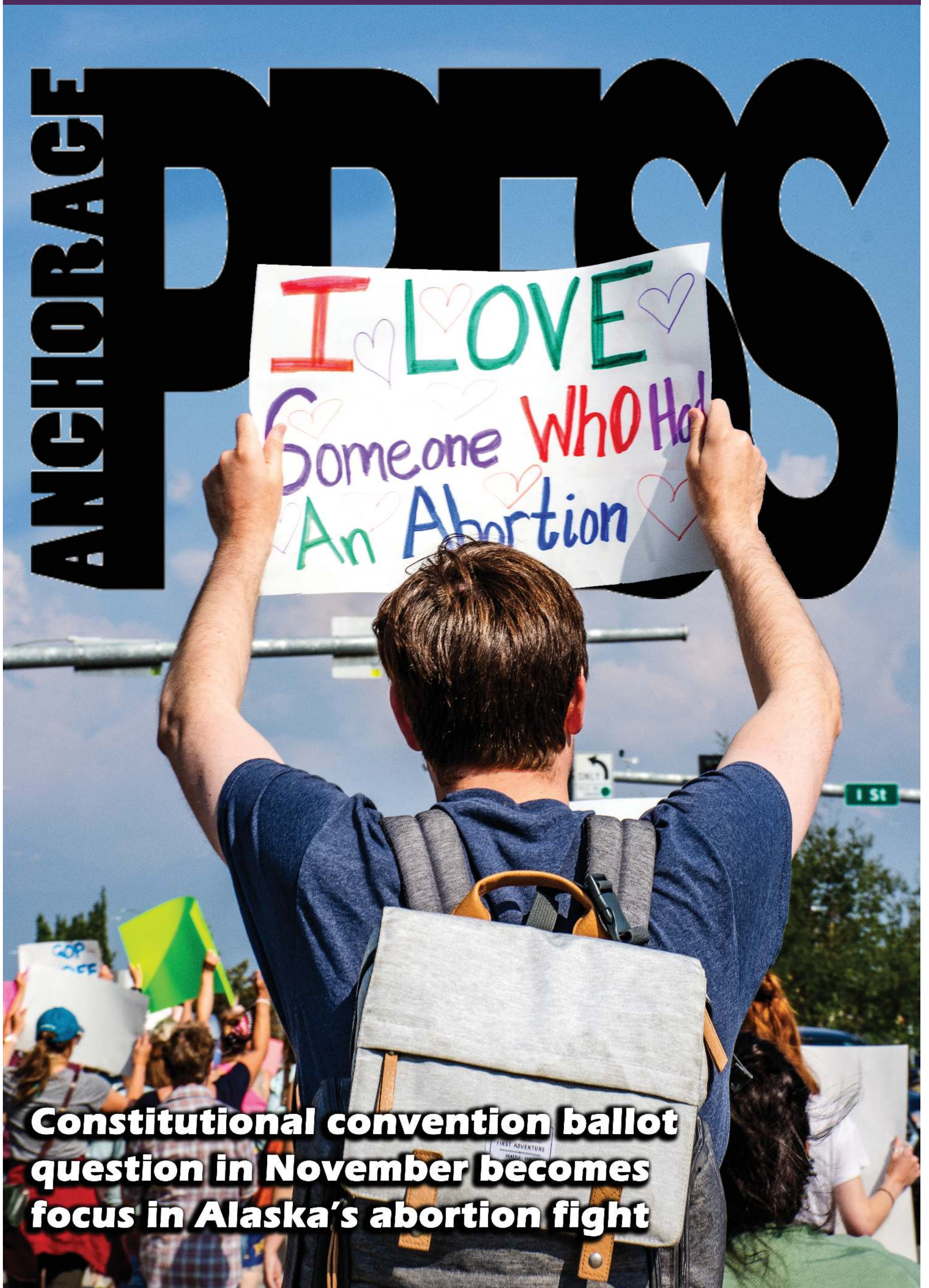




Constitutional convention ballot question in November becomes focus in Alaska's abortion fight

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SHIPE SHOTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Bubba Bellin serenades Patricia Olson at Middle Way Café in Anchorage on June 27, 2022.

Backstories

Country music artist Bubba Bellin to bring 'funktry' to Koot's on Saturday

BY O'HARA SHIPE

Standing well over 6 feet tall and donning a vintage jean jacket and oversized cowboy hat, 28-year-old Bubba Bellin stood out like a sore thumb as he ordered a sludge cup at Middle Way Café on Monday. At only 10am, this was Bellin's second caffeine hit of the day, and the jittery effects seemed to be taking hold as he excitedly recounted his days as a collegiate rugby player.

"You can always tell the musicians who were athletes at one time. We're just used to people pushing us to be better, and we welcome that kind of feedback. I'm always trying to improve my craft," said Bellin as he fidgeted with his empty coffee cup.

As a part-time hired gun and co-songwriter living in the heart of Texas, Bellin is used to being open to collaboration.

"There will be days when I feel like I have no creative juices going, so I enjoy having the opportunity to co-write. Sometimes, it even feels like free therapy," laughed Bellin. "The best songs come from vulnerability, but when you're co-writing, you don't have time to go get beers and talk about your life because there's a deadline. You basically have to meet a stranger and immediately get completely naked – in an emotional sense. Actually, getting naked would almost be less vulnerable."

But Bellin's openness doesn't end with his professional collaborations. When performing as himself, he keeps his sets fluid enough to appeal to the night's audience.

"I joke a lot about being a human jukebox. Everything from Willie to Merle and anything in between is in my repertoire," said Bellin.

The son of a former New York City radio employee, Bellin grew up with an appreciation for all genres of music. On car rides as a child, Bellin would listen intently as his father explained the art of storytelling

through songwriting.

"[My father] really loved songwriting. He would spend hours explaining what made a great song. I think that all just sat in my brain as a kid," explained Bellin.

At 16, Bellin was bequeathed an old Jeep Cherokee and a carefully curated country playlist. It was the spark of inspiration he needed to embark on his own musical pathway.

"When I moved to Texas for college, I realized that there is a whole scene of people who really appreciate country music as an art form. I originally went to college for a degree in education, and I was thinking about being a horse trainer. But I decided to be a degenerate musician instead," said Bellin with a facetious grin.

On the contrary, Bellin exudes kindness and refreshingly rare authenticity. In fact, when he saw an elderly woman sitting on her own after our interview, he decided to play her a few songs.

"She just seemed like she needed something nice to happen today," he said as he casually repacked his guitar.

As it turns out, Bellin's prediction was correct.

"I'd had been feeling so down lately," admitted his audience of one, Patricia Olson.

Bellin's emotional sensitivity also carries into his original music.

"The best way to describe my music is what you get when Marvin Gaye and Merle Haggard met in the studio for a day. It has poppy, catchy melodies, but there is depth to the lyrics. In my opinion, the melody communicates as much emotion as the lyrics, so I aim to treat them both with care," said Bellin.

Those lucky enough to catch Bellin's 10pm performance on Saturday, July 1 at Koot's will be treated to pedal steel, classic country-western sensibilities, and maybe even a little stand-up comedy.

"I really like to engage with the crowd and tell jokes. I'm not one to be background noise, so if it takes a few covers and jokes to draw in the audience, that's exactly what I am going to do. I want people to leave with a smile on their faces," said Bellin.

Backstories is part of a by-weekly column profiling Alaskans (and the occasional visitor) in 750 words or less.

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Smoke advisory issued for Southcentral Alaska

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY

Tuesday morning, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Air Quality issued an advisory for Southcentral Alaska, Southwest Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands as smoke from several fires in Central Alaska start to make their way into the air here in Southcentral Alaska.

According to the advisory, the Northern Susitna and Copper River Valleys will be the first to feel the impacts of the smoke, and later as the smoke moves east over the Cook Inlet. Smoke is expected to flow up into the lower Susitna Valley with an increase in the level of smoke continuing through Wednesday.

While it is predicted that Thursday will bring winds that will change the direction, however the advisory warns that the region will continue to feel the impacts of the smoke on the air quality and visibility for the next several days.

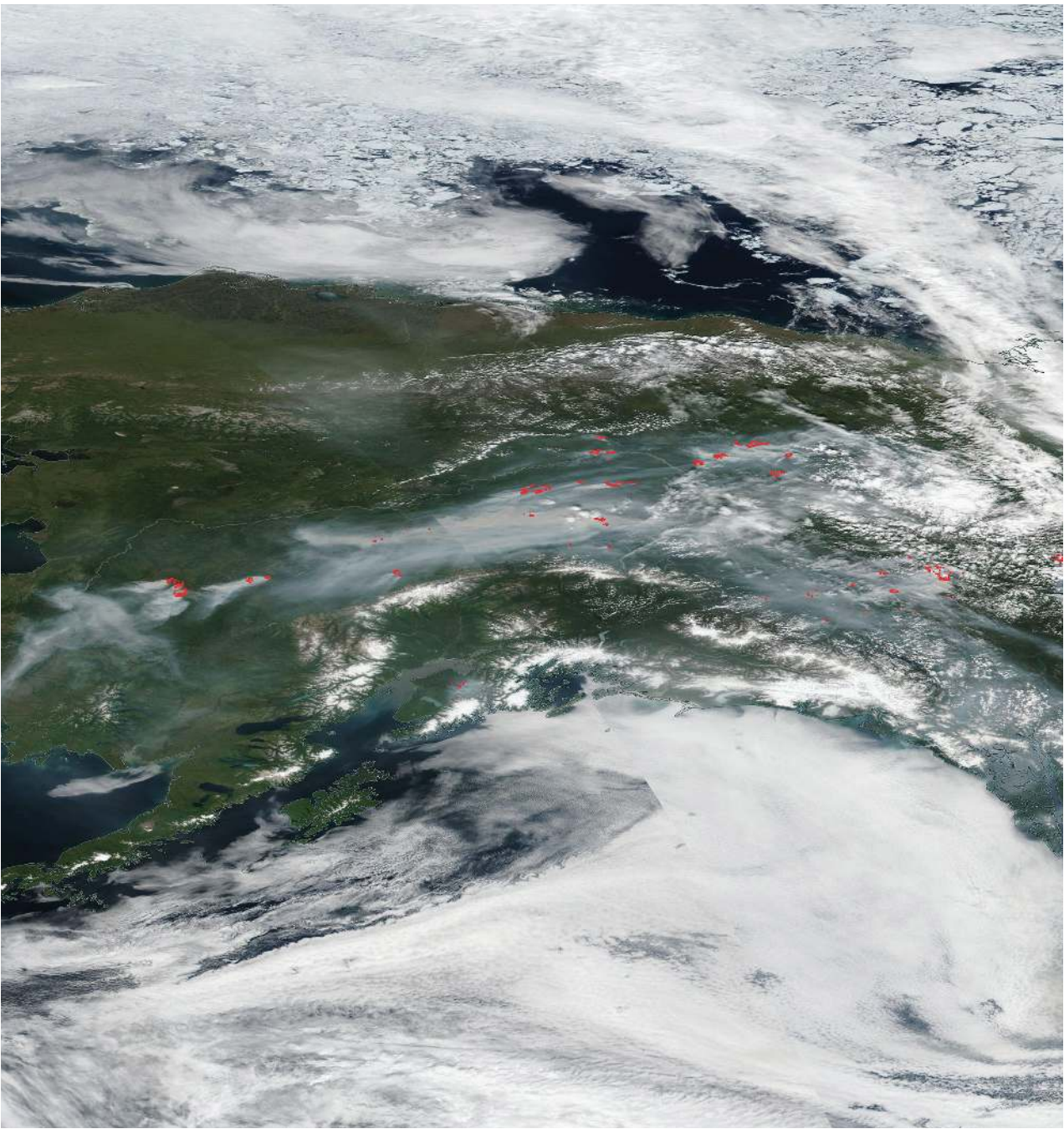
Air quality could fluctuate between “good” and “unhealthy,” depending upon the wind flow and proximity to fires. The advisory also warns people to be aware of areas downwind of the any fire as they may experience “hazardous” levels of smoke.

While many may believe that overnight and early morning conditions may improve the air quality, the atmosphere actually cools and brings smoke to the surface and limiting visibility. Meanwhile, during the day when the sun is at its peak, the surface heating will mix smoke and carry it upwards, creating a temporary improvement to the air quality.

