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BANGAR ANG!

MAYDAY PARADE AND TAKING BACK SUNDAY
TO PERFORM AT WILLIWAW ON SATURDAY

ANCHORAGE PRESS

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Adaptation

I am writing this week's Editor's Note from Holliston, Massachusetts. In an uncharacteristically impulsive move, I decided to plunk down \$1,500 to go back to my old stomping grounds for ten days. Although I am from Anchorage, New England – mainly Massachusetts and



BY O'HARA SHIPE

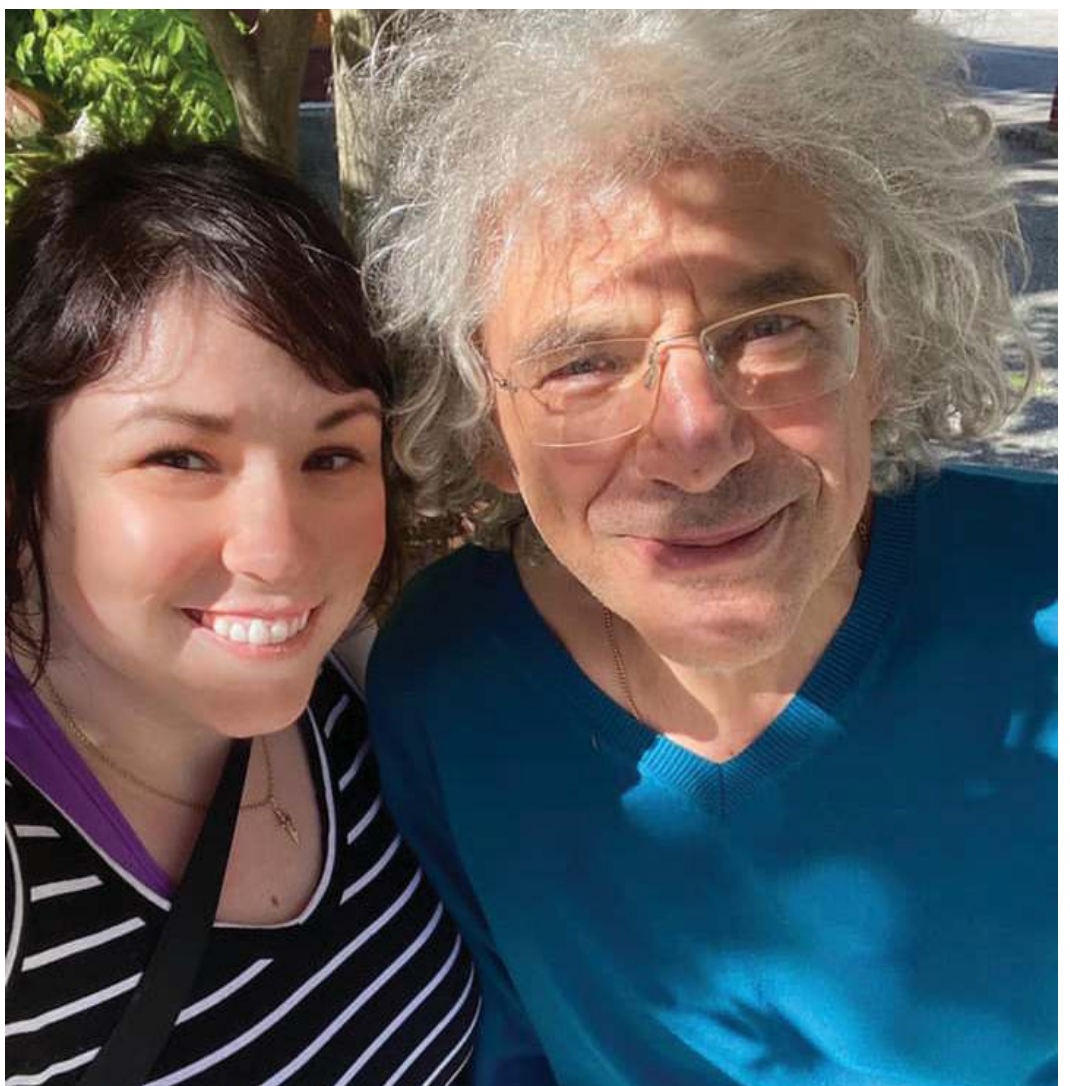
Rhode Island – is a place I consider home. However, I didn't always have fond memories of the place.

I can still remember landing in Boston 22 years ago ahead of starting my freshman year at Phillips Academy Andover. It was muggy, crowded, loud, and for at least several months, filled with

unintelligible Boston accents. I felt a lot like a halibut that got unwillingly plucked from the ocean floor – I couldn't find equilibrium and was paralyzed with anxiety as I tried to make friends. Although no one ever said anything, I often felt like the weird Alaskan kid.

But you know what they say, nature abhors a vacuum. So, I adapted to my new life at such a speed that I started questioning Darwin's theory of evolution. Within months, I had learned to speak "Bostonian" and started dropping my "r's." I also found my friends – incidentally, they weren't fellow prep school students; they were the campus' security team, cooks, and groundskeepers. I think maybe they saw a kindred spirit in me – as like them, I refused to drink the Kool-Aid and became known in my classes as "the dissenter." It was a badge I wore with pride because it meant that even though I was changing, I hadn't lost the sense of self that Alaska instilled in me.

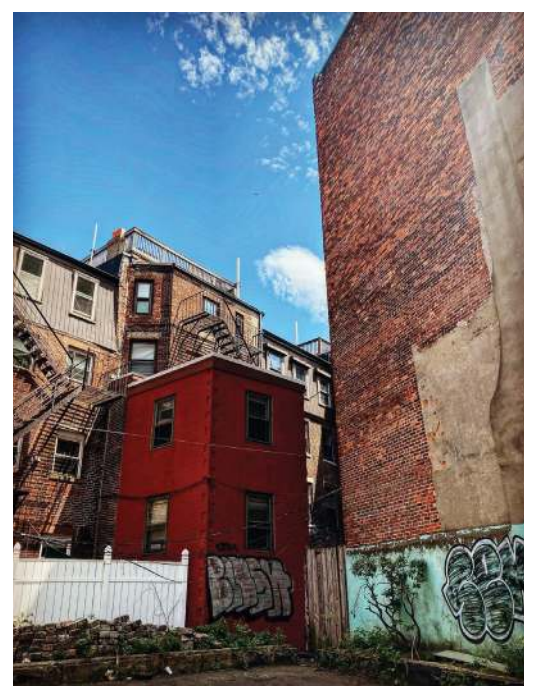
When I arrived at Boston Logan Airport on Sunday morning, I was excited to see how much things have changed in the decade since I was here last. To my surprise, although the look of my old haunts has changed, the character of the cities hasn't. I was still greeted with excitement when I walked into my favorite Providence, Rhode Island restaurant, Hope Street Pizza. The same street vendors that were selling goods downtown in 2004 were still there, and remarkably, they remembered me. I even found myself upgraded to one of my former professor's "number four favorite student."



You're probably reading this wondering what any of this has to do with this week's Press. Well, this vacation has been a reminder of the lasting impact we can make on places and people. So, when you read Dr. Fermento's column about how Alaskan brewing companies are raising money for Ukraine, or how Senate democrats are fighting anti-trans bills, I encourage you to think about how you can make your own impact on our community. Maybe you do it through educating yourself about the Latinx community by watching "Sabor Artico" at the Bear Tooth Theatre on Saturday or by buying a pair of tickets to see SoBroSol's production of "In the Heights." Perhaps you take some time to plant bee-friendly flowers or walk instead of driving.

However you choose to make your impact, know that even the smallest efforts are often remembered and valued.

Until next week,
O'Hara Shipe
Managing Editor



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TCBG Festival returns next weekend

BY O'HARA SHIPE

A DIY-er at heart, Justin Boot funds the \$50,000 a year Trapper Creek Bluegrass Festival by making do with what's around him. His shelter is one of five lean-tos that he has scattered across the property and his food is caught in the stream or hunted on-site.

"I shift houses as the seasons change because each place has different amenities and there's plenty of food around. Sometimes I get lucky and can hunt a moose," says Boot.

Of course, living a modest life doesn't mean Boot is rolling in some secret stash of money. When he put on the 2017 festival, he had a measly \$10 left in his bank account. In fact, he rarely ends up in the black but his passion for music outweighs the financial consequences of putting the festival on, so Boot just hopes to break even each year.

"I am definitely not doing this for the money," Boot says emphatically. "I refuse not to pay the musicians and I have worked really hard to turn this festival into what it is today."

As anyone who has ever attended the festival will attest, it is best described as an escape from the real world where everyone, even the dogs, get along.

The overall vibe of the festival that brings together hippies, hipsters, corporate workers, blue-collar workers, and even families with young children is decidedly free-spirited. But it's not just the attendees that are diverse. The musical lineup features everything from punk to metal and accordion players to the undefinable. Ironically, the only thing that seems to be missing is the bluegrass music the festival is named after.

The 2022 line-up includes Ayla Ray, SunDog, The Shoot Dangs, The Avery Wolves, Wash Your Hands, and others.

The festival takes place on May 27 – 29 in at Boot's Bison Ranch in Trapper Creek. Tickets are available at TCBGFestival.com.



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R-KODIAK

Bert Stedman

Alaska House, Senate negotiators reach tentative budget deal

BY BECKY BOHRER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska lawmakers tasked with negotiating a budget deal reached a tentative agreement Tuesday that would pay residents more than \$3,000 this year, but the final amount would depend on whether the Legislature can muster the votes needed to access a key savings account.

The tentative agreement calls for a dividend from the state's oil-wealth fund in the range of \$2,500 this year, plus a \$1,300 "energy relief" check. However, half the funding for the energy check would come from a budget reserve account that requires three-fourths support in each the House and Senate to access.

Payments to residents could be around \$3,200 or they could be around \$3,850 depending on whether the vote threshold is reached, according to estimates shared with reporters by Senate Finance Committee co-Chair Bert Stedman's office.

Stedman, a Sitka Republican, chaired the conference committee, which met for the first time Sunday and announced the tentative agreement Tuesday, the day before the legislative session was scheduled to end. The negotiated package is subject to a vote by the House and Senate.

Stedman said the budget is a good one, with a "healthy dividend," capital projects around Alaska and attention to K-12 education and the university system. He said the

dividend is a "sensitive issue" to negotiate, with splits among lawmakers over what the size should be.

The House in its version of the budget approved a dividend of about \$1,250 plus a \$1,300 energy check. The Senate Finance Committee, in the version of the budget it sent to the Senate floor, proposed a roughly \$2,500 dividend.

The Senate version of the budget, however, was amended during floor debate to include a dividend of about \$4,200 this year from the earnings of the Alaska Permanent Fund, an amount in line with a long-standing dividend formula last used in 2015, along with a \$1,300 energy check.

The House rejected the Senate package Saturday, which led to the appointment of House and Senate negotiators tasked with trying to reach a compromise spending bill.

Many lawmakers consider the formula unsustainable, particularly since the state has come to rely on permanent fund earnings, long used to pay dividends, to also help fund government. But lawmakers have not agreed to a new formula and instead have been setting the yearly amount, resulting in often drawn-out, divisive debates. Last year's check was \$1,114.

When lawmakers began using permanent fund earnings to help pay for state expenses, they sought to limit how much money could be withdrawn each year for dividends and government. The limit is based on a percentage of the fund's market value. The draw for the upcoming fiscal year is about \$3.4 billion.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has called for an approach that

would split what is drawn 50/50 between dividends and government. A roughly \$2,500 dividend is in line with that approach. He also called for a supplemental dividend of about \$1,250, citing high fuel and food costs.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, an Anchorage Democrat, supported the higher dividend passed by the Senate. But he said the amount the conference committee settled on was "the best we could get." Wielechowski was on the conference committee.

He said the lesson that's been reinforced this year is the instability surrounding the dividend. "It's become political, and it will remain political until we put it into the constitution," he said.

Dunleavy and many lawmakers have talked about the need for a long-term resolution on the dividend. Heading into this session, there was talk about the need for a state fiscal plan following years of low and middling oil prices and deficits. That talk was tempered by a rosier revenue forecast, spurred by higher oil prices. A bill that proposed a new dividend formula faltered in the Senate.

Stedman said people sometimes focus on the check size but it's the total cost that can be a challenge. A roughly \$4,200 dividend and \$1,300 energy check would have cost an estimated \$3.6 billion. The cost of a roughly \$2,500 dividend and \$1,300 energy check is about \$2.5 billion.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich, an Anchorage Democrat, said he supports the conference committee proposal, citing in part concerns with high energy costs, particularly in rural Alaska.

