks, you will boost your vigor and vitality even more than usual. You may be amazed at the power of your compassion to generate selfish benefits for yourself. Working in behalf of others will uplift and nurture you. To further motivate you, here are inspirational words from designer Santiago Bautista: “I am in love with all the gifts of the world, and especially those destined for others to enjoy.”

### LEO (July 23–August 22)

“There is a moment in each day that Satan cannot find,” wrote author and artist William Blake. Here's how I interpret his poetic words: On a regular basis, you become relatively immune from the debilitating effects of melancholy, apathy, and fear. At those times, you are blessed with the freedom to be exactly who you want to be. You can satisfy your soul completely. In the next six weeks, I suspect there will be more of these interludes for you than usual. How do you plan to use your exalted respite from Satan's nagging?

### VIRGO (August 23–September 22)

Poet Louis Little Coon Oliver (1904–1991) was a member of the indigenous Mvskoke people. He declared, “I do not waste what is wild.” That might mean something different for him than what it would mean for you, but it's an excellent principle for you to work with in the coming weeks. You will have more access than usual to wildness, and you might be tempted to use it casually or recklessly. I hope that instead you harness all that raw mojo with precision and grace. Amazingly, being disciplined in your use of the wildness will ensure that it enriches you to the max and generates potent transformative energy.

Astrology, contined on pageA16

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Super Crossword WHO TO WHO?

- ACROSS
- 1 Otis of elevator fame

7 One-named co-star of "Crime Without Passion"

12 "Striped" fish

16 Trick-or-treating mo.

19 Sine and cosine, say

20 Korean, e.g.

21 "I smell —!"

22 Golf standard

23 Road trip between apparitions?

26 LAX guess

27 Bobby on ice

28 Otis on "The Andy Griffith Show," e.g.

29 Darling

30 Above, in verse

31 Unrefined

32 Phone conversation between ministers?

37 Little Bighorn tribe

40 Summer mo.

41 Many millennia

42 "The Wire" channel

43 Organic compound

44 Choose as a member

47 — -Locka, Florida

49 Get back together, as alumni

51 String of vehicles between gas station patrons?

56 Pointer

57 Market segment

58 A fifth of XV

59 Old fed. led by Nasser

60 Nuts are high in it

61 In the least

63 Maine city near Bangor

65 New York stage awards

67 Conga

73 Pistons great Thomas

74 "The Chronic" rapper

75 Love a lot

77 Sahara viper

80 Soothing treatment, for short

81 One in a pod

82 Cher and Adele, voicewise

85 License plate

86 Rugs between casino high rollers?

91 Eminent

92 Publicize

93 "The — falling!"

94 Went by taxi, e.g.

95 Eminent lead-in

96 French noble

98 Multipurpose truck, in brief

99 Perfected

100 Guy peddling between clodhoppers?

107 Hooter

108 Playwright Levin

109 Antagonist

110 Tara of "Sharknado"

111 Lick like a cat

114 Common co. name ender

115 Brief romances between Copenhagen residents?

120 School gp.

121 Ax part

122 Pop or bop

123 Fidgets

124 Cur's noise

125 Potting dirt

126 Exhausted

127 Attack like a cur

DOWN

1 Hence

2 Lion player Bert

3 "Believe — not!"

4 Gal in the family

5 Depilatory treatment

6 Moving about

7 Myopic cartoon "Mr."

8 Pale gray

9 With 72-Down, it flows to the Gulf of Mexico

10 Very fuel-inefficient wheels

11 In first place

12 Gin joint

13 Songlike

14 Buy for less

15 Draconian

16 Regular at the Met, maybe

17 Spanish region

18 Fish with a heavy net

24 Come- — (lures)

25 Genetic stuff

32 Orange juice stuff

33 Siesta takers

34 Ballet garb

35 Back part

36 Julia Child or James Beard

37 Nasal partitions

38 Some Alaska natives

39 Repeating polka sound

44 Dernier —

45 Non-Rx

46 "Pick me! I know this!"