As of June 28, there are 143 active fires burning across Alaska, according to the Division of Forestry, which totals over million acres across Alaska. DOF states that Initial fire activity continues to be slow across Alaska despite the unseasonably warm temperatures and afternoon winds felt across the fire area. Yesterday, only 3 new fires were reported.

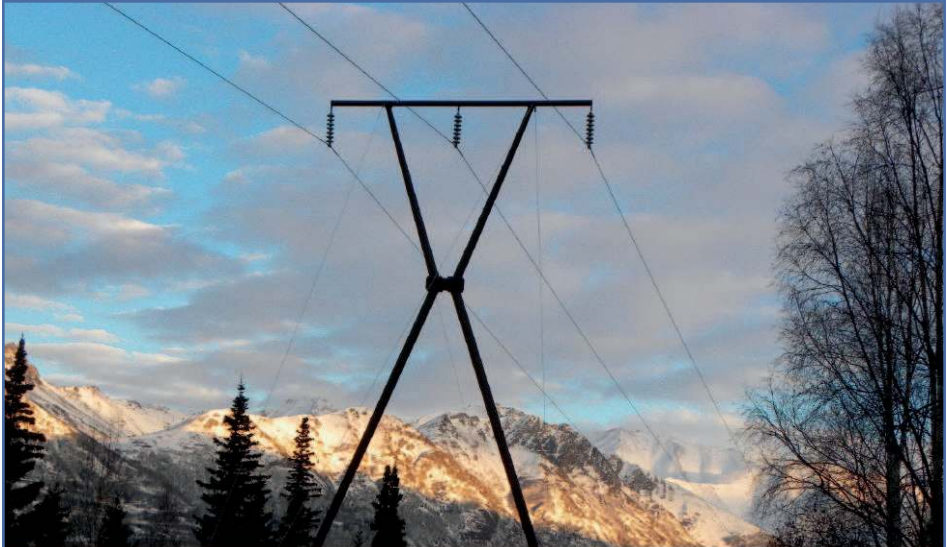
The DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, elderly, and children to avoid prolonged exertion in smoke-impacted areas, and that everyone should limit prolonged exertion.

For more information on this advisory, contact Mark Smith with the Division of Air Quality at (907) 269-7676.



Snapshot of active fires (in red) in Alaska on June 29, 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA WORLDVIEW



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Seeking Applicants for Railbelt Grid Organization Board Seat



The Railbelt Reliability Council (RRC) is seeking applications from qualified individuals to fill an open seat on the RRC Board to represent independent perspectives, serving as the alternate for the Independent seat (Seat M). Applications are due by July 18. To review the full notice and for more information visit:

www.alaskapower.org/rrc

Alaska’s U.S. Senate delegation splits on new gun-violence prevention bill

BY JAMES BROOKS
THE ALASKA BEACON

Sen. Lisa Murkowski joined 14 other Republicans and the U.S. Senate’s Democrats on Thursday in support of a new gun-violence prevention bill crafted after the school massacre in Uvalde, Texas.

Dan Sullivan, Alaska’s other senator, voted against the bill, which passed the Senate on Thursday and was approved by the U.S. House on Friday. Alaska’s seat in the House has been empty since the death of Congressman Don Young in March.

“The American public deserves to see some response from the Congress when it comes to gun violence and what we can do more and better to provide for school safety,” Murkowski said.

Among the key pieces of the bill are provisions that allow gun-buying background checks to include the juvenile records of buyers under age 21.

Murkowski said that could have prevented the Uvalde shooter from buying his firearm.

Other sections provide greater funding for mental health treatment, public safety and mental health crisis intervention.

Someone who is convicted of a violent act against a long-term dating partner will be barred from owning a firearm; current law only affects the spouses of domestic violence victims.

People who frequently buy and sell guns at gun shows will be required to obtain a federal firearms license.

“I think none of this infringes on our Second Amendment rights or on Alaska’s appreciation or respect for firearms rights,” Murkowski said.

She added that she believes “it will be viewed by some as not enough and by others as too much,” but said “it is important to be responding to the public demand for common-sense approaches on guns and safety.”

Sullivan declined a request for an interview but said in

a prepared statement that while he views the bill’s mental health provisions as “a good start,” he voted against it because of the aspects dealing with firearms.

“In that regard, I have serious concerns about the broad discretion this legislation leaves up to federal courts and Biden administration officials as it relates to the implementation and interpretation of the bill’s vaguely defined firearms restrictions and due process provisions,” he said.

Murkowski is running for re-election this year. When asked how her vote will impact her election, she said that she doesn’t have time to test the winds on every issue.

“This needs to be a vote that I will stand by, regardless of whether I am at the end of a six-year term or at the beginning of a six-year term,” Murkowski said.

“I hope that Alaskans look at this for what it is — which is a thoughtful and targeted approach to the specific problems that have led to several of these mass shootings,” she said.

Kelly Tshibaka, Murkowski’s most prominent Republican opponent in the election, criticized Murkowski’s support of the bill.

When asked about her preferred response to the Uvalde massacre, she provided a prepared statement: “As the mother of five children, I’m absolutely devastated for the families and community who have experienced this unthinkable tragedy — a tragedy that highlights once again the need for increased mental health resources across the country. We must address the root of the issue, rather than blaming inanimate objects. I do not support legislation that restricts the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. In Alaska, the lawful ownership of guns is fundamental to who we are, and I will always stand by the Second Amendment.”

Pat Chesbro, a Democratic U.S. Senate candidate, said she believes “any step forward is a good step. The acknowledgement that we need to do things to curb gun violence is a step forward.”

She said she does have concerns with the bill’s handling of juvenile records and doesn’t believe the amount



PHOTO BY ANNA MONEYMAKER-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON, DC — MARCH 18: Senator Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, speaks during a hearing, with the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, on the Covid-19 response, on Capitol Hill on March 18, 2021 in Washington, DC. Dr. Anthony Fauci appeared before a joint hearing of the house committees to lay out a timeline for vaccinating children against COVID-19.

of money for mental health treatment in schools is sufficient.

“Everything that I’ve read about research into people who kind of snap and go into gun violence has to do with early childhood trauma, and we’re not meeting that,” Chesbro said.

With Sweeney blocked from the special election ballot, path gets tougher for Palin and Begich in state’s first ranked election

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Moderate Republican candidate Tara Sweeney saw her chances of appearing on the special election ballot for U.S. House evaporate this weekend with a ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court, but it could be the remaining Republicans in the race—Nick Begich and Sarah Palin—who could be the real losers.

From the get-go, it always seemed like a long shot for Sweeney to make the special general election ballot. The law is pretty clear that anything not specifically lined out for special elections will default to the general election process, which means the 64-day deadline to fill vacancies on the ballot had already passed by the time independent candidate Al Gross surprisingly withdrew from the race. Sure, it doesn’t really make sense given the tight deadlines of a special election but, after all, it’s not like the law has always made sense and was free of internal conflicts.

Sweeney has already moved on and has set her sights on the regular primary election, she announced following the court’s weekend ruling.

Still, that’s all to say that the intervention of Republican Nick Begich’s campaign seems particularly weird, especially when it ended up not being a particularly close call in the eyes of the courts.

Not only is it a bit of ugly, insider politics that hands Sweeney effective messaging moving forward—like “Nick Begich is only concerned about his political ambitions” and “Nick Begich sought immediate legal action to block the advancement of my candidacy to limit the choices for Alaskans” that she’s already been using—but it could very well cost Begich the special election.

Without anyone on the left or really even in the center (which would be Sweeney) to split votes in the special general election, Democratic candidate Mary Peltola has a pretty clear runway to get somewhere in the 40% to 45% range of the vote on the first round (at least when judging Democratic performance in previous elections). That would leave some 60% to 55% of the vote for the Republican candidates to split, which means there isn’t enough votes for both Republicans to outpace Peltola on the first round of the ranked-choice special general



PHOTO BY MATT BUXTON/TMS

The Midtown Mall polling location was packed on Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, which marked the first day of early in-person voting for Alaska’s general election.

election and hope to improve their chances on the later rounds.

Either Begich or Palin will finish in third place (with the other, possibly, finishing in second), leading to their elimination on the first round with their votes being redistributed. Just how those votes will play out is unclear but polling suggests that votes won’t distributed neatly to the candidate with the nearest politics (in most polling, for example, Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy sees a not-insignificant bump when Democratic candidate Les Gara is eliminated in a hypothetical contest).

Given the results of the special primary, Begich would need to improve his performance if he wants to stay out of a third-place finish. As I wrote previously, Republicans did a better job about consolidating around their leading candidates in the primary election with Palin landing at 27% and Begich landing at 19.21%. However, that leaves

little remaining conservative votes to pursue. Of the Republicans in the special primary, Sweeney got 5.9% of the vote, John Coghill got 2.38% and Josh Revak got 2.34%. There’s just not a lot of obvious places for Begich to be looking for the votes he needs, especially when the candidate of the largest group of voters is calling foul.

Then again, Palin has fantastically bad negatives when it comes to public opinion that may put a firm cap on her moving forward.

So, what does this all mean in the grand scheme of the race? It’s really hard to say. After all, this entire election is still in uncharted waters. But the result of Sweeney being blocked from the special general election race certainly helps Peltola’s chances far more than it does for Begich.

The regular general election, however, will be an entirely different story.

Spending rises, but so does savings, in new Alaska state budget signed by Dunleavy

The \$14.4 billion document is the sixth-largest in state history

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy has signed a \$14.4 billion state budget, the sixth-largest in state history, after vetoing about \$400 million from a proposal passed by the Alaska Legislature this spring.

With Alaska expecting a multibillion-dollar surge in oil revenue due to high prices caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, spending is up by \$2.7 billion when compared to the budget passed by the governor and lawmakers last year.

That increase is less than the rise in revenue, and the state is poised to end a decade-long streak of years in which it needed to spend from savings in order to balance the budget.

“In the end, we think this is a great budget for the state of Alaska,” Dunleavy said.

Asked whether the size of the budget makes the state vulnerable if oil prices fall, Dunleavy said most of the increases are one-time payments rather than a rise in annual expenses.

Because the budget includes about \$3.6 billion in mechanisms to save money for future years, “we believe that we would be able to fund another year of government, even if the price of oil went down into the \$30s (per barrel) or high \$20s,” Dunleavy said.

Combined state-dollars spending on the operating budget is \$4.8 billion, up from \$4.6 billion in Dunleavy’s first budget, and former Gov. Bill Walker — now an independent candidate running against Dunleavy — issued a critical statement noting that the budget for the office of the governor has risen 28% during that period. The governor’s budget accounts for less than \$40 million.

Walker and eight others are running against Dunleavy in this year’s election for governor. Dunleavy is seeking re-election.

Though some state legislators were disappointed by individual vetoes, Speaker of the House Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak, and Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich, D-Anchorage, each were positive about the outcome.

“Alaska can move forward with this budget,” Begich said.

“At a preliminary review, the FY23 budget has something in it for every Alaskan. More importantly, this was done with no new taxes and a significant amount of funds put into our savings accounts,” said members of the House’s Republican minority in a joint statement.

Among the budget’s biggest line items are a combined \$2.1 billion to pay a Permanent Fund dividend and energy relief check whose combined value is estimated to be about \$3,200 per recipient.

The precise amount of the payout — which will be determined by the number of recipients — has yet to be determined, and the governor said he expects to announce a payout date “probably in the next week.”

The dividend has traditionally been paid in October, but Dunleavy ordered the 2020 dividend to be paid early, and Democratic members of the Alaska Senate issued a statement asking Dunleavy to do so again.

“We have the ability to provide needed relief now, and Alaskans deserve it,” said Sen. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks, citing high fuel costs.

Another major line item inserted by members of the Alaska House and kept by Dunleavy is a second year of funding for K-12 schools, effectively paying for two years’ worth of education funding in one.

Intended as a way to reduce costs next year, it’s a \$1.2 billion item that could be reduced if oil prices fall. If oil prices average at least \$103.25 per barrel in the next fiscal year, the second year of funding is fully paid.

If prices fall below that amount, the amount of forward funding is reduced. At \$89 per barrel, the budget would remain fully balanced, but there would be no forward funding. Below that amount, the state would have to use savings to close the gap.

The budget also contains several hundred million dollars intended to pay tax credits owed to oil and gas drillers and their financiers.

The money is the amount necessary to settle a debt accrued under a now-defunct incentive program. Because the state budget contains annual payments



PHOTO BY YERETH ROSEN/ALASKA BEACON

Gov. Mike Dunleavy speaks at a June 28 press conference in Anchorage on this Fiscal 2023 budget to go into effect on July 1.

on that debt, settling it should free more money in the future, Dunleavy said.

