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O'HARA SHIPE SHOTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Cheers to brighter days!

BY O'HARA SHIPE

According to Celtic lore, Summer Solstice is the one time of the year that evil spirits and demons could be banished. In honor of the holiday, Celts would light bonfires and send wheels of fire cascading down hillsides. To encourage luck, lovers would jump through the flames of the bonfires before engaging in feasts and dancing. All in all, Summer Solstice represented a time for renewal.

While modern wisdom indicates that jumping through flames and sending burning wheels of death down hillsides is not advisable, the spirit of celebrating the new season in grand fashion is relatable. Many of us have experienced incredible darkness with the tragic loss of friends and family over the last two years. On a personal note, I have struggled to manage my own depression amid the cataclysmic events unfolding around the world. For anyone battling depression, I am sure you can relate to the frustration that comes with being engulfed in paralyzing sadness while the sun is vibrantly shining outside.

But June 21 marks a new chance – a new opportunity to find the happiness we lost along the way. And this year, there are so many wonderful ways to let music and the companionship of complete strangers buoy you to a happier place. After all, there is strength in numbers.

From Friday, June 17 to Sunday, June 19, Showdown Productions' Solstice Festival will bring 24 musical acts from around the country to the streets of Anchorage. The lineup featuring Ferg, Hippie Sabotage, Brother Ali, Chet Porter, and Flosstradamus, has been carefully curated to make you dance.

On Saturday, June 18, the Anchorage Downtown Partnership is hosting its annual Summer Solstice Festival. Dancing, live music, yard games, food trucks, an arts market, and family-friendly fun promises to warm even the hardest of hearts.

For the outdoors-minded, there's the Anchorage Mayor's Marathon, Slam'n Salm'n Derby, and of course, a hike up Flattop is an annual tradition.

However you choose to celebrate, I hope this weekend ushers in luck, good fortune, and immense happiness.

Happy Solstice!

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Arctic terns, champion long-distance flyers

Midsummer in Anchorage is a raucous time among the city's lakes and along its coastal perimeters, as the eggs of songbirds, shorebirds, seabirds, and waterfowl hatch and avian offspring make the rapid transition from nestling to fledgling.

With families to watch and feed and protect, now is the brief but exhausting time of aggressive parenting. And



CITY WILDS
BY BILL
SHERWONIT

among the water birds that seasonally inhabit Anchorage's landscape, there is no more protective parent than the Arctic tern. They are fierce defenders of their young, as anyone who's approached their nesting grounds can attest. Over the years I have seen them fearlessly attack gulls, ravens, humans, a northern harrier, and even a crane that came too close to nesting grounds.

Long fascinated by the ferocity and beauty of these amazing long-distance flyers, I once walked the Anchorage

Coastal Wildlife Refuge's sedge and mud flats, determined to seek further glimpses into the lives of Arctic terns.

Crossing a meadow of sedges, I skirted some ponds inhabited by several families of Canada geese, mallards, and American widgeon, while goslings and ducklings clustered about their parents on an early morning swim. Gulls screeched loudly as they circled and swooped above the ponds and their green perimeters, while families of violet-green swallows cut arcs through the calm air in their hunt for insects. In the distance, a fuzzy, gangly sandhill crane chick—already bigger than an adult goose—followed its parents, mimicking their slow, deliberate pace.

A hundred yards away or more, a couple of Arctic terns hovered over one of the small tidal guts that wind through the mudflats. I sat upon the bleached trunk of a cottonwood carried here by Cook Inlet tides and watched the terns through binoculars. They are such handsome, streamlined birds, which seem to carry themselves through the air with effortless grace on their slender wings.

Such flying talent is needed for their remarkable migrations. Arctic terns are the world's long-distance flying champs; some members of their species make annual migratory flights between the high Arctic and the Antarctic, a round-trip distance of nearly 25,000 miles.

The evidence compiled by researchers suggests that terns take offshore, "oceanic" routes both north and south. Exactly where, or how often, they stop to rest or feed is largely unknown. In high winds they tend to travel low, right along wavetops; in calmer weather, they may fly hundreds of feet — and perhaps higher — above ocean waters.

Arctic terns leave Antarctica in March and begin to arrive in southernmost Alaska in the latter half of April. Researchers say they breed throughout the state's coastal areas, from the southernmost Panhandle to the Arctic Coast, and west out the Aleutians. They breed inland as well, though their interior distribution is not as well documented.

According to Buzz Scher's "Field Guide to Birding in Anchorage," terns that spend their summers locally arrive from late April into early May. Mates will breed sometime in May and chicks hatch in June, reaching the fledgling stage in July. Most parents and offspring will then begin their southern migrations sometime between late July and mid-August.

While I watched the terns, one flew in and perched on a nearby piece of driftwood. This gave me an excellent opportunity to admire the tern's sleek form, its black cap and striking blood-red bill and feet, which contrast so sharply with the white cheeks, neck and breast, the pale gray wings and back.

After several minutes, the bird lifted off and headed farther out onto the mudflats, where it joined another hovering tern. Mates, perhaps, engaged in hunting. I decided to follow. In a matter of moments, an alert was sounded. The two terns approached, yelling loudly in shrill, raspy voices.

Soon other terns joined the couple. I counted a handful, then 10, then a dozen. It seemed they had appeared out of nowhere. I must have been getting close—but to what? I can't imagine that terns would try to raise a family out on the mudflats, where the inlet's highest tides would swamp their nests. Research suggests that they will sometimes defend feeding territory. Is that what was going on?



My walk onto the mudflats was shortened when a pair of terns started dive-bombing me. Now uttering clicking sounds, the birds aimed straight for my head, then lifted or swerved at the last moment. Occasionally they swooped in close enough for me to hear the whoosh of their fast-moving bodies.

Arctic terns have been known to defecate on intruders and peck heads or hands uplifted to ward them off, sometimes drawing blood. In his pocket field guide "Alaska's Birds," author Bob Armstrong reported once being hit in the forehead by a tern. "It hit, drew blood, and made me more cautious," he advised.

I quickly retreated back to the cottonwood. Almost immediately, the terns dispersed. Content to keep my distance, I scanned the coastal flats. Though some terns continued flying across the mudflats, others hovered above the pond, hunting sticklebacks and sculpins.

There is magic in the way a tern hunts. Hovering in place, with its long, forked tail spread wide for balance, the bird lifts its wings high above the body and beats them rapidly. Seen from below, the body is mostly white. And in that hovering whiteness, with the blood-red beak and black skullcap, the bird becomes a heavenly apparition.

If angelic, however, the tern is undoubtedly an angel of death. Sometimes hovering at 30 feet, other times just a few feet above the water, the tern zeroes in on its prey. Closing its wings, it then goes into a dive and plunges into the water with a splash.

Terns also feed by skimming the water, delicately picking prey at or near its surface. If successful at either plunge or skim methods, the bird emerges with a fish, or insect, or crustacean, which it quickly swallows—or carries to its mate or young.

There may be no better place locally to watch Arctic terns hunt and raise their families than Potter Marsh, where they can be observed from either roadside pull-

outs or the boardwalk. Through binoculars, I've watched terns circle and loop, heads down as they search for food. Finding it, they hover and dive, or skim gracefully across the water, opening and dipping their beaks.

On one memorable occasion, I watched terns lift from the water several times with small fish crosswise in their bills. Each time the birds circled and set down behind a wall of reeds. Were they feeding their families?

Seeking a different angle, I walked some distance along the Seward Highway. Sure enough, at my new vantage point, I saw two young terns perched on a log, 50 yards or more from the road. In between feedings, they preened their feathers, stretched and flapped their wings. From this distance, their plumage didn't look much different than their parents' and I wondered how close they were to flying.

The answer came a few minutes later when the fledgling terns joined their parents in flight. Aloft, the youngsters were clearly less streamlined than the adults. Their tails were shorter and less forked, their head caps a mottled black, and their bodies showed more grays and browns.

The fledglings returned to the log after a brief test flight. It would be a while yet before they were ready to hover and hunt.

The adults continued flying, looking for more food. And ever the protective parents, they would screech and dive-bomb and harass whatever stranger came too close to their young until the entire family was prepared to fly south together.

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.

Bruce's Law, named for Anchorage overdose victim, seeks to increase fentanyl awareness

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

A U.S. Senate bill named after an Alaska victim of fentanyl seeks to inform the public about how that deadly synthetic opioid is often a secret ingredient of other illicit drugs used recreationally.

The goal is to create greater public awareness of fentanyl, a drug that is 50 times as deadly as heroin and 100 times as deadly as morphine, said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the bipartisan bill's Republican lead sponsor. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California is the Democratic lead sponsor.

The bill, called Bruce's Law, is named after Robert Bruce Snodgrass, a 22-year-old Anchorage resident who died last October from a fentanyl overdose.

"Bruce was a good kid. . . But like many good kids, he struggled with alcoholism. He struggled with drug addiction," Murkowski said in a brief June 8 address on the Senate floor, with Snodgrass' mother Sandy watching from the gallery.

Murkowski said the bill is a "starting point" in boosting education, awareness and response.

"We have to start because we have such a serious problem on our hands. We know we have it in Anchorage where Bruce Snodgrass likely never knew that he was taking a drug laced with fentanyl," she said.

The bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to start a public education and awareness campaign that focuses on the dangers of fentanyl contamination in other drugs, along with youth prevention and addiction detection, a statement from Murkowski's office said.

It would also authorize the department to establish a Federal Interagency Working Group on Fentanyl Contamination, which would work on ways to improve responses to overdoses of fentanyl-laced drugs and come up with recommendations for youth education, the statement said.

And the bill would authorize new grants for community-based coalitions to pay for youth education on this specific subject, the statement said.

In her floor comments, Murkowski went over information about the lethality of fentanyl. A lethal dose — ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin — can be as small as 2 milligrams, a volume the size of a pencil tip, she said. In comparison, she said, a typical packet of sweetener at a restaurant holds 1,000 milligrams.

Murkowski also pointed to some dire statistics in Alaska.



Of all states, Alaska had the highest jump in overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021, a 75% increase, according to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alaska opioid deaths specifically increased by 71% over the same period, Murkowski said in her speech. Of those opioid deaths, the majority involved fentanyl, she said.