47 Strong pain reliever

48 Architect I.M.

49 Little-seen instance

50 Outer: Prefix

52 In the military

53 Vitamin's relative

54 Heavy brass

55 Drought relief

62 Maui wreath

64 Worrywart's cry

65 Grammy-winning Beck album of 1996

66 Caesar of TV

68 Piper's skirt

69 Tortilla treat

70 Hershey chocolate bar with crisped rice

71 Vague idea

72 See 9-Down

76 Spurred (on)

77 Barley beard

78 Store proprietor

79 Cop's vehicle

81 Chi lead-in

83 Angle lead-in

84 Photo —

87 Lewd look

88 Texas city

89 This, to Jorge

90 1982 Disney sci-fi film

96 El — (city of legend)

97 African river

98 Exhausted

99 Reveled

100 Twanging spring sound

101 Ebb-and-flow phenomena

102 Frequently, in verse

103 Inn offerings

104 Raise

105 Deep blue

106 Makes mad

111 Talk like Daffy Duck

112 Vicinity

113 "Hey ... you"

116 Wiggling fish

117 Enzyme suffix

118 Diarist Anaïs

119 Actor Butterfield of "Ender's Game"
- |     |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
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- LEGALS
- Alaska Joint Ventures, LLC is applying under 3AA 306.500(a)(2) for a new Marijuana Concentrate Manufacturing Facility license, license #32807, doing business as Rabble, located at 7801 Schoon Street, Suite L, Anchorage, AK, 99518, 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 complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information 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](mailto:marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov) or to 550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 4/14/22, 4/21/22, 4/28/22
- R & K Enterprises, LLC dba Kim's Cuisine located at 12400 Old Glenn Highway Suite 3, Eagle River, Alaska 99577 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant/Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license to Blueberry Kim, LLC dba Kim's Cuisine located at 12400 Old Glenn Highway Suite 3, Eagle River Alaska 99577. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or [alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov) Anchorage Press Publish Dates 4/28/22, 5/05/22, 5/12/22
- April 28-May 4, 2022
- PRESS A15

I was sitting over at my mining partner’s house when I first tried this stuff, having bought a single can at La Bodega. Once I’d smelled and tasted it, I started to giggle. The giggles weren’t chemically induced. There’s not a trace of THC in the beer; it was the whole concept that got me chuckling, and I was

LEGALS

**Kami LLC, is making application for a new Restaurant/ Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license doing business as Kami Ramen located at 3807 Spenard Rd Anchorage,AK 99517. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 4/14/22, 4/21/22, 4/28/22**

**Host Chen ANC FB, LLC dba Sleeping Lady Airport Lounge located at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, 5000 W. International Airport Road, Ste. C3119, Anchorage, AK 99502 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary Tourism AS 04.11.400 (d) liquor license to Delta Air Lines, Inc. dba Delta Sky Club. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, The Law Offices of Ernouf & Coffey, P.C. At P.O. Box 212314, Anchorage, Alaska 99521 and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov Anchorage Press Publish Dates 4/14/22, 4/21/22, 4/28/22**

Super Crossword

Answers

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| G | H | O | S | T | T | O | G | H | O | S | T | D | R | I | V | E | E | T | A |   |
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certainly appreciative of how well the brewer managed to get dank in a can.

The beer’s an IPA foundationally, but you can practically forget about that. Beyond the aroma, all of the dankness one associates with good pot solidly rings through in the flavor. Yup, it’s got that a sticky essence. It’s got that no-doubt pot taste. Another thing that added to my giggles was how the aftertaste reminded me of that flavor that sticks around long after the bud’s been passed along.

I’m no longer a gimmicky IPA fan. In fact, I have great disdain for today’s IPAs in general. And, I’m not going to say that I’m wild about this beer.