The governor acted differently on the state’s public-employee pension liability, vetoing an \$89.3 million appropriation added by the Legislature atop the amount requested by the managers of the pension fund. The state has a multibillion-dollar pension liability that must be paid in the future.

That was the largest single veto aside from a procedural move that shifts \$360 million in savings from the Statutory Budget Reserve to the Constitutional Budget Reserve, which has a higher threshold for spending.

The governor also vetoed \$85 million in funding intended for maintenance at schools and state facilities, cut funding for the Alaska Long Trail, cut support for the Food Bank of Alaska, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the Alaska Library Network, and vetoed some recruitment efforts at the Alaska Department of Law.

In the case of ASMI, a state official said that organization had funds left over from last year and did not need additional support allocated by the Legislature. The Department of Law funding request may still be addressed in separate legislation.

“We didn’t need the extra appropriations that were put in there,” Dunleavy said.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, said he was disappointed by a \$4 million veto to the child care program office in the state Department of Health.

“Here he is coming out and saying he wants to change the constitution to ban abortions and he’s cutting child care assistance. If you’re gonna ban abortions, you have an obligation to take care of kids,” Wielechowski said.

Dunleavy also vetoed the Legislature’s effort to save money in the Alaska Permanent Fund and the easily spent Statutory Budget Reserve. Instead, the primary vehicle for savings is the Constitutional Budget Reserve.

Spending from that

requires three-quarters of the House and three-quarters of the Senate, and the veto has caused some concern among legislators who watched the House drive the state to a brink of a shutdown in 2021 as it struggled to reach that three-quarters mark during low oil prices.

“If oil prices do tank, then we could be right back, having to squabble and fight to get three-quarters,” said Rep. Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham.

Overall, Dunleavy’s vetoes were fewer and smaller than in his first budget, which came as he attempted to boost the size of the Permanent Fund dividend amid slumping oil prices. Uninterested in new taxes, Dunleavy vetoed billions from the budget but ultimately reversed many of his actions after facing opposition from the Alaska Legislature and Alaskans who mounted a recall campaign against him.

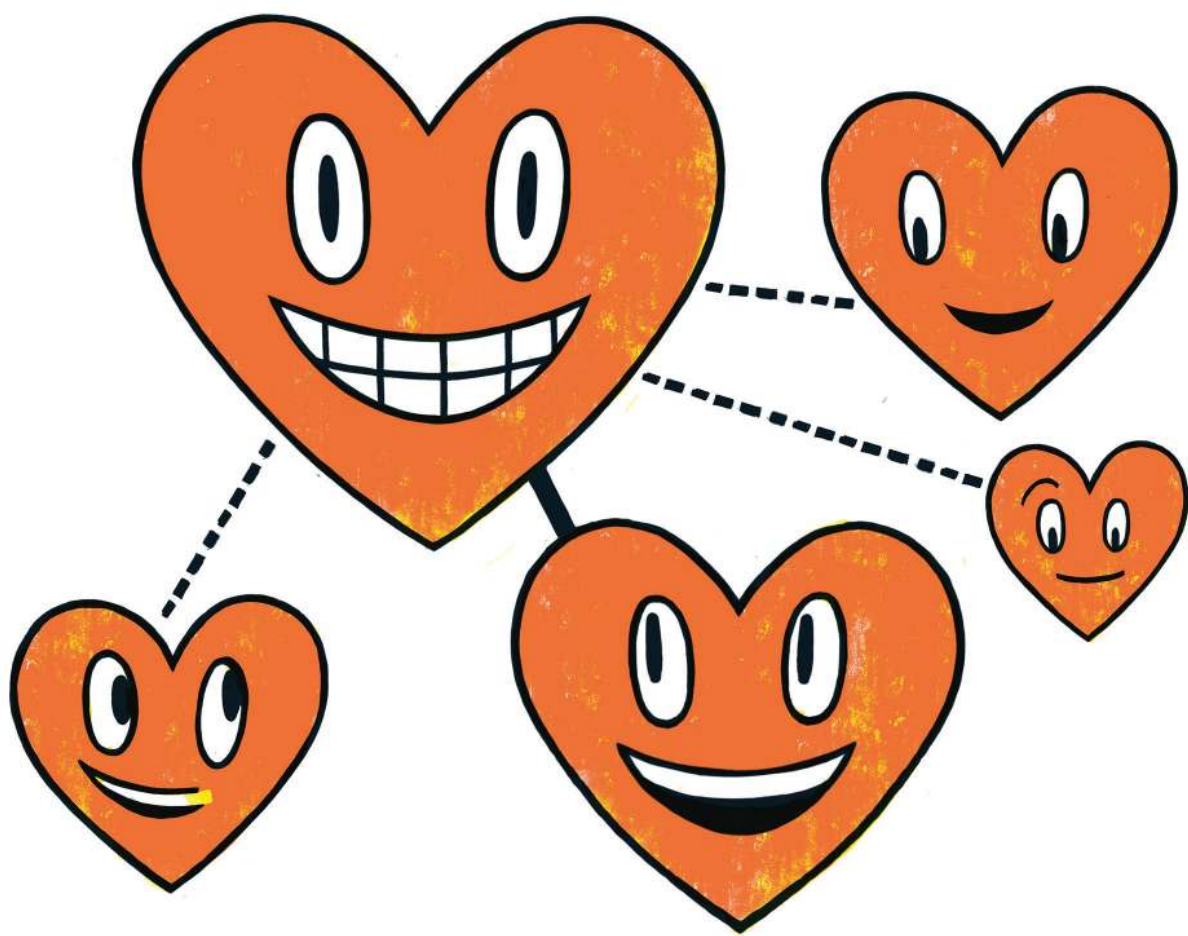
This year, though he continued to veto funding for public radio, he did not veto money for school bond debt reimbursement or the University of Alaska, items he had targeted in prior years.

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SAVAGE LOVE
BY DAN SAVAGE

We knew this was coming, thanks to the SCOTUS Leaker, but that didn't make last week's news any less devastating. (Who's the leaker? My money's on Ginni.) So, what can we do now? We can march, we can donate, and we can vote like the Right has been voting for 50 years, i.e., we can vote like judicial appointments matter. But if you want to do something right now that will piss off the people out there celebrating Dobbs, consider making a donation to the National Network of Abortion Funds. Actually, don't just consider making a donation, do it right now: abortionfunds.org/donate. This is going to be a long fight — and we're not just in a fight to re-secure a woman's right to control her own body, we're in a fight to protect all the other rights social conservatives want to claw back, from the right of opposite-sex couples to use contraception to the right of same-sex couples to marry to everyone's right to enjoy non-PIV sex. (When they say they want to overturn Lawrence v. Texas, which Clarence Thomas said in his concurrence, they're not just talking about re-criminalizing gay sex but re-criminalizing a whole lot of straight sex; Lawrence overturned sodomy laws, and anything non-PIV meets the legal definition of sodomy.) If you live in a state where abortion became illegal overnight, you can find information on self-administered medication abortion — everything you need to know about M&Ms (mifepristone and misoprostol) — at plancpills.org. — Dan

My partner and I are a heterosexual couple with a large age gap. He is the older one, and our sex life is amazing. We've been talking about the idea of having me fuck a new guy for about four years. However, because he is older and experienced more casual sex is his young adulthood, he felt it was only fair that I got to do that as well. (I was in my early 20s when we started our relationship and I've only been with two other guys.) At first, I told him I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything but over time, the more we talked about it, the more I realized I wanted to do this just for fun. And now we just got back from a vacation where I found a guy on a hook-up app for a one-time meeting and (safely) fucked him while my partner watched. (He's not a cuck and didn't participate.) It was just plain fun for all of us! My question is about the "bonding hormone." I've always heard that when a woman has sex, her body produces oxytocin, a hormone that causes her to emotionally attach to her sex partner. That has certainly been true for me in the past. But with this most recent fuck, I didn't feel any emotional attachment at all! I've never had casual sex like this before, so I'm wondering if the "bonding hormone" only releases when you're seeking an emotional attachment to a sex partner. Or did I fail to bond because my own partner was in the room? Honestly, I feel more

bonded to my partner than ever now!
— Curious Casual Newbie

For some guys — for some cucks, for some stags — watching the girlfriend with another guy is participating. So, the fact that your partner "only" watched isn't proof that allowing you to hook up with another guy was pure altruism on his part.

As for your failure to romantically attach to that vacation rando...

"Oxytocin alone does not create the bond," said Dr. Larry J. Young. "There are brain mechanisms that can inhibit bonding after sex with another individual."

Dr. Young is a neuroscientist at Emory University, where he has extensively studied hormones and the roles they play in forming partner bonds.

"It's not correct to think of oxytocin as the 'bonding hormone,' although you will see that frequently in the media," said Dr. Young. "Oxytocin amplifies — amplifies in the brain — the face, the smell, the voice of the person an individual is having sex with, so the brain can really sense those intensively. But it is the interaction of oxytocin with dopamine, which creates the intense pleasure of sex, that causes the bond — that is, the combination of the pleasure (dopamine) and the senses of the sexual partner (oxytocin) create a bond with a sexual partner."

And according to Dr. Young's fascinating research — which focuses on prairie voles — you can safely enjoy all the pleasure/dopamine you want without fear of bonding with some rando, CCN, so long as your bond with your current partner remains strong.

"Once bonded, the pattern of dopamine receptors changes in the brain so that the occasional sex with another doesn't create a new bond," said Dr. Young. "One type of dopamine receptor helps create a bond and the other type inhibits. Unbonded individuals have more of the bonding type of dopamine receptors. After bonding, the inhibitory receptor become more prominent, thus inhibiting a new bond."

Which means, CCN, it's safe for you to have sex with other men — with or without your partner present — so long as you still feeling bonded to your primary partner, who may or may not be a cuck. (I mean "safe" in the unlikely-to-catch-feelings-for-someone-else sense, not "safe" in the minimized-risk-of-STI-transmission sense.) There is, however, one important caveat...

"This may not work 100% of the time," said Dr. Young. "If the bond to the first partner has faded, this reader's experience may not be shared by everyone."

To learn more about Dr. Young's research, go to www.larryjyoung.com.

I'm a dude. A woman friend of mine in an open marriage recently told me that a male friend of ours greets her by kissing her on the cheek. This is something he only does with her. She feels this happens because she's physically intimate with someone in our friend group, who's not her husband and that therefore my friend sees

Fierce Healing

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

In her poem "Two Skins," Bahamian writer Lynn Sweeting writes, "There is a moment in every snake's life when she wears two skins: one you can see, about to be shed, one you cannot see, the skin under the skin, waiting." I suspect you now have metaphorical resemblances to a snake on the verge of molting, Aries. Congratulations



on your imminent rebirth! Here's a tip: The snake's old skin doesn't always just fall away; she may need to take aggressive action to tear it open and strip it off, like by rubbing her head against a rock. Be ready to perform a comparable task.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

"Imagine a world 300 years from now," writes Japanese novelist Minae Mizumura, "a world in which not only the best-educated people but also the

**FREE WILL
ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BREZSNY**

brightest minds and the deepest souls express themselves only in English. Imagine the world subjected to the tyranny of a singular 'Logos.' What a narrow, pitiful, and horrid world that would be!" Even though I am primarily an English speaker, I agree with her. I don't want a world purged of diversity. Don't want a monolithic culture. Don't want everyone to think and speak the same. I hope you share my passion for multiplicity, Taurus — especially these days. In my astrological opinion, you'll thrive if you immerse yourself in a celebratory riot of variety. I hope you will seek out influences you're not usually exposed to.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Imagine you're not a person, but a medley of four magical ingredients. What would they be? A Gemini baker named Jasmine says, "ripe persimmons, green hills after a rain, a sparkling new Viking Black Glass Oven, and a prize-winning show horse." A Gemini social worker named Amarantha says she would be made of "Florence and the Machine's song 'Sky Full of Song,' a grove of birch trees, a blue cashmere knee-length sweater, and three black cats sleeping in the sun." A Gemini delivery driver named Altoona says, "freshly harvested cannabis buds, a bird-loving wetlands at twilight, Rebecca Solnit's book Hope in the Darkness, and the Haleakalā shield volcano in Maui." And now, Gemini, what about you? Identify your medley of four magical ingredients. The time is right to re-imagine the poetry of YOU.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22)

Filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard believes there's only one way to find a sense of meaning, and that is to fill your life to the bursting point; to be in love with your experience; to celebrate the flow of events wherever it takes you. When you do that, Godard says, you have no need or urge to ask questions like "Why am I here?" or "What is my purpose?" The richness of your story is the ultimate response to every enigma. As I contemplate these ideas, I say: wow! That's an intensely vibrant way to live. Personally, I'm not able to sustain it all the time. But I think most of us would benefit from such an approach for brief periods now and then. And I believe you have just entered one of those phases.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

I asked Leo readers to provide their insights about the topic "How to Be a Leo." Here are responses that line up with your current astrological omens. 1. People should try to understand you're only bossing them around for their benefit. —Harlow Hunt. 2. Be alert for the intense shadows you may cast with your intense brightness. Consider the possibility that even if they seem iffy or dicey, they have value and even blessings to offer. —Cannarius Kansen. 3. Never break your own heart. Never apologize for showering yourself with kindness and adoration. —Amy Clear. 4. At the moment of orgasm, scream out your own name. —Bethany Grace

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

It's your birthright as a Virgo to become a master of capitalizing on difficulties. You have great potential to detect opportunities coalescing in the midst of trouble. You can develop a knack for spotting the order that's hiding in the chaos. Now is a time when you should wield these skills with artistry, my dear — both for your own benefit and for the betterment of everyone whose lives you touch.