Mat-Su senator wants Dunleavy to use vetoes to punish districts where legislators rejected Senate budget

BY DERMOT COLE

“What he can do is line item veto. I’d be looking real hard if I was him on the money inside those districts who voted no,” Mat-Su Sen. Mike Shower wrote on Facebook about how Gov. Mike Dunleavy should deal with the rejection of the Senate budget by the House Saturday. So Shower is telling Dunleavy to have at it in District 10 in Mat-Su, home of Rep. David Eastman, and House District 7 in Wasilla, home to Rep. Christopher Kurka. Punish Alaskans with the veto if they live in the wrong districts.



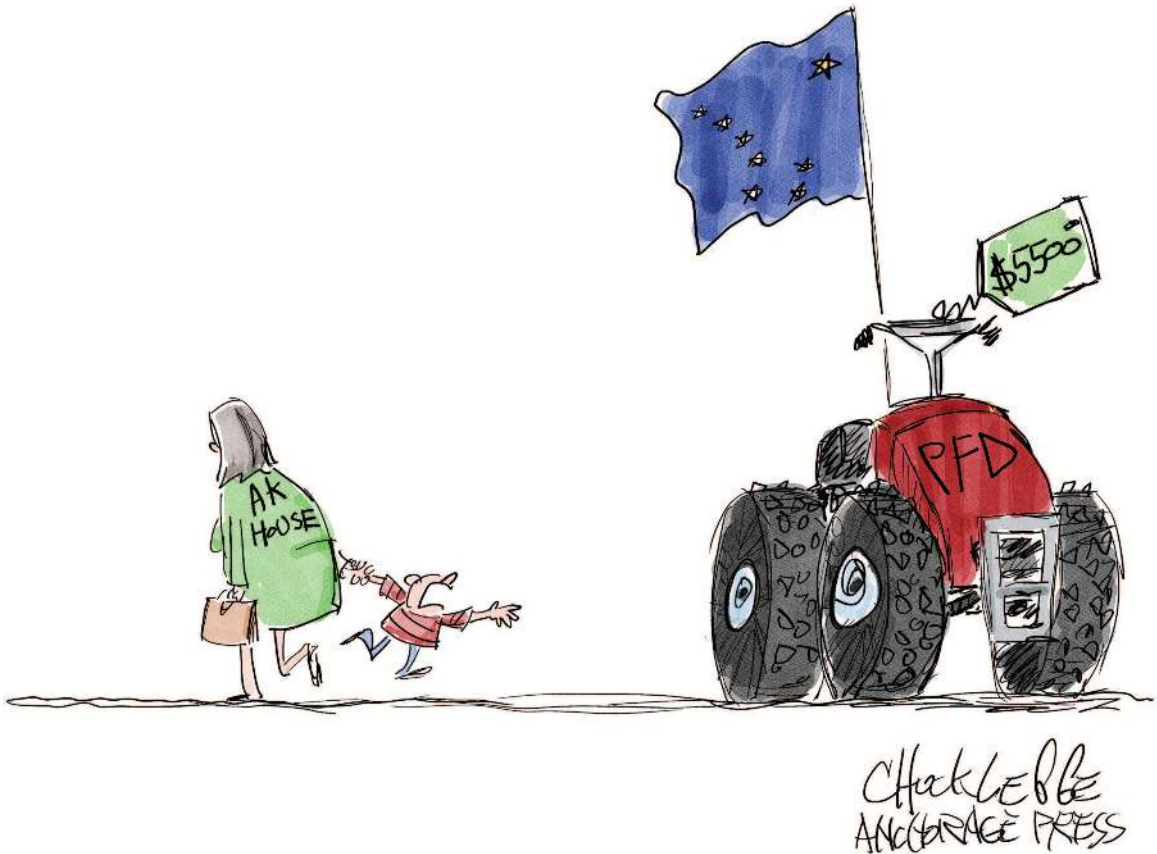
Eastman and Kurka voted against the Senate budget and the \$3.6 billion payout to Alaskans, along with 20 other members of the House. Half of Shower’s Senate district is Eastman’s House district, so Shower will probably ask Dunleavy to find things to veto in other offending districts. The Republicans are furious at Eastman, a radical who has always been an obstructionist, and mad at Kurka, a fellow right-wing extremist who is running for governor. The two gave long-winded explanations for their opposition related to the size of the budget, abortion and other issues. “They voted with the pro abortion Democrats. I am speechless,” wrote Rep. Kevin McCabe, who wasn’t. His wife, Linn McCabe, exemplified the over-the-top blabber from the Republicans with a Facebook dirge for the dividend.

“A collective groan spread across Alaska as the people once again felt the full force of the boot on their necks exerted by the ruling class,” wrote McCabe. One of Shower’s Facebook friends complained that opponents of the \$3.6 billion in cash payouts “mock God by their actions.” According to Shower, the McCabes and the other complainants, legislators who did not vote for the \$3.6 billion payout are against Alaskans and are controlled by the evil special interests. Those who voted for the \$3.6 billion payout are real Alaskans, with the interests of the people uppermost in their minds.

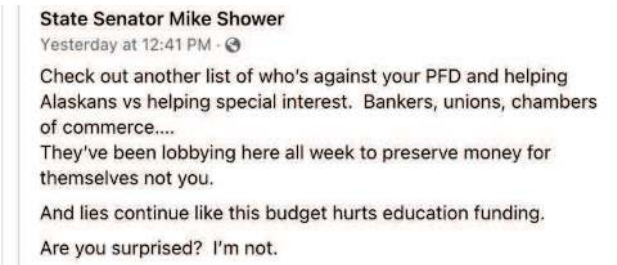
Nonsense. The Senate budget was founded on the prayer that the war in Ukraine will continue and oil will be priced at more than \$100 a barrel every day of the fiscal year that begins July 1. The Senate budget would spend all of that and much more. No competent legislator would vote for a plan like that. About the delays in voting on the budget, Linn McCabe wrote, “For the next 3 days, the Speaker wielded her scepter and ruled repeatedly (without the required 21 votes) to postpone the floor session. During this time, powerful senators and representatives from on high descended into the lowly encampment of the plebes with whom they rarely interact, and attempted to leverage their votes, through whatever tactics at their disposal. The unions and other special interests joined in the fray, showing up in person, emailing, and calling, as they worked to protect their brotherhood of government funding recipients from the Voice of the People.”



Rep. Mike Cronk complained that he is “tired of this state being run by special interests and unions.” He said



the unions “lied” about the Senate budget. “The dishonesty today was off the charts,” Cronk wrote, apparently referring to other legislators. He wrote on Facebook that Eastman “doesn’t give a rat’s arse about his constituents” and that Eastman and Kurka did nothing to help their constituents. “Eastman and Kurka screwed every Alaskan! Those are facts,” said Cronk. “Fact is, they are the sole reason we ended up in this situation.”



Had Eastman and Kurka supported the Senate budget, the vote would have been tied 20-20 and failed. But perhaps some other legislators would have switched as well. When a Facebook commenter said that “a bunch” of legislators who voted against the Senate budget had said they would support it, Shower said they were either lying or pressured to switch.

“They either lied or were flipped by threats of promises from the very people who actually run this state who showed their power this week by influencing some of those legislators to flip from a yes vote to a no vote. Big unions, big business, municipalities, chambers of commerce, the wealthy and elites, the press, etc., etc. They flooded this place last week to kill the concurrence vote—it wasn’t about the budget they could case less—it was about killing the PFD.”

In fact, it was about the budget. It was not about killing the PFD. The two Fairbanks Republican legislators who have the best grasp of state finances in the House—Reps. Steve Thompson and Bart LeBon—voted against the Senate plan because the numbers didn’t add up.

What Shower and others refuse to even think about is that the Alaskans who spoke out against the Senate budget represent a wide variety of Alaskans with different opinions and competing priorities, not a cabal of overlords oppressing the residents of the state. The state is going to end up making cash payments to Alaskans that will probably exceed \$1 billion or \$1.5 billion. The Republicans, all with their eyes on the election, are trying to whip up hysteria that anything less than \$3.6 billion in cash payments is an insult. They don’t understand the word “billion” or the need to plan for the next moment when oil drops to \$50. Many of those who want giant dividends refuse to raise oil taxes or support any new taxes to pay for giant dividends. They refuse to say what services they would cut or what happens in two or three years. They are happy to enter the next fiscal year dreaming that oil will remain sky high. That is not conservative. It is irresponsible. The legislators who are really looking out for the people of Alaska are those who are trying to make an intelligent assessment of state services, taxes, and resource wealth to see what combination of policies best meets the needs of the state now.



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Freyed Nerves

I am a 37-year-old heterosexual woman in a monogamous relationship with a het cis male. Let's call him "Rick." We've been together for five years and engaged for two. Our sex went from passionate, fun, and frequent early in the relationship to nearly nonexistent now. I have gently initiated conversations about how to spice it up—sexy dates, sex toys, new positions, even non-mo-



SAVAGE LOVE
BY DAN SAVAGE

Fast forward: I recently learned that Rick has a profile on an online dating app. We are not in an open relationship, even though I'd offered that as a possible solution to our sex woes. After some mild questioning, his story unraveled. He admitted to exchanging sexy pics and videos with more than 20 women on the internet over the last few years. He was apparently going into our spare bedroom or bathroom to make and send these videos—sometimes when I was home, sometimes when I was waiting in bed for him. After talking with a friend, she confided in me that Rick's ex had discovered dozens of sexting convos on Rick's phone with strangers when they were together.

My questions are both general and specific to me. First, is it possible for someone to be incapable of physical intimacy when there is love involved? I'm not

expert, but it strikes me as troubling that Rick can't make love with me—going so far as to blame it on hormonal shifts—when it's not biological at all; he just prefers to jerk off with strangers. Is this actually a thing? Only being physically attracted to an anonymous, impersonal, meaningless stranger? My next question is: Is there hope for a future with Rick when he is lying to me—a GGG partner who wanted to work through this—and also lying to himself? I think I know the answer, but: am I better off alone?

—Sick Of Rick's Dick Image Doings

Yes, SORDID, some people are incapable of being physically intimate when love is involved.

There are straight men out there with what's called Madonna-whore complexes; these men can't make love with and/or fuck women they love and respect. These men view sex as dirty and degrading, and they don't wanna do dirty and degrading things with (or to) women they have feelings for. Frankly, I don't know what would be worse: being married to man that refused to fuck me (because he respected me too much) or being fucked by a man like that (because he didn't respect me at all). On the flip side, there are straight women who seem to have husband-material complexes. There are guys they can see themselves married to and possibly having kids with—husband material, e.g., good, kind, reliable guys—but those aren't the men they're excited about fucking. Instead, it's bad, unkind, unreliable guys that turn these women on.

Oh, and there's a new type of long-term, committed, romantic partner out there who doesn't wanna fuck people they love: freysexuals.

A freysexual may love their romantic partner and wanna marry that person and make a life with them, SORDID, but a freysexual doesn't wanna and/or can't fuck someone they have strong and/or any feelings for. Basically, love is erotic kryptonite to the freysexual. Being freysexual doesn't excuse your fiancé's dishonesty, SORDID, assuming he is

freysexual. Simply put, if your fiancé is freysexual and knew that about himself—even if he didn't know there was a word/bespoke sexual orientation for him—he should've disclosed that to you. And if he only just realized it, he should've accepted your invitation to renegotiate the terms of your commitment, i.e., take you up on your offer to have an ethically non-mo-nogamous relationship. (For the record: I'm not suggesting that freysexuality isn't a legitimate sexual orientation—freysexuals already have their own pride flag, and we all know how high that bar is—but I am suggesting freysexuals

shouldn't make sexually-exclusive commitments to romantic partners or demand sexually-exclusive commitments from romantic partners.)

Whatever the deal is with your fiancé, SORDID, weddings are not famous for reviving sexually moribund relationships. So, if you want more than supportive, positive, and fun vibes from your future husband—if you want regular and decent sex on top of all that—don't marry this guy. But if the idea of being in a companionate marriage with this man appeals to you, SORDID, that's something you should explore with the help of a couples' counselor.

Oh, and if sexting women he barely knows is his primary sexual interest and outlet, SORDID, your fiancé already opened your relationship—on his end. There's no reason you should have to wait to open it on your end.

My partner and I recently bought a bar in a small town, far from the city we'd lived in, which has been both fun and challenging. Anyway, a couple started coming in and quickly became very talkative about their personal situation. She's a straight-presenting woman, he's a bisexual man, they have an open relationship. At first I thought, okay, great. It's a small community, and I'm glad they feel comfortable being themselves in our place. But their behavior has rapidly escalated, however, to the man making comments to staff members that are inappropriate, ranging from crude come-ons to telling one all about how ugly and weird his own dick is. I'm guessing that shaming himself like that is a kink for him. But we don't want to hear his confessions. I need to address it, but I wanted some advice as to how. Shutting down garden-variety horny cis guys is something I have decades of experience with, but I wonder if I should be more delicate here, given their situation. I don't want anyone to think we are biased, but this behavior is not acceptable, and I need to protect my staff.