As a lifelong beer drinker, though, I appreciate any beer that delivers what the brewer intended. So Elysian’s Dank Dust caught me entirely off guard. Elysian nailed it with this one. And I mean, they nailed it rock solid with this one.

Here’s an example. I like peanut butter. I like chocolate. I like beer. I don’t necessarily like them all together. My argument is thus. Belching Beaver’s Mexican Chocolate Peanut Butter Stout is one of my highest rated beers because it held the title for me as “closest to what the brewer intended.” That’s an accolade I don’t dispense lightly, by the way. But Dank is giving Beaver a run for its money.

Dank actually made me want to smoke dope. Although pot beers are much more prevalent now than my last go-round with them, Dank is a standout.

My notes reveal that I had a passing interest in Frederick Brewing Company’s (Maryland) Hempen Ale as far back as 1997, when it took a bronze medal in the herb/spice beer category at the Great American Beer Festival. I never had it; our distribution reach in Alaska wasn’t that far back then, and the beer was just made with the addition of hemp seeds from the male plant. So, like Dank, there was nothing psychoactive in this beer.

I actually tried my first hemp beer from Humboldt Brewing Company in northern California. Humboldt’s Brown Hemp Ale is thought to be the nation’s original hemp beer. I sampled it on the spot at the brewery years ago when I was touring the beer scene in my home state, north of where I lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. In all honesty, I could take it or leave it.

Alaskan Brewing Company’s Alaska Honey Hemp was

Alaska’s first beer using anything from the beloved plant. Tyler Lindquist brewed this one up, and it showed up on tap around the state at the better watering holes that took a more open-minded approach to beer, given the stigma of pot back then. At the time, there were no less than seventy commercial hemp beers being produced globally.

On 4/20 this year, Colorado’s well-known Oskar Blues Brewery released Veritasty Legalized IPA. At first blush, the name might imply this is a pot-infused beer because certainly there are some on the market out there, but clearly, there’s none of the good stuff in these cans.

This isn’t a scholarly article, but when it comes to weed and beer, there’s cannabis beer, THC-infused beer, and CBD-infused beer. The distinctions should be obvious, but for clarity, cannabis beer is generally a beer made using plant parts other than the leaves and buds of the marijuana plant. We all know what THC and CBD are and what they do.

Recognized breweries, including Flying Dog (Hop chronic) and Lagunitas (Hi-Fi Hops), for example, are making THC-infused beers, which oddly enough don’t have any booze in them. How can this be? Does the booze in beer have some adverse effect on the overall product experience or somehow make it dangerous? I’ve never seen a warning label on a beer can along the lines of “do not consume with cannabis or THC-containing substances,” akin to the warning labels I see on medications.

What little research I did showed me how little I know about the green leafy stuff, and especially its relationship with beer these days.

My experience with Elysian’s Dank Dust is the closest I’ve come to the real deal in beer, even though there’s no THC in it. The only buzz you’ll get out of it is the whole mental cartoon thing. Unless you drink an entire six-pack and the 8.2 percent alcohol by volume rightfully kicks your ass.

I foisted it on another high-end beer aficionado, and he summed it up with four words: “straight-up liquid marijuana.” I can’t argue that, except for the buzz.

It’s like real pot beer on training wheels, but it’s real pot beer just the same. So I went back out and bought another six-pack on it, just to shove it in front of my friends and watch their reaction. If nothing else, Elysian’s Dank Dust is a whole lot of fun.

Astrology, from pageA14

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

I suspect you will have the skills of an acrobat in the coming weeks—at least metaphorically. You will be psychically nimble. Your soul will have an exceptional ability to carry out spry maneuvers that keep you sane and sound. Even more than usual, you will have the power to adjust on the fly and adapt to shifting circumstances. People you know may marvel at your lithe flexibility. They will compliment you for your classiness under pressure. But I suspect the feats you accomplish may feel surprisingly easy and breezy!