Astrology, continued on page A17

The Adventures of Cinderella

Swan Lake

By Cinderella

I've always been a fan of ballet. In fact, I'm told that as a child, I would walk around the house on my tiptoes. Of course, I don't remember doing it, but I do vividly remember dancing in the aisles at the PAC the first time I saw The Nutcracker. The crinkling sound of my taffeta and red velvet dress as I spun in circles is something I don't think I'll ever forget. I also won't forget how much I disliked the ringlet curls my hairdresser gave me for the occasion — but that's a story for another time.

In all the ballets that I've seen, none captivate my imagination quite like Swan Lake, even though the original production is pretty grim. Long story short, a sorcerer kidnaps a girl and curses her to be a swan. When the girl meets a young prince, they fall in love, and he endeavors to free her so she can return to her human form. Tragically, the prince and his beloved Odette struggle to break the curse. Once it becomes clear that it is unbreakable, they drown themselves in the lake.

In the alternate ending that arts patrons found to be more palatable, the prince saves the day, and he and Odette live happily ever after.

For a more contemporary context, think of Edward Cullen and Bella Swan in the Twilight series. You know, the whole "I never thought about how I'd die, but dying for someone I love seems to be a good way to go" thing. In theory, that kind of devotion is the ideal expression of love.

While I can't say that I've ever yearned for a partner who would die for me, the notion has some semblance of romanticism. Or at least it did until I met a man who stripped away that fantasy.

When we matched, I was immediately taken by his conversational skills, and in a matter of a few messages, we switched to talking on the phone. For the next three hours, we talked about poetry and waxed philosophical about the state of the world. It was one of the more intellectually stimulating conversations I had had in a while, so when he asked me to take a midnight walk with him, I didn't hesitate before declaring "YOLO!"

As a reader, I am sure you are shaking your head right about now. I know I am just writing this.

Obviously, a midnight stroll with a complete stranger isn't necessarily the safest idea in the world, but I felt a deep connection with him. That said, I still turned on my phone's location services, let three people know where I was going, and packed a container of bear spray.

I drove across town to Sand Lake and parked in front of a large home that I assumed was his. He came out the front door and immediately gave me a big hug. Everything felt so natural as we walked around the lake and admired the swans swimming in the moonlight. In truth, it was one of the more romantic dates I had ever been on.

As the time approached 2am, we made our way back to his home and said our goodbyes. I smiled the whole way home as I gleefully sang along with the radio. When I got home, I noticed he had texted to wish me goodnight. It was a textbook perfect start to a new relationship.

I went to bed happy and optimistic that I had found someone special.

Six hours later, I turned off my DND and was greeted by a slew of missed calls and panicked texts from my prince charming.

"I can't do this. I can't drag you down into my life," Jamie chaotically explained when I called him back.

"Hey, we just met, and we're getting to know each other. Let's not jump the gun and take it slow," I replied in an effort to pacify him.

My advice seemed to strike a chord as he ultimately calmed down and asked me for a second date. But I didn't hear from him again for two weeks. Then, just as I had completely written him off, I got another text.

"I am so sorry I disappeared. I had some stuff to take care of but I am good now."

I replied by explaining that I understand how life can get sometimes and not to worry about temporarily ghosting.

We decided to meet for our second date the next day. He said his car was in the shop and I would need to pick him up. However, the address he gave me wasn't the same bougie house in Sand Lake — it was in a sketchy part of midtown.

The blind optimist in me decided not to ask why he was in this new locale, but when he got in the car there was a different air about him. He wasn't the same charming, well-spoken man I had met two weeks earlier. This person was gruff, pushy, and a little frenetic.

Although I was tentative, I decided to follow through on our date plans of watching a sporting event. But when

we got to the game, he immediately told me he didn't have any money and asked if I could buy him a drink. I figured, "what the hell" and bought him a soda.

After the game, he started passively asking me to buy him food.

"You must be hungry," he said.

"I'm actually good," I replied.

"Are you sure you're not hungry? I feel like you should be hungry," he pressed.

"Are you asking me to buy you food," I asked.

"I mean, only if you are going to eat it too. I'll pay you back when I get my next paycheck," he pleaded.

The Catholic Guilt in me felt an obligation to help him out, so I picked up a pizza at Papa John's before taking him back to where he was staying.

As I walked in the door, it became clear that there was something off about his new digs. At first, I wasn't entirely sure why my Spidey senses were tingling, but when he opened the door to his room, it all came into sharp focus.

The room was barren and smelled of must. On the wall was a placard outlining the rules of residency in the halfway house. This should have been enough for me to permanently say my goodbyes. Naturally, it wasn't.

I went to the bathroom down the hall to collect myself, and when I returned, he was wearing a tank top and shorts. This is when I finally got the complete, anti-happily-ever-after picture. His arms were covered in track marks and freshly closed wounds from picking. On his ankle, a monitor blinked to indicate it was working.

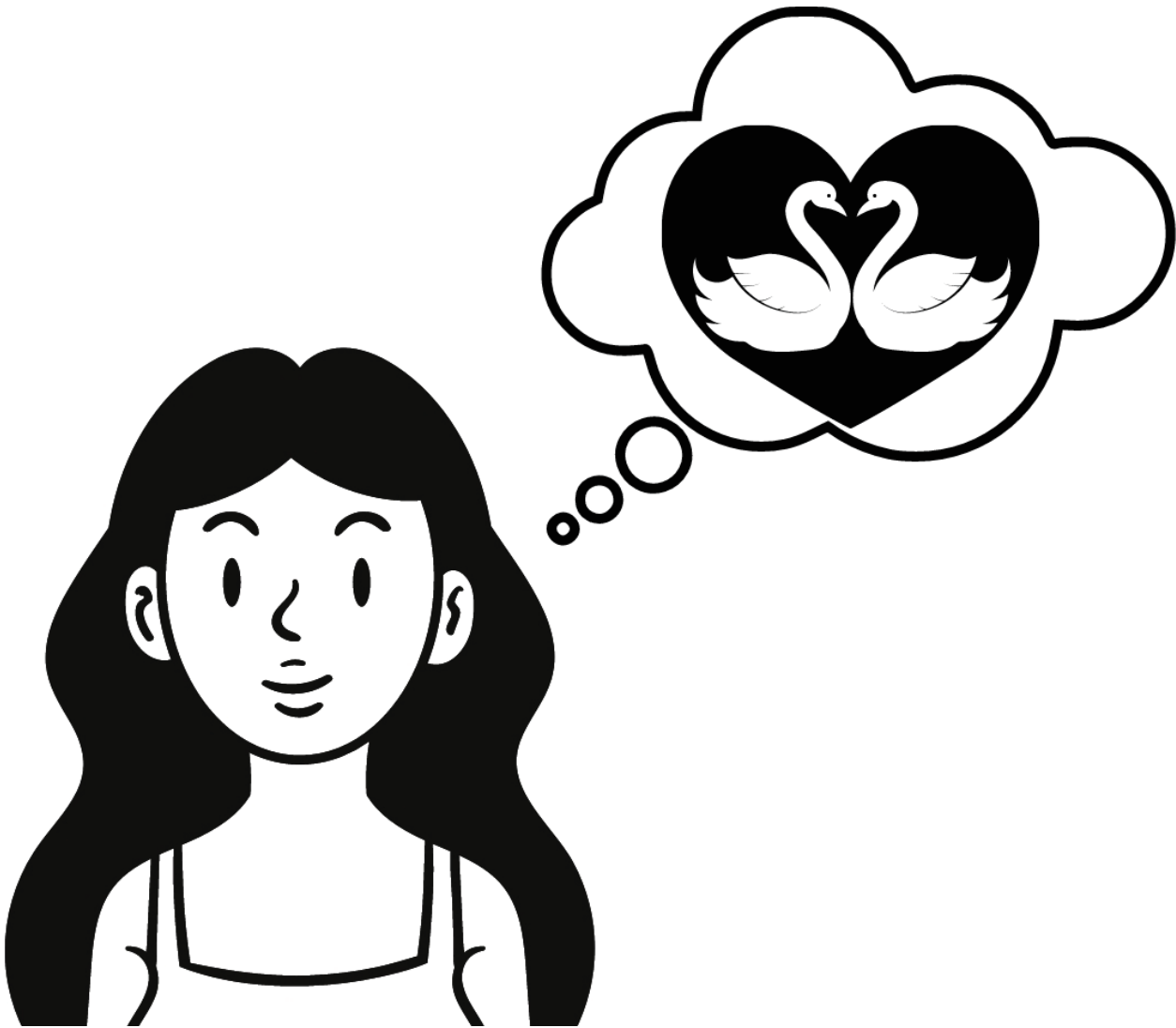
I am sure my expression communicated the horror I felt because he immediately tried to explain it away. Because I was unsure of his mental state, I stayed and listened as he monologued about his ex-wife and how she blew his threatening to kill her out of proportion. I even listened attentively when he talked about how his brother's success drove him to turn to speed and heroin.

The entire time, the only thing I could think about was leaving, but he wouldn't stop talking. Two hours passed, and he had eaten the entire pizza himself and clonked out on the bed.

The instant I heard him snoring, I darted to the door, ran down the stairs, and drove home like a bat out of hell. I spent the rest of the night coming up with a plan to cut ties. But he never called again. A month later, curiosity got to me and I looked him up on Courtview. A wave of terror washed over me as I read that several days after our second date, he was arrested for attempted murder.

I dodged a literal bullet that night at the halfway house. Now when I think about fairytales, my mind doesn't go to Disney; it goes to the more authentic Grimm brothers, who weren't afraid to portray the darker sides of humanity.

I definitely miss the childlike notion of happily ever after, but I am grateful to have an updated, more cynical version of it without having to drown in a lake.



