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University of Alaska administration rejects faculty's latest contract proposal

Another mediation is scheduled Aug. 31, but union says options like striking or filing an unfair labor practice complaint are still 'on the table'

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

University of Alaska administration did not accept the latest proposed contract from its faculty union during a federal mediation session on Monday. Instead, it responded with another offer, which is confidential.

University associate vice president of public affairs Robbie Graham, speaking on behalf of the administration, said the administration and faculty union United Academics have been presenting package proposals, which are accepted in total or not at all.

"There were many elements in the most recent [United Academics] proposal that we agreed with, but we didn't find the package entirely acceptable. So while we were unable to accept the union's package in this 'all or nothing' format, our team did respond to it," Graham said.

"Our team has been and will continue to work toward solving the remaining issues. We've already resolved 14 of them, and there is a genuine sentiment that an agreement is close," she added.

Abel Bult-Ito called the administration's rejection "very disappointing." Bult-Ito is professor of neurobiology and neurophysiology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and president of the faculty union.

With the federal mediation sessions confidential, neither party could say what the sticking points were – whether it was the union's proposal to receive any salary increases paid to other employee groups, the items that don't deal with money, or other issues.

In the union's latest contract proposal, the union made a concession by accepting the administration's compensation offer. The administration's original "best and final offer" included increases of 3%, 2.5% and 2% over three years. After further federal mediation, the administration upped the increases slightly in mid-July to 3%, 2.75% and 2.5%.

The union originally asked for salary increases of 5%, between 3% and 7%, and between 3% and 6% over three years, with the latter two years' increases determined by the consumer price index. The union has said it wanted to see real cost of living adjustments that match inflation.

Still, it conceded at the end of July, accepting the administration's salary offer in its new contract proposal. There was a caveat though: Any future, higher raises given to other employee groups will also be given to United Academics faculty.

Union members have received one 1% increase over the past six years.

What was still on the table going into the Aug. 22 mediation session were issues regarding disciplinary procedures, academic freedom issues and inclusion of all bargaining unit members in all elements of the contract.

"Everything is still on the table"

Contraction negotiations are poised

to enter its second year with more mediation sessions scheduled for Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 19 and 28. In an update to its roughly 1,000 members, United Academics said it would continue to work on members' behalf "towards a fair and equitable agreement."

Even with the next federal meeting scheduled for Aug. 31, Bult-Ito said, "everything is still on the table," options like filing a complaint against the administration of unfair labor practices with the Alaska Labor Relations Agency. Striking is another possible avenue.

"That's our last resort because it's going to harm our students. So, it certainly is on the table, but we're trying to avoid it," Bult-Ito said.

In an Aug. 22 letter to the UA community after mediation that day concluded, university President Pat Pitney wrote, "We are committed to a positive outcome and to ensuring that the needs of both the university and the faculty are addressed in the final contract."

