



Something Magical

Nick Carpenter is taking Medium Build to new heights

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SHIPE SHOTS PHOTOGRAPHY

“To the heart and mind, ignorance is kind”

EDITOR'S NOTE
BY O'HARA SHIPE

Last Friday, as what felt like half of the city flocked to Williwaw for Showdown's Sundown Solstice Festival, I found myself sitting in a dark corner of Koot's. A lesser-known act, George Michael Reborn, had been the cover story that week, so I felt obligated to forgo the dancey beats of Flosstradamus in favor of classic pop covers. It was the first time in a very long time that I have walked into a room and felt out of place.

As a forced extrovert, I've developed an ability to adapt to nearly any environment. But this time, I felt like I was wearing a bright orange safety vest bedazzled with obnoxious blinking lights. Looking back, I'm pretty sure my whole vibe was, "What the fuck am I doing here?"

After almost an hour of sipping water and trying to find a friendly stranger to share a table with, George Michael reincarnated as Robert Bartko took the stage. The instant he shook his butt, a crowd of women rushed the stage and effectively obscured the view from my corner table. By the third song, amid raucous cheering, I womaned up and made my way to the front of the stage. Immediately, one of the women grabbed my hand and spun me around while loudly singing "The Edge of Heaven" to no one in particular. As the song ended, she grabbed another person and did the same thing. Amazingly, she kept it up the entire concert. Like a pollinating honey bee, she spread her happiness throughout the bar one person at a time.

It was a small gesture. Something most people would shake off the

instant it ended. But, as I am a sensitive Cancerian, the moment has stuck with me. In truth, it's funny how the simplicity of extending your hand to someone can draw them in and make them feel included.

That same night, as I was dancing and singing off-key to Michael's "Father Figure," Kodiak Pride was fielding hate mail concerning their upcoming Drag Show. At the same time, Soldotna Pride was being inundated with threats of protesters showing up with guns. The day before, a Twitter post by @rnkamala claimed that the 20-year tradition of lighting the iconic Department of Health and Human Services staircase in pride colors was suspended. Started by Christopher Salerno, the display is a tribute to his partner who passed from AIDS in 1996.

Anchorage Health Department Director, Joe Gerace, immediately responded via email, saying, "I am writing to alert you to the fact that you appear to have received some incorrect information." The Twitter user clapped back, "Well, that was some mighty quick and timely back peddling!"

Alaskan Pride has largely been silenced this year – notably Anchorage Pride, which used to feature a massive festival downtown. There has been a lot of speculation as to what happened, but as a journalist, I can't help but wonder if the world has become so toxic that the disenfranchised are prioritizing self-preservation over continuing to fight for recognition? And who could blame them? Fighting every single day for the right to express one's true self would be exhausting, not to mention demoralizing.

Of course, a local alt-weekly can't fix everything that's wrong in the world, but we can extend our metaphorical hand. We see you, and we stand with you.

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Mat-Su schools’ ban on transgender girl athletes raises concern for ACLU, may violate federal law

Multiple federal agencies affirm rights of transgender people

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District board on Wednesday approved an activities policy that would prohibit transgender girls from competing in girls sports. The action comes as federal agencies continue to affirm legal protection for people discriminated against based on gender identity.

Attempting to ban transgender girls from playing on girls’ teams constitutes illegal discrimination under the federal law known as Title IX, according to the ACLU of Alaska. Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination in any education program or activity offered by a school that receives federal funding.

“The Mat-Su, and any other school board or district that’s considering this, is putting themselves in legal peril, and this kind of litigation has ended up being very, very costly in other states,” said Stephen Koteff, the ACLU of Alaska’s legal director.

“Rather than engage in this kind of legal showdown, I think that school districts should look seriously at what the costs are for this kind of exclusion when the real impacts just aren’t there. The fears and the myths that surround this kind of discrimination do not at all surface to the level of fact, and that’s unfortunate that we’re dealing with this kind of legislation when there’s no real problem to be addressed,” he said.

Last June, the U.S. Department of Education announced it would extend Title IX prohibitions on sex-based discrimination to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The action stemmed from the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*.

“Title IX prevents discrimination on the basis of sex,” Koteff said. “*Bostock* found that the term sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity.”

More recently, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service issued guidance last month that affirms the Department of Education’s conclusion that Title IX’s prohibition on sex discrimination includes a prohibition on discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Pushing back on legal protections for transgender individuals, Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor on June 14 signed onto a letter from attorneys general of 26 states asking the federal guidance to withdraw the USDA guidance.

Koteff isn’t surprised. “This state’s administration is continuing to persist in its opinion that trans youth are not protected by the provisions of Title IX,” he said. “But even without Title IX, these bans



would still be illegal under both the U.S. and certainly the Alaska Constitution.”

Department of Law Communications Director Patty Sullivan wrote in an email the Alaska Department of Law is not aware of any law specifically addressing transgender individuals in Alaska.

“The reason the Attorney General signed on to this letter is we believe the federal government is taking the *Bostock* decision and applying it outside of the specific context in which it was decided and extending it in an unwarranted manner that attempts to tie states’ hands. We hope the USDA reverses course and stays within its lane.”

President Biden has issued two executive orders last year and on Wednesday that affirm rights of transgender people to not be discriminated against.

Most spoke against the policy change. The Mat-Su school board voted 6-1 to approve the activities policy revision, which states, “A student who participates in an athletic team or sport designated female, women, or girls must be female, based on the participant’s biological sex as either female or male, as designated at the participant’s birth.”

The revised policy prohibits transgender girl students from participating in girls sports and teams. The policy would impact teams and sports within the Mat-Su Borough School District; it would not apply to teams from other districts competing within the Mat-Su school district.

The decision followed testimony from about 35 individuals – around 20 spoke out against what most called a discriminatory policy, while 15 testified in support of it. A couple testifiers said they’d sue the district if it passed.

Alex Squires, a Mat-Su student going into 12th grade, said the school board should focus on “actual problems” rather than focusing on “made up ones.”

“We have many problems in our school right now – bullying, drugs, mental health problems, staff shortages, students not getting quality education.

I see it every day. And many more problems. The school decides that it wants to promote sex equality, but this cannot be done by discriminating against transgender athletes,” Squires said. “Trans athletes deserve to have access to the same resources as other students in a way that they can be comfortable and safe in their environment.”

Declan Farley, a 2021 Palmer High School graduate and transgender athlete, noted the high rates of suicide rates for transgender individuals.

“Excluding these students from the joy of the things that they love most, such as sports, puts them at a higher risk of suicide,” he said. “I cannot change the way that I was born, but you can all change the way that you treat those different around you. Transgender people, such as myself, want to be treated with the same respect as everyone else.”

Supporters of the policy spoke about biological differences between male and females, and the rights of athletes whose biological sex at birth was female.

Keri Anderson told the board “I’m here to applaud you” for bringing forward the policy.

“Sports are such a blessing in the lives of girls. We must protect these opportunities for girls by not allowing male-bodied athletes the physical advantage that they do have to ever take their place,” Anderson said. “Please do not allow even one girl to experience exclusion on her playing fields and let a male-bodied athlete take her spot.”

During board discussion, board President Ryan Ponder said the policy is meant to “maintain fairness in athletic opportunities for women” and “ensure discrimination against girls and women does not occur.” He added the policy is supported by federal law and federal case law.

Of the 7-member board, member Dwight Probasco was the only no vote.

The new policy was first introduced June 1. It mirrors Alaska Senate Bill 140, which the Legislature failed to pass after it was tabled twice during the final days of the session.

U.S. Department of Education Confirms Title IX Protects Students from Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights today issued a Notice of Interpretation explaining that it will enforce Title IX’s prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sex to include:

(1) discrimination based on sexual orientation; and (2) discrimination based on gender identity. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity offered by a recipient of federal financial assistance.

The Department’s interpretation stems from the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bostock*

v. Clayton County, issued one year ago this week, in which the Supreme Court recognized that it is impossible to discriminate against a person based on their sexual orientation or gender identity without discriminating against that person based on sex.

Discrimination, contined on page A15

In Alaska’s first statewide by-mail vote, turnout was highest for a primary since 2014

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Final preliminary results posted Tuesday night by the Alaska Division of Elections show 161,614 people voted in the special election for U.S. House, Alaska’s first statewide election by mail. With 27.5% of registered voters participating, it’s the highest turnout in a primary since 2014 and the sixth-highest in the past 20 years.

Forty-eight candidates entered the race, and ordinarily, the top four finishers would advance to the Aug. 16 special general election, but the third-place finisher, Al Gross, said he will withdraw from the race.

Elections officials said that will leave only three finalists, but that decision is expected to be challenged in court by the fifth-place finisher, Tara Sweeney, who could replace Gross.

Finishing first in the preliminary results is Republican candidate Sarah Palin, with 27% of the vote. Second is Republican Nick Begich with 19.1%.

Gross, a nonpartisan candidate, is third at 12.6%, followed by Democratic candidate Mary Peltola with 10.1% of the vote.

Sweeney, a Republican, is fifth with 5.9%. Undeclared candidate Santa Claus, who has referred to himself as a Bernie Sanders-style progressive, is in sixth with 4.7% of the vote.

Democratic candidate Chris Constant is seventh (3.9%), followed by nonpartisan Jeff Lowenfels (3.7%), Republican John Coghill (2.4%) and Republican Josh Revak (2.4%).

No candidate outside the top 10 had more than 2% of the vote.

Election workers are expected to certify the results by Saturday after checking some votes by hand and conducting further review as required by state law.

At least 7,426 of the received ballots were disqualified and not counted for any candidate, based on a preliminary tally published Monday.



PHOTO BY JAMES BROOKS/ALASKA BEACON

Laraine Derr feeds ballots through a scanner on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at the Division 1 office of the Alaska Division of Elections in Juneau, Alaska. Derr was among elections workers counting ballots in Alaska’s special U.S. House primary election.

The rejection rate was running above 17% in one Southwest Alaska state House district and above 14% in a House district along the Bering Strait.

Turnout increased in 35 of the 40 state House districts compared with the 2020 primary. The only districts with fewer ballots cast were the four districts in Northern and

Western Alaska, and the district that includes most of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

After certification, the Division of Elections will publish a report identifying the reasons for rejection and will notify voters whose ballot was cast but not counted for any candidate.

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July First Friday

July 1st, 2022

CHRISTENSEN

3RD

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4TH

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5TH

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6TH

10

7TH

1

5

4

3

2

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1. Second Run Consignment - 720 D St. (11am-5:30pm)

2. Anchorage Museum - 625 C St. (10am-9pm)

3. IGCA - 427 D St. (5-8pm)

4. Sara's Gift Cache - 408 W 4th Ave. (10am-8pm)

5. Kaffee Klatsch - 508 W 2nd Ave. (3-8pm)

6. 49th State Brewing Co. - 717 W 3rd Ave. - Rooftop (7-10:30pm)

7. Sevigny Studio - 312 G St. (10am-9pm)

8. Tiny Gallery - 706 W 4th Ave. (10am-8pm)

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

10. The Cubby at Hotel Captain Cook - 939 W 5th Ave. (6:30-8pm)

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ANCHORAGE PRESS

June 23-June 29, 2022

Gross withdraws, leaving uncertainty about his spot in the special election

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

The race for U.S. House got a whole lot more interesting over the long weekend.