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

Thursday, June 30th

Alaska Cannabis Exchange – Open Mic with Shalah Rose 7p-9p
Anchorage Town Square – The Roland Roberts Band 5:30p-8p
The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva Live 7:30p-10:30p
Chanshtnu Muldoon Park (Anchorage) – Care is Essential: Party in the Park! 5p-7p
Davis Park (Anchorage) – Kanekoa w/ H3 6:30p-8p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Summer Country Jam w/ Texas Hill, Hope Cassity, & Ken Peltier 7p-11p
Fishhook Bar (Palmer) – Edge of the West w/ Guest: Barry Sless 8p-12a
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Garcia’s Cantina & Café (Eagle River) - Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Goldie’s AK (Fairbanks) – (Open) Mic Check 7p-10p
Humpty’s – Moby Wang & Super Girl 8:30p-12:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Open Mic Night 8p-12a
Koot’s – Comedy Show! w/ KEVIN BOZEMAN 8p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Waffles & Whatnot - #TurnUpFoJesus Karaoke 5p-9p
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-11p

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BEST BUZZ

Friday, July 1

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with JJ.J. Shockley 6p-8p
Anchorage Museum – Ruth Miller & Kengo Nagaoka 4:30p-5:30p
Bernie’s Bungalow Lounge – HarpDaddy Unraveled 6p-9p
Downtown Palmer Pavilion (Palmer) – Avalanche of the Ninth Army Band 11:30a-1:30p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
Garcia’s Cantina & Café (Eagle River) - The Acoustic Oosik 8p-11p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p

Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: Solar Flair 7p-8:30p
Humpty’s – Glacier Hoppers 9:30p-1:30a
International Gallery of Contemporary Art - As Seen On The Radio 5p-8p
Koot’s – Velvet La La 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – The Stack Live 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Unknowns LIVE 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Zero Miles to Empty 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – First Friday Girls Night Out Dance Party w/ Fan Service 9:30p-2a
Writer’s Block Bookstore & Café – Jacob Erdman Stand-Up Showcase 6p-8p



Saturday, July 2nd

The Alaska Zoo – Juicy Harps, Gail, & Bill 11a-4p
Cafecito Bonito – Drew Erickson & Zane Penny 6:30p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – Independence Day Bash ft Danger Money Live 10p-2a
Carpenter’s Hall – Pie Contest and Independence Day Dance 7p-11p
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4174 (Chugiak) – Karaoke 7p-11p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Girdwood Park (Girdwood) – 47th Annual Girdwood Forest Fair 11p-8p
Humpty’s – Velvet La La 9:30p-1:30a
Koot’s – Bubba Bellin Texas Country Live 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Blackwater Railroad Company 6p-10p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Chill Factor 7p-10p
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Downtown Jazz in the Park 4p-6p
Tikahtnu Commons – Aloha in Alaska Music Festival 2022 2p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Ayla Ray, Village Mutt, & The Store 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Red, White & Blue Dance Party w/ Fan Service 9:30p-2a

A Listening Room Concert

@ CAFECITO BONITO

Saturday, July 2

\$10 Admission Doors at 6:30PM

Featuring

DREW ERICKSON & ZANE PENNY

Aloha in Alaska

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Maoli / Tenelle / Kekoa Kane / Kaipo

Halau Kiuwaillehua

Saturday, July 2nd 2022

THE TIKAHNU COMMONS MALL

FRONTING LEI'S POKE STOP

2 - 10pm

General Admission \$30

V.I.P \$100 (only 100 tickets available)

Student Admission (12-18 yrs) \$15

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Lei's POKE STOP

Sunday, July 3rd

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Eagle River Lions Park (Eagle River) - Glacier Hoppers & July 4th Fireworks 5p-12:30a
Girdwood Park (Girdwood) – 47th Annual Girdwood Forest Fair 11p-6p
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Muldoon Community Assembly – Freedom Celebration 2022 1p-6p
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday, July 4th

Chanshtnu Muldoon Park (Anchorage) – 4th of July Park Party 2p-8p
Delaney Park Strip - Anchorage’s 4th of July Festival 10a-7p
Eagle River Lions Park (Eagle River) - July 4th Fireworks 12a-12:30
Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Main Street Loop Road (Kenai) – July 4th Parade & Festivities 11a-4p
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
Wonderland Park (Wasilla) - Glacier Hoppers Independence Celebration 1p-3p & 6p-9p
Wonderland Park (Wasilla) - July 4th Fireworks 11p-11:30p

Tuesday, July 5th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/Uncle Jim! 6:30p-9:30p
Anchorage Museum – Lunch on the Lawn w/ Michael Faubion 11:30a-1:30p
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

Wednesday, July 6th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Alaska Center for Performing Arts – Tom Segura 10p-11:30p
The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Scott Clay 7p-10p
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 7p-11:30p
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – SpeNerds 12p-1p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p

A8 | PRESS

June 30-July 6, 2022

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Thu 6/30

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Career Fair & BBQ
Join us for free hot dogs and hamburgers to learn more about career opportunities with Alaska Commercial Company.
Thursday, June 30
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
3830 Old International Airport Rd., Anchorage, AK
We're hiring store managers and department managers for our grocery stores located in rural Alaska

Alaska Commercial Company Career Fair & BBQ
@ 11:30am

Are you looking for a new career with great benefits? Join Alaska Commercial Company for a career fair and BBQ to learn more about job opportunities in Alaska. 3830 Old International Airport Rd, 3830 Old International Airport Road, Anchorage. ACCareers@alaskacommercial.com, 907-273-4656



907 Alehouse Trivia with That Trivia Gal
@ 6:30pm
Jun 30th - Sep 29th

Come down to 907 Alehouse for trivia every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30. No canned trivia here! That Trivia Gal comes up with fun categories and questions that will get your brainwaves moving. 907 Alehouse and Grill, 8001 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage. thattriviagal@gmail.com

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

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

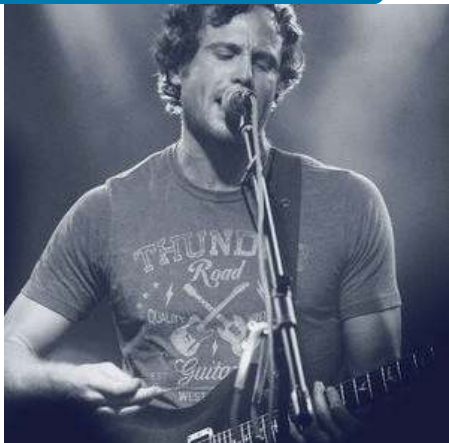


Reflections on Wrongful Convictions
@ 5:30pm / \$45

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



Featured



Scott Clay @ Bear Paw
@ 7pm

Scott Clay showcases important relationships, stunning displays of natural beauty, and even famous historical events on Let It All Lay Bare, his fifth full-length album. Bear Paw Bar & Grill, 190 W Tudor Rd, Anchorage



Featured



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

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage



Thu 7/07

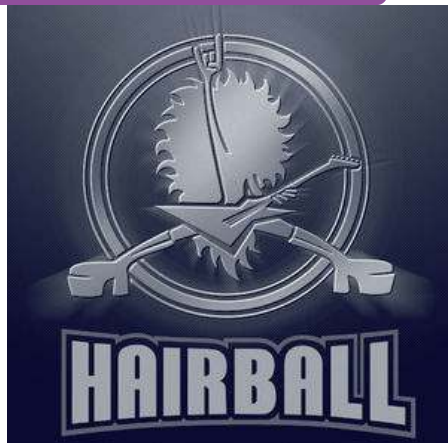
Open Mic with Shalah Rose
@ 7pm

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

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Fri 7/08

Featured



Hairball
@ 7pm /



<https://www.tixr.com/groups/ericksonevents/events/hairball-a-celebration-of-arena-rock-at-koots-41872>

Hairball is one of the most amazing shows you'll see. Hairball is able to transform in the iconic bands and artists from the amazing era of arena rock. You'll see and hear the music of Kiss, AC/DC, Bon Jovi, Queen, Motley Crue, Ozzy, Def Leopard, Queen, Poison, Alice Cooper and many more. Their costumes will blow you away as they duplicate the sound and persona of every artist and band they pay tribute to. Outside at Koots, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sat 7/09

Art Workshop Mosaic Moose W/Fireweed
Advanced Reservation Required

@ 11:30am / Free

In this workshop you will learn how to nip glass out of stained & painted glass Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3, Anchorage. sparkletrebe1@gmail.com, 650-210-6682

Comedian Carl Strong
@ 7pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sassy Saturdays Cabaret
@ 8pm / \$20

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

Comedian Carl Strong
@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 7/10

Featured



Longest Day Cabaret Burlesque Brunch
@ 11:30am / \$18

This burly brunch including a fashion show featuring clothing made locally, booths for shopping from The Lacy Lounge and Furnish Studio & Salvage, and of course...sassy, salty burlesque performances Sweet Cheeks Cabaret at The Cheeky Room, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com



Featured



Stories at the Cemetery
July 10 and Aug 14
@ 6pm

Sunday July 10 - a self-guided walk featuring 10 gravesite presentations by costumed actors repeated Sunday August 14 onstage on the cemetery grounds at Anchorage Memorial Park Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery, Seventh and Cordova Streets John Bagoy Gate, Anchorage. audreyweltmankelly@gmail.com, 907-343-6814 907-301-5728



Mon 7/11

Hannah Read: Alaska City Folk Arts Camp (July 11-15)
@ 10am

Alaska City Folk Arts Camp, Anchorage

Spenard Summer Day Camp Week #7
@ 4pm

Jul 11th - Jul 15th
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 7/12

Resin Art Class-Northern Lights Wall Art
Advanced Reservation Required

@ 6pm / Free

Resin Art is a form of flow art, the pieces are unique and no two pieces are exactly the same! Learn the basics of working with resin, pigment powders, & resin dyes Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry A3, Anchorage. sparkletrebe1@gmail.com, 650-210-6682

Vocal Alchemy for Personal Healing
@ 7pm / \$20

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, YOU are invited to join me in my Vocal Alchemy, Vocal Sound Healing Class. Your body is a vessel of sound. Come and learn how to use the voice to heal yourself. ATOM Center AK, 6000 C Street, Anchorage. bjarts@gmail.com, 206-375-8529

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

Scott Clay (FULL BAND) @ Bear Paw
@ 7pm

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

Wed 7/13

Scott Clay @ Bear Paw
@ 7pm

Bear Paw Bar & Grill, 190 W Tudor Rd, 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

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Constitutional convention ballot question in November becomes focus in Alaska’s abortion fight

Abortion rights supporters urge ‘no’ votes on question, while abortion opponents seek changes to constitution

BY LISA PHU FOR THE ALASKA BEACON
PHOTOS BY LAUREN LANGFORD



With the overturning of Roe, reproductive rights advocates in Alaska are encouraging voters to vote no on a constitutional convention during the general election this coming November, while abortion opponents are encouraging voters to vote yes.

The right to have an abortion in Alaska is protected through the state constitution’s provision on privacy, as recognized by the Alaska Supreme Court in 1997. This November, voters will be asked whether or not to call a constitutional convention, which would pave the way for changing the constitution and potentially taking that protection for abortion away.

During a Rally for Reproductive Justice in Juneau on Saturday, voting no on the constitutional convention question was a front and center issue.

“Every 10 years, our great Constitution requires a vote out of all of us on whether we want a constitutional convention,” former Democratic state Rep. Beth Kerttula said to a crowd of several hundred people outside the Dimond Courthouse.

Kerttula called the ballot question “a sneaky thing” because “it sounds kind of good, like, ‘Well, yeah, let’s get a good look at this and see what we need to do and are there things we need to change?’” But, she said Alaska has “a great constitution.”

Kerttula said, “if you care about equal rights to education, to health care, and if you care about the right to choice, vote no.”

The crowd followed her remarks with a “vote no” chant.

During his speech at the rally, State Sen. Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau, encouraged the crowd to vote no on a constitutional convention, saying Alaska has an “explicit right to privacy in our constitution” as well as “judges who are chosen on merit, not on politics.”

“Here in Alaska, those judges have read the rules, they’ve read the constitution, they’ve looked at the world and they’ve said, ‘No, your right to privacy includes a decision when or whether you’re going to become a parent, and the decision to choose a perfectly safe and effective medical procedure, if that’s what’s right for you,’” he said. “Folks, as long as we can keep their mitts off the Alaska Constitution, it’s going to stay that way in our state.”

Nancy Courtney is a board member of Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition, which organized the June 25 rally. She said voting no on the constitutional convention in the November general election is included in its fundraising letter to supporters.

“That’s one of the biggest fears that we have is that it’s going to open up Pandora’s box if we have a constitutional convention,” Courtney said.



POTENTIAL CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

In 2021, Palmer Sen. Shelley Hughes sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 4, which proposed an amendment to the Alaska Constitution relating to abortion.

The resolution would’ve amended Article 1 of the constitution to add a new section that says, “To protect human life, nothing in this constitution may be construed to secure or protect a right to an abortion or require the State to fund an abortion.”

It passed out of the Health and Social Services Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee and didn’t go any further. It never made it to the Senate or House floors to get the two-thirds vote of each body it would’ve needed to get on a ballot. But this is language that Jim Minnery wants to see taken up during a constitutional convention.

Minnery is a president of Alaska Family Action, a nonprofit Christian public policy organization. He said Hughes’ resolution is “simply clarifying the neutrality of the state constitution.”

The Alaska Supreme Court in 1997 recognized that “reproductive rights are fundamental, and that they are encompassed within the right to privacy expressed in Article 1, Section 22 of the Alaska Constitution ... These fundamental reproductive rights include the right to an abortion.”

Minnery said the court’s interpretation of the constitution was “made up out of whole cloth.”