—Boundaries And Respectful Treatment Escape Numb-skull Dumbasses

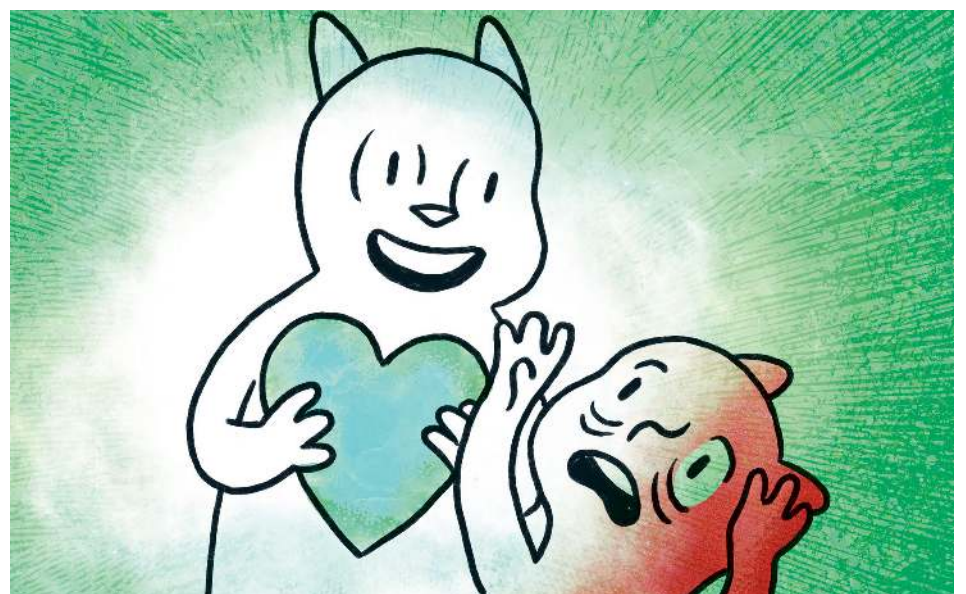
P.S. Public Service Announcement: Bartenders are not sex workers. It is lazy and exhausting for people to assume that just because someone's job is serving and entertaining you, that they also are game for fucking you or your partner or both of you or you and your friends. Double shame on the ones who also hold a gratuity hostage while you politely rebuff them. It happens a lot and needs to stop.

I'm guessing these people started coming into your bar after you bought it, BARTEND, because the previous owners 86ed them years ago. And I predict their bad behavior is going to escalate the longer you hesitate to 86 these motherfuckers yourself.

I'm a 31-year-old straight woman with a quick question. I've been in an on-and-off-again relationship with a man since I was 18 years old. I've gotten more comfortable dating other men when we're not "on." We were "off" for the last year and I had an absolute ball. However, we got back together recently. The problem is my partner seems insecure suddenly and is constantly worried he's not big enough. He sometimes even halfjokes about getting surgery to make his dick bigger. The other night out of the blue he said, "So, since you're a lot more experienced now, bigger is better, right?" I don't like this. Honestly, his new insecurities are making me feel less attracted to him and I'm starting to feel like we've hit a dead end in our relationship. Is this a sign that we should just break up?

—Completely Over Comparisons, Kapisce?

Savage, continued on page A16



Sharing the close company of sandhill cranes

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

I heard and then saw the first sandhill crane of spring on April 22—an Earth Day delight—my attention drawn to the sky above Earthquake Park by the bird’s loud, distinctive call.

Guidebooks most commonly describe that call as a rattling, bugled, or trumpet-like sound, but to my mind, the voices of sandhills have a guttural “roaring” sound. Whichever descriptor is used, the calls have a haunting, primeval quality.

The arrival of cranes in Anchorage each year is one of my great vernal joys. Often when watching or listening to them, my thoughts are pulled to a remarkable encounter with these large, charismatic birds, one that occurred years ago in the company of a good friend and fellow wildlife lover, Wayne Hall.

For the first several minutes of our walkthrough of Bicentennial Park’s spruce-birch forest, Wayne and I talked and joked and laughed without worrying how far our voices would carry through the woodlands. We sloshed along the soggy, puddled trail in our rubber boots and spoke of migrating birds, long daylight hours, nesting dippers, and the earliest signs of a slowly greening world, all part of Anchorage’s move from winter into spring. Now and then, we stopped and listened to some of the season’s early singers: varied thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, dark-eyed junco. Bright music for the ears and soul.

During one of our stops, Wayne alerted me we were getting close. It was time to move more quietly. Following his lead, I walked slowly and lowered my voice. Before long, an opening showed through the trees. Still a hundred feet or more from the wetland’s margins, we heard the sounds of water birds: the quack of a mallard and the winnowed “*hooohooohoo*” of a Wilson’s snipe, circling and diving through the sky, high above us.

Once at the marsh’s edge, Wayne reached for his binoculars and began to scan the swampy meadow and neighboring pond. My attention was drawn to ripples in the water close to shore. Then, looking through my own binoculars, I saw the head of a wood frog. Moments later, we heard the species’ distinctive hiccup call.

It was the first time I’d seen or heard Southcentral Alaska’s only amphibian that spring, so in my mind, our small expedition was already a success. But we hadn’t come here looking for frogs, snipe, migrant songbirds, as happy as we were to encounter them after a long Alaskan winter.

Earlier in the day, Wayne and his wife, Marilyn Houser, had heard the loud, roaring calls of sandhill cranes while walking through this same wooded area in northeast Anchorage. Leashed to their dogs, they chose not to follow the calls. But Wayne was determined to find the birds, or at least try, and he invited me to join the search. So there we were, a few hours later, looking and listening for cranes, the tallest of Alaska’s birds and among those with the largest wingspans, measuring six to seven feet wide (behind only eagles and swans).

I happened to spot the first one, walking slowly on the far side of the meadow, its body hunched slightly in the hunt for food. Though sandhill cranes are sometimes confused with great blue herons where their ranges overlap, there’s no mistaking this bird, among Alaska’s most iconic animals and the only one of the world’s fifteen crane species to inhabit this part of the world.

Sandhill cranes stand several feet high, tall black legs supporting their mottled gray- and tan-feathered body (while the bodies of adult birds are naturally gray, they often stain their bodies brown while preening their feathers with iron-rich mud and water). A long curved neck rises to a mostly gray head and a face marked by distinctive white cheeks, a red forehead, and a long, dark, dagger-like bill.

Soon after my sighting, Wayne saw a second crane. Then a third. All three had patchy gray and brown bodies, their plumage

blending nicely with the landscape’s still-drab grasses and bushes.

None of the cranes seemed to notice our presence. Or, if they did, they weren’t alarmed enough to either call or fly off. That, of course, was a good thing. We had no desire to disturb the birds, only to share their company for a while, observe their behavior and gain insights into their lives.

Wanting a closer look, Wayne led me off the trail and into a dense stand of spruce trees. We took up positions at the base of a gentle knoll, along the perimeters of a pond larger than a football field. In the shadow of the trees, Wayne set up two tripods; one held his spotting scope, the other his digital camera, capable of taking both video and still images. I, meanwhile, began scribbling notes in my journal, describing our time in the presence of the cranes.

Wayne and I barely moved or talked for the next 1½ hours, our conversation limited to brief whispered exchanges. It was an uncommon pleasure to be with someone whose patient watching and quiet, still presence matched—or exceeded—my own.

Two of the cranes stalked the pond’s edges near the center of the meadow, 100 to 200 feet from where we stood. The third slowly moved our way, step by purposeful step. It frequently paused to look or listen and occasionally crouched lower, head and neck extended, then jabbed its long, charcoal-gray bill into the water, lifted its head, and swallowed something. But what?

Cranes are omnivorous, with a diet that ranges from insects and worms to snails, rodents, seeds, roots, and grains. It was impossible to tell what these cranes were eating until the nearest one speared a frog and lifted it from the water.

With the frog grasped firmly between its lower and upper mandibles, the crane shook its head and neck, rearranged the prey in its beak—briefly, we saw the frog’s white belly and splayed legs—then tilted its head and swallowed.

Only occasionally was the crane rewarded with a frog when it stabbed the water, and I guessed that the large, wading bird was also eating other foods. But Wayne and I agreed that this wetland’s frogs were likely the primary targets of these migrating cranes and what lured them to this spot.

Cranes are normally wary birds that keep their distance from people. Both Wayne and I had previously observed them erupt in harsh, warning cries when humans ventured too close, sometimes inadvertently, so we were amazed by this one’s steady approach and calm demeanor. Now and then, the bird looked right in our direction, and it seemed impossible that the crane was unaware of us.

Eventually, the bird came within thirty feet or less, close enough that I got a full “head shot” when looking through the spotting scope. I studied the bird’s golden eyes, the bright red patch of bald, featherless skin on its forehead (one of the species’ most distinctive features), the downy feathers of its white cheeks and gray upper neck, the slits of its nostrils, a small blade of grass hanging from the beak, a fly crawling across its feathers.

Then, moving lower, I examined the larger feathers that grow on the crane’s wings and others that form a “bustle” over the bird’s short tail (that bushy feature named because of its resemblance to the frames used beneath dresses by women in the nineteenth century) and took in its gangling, scaly black legs.

Watching through his camera, Wayne was quietly jubilant. This was by far the closest he had ever been to a crane. With one memorable exception, it was also the nearest I had been. We believed the approaching crane to be a juvenile bird, the offspring of the more distant pair.

Out in the meadow, the two other cranes seemed less interested in eating than vigorously preening their feathers, occasionally socializing and, importantly, keeping watch. One of the adults seemed especially alert, though I assumed both remained vigilant to dangers.

None of the cranes seemed to pay much heed when a couple of mallards zoomed in and made a splashy landing. But twice their attention was drawn to the sky.

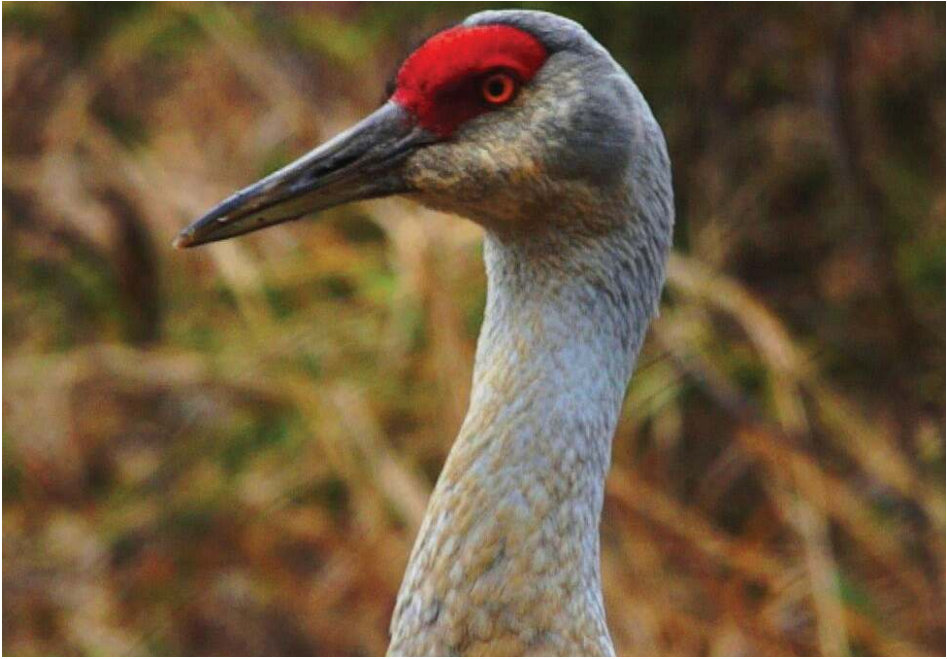
On one occasion, they arched their necks and turned their heads upward while remaining silent. Moments later, a juvenile bald eagle swooped low over the meadow, then disappeared behind the bordering trees. It seemed likely the eagle was more interested in the ducks than the cranes; even the juvenile was a large bird, about as big as its parents that we could tell.

Only once did the cranes make a ruckus. Their heads again turned upward; they shouted among themselves in high-pitched roaring cries while another pair of cranes silently crossed the sky, high overhead. Were the meadow cranes warning the others not to intrude on their spot? Or were they trying to get the pair’s attention, inviting them to join the feast? Whatever the intended message, the high-flying cranes continued on their path and showed no desire to investigate this wetland.