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

A Tumblr blogger named Af-70 gives copious advice. From his wide selection of wise counsel, I have selected six tips that are right for your needs in the coming weeks. Please study the following counsel. 1. “Real feelings don’t change fast.” 2. “Connect deeply or not at all.” 3. “Build a relationship in which you and your ally can be active in each other’s growth.” 4. “Sometimes what you get is better than what you wanted.” 5. “Enjoy the space between where you are and where you are going.” 6. “Keep it real with me even if it makes us tremble and shimmer.”

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Consider putting a sign on your door or a message on your social media that says something like the following: “I’ve still got some healing to do. While I’m making progress, I’m only partway there. Am open to your suggestions, practical tips, and suggestions for cures I don’t know about.” Though the process is as yet incomplete, Sagittarius, I am proud of how diligent and resourceful you have been in seeking corrections and fixes. My only suggestions: 1. Be bold about seeking help and support. 2. Be aggressive about accessing your creativity. Expand your imagination about what might be therapeutic.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

“To uncover what is hidden in my soul might take me a week or two,” my friend Allie told me. I told her she would be lucky if her brave and challenging exploration required such a short time. In contrast, some people I know have spent years trying to find what is buried and lost in their souls: me, for instance. There was one period of my life when I sought for over a decade to find and identify the missing treasure. According to my astrological analysis, you will soon enjoy multiple discoveries and revelations that will be more like Allie’s timeline than mine: relatively rapid and complete. Get ready! Be alert!

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)

A Thai cook named Nattapong Kaweenuntawong has a unique method for cooking the soup served in his Bangkok restaurant. At the end of each night, he saves the broth for use the next day. He has been doing that daily for 45 years. Theoretically, there may be molecules of noodles that were originally thrown in the pot back in 1977. In accordance with current astrological omens, I urge you to dream up a new tradition that borrows from his approach. What experience could you begin soon that would benefit you for years to come?

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

Pisces-born Casimir Pulaski (1745–1779) was a Polish nobleman and military commander. As a young man, he fought unsuccessfully to free Poland from Russian domination. Driven into exile, he fled to America, arriving during the Revolutionary War with Britain in 1777. General George Washington was impressed with Pulaski’s skills, making the immigrant a brigadier general. He distinguished himself as a leader of American forces, exhibiting brilliance and bravery. For that excellence, he has been honored. But now, over two centuries later, his identity is in flux. DNA analyses of Pulaski’s remains suggest he was an intersex person with both male and female qualities. (Read more.) I bring this to your attention, Pisces, because the coming months will be a favorable time to question and revise your understanding of your identity. May you be inspired by Pulaski’s evolving distinctiveness.

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PHOTO BY CRAIG GEORGE

George Divoky and his friend Matt Thomas pose in front of Divoky's cabin on Cooper Island after repairing polar-bear damage in April, 2022.

# His 48th summer on top of the world

BY NED ROZELL  
ALASKA SCIENCE FORUM

This June, George Divoky will refurbish a cabin that sits on a lonely gravel island north of Alaska.

He was not planning a remodel this year. Sometime during the winter, a polar bear tore through a plywood wall of the cabin Divoky moved 20 years ago to Cooper Island.

Cooper Island is a crescent of gravel in the Beaufort Sea, 25 miles east of Utqiagvik, the northernmost settlement in the United States.

With a lot of help from his friends, last week Divoky patched up the trashed shelter. He is now ready for his 48th consecutive summer on Cooper Island studying a bird that has become a symbol of a warming planet.

That bird is the black guillemot, a sleek ebony sea bird that spends its entire life in the Arctic. Fifty years ago, Divoky was doing a pre-trans-Alaska pipeline assessment of birds in the Beaufort Sea. The guillemots caught his eye.

Three years after that, in 1975, Divoky set up nest boxes for the birds on Cooper Island, using wood left behind from a U.S. military exercise. With his nest boxes — which later evolved to polar-bear proof plastic camera cases — Divoky has charted the downward trajectory of a bird that depends on sea ice.