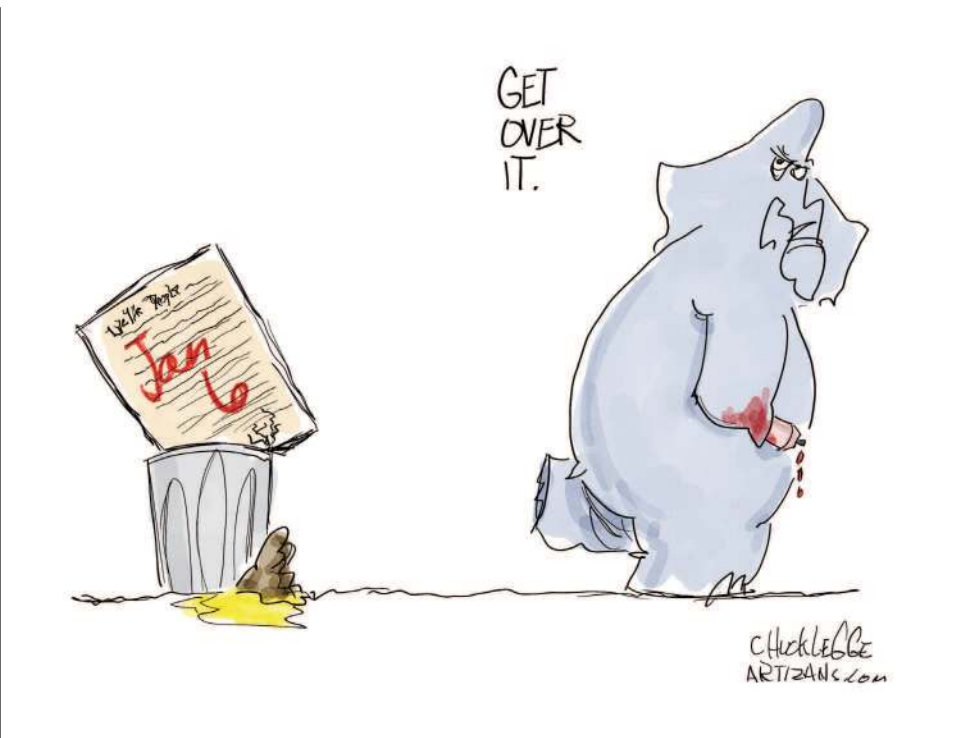
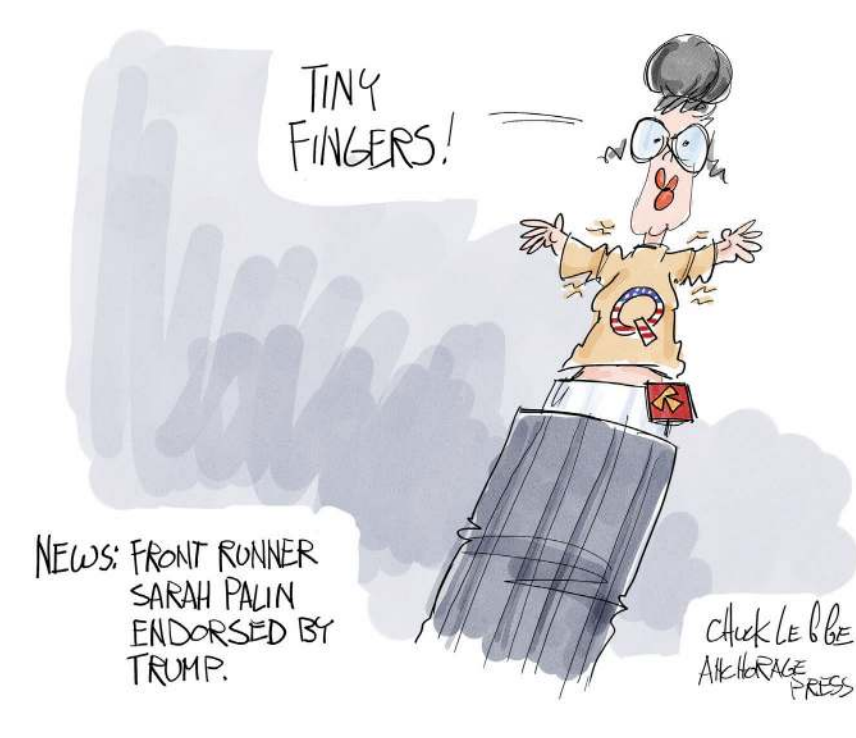
She cited law-enforcement statistics, too. Within a month's period, the Alaska State Troopers and police departments in Wasilla and Palmer reported six deaths and at least 17 other overdose cases in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough from a lethal batch of heroin, according to a trooper dispatch. Recent law-enforcement efforts have resulted in seizures of thousands of fentanyl-laced pills.

In three months, the amount of fentanyl seized in Alaska could have killed 84 percent of the state's population, Murkowski said in her speech.

"This is awful. This is a tragedy at every level," she said.

Joining Murkowski and Feinstein are two bill co-sponsors Alaska Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Maggie Hassan, a New Hampshire Democrat.

Aside from Bruce's Law, Murkowski and several other lawmakers in the Senate and House have urged makers of naloxone, an overdose-reversal medicine, to apply for over-the-counter status for their product so that it is more widely available, said Hannah Ray, a spokeswoman for the senator.



Palin and Begich win big in bid to replace Young but the final outcome will be decided in November

BY TIM BRADNER

The big wins were by conservatives in the June 11 special mail-in primary election to replace Alaska Cong. Don Young, who passed away on March 18. But the results weren't a surprise for election-watchers.

Former Gov. Sarah Palin was the big vote-getter with 29.7-percent of the mail-in ballots cast. Conservative Nick Begich received 19.3-percent of the votes. Money had rolled into both campaigns, in Palin's case mostly from out of state.

Late ballots received in the mail were still being counted on June 12, but the results were clear. About 139,000 ballots had been received as of last week, but more are still trickling in.

Two political moderates, Al Gross, a former U.S. Senate candidate, and Mary Peltola, a former state House member from Bethel, netted 12.7-percent and 7-percent, respectively, of the votes cast.

These are the top four winners among 48 on the ballot in the state's first "ranked-choice" election under a new voting system. The top four go to a final runoff in the August primary election. The winner will finish out Young's term, which ends in January. Candidates are also contending in the regular primary election for Young's full two-year term. Palin, Begich, Gross, and Peltola are also on that ballot. The top four will again be ranked with the final selection in the November general election.

Meanwhile, the new ranked-choice system also applies to the governor's race, the U.S. Senate, and all legislative races. Although for legislature races, the candidate filings seem on par with past years, with several races uncontested, usually with the incumbent on the ballot, and most with two or three candidates. As most legislative races have four or fewer candidates, under ranked-choice voting, all will go on to the November general election.

The House and Senate seats filings in the Mat-Su delegation included all incumbents. Senators Shelley Hughes,

David Wilson, and Mike Shower, all Republicans, are seeking reelection. Veteran state House members like Reps. Cathy Tilton, DeLena Johnson, and David Eastman are also seeking new terms. Rep. Chris Kurka is not running for reelection because he is running for governor in opposition to Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

What's notable in the legislative races are retiring veterans. Sen. Peter Micciche, R-Kenai, who was Senate President in the two-year Legislature ending in January, as well as Sen. Tom Begich, D-Anch., who was Minority Leader in the Senate, will both be concluding their political careers.

On the House side, House Majority leader Rep. Chris Tuck, D-Anch. is also retiring. Tuck is also known for consensus-building seeking to "reach across the aisle" to build coalitions of support for crucial bills.

Other departures this year include Sens. Natasha von Imhof, R-Anch. and Lora Reinbold, R-Eagle River.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, D-Anch., is also not running. A moderate left-leaning Democrat, Spohnholz is considered a capable legislator who worked with Republicans, such as on health care legislation enacted this year.

However, some veterans remain. Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak, a political moderate who has twice been President of the Senate, could be in the next Legislature. Veteran Sens. Click Bishop, R-Fairbanks, and Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, are also seeking reelection.

Several House members are running for the Senate, creating openings for newcomers in the House. Redistricting this year has also put some legislators facing each other, such as in Anchorage, where Democratic Reps. Harriet Drummond and Zack Fields are now in the same House District.

An important Senate race is the rematch in Anchorage between former Senate President Cathy Giessel and Sen. Roger Holland, both Republicans. Holland defeated Giessel in the last election over her support for a modest Permanent Fund Dividend, or one that would not drain the treasury.

Another key Senate race is on the Kenai Peninsula, where Tuckerman Babcock, a Republican activist, hopes to win the seat being vacated by Peter Micciche. Babcock is con-



troversial among Republicans and, because of that, may be divisive among Senate Republicans if he wins.

To those in the current Legislature, the partisan lineups in both the House and Senate appear similar. Republicans are in control in the Senate, and there is likely to be a larger Republican majority in the House. The question in the House is whether conservative Republicans will hold enough seats to organize that body or whether there will be enough moderate Republicans to again form a coalition with Democrats.

Dunleavy's hurried Nenana agriculture land auction is a campaign stunt, an invitation to bankruptcy for the unprepared

Just in time for his reelection campaign, Gov. Mike Dunleavy has thrown together an agricultural "plan" for Nenana that would be more accurately described as an invitation for bankruptcy for those who buy undeveloped state land at 5 percent down and dream of an agrarian future.

The Dunleavy "plan" is founded on the simplistic notion that we need to do something right now about "food security," the catchphrase of the day. If you want the cartoon version of agricultural development in Alaska, Dunleavy's trying to sell it.

"Greetings fellow Alaskans, Americans, & farmers of the world," the Dunleavy administration says. "Alaska is a land of abundant natural resources and with those resources, a land with great opportunities."

In its greetings to "farmers of the world," the administration says the project "will be planned using science," but



BY DERMOT COLE

there is no reason to believe that is the case.

The sales brochure released by the state does not constitute an agricultural plan or suggest that anything is feasible. It merely documents a process to unload 27 parcels of state land on the highest bidders, which is the easiest thing in the world. This sale of about 2,000 acres is supposed to be the first of many over the next 30 years, totaling 100,000 acres.

Promoting agriculture in Alaska is a good idea. Promoting food security is a good idea. A coherent plan that shows what level of investment would make this work is a good idea. Learning the lessons from past failures of projects to promote Alaska agriculture is a good idea. This slapdash sale, rushed to meet the demands of the Dunleavy campaign, is not a good idea.

The state website in which Dunleavy addresses "farmers of the world," says the "global design/phase plan" will not be ready until September, so the state is seeking bids before the bidders know the "global design."

The dream of building a farm industry in Nenana has been around for decades, more than enough time to understand the enormous challenges, the need for infrastructure and the gap between the myth promoted by Dunleavy and the difficult reality.

The cover of the brochure features an expensive tractor, which would cost more than the land, tilling a field in the imaginary future of the Nenana project.

Putting undeveloped land out for auction at low prices is not going to do a thing for food security because Dunleavy and Co. have failed to look at the complex factors that will cripple those who don't have enormous sums they are willing to spend.

The Nenana plan is not about growing or creating a new industry in Nenana—it's about trying to create some more votes for Dunleavy with a flimflam operation that makes the Valdez grain terminal look like a sound investment.

The minimum bids on the 27 parcels are supposedly set at the appraised value of the properties, many of which are in the range of \$170 to \$500 an acre.

Under "survey and appraisals" for each parcel, the state lists the survey, but no appraisal. The state document says there are no utilities to the properties.

The appraisal review is available online, but I

can't find the appraisal under review. The reviewer of the appraisals did not inspect the properties or comparable sales, if there were any. This is the final plat.

Dunleavy, continued on page A16

COMICS ARE FOR EVERYONE!

A cartoon illustration of a man sitting in a chair, reading a comic book. A woman and a child are sitting on a ladder next to him, also looking at comic books. The ladder is leaning against a shelf filled with more comic books.

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What experience, feeling, or situation do you want the most?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

“The whole point for me is to change as much as possible,” says Aries actor Keira Knightley. What?! Is she serious? Her number one aspiration is to keep transforming and transforming and transforming? I guess I believe her. It’s not an entirely unexpected manifesto coming from an Aries person. But I must say: Her extra



bold approach to life requires maximum resilience and resourcefulness. If you think that such an attitude might be fun to try, the coming weeks will be one of the best times ever to experiment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Taurus poet May Sarton relished “the sacramentalization of the ordinary.” What a wonderfully Taurean attitude! There is no sign of the zodiac better able than you Bulls to find holiness in mundane events and to evoke

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

divine joy from simple pleasures. I predict this specialty of yours will bloom in its full magnificence during the coming weeks. You will be even more skillful than usual in expressing it, and the people you encounter will derive exceptional benefits from your superpower.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Here’s a message I hope you will deliver to the Universe sometime soon: “Dear Life: I declare myself open and ready to receive miracles, uplifting news, fun breakthroughs, smart love, and unexpected blessings. I hope to be able to give my special gifts in new and imaginative ways. I am also eager for useful tips on how to express my dark side with beauty and grace. One more perk I hope you will provide, dear Life: Teach me how to be buoyantly creative and sensitively aggressive in asking for exactly what I need.”

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22)

In August 2021, a Canadian man named Jerry Knott bought a ticket for a lottery. He stuffed it in his wallet and lost track of it. Two months later, he found it again and checked to see its status. Surprise! It was a winner. His prize was \$20 million. I propose we make him your role model for now, my fellow Crabs. Let’s all be alert for assets we may have forgotten and neglected. Let’s be on the lookout for potentially valuable resources that are ripe for our attention.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

Hundreds of years ago, people in parts of Old Europe felt anxiety about the Summer Solstice. The sun reached its highest point in the sky at that time, and from then on would descend, bringing shorter and shorter days with less and less light. Apprehensive souls staged an antidote: the festival of Midsummer. They burned great bonfires all through the night. They stayed awake till morning, partying and dancing and having sex. Author Jeanette Winter-son expresses appreciation for this holiday. “Call it a wild perversity or a wild optimism,” she writes, “but our ancestors were right to celebrate what they feared.” Winterson fantasizes about creating a comparable ceremony for her fears: “a ritual burning of what is coward in me, what is lost in me. Let the light in before it is too late.” I invite you to do something like this yourself, Leo.