Rumors and chatter quickly turned into an announcement on Monday that independent candidate Al Gross would be ending his campaign for the office altogether, withdrawing from both the special election and the regular election. With his third-place finish, strong fundraising and campaigning up through Friday, there's certainly going to be more to the story, but for now there's still plenty to unpack. In his statement, which gives no reason for his decision, Gross endorses both Democrat Mary Peltola and Republican Tara Sweeney... without naming either.

"It is with great hope for Alaska's future that I have decided to end my campaign to become our state's next Congressman," he said. "There are two outstanding Alaska Native women in this race who would both serve our state well, and I encourage my supporters to stay engaged and consider giving their first-place vote to whichever of them best matches their own values. Thank you for your support."

The announcement follows the withdrawals of every other Democrat save for Peltola—Christopher Constant, Mike Milligan and Adam Wool—to clear the way for the general election. Alaska Native leader Emil Notti also officially conceded from the special election last week, endorsing Peltola. It's unlikely that Gross has had any mending with the Alaska Democratic Party, however, which had called him a "proven loser" after he suggested caucusing with Republicans (a position he later backtracked on).

Anyway.

The big question now is just what happens to the Gross' spot on the special election ballot. Will Sweeney, who finished in fifth place, get the nod or will a slate of three candidates—Peltola and Republicans Nick Begich and Sarah Palin—advance to the ranked-choice special election on Aug. 16? It's a question that doesn't have a clear answer, yet, and the Division of Elections is in the process of reviewing the issue.

This is where the reforms in ballot Measure 2 come into play. Remember that prior to the initiative, special elections were driven by the political parties. They would have picked the candidates and the state wouldn't be going through this special primary process. The Alaska Beacon's James Brooks dug into the text of the initiative looking for an answer, this is what he found:

The text of Alaska's Better Elections Initiative, better known as Ballot Measure 2, says the person who received the fifth-most votes advances if "a candidate



PHOTO BY AL GROSS CAMPAIGN/FACEBOOK

nominated at the primary election dies, withdraws, resigns, becomes disqualified from holding office for which the candidate is nominated, or is certified as being incapacitated in the manner prescribed by this section after the primary election and 64 days or more before the general election."

Monday was 57 days before the Aug. 16 special general election for U.S. House.

Attorney Scott Kendall, the key architect of the initiative, told the Beacon that the 64-day deadline applies only to the regular primary elections, not special elections, and he believes that the Department of Law analysis will result in Sweeney getting the spot. Worth adding to the conversation: There is language dealing with the special election and withdrawals—specifically the language that should be printed on election pamphlets—that contains exactly the same 64-day window BUT it doesn't contain the same reference to the U.S. House, only state office or U.S. Senator:

"The four candidates who receive the most votes for a state office or United States senator will advance to the special election. However, if, after the special primary election and 64 days or more before the special election, one of the four candidates who received the most votes for a state office or United States senator at the primary election dies, withdraws, resigns, is disqualified, or is certified as incapacitated, the candidate who received the fifth most votes for the office will advance to the general election."

Which is all to say, who really knows. Not this layman political writer.

The reality is that this will likely be resolved in the same way every other controversial decision that's come across the Alaska Division of Elections over the last four years: The Division of Elections, on the advice of the Department of Law, will do what it's going to do and, depending on what that is, someone will sue, and the issue will ultimately be decided by the courts. (See also: The rejection of the Dunleavy recall, the language on the oil tax initiative, the language for independent Democrat-backed candidates and the witness signature requirement during the pandemic.)

If the Division of Elections agrees with Kendall that the language should see Sweeney advancing to the general election, we might see a lawsuit from one of the three candidates seeking to block her from joining. If the Division of Elections argues that the window is already closed under the new language of Ballot Measure 2 and Sweeney won't be advancing, then the Sweeney campaign will likely be heading to court. And, hey, I know an attorney who might know a thing or two about Ballot Measure 2 and how it's supposed to work.

It's also here that I feel like it's worth bringing up a few conversations I had about the rejected ballots over the weekend where the common question I got is: Why isn't anyone suing over it? My answer is: If someone thought it would make a difference in the results, they would.

The ballot rejections won't make a difference in the final rankings but the Division of Elections' interpretation of how state law handles withdrawals in special elections certainly will.

Stay tuned.

Alaska elections office says Eastman eligible to run

BY BECKY BOHRER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Alaska Division of Elections has determined that Republican state Rep. David Eastman of Wasilla is eligible to run for reelection. Eastman's candidacy faced challenges over his affiliation with the far-right Oath Keepers group.

Division of Elections Director Gail Fenumiai in a written response to the complaints said a "preponderance of evidence supports his eligibility."

The division on Wednesday in response to a records request from The Associated Press provided copies of complaints that were filed challenging the eligibility of candidates, along with responses from Fenumiai.

Fenumiai said the division received 24 timely filed challenges to Eastman's candidacy.

A challenge also was filed to the residency of state Sen. Lyman Hoffman, a Bethel Democrat. The division determined that Hoffman, a long-serving member of the Legislature who is seeking reelection, is an eligible candidate.

Identifying information of those who challenged East-

man's eligibility was redacted. It was not redacted for the man who challenged Hoffman's eligibility.

"The division determined that the identities of those who challenged Rep. Eastman's eligibility should be protected because of the nature of their allegations," Fenumiai said by email.

Challenges to Eastman's candidacy centered on his affiliation with the Oath Keepers. Many of the complaints were similarly worded and pointed to provisions of the U.S. and state constitutions.

A provision of the Alaska constitution disqualifies from holding public office anyone who "advocates, or who aids or belongs to any party or organization or association which advocates, the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States or of the State."

An Oath Keepers leader and other members or associates have been charged with seditious conspiracy related to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Eastman has said he attended a rally in Washington, D.C., for outgoing President Donald Trump. But he has said that he did not participate in the riot. Eastman has not been accused of any crimes.

He did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday.

Eastman previously said that efforts to "repurpose the constitution to purify the candidate pool before an election have failed in the past and will continue to fail because it is fundamentally the right of the people to make good choices as well as bad ones on Election Day."

Fenumiai said in response to challenges to Eastman's candidacy that the division reviews the "relevant evidence it has," including candidate registration records and declarations of candidacy, and that it can review public records held by other state agencies.

She said in her response letter that the division reviewed Eastman's voter registration records and declaration of candidacy and was unaware of any relevant records held by other state agencies.

She said the division is aware that Eastman "reportedly is a member of the Oath Keepers organization and attended" a rally in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021. But she said the division does not have specific information about that in its possession.

"But even assuming these allegations are true, DOE has determined that they do not — without more — provide a basis to prevent Representative Eastman from running for state office," she wrote. DOE is the Division of Elections.

Are you connected to the great positive good force in the universe?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Aries actor Marilu Henner has an unusual condition: hyperthymesia. She can remember in detail voluminous amounts of past events. For instance, she vividly recalls being at the Superdome in New Orleans on September 15, 1978, where she and her actor friends watched a boxing match between Leon Spinks and Muhammad Ali. You probably don't have hyperthymesia, Aries, but I invite you to approximate that state. Now is an excellent time to engage in a leisurely review of your life story, beginning with your earliest memories. Why? It will strengthen your foundation, nurture your roots, and bolster your stability.



FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

“addicted to the gigantic.” We live in a “mostly huge and roaring, glaring world.” As a counterbalance, she wished for “small works of art, short poems, short pieces of music, intimate, low-voiced, and delicate things.” That’s the spirit I recommend to you in the coming weeks, Taurus. You will be best served by consorting with subtle, unostentatious, elegant influences. Enjoy graceful details and quiet wonders and understated truths.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

In the coming weeks, you will need even more human touch than usual. Your mental, physical, and spiritual health REQUIRE you to have your skin in contact with people who care for you and are eager to feel their skin against yours. A Tumblr blogger named Friend-Suggestion sets the tone for the mood I hope you cultivate. They write, “I love! human contact! with! my friends! So put your leg over mine! Let our knees touch! Hold my hand! Make excuses to feel my arm by drawing pictures on my skin! Stand close to me! Lean into my space! Slow dance super close to me! Hold my face in your hands or kick my foot to get my attention! Put your arm around me when we’re standing or sitting around! Hug me from behind at random times!”

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22)

Author John Banville wrote what might serve as a manifesto for some of us Crabs: “To be concealed, protected, guarded: that is all I have ever truly wanted. To burrow down into a place of wombby warmth and cower there, hidden from the sky’s indifferent gaze and the harsh air’s damagings. The past is such a retreat for me. I go there eagerly, shaking off the cold present and the colder future.” If you are a Crab who feels a kinship with Banville’s approach, I ask you to refrain from indulging in it during the coming months. You’re in a phase of your long-term astrological cycle when your destiny is calling you to be bolder and brighter than usual, more visible and influential, louder and stronger.

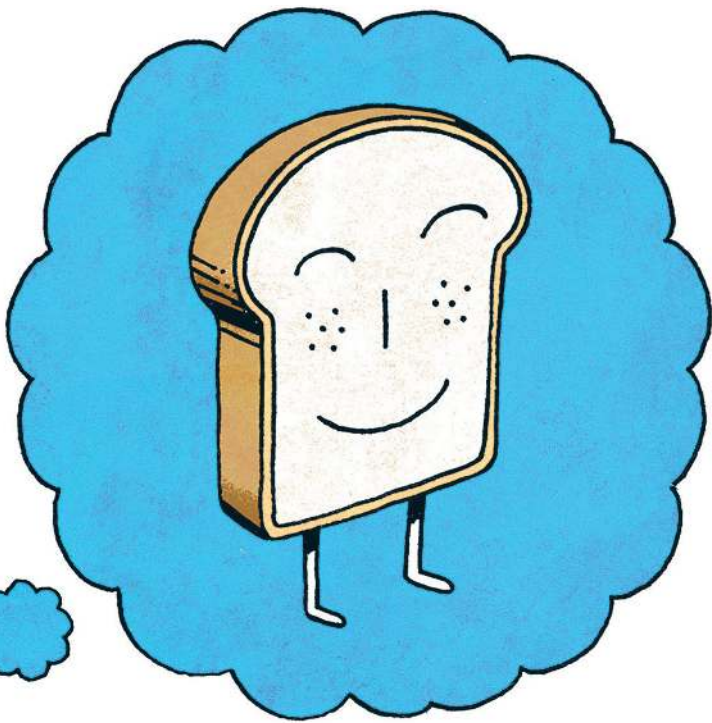
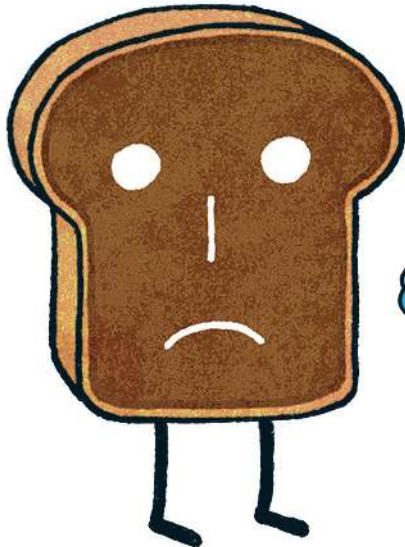
Astrology, contined on page A17



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Pride and Preference

As a queer man of color—I’m Asian—I feel wounded whenever I am exposed to gay men in New York City, Toronto, or any city where white gay men dominate. Gay men, mostly whites and Asians, reject me because of my race and no one admits to their sexual racism. I understand that sexual attraction is subconscious for many people. But it is unfair for a gay Asian like myself to be constantly marginalized and rejected. I fight for gay rights, too. I believe in equality, too. I had the same pain of being gay in high school and the same fears when coming out, too. Why is there no acceptance, no space, no welcome for me in this white-painted gay community? I’m six-foot-one, 160 pounds, fit, and very good-looking. What can I do? I might as well be a sex-less monk.