Once, briefly, a member of the adult pair danced. The crane opened with a bow, then hopped and spread its wings. I’d seen such behavior before, never for long and always from afar. But however short-lived and distant they are, such displays stir both curiosity and merriment, with dance steps that range from elegant to comical, as judged by us humans.

There is much more to say about the dancing of cranes, their annual migrations, and other aspects of their lives, but this will have to do. For now, the memory of an enchanting stay in the woodlands with a good friend, mesmerized by cranes that seemed to accept the unusually close company of humans, a rare and precious encounter.

Anchorage nature writer 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.



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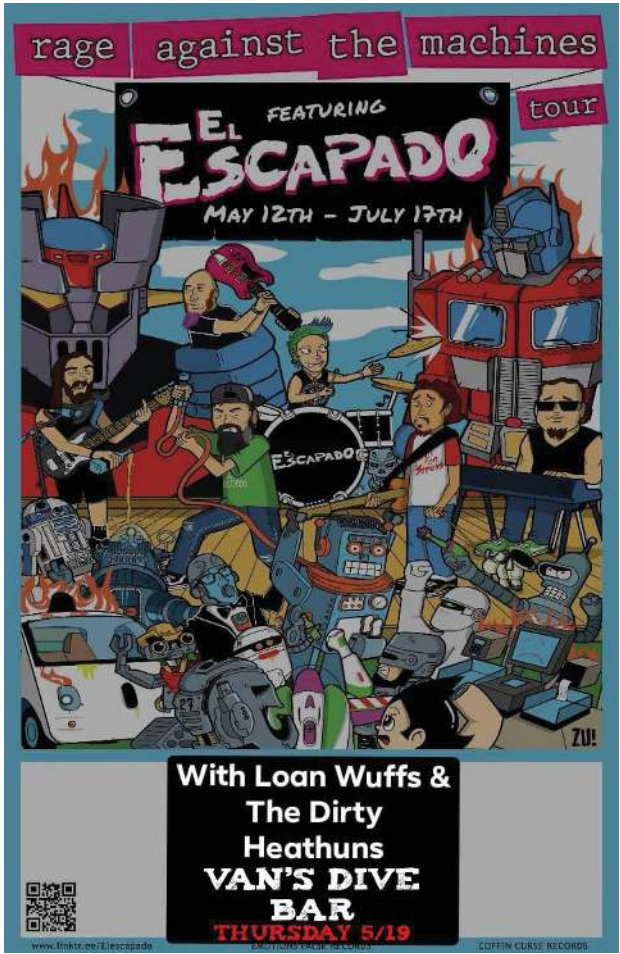
SOUTH
RESTAURANT + coffeehouse



Get direct links to the event details at AKconcerts.com
Or read below if you just want to know the time & place.

Thursday, May 19th

Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva Live 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – Vintage Retro Live 10p-2a
Cyrano’s Theatre – The Mommy Dance 7p-9p
Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – Jimmy Sandy 7p-1a
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Goldie’s AK (Fairbanks) – (Open) Mic Check 7p-10p
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic Night 8p-12a
Mad Myrna’s – Myrna’s Thursday Night Revue 9p-11p
The Marlin Bar (Fairbanks) – Ken Brown & Crooked Road 6p-9:30p
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Karaoke with Kellie B.! 10p-2a
PubHouse – Magpie Matea 7p-10p
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – El Escapado! W/ The Lone Wolves & Dirty Heethuns! 9p-12a
Yukon Bar (Seward) – First Dance Party of the Season w/ DJ Hankercheif 9p-12a



Friday, May 20th

2712 Drafthouse (Fairbanks) – DJ Manny’s FANTASY FRIDAY 10p-3a
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 5:30p-9p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Gary Stedman 9p-12a
Bernie’s Bungalow – Neutrino Surfers 7p-10p
Broken Blender – The Cellar Dweller Comedy Show-case 8p-11p
The Carousel Lounge – Supernova Live 10p-2a
Cyrano’s Theatre – The Mommy Dance 7p-9p
Dave & Busters – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Lisa Alvarado 7p-9p
Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – El Escapado 7p-1a
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Goldie’s AK (Fairbanks) – TGIF: Modern Natives 8p-11p
Humpty’s – I Like Robots LIVE 9:30p-1a
International Hotel and Bar (Fairbanks) – H3 Hawaiian Reggae 7p-12a
Kharacter’s Alaskan Bar (Homer) – Hot Mess 10p-2a
Koot’s – The Dirtball Spring Tour 2022 w/ Alaska Redd 9p-1a
Koot’s – Nervis Rex 10p-3a
Magpies On the Fly (Valdez) – HarpDaddy 9p-12a
The Marlin Bar (Fairbanks) – The Brainiax and Avery Wolves 9p-1a
Mermaid Grotto Café and Boutique (Seward) – Zen Trembles 6p-8p
Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2:30p
O’Malley’s on the Green – Alaska’s Blues Core 6:30p-9:30p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – The Vintage Retro LIVE 7p-10p
Pit Bar & Liquor Store (Fairbanks) - Danger Money Band 10-3a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Refuge City Church – THV Music Nights 6p-8p
Serrano’s Mexican Grill – DJ The Guestlist 8p-11p
Studio C – The Ed Washington Experience ft. Ashley Young 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Sierra Blanca LIVE 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Summer Launch Edition House Party w/ Fan Service 9:30p-2a
Yukon Bar (Seward) – Nothin’ But Trouble 9p-1a
Yukon Bar (Seward) – Twerk Your Tail Contest 12a-1a



Saturday, May 21st

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Studio Pulse: Spring Recital 5p-6:16p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Fun and Food w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 6p-11p
Bernie’s Bungalow – Bernie’s Summer Kickoff Party w/ Lateral Lines & SunDog 3p-1a
Broken Blender – Sassy Saturdays Live Cabaret 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – Unknowns 10p-2a
Carpenter’s Hall – Urban Cowboy Dance Night 7p-11p
Cyrano’s Theatre – The Mommy Dance 7p-9p
Eagle River Nature Center (Eagle River) – Music In The Mountains w/ Hollis Bryan 6p-10p
Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – The Chamberliners 7p-1a
Friar Tuck’s Hoagie House (Fairbanks) – 2022 Staley Memorial Cup Hip-Hop After Party 8p-11:30p
The Gaslight Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Goldie’s AK (Fairbanks) – Drag Show @ Goldies AK 7p-11p
Humpty’s - Chill Factor 9:30p-1a
Jack Sprat (Girdwood) – Woodrow Live 5p-9p
Kenai Joe’s Taphouse (Kenai) - Zero Miles to Empty 8p-12a
Kharacter’s Alaskan Bar (Homer) – Tony Taylor The Artist: Snow or Shine Tour 9p-12a
Koot’s – Comedian Lisa Alvarado 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot’s – The Stack 10p-3a

The Marlin Bar (Fairbanks) – El Escapado and The God-damn Ranchhand Band 9p-3p
The Maverick Saloon (Soldotna) – Hot Mess 10p-3a
Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Hoppers Pajama Party 10p-2:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – The Jangle Bees Live 7p-10p
Pit Bar & Liquor Store (Fairbanks) - Danger Money Band 10-3a
The Raven Bar – White Underwear Party 9p-2:30a
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Tamera and The Mr. Fitz Live 7p-11p
Serrano’s Mexican Grill – Hwy9 Acoustic 8p-11p
Van’s Dive Bar – Psychobilly Stomp w/ The Brainiax & The Avery Wolves 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Taking Back Sunday, Mayday Parade, & Bad Friday 5p-10p
Williwaw Social – Emo After Party w/ Rival Dads & DJ GRE 10:30p-2a



Sunday, May 22nd

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Studio Pulse: Spring Recital 5p-6:16p
Bernie’s Bungalow – Bernie’s Summer Kickoff Party w/ Lateral Lines & SunDog 3p-1a
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Cyrano’s Theatre – The Mommy Dance 3p-5p
Humpty’s - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
KONR 106.1 FM – Beat Roots Alaska Summer w/ Lloyd’s Noize & Fan Service 3p-5p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Sunday Night Karaoke! 6p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday, May 23rd

Anaya Latin Dance – Beginner Salsa 6p-8p
Anchorage Classical Ballet Academy – Dancing with My Dollie: Passport to Paris 4p-6p
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

Tuesday, May 24th

Anchorage Classical Ballet Academy – Dancing with My Dollie: Passport to Paris 4p-6p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – The Chamberliners 7p-1a
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

Wednesday May 18th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Alaskan Hotel and Bar (Juneau) – Karaoke Wednesdays 8p-12a
Anchorage Classical Ballet Academy – Dancing with My Dollie: Passport to Paris 4p-6p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
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
Main Event Grill – The Star of Alaska Karaoke Tournament 6p-9p
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Open Mic at The Marlin! 8p-2a
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
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

PRESSING EVENTS

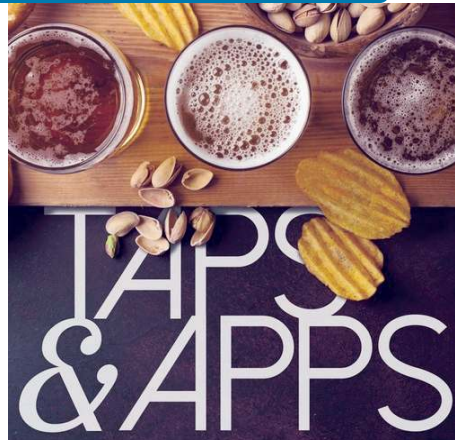
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Thu 5/19

Featured



5th Annual Taps & Apps
@ 5:30pm / \$50-\$80
The Lakefront Anchorage,
4800 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Featured



Fundraiser For Ukraine
@ 6pm / \$100
Anchorage Friends of
Ukraine is hosting a charitable dinner and silent auction on May 19th! Join us for live music, Ukrainian food and more! The Arctic Rec Center, 4855 Arctic Boulevard, Anchorage



The Claw
@ 7pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Fri 5/20

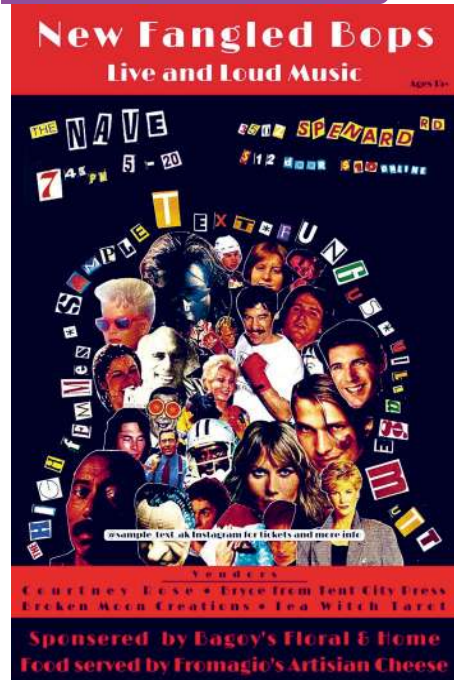
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The Mommy Dance
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Supernova Alaska: Supernova Live at The Carousel Lounge
@ 10pm
Carousel Cocktail Lounge, 3206 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Featured



(Live Music) New Fangled Bops
@ 7:45pm / \$8-\$12
Loud, aggressive, and also sad. Ages 15+ indie/punk/rock event. Bands playing: Village mutt, Fungus, The High Femmes, [SAMPLE_TEXT]. Show up ready to bop hard. Tickets 8-\$12. 7:45pm May 20th. The Nave, 3502 Spenard Road, Anchorage. hrcaldwell25@gmail.com



Featured



The Cellar Dweller Comedy Showcase
@ 8:30pm
A standup comedy show featuring six of Anchorage's funniest comics in the basement of The Broken Blender. The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. rubberptarmigan@gmail.com, 907-290-4809



Sat 5/21

2022 Copper River Salmon Season Kickoff Celebration
@ 1:30pm / \$75
Petroleum Club of Anchorage, 3301 C St. #120, Anchorage

Alaska Jazz Workshop Student Concert
@ 4pm / \$5
Enjoy a fun filled afternoon of exciting Jazz, funk, and Latin music by two great AJW Student Ensembles. Featuring the AJW High School & the AJW Solar Flair Adult Jazz Ensembles. Organic Oasis | Restaurant & Juice Bar, 2610 Spenard Road, Anchorage. info@akjazzworkshop.org, 907-332-3234

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

Featured



Taking Back Sunday
@ 5pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage



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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

The Claw
@ 7pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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

Sun 5/22

The Claw
@ 3pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Mon 5/23

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

Tue 5/24

Enneagram as Character with author Dante Medema
@ 7pm
"Enneagram as Character" by author Dante Medema - an event for fiction writers of all genres, co-sponsored by AKRWA and AWG, Tuesday, May 24, 7-8 pm via Zoom Anchorage. lynnlovegreen@gmail.com, 907-345-5831

Thu 5/26

The Claw
@ 7pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Fri 5/27

The Claw
@ 7pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Sat 5/28

Archery
@ 6:30pm
Kincaid Archery Range, W Raspberry Road, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

The Claw
@ 7pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Featured



Travis Thompson Live
@ 8pm / \$30-\$80
Travis Thompson - Live In Anchorage, Alaska. Saturday May, 28th Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage. info@the49thsupplyco.com, 907-202-5662



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

Sun 5/29

Featured



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 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org



The Claw
@ 3pm / \$20
MAY 13 - 29 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

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Bangarang!