Astrology, continued on page A16



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Baddy Dom

I’m a 29-year-old bisexual woman in a non-mo-nogamous relationship. A few years ago, I wanted to explore my submissive side and met up with a Dom I connected with on a kink site. We had a few drinks and hit it off. We discussed what we were comfortable with and our limits beforehand. I set a few hard limits. In the middle of our first play session, he tried to renegotiate those limits. I said no a few times, but he kept asking and I eventually gave in. I should have ended it there, but it was my first time in a D/s situation, and I think he took advantage of that. The experience left me feeling terrible, but I didn’t communicate that to him at the time and just ended up ghosting him. I have since found a terrific and loving Dominant partner who has thankfully helped me explore my kinks in a way that makes me feel safe and



SAVAGE LOVE BY DAN SAVAGE

cared for, and I know now that a good Dom ALWAYS respects limits, especially in the middle of play. Recently, I have seen this bad Dom on a few different dating apps and I’ve been thinking about sending him a message letting him know that what he did was wrong. I also worry that more women are going to have their boundaries violated by this guy. Will anything good come from this or should I just let it go?

—Bitterly Debating Sending Message

You were an inexperienced sub when you played with this guy, BDSM, but you don’t say whether he was similarly inexperienced. But even if we give him the benefit of the doubt—even if he didn’t know that attempting to renegotiate limits during a scene is never okay—you have every right to be angry.

“When it comes to D/s dating, the question is almost never about a person’s intentions but rather about the effect,” said Lina Dune, host of the Ask a Sub podcast. “Even if this guy didn’t mean to put BDSM in this awful situation—which, let’s be real, challenging someone’s limits is as fundamentally red-flaggy as it gets—he still did that and BDSM’s feelings matter.”

Since you wound up having to ghost this guy, BDSM, I assume that means he continued to contact you expecting to play again. Which means he either didn’t realize he’d done something wrong, BDSM, or he hoped that you, an inexperienced sub, would continue to submit to his manipulative bullshit, i.e., the consent violations he tried to pass off as consent-seeking “renegotiations” once play had started.

“The burden is never on the victim of bad behavior to change the perpetrator,” said Dune. “But if it would make BDSM feel better to dash off a quick message to him about the definition of ‘hard limits’ and explain how destabilizing it can be for a sub for a Dom to switch things up like this mid-scene, or challenge limits in general, I don’t see the harm.”

If this guy is a bad Dom—if he’s a truly shitty person who can’t be trusted—hearing from you isn’t going to magically turn him into a safe and trustworthy Dom. But it might make you feel better, BDSM, and who knows? Maybe he’ll start to worry about his reputation. After all, you can do more than talk to him... you can talk about him. Now, if he’s the kind of shitty Dom who preys on inexperienced subs, he may not care what people in the kink scene think of him. But if by sharing the details of your lousy first kink experience—here in my column or elsewhere—you inspire other newbie subs to avoid this guy and/or immediately end a scene if some other shitty Dom pulls the same crap, it’ll have been worth the effort.

Lina Dune runs the BDSM meme page @askasub on Instagram, where she gives D/s relationship advice and serves as fairy submother to her 100K followers. She recently released an online course about dating for subs, which is available at www.askasub.com/subsurvivalguide.

My husband and I were at a kink event that required pronouns under scene names. My husband is a cross-dresser and wants “he/him” pronouns used when he is presenting as a boy and “she/her” pronouns to be used when he’s presenting as a girl. He does not want to use “they/them.” I suggested he go with “he/she,” but he doesn’t think “he/she” is an appropriate option because he wants people to use



the pronouns assigned to what he is presenting as. He doesn’t want to be insensitive to those whose presentation isn’t obviously binary but feels it is obvious when he’s presenting as either masculine or feminine and that it should be easy for people to use the pronouns he would prefer without having to specify them. How do you opt out and ask people to read your current “presenting gender” and apply traditional pronouns in the moment?

—Helping Everyone Seeking Help Everywhere

Are we talking nametags here? Because if we’re talking nametags, HESHE, then your husband can wear a “he/him” nametag when he’s presenting as a man and “she/her” nametag when he’s presenting as a woman. But if this is a kink event run by anal weirdos who require attendees to preregister their scenes and list the names of all players involved in those scenes and itemize the pronouns those players intend to use during their scenes and stick to those pronouns under threat of expulsion... then your husband will just have to pick a team, i.e., pick the gender he will present as that night and the pronouns that go with it.

I am a white American cis-gendered paramilitary-looking heterosexual-seeming guy who happens to be in a polyamorous relationship. In the kink community, I am considered a “service top.” I enjoy group sex with my partner and in a group sex setting I will sometimes play with other men. But I am not interested in playing with men outside of those hyper-sexual situations. How am I supposed to identify? I ask because for those of us who grew up in the 1990s, a person was considered gay if he performed even a single gay act. I am comfortable/confident in myself, and if a guy wants to mess around with me during group sex, I figure it doesn’t hurt me any to make him feel good. I would rate these experiences on the positive side of neutral. I worry that using terms like “heteroflexible” or “mostly straight” contributes to bisexual erasure but calling myself bisexual seems appropriate because I can walk through life with all this heterosexual privilege. I would like to identify as bi because I think it helps normalize it but somehow don’t feel like I make the cut. If you could help me out, I would really appreciate it.

—Just Oppressed Enough

I think you’re perfectly entitled to identify as bisexual, JOE. But just to be sure, I got a second opinion from Zachary Zane, the bisexual sex-advice columnist for Men’s Health.

“I often receive questions from bi folks who don’t feel ‘queer’ enough to claim a bisexual label,” said Zane. “Typically, I hear this from cisgender women married to straight cis men who haven’t experienced the same level of oppression as, say, femme gay men in relationships with nonbinary individuals.”

But your own personal experience with oppression—or your lack thereof—doesn’t invalidate your queerness or disqualify you from identifying as bisexual.

“How sad is it that our understanding of queer identity is inextricably linked and dependent on having experienced oppression,” said Zane. “That is so wildly fucked up. Being queer and/or bisexual is about your attraction to genders,” and not about being or feeling oppressed.

“So I would say yes, JOE can identify as bisexual because he enjoys, in certain situations, playing sexually with men,” said Zane. “At the same time, I think JOE can and should also acknowledge his privilege from how he presents—which he’s already doing, and should continue doing—and hopefully, he will use that privilege to support other bisexuals who don’t experience the same hetero-presenting privileges he does.”

Zachary Zane is the co-author of Men’s Health Best Sex. Ever. Follow him on Twitter @ZacharyZane.

questions@savagelove.net



Tex-Mex with a Twist

On the Boarder brings fresh eats to Tikahtnu Commons

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

Anchorage is full of diverse dining options, but nothing seems to garner as much hype and anticipation as the opening of a brand-new chain restaurant. Many franchises have migrated north over the years to stake a claim in Alaska’s largest metropolitan area, but this latest newcomer is looking to shake things up with their signature take on Tex-Mex and margaritas.

On The Border, recognized as the world’s largest Mexican casual dining brand, has finally opened its doors in the Tikahtnu Commons this past Wednesday. I had the opportunity to interview owner and restaurateur Jack Lewis to gain insight into what inspired him to usher in this new franchise and what sets On The Border apart from the competition.

For years, Lewis has been a major player in the Anchorage dining scene after getting his start by opening Sourdough Mining Company back in 1984. Since then, he’s gone on to open and manage an empire’s worth of restaurants, both chain and local alike — Peanut Farm, Krispy Kreme, and Firetap Alehouse, just to name a few.

As Lewis’s enterprises struggled to endure the pandemic along with the rest of the food industry, he took the opportunity to re-examine his foothold in the Tikahtnu Commons.

“Here was an opportunity to change what was a 13-year-old concept out there. Even though Firetap Alehouse in South Anchorage does extremely well, I wanted to have more of a larger national presence in the big destination mall, so to speak,” said Lewis. “I began a search of what might be missing out there, and we have some wonderful Mexican restaurants all around Anchorage, but I was looking for something with a little different twist.”

At the start, there were several different options floating around in Lewis’s mind. But it wasn’t until he visited On The Border near Boston, Massachusetts, that he was completely

sold on the concept. The twist he was searching for was found in the brand’s focus on wood fire grilling — a technique Lewis happens to have a personal affinity for.

“All the meats: the chicken, the barbacoa, the brisket, the beef, all the flank steak, it all comes off that mesquite grill,” said Lewis. “I’ve got bags and bags of mesquite wood in the back kitchen right now getting ready as we begin practicing and testing all the equipment.”

While the rest of the food service industry may have grown to rely more on prepackaged goods in recent years, many of the food items available at On The Border are not only made in-house daily, but around the clock. The company’s commitment to freshness and bold flavors played a significant role in the rigorous training program that Lewis and his staff underwent in Dallas, TX.

Even On The Border’s tortillas are pressed by hand — a claim many similar restaurants can’t afford to make. The kitchen staff takes individual dough balls to flatten on an industrial sized tortilla press before they’re hauled away for use in a variety of applications, such as to go along with sizzling hot fajitas. Their tortilla chips are also fried on the premises and can be seen accompanying their made-to-order, tableside guacamole.

On The Border’s belief in transparency extends to the building’s layout, as a large portion of their kitchen operation is purposefully exposed for diners to see. The newly renovated interior boasts stark contrasts in terms of color and lighting, along with beautifully handcrafted color tiles lining tall ceilings. Furthermore, Lewis took cues from a company initiative he referred to as “bringing back the bar,” which resulted in the bar area being expanded to take up nearly half the dining space in an effort to help foster a lively atmosphere. Belly up to the bar, and you’ll immediately notice an all-new, gleaming margarita machine, ready for business.

To put it in Lewis’s own words: “It’s a high energy concept. I think they’re going to love the interior. Come on down and just have a great time and enjoy a good margarita!”

Time will tell if this new venture will strike gold here in the Alaska market, but given the quality of ingredients, dedication to freshness, and ample portions, On The Border seems primed to be the next best destination for Tex-Mex with a twist. Get there early, or you might find yourself waiting in a long line of franchise-loving Alaskans.

On the Border is located at Tikahtnu Commons (1299 N Muldoon Rd). Keep an eye on tikahtnucommons.com for an official opening notice.





Thurs 9pm @ Flattop

Jukebox KARAOKE Roadshow

HOSTED BY **JUKEBOX JOE**

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday June 16
8:30 Lisa, Lisa & That Guy

Friday June 17
9:30 Unknowns

Saturday June 18
9:30 Uno Jazz Band

Wednesday June 22
8:30 Will Balcao



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every SUNDAY

@Humpy's 8PM TO 11PM

FLATTOP PIZZA @ 600 W. 6TH AVE • HUMPY'S GREAT ALASKAN ALEHOUSE @ 610 W. 6TH AVE



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

Thursday, June 16th

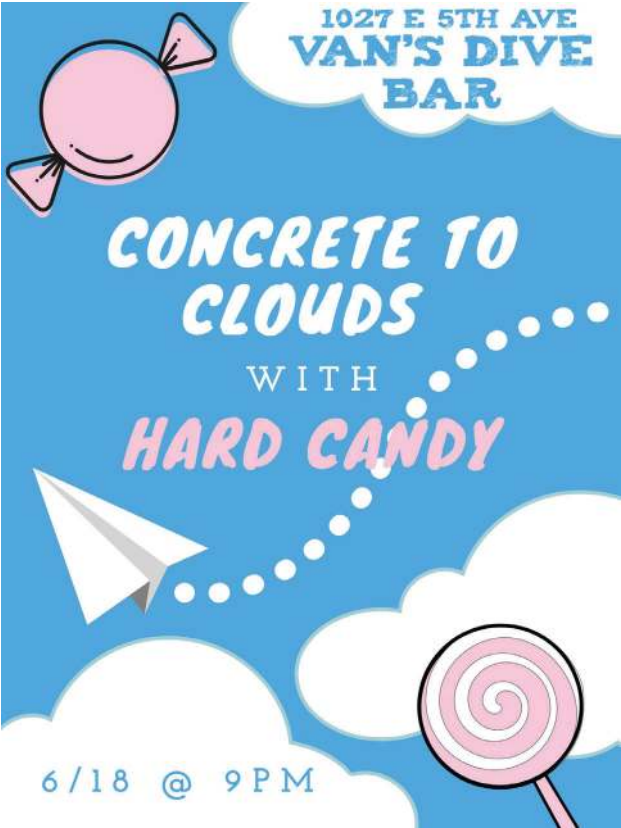
Alaska Cannabis Exchange – Open Mic with Shalah Rose 7p-9p
Anchorage Town Square – Live After Five: Superfrequency 5:30p-8p
The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva 7:30p-10:30p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – George Michael Reborn - A Tribute to George Michael & WHAM 7p-9p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Garcia’s Cantina & Café (Eagle River) - Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Humpy’s – Lisa Lisa & That Guy 8:30p-12:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic Night 8p-12a
Koot’s – Luniz 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Myrna’s Thursday Night Revue 9p-11p
Mad Myrna’s – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Storck Park (Anchorage) – Blackwater Railroad Company 7p-10p
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Dead Night at Van’s w/ The Lightning Will 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-11p