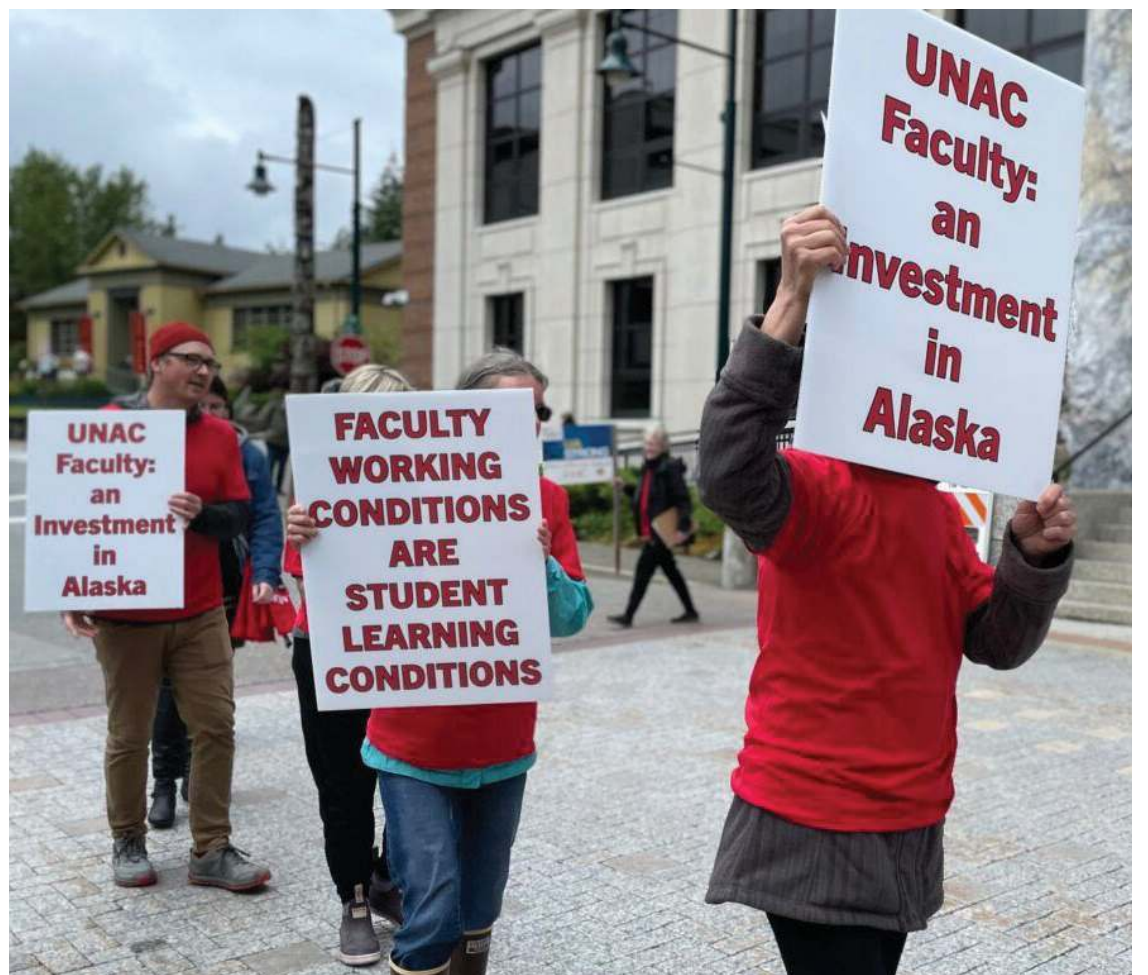
This is the second week faculty have been on contract as they prepare to welcome students into the classroom next week. Bult-Ito, who's teaching two courses this semester, is looking forward to it.

"Teaching is my highlight of my job," he said.

Even though morale among faculty is low, Bult-Ito said he won't be bringing that energy into the classroom.

"My students will not know that we are in a difficult position because students come first. Students will not know in my day-to-day interaction with them that anything is wrong. I will always smile. I will always be available. I'll always help them," he said.

Classes start Aug. 29.



University of Alaska faculty members and supporters march in front of the Alaska State Capitol during a United Academics rally June 22, 2022. Photo by Lisa Phu/Alaska Beacon

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How 26K+ votes left to be counted could impact the race to finish Don Young’s term

It’s unlikely Begich will overtake Palin for second place

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

At least 26,400 votes are still left to be counted in the Aug. 16 election in Alaska. Democrat Mary Peltola currently leads the special general election race to fill the remainder of the late Congressman Don Young’s term with about 38% of the votes counted so far ranking her first. The remaining more than 60% of votes are mostly split between two Republican candidates.

Whoever comes in third place in this race will be eliminated first under the state’s new ranked choice voting system. While it remains to be seen how the uncounted votes might shape final results, it’s highly unlikely third-place finisher Republican Nick Begich will overtake former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin for second place. But how his voters completed the rest of the ballot could determine the winner.

Of the absentee votes that have come in and been counted, about 44% of them ranked Peltola in first place, said Robert Hockema, a political organizer, data analyst and campaign manager for Cliff Groh for state House. Hockema predicts that trend will continue.

“I think that a lot of the districts that we have coming in with their absentee votes are going to lean overwhelmingly towards Peltola. I think the special primary from June – and just the general electorate that we have to deal with – definitely shows that the absentee ballots are going to be overwhelmingly favorable to Peltola,” he said.

Current second-place finisher Palin has so far received about 29% of the absentee votes that have been counted and Begich 26.5%. Begich would need to get about 37



percent of the remaining ballots to overtake Palin, which Hockema said is exceedingly unlikely.

“Palin would have to only be winning 18% of the remaining ballots. Unless Palin just gets obliterated in some landslide in these districts in a way that she didn’t in the June primary, I don’t see Begich winning 37% of the remaining ballots. That’s a pretty slim possibility,” he said.