Mayday Parade and Taking Back Sunday to perform at Williwaw on Saturday

BY O'HARA SHIPE
COVER PHOTO BY JORDAN KNIGHT

In 2007, Derek Sanders and his Mayday Parade bandmates could be found canvassing the Van's Warped Tour with posters and CDs. Their debut studio album, *A Lesson in Romanticism*, had just dropped and Mayday Parade was intent on making a name for themselves.

"We would just practice every day because none of us had jobs or school or any big commitments in our lives. We had all these sorts of goals of writing new music and recording it, but none of us had money. So we followed the Warped Tour to sell these EPs that we got pressed. We knew we had to put in the work because the labels weren't just going to come to us," explains Sanders.

The band's persistence paid off in 2008 when they joined the Warped Tour and played alongside All Time Low, The Maine, and Every Avenue. That same year, the band recorded their second album, *Anywhere But Here*, and signed with major music label Atlantic Records. Under new management, Mayday Parade began clawing their way into the mainstream music scene. In 2011, following the release of their EP, *Valdosta*, and the drop of their self-titled album, *Mayday Parade*, the band was recognized by Songkick as the hardest-working band of 2010. With 194 bookings and 74,000 miles logged in the year, the designation was well earned. For comparison's sake, Willie Nelson and Lady Gaga were ranked No. 7 and No. 8 by Songkick.

"We knew going into this that if we treated the band like a hobby, that's all it would ever be. But I think all of us wanted to take our music as far as we could," says Sanders.

In the past 16 years, Sanders and his bandmates have surpassed all expectations. Between creating seven studio albums, each reaffirming the band's musical genius, and extensive touring, Mayday Parade has cemented themselves as pop-rock mainstays.

"We just try and go all out at every show and give as much energy as we can. And we all genuinely have a great time performing music and playing shows. I think that our fans kind of feed off that energy and give it right back to use. That special relationship is something that has kept us going for so long," says Sanders.

Although the band has circumvented the world multiple times while on tour, Sanders says that Alaska is one of his favorite places to play.

"That trip to Alaska was one of my top five favorite experiences."



"The first time that we played Alaska was in 2008 at the State Fair, and I've told many people that out of all of the shows we've played, and all the countries we've been to, that trip to Alaska was one of my top five favorite experiences. We got to meet and make friends with Alaskans and see glaciers. So it was a particularly epic trip," explains Sanders.

Unfortunately, due to COVID precautions, Mayday Parade won't be able to interact with Alaska as they had hoped.

"Things can't really go all the way back to the way they were pre-pandemic, and we're not able to go out after shows and talk to people and interact in the same way that we used to. We have to make sure that we don't get COVID again because that can take us away from touring for several weeks," explains Sanders. "All these precautions we have to put into place are kind of a bummer. But it's just amazing to be able to be back playing live music again."

While Alaskan fans won't have an opportunity to interact with the band after the show, Sanders says that they are doing everything they can to make it a memorable concert.

"We're going to be playing songs from our whole catalog, including some of our deeper cuts. Of course, we'll be playing all of our bangers, too. We're just so stoked to be on the road again that we have even more energy than we used," says Sanders.

Mayday Parade joins Taking Back Sunday and local band Bad Friday for a rock supershow on Saturday, May 21 at Williwaw Social (609 F St). Doors for this 16+ show are at 5pm and tickets are available at EventBrite.com.



Fan Q&A

Derek Sanders answers your burning questions

Are there any bands that you're excited about right now?

Well, the first one that comes to mind would be Magnolia Park. We just did a tour with them. They're a younger band from Orlando and they work really hard to make great music. They've also done the whole Tik Tok thing really well.

What's your go-to karaoke song?

For the longest time, it was "First Date" by Blink-182. It's been so long since I've done karaoke, but that's pretty much my song.

Who in the band uses the most hair products?

I guess probably Jake Bundrick. I have the most hair but I don't ever do anything to it. So yeah, I'll say our drummer, Jake.

Do you wear inserts in your Vans?

I'm kind of known for not really liking to wear shoes at all. Unless it's cold enough that I have to wear them. I just wear flip flops because I like to keep it simple. And I don't like having to deal with like socks and shoes on the road. You know, I try to bring as little amount of stuff on the road as I can.

It's May and you're playing for a day. Where is the parade taking you?

I'm not really sure how to answer this one [laughs]. I guess the thing that comes to mind is the State Fair because playing there was kind of like being at a parade. Yeah, I don't know.

What is your pre-show ritual?

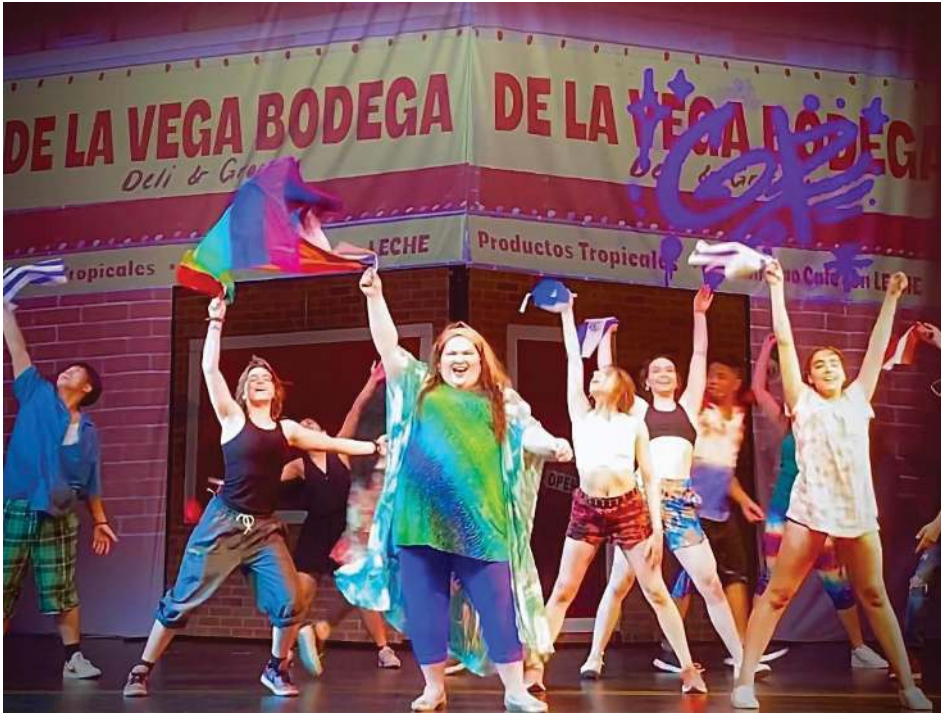
Everyone kind of has their own sort of things they do. For me and Cabbage, our bass player, we both just make throat coat tea with honey. And I'll throw a little bit of whiskey in mine. Before we hit the stage we always kind of circle up and put our hands in. Alex, our guitar player, says some things to get everyone pumped up and then and then we all yell "BANGARANG!" I'm not sure why we chose "bangarang" other than the fact that it was what Rufio said to Peter Pan in the movie Hook. But yeah, that's something we've done every single show we've ever played.

Mayday Parade is being chased by a bear. Who is the first to be eaten?

That's a good one! It would probably be me or Alex. Because I'd be wearing those flip flops and would be tripping over myself. Then I feel like Alex might be like one of the clumsiest I know. Brooks and Cabbage are definitely going to survive. Like, if we were in a survival situation, they probably last the longest. So yeah, I'd say it's probably gonna be either either myself or Alex.



HEY MI!



IN THE HEIGHTS



New York came alive last weekend at Bartlett High School for the opening of SoBroSol's production of "In the Heights." The production continues this weekend with performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Tickets are available at EventBrite.com.



The new 907 Pro Wrestling Champion, AJ Radical made his first appearance as champion after defeating "Kid Money" Maurice Mitchell at the WrestlePro Alaska 3rd Anniversary Supershow. The next show is June 11 at the Arctic Rec Center (4855 Arctic Blvd).

907 Pro Wrestling

Photos by Emerald Fire Photography



New American Cuisine

Altura Bistro serves up fine dining with a casual vibe

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

To be honest, I generally find New American cuisine to be pretty dull. I'm talking about the places that resemble steakhouses — save for some French influences and a few token Asian dishes that you're better off ordering at an Asian restaurant. It's a bit unreasonable to expect Noma-levels of innovation and molecular gastronomy here in the Last Frontier, but I can't help but grieve after seeing the usual selection of meat and seafood prepared in a manner that puts broad appeal above creative flare. I'll admit to being a snob with this jaded perspective of mine. However, if I'm shelling out hundreds of dollars for a sumptuous meal, it had better offer more than just a stuffy, mediocre experience. What I want is pure, unadulterated, hedonistic pleasure.

One high-end institution that's garnered unanimous praise is Altura Bistro. Helmed by Nathan Bentley, whose accomplishments have led to his nomination as a semifinalist for a 2022 James Beard Award, I had high expectations. So just what is it that sets this place apart from the rest of its ilk? That's what I hoped to understand on my last trip out there to celebrate my birthday this week. To be clear, I wasn't going in blind as I've certainly been there a couple of times already. But it was this last experience that truly affirmed Altura might be one of the best restaurants in the entire state.

There's no ignoring the fact that Altura is housed in a humble strip mall with the giant windows facing out toward the road. Still, I appreciate their open layout and minimal décor — though one may feel inundated by the ambient chatter. To my amusement, there was a definite contrast in formality between the waitstaff and my fellow patrons, who were mostly outfitted in an assortment of hoodies, sportswear and well, let's call it Alaskan chic. However, I fully resigned to this come-as-you-are ambiance whilst being lulled by the familiar alt-rock tunes of Tame Impala playing overhead.

I've always thought that the initial plate of bread and butter served at these joints offers nothing more than cheap filler. At Altura, skipping the ciabatta and basil butter would be a culinary sin! This tender manna wasn't simply glutenous in the normal sense either. Through what could have only been achieved with a well-hydrated dough, the bread's crumb was stretchy and pillowy light as it gently caressed my tongue before disintegrating into a faint, yeasty flavor. The crust was rigid with a hearty crunch, while the butter tasted of the freshest cream you could ever imagine, enhanced with the grassy aroma of basil. This was a phenomenal introduction that sent my heart racing.

Though not at all displeased, I was surprised by the lack of greens in the beet salad, which was plated with berries, coffee quinoa croutons, lemon oil, and mint. This root vegetable was indeed the star of this plate, as these ruby gemstones burst with an infusion of sweet, citrusy perfume that nearly gave the impression these were a fruit. The dish's overall composition was evoca-



tive of a juicy sangria in the sense that the bitter croutons contributed a tannic essence, making for a refreshing starter that was far from a messy hodgepodge. Simply put, it utterly screamed refinement.

The sweet prawn bisque was a marvel and easily one of, if not the best, cream soups I've ever had. I could offer up a few descriptors here: smooth, velvety, even sensuous. But beyond that, every ounce of my being wanted to gobble this up faster than I could process. What really sold this dish for me were the poached prawns. Cooked in a hot butter bath — which just might be the best preparation method for any seafood — these succulent morsels retained a hint of translucency and slight crunch that blew my feeble mind.

The winning streak didn't stop there, either. Altura's hamachi collar might have been the best version I've ever had. Though the teriyaki-esque glaze tasted familiar, these collars were cooked to tender, flaky perfection and made me want to pick these up with my hands and start going to town. But I maintained my composure and continued savoring the wonderfully roasted bits, accented with the sharp pungency of green onion.

One highlight on the menu that's a bit of a rare commodity is their dry-aged steak. Dry aging is a technique employed by only the finest dining institutions due to the controlled environment necessary to ward off undesirable bacteria. As the meat ages, the flavors are concentrated due to moisture loss. This controlled process can produce funky, blue cheese notes, which is exactly what I got to enjoy with my 50-day, dry-aged New York strip. Each bite of this charred, well-marbled behemoth was dripping with flavor, ranging from a mild sweetness to

the sharp, lactic complexity of dry aging.