Friday, June 17th

49th State Brewery (Healy) – Solstice Brewfest 2022 7p-2:30a
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Fab Four: Ultimate Beatles Tribute 8p-11:30p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 5:30p-9p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Michael Faubion! 6p-8p
Anchorage Museum – Summer Arts in the Park 4:30p-5:30p
Anchorage Town Square – Tomodachi Daiko 6p-7p
Broken Blender – Forbidden Desires, Episode 147: Three Way Tango 8p-9:30p
Dave & Busters – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Valley Comedy Series Headlining Luke Null! 7p-11p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4174 (Chugiak) – Karaoke 7p-11p
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: Lulu & The Small Band 7p-8:30p
Humpy’s – The Unknowns 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot’s – George Michael Reborn: A Tribute to George Michael & WHAM w/ I Like Robots 7p-2a
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – The Piedmont Boys 5p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Woodrow LIVE 7p-10p

PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - David Johnson Live 8p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – The Goddamn Ranchhand Band w/ Chartreuse Moose! 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Sundown Solstice Music Festival 5p-2a
Wonderland Park (Wasilla) – Music in the Park: Concrete to Clouds 6p-9p



Saturday, June 18th

American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Fun and Food w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 6p-11p
Anchorage Downtown – ADP Summer Solstice Festival 12p-5p
Anchorage Town Square – Salsa in the Park with Anaya Latin Dance 3:30p-6:30p
The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – The Acoustic Oosick 7p-10p
Bernies’ Bungalow Lounge – Solstice Weekend w/ DJ Knowpa Slaps 8p-2a
Broken Blender – Forbidden Desires, Episode 147: Three Way Tango 8p-9:30p
Broken Blender – David Johnson Live 8p-12a
The Carousel Lounge – Danger Money Live 10p-2a
Carpenter’s Hall – East Coast Swing and Social Dance 7p-11p
The Gaslight Bar – The Star of Alaska Tournament 7p-11p
Humpy’s – Uno Jazz Band 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a

Koot’s – Comedian Luke Null from Saturday Night Live! 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot’s – DadFest w/ Rival Dads and Thongg Delonge 10:30p-2a
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Starship featuring Mickey Thomas & Agents of Karma 5p-10p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Nothin But Trouble 7p-10p
Raven Bar – Pride Underwear Party 9p-2:30a
The Sitzmark (Girdwood) – Summer Solstice Dance Party w/ The River Livers & I Like Robots 7p-11p
Williwaw Social – Sundown Solstice Music Festival 3p-2a



Sunday, June 18th

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a
Williwaw Social – Sundown Solstice Music Festival 3p-12a

Monday, June 20th

Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Music for Little Ones w/ The Timbre Music Band 12p-1p
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, June 21st

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Koot’s – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Turnagain Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a

Wednesday, June 22nd

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie’s Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Spurs at Four Corners (Palmer) – The Star of Alaska Karaoke Tournament 6p-10p
Humpy’s – Will Balcao 8:30p-12:30a
Koot’s –Pre-Pride Drag Show 7:30p-10:30p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 8p-12:30a
Koot’s –Koots Karaoke 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Wiley Post Band 12p-1p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a

PRESSING EVENTS

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Thu 6/16

Open Mic with Shalah Rose
@ 7pm

Come join us and show us your skills on how you like to entertain. Hosted by Shalah Rose this is a great way for all to show us your talents! No cover charge. 2906 Spenard Rd, 2906 Spenard Road, Anchorage. jeramy@cannabisace.com, 907-360-8036

Fri 6/17

bbno\$: Sundown Solstice Festival 2022

@ 4pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

Flosstradamus

@ 5pm
Williwaw Outdoors, 609 F St, Anchorage

Hippie Sabotage

@ 5pm
Williwaw Outdoors, 609 F St, Anchorage

WHIPPED CREAM

@ 5pm
Williwaw Outdoors, 609 F St, Anchorage

Featured



Brother Ali: Sundown Solstice Festival 2022
@ 7pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage



Nala: Sundown Solstice Festival 2022
@ 7pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

What So Not: Sundown Solstice Festival 2022
@ 7pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

Featured

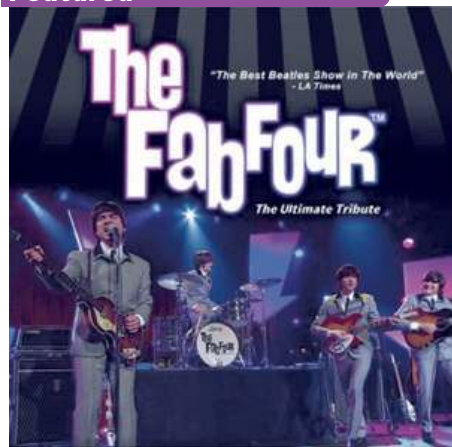


The Piedmont Boys: MATANUSKA BREWING COMPANY
@ 8pm
Matanuska Brewing Company, 531 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage



Forbidden Desires, Episode 147: Three Way Tango
@ 8pm / \$25
A tale of true passion, true betrayal, and true pasties! Sweet Cheeks Cabaret at The Cheeky Room, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Featured



The Fab Four: Ultimate Beatles Tribute live in Anchorage
@ 8pm
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage



Featured



George Michael Reborn Tribute Starring Robert Bartko - WHAM!
@ 8pm
Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Sat 6/18

Potter Marsh Bird Walk
@ 9am

Guided bird walks on Potter Marsh Boardwalk. Potter Marsh Wildlife Viewing Boardwalk, 2999 East 154th Avenue, Anchorage. joe.meehan@alaska.gov, 907-267-2281

Featured



MIJA
@ 5pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage



Archery

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

Comedian Luke Null from Saturday Night Live!

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

Mon 6/20

Parking Lot Programs - Spenard

@ 9pm
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 West 48th, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Tue 6/21

Featured



Potter Marsh Bird Walk

@ 7pm
Guided bird walks on the Potter Marsh Boardwalk. Potter Marsh Wildlife Viewing Boardwalk, 2999 East 154th Avenue, Anchorage. joe.meehan@alaska.gov, 907-267-2281

Thu 6/23

Open Mic with Shalah Rose

@ 7pm
Come join us and show us your skills on how you like to entertain. Hosted by Shalah Rose this is a great way for all to show us your talents! No cover charge. 2906 Spenard Rd, 2906 Spenard Road, Anchorage. jeramy@cannabisace.com, 907-360-8036

Fri 6/24

Awards Party & Exposition

@ 5:30pm
Let's celebrate the Arts in our community! Join us Friday, June 24th at 5:30 pm as we celebrate the winners of Digital Blueprint's Amateur Photo & Art Contest. Digital Blueprint, Inc., 2440 Seward Highway, Anchorage. digiblue@digital-blueprint.com, 907-274-4060

Sat 6/25

Featured



4th Annual Pride Block Party at The Writer's Block in Spenard!

@ 12pm
4th Annual Pride Block Party Hosted by M.C. Mo-Hagani Magnetek is back with a vengeance! If you missed last year, here's your chance! The Writer's Block Bookstore & Cafe, 3956 Spenard Road, Anchorage. sherriepaster@msn.com, 907-223-0605



Comedian Daniel Eachus

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

Sassy Saturdays Cabaret

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

Featured



Comedian Daniel Eachus

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



Sun 6/26

The August Fund Dog Adoption

@ 3pm
Come help adopt, foster, or donate living legends of the Iditarod Trail! 2906 Spenard Rd, 2906 Spenard Road, Anchorage. jeramy@cannabisace.com, 907-360-8036

Mon 6/27

Spenard Summer Day Camp Week #5

@ 4pm
Jun 27th - Jul 1st
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 West 48th, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Parking Lot Programs - Spenard

@ 9pm
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 West 48th, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Wed 6/29

Adam Wakefield

@ 3pm
Downtown Anchorage Viewpoint, Anchorage

Kendell Marvel: The Backyard Country BBQ

@ 5pm
Chinook Lot 225 E Street, Anchorage

Featured



Darius Rucker

@ 7pm
Backyard Country BBQ Part 1, Chinook Lot 225 E Street, Anchorage



Texas Hill

@ 9:30pm
Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

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Gotta Have Faith!

George Michael Reborn comes to Anchorage

BY O'HARA SHIPE

The art of musical impersonation is nothing new. In fact, in pop music, the tradition has become as commonplace as an encore. But where did it all start? In the 70s, self-titled “monster maker” Danny O’Day became infamous for his Rock and Roll Heaven touring spectacle.

As Rolling Stone writer David Browne explained in his January 2022 article Dr. Frankenstein’s Musical Revue, “the touring extravaganza he conceived and promoted, didn’t just pay homage to one deceased icon, but four of them: Elvis, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, and Jim Croce. And it didn’t do it merely with costumes or note-for-note vocal imitations: O’Day hired plastic surgeons to physically alter his tribute singers to look as much as possible like the people they were honoring.”

Although O’Day’s methods were ahead of their time, they were also dubbed monstrous. After a few parody skits on Saturday Night Live, O’Day’s radical vision came toppling down. Ultimately, his expensive and oft painful experimentations in creating musical clones became a minor footnote in the history of pop music.

However, the demand for nostalgic performances from long-since deceased pop icons has not diminished.

“I had some successes in the 90s producing a few tracks for Korn and writing for other artists. Oddly, I also found success with my dance music in Germany. But when booking agents would hear me, and then see me, they would always say, ‘have you considered doing a tribute to George Michael? You would be way more marketable that way,’” explains the creator of George Michael Reborn, Robert Bartko.

Many artists in Bartko’s shoes may have felt pangs of anger after sustaining such a big blow to their ego. Bartko is not most artists.

“When [my friend] first played a George Michael vinyl for me in high school, it was as if my heart had found a musical home. It was the weirdest spiritual connection for me. It was like I had been reintroduced to a long-lost brother or something; it just connected for me,” explains Bartko.

A football standout and avid member of his high school drama club, Bartko was blessed with both the physicality and vocal prowess of the late icon.

“In my teens, Wham was just breaking onto the scene, and I kept hearing from everyone how much I looked like ‘this one singer,’” recalls Bartko. “But it wasn’t until I saw George in concert during his Faith Tour that I really saw it. I remember watching him and thinking, ‘Whoa! I really do look just like him!’”

According to Bartko, the realization of his near-identical appearance and vocal range was a sign that his future career as an impersonator was, in a way, chosen without his consent. Still, it was a long way from producing tracks for nu-metal rockers Korn, to dancing around in skin-tight jeans while instructing audiences to “wake me up before you go go.”

“I had a pretty decent amount of success with different projects that I worked on. Some of my early dance tracks gained a little bit of traction in the US and Europe. But it never caught on the way that my impersonation did,” says Bartko.



When it comes to his original music, Bartko may have been a victim of timing. Standing out amid an overwhelmingly crowded music market that is dominated by those who can leverage social media the best, was most certainly working against Bartko’s success. The elimination of disc jockeys who once held the keys to the musical promised land has turned the modern music scene into a proverbial wasteland. If you want to make it, you better find a way to be polarizing or be undeniably attractive. Talent alone no longer equals success.

“Yeah, I don’t know how you break through all that noise to make it nowadays,” admits Bartko.

While a part of Bartko misses creating and performing his own music, he believes that he’s doing exactly what he’s meant to do.