In the 1980s, 225 pairs of black guillemots nested on Cooper Island. Last year, Divoky counted 25 pairs.

“I had no idea for the first 15 years that this was a climate-change study,” Divoky said recently from his home in Seattle.

Black guillemots prefer to feed their nestlings arctic cod, which live in cold waters at the edge of sea ice. When sea ice was close to Cooper Island in the summers of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, parent birds were able to bring home rich, fatty cod.



PHOTO BY NEDROZELL

A polar bear stands near the meeting of land and sea ice north of Utqiagvik in May 2010.

**Summer,** continued on pageA18



A black guillemot, sentinel of a changing planet, on Cooper Island off the coast of northern Alaska.

PHOTO BY GEORGE DIVOKY

Summer, from pageA17

In recent years, the ice edge has been hundreds of miles from Cooper Island during the birds’ August feeding time. Parent birds now feed their chicks sculpin and other fish that are less abundant and less energy-rich than the cod. Divoky has watched nesting success plummet due to the shrinking sea ice, just as he watched them succeed as the ice freed up Cooper Island in the early 1970s. He has seen other changes. During his decades of spending each June through August on the cold, foggy island, Divoky did not see many polar bears until one summer day in 2002.

“I was weighing chicks and I looked up and saw this bear walking by the tent that had the gun in it,” he said. He encountered 16 polar bears that summer, one of which wrecked several mountaineering tents he used as a camp. He then decided he needed a more solid shelter. A friend told him of a newly built 8-by-12-foot cabin for sale in Utqiagvik. Local resident Barrow Brower hauled the cabin out to the island for Divoky, who has used it ever since. He has enhanced his polar-bear protection with electric fences and motion detectors. “I’ve always felt safe there,” Divoky said. Last week, Divoky and his friends Craig George, Geoff Carrol, John Citta and Matt Thomas — with logistical support from staffers at the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management — snowmachined with supplies and tools from Utqiagvik to Cooper Island, a bumpy 25-mile ride. They cleaned the mess the polar bear had left (“There was almost nothing functional that could be salvaged,”) he is compelled to return to Cooper Island and the project he started the summer after Richard Nixon resigned as U.S. president. “If I wasn’t in love with the Arctic and that colony, I wouldn’t have gone back,” he said. Since the late 1970s, the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Geophysical Institute has provided this column free in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute.



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# Creating a new fire in your relationship

My husband and I have been together for 12 years. Yet, our marriage feels so stagnant. How do we regain that excitement that brought us together in the first place?  
—Thanks, Please ignite Me

Ah, the joy and excitement of the beginning: The tingling feeling in our bodies when we see their face, the first time we brush against them, or our hand touched theirs, the first kiss, the second, the long conversations, the intense interest in the newness of it all and the wanting to know everything about that person . . . where is it now? I like to think of relationships like a fire. They’ll die if they don’t get enough air or aren’t tended to properly. When I first got into this relationship thing at the age of 15, I believed what the world told me and showed me in movies and media: a prince would find me, bring me to his kingdom, make me his princess, and we would live happily after. As a result, I thought that was the goal in real life, too. I think about that great moment in the movie *Jerry McGuire*, when Renee Zellweger’s character says, “You complete me.” It made me buy into the idea that we are empty without that special someone. Those ideas about love now seem crazy to me. I mean, the thought never even crossed my mind when my first child was born that somehow she was deficient because she wasn’t born with her “true love.” But going through many relationships, a marriage, a divorce, and helping so many others down this road, has given me the most wonderful wisdom, and I now know that this is a very deeply flawed premise!