Begich optimistic that distance from Palin will tighten up

Begich said Friday he’s optimistic about how the remaining votes will impact how he finishes. He said his campaign made an effort to reach early and absentee voters.

“We remain optimistic that we’re going to see things tighten up. How far they tighten, we’ll just have to wait and see,” Begich said.

Young, continued on page A4

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Sweeney drops out of House race after posting disappointing results

An updated count extends Democrat Peltola's lead over two Republican rivals, but winner will depend on voters' ranking of candidates

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

Tara Sweeney, the fourth-place candidate in the race to succeed the late Don Young as Alaska's sole U.S. House member, ended her campaign on Tuesday.

Her travels around the state "reinforced my passion to do whatever I can to make Alaska an even better place to call home," Sweeney said in a statement. "That said, I have decided to end my campaign for Congress and will file the necessary paperwork to withdraw from the race. Looking at the outcome of the Regular Primary election, I don't see a path to victory, nor to raise the resources needed to be successful this November."

Sweeney did not make an endorsement.

Including ballots counted through Tuesday, Sweeney won just 3.72% of the vote in the open primary for the U.S. House seat. As the fourth-place finisher, she had been set to advance to the general election under Alaska's new ranked choice voting system.

It appears that another candidate will take her place on the general election ballot. "If a candidate who advances out of the primary withdraws 64 or more days before the general election, the fifth place candidate will advance instead," Tiffany Montemayor, public affairs manager for the state Division of Elections, said by email.

Sitting in that position, as of Tuesday, was David Bye, a Libertarian with 0.61% of the vote. However, there are still more votes to count and positions might shift. "The Division will determine the candidates for the general election ballot after the primary results are certified and the September 5 withdrawal deadline," Montemayor said. An updated count on Tuesday tabulating 21,573 more ballots slightly extended the leads held by Democrat Mary Peltola in both the special election to serve the remaining months of Young's term and the open primary for the full House term.

Peltola had 38.9% of the vote in the special election, compared to 31.39% for Republican former Gov. Sarah Palin and 28.18% for Republican Nick Begich.

In the open primary for the full House term, the updated count gave Peltola 36.08% of the votes, to Palin's 30.66% and Begich's 26.46%, with Sweeney far behind.

The winner of the special election is expected to be determined on Aug. 31, after the deadline for overseas absentee ballots to arrive and when the Division of Elections will tabulate second-choice votes listed on the



Tara Sweeney, candidate for U.S. House, waves signs in Anchorage on Aug. 16. Sweeney dropped out of the House race on Tuesday, leaving the contest largely up to Democratic former legislator Mary Peltola and two Republicans, former Gov. Sarah Palin and businessman Nick Begich. Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon

ballots of voters whose first choices were the third-place and write-in candidates.

For Sweeney, an Inupiat leader from Utqiagvik who served as the assistant Interior secretary for Indian Affairs in the Trump administration, the House campaign has been disappointing.

She won strong backing in her region, the northernmost in Alaska, and from the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., the Native corporation where she had been a top executive, and some other Native corporations. But she failed to advance to a top-four spot in the special election, even though Independent Al Gross dropped out of the race. Gross' withdrawal was too late for Sweeney to replace him on the ballot.

Sweeney's decision to quit the race was not surprising, said pollster Ivan Moore.

"I think she looked at the writing on the wall and came to a logical, straightforward position," he said.

Sweeney was in a difficult spot compared to her rival candidates, Moore said.

"She's a Republican, and Palin and Begich were sucking up the oxygen on that," he said. And she was compet-

ing with another Native woman, Peltola, who is Yup'ik, he said.

"She was kind of coming in second on both ends," Moore said of Sweeney.

In other races, the updated count showed Sen. Lisa Murkowski with a steady lead over Republican challenger Kelly Tshibaka. Murkowski, a moderate Republican who voted for conviction in President Trump's 2021 impeachment trial, had 44.62% percent of the vote. Tshibaka, who has Trump's endorsement, had 39.26% of the vote. Far behind were Democrat Pat Chesbro at 6.55% percent and Republican Buzz Kelley at 2.16%. All four are set to advance to the general election.

In the governor's race, the new count put Gov. Mike Dunleavy at 41.02% and had Democrat Les Gara and independent Bill Walker nearly tied. Both had between 22% and 23% of the vote, with a 434-vote lead for Gara. Republican Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce is in fourth place.

The Division of Elections has not counted roughly 11,000 votes that it has said it has received.

Young, from page A3

His campaign's main focus is on the November general election.