SAVAGE LOVE BY DAN SAVAGE

—Enraged Dude Details Infuriating Experience

“I relate to a lot of what EDDIE is feeling here,” said Joel Kim Booster, a Brooklyn-based writer and comedian. “The double-edged sword of living in a city with a large gay community is that the community gets so large that we finally have the opportunity to marginalize people within it.”

Jeff Chu, a writer who also lives in Brooklyn, can relate: “Racism still thrives in the gay community, just as in broader society,” said Chu. “Many of us who are Asian American come out of the closet and walk into this weird bamboo cage, where we’re either fetishized or ignored. Many times I’d go into a gay bar and see guys playing out some gross interracial porno in their heads—with me playing the part of their Chinese pocket gay. Others (the ones I was interested in, to be candid) would act as if I were wearing an invisibility cheongsam.”

Chu feels there’s plenty of blame to go around for this sad state of affairs. “It’s the gay media,” said Chu. “It’s Hollywood. Even with all the LGBT characters we have on TV now, what images do we have of Asian American ones? It’s that LGBT-rights organizations still haven’t diversified enough, especially in their leadership. And it’s all of us, when we’re lazy and don’t confront our own prejudices.”

Booster and Chu are right: Racism is a problem in the gay community, some people within are unfairly and cruelly marginalized, and we all need to confront our own prejudices.

Even you, EDDIE. You cite your height (tall!), weight (slim!), and looks (VGL!) as proof you’ve faced sexual rejection based solely on your race. But short, heavy, average-looking/unconventionally-attractive guys face rejection for not being tall, lean, or conven-

tionally hot, just as you’ve faced rejection for not being white. (The cultural baggage and biases that inform a preference for, say, tall guys is a lot less toxic than the cultural baggage and biases that inform a preference for white guys—duh, obviously.)

“As a stereotypically short Chinese guy, my first reaction to reading EDDIE’s letter? Damn, he’s six-foot-one! I’m jealous,” said Chu. “And that’s also part of the problem. I, like many others, have internalized an ideal: tall, gym-perfected, blah blah blah—and, above all, white.”

Booster was also struck by your stats. “It’s hard for me to wrap my head around any six-foot-one, fit, VGL guy having trouble getting laid,” said Booster. “On paper, this is the gay ideal! I don’t really consider myself any of those things—and I have a perfectly respectable amount of sex.”

Booster, who somehow manages to have plenty of sex in New York’s “white-painted gay community,” had some practical tips for you. “EDDIE should stay away from the apps if the experience becomes too negative,” Booster said. “If logging on to a hookup app bums him out, take a break. Being a double minority can be isolating, but living in a big city can be great. There are meet-ups and clubs and activities for all stripes. Join a gay volleyball league—truly where gay Asian men thrive—or find one of the many gay Asian nights at one of the gay bars around the city. They’re out there.”

Chu has also managed to find romantic success in New York. “I’ve been where EDDIE is, except shorter, less fit, and less good-looking, and somehow I found a husband,” said Chu. “The monastery wasn’t my calling, and I suspect it’s not EDDIE’s either.”

A quick word to gay white men: It’s fine to have “preferences.” But we need to examine our preferences and give some thought to the cultural forces that may have shaped them. Do yourself the favor of making sure your preferences are actually yours, and not some limited and limiting racist “preference” pounded into your head by TV, movies, and porn. And while preferences are allowed (and gay men of color have them, too), there’s no excuse for littering Grindr or Tinder or Recon—or your conversations in bars—with dehumanizing garbage like “no Asians,” “no Blacks,” “no femmes,” “no fatties,” etc. (But “no Republicans” is fine.)

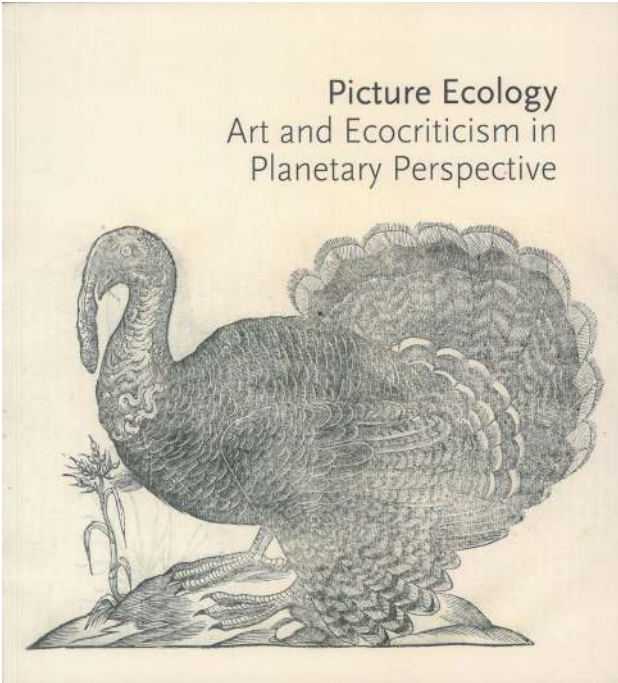
The last word goes to Booster: “A note to the rice queens who will undoubtedly write in about this man: We like that you like us. But liking us solely because of our race can be uncomfortable at best, and creepy as hell at worst. In my experience, it’s perfectly okay to keep some of those preferences behind the curtain while you get to know us a bit as humans first.”

Savage, contined on page A16

Aestheticizing Climate Change with ‘Picture Ecology’

ART SLEUTH
BY JEAN BUNDY

‘Picture Ecology’ edited by Karl Kusserow, consists of fifteen essays with imagery that address Climate Change, not only by artists constructing in the present, by past artists who may have inadvertently foreseen the future. This tome is not only good for creators deciding on how to approach their next project but museum-goers scrutinizing a work’s hidden secrets for relevance today.



Using Global Warming as a theme for making art is now very popular. Implementing the socio-political alerts the public to circumstances, and allows producers and audiences to share in discussions, admittedly vicariously. For several decades, the art world exhibited narcissistic narratives, many in tableaux format. Artists gathered household objects and recreated garages or bedrooms in galleries with accompanying texts that bemoaned the mundane. The debate ensues as to whether all this helps to clean up the environment; at least it’s a needed aesthetic change.

Why do we abuse the Earth? And is it just greed that compels us to slip into the comfortable realm of denial? Some blame Judeo-Christian doctrine, which grants man ‘dominion over the earth’. Pope Francis, who takes his papal name from St. Francis, patron saint of animals and now ecology, reinterprets ‘Genesis’ as granting man ‘interconnectedness’ with the ‘rest of creation’ (58). Three works here explain how man has altered/abused environments.

‘An Experiment on a bird in the Air Pump’ 1768, by Joseph Wright (1734-1797) was painted in the Age of Enlightenment when science was sparring with ecclesiastical mythologies. In this work, middle-class Brits gasp, some in delight, as they watch a Gray Cockatiel suffocate when oxygen is removed from the glass globe in which it was placed. The experiment not only shows how oxygen is necessary for all creatures, but who cares if a silly bird is wasted. The optical entrance to this painting is smack in the middle of the canvas, where light and shadows are concentrated on all players. The multi-generational observers, who form an outer circle, waft in and out of observing the inner globe which holds the corpse of the sacrificed bird. Gray Cockatiels were an exotic import from the colonies and a metaphor for lives sacrificed and ‘place’ conquered/destroyed for Western Civilization’s alleged progress. Whatever Wright thought of this experiment is unknown; it afforded him a living. Andrew Patrizio writes, “the experiment enacts, and Wright’s work visualizes, a relationship that is a microcosmic anticipation of global warming, air pollution, and existential crisis that would unfold incontrovertibly



An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump, 1768, Joseph Wright.

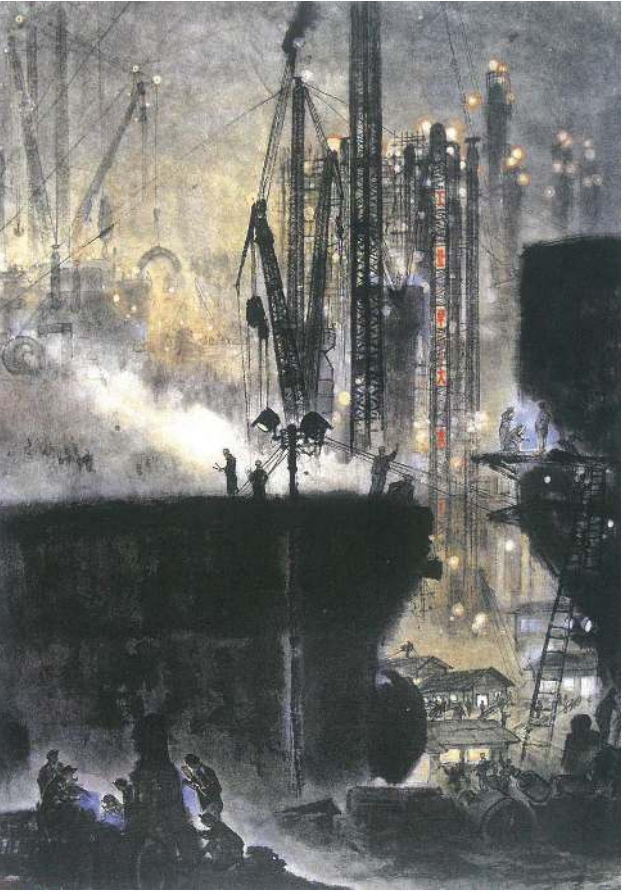
two centuries after Wright’s painting was created.” The Industrial Revolution mechanized modernity, but not without human exploitation ensuing and pollution accelerating from burning coal and whale oil, with both industries witnessing abuse (24).

Thanks to Marilyn Monroe (‘Gentlemen Prefer Blondes’ 1953) we think of diamonds as a girl’s best friend, but once, pearls were all the rage. ‘Pendant with a Monstrous Pearl in the form of a Madonna’ 1640-50, by a Netherlandish artist, belonged to Catholic Spain’s Philip II (1527-1598). Christopher Columbus discovered oyster beds off Venezuela in 1498, and Philip considered it God’s will that he control and profit from the Spanish Indies. Mónica Domínguez Torres writes, “in the Middle Ages the white, iridescent matter of pearls became metaphorically associated with the figure of the Virgin Mary; theologians such as Hugh of Saint Victor compared Mary’s acceptance of the archangel Gabriel’s announcement that she would conceive Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to the oyster that rose from the bottom of the sea and opened itself to be impregnated by the heavenly dew.” While many in the pearl trade questioned this tale, the brooch became one of many stand-ins for the Virgin Mary. Spain needed money, and it was thought that canoeing to an adjacent bed would always be possible because pearls were bountiful and providentially ordained as the symbol of Hapsburg rule. It was finally realized that dredging sea beds, albeit lo-tech, destroyed oyster regeneration. Resting periods from January to September were decreed as was throwing back young oysters; conservation came too late. Today, this monstrous bauble is an allegory for Philip’s ‘Atlantic pearl industry’ and the everlasting devastation it caused (80).