ASK OSKAR BY OSKAR SAVILLE

In the past, when I was in a relationship, I completely gave myself over to another person. I stepped into their kingdom and tried to make it mine. I learned what they liked and wanted and saw the world through their eyes to ensure I could be their proper “other half.” I tried to stand by my prince no matter what, but in doing that, I had no idea I was losing the princess that they had met. I began to give up the things I loved: music, going out by myself, playing in the city, meeting new people, and exploring subjects that interested me. Here’s a perfect example of what I mean: When I first met my husband, I had started painting, which was something I had loved to do in high school. One day he came home, looked at my painting, and commented, “That’s horrible!” So I did what I thought a good princess should do—I gave it up. A few years later, he started to paint, and I fully supported and encouraged him, as I thought I should, to make sure our kingdom was a warm and happy place. (After all, it’s not called a queendom.) By the end of the marriage, I realized that I was the only one tending to the fire. I built the fire, ran for logs, and then would quickly run back to make sure the fire—or my husband—didn’t go cold. It was all one-sided. I started to rebel. I built my own fire, and my fear that my husband would no longer be there came true. This experience was vital to my learning. It taught me that all relationships take work from both sides to keep the fire going. Now I have my own fire that burns strong in my heart. I tend to it lovingly, and because of it, I not only have a fire of my own, but I share that fire with others who also bring their fires to share. Last night I took my son out for dinner—the first dinner that was just the two of us. It was something I wouldn’t have done years ago for fear of creating space from my other two children. But this time, I had filled my own emotional cup earlier in the day, which helped me stoke my fire, and I felt strong. I brought a card game for us to play—Monopoly Deal—and we had a ball trying to beat each other. We laughed as the cards moved across the table, shared our dinner, exchanged thoughts about tree activists in Kenya, and discussed whether or not another burger or dessert was in order. The people at the tables next to us and some of the servers commented on how much joy they were getting by watching us. It reminded me that when we have beautifully strong and growing relationships with others, we can not only warm ourselves, but we can also inspire others to build and create their own fires. What happens is that this world becomes a warmer, more abundant place. So I suggest you get out there and find something you love all on your own. Start making solo plans with your good friends, like you probably did before you got married, and if possible, start to get a wider group of friends. Creating some space (which makes room for oxygen) and having some new adventures (the equivalent of tossing logs onto your fire) will hopefully get your own fire burning and inspire your hubby to get his going. And I don’t need to tell you what happens when two fires come together!

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## President Biden Uses Clemency Powers for the First Time; NORML Calls His Actions "Woefully Inadequate"

By NORML

President Joe Biden utilized his clemency powers for the first time today. This morning, the White House announced the pardoning or commutation of sentencing for 78 individuals, most of whom had been on supervised release during the COVID pandemic. Of those 78 individuals, nine had federal charges related to marijuana.

NORML Executive Director Erik Altieri responded: "Branding thousands of our citizens as lifelong criminals because of a marijuana-related offense serves no legitimate societal purpose. While granting clemency to nine individuals for federal marijuana offenses is the right thing to do, it is woefully inadequate when there remain over 10,000 individuals who still suffer under the weight of a federal charge on their criminal record."

Altieri added, "It is well past the time for President Biden to make good on his campaign promise to expunge the records of all federal marijuana offenders and prove that justice isn't just a buzzword he uses to gain votes during election season."

During the 2020 campaign, Joe Biden stated that "no one should be in jail because of cannabis use" and pledged that as President, he would "decriminalize cannabis use and automatically expunge prior convictions." According to recent polling compiled by YouGov.com, nearly 60 percent of Americans doubt the President intends to make any effort to advance marijuana-specific issues in 2022.

Separate polling data provided by YouGov in December finds that 70 percent of US adults support expunging marijuana-related convictions for non-violent offenders.