“George is a far better writer than I could ever be. It’s like my ‘brother’ has given me the keys to the Cadillac and I’ve been driving around in a rusted beater. Of course, you’re going to jump in the fancy car and take it for a spin. I guess it’s all about attitude and perspective, you know,” says Bartko.

Catch Bartko in concert with George Michael Reborn on Thursday, June 16, at Everett’s (1850 E Bogard R) in Wasilla, or at Koot’s (2435 Spenard Rd) on Friday, June 17. Tickets start at \$28 and are available at Hooked-Entertainment.com.



ICYMI!

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP Ltd.



THE JANGLE BEES



The Glacier Hoppers at Thursday’s Live After Five sponsored by the Anchorage Downtown Partnership.
Photos by @jr2photograph



Candlebox



Candlebox ,with local support from The Jangle Bees and Thera, played to a raucous crowd at Eagle River’s Matanuska Brewing on Saturday.
Photos by @codyshootsak



Rising star Zane Penny played alongside local music veterans SunDog on Saturday as part of a Vitus Collective pop-up concert.
Photos by @jr2photograph



Rugby fans were delighted by Friday and Saturday’s action at the annual Midnight Suns 7s tournament.
Photos by @ShipeShots



International Songwriting Competition Announces 2022 Judges

BY CANDACE AVERY
INTERNATIONAL SONGWRITING
COMPETITION

The International Songwriting Competition (ISC) is pleased to announce its panel of judges for the 2022 competition. Established in 2002, ISC is considered to be the world's most prestigious songwriting competition and is open to both professional and amateur songwriters, signed and unsigned. Its mission is to promote excellence in the art of songwriting and to provide a platform for songwriters to have their songs heard by a panel of iconic recording artists and music executives in an international arena.

Called “the songwriting competition to take note of” by *The New York Times*, ISC awards more than \$150,000 in cash and prizes, shared by 74 winners in 24 categories, including an overall Grand Prize consisting of **\$25,000 (US) cash**, and much more.

Winning ISC is a distinction that has helped many artists go on to achieve greater success. Previous winners have included: Tones and I; Illenium; Vance Joy; Bastille; Fantastic Negrito; R.L.U.M.R.; Gotye; Lindsey Stirling; Kimbra; Dustin Lynch; Faouzia; The Band Perry; Kehlani; Gregory Porter; Passenger; Gin Wigmore; Missy Higgins; For King & Country; Tenille Townes; Adrienne Lenker (Big Thief); Jordan St. Cyr; Tommy Castro; Andrew Bird; Omar Sosa; and many more.

“There are many songwriting competitions in the world, but ISC is the only one whose entrants have the opportunity to have their music heard by a judging panel that includes the top echelon of legendary recording artists/songwriters and high-profile music industry executives,” said Candace Avery, Founder and Director of ISC. “Our judges have consistently told us how much they love listening to the new generation of songwriters and are amazed by the depth of songwriting talent – and we are grateful for their perspective and participation.”

The list of 2022 judges includes:

Recording Artists: Mariah Carey; Gloria Estefan;

Coldplay; Tom Waits; Joe Hahn (Linkin Park); Jeremiah Fraites (The Lumineers); Hozier; Trevor Daniel; Brantley Gilbert; James Adam Shelley (Founding Member, American Authors); Tenille Townes; NEED-TOBREATHE; Kristian Bush (Sugarland); Laura Pausini; Ian Felice (The Felice Brothers); Lonnie Liston Smith; Blackbear; Sara Evans; Rosanne Cash; Sidewalk Prophets; Steve Lillywhite; Nancy Wilson (Heart); Krewella; Glen Ballard; ACRAZE; Danilo Perez; Above & Beyond; Chayanne; Sam Feldt; Oumou Sangaré; Jack DeJohnette; Tim Rice-Oxley (Keane); Dave Koz; Sugaray Rayford; James McNally; Jordan St. Cyr; Gordon Goodwin; Chris August; Joe Louis Walker; Ashwin Batish; Carter Burwell; Nicholas Gunn (Limelight); Margaret Cho; and Jimmy Pardo (Comedian)

Industry Judges: Briony Turner (Co-President, Atlantic Records UK); Bruce Iglauer (Founder/President, Alligator Records); Daniel Glass (President/Founder, Glassnote Records); Richard Stumpf (CEO/Founder, Hawkeye Music Group); Ed Vetri (President, Wind-Up Records); David McTiernan (Senior Director, Artist & Label Relations, Vevo); Greg Johnson (VP of A&R, Columbia Records); Golnar Khosrowshahi (President, Reservoir Media Management); Will Speer (Managing Director, Magic Star Records/Sony); Lanre Gaba (Co-President of Black Music, Atlantic Records); Nate Albert (EVP of A&R, Capitol Records); Will McDonald (VPA&R, Elektra Music Group); Kim Buie (VP of A&R, New West Records); Shawn Barron (VP of A&R, Motown); Dan Chalmers (Head Of Music, YouTube, EMEA); Kate Labrel (VP of A&R, Warner Records); Christopher Muller (Global Head of Music Partnerships, YouTube); Jacob Edgar (Founder, Cumbancha); Matt D'Arduini (Sr. VP of A&R /GM, Last Nite Records/Arista Records); Joel Timen (VP of A&R and Publishing, Curb/Word Entertainment); Cory Robbins (Founder/President, Robbins Entertainment); Samantha Jervey (Director A&R, Capitol Christian Music Group); Julie Kertes (Editor/General Manager, Hot Diggity Media); Jacqueline Post (Head of Publishing, Connection Music Publishing); Ben Kramer (Global Lead, Artist and Label Development, YouTube); Leib Ostrow (Founder/CEO, Music For Little People); Katherine Dines (Advisory Board



SHIPE SHOTS PHOTOGRAPHY

and Magic Penny Award Chair, Children's Music Network); Claire S. Green (President, Parents' Choice Foundation); Julia Beyer (Director, ARC Music Productions International); Benjamin Groff (President, Brill Building Music Publishing); Tamara Conniff (EVP, Roc Nation Music Publishing); Carl Caprioglio (Founder & CEO, Oglio Entertainment); and Elena Epstein (Director, National Parenting Product Awards)

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Fishery managers call for deeper look at salmon bycatch, but decline to tighten rules

Incidental catches of salmon in nets harvesting pollock have skyrocketed, but scientists say that is not the driver of poor returns

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

Western Alaska villagers have endured the worst chum salmon runs on record, several years of anemic Chinook salmon runs in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, harvest closures from the Bering Sea coast to Canada’s Yukon Territory and such dire conditions that they relied on emergency shipments of salmon from elsewhere in Alaska just to have food to eat.

Many of those suffering see one way to provide some quick relief: Large vessels trawling for pollock and other groundfish in the industrial-scale fisheries of the Bering Sea, they say, must stop intercepting so many salmon.

Advocates for tighter rules on those interceptions, known as bycatch, made their case over the past several days to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the organization that manages fish harvests in federal waters off Alaska.

‘Like fishing in the desert’

“The numbers are really low. There’s nothing out there. It’s like fishing in the desert,” Walter Morgan, of the Yup’ik village of Lower Kalskag, said in online testimony to the council, which met in Sitka.

He described how conditions have deteriorated since his childhood in the 1960s, when his family could put a single net in the water and pull out enough fish to fill their boat. “It’s getting even harder to go out and fish and catch those one or two salmon that we need,” he said. “We need it. That’s our identity. That’s been my identity since I was born.”

The council declined to impose any new bycatch rules that would affect the current season. Instead, they approved what members characterized as a rigorous research program to include the formation of a working group with tribal representatives and others from affected communities. The research will also consider recommendations from a bycatch task force formed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy. The council also urged more voluntary bycatch reduction by the pollock industry, the nation’s largest single-species commercial harvest and supplier of the ubiquitous whitefish found in fish sticks, fast-food fish burgers and imitation crab meat.

The issue is tough, said Bill Tweit, the Washington state representative on the council. “This is certainly one of the hardest natural resource issues that I think I’ve ever dealt with. It doesn’t look like it’s going to get any easier, at least in the near future,” he said.

It’s getting even harder to go out and fish and catch those one or two salmon that we need. ... We need it. That’s our identity. That’s been my identity since I was born.

– Walter Morgan, of the Yup’ik village of Lower Kalskag, in online testimony

But he, like the other council members, backed the idea of more research and consultation over new mandates.

“As a council, we’ve had successes when we remain science-based. And that science can be broad and should be broadened, not just our Western knowledge but also traditional knowledge. But we do need to remain science-based as we move forward,” Tweit said.

Bering Sea bycatch of salmon has increased dramatically in the past two years, especially for chum salmon, a species that has traditionally been a dietary staple in western Alaska.

Last year, the Bering Sea and Aleutians Island trawl fishery caught 546,043 chum salmon in nets intended to harvest pollock, twice the 10-year annual average, according to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Analysis of genetics revealed that 9.4% were from Western Alaska and the Yukon River, compared to an average of about 20%, so the total number of chum salmon originating from those Alaska regions and netted as bycatch was closer to averages. The majority of the chum salmon netted in bycatch turned out to be from Asia, according to the report.

In absolute volume, nonetheless, the Alaska-originating chum dwarfs the harvests along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. On the lower Kuskokwim last year, only about 50,000



PHOTO BY YERETH ROSEN/ALASKA BEACON

Salmon dries on a traditional rack on the beach in the Seward Peninsula village of Teller on Sept. 2, 2021. Salmon is a dietary staple for Indigenous residents of Western Alaska, and poor runs have created hardship.

salmon in total were harvested, and only about 4,220 of them were chum, according to the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, with the remainder nearly evenly divided between sockeye and Chinook salmon. Commercial harvests last year were likewise paltry – only 5,845 chum and 2,582 Chinook in the Kuskokwim and absolutely no commercial harvest on the Yukon, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Science points beyond bycatch

But scientific analysis so far points to something much larger than bycatch as the force behind Western Alaska salmon declines, experts told the council.

Fishery scientists from both NOAA’s Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in presentations to the council, described a myriad of problems related to warming conditions and climate change.

Those include marine heat waves that scrambled food supplies, forcing salmon at sea to switch from high-quality food like oil-packed capelin to low-quality food like jellyfish; low fat reserves carried over from summers to winters; skewed growth rates and smaller fish sizes for both Chinook and chum; and heat stress in rivers that triggered large die-offs of fish before they were able to spawn.

“We’re the other end of the stick from trawlers because we catch one fish at a time, so each fish has significant value to us,” she told the council.

Representatives of the pollock industry have pushed back against the idea that they’re responsible for the salmon crashes.

Stephanie Madsen, executive director of the At-Sea Processors Association, a trade group of operators of huge ships that both harvest and process fish, said that although the situation in Western Alaska is “heartbreaking,” bycatch is “clearly not the driver of the decline.”

“I understand from public testimony and reality that it really is at this time the only thing that is controllable. You can put your hand on the dial and you can turn it down and hope there will be an impact to those that are in crisis,” she told the council on Saturday. But that will not address the real culprits, she said, listing climate change, lack of food and possible competition with hatchery fish. “I’m concerned that as you turn the dial down potentially on the pollock fishery and incidental catch, the results are not what folks are hoping for and disappointment will continue,” she said.

Doug Vincent-Lang, commissioner of Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game, said drastic changes to control bycatch could have “unanticipated impacts.”

“In the Bering Sea, our bycatch management is complex. We manage based on latitude, longitude, depth and temporal vectors,” Vincent-Lang told the council last week. “Changing any vector impacts the bycatch of other species. For example, closing an area for crab could increase halibut bycatch. Or moving trawl gear off the bottom could increase salmon bycatch. Or moving the fleet temporally to reduce chum bycatch could push the fleet to times when Chinook are present.”

As the council wrapped up its June meeting, there were more developments showing the dismal state of salmon in the Yukon and Kuskokwim areas.

Early returns into the Lower Yukon River have been consistent with the forecasts of another poor season there. And Dunleavy on Tuesday announced the first 2022 shipment of emergency salmon to the Yukon-Kuskokwim region, continuing a series of deliveries that started last year.

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Scientist's memoir is revealing and brave

BY NED ROZELL

In her recently published memoir, Katey Walter Anthony writes that a certain type of northern lake is a lot like herself.