The black garlic butter and cabernet gastrique helped boost the overall profile and made for one of the most opulent cuts of steak I've ever had. Mind you, that's coming from someone who's eaten A5 wagyu and dabbled with "aging" meat on my own with shio koji.

I would be remiss not to mention the side of baby potatoes that were somehow cooked to a fluffy, mashed consistency. And then there were the woodsy mushrooms which were a welcome respite from the intensity of the meat.

I stole a few bites of my wife's black cod entrée and found it cooked to such a degree of tenderness that it melted apart with the slightest nudge. The fregola pearls — as toothsome as they were — along with the freshly blanched green beans and marinated olives, all came together as seemingly disparate elements to form a finely-tuned, cohesive dish that completely harnessed the natural, buttery flavor of the exquisite cod.

This powerhouse of a meal didn't just leave me in a euphoric state — the resulting comedown was somewhat depressing after I realized that food doesn't get much better than this. These skillfully crafted dishes managed to dispel every ounce of cynicism from my soul and served as a vivid reminder as to just why I love food in the first place. Altura doesn't simply produce mere fodder for the masses — their artistry and finesse help manifest some of the finest epicurean delights you'll find anywhere in Alaska and beyond.

Altura Bistro is located at 4240 Old Seward Hwy, Anchorage, AK 99503. The bistro is open Wednesday — Sunday from 11am to 9pm.



You Have Always Been In Love

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

“The only way to the truth is through blasphemy,” declared Aries author Flannery O’Connor. I appreciate the cheeky sentiment, but I don’t believe that alltruth requires blasphemy. In many cases, rebellion, irreverence, and skepticism may be enough to pry loose hidden and buried information. Outright blasphemy isn’t necessary. What does this have to do with you? Well, I’m hoping you will be feisty and audacious in your quest for interesting truths. As you dig, I invite you to be less than perfectly polite. Don’t be rude or unkind, of course. Just be charmingly bold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

“I am so beautiful, sometimes people weep when they see me,” declares comedian Margaret Cho. I would love for you to summon her level of self-esteem and bravado in the coming weeks. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you now have the right and duty to boost your self-worth. All of creation is conspiring with you to develop more faith in yourself. And if you do the work to deepen your confidence and self-esteem, there will be an added bonus: a health breakthrough. As spiritual author Caroline Myss says, “Belief in oneself is required for healing.” My prediction: You will rouse an enhanced power to get the soul medicine you need.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

According to the blogger Artemisiasea, “The grandeur of life is the attempt, not the solution. It’s about behaving as beautifully as one can under completely impossible circumstances; making room for what breathes in the presence of the attempt—in the coming-to-be.” I invite you to embrace that wisdom in the coming weeks, Gemini. You won’t be dealing with impossible circumstances, but you may have to navigate your way through fascinating brainteasers and heart riddles. Whatever your destination might turn out to be, enjoy the ride with all the verve you can summon. At least for now, put aside your longing for particular results and instead simply live your life as if it were a magnificent work of art.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22)

It will be in your interest to change more than usual in the coming weeks. I suppose you could wait around passively and scramble to adjust as life flings challenges your way. But the better approach would be to make conscious decisions about how you want to transform. Identify the situations that would most benefit from modification and then initiate the transitions. Rather than depending on fate to provide you with random wake-up calls, choose constructive wake-up calls that are fun and invigorating.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

“If everyone likes you, it probably means you aren’t saying much,” declared politician Donna Brazile. I suspect you will disprove her theory in the coming weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will have a lot to say; your communications will be even more interesting than usual. And yet, I also expect you will receive extra respect and appreciation from others. While you may articulate ideas that are challenging to some, you will do so with enough charisma to disarm agitated reactions. A winning combination: expressiveness and approval.

Astrology, continued on page A14



Senate Democrats pledge drag-out fight over anti-trans athlete bill

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Legislation that would ban transgender girls from participating against cis girls in K-12 sports is poised to pass in the Senate, but the chamber’s Democrats aren’t going to make it easy.

Concerned over a litany of legal problems with the legislation—that range from its violations of students’ constitutional right to privacy, its discrimination against transgender girls (as the legislation doesn’t apply to transgender boys) and its potential impacts on federal funding—Democratic Sen. Bill Wielechowski said on Tuesday his caucus will offer “several dozen” amendments to the bill.

The legislation is almost certain to pass the GOP-controlled Senate, but the amendment process will likely delay passage of the legislation by many hours, if not days, and eat into the dwindling hours and days of the legislative session. The legislation is thought to have no chance in the House (but who really knows).

See also: Senate to vote on GOP bill banning trans youth from girls’ sports, backers claim they’re protecting cis girls who train hard and ‘watch their diet’

The Senate took up amendments following the passage of the budget and were clearly hoping for a speedy passage on Tuesday night but were only able to get through two of the “dozens of amendments” by the time they broke for the evening. The most significant issue covered in the amendments was one by Wielechowski that would have turned the issue over to the school districts, effectively gutting the legislation’s statewide impact. He said the issue is best left to local communities to decide.

“This is where this decision should be made. It should be a local decision, it should be a decision of the local school boards. The local communities elect those members of the school boards and we should not be micromanaging how they deal with these issues,” he said. “Quite frankly, we’ve got a lot of other things that we should be spending our time on.”

The amendment failed on a 10-10 vote—effectively decided by Kodiak Republican Sen. Gary Stevens, who was ostensibly the most moderate of the bunch heading into the night—which is likely the closest any of these amendment votes will get to passing. The two amend-

DESIGNATE SEX FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS			
Y BEGICH	N HOLLAND	N MYERS	Y STEDMAN
Y BISHOP	N HUGHES	Y OLSON	N STEVENS
N COSTELLO	Y KAWASAKI	N REINHOLD	Y VON IMHOF
Y GRAY-JACKSON	Y KIEHL	N REYAR	Y WIELECHOWSKI
Y HOFFMAN	N RIECKE	N SHOWER	N WILSON

ments took the Senate about 80 minutes to debate and vote on.

Sen. David Wilson, R-Wasilla, made a motion to limit debate on the amendments to two minutes. It’s a motion that is common in the frequently unruly 40-member House but has never been invoked in the Senate, according to Sen. Bert Stedman, who told the chamber dealing with opposing points of view comes with the job and it’s unfair to ignore it.

“In my 20 years, I don’t ever recall limiting debate. It seems like when those type of tactics come into play it just slows things down,” he said. “One of the arts of this job is to listen to people with different points of view, whether it’s a budget issue or a legislative issue, it just comes with the territory.”

Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich also argued limiting debate would be a breach of the trust of the chamber, warning that if they were to do so that the Senate Democrats would find other ways to slow down the process.

“I’m curious why the body would choose to limit our ability to speak on this issue. The Senate has worked until a relatively collegial way until the last few hours,” he said. “It is my hope that this will not lead to having to take our time to review every aspect of Mason’s to find out how many times we stray from the issue of the day.”

Wilson ultimately withdrew his motion.

The Senate will be back at 11 a.m. and is likely to spend the entirety of the day dealing with amendments as Democrats put up a stiff fight on this issue. There is a week left in the legislative session.

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VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Have you heard of Virgo adventurer Reinhold Messner? The man is a marvel, and not just because he's a passionate environmental activist. He was the first mountaineer to reach the top of Mt. Everest alone, as well as the first to ascend Everest without supplemental oxygen. No one before him had ever climbed all 14 of the world's peaks higher than 26,000 feet. He has transited Greenland and Antarctica without the aid of dog sleds or snowmobiles. He also completed a solo trip across the Gobi Desert. I propose we make Messner your inspirational role model for the next four weeks. You may not achieve history-making triumphs like him, but you could surpass what you assumed were your limits. I trust that you will break at least one of your personal records.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

"The world is a very puzzling place. If you're not willing to be puzzled, you just become a replica of someone else's mind." Author Noam Chomsky said that. It's useful counsel for you right now. I'll go even further. I will advise you to relish the healthy pleasures of being both mysterious and mystified. Seek out fertile enigmas and be a fertile enigma yourself. Explore the rejuvenating wisdom of being indefinable and uncategorizable. Exult in the quizzical joys of Eternal Paradox.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

Have you ever contemplated the beauty of the people and animals you care for and thought, "I would love to give them the strongest blessings

I have to give, the smartest love I can express, and the best listening I'm able to provide." If so, Scorpio, the coming days will be an excellent time to do that. You will have an extra capacity to offer exceptional gifts that are useful and inspirational. You will be at the peak of your ability to home in on what your beloveds need.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarian author Madeleine L'Engle told us, "The discoveries don't come when you're looking for them. They come when for some reason you've let go conscious control." That approach isn't absolutely true, but it may be useful for you to deploy in the coming weeks. I invite you to relinquish at least a modicum of your conscious control. And if zesty discoveries start flowing in, consider relinquishing even a bit more conscious control.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Is it a legend or a true story? Scholars disagree about whether Capricorn scientist Isaac Newton really was spurred to formulate the theory of gravity when an apple fell from the tree he was sitting beneath. This much is certain: Newton lived in the home near the famous apple tree. And that tree is alive today, 380 years after his birth. Ripe apples still fall from it. Is there an equivalent landmark or keystone from your own past, Capricorn—where an important insight arose or pivotal event happened? The coming weeks would be a good time to revisit that power spot, at least in your imagination, in quest of fresh inspiration.

Astrology,
continued on page A19

When to hold 'em and when to fold 'em

ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

I've been a teacher for most of my life. I feel scared to say this aloud, but I want to be a writer. My parents were also teachers, and almost everyone I know has a job that has health insurance and benefits. Everyone thinks I'm crazy to write. My boyfriend and I have been writing letters for the last year, and I think it would make a great book. I want to quit my job and write full-time, but I am scared about health insurance.
— Dream Writer

Dear Dream Writer,
Congratulations on finding something that you are passionate about! So many people don't even get to the part where they can voice their dreams aloud, for precisely the reason you said in your question: Other people will tell them they're crazy. Unfortunately, we often give people who don't believe in wonderful possibilities too much power.

I believe that all dreams are possible. I have had the joy of having many of my dreams come true, but I always followed three rules:

Dreams require journeys—NOTHING HAPPENS OVERNIGHT!

Every journey requires food, clothing, water, and a place to sleep.

You need to enjoy the journey.

The people who fail to understand these basic rules will not achieve their dreams.

A new project is like a seed. All seeds need space, water, and light — and they also take time to grow, no matter how amazing they may be. While your seed is growing, you need to rely on another crop that is already grown and bearing fruit. Otherwise, you will die from starvation. Because of that, I suggest you either stay with the job that you have now or find something else that you will enjoy that can support you on your journey as your writing grows. The less pressure you put on yourself to have your writing be your only food source, the more joy you will be able to put into it, and the more likely things will work out. Putting too many demands on your seed before it's mature can lead to disaster.

Over the years, I have spoken to many people with similar predicaments to yours. I often hear, "I'm an artist, I can't do anything else, or it will interfere with my art." What we all are first is human, and it is our humility that should help us realize that *nothing* is above or beneath us. Any great idea we have — whether it be writing a book, sailing the ocean, or traveling to the moon — is neither less than nor greater than the simplicity of being able to feed, clothe, shelter, and care for ourselves.

As I said, everything is in the journey. I can totally relate to your desire to quit everything and take off into writing. But let me explain it like this: Last summer, I took my kids on a 30-day road trip through the South. I was so excited to go on that journey, but could you imagine if I decided to go on that trip without ever driving on a highway or without enough money to get through the 30 days? I probably never would have gotten out of New York City.

What I did to ensure a great journey was to plan ahead. I checked around for the best rates on car rentals, saved up for months beforehand, talked to my kids about where and what we might do, and made sure I could work part-time while we were away. These steps meant that our basic human needs would be covered no matter what happened over the 30 days. Our first destination was Orlando, and it wouldn't have been very memorable (in fact, it would have been miserable) if we spent the 18 hours getting there without eating, sleeping, or stopping to pee. I wanted to give my children the joy of knowing what a journey was, so we stopped many times along the way. We visited places where we didn't even know the name of the town; stopped into small mom and pop restaurants off the highway; spoke to countless locals that touched our hearts; drove down country roads when the highway would have been faster; and pulled over when the rainstorms of southern summer were too much. By the time we got to Orlando, we were filled with so many great experiences that the city became just another adventure rather than the main event.

Just the other day, as I was standing on the subway platform with my daughter, she said, "Mamma, remember that sweet tea we had in that BBQ place in North Carolina? That was the perfect tea!" Right there, I knew I had given my children the key to life: the knowledge that it's all about the journey and not the destination.