“We believe firmly that the Supreme Court of Alaska interpreted the privacy clause in a manner that wasn’t at all meant by the founding fathers when they put the privacy clause in there, (which) has absolutely nothing to do with abortion.”

Minnery said, in November, he would be voting yes to the constitutional convention question and is encouraging Alaskans across the state to do the same. In addition to protecting “innocent, pre-born lives,” Minnery wants a constitutional convention because he supports reforming the judicial selection process to be more like the federal system.

“The governor should have the ability to be able to appoint people who are aligned with their belief system and how they believe jurisprudence should be carried out,” Minnery said.

Currently, when appointing justices to the Alaska Supreme Court, the governor must choose from a list of two or more nominees compiled by the Alaska Judicial Council. The Alaska Judicial Council is an independent state commission.

Ultimately, Minnery said the issue of abortion and safeguards around it should be decided by the people through their elected representatives who pass legislation.



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION QUESTION

Every 10 years, the state constitution requires the lieutenant governor to place the question “Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?” on a general election ballot, if a convention hasn’t been held. Alaska hasn’t held a constitutional convention since 1955-1956, when the state constitution was developed.

Voters will be asked the question during the upcoming general election in November. A “yes” vote supports holding a state constitutional convention. A “no” vote opposes holding a convention.

If the majority of voters vote no, the question will be asked again in another 10 years. If the majority votes yes, what comes next is a multi-year process, Josh Applebee with the lieutenant governor’s office said.

“The process could take as long as four-plus years or, depending on the Legislature, it could be as short as, say, two years,” Applebee said.

The Legislature would be responsible for outlining the delegate selection process. According to the constitution, “delegates to the convention shall be chosen at the next regular statewide election, unless the legislature provides for the election of the delegates at a special election.”

The next regular statewide election after this November isn’t until the primary election in August 2024.

Once delegates are selected, the convention would be held. After the convention takes place, amendments or revisions to the constitution must be ratified by voters in another election. The constitution doesn’t specify which election.

IEYMI!



Emma Hill, SunDog's Abi Sparkman, and newcomer Ashley Young perform at Spenard Song Circle on Friday, June 24.



R&B singer Denali delighted a sold out Cafecito Bonito on Saturday, June 25.



Decepticide performed at Williwaw on Friday, June 24 alongside Part Time Super Heroes and Mindful Khaos.



29 local bands took the Van's Dive Bar stage on Saturday, June 25 for the 4th annual Vanniversary. All photos by @ShipeShots



Bonzai, from page A12

On a larger scale, the Aleutian Low twirling over this giant body of water causes droughts, floods and wildfires in western North America. Scientists have also tied cycles in the Aleutian Low — which switches from strong to weak every few decades — to Arctic sea-ice extent and the strength or weakness of salmon runs along the Pacific Coast from California to Alaska.

After gathering 20 cores and storing them inside paper straws, Gaglioti seals them inside a Ziploc. They will add to the load he will carry in his backpack out of here. Someday, probably in the darkness of winter, he will look at them under magnification and see what these trees have to say about hard times they have endured.

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



PHOTO BY NED ROZELL

A mountain hemlock tree shaped by winter storms grows on the outer coast of Glacier Bay National Park.

Annual release of cottonwood seeds can be spellbinding

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

"Moving among a stand of cottonwoods, I notice a summertime 'blizzard' all around me. Tufts of cotton released by the trees are backlit by the sun and they've become radiant, glowing, floating points of light, drifting unhurried through the forest. I stand transfixed, as if transported into a galaxy of stars."

— Turnagain Arm Trail Journal, July 13, 1998 entry

I can't recall precisely when I began paying attention to — and celebrating — the annual release of seeds by local cottonwood trees, but it was likely in the early to mid-1990s. Back then, I lived on Anchorage's Hillside and regularly walked through woodlands rich with big, old cottonwoods on the Turnagain Arm Trail at our city's southern fringes.

At about the same time, I began keeping a "TAT journal," in which I recorded my observations and reflections from hikes along that trail.

A quick search of my house has failed to turn up my earliest journals. But I did find one from 1998 and others that include entries from 2007 through the present. Within those notebooks, I discovered several references to a summer phenomenon I've given various names, for instance, "the month of falling cotton" and "the time of floating (or flying) cotton."

In just about every one of those references, there's clear evidence that I marveled at what I was witnessing. When the myriad tufts of cotton (which enclose the cottonwood seeds) were backlit by the sun, which turned them into something extraordinary, even otherworldly.

Here's one example from 2018: "July 2. Denali and I do 5 miles on a warm to hot afternoon — temperature hovering around 70 degrees, maybe higher — cooled at times by an offshore breeze. This is the time of blowing cotton — tufts of cotton being blown off cottonwood trees. Looking up into the forest canopy and sky beyond, the backlit bits of cotton are sparkling, shimmering points of light when facing the sun. At various times (depending on breezes), they are floating upward or pushed in a stream of cotton balls across the sky, some of the cotton hundreds of feet high (or even higher?). At times, it seems like a blizzard of cotton, a 'cotton storm' reminiscent of a snowstorm. This is an annual hypnotic, mesmerizing light show . . . an absolute delight."

Here's another example from July 16, 2011: "July, Month of Cotton. There's a surreal aspect to the cotton, moving slowly and sometimes in different directions as breezes swirl through the trees, an alternate universe of brightly backlit worlds floating among giants . . . It's an amazing thing to watch."

I got to thinking about the timing of this annual "light show" when I happened upon a similar cotton storm during a summer solstice hike along the Turnagain Arm Trail. It seemed early for the cottonwoods to be releasing their cotton-encased seeds; over the years, I'd come to think of it as a July event. At least that's what I recalled.

Those memories are what prompted my search for TAT journals. And the ones I could find (I'm certain the others are hiding somewhere in my home) confirmed my suspicions. In 1998, and again from 2007 through 2011, every journal entry noted the "cotton blizzard" occurred in July (the dates ranging from July 1 to July 16, and all but one of those on July 9 or later).

Over the past decade or so, I haven't walked the Turnagain Arm Trail nearly as much as I once did, largely because I now live in west Anchorage and also because my hiking habits have changed. Still, in those years when I've noted "the time of blowing cotton," all but twice the dates have been June 29 or later. The exceptions: this year and 2020, when I observed



flying cotton tufts on June 16, the earliest ever. In 2021 I noticed the cotton blizzard on June 29, which means three straight June releases of cottonwood seeds.

I offer these observations for a few reasons.

First, though hardly a scientific study, my anecdotal observations of the past quarter-century indicate a clear shift in the seasonal release of cottonwood seeds and the cottony fluff that encloses them. The "cotton" actually being masses of extremely-fine, hair-like fibers that extend from the seeds, allowing them to be blown here and there by forest breezes.

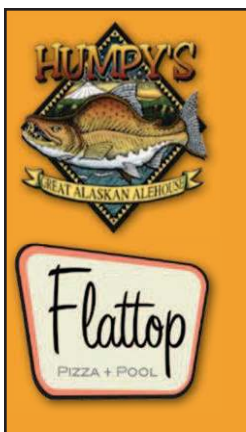
My "data" suggests the "time of blowing cotton" is now up to two or three weeks earlier than it was in the 1990s and first decade of this century, a notable shift.

I'll also mention here that this year's early cotton blizzard is in keeping with other plant observations that I've made this summer, namely the earlier blooming of several wildflowers and the accelerated transition from flower to seed or fruit, which I suspect is connected to our unusually warm and dry weather of the past several weeks.

Second, the annual flight of cotton is considered a nuisance by some — and perhaps many — Alaskans because the cotton tufts and seed pods from which they emerge can create something of a mess. At the same time, it's generally believed — incorrectly, I'd say — that the trees don't have much value to us humans. Yet the release of cottonwood seeds can be a compelling, even fantastic, experience for those who take the time to witness the annual "time of floating cotton."

Finally, the surreal "light show" that floating cottonwood seeds create each summer is only one of several reasons to celebrate these common yet unusual trees. I will share more about their multiple appeals — and benefits — another time. But, for now, I'll simply revel in the way cottonwoods can turn an ordinary summer walk in the woods into something astonishing.

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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Saturday July 2

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Celebrating Korean-Alaska Friendship Day

Home Town Restaurant delivers authentic Korean food

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

This past Saturday marked the 14th anniversary of Korea-Alaska Friendship Day. The holiday was established in 2008 by former Governor Sarah Palin to commemorate the opening of the Korean Consular Office in Anchorage. Since then, the Korean American Community of Anchorage and the Consular Office of the Republic in Korea have celebrated this occasion through annual festivals and community events.

I was honored to have been invited as a guest to join this year’s event — a smaller, more intimate affair than the grand Multicultural Unity festival at the Dimond Center in 2021. In attendance this year were dignitaries such as Senator Murkowski and homegrown celebrities of Korean descent, Miss America Emma Broyles, and newly crowned Miss Alaska Jessica Reisinger.

This event recognizes and draws attention to the impact Korean Americans have had on our great state. Additionally, it honors local veterans, as June 25 also happens to be the 72nd anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The ceremony ended with a banquet prepared by the able, loving hands of Korean aunties. While enjoying my scrumptious plate of bulgogi, japchae, and fresh kimchi, I sat in reflection about this symbolic day and my cultural heritage. I couldn’t help feeling a sense of pride upon witnessing the spotlight that the Korean community deserves.

Korea-Alaska Friendship Day not only left me in a contemplative mood, it instilled a desire for me to reexplore my roots. So, I thought to do so in the best way I knew how: by feasting on more of the glorious food of my people. I couldn’t think of a better venue than the fittingly named Home Town Restaurant, a spot known for dishing out authentic takes on some of the best this cuisine has to offer.

Having enjoyed some classic staples just the day prior, I wanted something a little less common. So, my wife and I split an order of ojingeo bokkeum (spicy squid stir fry), a bowl of soondubu jjigae (soft tofu stew), and naengmyeon, a buckwheat noodle dish served in an ice-cold, vinegary broth.

Of course, no proper Korean meal is complete without the inclusion of banchan, the small side dishes comprising a selection of pickled veggies and other treats meant to accompany the main course. A few highlights among the nine we received were the pan-fried tofu, pickled and soy-marinated onions, and one sauteed leafy green I hadn’t seen before. Our warm and attentive server described it as a wild mountain vegetable that turned out to be fibrous, savory, and simply delicious when paired with freshly steamed rice.

We snacked voraciously on the banchan as we continued waiting for our entrees. Subjected to the intoxicating smell of grilled meats permeating throughout the restaurant, the wait seemed endless. At one point, I briefly considered ordering a bottle of soju to further stimulate my growing appetite, though knowing the price for just one of these was enough to steer me away.

Soon enough, our entrees had arrived. Once my violently bubbling stew had simmered down, I gently spooned some of the silken, custardy tofu which had been bathed in a mild, seafood broth studded with zucchini, mushrooms, and chopped squid. This dish is comparatively mild when stacked up against some of the more pronounced flavors of Korean cooking. Still, its strengths lie in the comforting, ethereal qualities of the tofu and abundant textures, along with a hint of spice from Korean red pepper. Soondubu jjigae might just be one of my all-time favorites, and I’m glad they do it right at Home Town, as evidenced by the bowl polished clean at the end.

Moving on to spicier territory, I shifted my focus to the



ojingeo bokkeum. The dish is a medley of tender, sliced squid and hearty vegetables slathered in a thick, inferno-red glaze made with spicy chili paste and chili flakes. Though the dish’s composition is straightforward, I was pleased to find a nice ratio of squid and vegetables. This goes to show that Home Town isn’t cutting corners. The portion size was even plentiful enough for the leftovers to fill an entire takeout container — one order can easily satisfy an entire family, so long as everyone’s heat tolerance is up to snuff.

My wife had her heart set on the naengmyeon — something of an oddity in the culinary world due to the chilled broth and its sweet, tangy profile. Another unique element is the fact that the soup is served with bottles of extra vinegar and hot mustard to intensify the flavors. You’re also served a pair of scissors to aid with cutting the extra-long noodles, which are often dense and difficult to cut. In turn, this makes for chewy, springy noodles much like Japanese soba — just stay wary of the potential choking hazard.

As for what goes into the broth, the primary component is white radish kimchi brine, while some of the radish itself is presented as a topping along with julienned cucumber and apple slices. I was disappointed to find a blatant omission of any beef — somewhat of an essential ingredient. Regardless, it’s difficult to describe how refreshing this dish is on a hot summer’s day without trying it for oneself. Those willing to venture into this deep cut of Korean cuisine will be greatly reinvigorated and rewarded.