“A thermokarst lake is born to promote itself at all costs. A full force of nature, it gnaws away at the icy, carbon-rich permafrost soils stored in the land around it.

“It takes more than it gives, and what it does give is not always good for the world.”

That self-critical description is a recurring theme of Walter Anthony’s book, “Chasing Lakes: Love, Science, and the Secrets of the Arctic.” It is a unique mix of science and Christianity. The book is also a reflection on the challenges and rewards of choosing to marry and become a parent.

Katey Walter Anthony is a scientist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks who studies northern lakes that emit the invisible greenhouse gas methane, a formerly overlooked factor in the equation of global warming.

Photos of her crouching on frozen lakes while igniting plumes of methane have appeared in stories seen all over the world. After a 2018 feature in the Washington Post by Chris Mooney, a literary agent from a major publishing firm in New York City contacted Walter Anthony.

He asked if she might be interested in writing a book. She was, and editors at Harper Collins accepted her proposal.

The result is a book that takes the reader to unexpected places — first to a pond that I rode around today as it eats into a Fairbanks bike path. Walter Anthony opens the book there by describing a thermokarst pond, one of millions in Alaska and Siberia.

“Thermokarst” describes a northern sinkhole created by heat. A Russian expression for its growth is “lake eating into land.”

As the warmth of the air helps these lakes expand by thawing ground around them that had been frozen for perhaps thousands of years, microorganisms feast on the suddenly available specks of ancient plants and mammoth femurs. In digesting those, microbes belch out methane, a potent greenhouse gas. It wafts skyward from these black bodies of water in a constant stream.

Walter Anthony described this action at the little pond by the bike path, which she has studied for years.

“The dime-size bubbles dance out, coming to rest in a perfect, two-foot wide circle, where they pause for a moment before bursting to join our atmosphere.”

That leakage of methane into our airspace is significant, and Walter Anthony has been relentless in her quest to capture and document it. In her book, she describes her adventurous times in Siberia, Greenland and, of course, Alaska.

She writes of her breakthrough moments, such as when her mentor Sergey Zimov walked her onto the thin ice of frozen lakes in Siberia one fall day.



UAF PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

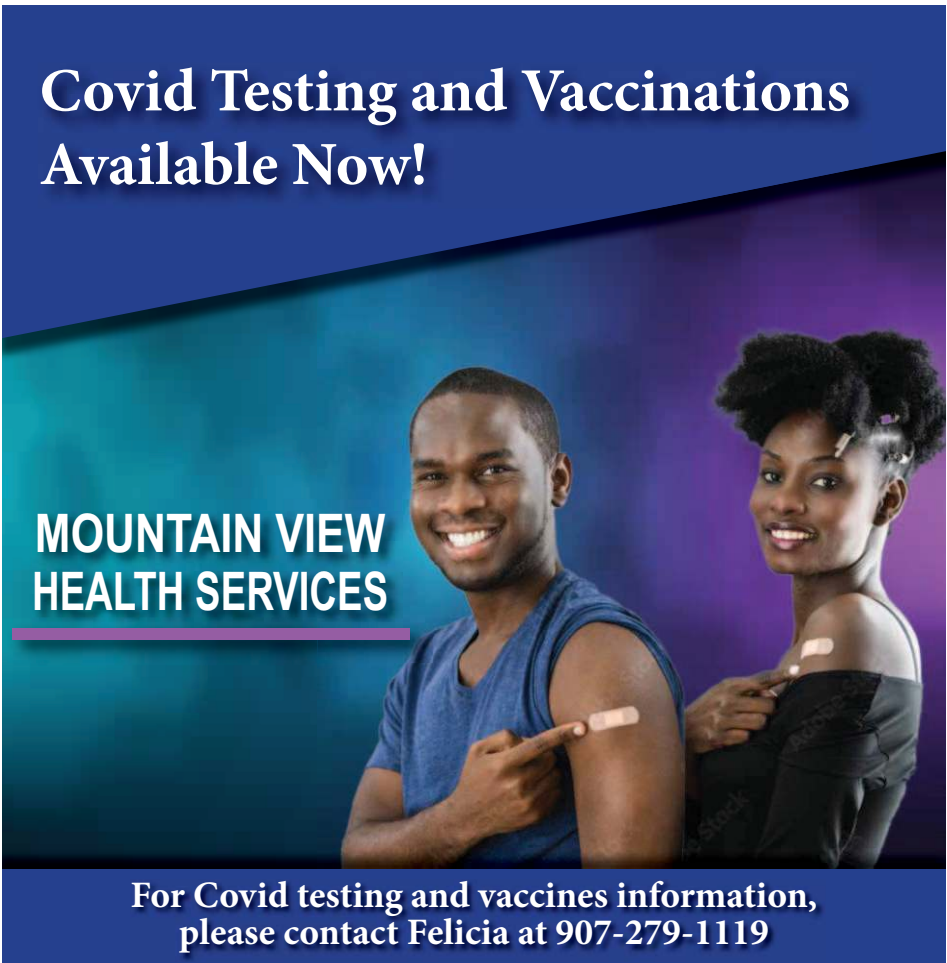
Katey Walter Anthony inspects flaming methane gas seeping from a hole in the ice on the surface of a pond on the UAF campus in February 2016.

“Bubble traps” she had constructed in Russia out of plastic bottles and other trash she had gathered were not capturing the exhalations of the lakes. On that hike with Zimov, bubbles of methane frozen into the ice like stacks of white coins revealed dependable hot spots of lake emissions (and where to deploy her traps).

“I gawked in wonder,” she wrote. “The ice sheet was an incredible time-lapse photograph of bubbling.”

Scientist, continued on page A17

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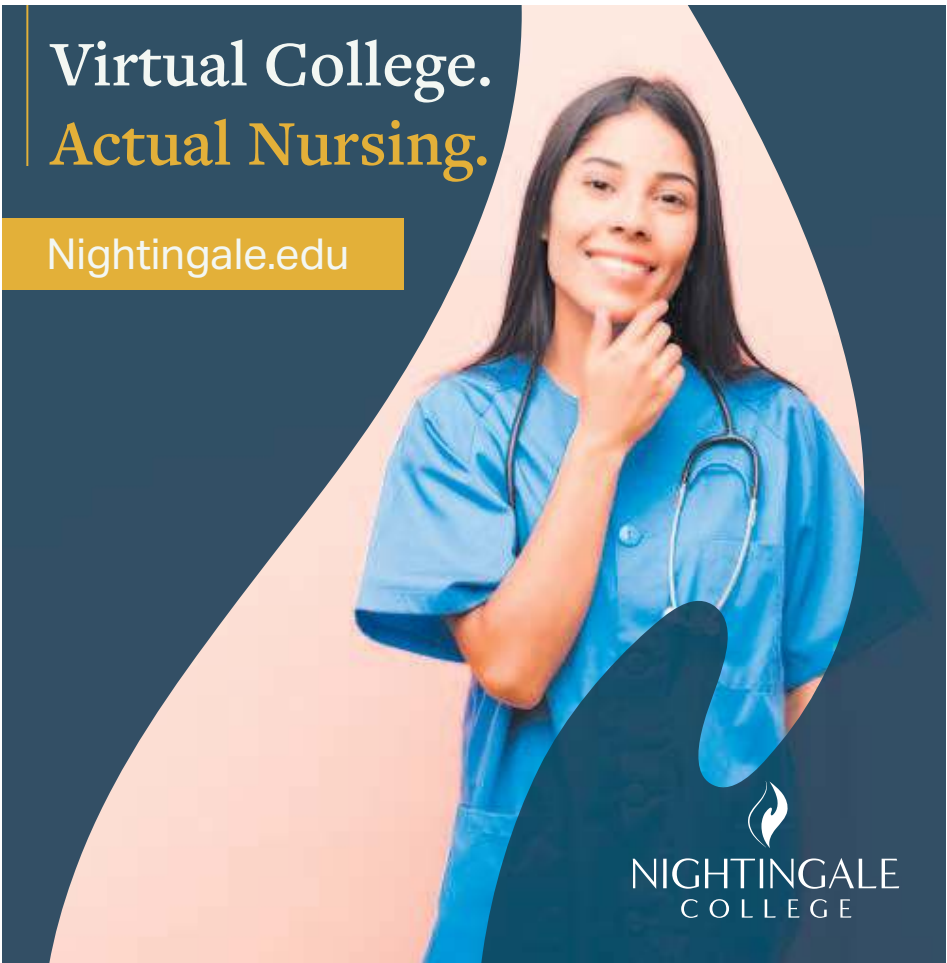


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Super Crossword

COMMAND LINES

- ACROSS
- 1 Several

5 Utah town on the Colorado

9 Arafat's PLO successor

14 — Rica

19 A quarter of twenty

20 Oscar winner Bancroft

21 Unwilling

22 Recon info

23 Absence of muddled thoughts

25 Jazz fusion pianist Chick

26 Poker-faced

27 Capital of Turkey

28 Mail opening

30 "I — Rock" (1966 hit)

32 Hastens, old-style

33 Rescue squad VIP

34 2005 Donna Andrews mystery novel

38 Chicken chow —

40 Joe Biden's party: Abbr.

41 Bodily blinker

42 Top-shelf

43 Make repairs

48 MYOB part

49 Sound systems

50 Agnus — (prayer)

51 Spy spoof of old TV

55 Saddle-making tools

57 Campsite hookup

60 "The L Word" actress Kirshner

61 Sirs' counterparts

65 "Sheesh, no need to be so critical!"

71 Boulevard

72 Town in east-central New York

73 Attack like a cat

74 Means of thwarting software piracy

76 Futilely

77 Amazement

78 Linda Ronstadt's "— Easy"

79 Grain holder

81 Alternative to People

85 Unvarnished

88 Remus' twin

93 Winners' signs

94 Digital entertainment periodical

97 Place for keeping bees

100 Used a rocker, e.g.

101 Call to a ewe

102 — dixit (claim with no evidence)

103 Discover via unpleasant personal experience

109 Guided

110 TV's Swenson

111 Lead-in to nuptial

112 — Field (Mets' home)

113 Language of Libya

115 Really militant sort

117 Claims

119 Option lists that might include the starts of seven answers in this puzzle

122 Plant stem

123 River to the Rio Grande

124 Many 4WD autos

125 "Quo Vadis" emperor

126 Weight allowances

127 Like white, wet weather

128 He and she, e.g.

129 Big dino

DOWN

1 Colts' and Broncos' gp.

2 Light bulb wire

3 Day's end, poetically

4 Not potent

5 Olympic skiing champ Phil

6 Actor Ryan

7 Ortiz of the screen

8 Mattress supporter

9 Metal-industry giant

10 Illegal booze

11 Tavern

12 Anxiety-free

13 SeaWorld whale, once

14 Counterpart to trans-, gender-wise

15 At no cost, slangily

16 Emotion-hiding types

17 Group beliefs

18 Milano of "Mistresses"

24 "Cool, dude!"

29 "I wanna!"

31 Foppish scarf

33 Australian avians

35 Roush of baseball

36 Soap ingredient

37 Addition sign

39 Neither here — there

44 Join forces

45 TV doctor Doogie

46 Immigrant's course: Abbr.

47 Pneumatic engines

48 Huck Finn's polite assent

51 Reactions to corny puns

52 Refrigerator brand

53 Christina of "Cursed"

54 Stolen

56 Enterprise engineer

58 Caesar's "I came"

59 This, in Peru

61 East Asian gambling mecca

62 States openly

63 Old-time lawyer and senator Chauncey

64 At least one

66 Les — et les autres (both, in French)

67 Gumshoes

68 Literary finale

69 California wine county

70 Adore, on a candy heart

75 Lubricants

80 A Gershwin

82 Not too hard to get around

83 Designer Saarinen

84 Make excited

86 Ready to hit the baseball

87 Most tired

89 Israeli gun

90 Cosmetic accentuating the kisser

91 Not behind a firewall, say

92 Ovule, e.g.

94 Oom- —

95 Partook of humble pie

96 Miffed

97 It hasn't been seen before

98 Fiesta target

99 Bergman of film

100 Rocker Tyler

104 Snares

105 Type of fit

106 Forgo

107 — -craftsy

108 Holiday tuber

114 Bowed

116 Green-lights

118 — -friendly

120 "Obviously!"