Pendant with a Monstrous Pearl in the Form of a Madonna, Netherlandish Artist, 1640-50.

‘Race Against Time’ 1976, by Ya Ming (1924-2002) resembles the compositional verticality complete with misty atmosphere pictured in ancient Chinese scrolls. But here, fog is generated by polluting machinery meant to build China into an industrialized powerhouse. This painting integrates a typical Chinese dwelling at the lower right, dwarfed by cranes and resulting skyscrapers that push upwards, while laborers in the left lower quadrant produce billowing black smoke. The piece marries Chinese-aesthetic tropes with Western Modernism’s bold value shifts (black to white here) akin to Georgia O’Keeffe’s (1887-1986) New York City nocturnal landscapes or Ashcan School George Bellows’ (1882-1925) Hudson River scenes where longshoremen toil, often unsafely, among industrialization’s filth.



De-nin D. Lee gives readers a taste of reality, writing, “Vast forests composed of varied plant and animal life were felled to make way for farms. Although the culture celebrated its hermits and gave due consideration to the regular operations of the heavens and natural phenomena, nevertheless it did so in the face of marked ‘improvements’ to the natural environment.” ‘Race Against Time’ reveals China’s paradoxes of Post-Modern growth, along with disproportionate wealth, versus a fairy tale land of enchantment (42).

Abusing the Earth for the advancement of Humanity began long ago. At present, industrialized nations’ escalating fuel productions, not to mention plastics manufacturing (causing oceanic detritus) have accelerated atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, a major culprit in Earth’s warming trends. Artists (also writers) can consolidate vast amounts of Earth’s predicaments into an exhibition, a video, or a book, and visually connect the dots about rising acidic oceans, melting glaciers/tundra along with increased hurricanes, forest fires, and droughts — verbally/visually everyone’s problem.

Mini Sleuth: ‘Picture Ecology’ ed. by Kusserow is on Amazon. Thank you--Jodi Price at Princeton Univ. Press.edu.

Jean Bundy, MFA, Ph.D., is a writer/painter living in Anchorage. She is a VP at AICA-Int. and serves on Governance for Pictor Gallery, NYC.

Email: 38144@alaska.net



Thurs 9pm @ Flattop

Jukebox KARAOKE Roadshow

HOSTED BY **JUKEBOX JOE**

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday June 23
8:30 *Nothin' But Karma*

Friday June 24
9:30 *Agents Of Karma*

Saturday June 25
9:30 *Rebel Blues*

Wednesday June 29
8:30 *Spaff Daddy*



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every SUNDAY

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Or read below if you just want to know the time & place.

Thursday, June 23rd

Alaska Cannabis Exchange – Open Mic with Shalah Rose 7p-9p
Al's Alaskan Inn – Hip-Hop Meets K-Pop 10p-2a
Anchorage Town Square – 9th Army Band 5:30p-8p
The Crystal Saloon (Juneau) – Open Mic ft. Erin Heist
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Garcia's Cantina & Café (Eagle River) - Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic Night 8p-12a
Loussac Library – Live at the Library: The Rogues & the Harp Twins 12p-1p
Mad Myrna's – Drag Queen Bingo 8p-10p
Mad Myrna's – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Reggae Fest With E. N Young and H3 6p-10p
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-11p



Friday, June 24th

Anchorage Museum – Witty Youngman 4:30p-5:30p
Anchorage Town Square – Ensemble Summa 6p-7p
Birch Books (Wasilla) – Open Mic Night 5p-7p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Valley Comedy Series Headlining Daniel Eachus 7p-11p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: The Store 7p-8:30p
Humpty's – Agents of Karma 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Velvet La La 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Eagles Tribute by Eagle Eyes 5p-10p
Spenard – Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Abi Sparkman, & Ashley Young 6:30p-9p
O'Malley's on the Green – Silver Train 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – I Like Robots 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Variety Playhouse 7p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Vaniversary Pre-party! 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Metal Mayhem w/ Decepticide, Mindful Khaos, & Part Time Superheroes 7p-10:30p
Wonderland Park (Wasilla) – Music in the Park: Cold Fusion 6p-9p



Saturday, June 25th

Anchorage Town Square – Salsa in the Park with Anaya Latin Dance 3:30p-6:30p
Broken Blender – Sassy Saturdays Live Cabaret 8p-9:30p
Broken Blender – David Johnson Live 8p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpty's – Rebel Blues Band 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Viva Pride '22 6:30p-9a
Koot's – Comedian Daniel Eachus 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot's – The Flaming Disco 10p-2:30a
Lake Drive (Eagle River) – A Taste for Hope ft Glacier Blues Band 6p-9p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Mad Myrna's – WE SAY GAY!! Mad Myrna's PRIDE PARTY! 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – NERVIS REX 6p-10p
Cafecito Bonito (Anchorage) - Lights Down Low 7-9pm
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Braided River 7p-10p
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Downtown Jazz in the Park 4p-6p
Van's Dive Bar – V4 Vaniversary - 29 bands 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – House Party: Rainbow Edition w/ Fan Service 9:30p-2a



Sunday, June 27th

The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Beats Roots Alaska – Summer '22 w/ Joe Brady 3p-5p
Broken Blender – Longest Day Cabaret: A Burlesque Brunch! 11:30a-1p
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

Monday, June 28th

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 29th

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – The Open Stage 7p-10p
Koot's – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Turnagain Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
UAA Cuddy Quad – Concerts in the Quad 11:30a-1p

Wednesday, June 30th

3rd & E st Parking Lot – Backyard Country BBQ w/ Darius Rucker & Kendal Marvel 5p-10p
907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Alaskan Hotel and Bar (Juneau) – Karaoke Wednesdays 8p-12a
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpty's – Spaff Daddy 8:30p-12:30a
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) – HarpDaddy & The BackCountry Mojo 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
Williwaw Social - The Star of Alaska Karaoke Tournament 6p-10p

PRESSING EVENTS

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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

Featured



Last Frontier Pickleball Open
@ 5pm

Jun 24th - Jun 26th
Anchorage Pickleball Club is holding its first competitive tournament, open to all players. Spectators are also welcome. Register to play at www.pickleballtournaments.com Ben Boeke Indoor Ice Arenas, 534 East 16th Avenue, Anchorage. anchoragepickleballclub@gmail.com, 907-229-2470



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

Spenard Song Circle
@ 6:30pm

Spenard Song Circle is a listening room series hosted by Emma Hill. This series is meant to showcase songs, stories, and themes from the artists inspired in the moment by sharing energy and time with each other and the audience. The Nave, 3502 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sat 6/25

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

Name Your Price Art Sale!
@ 10am

Nature-themed prints and framed paintings, plus wildlife photography prints - all available at the price you name. Proceeds support Bird Treatment and Learning Center. Bird Treatment & Learning Center (TLC), 15510 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage. director@birdtlc.net, 907-562-4852

AlaskaFest 8!
@ 12pm

AlaskaFest is The American Legion Post 28's annual Open-to-the-Public Festival and Market! American Legion Post 28, 7001 Brayton Drive, Anchorage. kuparukbands@gmail.com, 907-529-0704

Archery
@ 6:30pm

Kincaid Archery Range, W Raspberry Road, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Sassy Saturdays Cabaret
@ 8pm / \$20

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

Comedian Daniel Eachus
@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

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. sherrieplaster@msn.com, 907-223-0605



Featured



Comedian Daniel Eachus
@ 7pm / \$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

Tue 6/28

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

Wed 6/29

Adam Wakefield
@ 3pm

Downtown Anchorage Viewpoint, Anchorage

Craig Wayne Boyd
@ 3pm

Downtown Anchorage Viewpoint, Anchorage

Casey James
@ 3pm

Downtown Anchorage Viewpoint, Anchorage

Texas Hill: The Backyard Country BBQ
@ 3pm

Downtown Anchorage Viewpoint, Anchorage

Featured



Kendell Marvel: The Backyard Country BBQ
@ 5pm

Chinook Lot 225 E Street, Anchorage



Darius Rucker
@ 7pm

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

Stories with Mr. Clay
@ 7:15pm

Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Parking Lot Programs - Fairview
@ 9pm

Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 East 10th Ave, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Featured



Texas Hill
@ 9:30pm

Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Thu 6/30

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

Sat 7/02

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

Sun 7/03

Alaska Expedition B (14-day)
@ 12am / Free

Jul 3rd - Jul 16th
Anchoarge, AK, 5000 W International Airport Rd., Anchorage. 828-435-0627

Tue 7/05

Spenard Summer Day Camp Week #6
@ 4pm

Jul 5th - Jul 8th
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 West 48th, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

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

Wed 7/06

Featured



Reflections on Wrongful Convictions
@ 5:30pm / \$45

Presentation by Amanda Knox, who spent 4 years in an Italian prison, and Marvin Roberts, who spent 18 years in Alaska prisons, on their experience being wrongfully convicted Wilda Marston Theatre, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage. info@alaskainnocence.org, 907-279-0454



Resin Art Class-Ocean Wave Wall Art
@ 6pm / \$55

Make your own life like beach scene using resin pouring techniques. JULIE MORAES ARTISTRY, 4105 Turnagain Blvd, Suite A3 (In front of the building facing the street), Anchorage. sparkletrebe1@gmail.com, 650-210-6682

Featured



Tom Segura: I'm Coming Everywhere - World Tour
@ 7pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage



Scott Clay @ Bear Paw
@ 7pm

Bear Paw Bar & Grill, 190 W Tudor Rd, Anchorage

Tom Segura: I'm Coming Everywhere - World Tour
@ 7pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

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Something Magical

Nick Carpenter is taking Medium Build to new heights

BY DREW ERICKSON
PHOTOS BY SHIPE SHOTS

Several years ago, a friend brought me to Taproot to see her buddy’s new band perform at an ugly sweater party. I had only been to a handful of concerts at the time and had no idea what to expect. That show was, to this day, one of the best I’ve ever attended. Looking back, I feel so fortunate to have been there because it was Medium Build’s debut performance.

I don’t think anyone knew where that night’s event would lead, but we were privileged to be there at the ground floor of Medium Build’s career.

Now one of Alaska’s biggest acts, Medium Build has taken many forms over the years and produced many different kinds of music. However, one element has remained the same – songwriter and founder, Nick Carpenter.

“I was in Nashville writing pop-country songs, and I started Medium Build as the place to put the songs that nobody wanted,” Carpenter said with a laugh.

Within 10 days of releasing his newest single, “comeonback,” on June 8, 2022, the song had already accumulated 50,000 Spotify streams. If the reception of the single is any indicator, Carpenter has hit his musical stride.

While still embracing the intimacy and earnestness that has defined Medium Build’s sound, the new song feels like a breath of fresh air for Carpenter.

“I can now write about the shit that I observe because I’ve been in all those situations. I’ve sat in the parking lot, gotten drunk, and talked to someone until 3AM and 4AM, wondering what the hell life is. And then you watch people live, and you’re like, ‘Well, I bet I could write about this,’” said Carpenter.



More than a song about an old friend, “comeonback” is a song about forgiveness. And not only forgiveness of others, but of ourselves as well.

“I think of songwriting like a dirty water faucet. You just keep the pipe running and eventually, the shit will get out, and all the mud will be gone. Eventually, it’s just clean water coming out,” explained Carpenter.