I wish you a slow and steady trip down this road. Remember that journeys often take time and planning. Don't jump into something until you are sure there is a landing pad at the bottom. I know it's hard when you feel like you're holding yourself back from chasing a dream, but the best journeys are the well-prepared ones.



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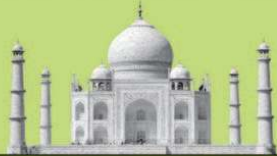
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Super Crossword

COUNTRY
MUSIC

ACROSS

- 1 Chartbusters
8 Farthest point in an orbit
14 Uncommon
20 Salary reductions
21 Child raiser
22 Add insult to injury, maybe
23 Question in 1 Corinthians 15:55
26 Europe-Asia border river
27 Wood splitter
28 Ski lift part
29 Prefix with lock
30 Supplicate on behalf of
35 — polloi (commoners)
37 Sermon topic
38 Suffix with Sudan
39 Massage
40 Old booming jet, for short
41 “— changed man!”
43 Designer Geoffrey
45 Salon colorists
47 “Is this actually happening?”
50 Oviedo locale
53 Situated over
56 Brine source

- 57 New Hampshire academy
58 “I’m going through the same thing!”
61 Shipping charge, e.g.
62 Steering part on a ship
63 Long (for)
64 Vikings’ org.
66 Refusing to be cheerful
71 Regarding
72 Agree
76 Pop’s mom
77 Actress Amy
79 SSNs, e.g.
80 Pressing tool
81 Fig treat from Nabisco
83 Seeming eternity
85 DNA-studying partner of James Watson
87 “My turn is coming right up”
91 He KO’d many rivals
93 Ball- — hammer
94 Forrest Gump player
95 “Quantum Leap” actor
98 Bend down
100 Abrupt
101 Body pouch

- 102 Secretive U.S. gp.
105 She bleats
106 Part of UCLA
109 33rd prez
110 Restaurant bill addition
112 Crucial component
116 Long (for)
118 Boyfriends, in Paris
120 Dir. opposite 7-Down
121 Viking org.
122 Tune whose opening lyric, and lyricist, begin eight answers in this puzzle
128 Motion detector part
129 Agee of the old Mets
130 Small eating alcove
131 Waiters take them
132 Like training at the location itself
133 Occupy fully

DOWN

- 1 Wedded partner
2 Chennai, before 1996
3 “Sure thing, cap’n!”

- 4 La — (Milan opera house)
5 Crude abode
6 Biblical verb suffix
7 NYC-to-Miami dir.
8 High points
9 Peeling tools
10 Raw metal
11 Allstate rival
12 Put into a hall of fame
13 Kett of old comic strips
14 — Gyra (jazz fusion band)
15 Prefix with gender
16 Utah ski spot
17 Slide in again
18 Go on with
19 Train operator
24 Barn feed
25 Cymbal pair in a drum kit
31 Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Hester
32 Feel remorse over
33 James — Garfield
34 Consumer protection agcy.
36 Wild Alpine goats
42 Soccer great Hamm

- 44 Summer, in Soissons
45 Royal crown
46 Worried
48 E-cig’s lack
49 Busy insect
50 Its capital is Damascus
51 16 ounces
52 Lindley of “The Ropers”
54 NYC stage awards
55 Small bunch of flowers
59 Spock and Seuss: Abbr.
60 Alternative to “his” or “her”
61 Go by plane
64 Nary a soul
65 Backyard borders
67 Open, as a present
68 Language of “mea culpa”
69 Be a rapper?
70 BoSox rivals
73 Freud’s “one”
74 Ensnare
75 “Cannon” has three
78 The Brady kids, e.g.
82 Restated
84 Gambling parlor, briefly
85 Chick- — -A
86 Prefix with lock
87 “No kidding?”

- 88 Artist known for illusions
89 Boston area with the Paul Revere statue
90 UFO crew
91 Alias abbr.
92 Find by chance
96 In line with
97 One or more
99 Be indebted
103 “Belt out that tune!”
104 She founded the U.S. Shakers
106 Crude abode
107 First phases
108 Long looks
111 Letter-shaped girders
113 PSATs, e.g.
114 “No kidding!”
115 Deep-seated
117 To be, to Claudius
119 Regarding
123 Blue Jays, on scoreboards
124 Abbr. for someone with only one given name
125 34th prez
126 Firewood box
127 Repub. west of Zambia

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LEGALS

5031 Eagle Street, LLC doing business as Eagle Street Plant, located at 5031 Eagle Street, Unit C, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306. 400 (a)(1)), license #26609. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Christopher N. Hayes 15%, Daniel H. Clift 24% and Robert E. Clift 61% to John Youse 70% and Tyler Russell 30%.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At jana@jdwcounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 5/05/22, 5/12/22, 5/19/22

Alaskan Boys, Inc. dba Avenue Bar located at 338 W. 4th Ave Anchorage, AK 99501 is applying for a transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to Alaskan Boys, Inc. This is a controlling interest transfer. The change in ownership involved the ownership interest transfer from Robert Shafer 50% interest, to Logan Rammell 100% interest. Interested persons should submit

LEGALS

written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/12/22, 5/19/22, 5/26/22

Baker Industries, LLC, doing business as Piece of Mind Alaskan Cannabis, located at 221 E. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306.300), license #10975 to 9 ¾ Enterprises, Inc. DBA Piece of Mind Alaskan Cannabis. Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At jana@jdwcounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/05/22, 5/12/22, 5/19/22

Hidden Farms LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.400(a)(1) for a new Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license, license #33144, doing business as Hidden Farms LLC, located at 10263 Nigh Road #6, Anchorage, AK, 99515, UNITED STATES. Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be

complete, the objection deadline and 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 or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/19/22, 5/26/22, 6/02/22

Manifest Destiny LLC dba BurgerFi located at 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard #118 Anchorage, Alaska is applying for a transfer of a restaurant eating place AS..11100 liquor license. The change of ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Raymond Kizer, 1% interest to Richard Hobbs 51% interest. Interested parties should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Avenue Suite 1600 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/19/22, 5/26/22, 6/02/22

NORTHERN HOSPITALITY GROUP II, INC is making application for a new package store, AS 04.11.150 package store license doing business as Prospectors Provisions located at 2415 C St, Anchorage, Ak, 99503. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/19/22, 5/26/22, 6/02/22

The Wedge Corp, dba The Rock Wood Fired Pizza & Spirits located at 3401 Penland Parkway, Anchorage, AK 99508 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to No Premises. 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 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/05/22, 5/12/22, 5/19/22

YELLOWSTONE INVESTMENTS, LLC located at no premises is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to NORTHERN HOSPITALITY GROUP II, INC. dba Prospectors Pizza located at 2415 C St, Anchorage, Ak, 99503. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 5/19/22, 5/26/22, 6/02/22

Savage, from page A6

It's either an annoying insecurity you won't be able to put up with, COCK, or your on-and-off-again boyfriend is fumbling the disclosure of a kink. Sometimes when people want to tell their partner about a kink—a long-standing kink or a recently-surfaced one—they'll frame it negatively. They'll point to a "crazy" porn clip they stumbled over or share a "gross" story about something a friend did, COCK, in the hopes that their partner will say, "Hey, I don't think that's crazy or gross, I think that's hot!" Since people tend to mirror the attitudes of important people in their lives, and since there's no more important person than a romantic partner, disclosing kinks like this—framing them negatively so you can deny any interest when your partner invariably reacts negatively—is a terrible strategy.

Anyway, your boyfriend is either bringing up his anxiety about the bigger dicks you had during your last "off," COCK, because he's desperately insecure and needs constant reassurance that he's not inadequate or because it turns him on to think about you being with men with bigger cocks and longs to be told that he is inadequate. To figure out what your boyfriend's issue actually is here—intolerable insecurity, eroticized insecurity—ask him a direct question: "You ask about other men with bigger dicks a lot. Does it turn you on to think about that?"

If the answer is yes, COCK, you might be able to make that work; a little dirty talk during sex about bigger guys you've been with, maybe a hall pass to go get some bigger dick once in a while. If the answer is no, tell him one last time that you've been with some bigger guys, yes, but you like his dick just fine, and you don't want to talk about it anymore. If he refuses to stop bringing it up, then it's off again.

questions@savagelove.net

Super Crossword

Answers

S	M	A	S	H	E	S		A	P	O	G	E	E		S	C	A	R	C	E
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Ukraine Stuns with Eurovision Song Contest Win

BY JOE SLOWINSKI

On Saturday night, Ukraine’s Kalush Orchestra won the 66th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest as the national audience vote totals catapulted them from 4th place to a dominating win over the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Spain. Ukraine was also victorious in the 2004 and 2016 events.

Support for Ukraine was evident as the broadcast opened with scores of musicians performing John Lennon’s *Give Peace a Chance*. Throughout the evening, many contestants and audience members held Ukrainian flags or made gestures and statements supporting the Ukrainian people.

Kalush Orchestra’s song entry, *Stefania*, pairs traditional folk music with hip hop dance and rap. During their final performance, founding member Oleh Psiuk adorned a pink Kanga-like bucket hat and sequined folk vest as he rapped out a tribute to his mother as Vlad Kurochka (aka MC Kilimnen) break danced on stage and Ihor Didenchuk played a traditional Ukrainian flute in their catchy winning tune.

The Eurovision Song Contest is best described as a conflation of national pride, eclectic musical artistry, kitsch choreography, and over-the-top costume designs paired intermittently with more familiar pop songs and ballads. As a spectacle, its popularity has surpassed a Europe audience and has led to the annual contest becoming a global sensation.

More than 183 million viewers watched Italian rock band Måneskin win the 65th Eurovision Song Contest last May. According to Nielsen, to illustrate the scope and size, Super Bowl LV drew 92 million viewers in 46.1 million households in the United States. This year’s contest likely surpassed 200 million viewers worldwide, potentially yielding its highest viewership numbers ever. In 2016, 204 million viewers watched Ukraine entry Jamala win the title at the Globen Arena in Stockholm, Sweden.

After starting as a small event, in Lugano, Switzerland, featuring just 7 nations, the Eurovision Song Contest has grown into a global phenomenon launching the careers of many global superstars. Sweden’s Abba was victorious in 1974. Canadian Céline Dion, representing Switzerland, won in 1988. Grease star Olivia Newton-John represented the United Kingdom in 1974. The largest-selling Latin music artist, Julio Iglesias represented Spain in 1970. Katrina and the Waves, representing the United Kingdom, walked on sunshine with their win in 1997.

The climax of the Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final evening is the post-performance anticipation that is fostered as the sharing of 40 national panels and televoting results are revealed to the live audience, one by one. Each nation’s votes convert to 12, 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 point totals for the top 10. Fifty percent of each nation’s vote comes from a national jury of musical professionals. The other half comes from the televote. After the national panels voting reveals, the United Kingdom led Sweden 293-258, with Spain at 231 points.

To maintain the suspense, after the national panel voting results are shared, the televote ranking points are revealed one by one in reverse order. Accordingly, each participating nation could earn a maximum of 480 points from the audience vote. When Ukraine earned a televote of 439 points, it was clear the residents of 39 European countries and Australia were sending a symbolic message of love and support to residents of Ukraine.

My first exposure to Eurovision was accidental one decade ago. I stumbled upon the Grande Final flipping through channels in May 2012. In my hotel room, in the Black Sea town of Constanța, Romania, I became enthralled with the entire experience as I watched Sweden’s Loreen win at the Crystal Hall in Baku, Azerbaijan. After moving back to the United States, I missed watching and was eager to have the opportunity to experience a Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final again.

NBC attempted to adapt a show for a USA audience with Snoop Dog and Kelly Clarkson hosting The American Song Contest. The show featured “live original musical performances, representing all 50 states, five U.S. territories and our nation’s capital, competing to win the country’s vote for the Best Original Song.” Stringing out the show over eight weeks diluted its potential. For their Grand Final show, on May 10th, a meager 1.97 million viewers watched K-Pop Singer AleXa, representing Oklahoma, take the first-ever title.