121 Chicago White —

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LEGALS

R.A. Levinsohn LLC dba Kincaid Grill located at 6700 Jewel Lake Road Suite 16 Anchorage Alaska is applying for transfer of Restaurant or Eating Place AS. 04.11.100 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Alan Levinsohn, 84.03% interest to Christopher Johnson, 100%. 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 6/02/22, 6/09/22, 6/16/22

Robert Spurr Memorial Hill Climb Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM Bird Ridge Trailhead. Visit <https://www.alaskamountainrunners.org> for more information Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 6/16/22

T&C Dynasty LLC, dba Seoul Casa located at 601. E. Dimond Blvd. Ste#6 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant or Eating Place License AS 04.11.100 to T&C Dynasty LLC. The change of ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Ronald Tzou 0% to Andrew Cho 100%. Interested persons should submit comments 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 6/09/22, 6/16/22, 6/23/22

Top Shelf Herbs of Alaska LLC, doing business as Top Shelf Herbs of Alaska LLC, Located at 901 Photo Ave Anchorage ,AK 99503, is applying under (3 ACC 306.045) for Transfer of controlling interest in a Retail Marijuana Store.

LEGAL

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 Anchorage Press
 Publish Dates 6/02/22, 6/09/22, 6/16/22

Super Crossword

Answers

A	F	E	W		M	O	A	B		A	B	B	A	S		C	O	S	T	A
F	I	V	E		A	N	N	E		L	O	A	T	H		I	N	T	E	L
C	L	E	A	R	H	E	A	D		C	O	R	E	A		S	T	O	N	Y
	A	N	K	A	R	A		S	L	O	T		A	M	A		H	I	E	S
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C	O	P	Y	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N		I	N	V	A	I	N
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A	P	I	A	R	Y		S	A	T		B	A	A				I	P	S	E
F	I	N	D	O	U	T	T	H	E	H	A	R	D	W	A	Y		L	E	D
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JOHN WHIPPLE

Dunleavy, from page A5

There are brushed right-of-ways to the parcels in some cases and road access to some others. For instance, a 32-acre parcel on “Moe’s Road” has a minimum bid of \$15,500.
 The buyers have to promise to clear at least 25 percent of land within 5 years and keep it in “farmable” condition, meaning free of trees. The land would be sold with covenants requiring that it be for agricultural purposes and that big parcels can be subdivided into no more than four 40-acre parcels.
 A 183-acre parcel comes with a minimum bid of \$39,400, which works out to \$215 per acre. The smallest parcels are 21 acres, with a minimum bid of \$12,300.
 The state will provide financing at 3 percent plus prime. Anyone who needs state financing to make a go of this is not going to be doing much for “food security” in Alaska.
 It will take millions in private investment with uncertain prospects for profit. Someone could buy property, however, and clear 25 percent and not do any farming as the state will not require anyone to do farming.
 “Approximately 77% of the soils in the project area

are categorized as non-irrigated capability class IV. The soil is considered frost free for 80-120 days. Non-irrigated capability class IV soils are considered appropriate for agricultural development. However, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) defines these soils as having severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both,” the fine print on the state sales plan says.
 “A significant factor in the soil classification for agriculture development is the climate. Understanding that climate, in conjunction with plant choice and soil class, will determine success in agriculture crop production. NRCS will be performing a more detailed soil report for the project area during 2021. The subsequent soil report will provide valuable information in the agriculture capability and design of offered parcels.”
 “Prospective buyers should, however, be aware that while these parcels do have soils suitable for growing crops, the elevation, aspect, presence or permafrost and other physical conditions may limit crop selection and/or require special management techniques in developing the agricultural potential. Parcels within this subdivision may contain wetlands and may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to the placement of fill materials into these areas.”

Astrology, from page A6

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)
 Virgo author Elizabeth McCracken says, “I don’t dream of someone who understands me immediately, who seems to have known me my entire life.” What’s more meaningful to her is an ally who is curious, who has “a willingness for research.” She continues, “I want someone keen to learn my own strange organization, amazed at what’s revealed; someone who asks, ‘and then what, and then what?’” I hope you will enjoy at least one connection like that in the coming months, Virgo. I expect and predict it. Make it your specialty!
LIBRA (September 23-October 22)
 Libran author Stig Dagerman said that when he was sad as a child, his mother kissed him until his mood lightened. When he was older and sad, his mama said, “Sit down at your desk and write a letter to yourself. A long and beautiful letter.” This would be a good task for you right now, Libra. Whatever mood you are in, I invite you to write a long and beautiful letter to yourself. I further recommend that you carry out the same ritual once every six weeks for the next nine months. This will be a phase of your life when it’s extra crucial that you express soulful tenderness toward your deep self on a regular basis. You may be amazed at how inspirational and transformative these communications will be.
SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)
 Sometimes, the arrival of a peculiar event in your life is a good sign. It may mean that Fate has sent an intervention to disrupt a boring phase of inertia or a habit-bound grind. An unexpected twist in the plot may signal a divine refreshment. It could be a favorable omen announcing a helpful prod that’s different from what you imagined you needed. I suspect that an experience or two fitting this description will soon materialize in your life story. Be alert for them. Promise yourself you’ll be receptive to their unexpected directives.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)
 Sagittarius author Edna O’Brien long ago shed the strict Catholic faith in which she was raised. But she still harbors spiritual feelings colored by her tradition. She says, “Ideally, I’d like to spend two evenings a week talking to [novelist] Marcel Proust and another conversing with the Holy Ghost.” I suspect a similar balance of influences will be healthy for

you in the days ahead, Sagittarius. My advice is to connect with an inspiration you drew sustenance from while growing up. Spend time equal time consorting with deep-feeling smart people who will stimulate you to rearrange the contents of your rational mind.
CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)
 I’ve composed a message for you to deliver to your best allies. It will help you be clear about the nature of your energy exchanges. Say something like this: “I promise to act primarily out of love in my dealings with you, and I ask you to do the same with me. Please don’t help me or give me things unless they are offered with deep affection. Let’s phase out favors that are bestowed out of obligation or with the expectation of a favor in return. Let’s purge manipulateness from our dynamic. Let’s agree to provide each other with unconditional support.”
AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)
 Author Lauren Collins tells us, “Bilinguals overwhelmingly report that they feel like different people in different languages. It is often assumed that the mother tongue is the language of the true self. But if first languages are reservoirs of emotion, second languages can be rivers undammed, freeing their speakers to ride different currents.” I bring these thoughts to your attention, Aquarius, because the next 12 months will be an excellent time for you to begin becoming bilingual or else to deepen your fluency in a second language. And if you’re not ready to do that, I encourage you to enhance your language skills in other ways. Build your vocabulary, for instance. Practice speaking more precisely. Say what you mean and mean what you say 95 percent of the time. Life will bring you good fortune if you boost your respect for the way you use language.
PISCES (February 19-March 20)
 Piscean-born Robert Evans has been an amateur astronomer since he was 18. Though he has never been paid for his work and has mostly used modest telescopes, he holds the world record for discovering supernovas—42. These days, at age 85, he’s still scanning the skies with a 12-inch telescope on his back porch. Let’s make him your role model for the coming months. I have faith you can achieve meaningful success even if you are a layperson without massive funding. PS: Keep in mind that “amateur” comes from the Latin word for “lover.” Here’s the dictionary’s main definition: “a person who engages in a study, sport, or other activity for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons.”

Navigating awkward family interactions

My son is graduating from college this June. As well as being excited, I am also worried because all of my ex's family will be there. My ex-mother-in-law disliked me from the beginning, so being around her is very uncomfortable. How can I navigate my ex's family?

— Ex me away



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Ex me away,
I feel for you. Graduations are a wonderful marker and a celebration of great achievement for the graduate, but for the rest of the crew attending the event, they can trigger old wounds related to school and/or family.

Meeting up with a former family member when you don't have a good relationship can be challenging. I always think of family as our greatest source of growth—not that you always want the issues that lead to growth, but in the long run, facing them can bring happiness and peace.

The first thing I would do is get out a piece of paper, set a timer for 10 minutes, and free flow write about how you feel about your ex, your former mother-in-law, any of your ex's other family members that are a problem for you, and anything else you might be anxious about. Let it rip on the paper—vent like no one's watching! If you need more than 10 minutes, take it, but don't quit before the timer goes off. This process of writing without stopping will help you with two things: First, it will bring out conscious and unconscious feelings around the subjects, and secondly, it will help you express frustrations, sadness, anger, and any other feelings around the subject. The act of writing on paper is a process of witnessing our inner thoughts. If these thoughts stay in our heads, we are more likely to act out in stressful situations that only bring more pain to our lives. We all need to be witnessed and heard. It's a very important part of a healing journey.

Your writing should help you uncover any deeper feelings that might be below the surface. If you didn't tap into any, keep trying the process every day for five days. The more you do it, the more that will begin to open up. Whatever amount comes up is the right one for you.

After you've gotten everything out, take the hurts and write them on individual pieces of paper. Find a nice box, bag, or anything that feels special and put the pieces of paper inside. Make an intention that those deep parts of you be healed. Now the hard part: Leave your container alone and wait to see how the magic of the universe will start to bring healing to those areas. Maybe you will be brought to a friend who has been where you are, and they'll share some wisdom about what helped them in their own experiences. Or perhaps you'll have your own aha moment that will give you greater insight into how you can heal. Or who knows what else can happen—the possibilities are endless. Just try and be open.

Now that these sources of hurt inside you are being looked after, let's get to the graduation. The real focus of the graduation is your son. Keep reminding yourself he is most important and give all your energy to that. On the big day, make sure you start taking good care of yourself from the moment you wake up. Treat yourself to a great meal, talk to a good friend, meditate, or do anything else that makes you feel loved and seen. That way, you'll be filled with self-love and nutrition, and you can be there for your son, who needs you. During the day, if you slip and find yourself thinking about the old hurts, don't worry. Just gently bring yourself back to your love for your son. You also can gently remind yourself that this event is just for one day, not forever.

Of course, you may get the urge to tell your ex mother-in-law what's on your mind, so as a last note, I want to share the three questions I always ask myself in stressful situations when I feel like letting loose:

Does it need to be said? Does it need to be said by me? Does it need to be said right now?

I wish you and your son a wonderful graduation event!

Scientist, from page A14

Those and other discoveries led her, with colleagues including Guido Grosse of the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, to include the methane wafting from northern lakes as an input to a climate computer model that predicts permafrost-carbon emissions.

"The results were shocking!" she wrote. "Including lakes more than doubled the climate warming impact of thawing permafrost in the twenty-first century. While new lakes would occupy only a tiny fraction of the Arctic, they would be responsible for about half of all permafrost-derived warming."

Walter Anthony is a driven scientist, and readers would have accepted a book solely on her work (though we always want the human details). But, as when she left home as a teenager to live in Russia, Walter Anthony did not choose the easy path in writing her memoir.

She includes Bible passages and goes into great detail about meeting and starting a family with her husband Peter.

It's here where she is at her bravest. In one passage, she reflects on feeling lonely within her small Fairbanks cabin and then receiving guidance from an inner voice.

"(God) was telling me he loved me. He was freeing me of the expectations I had laid on my father and on any human relationship. I understood now, in a way I never had before, that God loved me perfectly, like no human ever possibly could. This was enough . . . At that moment, I started to love my Lord."

Walter Anthony said she wanted to write the book "for personal reasons, the first of which was to write down the memories of my life before children, since children have a way of drawing us into the present and eclipsing our past."