When Carpenter’s bandmate, Jake Leboski, first played the beat for “comeoneback,” He says he knew the song was going to give him a chance to clean out the mud.

“I really felt like I needed some catharsis, too,” Carpenter said.

The timing of Carpenter’s emotional release couldn’t have been better. This fall, he and his bandmates will be embarking on their first major tour as support for indie-rock artist Briston Maroney.

“It’s a pretty big deal for me, ‘cause that’s the first time I’ve ever gotten a support tour with an act that people know. Somebody with a blue check that people have heard of. I’ve done a bunch of those with Quinn [Christopherson], but I’ve never done one as Medium Build,” explained Carpenter. Medium Build’s recent success is tangible proof that life doesn’t always go the way you thought it would.

“I didn’t think I would ever still be doing it this long. I always told myself that I would quit at 30. So, the fact that I’m 31 and about to go on my first tour has me thinking, ‘Oh my god, how long am I gonna push this ball up the hill?’” said Carpenter.

While Carpenter may feel like Sisyphus endlessly pushing a stone up a steep hill, Alaska musicians are benefiting from his struggle.

“It’s all good if everybody benefits, you know? That’s what a good scene is. A good scene is supporting, sharing, and caring. That’s what I try to remember. We all benefit when people do well,” he said.

In 2019, Carpenter took a backseat as he played keys for NPR Tiny Desk Contest winner Alaskan Quinn Christopherson on his victory tour. Carpenter had submitted his own entry the same year. But if he felt any pangs of jealousy, he never showed them. In every video of the two performing, Carpenter is always sporting an ear-to-ear grin.

Carpenter has also co-written and played support for many other Alaskan songwriters and artists, including James Glaves, Ed Washington, and Zane Penny.

Although Carpenter relishes being in the background, he admits that, at times, it can be difficult to share his creations with other artists.

“It’s hard to ‘share care’ for the thing that is your baby. I think that I have to not act in the scarcity mindset. I have to think that, ‘Yes, another song will come. Another good line will come. Another whatever will come, and I’ll be okay,’” he explained. “Sometimes, it leaves, and it becomes something else. Which is kind of the magic thing about it, and kind of the not magic thing about it. It’s a fun trade. It’s a fun life.”

One thing is certain, Medium Build is definitely producing magical tracks, and Alaskans are getting a front-row pass to something special.



IEYMI!



Photos by @49th.john



Photos by @truenorthphotoak



Photos by @jr2photograph



Photos by @tastemasher



Dunleavy names Rubenstein to Perm Fund board; her father's company manages \$825 million for fund

BY DERMOT COLE

The press release from Gov. Mike Dunleavy announcing the appointment of Gabrielle “Ellie” Rubenstein to the board of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation neglected to mention key details about her background.

Dunleavy did not make it clear how long Rubenstein has lived in Alaska or that she is the daughter of billionaire David Rubenstein, co-founder of the Carlyle Group, and Alice Rogoff, the former owner of the Alaska Dispatch and what is now the Anchorage Daily News.

Dunleavy’s announcement does not say how or if the state plans to address the conflict of interest created by Rubenstein’s presence on board. Her father’s company manages about \$825 million in assets for the Alaska Permanent Fund.

Gabrielle, who was one of the many Alaska co-chairs for Trump in 2016, is co-founder of Manna Tree, an investment firm based in Colorado. Her father has a 10 percent interest in the company, according to a 2019 report. The company aims to “reinvent” private equity investing for the next 30 years.

On her company website, she has a video saying she started her investment career “between LA and Alaska.”

Scott Kendall, the former chief of staff for former Gov. Bill Walker, said on Twitter that this is a “move by Craig Richards to consolidate his power over the fund.”

Richards, who served as attorney general under Walker, has become an ally of Dunleavy’s in the past few years, working as an attorney to fight the Dunleavy recall.

He is chairman of the board of trustees of the fund and was a key figure in the firing of Angela Rodell as CEO, an action that remains under investigation by an independent attorneys hired by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee.

Appointments to the Permanent Fund board are not subject to legislative confirmation under state law. Rubenstein replaces Bill Moran of Ketchikan, the only member of the fund board who opposed Rodell’s termination.

The press release from Dunleavy about Rubenstein’s appointment obscures the details about Rubenstein’s time in Alaska and does not mention her father’s company or its work for the fund.

“Rubenstein’s family first moved to Alaska in 2001, and after completing her undergraduate degree, she moved to Anchorage. She has been a resident of the state for the last decade. Rubenstein has a background in investments and philanthropy, and she is an avid angler, hunter, and pilot.

“Rubenstein is the co-founder and CEO of Manna Tree, an investment firm dedicated to improving human health by transforming the food supply chain for healthier outcomes, and the founder of Mission: Ingredients, which supports outdoor wilderness, youth education, and military health and recovery programs.

“She has dedicated countless hours to the American Red Cross since first volunteering with the Red Cross of Alaska in 2014. Rubenstein earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology from Harvard University, her master’s degree in agriculture economics from Purdue University, and her MBA from Indiana University’s Kelly School of Business.”

A 2019 article from Pensions and Investments about the founding of Manna Tree a year earlier said that Gabrielle “learned the private equity business by going to work with her dad, David M. Rubenstein, Carlyle Group’s co-founder and co-executive chairman.”

Pensions and Investments said Rubenstein was a co-founder of PT Capital, an Anchorage-based firm and helped start the Alaska Angel Investment Network.

Her company is based in Vail, Colo. Ross Iverson is CIO, and Brent Drever is chief operating officer.

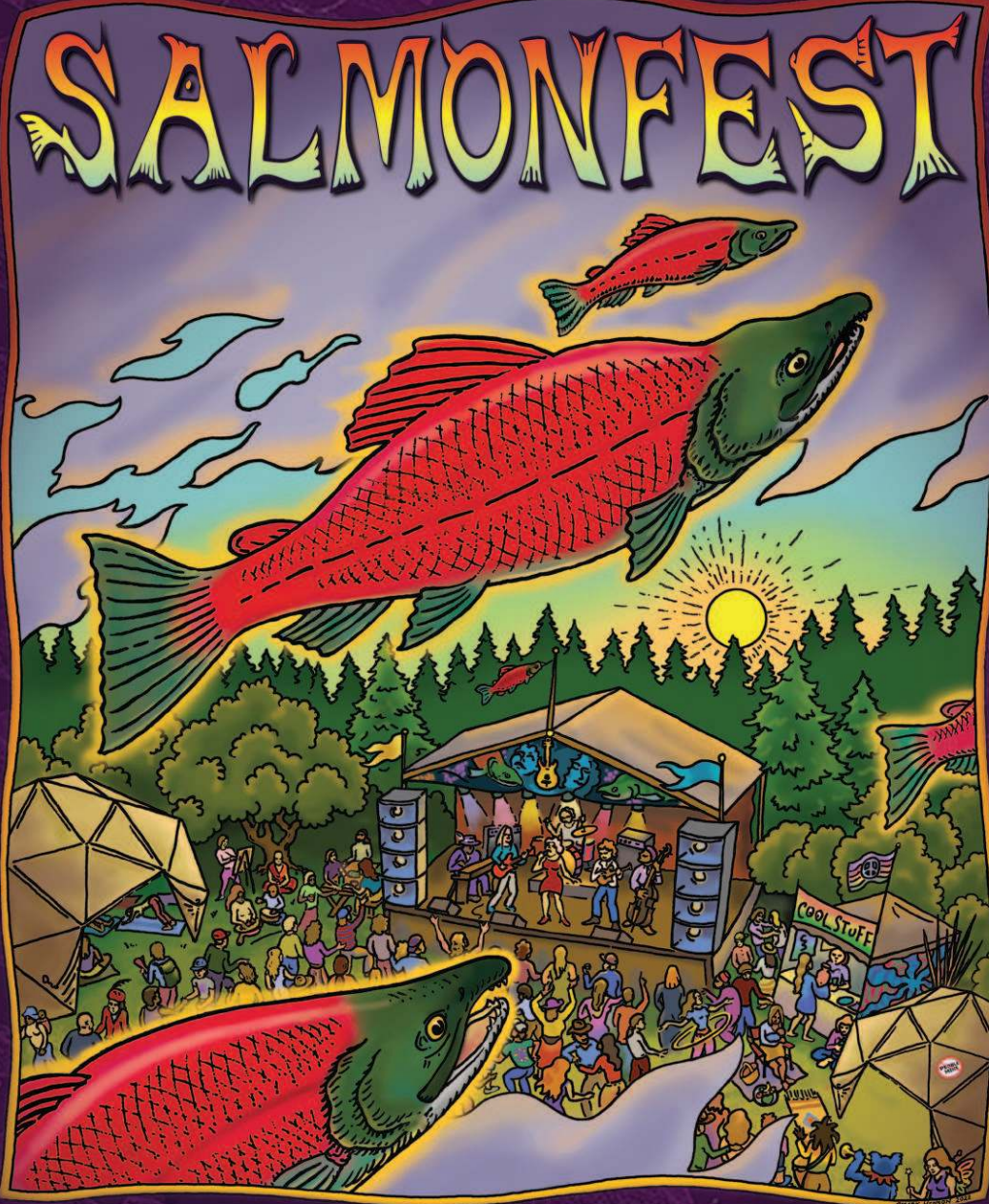


Gov. Mike Dunleavy

“Since Manna Tree was founded, the firm’s association with Mr. Rubenstein, who is part of Manna Tree’s general partnership with a 10% stake, has helped the new firm by ‘parlaying the name and the Rubenstein network’ into investments in healthy food, Mr. Drever said. “David Rubenstein has been a successful investor for 30 years. . . . He’s opened relationships for us,” he said. “It helps with deal flow. . . . They recognize the name.”

Gabrielle was a co-chair of the Alaska political committee for Trump in 2016. She and her dad were on the guest list for Trump’s first state dinner in 2018.

David Rubenstein sold 2 million shares of Carlyle stock June 6 for \$77.3 million. He still owns 29 million shares valued at \$1.1 billion.



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A low-tech guy finds magic in an app that identifies birds from the sound of their songs

I'm not exactly a Luddite. And I generally don't consider myself a technophobe — though I have my moments. But I've always been something of a low-tech person. And I sometimes cringe at what seems to be an unquestioning embrace of technology and technological advances by America's mainstream culture. This embrace can be — and at times in our history, has been — dangerous, even deadly.



CITY WILDS
BY BILL
SHERWONIT

I'd also describe myself as someone who's habitually behind the curve regarding technological advances (as low-tech types tend to be, I suppose). Case in point: cell phones. I resisted getting a cell phone for a long, long time. And it also took me years to transition from flip-phone to smartphone. But I finally did, long after most of my friends, family, and colleagues had made the switch.

Now, of course, my iPhone seems an essential part of my life — how did I function without it for so long? Of course, I pay too much attention to its texting, email, Internet, and many other “apps,” but that's life. During my waking hours, the iPhone is almost always right beside me, usually tucked inside my left front pants pocket, a convenient and at times, magical tool within easy reach. Not to mention an occasional distraction from the other parts of my life.

That's the alluring thing about certain technologies: they do have a magic about them. I find that to be especially true about some of the apps I've downloaded onto my iPhone. I thought about this recently when I tried my Merlin Bird ID app's “Sound ID” function for the first time.