This year’s celebration of Korea-Alaska Friendship Day served as a welcome reminder that there are many reasons



to be proud of my heritage, even though my personal connection to the culture may at times be tenuous. If there’s one undying link I can turn to, it’s the food, which evokes the story of a strong, resilient nation and leaves me thinking of my grandparents, who sacrificed their livelihoods to secure a better life for their family in America.

But this wondrous cuisine doesn’t need to hold all this weight for one to fall in love with it. The bold and fresh flavors served at Home Town can and should be savored by all.

Home Town Restaurant is located at 3020 Minnesota Dr, Anchorage, AK 99503. The restaurant is open Wednesday — Saturday from 5pm — 12am and Sundays from 1pm — 10pm.

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Super Crossword

THREE-TO-FIVE
FIRST NAMES

ACROSS

- 1 Jason's ship
5 Categorized
12 Schoolboys
16 Actor Ayres
19 Coffee bit
20 Sea cow
21 "Orinoco
Flow" singer
22 Yes, to
Yvette
23 Pigeonhole
the 16th
president?
25 Toy-package
span
27 1950s politico
Stevenson
28 — -CIO
29 Cut all ties
with the star
of "Our Miss
Brooks"?
31 Sniff the
singer of
"Coca Cola
Cowboy"?
35 Barber's stuff
36 Color shade
37 Senator Cruz
38 — -bitsy
39 Investigate
the director
of "Stand by
Me"?
43 Barber's stuff
45 Positive vote
46 Writer Blyton
47 Bathe the
star of
"Caroline in
the City"?
53 Didn't include
58 Gate joint
59 Light hit
60 Berg material
62 Bride in
"My Big
Fat Greek
Wedding"
63 Hank in the
Basketball
Hall of Fame
64 Floats in the
breeze
67 Make a
genetic
replica of the
star of "The
Wolf Man"?
70 Jules Verne
captain
72 According to
73 Dawn
goddess
74 Boxer Frazier
75 Muscle jerks
76 Mistreat the
director of
"Splash"?
79 In districts
81 Holy Fr.
woman
82 Broadcaster
83 Rumpus
84 Stable feed
85 Pungent
pizza topping
87 Quaint street
lighter
90 Trample the
playwright of
"Travesties"?
94 "Me neither"

DOWN

- 96 "— so sorry!"
97 "— so sorry!"
98 Extort money
from the
star of "The
Europeans"?
103 Rational
105 Prefix related
to birds
108 Helps out
109 Whirlpool
site
110 Spill hot
coffee on
baseball's
"Iron Man"?
114 Kidnap
the star of
"Madam
Secretary"?
118 Mil. jets' site
119 Indistinct
120 Candy —
(hospital
helpers)
121 Contradict
the inventor
of the cotton
gin?
125 Certain pipe
shape
126 Provided
127 Retired
academics
128 Ladder rung
129 Certain pipe
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130 Mimicked
131 Halter's
cousin
132 Former
times
41 Glass edge
42 Piaf of song
43 Phone game,
maybe
44 Another time
45 Phone game,
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47 Gab,
informally
48 African land
49 Infatuates
50 Capital of
Canada
51 Moms
52 Sgt., say
54 Flawlessly
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56 Ballot caster
57 Bedtime hour
61 Delights in
65 Relief sound
66 "Alice"
waitress
67 Cape —
68 Era upon
era
69 Capital of
Canada?
71 Law school
beginner
73 Like amatory
literature
77 Marvelous
78 Radio spots
79 Electric jolt
80 Dimwit
84 "Let's see ..."
86 "Says You!"
broadcaster
88 "Eat — Chikin"
(Chick-Fil-A
slogan)
89 Pickle or cure
91 Acorn
sources
92 Be inclined
93 Finished
95 Levied, as a
tax
98 Droopy-eared
hound
99 Diminutive
100 Channel
swimmer
Gertrude
101 Morales of
film and TV
102 McKellen of
movies
103 "On
Language"
columnist
William
104 Even though
105 A lot like
106 Wood
overlay
107 Composed
and ready for
printing
111 "The Alienist"
novelist Carr
112 "As — care!"
113 Crooner Cline
115 Women's
Open org.
116 Hurdle
117 "Yeah, right"
122 Tall bird
123 164-nation
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gp.
124 Au courant

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LEGALS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
STATE OF ALASKA AT ANCHORAGE
In the Matter of the Estate of David
Ralph McFadden, DATE OF BIRTH:
10/13/1941 Case No. 3AN-22-
01204PR NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS GIVEN that Iolaire McFad-
den has been appointed to act as the
Personal Representative of the above
named estate. All persons having any
claims against the decedent are re-
quired to present their claims within
four (4) months after the date of first
publication of this notice or said
claims will be forever barred. All
claims should be presented to Iolaire
McFadden, 3473B S Stafford St, Ar-
lington VA, 22206. DATED this 27th
day of June, 2022. By: /s/ iolaire mc-
fadden
Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 6/30/22

Drpcuts LLC is applying under 3 AAC
306.500(a)(1) for a new Product
Manufacturing Facility License,
license #30706, doing business as
Atlas Extracts located at 43636 S
Parks Hwy, AK 99676. Drpcuts LLC
is also applying under 3 AAC
306.400(a)(2) for a new Limited
Marijuana Cultivation License,
License #32623, doing business as
Atlas Extracts located at 43636 S
Parks Hwy, AK 99676. Interested
persons may object to the
application by submitting a written
statement of reasons or the
objection to their local government,
the applicant, and the Alcohol &
Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not
later than 30 days after the director
has determined the application to be
complete and has given written
notice to the local government. Once
an application is determined to be
complete, the objection deadline and
a copy of the application will be
posted on AMCO's website at
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent
to AMCO at
marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600,
Anchorage, AK 99501.
Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 6/30/22, 7/07/22,
7/14/22

LEGALS

AK Slow Burn, LLC doing business as Scorpion Grass, located at 2042 E. 3 rd Avenue, Suite B, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306. 400(a)(1)), license #10898 to Double Eagle Farms, LLC doing business as Double Eagle Cannabis.

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

Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 6/30/22, 7/07/22 7/14/22

AK Slow Burn, LLC doing business as Scorpion Grass, located at 2042 E. 3 rd Avenue, Suite A, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306.300), license #10245 to Double Eagle Farms, LLC doing business as Double Eagle Cannabis.

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

Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 6/30/22, 7/07/22, 7/14/22



Dennis Egan with Anchorage Sen. Dennis Egan at a legislative event honoring their time in the Legislature.

Dennis Egan, Juneau’s gruff-and-lovable senator, has died

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Dennis Egan served in the Alaska Legislature as Juneau’s senator for a decade, leaving a lasting impression as a gruff-but-charming fixture of the building and an icon of Alaska’s capital city.

He died early this morning at the age of 75, according to an announcement from the Alaska Senate Democrats. Egan did not seek reelection in 2018, citing health issues that made representing his district difficult.

“Dennis was larger than life. He charmed just about everyone he ever met. I once watched him tell a lobbyist there was no way he’d ever vote for a bill, and the guy still left with a smile on his face,” said Sen. Jesse Kiehl, who worked for Egan before winning his seat following Egan’s retirement. “Dennis always listened to his community, was a straight shooter, and truly respected the people around him. Alaska was his home, he put Alaskans first, and his heart belonged to Juneau.”

Egan also served as the mayor of Juneau from 1995 to 2000, having previously served on the Juneau Assembly. He also worked in the city’s radio world and was regularly on KINY’s airwaves.

In a story by KTOO after he announced his retirement, Egan was remembered as an “old-school dealmaker” who could swear up a storm and still find compromise.

“That directness is what people find endearing, as well as the way he talks. You know, that old, salty, gruff Alaska stuff,” said legislative aide Christopher Clark, who had worked for Egan and covered him as a former reporter. “If he’s polite to you, run like hell. If he’s yelling, cussing at you, then you’re in. It’s OK. That’s kind of like ‘Old Alaska.’ It’s that old affability.”

Reflecting on his time in the building, Egan told KTOO that building relationships was a critical part of being an effective legislator.

“As long as they remember, no matter if you are an R or a D — doesn’t matter,” said Egan. “You’ve gotta be a people person. You have to get along. You have to listen to the other side. You may hate it. You may not like it, but you have to give folks the courtesy of listening.”

And it was those friends that he’d miss most about being a legislator.

“But it’s the little things. You don’t know how much you miss them,” he said. “And friends I’ve made, it’s really tough. Really tough ... It’s the end of a couple of eras.”

We’ll miss our friend Dennis, too.

Super Crossword

Answers

A	R	G	O		C	L	A	S	S	E	D		L	A	D	S		L	E	W	
B	E	A	N		M	A	N	A	T	E	E		E	N	Y	A		O	U	I	
L	A	B	E	L	L	I	N	C	O	L	N		A	G	E	R	A	N	G	E	
A	D	L	A	I			A	F	L		S	E	V	E	R	A	R	D	E	N	
S	M	E	L	L	T	I	L	L	I	S		G	E	L			T	O	N	E	
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BEER
BY JAMES “DR. FERMENTO” ROBERTS

It’s certifiably, undeniably, outside beer-drinkin’ weather. I’m almost afraid to feature it, lest I jinx this incredible weather pattern. I’m worried Ma Nature is in the background, waiting to come back with a watery vengeance. This is vexing, especially when I have one of my best beer-drinking buddies about to fly to Alaska for his annual escape from even hotter weather in Arizona.

First, the formalities. It’s a no-brainer that although every Alaskan relishes periods of extended dry, warm weather, we need rain in southcentral Alaska, and we need it bad. The fire danger is incredible, and much is at risk during an almost historic drought in our area. Of little consequence to anyone else, another favorite beer drinking location for me is in the woods, with friends, around a campfire, at night. No chance of that with the burn ban, and if something doesn’t change between now and next week, my heat refugee from outside is going to be doubly disappointed.

My remote mining camp has a sprawling front “yard” with some interesting features. This includes some sexy curves as the landscape drops over the knoll towards Resurrection River, three hundred feet away. A couple of years ago, my buddy and I got drunk and made a really cool fence out of pecker poles during one of his visits. We also used a huge rock that the mighty Resurrection had worn holes through over the centuries and painted it gold, like the nuggets we always hoped to find. The best feature, though, is the semblance of a lawn that I have nurtured and babied for over a quarter-century.

Now, the lawn is parched and brown. The earth below has pulled away from itself, creating cracks like a dry riverbed, parched, and gasping for water. It feels crunchy underfoot, almost like rice paper, as I walk on it with a beer in hand.

Regardless, the heat makes lighter beers very appealing right now. The thought of a heavier beer, or even something robust, like an IPA, is distasteful. I want something clear, golden, or lighter, quenching and refreshing.

Here’s how I’m dealing with the effect.

Great, light, refreshing local beers are plentiful right now, many of which are in my favorite wilderness format — aluminum cans. I’ll grab growlers — the bigger can format that affords the luxury of a pull from a local tap at the brewery. But I’m done bringing growlers to the woods. They are too fragile in the wilderness and need to be consumed immediately.

Not every beer in every brewery makes the 12 oz. or 16 oz. grab-and-go format, and certainly, those same beers can’t be one-stopped at your favorite gas shop. Sometimes you just have to go to the source, and growlers remain my favorite, draught fresh option.

Right now, 49th State Brewing Company’s 2022 Denali Sunset — a sour Saison that’s dry-hopped and bottle-conditioned is a top pick. The sourness is tart but unobtrusive — it’s just enough to be a quencher. Honestly, you can even use it as a palate cleanser at a barbeque or after a big plate of tacos. The hops are disciplined enough and almost background. They’re complementary and balancing, not noisy in the mouth. Expect a nice, refreshing citrus feature in this light, effervescent refresher. You can get it at the brewery’s downtown Anchorage location, or if you’re cruising north, the Healey location also features it. Although I get it at Costco because it’s a bit cheaper and it’s easier to haul an ample supply via shopping cart.

49th State’s Blonde Eagle Ale is another rock-solid summer sipper, as is the brewery’s Alaska 8-Star Frontier Style Lager. Both come in 16-ounce cans, so my refrigerator’s been cooling a lot of beers these days.