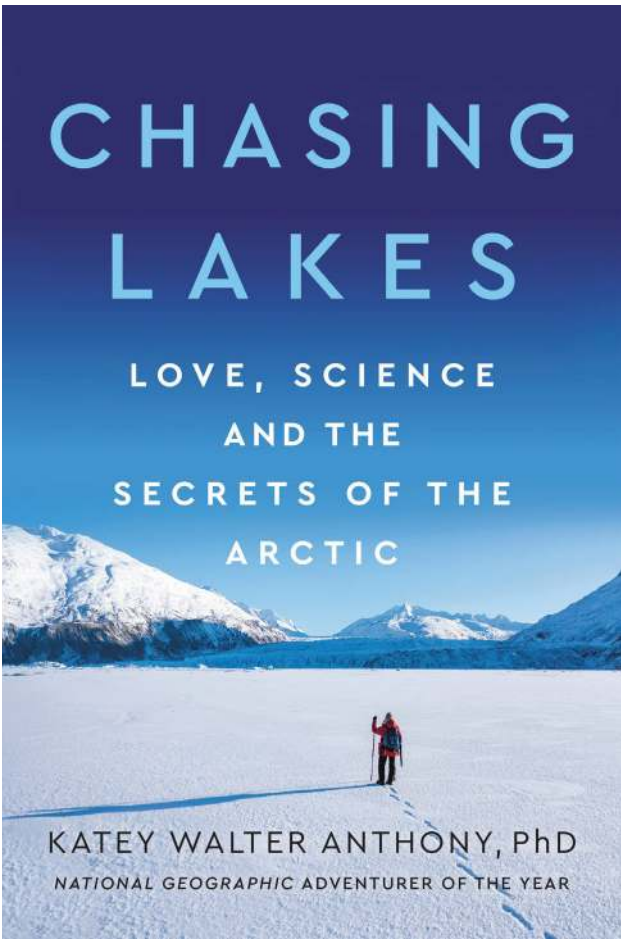
She navigates the tricky terrain of being a world-class scientist who married a farmer from Minnesota she met at a wedding at the Dog Musher's Hall in Fairbanks. Peter Anthony is the owner of a large farm in Minnesota, where the couple and their two boys now spend some of their time. He also partners with her on her Arctic science expeditions, using his farmer's know-how and work ethic to find solutions she would not have on her own.

Walter Anthony also writes of the depression she battled as a Minnesota farm-wife, at least for part of the year. There, she credits her faith in helping her.

"This farm was a place I had resented. It had taken me away from the mountains, from the Arctic, and from Russia. It had taken me away from daily interactions with students and colleagues on campus and opportunities to pursue invitations for professorships.

"I knew that to become free I would have to continue to die to self. I would have to let my pride go in order to become something new, someone God was molding me into — something I trusted and at the same time feared would bring a joy that was not of myself."

Walter Anthony's work has brought to our consciousness a dire threat — carbon stored in frozen



Katey Walter Anthony's new book, published by HarperOne, an imprint of Harper Collins publishers.

ground beneath much of the north is a "time bomb" of greenhouse gases now brushing our cheeks as we walk through our world. I wondered what message of hope for the planet she might offer with the far-reaching platform provided by a major publishing house.

From her epilogue:
"We are well on our way to an Arctic that will be at least seven degrees warmer by the end of this century," she wrote. "We can hope and strive to slow this warming, but change itself is unpreventable. Change has always happened."

"We can let the idea of change become a festering wound inside us, or we can adapt to the changes, allowing them to instead become something we can perceive as opportunity for improvement."

"I believe the biggest impacts on both our attitudes and the environment could be for more people to step outside and rekindle a long-lost love of the natural world."

Since the late 1970s, the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute has provided this column free in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATEY WALTER ANTHONY

Katey Walter Anthony and Peter Anthony in Cherskii, Russia.

CANNAGUIDE

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Cold City Cannabis
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Denali Dispensaries
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The Green Room
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Lawmaker Calls on Transportation Department to Amend “Outdated” Cannabis Testing Requirements

By NORML

A US Congressman is calling on the Transportation Department to amend its policies penalizing commercially licensed drivers who consume cannabis while away from the job.

In a letter authored by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the Congressman wrote: “To date, 48 states have enacted laws that, to varying degrees, relax their prohibitions against the use of marijuana. Nevertheless, your department’s zero-tolerance policy sweeps up drivers who were unimpaired, drivers who have not used cannabis for weeks or even months, and drivers who have used federally-legal CBD oils. Blanket disqualifications are unjust, unfair, and cause widespread economic and social damage. Thousands of driving positions are unfilled, compounding our supply chain woes. Penalizing safe drivers who comply with state cannabis laws harms both the drivers and the supply chains they support.”

Federal law mandates commercially licensed drivers to randomly undergo marijuana urinalysis testing. In recent months, federal statistics have identified the suspension of over 72,000 truck drivers as a result of failed drug tests. Over half of those failed tests were for the past use of marijuana.

In March, the Department of Transportation proposed changes to existing federal drug testing guidelines that would allow for the use of oral fluid testing as an alternative to urinalysis for those working in the transportation industry. Oral fluid tests typically detect either THC or its metabolite for a period of one to two days post-exposure – a timetable that is significantly shorter than that associated with urinalysis. The latter may detect the presence of carboxy-THC for weeks or even months following abstinence.

“Outmoded and unfair federal drug policies are out of step with reality and directly contribute to the trucking shortage crisis,” wrote Rep. Blumenauer. “Too many of the 2.8 million Americans who hold commercial driver licenses are not working because of past cannabis tests and the difficulty they face re-qualifying for duty. Getting these trained, qualified, and capable drivers back on the road will unsnarl supply chains faster and more efficiently. I am very interested in the steps your department is taking to ensure these qualified drivers have opportunities to return to work, regardless of their past cannabis use.”

He concluded: “Modernizing your department’s regulation of cannabis use is critical to ensure those who want to drive can contribute to this effort. I look forward to your partnership in this effort.”

In 2020, the US Department of Health and Human Services proposed in the Federal Register expanding federal drug testing guidelines to include the use of hair follicle testing. To date, however, that proposed rule change has not been finalized.

Get him something nice
this year...



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
From MoMo's Bakery

(1) "Marijuana has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming and addictive." ;
(2) "Marijuana impairs concentration, coordination, and judgement. 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 reach of children." ; (5) "Marijuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breast feeding."

Turn on the blender and gimmie a straw!

BEER
BY JAMES “DR. FERMENTO” ROBERTS

I figured they were passé by now, but milkshake IPAs remain popular and have their own cadre of devotees. Unfortunately, as far as I’m concerned, milkshake IPAs are just another gimmicky iteration in the most rapidly evolving beer style in history.

There seems to be more of them being produced in the lower 48 states. There are a few around up here now, mostly on draft. They’re typically fleeting when they end up on tap somewhere, at a brewery, on a growler bar, or on the tap lineup of venues that take pride in what they serve in craft beer.

Although I never found one that made my socks go up and down with bliss, I can’t say they’re not tasty, as long as I keep reminding myself that I’m actually drinking a beer. Still, I got curious and did a deeper dive.

Beer styles have blurry, almost indistinct edges anymore. Saying that brewers don’t play by the rules isn’t a fair statement. Diversity is paramount in the brewing industry right now. Unless you’re a died-in-the-wool single product, mass-produced shit beer drinker, most craft beer drinkers today crave variety. Increasingly, serious craft beer drinkers don’t give a crap-all about style. “If it tastes good, drink it,” seems to be the mantra, and “if it sells like crazy, make it,” is the brewer’s response. I’m learning.

Milkshake IPAs are referenced in the Hazy IPA section within the Specialty IPA subset as one of the ten IPAs listed in the 2021 Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) Style Guidelines. The BJCP is my go-to reference when it comes to researching the crazy world of beer styles. I was actually surprised to find a reference to it.

Even in the BJCP Style Guidelines, the reference was vague and dismissive. “Heavy examples suggestive of milkshakes, creamsicles, or fruit smoothies are outside this style; IPAs should always be drinkable. Haziness comes from dry-hopping, not suspended yeast, starch haze, or other techniques; a hazy shine is desirable, not a cloudy, murky mess,” reads the description.

I can’t argue with the fact that some of our nation’s most respected breweries are credited for this style, including the innovative stalwarts like Trillium, the Alchemist, and Tired Hands.

Brewers that make milkshake beers are as dismissive about staying in style swim lanes as the guidelines are about the style. “It’s a complicated style,” says Anchorage’s Magnetic North Brewing Company owner/brewer Jeremiah Christian. “I’ve made probably ten different milkshakes so far. They are a huge hit. They aren’t really IPAs. I don’t even use hops in them. There’s no playbook on this,” he says.

Note the distinction. Christian morphed an already morphed style to water his own customer base and certainly his own taste for a “style” he’s really enamored with.

Since I struggle with the “beer” part of the whole milkshake thing, I had to ask: “What’s the base beer style?”

“The beer base is kind of a mix between a wheat beer and a northeast IPA,” says Christian of an upcoming milkshake that’s in a conditioning tank and will be tapped when it’s ready. Monitor for the release of Magnetic North’s POG (passionfruit, orange juice, and pink guava) milkshake on Instagram and Facebook.

Poking around elsewhere, although individual brewers define it, a milkshake IPA is basically a hazy IPA brewed with milk sugar (lactose) that typically uses fruit for flavoring. Fruit purees or real fruit add infinite flavors to a pretty wide-open style, with hazy IPA as the foundation.

For comparison, consider how a solid stout makes the base for a good coffee stout. Done right, the stout and the coffee complement each other. The acidity of the coffee offsets the roastiness of the stout. In my opinion, with a good coffee stout, it’s not just the process of dumping coffee into an existing flagship stout.



Adjusting things a bit, like, say, throttling back on the flavoring hops a tad in the recipe to let coffee’s contribution share the stage.

Like any adjunct beer, the problem with milkshake IPAs — at this point, let’s just call them milkshake beers — is that they are frequently overdone to the point that the base beer, or beer at all, is not discernable. What are we doing here; making alcoholic kid drinks?! Still, there’s no doubt this stuff is popular in an overall trend that — to me — seems to be making a lot more beer taste a lot less like beer.

In an online article about milkshake IPAs on Untapped.com on June 9, Parish Brewing Company operative Keven Vincent explained: “I believe this generation of brewers draws a lot of inspiration from childhood treats.”

Some descriptors for milkshake beer include confectionary or candy sweetness to enhance the creamy texture. The result is a cloudy haze that sometimes is opaque and even chunky, pastel-colored, and soft and smooth, to name a few.

“They were really all over my Candyland milkshake beer at this year’s Alaska Craft Brew and Barleywine Festival,” says Christian of attendees’ reaction to drinking their first milkshake. “It would be fun to have this style in more of our local competitions.”

I had to dig a little bit to find more local examples. The lack of proliferation has more to do with ingredients and cost than demand for the style.

“The beers are fun but expensive,” says Christian. “Vanilla beans, marshmallow fluff, lactose sugar, it all depends on what you’re slamming into it. But all of those are pretty natural products, and the costs can add up. Fruit purees can make up to forty

percent of the base weight, and that’s especially expensive up here.”

Are you curious? “We’ve had them on from Valdez, Magnetic North, Girdwood, and I think Black Spruce,” says Tent City Alehouse’s J.C. Snead.

If you don’t know, Snead is the guy who brings in beers from the far-flung corners of our state, making Tent City a go-to destination for local beers you can’t get anywhere else.

Using my Digital Pour app, I verified that Black Spruce Brewing Company’s Wow! Real Fruit Peak and Vanilla Smoothie Style Sour Beer, Magnetic North’s Pickle Pear Milkshake, Valdez Brewing Company’s Blackberry Milkshake IPA, and Girdwood Brewing Company’s Arctic Mango Tropical Milkshake IPA are all on tap as of yesterday. In addition, Hearth Artisan Pizza is pouring Girdwood’s Arctic mango.

Of note, if you happen to be in Fairbanks or headed there, the outstanding Black Spruce Brewing Company produces Gotta Hand It To You. The beer is a double dry-hopped hazy double IPA with papaya, passion fruit, and grapefruit. Additionally, they offer Seeing Pink Mammoths, a fruited hazy IPA with pineapple and blood orange. Alternatively, Forces of Attraction is a double dry-hopped hazy double IPA with notes of orange creamsicle, honeydew, and pineapple Kush. You can also sample Fruit Sour Beer Slushies on Fridays and Saturdays.

The nice thing about Black Spruce’s offerings is that most of them can be carried out in four-packs of 16-ounce cans or as growler fills. (Someone bring me some back!)

I’m still contemplating my cups with this quirky style, but if you’re curious and just want to have some fun, give the style a whirl — you know, like a milkshake maker. Straws are optional.



Happy Father's Day to the World's Dopest Dads!



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AS SEEN ON BLACK PANTHER, THE HAVES & HAVE NOTS
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