For those unfamiliar with Merlin Bird ID, it's made available by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, whose stated mission is “to interpret and conserve the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.”

Beyond its grander efforts, an essential part of the Cornell Lab's mission is to help people answer the question, “What's that bird?” So in 2009, the lab “hatched” its Merlin ID project to create an interactive tool that helps people more easily identify birds. The Merlin Bird ID app (which, I should note, is free) was officially “launched” in 2014, and since then, the Cornell Lab proudly reports, it has helped millions of people around the world do just that: more easily identify birds.

Naturally, I came to this party late. I didn't add the app to my smartphone (or even know about its existence) until several years after it was made available to the world. And, to be honest, I really haven't used it very much. But that is changing, thanks to the app's Sound ID function.

Here again, I'm a late-comer, but only by a year or so. I learned about Merlin's Sound ID through my girlfriend Jan, who began using it (at least that I noticed) this spring. I began to take serious notice when on one of our forest walks, we heard a sparrow's song. I wasn't entirely sure, but by process of elimination guessed the bird might be a Lincoln's sparrow.

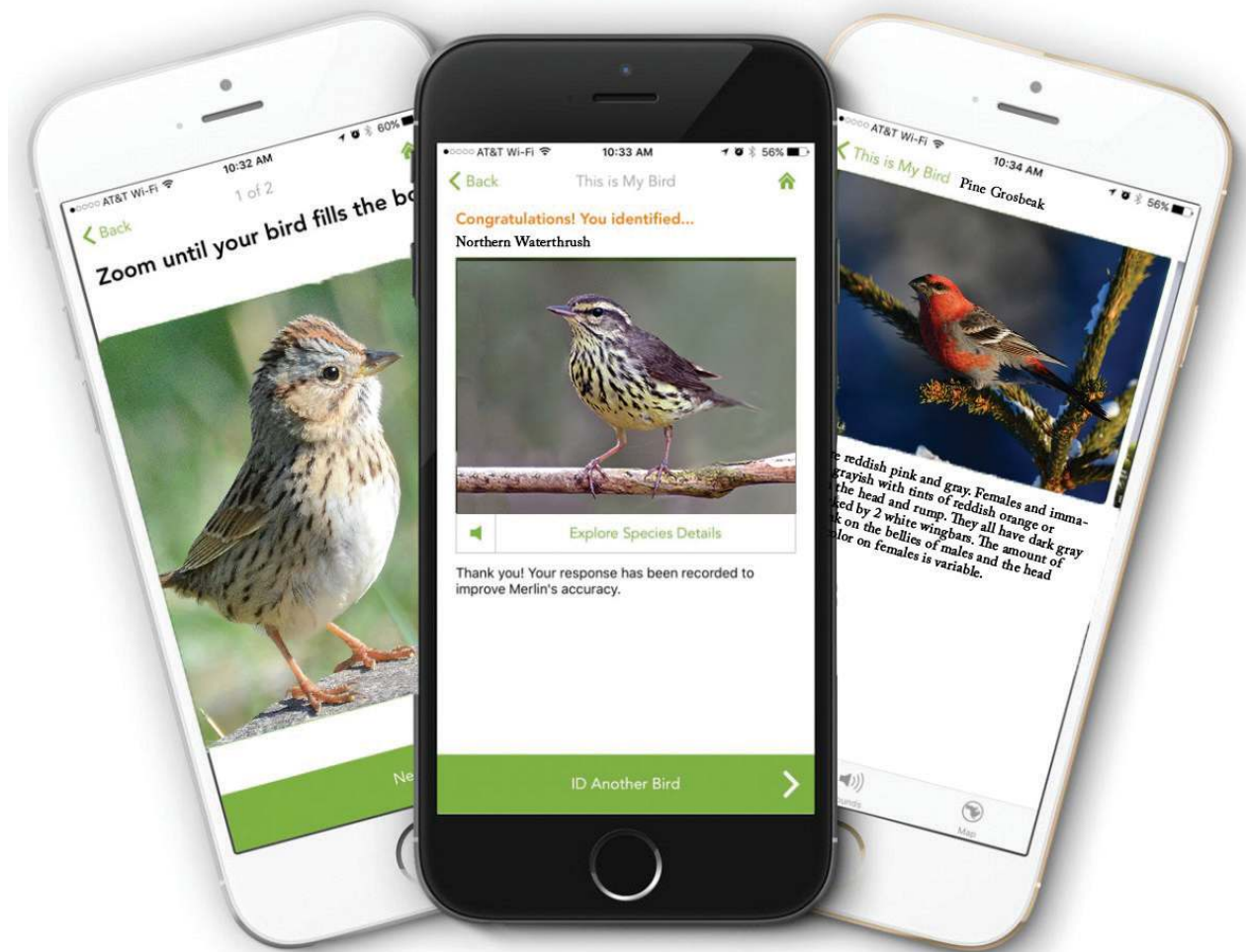
Jan reached for her cell phone, tapped the Merlin Bird ID app, then tapped the Sound ID bar, pointed her iPhone in the direction of the singer, and seconds later, confirmed the bird to be a Lincoln's sparrow.

This greatly impressed me for a couple of reasons: first, I had guessed correctly; second, the app somehow recorded the sparrow's song and, within seconds, identified the bird.

We tried it on a few other songbirds, ones I recognized, and sure enough, the Merlin ID app, and I agreed.

It did seem a bit like, well, like magic. Technological wizardry.

I figured that Jan must have gone through several steps to program her Merlin ID app so it would identify the songs of birds. I didn't think much more about it until several days later. I was walking the Coastal Trail near Earthquake Park, and I heard a song that reminded me of a warbler. But it differed from the songs of all the common warblers that I know inhabit



the Anchorage area in spring and summer.

I wondered if the singer might be a northern waterthrush, which despite its name, belongs to the “wood-warbler” family, a family that includes such common local migratory species as the yellow-rumped, orange-crowned, Wilson's, Townsend's, and yellow warblers.

Unlike those other warblers, the waterthrush has no yellow or golden markings, but is, in essence an LBB: a little brown bird, with white undersides that have brown streaking (it also has a characteristic “buffy eyebrow stripe”). I knew the northern waterthrush (appropriately enough) often inhabits woodlands near bodies of water, which fit the area I was passing through.

I hadn't heard a singling northern waterthrush in years (that I could tell), but it seemed a likely candidate. I pulled out my iPhone, and tapped the Merlin Bird ID app, which took me to a “page” with several options, including Sound ID. I figured I'd have to go through several steps but was instructed to “Get as close to the bird as you can, hold still, and press record” (which has a microphone symbol).

I did as instructed, and the app began “listening for birds,” while a kind of graph began rolling across the top of the page, this being what scientists call a “spectrogram,” essentially a visual representation of an audio signal, or sound, in this instance bird song.

For a non-scientist like me, the spectrogram is a technological marvel. I won't try to explain how it works here, because that could be an entire column in itself. But let's just accept that scientists have figured out a way to take a bird's song, or any sort of sound, and represent it graphically.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has built a vast library of spectrograms for hundreds of birds that inhabit North America and Europe (as of April 19, 2022, the count was 685). From that data, they somehow created a Sound ID app that, within a matter of seconds, can record a bird's song, convert it to a spectrogram, search its vast library, and identify the bird who is singing. (The app will also admit it when it cannot identify the song or call being recorded). That, to me, is both mysterious and magical.

This brings me back to my first application of Merlin's Sound ID. In a remarkably short time, a matter of seconds really, my iPhone confirmed that I was indeed listening to a northern waterthrush. This brought a

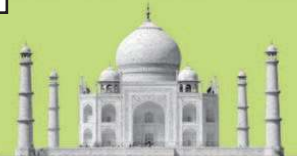
big smile to my face and sent a wave of delight — and yes, wonder — through my being.

Wow!

I have since used the Merlin Sound ID app several times, both when walking alone and also with Jan. So far, it hasn't helped me to learn the songs of birds that are entirely new to me, or ones I've forgotten, for that matter. The Lincoln's sparrow and northern waterthrush are notable exceptions. But the app has confirmed my identification of common bird songs that are a little tricky.

In the process, the high-tech tool has become something of a toy as well, a device to be used playfully now and then. Jan naturally worries that I will become obsessed with the Merlin Sound ID, much like I did with my iPhone's iNaturalist app last summer. I don't think that will happen, but I can't be sure until the initial magic wears off. And that might take a while, because this is the sort of technological advance I can embrace. It offers the possibility of a greater connection to the wild world we inhabit, a world more wondrously complex, mysterious, and more magical than anything we humans will ever create. And that's pretty cool.

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



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Rugged science on the Southeast coast

BY NED ROZELL

OVER THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN — To the woman wearing earbuds and sitting next to me in seat 7E: I'm sorry; I did not get to shower before boarding the plane after 12 days of accompanying four scientists in the hills north of Lituya Bay. I will try to keep my arms pinned to my side and lean toward the window.

That's probably not good enough, but it's only an hour-and-a-half from Juneau to Anchorage. There, you will be free from the scent of the wild.

If you were available for conversation, I would explain. The leader of our expedition, Quaternary geologist Dan Mann, has guided just a dozen people to the spongy terraces north of Lituya Bay in the last 45 years. One reason few have visited is that the high benches are very hard to reach.

We just flew over those plateaus, the 737 passing by them in 10 seconds. On the ground, it took a lot longer.

If you were to pull out those earbuds, ma'am, I would tell you something I found notable about this trip: Over the years, I have gotten wet with scientists on the island of Attu at the far reach of the Aleutians, snowmachined to the giant snow-covered lake called Teshekpuk, and hiked the Valley of 10,000 Smokes as tiny, wind-blown rocks smacked our raingear.

And the last 11 days trumped 'em all for toughness.

At this point, if you weren't listening to music, your eyes would dart to the gray hair curling from beneath my baseball cap. Without saying it, you would think, "Yeah, dude, it was hard because you're old."

Good observation. There is a lot of mileage on the chassis. But I would offer a slight rebuttal.

The first creek we crossed on this trip filled my Xtratufs with clear water. The second creek forced a scientist to turn back to shore after he waded in to his chest hairs. Plan B to cross that waterway required a six-foot leap off a thick-limbed fallen spruce we used as a bridge. Be mindful not to grab the devil's club on the way down.

This trip required jungle travel in a land where so much rainfall nourishes so many plants that it is often impossible to see the moss-covered bowling ball under your next bootstrap.

There were breaks from that. In the quiet forest that dampens the roar of the nearby ocean on the Lost Coast, we walked with overlong strides on grizzly-footprint ovals pressed into the moss; the bear trails were at the same time neat and unnerving. My job there was to bang a shovel on trees and rocks.

Rozell, contined on page A17



PHOTO BY NED ROZELL

A scientist with a heavy backpack hikes the Lost Coast north of Lituya Bay to reach his study areas.



Lewis Sharman crosses a fallen Sitka spruce tree over Echo Creek just north of Lituya Bay in Southeast Alaska.