Disappointed with The American Song Contest, I was so happy that Peacock would be broadcasting the Eurovision Song Contest semis and final for a second consecutive year. To view all the performances and experience the extravaganza, stream the Grand Final on Peacock or view each individual performance on YouTube or Spotify.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CORINNE CUMMING/EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDRES PUTTING/EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION



PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH LOUISE BENNETT/EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

CANNAGUIDE

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Voted Best of Weed Maps
Budtender’s Choice \$40
1/8ths on Friday



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1.5g “Fat Boy” Prerolls

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Voodoo
930 Gambell St
(907) 865-8889

AK Joint Ventures
7801 Schoon St
(907) 522-5222

Green Growcer
301 E Dimond Blvd
(907) 312-8420

Mary Janes
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The Tree House
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Nearly a Quarter of Senate Members Send Bipartisan Letter Urging Congressional Leadership to Keep SAFE Banking in Pending Legislative Package

By NORML

A bipartisan group of 24 Senators stood up for public safety and for greater economic opportunities for legal cannabis businesses by sending a letter to leadership in both chambers of Congress asking them to include cannabis banking reform language in broad legislation currently being debated in conference committee.

In February, the House of Representatives approved a massive economic package called the America COMPETES Act, which contained an amendment from Rep. Ed Perlmutter to include the SAFE Banking Act in the legislation. The SAFE Banking Act language allows banks and other financial institutions to work with state-licensed cannabis-related businesses – something they are currently discouraged from doing. This is the sixth time that the House has approved this popular reform. The Senate, however, approved companion legislation that does not contain cannabis banking reform.

It is now up to a bicameral conference committee to reconcile the two versions in the coming weeks.

The letter, which was led by Senators Jackie Rosen (D-NV) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR), concludes: “Given the demonstrated broad support for this measure, we ask you to ensure that the text of the SAFE Banking Act remain in the forthcoming final conferenced version of the jobs and competitiveness bill when it comes to the House and Senate for final votes. This will help cannabis-related businesses, support innovation, create jobs, and strengthen public safety in our communities. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.”

NORML Political Director Morgan Fox said: “Getting bipartisan support for anything seems next to impossible these days, and Senators Rosen and Merkley should be commended for getting nearly a quarter of the upper chamber to publicly rally behind including SAFE Banking in this bill. This narrowly tailored language would help address outdated policy that is limiting opportunities for small businesses and costing lives. Lawmakers from across the political spectrum, as well as a majority of voters nationwide, have been calling for this legislation for years only to meet with inaction in the Senate. Given the pace of state-level legalization in recent years, Senators on this conference committee would do well to remember that even if their states might not be directly impacted now, this could very well benefit their constituents in the near future.”

The letter is co-signed by Senators Steve Daines (R-MT), Gary Peters (D-MI), Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Angus King (I-ME), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Patty Murray (D-WA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), and Chris Coons (D-DE).

According to the most recent financial information provided by the US Treasury Department, only about ten percent of all banks and only about four percent of all credit unions provide services to licensed cannabis-related businesses.

Nationwide polling, provided by Morning Consult in March, finds that 65 percent of respondents “support allowing cannabis businesses to access banking services (e.g., checking accounts, business loans) in states where cannabis is legal.” Moreover, 68 percent of Americans say that Congress should pass legislation so that marijuana businesses can “access banking services and products in states” where it is legal.

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(1) "MARIJUANA HAS INTOXICATING EFFECTS AND MAY BE HABIT FORMING AND ADDICTIVE." (2) "MARIJUANA IMPAIRS CONCENTRATION, COORDINATION, AND JUDGMENT. DO NOT OPERATE A VEHICLE OR MACHINERY UNDER ITS INFLUENCE." (3) "THERE ARE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA." (4) "FOR USE ONLY BY ADULTS TWENTY-ONE AND OLDER. KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN." (5) "MARIJUANA SHOULD NOT BE USED BY WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT OR BREAST FEEDING."

Putin is a dick!

How Anchorage's beer community is raising funds for Ukraine

BEER
BY JAMES "DR. FERMENTO" ROBERTS

Everyone has their own thoughts about what's going on in Ukraine. But, no one can deny that people over there need help. Beer can't blow MiGs out of the sky, feed the starving, or bury the dead, but it can help from afar, like it's doing right now, right here at home.

Sometimes the quickest way to a person's pocketbook is through their beer glass. Beer's a known commodity when it comes to fundraising. Not only is beer made and sold to support specific causes, it's also a people magnet and brings us all together.

There's an event Thursday evening that's worthy of your attendance, and even if it's not 100 percent about beer, beer's a big part of it. The money you spend to attend this rewarding event will provide direct financial aid to Doctors Without Borders. The organization is providing care and saving lives in Ukraine right now.

My awareness of the crisis in Ukraine didn't come from the TV set. My immersion came from my obsession with the New Yorker, a publication I read in multiple formats, many times a day. I'm not a news fanatic or zealot; I just love good writing, and the New Yorker provides some of the best of the best across multiple subjects, most of which I'd blow off when the subject matter's offered from other sources.

But I'm wasting column space talking about myself.

Faina Kronos was born and raised in Ukraine. She grew up, studied, and got her Master's Degree, then decided to travel. When I interviewed her about this event, I asked her how she ended up in Alaska seven years ago. I'm always fascinated by everybody's story about how they ended up in Alaska. In her straightforward but pleasant manner and alluring accent, "Alaska chose me," she said, almost cutting me off, and a very matter-of-fact "nuff said" response. I know what you mean, girl.

She talked about her deeply personal experience when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24. "I haven't seen them in seven years," she says of her father and step-mother, who are still in Kharkiv. "There was a moment of uncertainty that I'd never see them again. I spent the first weeks monitoring constantly. I was watching and reading everything and soaking up all of this horror. I got to thinking that this wasn't healthy for me; I was depressed and worried all the time," she said of trying to do something other than watch, hope, pray and grimace.

"My movement, my personal journey, started with attending protests in Anchorage and Juneau. Sure, that's great for raising awareness, but it doesn't have any tangible end result," she says. "You go home, and that's it. No changes have happened."

According to a press release, "On March 25, Olena Zyuba, with support of the Juneau World Affairs Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, held a fundraiser for Ukraine in Juneau. All funds raised went to UNICEF/Ukraine Mission. Kronos was in attendance and inspired by the event.

Wanting to do something closer to home, Kronos benchmarked Zyuba's organizational and fundraising prowess and brought the passion back to Anchorage. So, she rolled up her sleeves to host her own fundraising

event in conjunction with Matanuska Brewing Company owner, publican, and restaurateur Mat Tomter.

"I've got some employees that are Ukrainian and have lost touch with their family members. We have some super stressed-out employees over all of this. Faina Kronos got with me and said, 'I want to throw a fundraiser,'" says Tomter of his intro to the concept.

Tomter's purging all of the expensive Russian vodkas from his establishments after the invasion, and pouring it all down the drain, made him the perfect person to partner with.

"It was a no-brainer. 'I'm in,'" Tomter said without any hesitation. "What can we do, after all? This isn't about me, and it's not my event. I'm just donating the alcohol, which is our craft beer and cocktails. We're also running the bar, so we're doing a couple of things we're particularly good at," he says of openly supporting the noteworthy cause.

He's not alone.

"Ken Prestegard of Two Seasons Meadery is donating Kazimiera Mead, which uses Ukrainian Wildflower Honey. He's donating a case for consumption and a half case for the silent auction that's a big part of this event," says Kronos. "Greg at Mike's Quality Meats donated sixty pounds of meat: thirty pounds of beef and thirty pounds of pork for making the authentic all-Ukrainian dinner that's included with the entertainment. Colin Miller is the Executive Chef."

The outpouring has been phenomenal so far. "If I have to describe it, I'd say we've been 'generously spoiled' by what's been donated to make this successful," says Kronos.

Local bands Turnagain Blue, Tanana Rafters, and Fox in the Henhouse are living things up. Art Davidson is the keynote speaker.

But Kronos and Tomter aren't the only ones trying to provide relief for Ukraine.

"Pravda Brewery in Ukraine released all of their recipes and the art for their beer when they converted from making beer to making Molotov Cocktails in support of the war effort," Amber Jackson, one of the owners of Onsite Brewing Company, reminded me when I called her after learning about her brewery's efforts.

"They said if you do a beer, donate the proceeds, and we ended up doing their Golden Strong ale. Tom put his own little spin on it. We did two barrels and did a run of 500 cans; we sold a keg of it to Hearth and had it on here. It took three days to sell out, three hours to sell out of the cans, and we raised \$3,000 that we donated to UNICEF. Arctic Homebrewing donated the grain and some of the hops we didn't have," says Jackson, marveling over how incredibly people turned out to support the cause.

"Putin's a dick," says Magnetic North Brewing's owner/brewer Jeremiah Christian.

Christian says this plain and simple, and rather matter-of-factly, stating the obvious, sort of like how we all feel, right?

"Me and Stephan [Marty] over at Bleeding Heart Brewing [Palmer] were talking about barrel-aged pilsners. Zach [Lanphier] was there too. Zach's ex-marine and I was in the Navy. It was supposed to be an Italian pilsner. We were thinking about names. It was a few days into the invasion. We wanted to show Putin the middle finger, so we made this pilsner and called it Putin's a Dick," says Christian of the collaborative, artful creation.

The Devil's Apron, a benefit beer brewed by Turnagain Brewing Company is still available at La Bodega, or it was day before yesterday when I dashed in and grabbed a bottle of what's turned out to be one of the best beers I've had so far this year, Ukraine aside.

invite you to be your extravagant, idiosyncratic, interesting self to the max. But also be sure to eat healthy food, engage in pleasurable exercise, and get plenty of rejuvenating sleep—preferably in a comfortable bed rather than on a park bench.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

The Uberfacts Twitter account informs me that if you were to consume the amount of food equivalent to what a hummingbird eats, you would eat 300 hamburgers or 7,800 cabbages per day. To match the amount of exercise a hummingbird gets while burning all those calories, you'd have to do approximately 37 bazillion jumping jacks. You will never do this, of course. But in the coming weeks, you may be more metaphorically hungry than usual. I predict you will be voracious for new information and novel experiences and fresh ideas. Not 300 hamburgers or 7,800 cabbages' worth—but still, a lot. My advice: Have fun being insatiably curious and greedy for stimulation.



"Last fall, a professor at UAA came by and wanted to do mushroom beers, says Turnagain Brewing Company owner Ted Rosenzweig.

"He's Russian and of Russian origin, and he got kelp from the White Sea. It's Laminaria Kelp. We did a test batch scaled it up, aged it in bourbon barrels, and made a sour beer. His wife is half Russian/Ukrainian. All of the stars aligned, the beer, the beer was ready, and we thought, 'why don't we do it as a benefit for the World Central Kitchen that's over there feeding Ukrainian refugees?'" said Rosenzweig of the project.

The label was designed by graphic artists in Kyiv, friends of the professor's wife, who commissioned them to draw it up.

"It was a two-prong benefit. One was all draft sales that went to the relief organization. A portion of wholesale profits went to it too, and then we had a tip jar. We had a lot of very generous people show up. The beer all went very quickly. People were buying it by the case of big bomber bottles. We were really happy to do something. For a little brewery, we raised a lot of money and we gave our profit for it to a vetted, reliable, charitable organization," he says.

Another beer available is Midnight Sun Brewing Company's Putin's Paper Tiger. It was released a couple of weeks ago. This is a big ass, bodacious imperial stout, an "anti-Kremlin stout," as described by marketing director Grant Duessing.

This beer is the antithesis of a paper tiger, which by definition appears outwardly powerful, but is really inwardly weak (think Putin). Paper Tiger is not just outwardly attractive. It's inwardly powerful. This delicious, multi-faceted dark beer bomb is not only swirling with everything tumultuous and brooding. Drink a whole 22-ounce bomber bottle of it, and you'll get your ass kicked. It weighs in at 14-percent alcohol by volume.

There are other breweries out there in their own communities and in their own way are contributing to the defense, humanitarian, and relief efforts for Ukraine. So, keep your mug to the wall.

The Anchorage Friends of Ukraine, in partnership with the Arctic Rec Center, Matanuska Brewing Company, and Co-Work by RSD, are hosting the event which includes dinner and a silent auction. The event will be held at the Arctic Recreation Center at 4855 Arctic Blvd, at 6pm. Advance tickets are \$100. Tickets for couples are \$175, and single tickets are \$125 at the door. Buy tickets, and if you can't afford them, do the right thing and at least make a donation at centerak.org/events.

Astrology, from page A14

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)

Aquarian poet Jack Gilbert devoted himself to soulful beauty. I swooned when I first read his line, "We must unlearn the constellations to see the stars." I cried for joy when he said, "We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world." On the other hand, I suspect Jack may have been overly consumed with his pursuit of lyrical moments. His girlfriend Linda Gregg said, "All Jack ever wanted to know was that he was awake—that the trees in bloom were almond trees—and to walk down the road to get breakfast. He never cared if he was poor or had to sleep on a park bench." I bring this up, dear Aquarius, hoping you will avoid Gilbert's lack of attention to practical matters. In the coming weeks, I

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(A) Sour Diesel

(B) Blue Magoo

(C) Black Sugar

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