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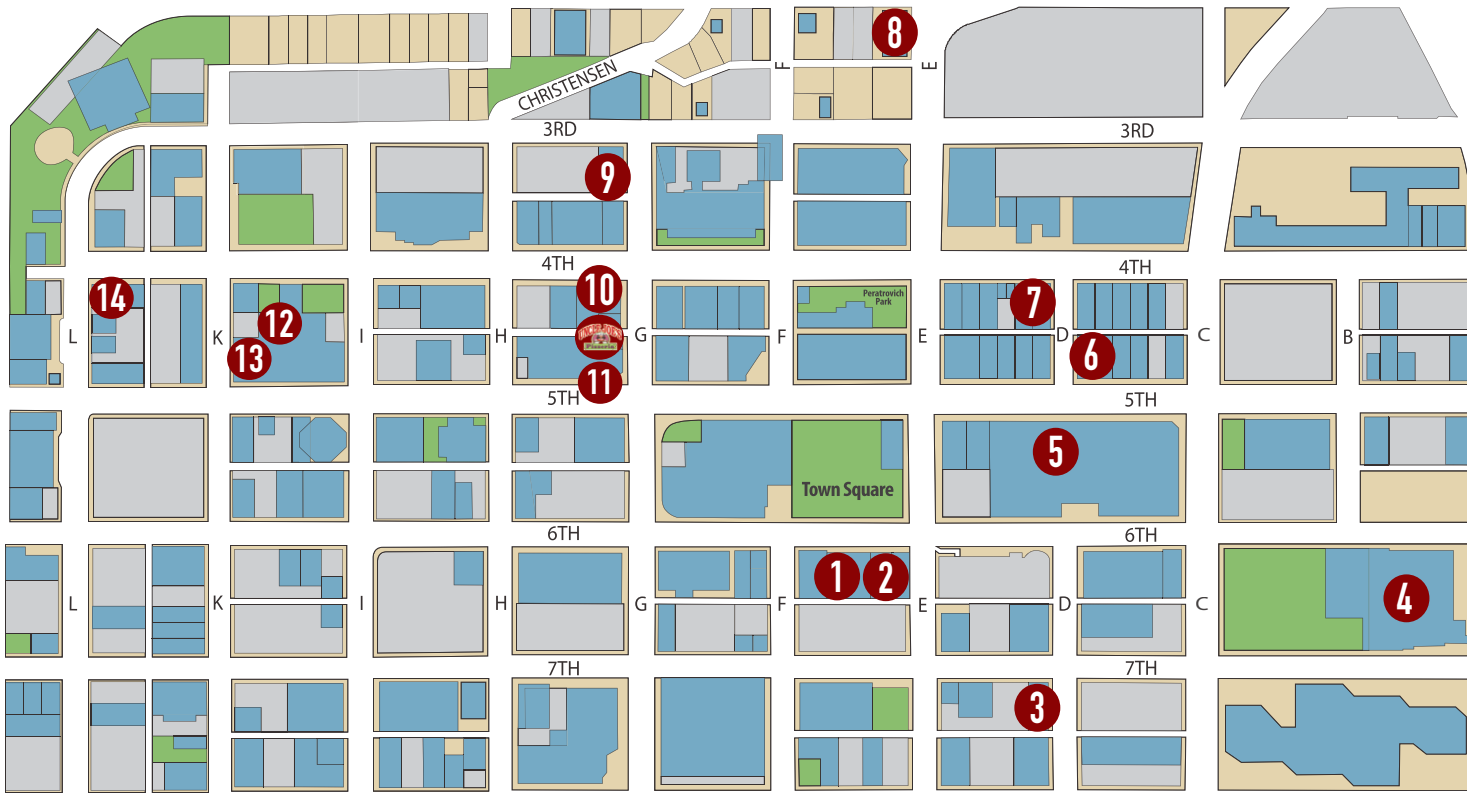
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2022

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LIVE IN CONCERT • MAY 7, 2022 • ATWOOD CONCERT HALL

GET TICKETS! [CENTERTIX.COM](https://www.centertix.com) (907) 263-ARTS [ANCHORAGECONCERTS.ORG](https://www.anchorageconcerts.org)

TICKETS START AT \$36.00

This time-bending musical collective, known for putting pop music in a time machine, is set to make the '20s roar again with the most sensational party this side of The Great Gatsby. Learn more at [anchorageconcerts.org](https://www.anchorageconcerts.org).

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