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Super Crossword

COMING-OF-AGE
MOVIES

LEGALS

- ACROSS**

1 Binary

5 GPS guesses

9 White stuff that falls

13 Gum rub-on for toothaches

19 "One-l lama" poet

21 Sported

22 Nullify

23 Start of a riddle

25 Noteworthy periods

26 Crony

27 Fisher of "Star Wars"

28 U.N. medical agcy. based in Geneva

29 Words before roll or tear

30 Hockey glove

32 Riddle, part 2

36 "Washboard" muscles

37 Cut of beef

38 2001 bankruptcy company

39 Sushi bed

40 Squalid room

42 4.0 is a good one, for short

45 Golden ager

47 Riddle, part 3

54 Tom, Dick and Harry, maybe
- 55 Puzzles

56 Not abridged

57 Spares no expense

61 Hack off

62 Prez after HST

63 See 42-Down

64 Noteworthy periods

65 Riddle, part 4

69 Bakery buy

70 Luau souvenir

71 Prevarication

73 Flier of myth

74 Bogs, e.g.

77 Ice homes

79 Tel Avivian, for one

82 Used to be

83 Riddle, part 5

89 Skylit lobbies

90 Put turf on

91 Give a new hue to

92 2004-11 Laker Lamar

95 Place to "dry out"

98 Be a sign of

99 Small, as Abner

100 End of the riddle

105 Guy

106 Give a new hue to

107 Rock producer Brian

108 Hit the sack
- 109 Affront, to a hip-hopper

110 Java is one

112 Riddle's answer

117 Money in the form of coins

118 Author Wiesel

119 Player of multiple records, of sorts

120 "Mad" one in Wonderland

121 Star studier's sci.

122 Figure skater Lipinski

123 Leisure tops
- 12 Pint-size

13 Ten squared

14 Transplant, as a perennial

15 Of yore

16 Knighted actor Derek

17 Of national origins

18 Alain-René — ("Gil Blas" author)

20 None at all

24 Lead-in to lateral

28 "Orlando" novelist Virginia

30 Actress Helgenberger

31 Certain steel girder

32 Taiwan tea

33 Feudal estate

34 2010 Super Bowl MVP Drew

35 French for "stop"

37 Horse, when running

41 Organic part of soil

42 With 63-Across, boomer's kid

43 Mile High Center architect

44 Some Christians
- 46 Austrian "a"

48 New Age pianist John

49 In a frenzy

50 Stare stupidly

51 37th president

52 Abject fear

53 Feudal laborers

57 Former baseball boss Bud

58 Brand of pasta sauce

59 One of the boxing Alis

60 Meadow mother

62 Meadow mother

66 Guess qualifier

67 Petty of "Tank Girl"

68 Cookie bar from Mars

69 Lariat

71 Pillage

72 "Uncle!"

75 Collegiately stylish

76 Tilt weapon

78 44th president

79 Pocatello's state

80 Psyche part

81 Went first

84 Have a link with
- 85 Horse's gait

86 Mistreatment

87 Nullify

88 — Stanley Gardner

92 A bit weird

93 Place to be pampered

94 Egg-based dish

96 They follow Marches

97 Subject of a 2016 U.K. referendum

98 With 115-Down, she sang "All Alone Am I"

101 Lamp spirit

102 Frisky water animal

103 Bakery buy

104 Put up, as a tent

105 "I — think so!"

109 Cloning stuff

111 Make believe

112 Briny deep

113 Outmoded TV accessory

114 "I solved it!"

115 See 98-Down

116 Soon-to-be grads: Abbr.

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Publish Dates 6/09/22, 6/16/22, 6/23/22

Discrimination, from page A3

"The Supreme Court has upheld the right for LGBTQ+ people to live and work without fear of harassment, exclusion, and discrimination – and our LGBTQ+ students have the same rights and deserve the same protections. I'm proud to have directed the Office for Civil Rights to enforce Title IX to protect all students from all forms of sex discrimination," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Today, the Department makes clear that all students—including LGBTQ+ students—deserve the opportunity to learn and thrive in schools that are free from discrimination."

As OCR recently reported, LGBTQ+ students often face additional challenges in schools, including disproportionately experiencing persistent bullying, harassment, and victimization. The vulnerability of LGBTQ+ students has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving them without access to school-based mental health services and other supports. One survey found that 78 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth reported that their mental health was "poor" either most of the time or always during COVID-19, compared with 61 percent of cis-gender youth.

"The Department of Education strives to provide schools with the support they need to create learning environments that enable all students to succeed, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Equity in education means all students have access to schools that allow them to learn and thrive in all aspects of their educational experience," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Suzanne B. Goldberg. "As part of our mission to protect all students' civil rights, it is essential that OCR acts to eliminate discrimination that targets LGBTQ+ students."

Today's Notice of Interpretation continues OCR's sustained effort to promote safe and inclusive schools for all students, including LGBTQ+ students. This action is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advance the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, set out in President Biden's Executive Order on Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity and the Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.

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Alaska prepares for a new state Supreme Court justice

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska has begun the process of replacing one of the five members of the Alaska Supreme Court, though the final selection could depend upon the results of November’s general election.

On Friday, the Alaska Judicial Council began accepting applications from attorneys interested in replacing Chief Justice Daniel Winfree, who reaches the state’s

mandatory retirement age in February 2023.

Applications will be accepted through July 22, and members of the Alaska Bar Association will have until Aug. 26 to complete an anonymous survey judging the applicants’ fitness.

The Alaska Judicial Council is scheduled to meet Nov. 14-18 to interview the applicants, take public testimony and vote on a list of finalists that will be forwarded to the governor, who makes the final pick.

Susanne DiPietro, executive director of the council, said the council meets quarterly, and its meeting date was set more than a year ago, without thought for the governor’s election.

Henderson in 2021. After Winfree, Judge Peter Maassen will reach retirement age in January 2025.

Alaska’s judicial selection is much less political than the federal selection process.

Designed to encourage merit rather than political cronyism, the system requires a governor to select a judge from a list approved by the seven-member Judicial Council, which includes three members of the state bar association, three members of the public appointed by the governor and the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.

Super Crossword

Answers

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Savage, from page A6

I recently moved to the South, and on Grindr I’m noticing a lot more racist messaging in profiles, sometimes as overt as “no Blacks” and “no Asians.” I’m wondering what I can (or should) do as a chat user? Is it sufficient just to block these people? Should I flag their profiles? Or should I message them and ask them to change their profile?

—Grinding Endlessly Against Racism

Ugh, “just my preference” gays.

JMPGs pop up everywhere, of course, but they’re thicker on the ground in more conservative areas. And while you can find examples of white gays in their 30s and 40s (and older) doing this kind of crap, it sometimes seems to be more prevalent among younger gay white men. These young guys—often recently out and from overwhelmingly white areas—get online and start saying dumb, racist shit. So long as they stay in Kansas or Utah, GEAR, they don’t get a lot of pushback. But once a JMPG moves to Chicago or Los Angeles, they suddenly encounter pushback. Other gay men... reformed JMPGs or never-ever-were JMPGs... start to get in their faces about how unacceptable and harmful this shit is.

Decent gay men of all ages and races despair over

this “just my preference” crap because it never seems to stop. But that’s not true; it does stop. After gay people who know better (and are better) get in the face of a JMPG, his latent moral imagination can kick into gear. The JMPG starts to think about how it would feel to be on the receiving end of this shit, maybe he recalls the Golden Rule back from Sunday School, perhaps he makes a few non-white friends and listens to them. Maybe he even starts to question his own precious preferences. (Are they his actual preferences? Or did he mindlessly adopt preferences assigned to him by Hollywood and porn?) And then maybe—hopefully, ideally—he stops being a JMPG. Even if he figures out that, yes, he’s primarily attracted to other white guys, he realizes he can act on his preferences—he can fuck the guys he wants to fuck—without needlessly disparaging anyone along the way.

What happens next... well, what happens next is kinda depressing. Another young and/or dumb JMPG moves to town and the whole someone-needs-to-get-in-his-face process starts up all over again. So, when you see a JMPG with “no Blacks” or “no Asians” or “no fats” or “no femmes” in their profile, GEAR, push back. Tell him he’s being an asshole. Getting through to JMPGs is slow, one-dude-at-a-time work, but you can be part of the solution.

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Parenting 101

Dear Oskar,
How do I get my kids to do what I say? More specifically, housework.
—Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,
The simple answer: You don't!



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

In my own life, many people who have been around my three kids have said to me, “Oskar, your kids are so easy and helpful. How do you get them to do that?” My secret is loving them unconditionally and not needing them to do anything.

Sure, when it comes to getting kids to listen, being demanding can work. I grew up with one parent, and it was always my mother's way or the

highway. I was the obedient child you would have wanted — I did everything she told me to do. She may have gotten her way, but for me, the experience was detrimental. My obedience and fear of saying no created very dangerous situations in my life. I put myself in physically and financially harmful places because of that learned behavior. I never wanted my children to experience the insanity of giving oneself away, so I chose to do something different. I created an environment that fostered my children's inner voices and self-esteem, and I emphasized teamwork.

This way of raising children takes more time and patience than simply being bossy and forceful, but the long-term results create whole children that eventually become confident, loving adults. When I started teaching my kids about housework, I knew that success would come from information (like telling them why I thought it was important) and repetition. The most important thing I have given to my children is the knowledge that taking care of one's home is an act of self-esteem that leads to self-love. I don't take care of my home because I “have to” but because I want to. I honor myself by creating a beautiful, loving, safe place to come home to every day.

I believe that praising children often is constructive (heck, it works on me, too!). For example, when I see that they washed the dishes, cleaned up their areas, or anything like that, I comment from an authentic place, “Wow, that's so inspiring how beautiful you made your bed. It makes me want to get my email inbox organized” Many times, my children reflect that same sentiment back to me: “Mama, I saw you clear off your desk, and it inspired me to tidy up my clothes in my wardrobe.”

Learning, as I said, takes time, and everyone does it at a different pace. It's normal for kids (or adults) to need someone to tell them again and again how to do something. (I still struggle to understand how exactly to use Google Docs.) Phrases like “Why are you asking me again?” or “Why don't you know this already?” or “What are you, stupid?” are not only not helpful, but they are also harmful in terms of creating an environment of learning. No one wants to do something for someone who doesn't support their growth. The key to harmony is always patience and love.

I wish you the best with your kids and your housework. Being a parent isn't the easiest job, but it's certainly the most rewarding when done with love. Remember, we're all just children of the universe, so be kind and gentle to yourself on this journey, and everything will fall in place.

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Rozell, from page A14

Did I mention we carried backpacks loaded with 12 days of food? My portion was in an extra bag that hung from my pack like a chimpanzee. That appendage sported a piece of tape with 24# written on it, because that's what the sea-plane's company scale said.

Except for the moss and bryophyte specialist who bent to gather 250 samples along the way, our loads got lighter. We ate our food down as the days went on, and hung some bags in trees to cache it as we changed camps. We pitched our tents six separate times during the trip, in order to hit the spots the scientists wanted to probe.

The science? I'm glad you asked, because I was out there to record it. But you will have to wait for the next few stories. I'm thinking more now about the grind behind the science, the slow-motion movement in rubberized boots that made the hours tip much heavier on the side of foot travel than data collected.

I'm not going to kid you: Some nights, after eating my bag of dinner, I was too gassed to pull out my notebook and recorder. I just wanted to crawl into my tent on that soggy moss. But it turns out there are a lot of minutes in 12 days. I think I filled enough of the Rite-in-the-Rain notebook to get the goods.

One last thing: I called my 15-year old daughter in Fairbanks from Juneau. I told her how I and the one scientist returning to Fairbanks didn't have time to shower, and how I felt sorry for the person who would soon be sitting at my elbow.