Another can’t-miss summer sipper is Midnight Sun Brewing Company’s Just Across the Water Japanese-inspired lager. It’s “inspired” because it has puffed rice in it, and that’s perfect for this style of beer! But the real feature is the Yuzu infusion that adds the great twang to this very pale beer. At 6-percent alcohol by volume, Just Across the Water comes in just out of the sessionable range, but



that’s just in the booze, not the drinkability.

While at the brewery, or wherever you’re sourcing it (I got mine at La Bodega), Permessio, Midnight Sun’s Italian Pilsner, is another solid summer beer. Again, a tad large at 6-percent alcohol by volume, it’s very light and spritzzy on the palate. The Nelson Sauvin (New Zealand) dry-hopping adds great zest, especially in the nose and back swallow in this slightly malt-forward example of the style.

If I want something a touch heavier and with a bit more body, my go-to wheat is King Street Hefeweizen. This is one of the more stylistically accurate local hefeweizens. While there are good examples from other local sources, this one just stands out for me and has the added 12-ounce can convenience. The aromatics are perfect — light clove, banana and high esters. With the added feature of edge tartness, the beer lends a nice, zesty snap that waves back at the sun with every sip. It’s around at Costco, too, if you don’t source it at the brewery or your favorite liquor store.

If your travel plans drag you to or through the Kenai Peninsula, Kenai River Brewing Company’s White Crane Rice Lager is a light-gold, very crisp, squeaky clean, easy downer. A 4.5-percent, making it well suited to sip slowly and enjoy more than one during your adventures.

Just up the road in Nikiski, in the backwoods, is Kassik’s Brewery, where 1896 Golden Ale has been a feature for a couple of years now. This is a medium gold beer that’s a tad heavier across the palate with distinct ale notes in an otherwise very light and imminently drinkable summer beer.

Hint: it’s worth the adventure to locate and visit the brewery for something uber-fresh on tap, but 1896 is widely available at liquor stores here in Anchorage and across the Peninsula.

I could ramble on and on about summer beers. They are a big feature now, down south and all the way to Fairbanks on our road system if you’re road-trippin’. If you’re not familiar with beer styles, light lagers, pilsners, blonde and golden ales, and just about anything on the sour side, make great, quenching, easy-drinking beers as we wait out the heat.

Stop at the breweries wherever you’re going. You are bound to find something light you can’t get anywhere else. It all adds to a great Alaska adventure in the most epic spring and summer I’ve seen in my forty-three years up here.

Astrology, from page A6

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

One of my heroes died in 2021: the magnificent Libran author bell hooks (who didn’t capitalize her name). She was the most imaginative and independent-minded activist I knew. Till her last day, she articulated one-of-a-kind truths about social justice; she maintained her uncompromising originality. But it wasn’t easy. She wrote, “No insurgent intellectual, no dissenting critical voice in this society escapes the pressure to conform. We are all vulnerable. We can all be had, co-opted, bought. There is no special grace that rescues any of us. There is only a constant struggle.” I bring this to your attention, Libra, because I suspect the coming weeks will require your strenuous efforts to remain true to your high standards and unique vision of reality.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

You now have the power to make yourself even more beautiful than you already are. You are extraordinarily open to beautifying influences, and there will be an abundance of beautifying influences coming your way. I trust you understand I’m not referring to the kinds of beauty that are worshiped by conventional wisdom. Rather, I mean the elegance, allure, charm, and grace that you behold in old trees and gorgeous architecture and enchanting music and people with soulful idiosyncrasies. PS: The coming weeks will also be a favorable time to redefine the meaning of beauty for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

It’s the Season for Expressing Your Love—and for expanding and deepening the ways you express your love. I invite you to speak the following quotes to the right person: 1. “Your head is a living forest full of songbirds.” —E. E. Cummings. 2. “Lovers continuously reach each other’s boundaries.” —Rainer Maria Rilke. 3. “You’re my favorite unfolding story.” —Ann Patchett. 4. “My lifetime listens to yours.” —Muriel Rukeyser.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

In the coming weeks, make sure you do NOT fit this description articulated by Capricorn novelist Haruki Murakami: “You’re seeking something, but at the same time, you are running away for all you’re worth.” If there is any goal about which you feel conflicted like that, dear Capricorn, now is a good time to clear away your confusion. If you are in some sense undercutting yourself, perhaps unconsciously, now is the time to expose your inner saboteur and seek the necessary healing. July will be Self-Unification Month.

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)

A Tweeter named Luxuryblkwomen articulates one of her ongoing goals: “bridging the gap between me and my ideal self, one day at a time.” I’d love it if you would adopt a similar aspiration in the coming months. You’re going to be exceptionally skilled at all types of bridge-building, including the kind that connects you to the hero you’ll be in the future. I mean, you are already a hero in my eyes, but I know you will ultimately become an even more fulfilled and refined version of your best self. Now is a favorable time to do the holy work of forging stronger links to that star-to-be.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

A blogger named Lissar suggests that the cherry blossom is an apt symbol for you Pisceans. She describes you as “transient, lissome, blooming, lovely, fragile yet memorable and recurring, in tune with nature.” Lissar says you “mystify yet charm,” and that your “presence is a balm, yet awe-inspiring and moving.” Of course, like all of us, you also have your share of less graceful qualities. And that’s not a bad thing! We’re all here to learn the art of growing into our ripe selves. It’s part of the fun of being alive. But I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will be an extra close match for Lissar’s description. You are at the peak of your power to delight and beguile us.

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her as “publicly available.” I’ve personally heard this guy describe this woman friend of mine as “DTF.” I’ve known this guy for years and I just feel bad about the whole thing. The strangest thing is that this dude is in an open relationship himself and really should know better. It seems like he could be a lot less hypocritical and a lot more respectful. Do you think I should say something? How should I go about it? I’ve asked the friend he’s kissing, who is also a big fan of yours by the way, and she wants to be left out of this.

—Bad At Creating Catchy Acronyms

Let’s say you say something, BACCA, but leave your woman friend out of it. The kind of guy who thinks a woman in an open relationship is sexually available to all — not just down to fuck, but down to fuck him — is the kind of guy who will interpret any ambiguity in an order to “stop” as license to keep doing exactly what he’s been doing. So, if you can’t tell this guy your mutual friend explicitly told you she 1. wants him to stop and 2. deputized you to tell him to stop, this dude is going to tell himself you were only guessing at how she feels (she doesn’t like this, she doesn’t want him) and that his guess (she likes it, she wants him) is as good a guess as yours. He may even play a little three-dimensional-pseudo-male-feminist chess and accuse you of being the sexist and controlling one — it’s her body, her cheek, you shouldn’t be speaking for her, etc.

To get this guy to stop without saying something to him herself, BACCA, your friend needs to give you the okay to make it abundantly clear that she deputized you to speak on her behalf. (“She asked me to tell you to knock it off, and now I’m telling you. Knock it off. If you don’t believe me, ask her.”) She’ll need to be prepared for the almost inevitable follow-up question (“Have I been making you uncomfortable!”) and the maudlin, self-pitying apologies (“I’m so sorry! I feel terrible!”) and/or rationalizations (“I was just being friendly!”) that are likely to follow.

And if he ever comes in for a kiss again, she needs to be ready to either use her words (“No. Don’t. Stop.”) and/or stick her hand out in front of her — not a hand held out for a shake (she doesn’t want him pulling her in for a kiss), but a flat hand that’s going to land on his sternum if he keeps coming toward her, with a stiff arm (lock that elbow!) so he can’t come any closer.

questions@savagelove.net

Cry me a river

Dear Oskar,
Last month my dog died, and I can not stop crying. I’ve never been an emotional person—when my father, who I loved, died 10 years ago I didn’t even cry. What is happening and how can I stop the crying? I’m so embarrassed.

—Cry Me a River



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

I have no idea who first started this war on emotions, but I would love to go back in time and give that person a humongous hug and all the love and support they needed—along with the encouragement to feel their feelings—just at the moment when they decided to shut things down. Maybe things would be different today. But since I have no idea how to find this person (or time travel), I will start right here with you now—and frankly, the present moment is actually all we have, so let’s re-start your life and hopefully others’ at the same time.

Feelings, as I said, are a natural part of life, like peeing, laughing (hopefully not peeing while laughing), and other biological processes. Because change is a constant in life, loss is a necessary part of it. Since you didn’t cry when your dad died, and you’re telling me that you loved him, I can deduce that somewhere in your life, you were influenced by any or all of these sentiments: “crying is for

babies”; “only sissies cry”; “real men don’t cry”; “keep a stiff upper lip”; “strong people don’t cry”; “emotional people are crazy,” and so on. These sayings continue to enforce the oppressive idea that we shouldn’t feel.

Emotions are the music of life. Imagine a symphony, a song, a movie, a play, or a conversation without emotions. What a disconnected life it would be! Every interaction with other people would be like the automated recordings you hear when you call the airlines. Scary, right?

This pain and grief you are feeling are years of pent-up emotions, years of old hurts and loss waiting to be processed. I know you have years of hurt and loss, because everyone does. It’s part of the human experience. These experiences create learning moments for us. In order to get the learning, we must process them. There is no way around them — you must go through them. The more you lean into the crying or emoting, the faster it will go. If you begin to notice how much better you feel after having a good cry, you will begin to understand that this process is actually helping you and making you stronger.

I think of emotions as energy in motion. Each emotion moves us in a different way. For instance, when we feel passionate about something, we’ll move in a way that brings strength, speed, and focus, as opposed to being apathetic or just okay with something. That energy won’t even get us off the couch. So when these energies get stuck, getting them unstuck (as in the case of your dog dying) can cause an emotional avalanche for you.

So, not to worry. You will not only stop crying eventually, but you will be stronger, healthy, and happier afterward. So take this learning lesson with you: Allow your feelings to flow through you, and your life will be brighter and more fulfilling. The more you get in touch with your feelings, the more peaceful you will become. There are many excellent resources online where you can find healthy ways to get in touch with yourself, like meditation, grief groups, therapy, yoga, and more. For now, I am sending you a ton of love and support through all of this.



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Fishing-gear entanglements of whales increased in Alaska, NOAA report says

BY YERETH ROSE
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska was the only U.S. coastal region to have an increase in the confirmed cases of large whales entangled in fishing gear in 2020, a contrast to a national trend of declining cases over the past six to eight years, according to a report issued Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Of the 53 cases of large whales entangled in fishing gear nationally in 2020, 11 occurred in Alaska, according to the report, from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. The previous year, there were 75 confirmed cases of whale entanglements nationwide, with nine of them occurring in Alaska, according to a separate report for 2019 also released Tuesday by the fisheries service.

The vast majority of confirmed Alaska whale entanglements — and the vast majority of entanglements nationally — involved humpback whales. In 2020, 10 of the Alaska cases involved live whales, and eight of those involved humpback whales. All but one of the confirmed Alaska entanglements of live large whales in 2020 occurred in waters of Southeast Alaska, according to the report.

Humpback whales are relatively plentiful among the large whale species, the report for 2020 notes. "Humpback whales are found in all the world's oceans and several populations have rebounded in recent years, so the frequency of entanglements seen in this species could be due to many factors, such as the increasing number of whales, a high degree of overlap in distribution of whales, growing coastal communities, and fishing effort, or a combination of these or additional factors," it said.

The Central North Pacific stock of humpback whales, which accounts for most of the humpback whales found in Alaska waters, now numbers over 21,000, rebounding from a low of 1,400 in 1966, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NOAA

A humpback whale strains krill in the waters of Southeast Alaska. Most of the documented cases of large whales entangled in fishing gear in 2020 and 2019 — in Alaska and in the nation — involved humpback whales, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Most Alaska cases occurred in Southeast, according to NMFS.

The 2020 entanglement statistics might be skewed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report cautioned. There were fewer fishing vessels operating that year, but there were also fewer people on the water to observe and report entanglements, the report said.

In general, the reported statistics are likely an understatement of the risks that large whales face from encounters with fishing gear, which can kill the animals or cause serious injuries such as amputations, the report for 2020 said. "Importantly, confirmed entanglements underestimate the true number of entangled whales, as many entangled whales go undetected," it said.

One environmental group said the report showed the need for better protections.

"These reports show far too many endangered whales are caught in fishing gear, particularly because reported entanglements are just the tip of the iceberg," Kristen Monsell of the Center for Biological Diversity said in a statement. "We need a swift transition to ropeless or pop-up fishing gear starting in our national marine sanctuaries, which fail woefully to protect these majestic animals. The Fisheries Service should push hard and help the fishing industry adopt whale-friendly gear."

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