I told my daughter we were going to eat at a diner after a dozen nights of dehydrated meals. I went on to describe everything I just told you (if you had been listening). Her answer showed how much she knows her dad.

“And you loved it, didn't you?”

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.



Researchers follow a grizzly bear trail in the forest just off the Lost Coast of Southeast Alaska, north of Lituya Bay.

Astrology, from page A6

LEO (July 23-August 22)

“We wish to make rage into a fire that cooks things rather than a fire of conflagration,” writes author Clarissa Pinkola Estés. That's good advice for you right now. Your anger can serve you, but only if you use it to gain clarity—not if you allow it to control or immobilize you. So here's my counsel: Regard your wrath as a fertilizing fuel that helps deepen your understanding of what you're angry about—and shows you how to engage in constructive actions that will liberate you from what is making you angry.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Virgo author Jeanette Winterson was asked, “Do you fall in love often?” She replied, “Yes, often. With a view, with a book, with a dog, a cat, with numbers, with friends, with complete strangers, with nothing at all.” Even if you're not usually as prone to infatuation and enchantment as Winterson, you could have many experiences like hers in the coming months. Is that a state you would enjoy? I encourage you to welcome it. Your capacity to be fascinated and captivated will be at a peak. Your inclination to trust your attractions will be extra high. Sounds fun!

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Libran lexicographer Noah Webster (1758–1843) worked hard to create his dictionary, and it became highly influential in American culture. He spent over 26 years perfecting it. To make sure he could properly analyze the etymologies, he learned 28 languages. He wrote definitions for 70,000 words, including 12,000 that had never been included in a published dictionary. I trust you are well underway with your own Webster-like project, Libra. This entire year is an excellent time to devote yourself with exacting diligence to a monumental labor of love. If you haven't started it yet, launch now. If it's already in motion, kick it into a higher gear.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

“Shouldn't the distance between impossible and improbable be widened?” asks poet Luke Johnson. I agree that it should, and I nominate you to do the job. In my astrological view, you now have the power to make progress in accomplishing goals that some people may regard as unlikely, fantastical, and absurdly challenging. (Don't listen to them!) I'm not necessarily saying you will always succeed in wrangling the remote possibilities into practical realities. But you might. And even if you're only partially victorious, you will learn key lessons that bolster your abilities to harness future amazements.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarian novelist George Eliot wrote, “It is very hard to say the exact truth, even about your own immediate feelings—much harder than to say something fine about them which is not the exact truth.” I believe you will be exempt from this rule during the next seven weeks. You will be able to speak with lucid candor about your feelings—maybe more so than you've been able to in a long time. And that will serve you well as you take advantage of the opportunity that life is offering you: to deepen, clarify, and refine your intimate relationships.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Author bell hooks (who didn't capitalize her name) expressed advice I recommend for you. She said, “Knowing how to be solitary is central to the art of loving. When we can be alone, we can be with others without using them as a means of escape.” As you enter a phase of potential renewal for your close relationships, you'll be wise to deepen your commitment to self-sufficiency and self-care. You might be amazed at how profoundly that enriches intimacy. Here are two more helpful gems from bell hooks: “You can never love anybody if you are unable to love yourself” and “Do not expect to receive the love from someone else you do not give yourself.”

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)

In April 2005, a 64-year-old Korean woman named Cha Sa-soon made her first attempt to get her driver's license. She failed. In fairness to her, the written test wasn't easy. It required an understanding of car maintenance. After that initial flop, she returned to take the test five days a week for three years—and was always unsuccessful. She persevered, however. Five years later, she passed the test and received her license. It was her 960th try. Let's make her your role model for the foreseeable future. I doubt you'll have to persist as long as she did, but you'll be wise to cultivate maximum doggedness and diligence.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

In the eighth century, Chinese poet Du Fu gave a batch of freshly written poems to his friend and colleague, the poet Li Bai. “Thank you for letting me read your new poems,” Li Bai later wrote to Du Fu. “It was like being alive twice.” I foresee you enjoying a comparable grace period in the coming weeks, Pisces: a time when your joie de vivre could be double its usual intensity. How should you respond to this gift from the Fates? Get twice as much work done? Start work on a future masterpiece? Become a beacon of inspiration to everyone you encounter? Sure, if that's what you want to do. And you could also simply enjoy every detail of your daily rhythm with supreme, sublime delight.

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Aerosolized Cannabis Significantly Reduces Pain Levels, Improves Quality of Life in Neuropathy Patients

By NORML

Haifa, Israel: The administration of aerosolized cannabis via a novel inhaler is associated with long-term pain reductions in patients with neuropathy and other chronic conditions, according to data published in the journal Pain Reports.

Israeli investigators assessed the efficacy of cannabis delivered via a novel metered selective dose inhaler (The Syqe Inhaler) in a cohort of chronic pain patients. The mean daily stable dose used by patients in the study was 1.5 mg of aerosolized delta-9-THC.

Use of the inhaler over a period of several months was associated with reduced pain scores and improvements in patients' quality of life. Some patients reported mild side-effects (typically dizziness and sleepiness) at the onset of the study, but few participants continued to report these effects throughout the duration of the trial.

Authors concluded: "Medical cannabis treatment with the Syqe Inhaler demonstrated overall long-term pain reduction[s], quality of life improvement[s], and opioid-sparing effect[s] in a cohort of patients with chronic pain, using just a fraction of the amount of MC [medical cannabis] compared with other modes of delivery by inhalation. These outcomes were accompanied by a lower rate of AEs [adverse events] and almost no AE reports during a long-term steady-state follow-up. Additional follow-up in a larger population is warranted to corroborate our findings."

According to recently compiled survey data, nearly one in three chronic pain patients report using cannabis for treatment management. Among patients in US states where medical cannabis access is permitted, over 60 percent are qualified to use it to treat pain.



The Battle for Pizza Supremacy

Why you should try Hearth Artisan Pizza

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

Ask any local where to find the best pizza in town, and you're likely to hear Moose's Tooth — resting high on a lofty pedestal, leaving all other pizza joints in their wake. But for all the restaurant's accomplishments and irrefutable legacy, has anybody thought to challenge the notion that they still serve the best pizza in town? After all, plenty of competition has sprung up over the years for their shot at the top.

A lot goes into making a great restaurant, but what really matters to me is the quality of the food itself. And while there's much to admire about Moose's Tooth's California-style 'zas with an abundance of creative toppings, I, for one, have observed that their pizzas generally leave a lot to be desired. Specifically, I'm referring to their paltry sauce coverage and oft pale, flaccid crusts. Surely, there must be somewhere in town capable of rising to the platonic ideal of a perfect pie.

Enter Hearth: one of many spots I've mainly managed to avoid going to until now. Though I typically prefer creating my own pizzas at home, one thing Hearth has on my home-based operation is their wood-fired oven. So naturally, I was drawn to its raw flames and the smell of fresh pizza. That is, before we were whisked away to be seated at a picnic bench on their outdoor patio.

That might've been for the best, as the atmosphere inside could best be described as boisterous — raucous,

even. A flock of unattended children running amok amidst a crowded dining space didn't help either. Thankfully, I was rewarded for having to endure such chaos with a mouthful of Bleeding Heart Brewery's Beet IPA; a ruby red, bracingly bitter concoction that best served as a palate cleanser for the rest of tonight's proceedings.

Aside from their pizzas, Hearth boasts a modest selection of soups, salads, and starters, though there was little capable of swaying me from the main event. That being said, I was curious to try their lamb kebab lettuce wraps — a trio of grilled meat patties imbued with Mediterranean spices served resting atop cups of butter lettuce and topped with pickled onion and tomato jam.

A coconut tzatziki was served alongside, though I wasn't able to discern much coconut flavor in an otherwise creamy dip. As for the wraps themselves, these two-bite portions delivered in terms of fragrant spices with a bouncy texture to the lamb, but ultimately, it's difficult to justify this simple dish and diminutive portion with its exorbitant price tag.

Another peculiarity on their menu I wanted to try was their bone broth. According to its description, the broth is created from local beef, pork, chicken, yak, and/or elk bones. Diners can opt to add chicken or mushrooms to their serving, and while I specifically requested the latter, something must have gotten lost in translation as they were completely omitted.

Regardless, I enjoyed the broth's presentation in that it came in an adorable little teacup, flanked with powdered sesame chili seaweed and a dab of parsley marrow butter. Unfortunately, the marrow butter dissipated into the broth without much of an impact. But the broth was comforting and mild. Perhaps due to the way in which it was served, this evoked a sense of sipping a restorative tea as much as it was a savory course — perfect for the cool, brisk weather outside.

At last, our pizza arrived looking as marvelous as I would've hoped. My wife and I had chosen one of their seasonal specials: the aptly named Summer Seoul-stice, topped with Canadian bacon, house-made kimchi, provolone, a garden of greens, and some hot honey.

It's relatively easy to gauge the quality of a crust based on appearance alone, and here, they certainly nailed the Neapolitan style they seem to be going for. Based on the leopard spotting and the charred underbelly, it's clear that this was touched by real flames in an inferno oven. Best of all, there wasn't a single speck of cornmeal to be seen. The crust's gluten structure was light and stretchy, allowing Hearth's dough to be the perfect foundation for their full range of quality toppings.

By far, the most impressive component to this pizza was the house-made kimchi. Even as a Korean American with reasonably high expectations, it spoke to my core and checked all the boxes in terms of being unapologetically salty, funky, and spicy. I could even see myself eating this in a more traditional way with a bowl of rice — it was really that good. Furthermore, the level of synergy when coupled with thin strips of bacon with streaks of marbled fat shone as the perfect example of the transcendental qualities of kimchi and pork when their powers are combined.

I may have had a few qualms about my overall dining experience at Hearth, but I remain firm in my belief they've got it where it counts. Unquestionably, their pizzaiolos are skilled in the art of slinging pies, and their dough is so scrumptious that I'd be happy to eat their pizzas any day of the week. But I'm still unsure what it'll take to topple the reigning champ of our local dining scene. However, I will say this much — the pizzas are better here at Hearth.

Hearth Artisan Pizza is located at 200 W Northern Lights Blvd, Ste F. They are open from 4 — 9pm daily.





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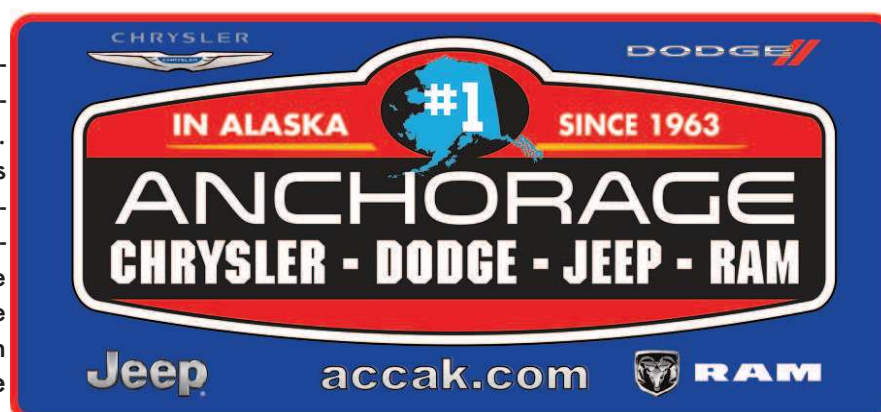


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