"The vote that's out there has already been voted, right? There's nothing that we can do to change what's already out there. So, just like everyone else, we're waiting to see how the returns come in, and clearly remain hopeful. But our focus is on November," Begich said.

If Begich remains in third place, as is expected, who wins the race will come down to who Begich supporters ranked second. It's anybody's guess, he said, adding that he made his second choice clear.

"I was asked many times who I would put second and I made clear I would put Palin second on my ballot. The other two candidates did not, at any point to my knowledge, make clear who they would put second if they would put anyone second at all," Begich said.

Hockema said that doesn't match the toxic campaign environment. He said both Begich and Palin ran negative campaigns against each other, which didn't benefit Begich.

"I think he's retroactively being generous to Sarah," Hockema said.

Ballot exhaustion

What's going to decide the race for Peltola, Hockema said, is the issue of ballot exhaustion, or bullet voting. That's when voters don't rank their ballot completely; for instance, only filling in the bubble next to one name and not ranking anyone else. Those ballots are not counted towards the final total once their preferred candidate gets eliminated.

On average, 30% of ballots in ranked choice voting elections nationwide are exhausted, Hockema said. On the lower end, around 15% of ballots were exhausted in the New York mayoral primary.

"So somewhere between maybe 15 and 30% of Nick Begich's voters are not going to get transferred to Palin. Maybe they will," Hockema said, "but I think a lot of people are just going to not rank the second Republican because the energy between the campaigns is really, really bad."

The Palin campaign did not reply to interview requests.

What Peltola's campaign wants to see

Within the more than 26,000 votes still left to be counted, Peltola's campaign wants to see the Democrat increase her lead.

"The benchmark that I've been working on is, if we can hit 40% that really puts us in a good position for the next round of ranked choice voting," said Burke Croft, data manager at Ship Creek Group, which is a contractor for the Peltola campaign. "We're hoping to make sure we have a strong enough lead to be able to win when Begich's votes get recycled to stay in that lead."

Croft said with absentee votes skewing progressive, Peltola has a good shot of hitting 40%.

"If Peltola doesn't get 40%, there's still a chance that with Begich-Peltola votes or people who only ranked Begich, Peltola could still end up winning the race," Croft said.

The Division of Elections said the next results update will be on Tuesday. The ranked choice voting tabulation is not happening until Aug. 31, when final results will be available.

Get to know State Senate Hopeful, Löki Tobin

BY TIM BRADNER

Anyone meeting Löki Tobin immediately feels the electricity of her passion for people and equality.

Tobin is running for the state Senate seat in downtown Anchorage vacated by Sen. Tom Begich, who chose not to seek reelection.

Tobin worked for Begich in staff positions for three years and helped the senator craft his signature accomplishment, a dramatic expansion of pre-kindergarten programs and intensive reading instruction for young children. The bill passed the Legislature last spring.

Tobin has a long history with nonprofits and community development, but it was her experience with Begich that brought invaluable lessons on forging compromises in the cauldron of the Legislature.

There’s nothing more controversial than school policy, particularly in a state Senate run by Republicans. As Minority Leader of that body, Begich led a handful of Democrats who were outnumbered by mostly-conservative Republicans. So he had to push his skills of persuasion and strategy to the utmost.

Tobin was his willing understudy. If elected, Tobin will arrive in Juneau with insights into how the Legislature works, warts and all. She’ll also bring a reputation for dogged persistence after helping Begich steer the Alaska Reading Act through a minefield of opposition.

In other words, Tobin has the chops, and people know her in the capitol hallways.

Tobin’s background is unusual, even by Alaska standards. She spent her early years in Nome and middle school years in Kodiak and Juneau, where her stepfather was a state trooper. She attended high school in Nome and became a swimming instructor and certified lifeguard while attending the University of Alaska Anchorage.

She arrived at UAA with tuition and other assistance provided through the Alaska Scholars Program, thanks to her academic performance in high school. Initially, Tobin wanted a career in aviation and planned on enrolling in UAA’s School of Aviation Management. However, as is common at university, she switched majors.

“I love flying, but in the middle of my program, I asked myself if I really wanted to be a commercial pilot. I realized I’m a people person. I love interactions with people, and being isolated in a cockpit didn’t fit,” Tobin explained.

Eventually, Tobin switched to psychology and sociology. Although she didn’t pursue her passion for flying, she did meet her husband, Walker Gusse, in the program. Gusse went on to become a professional pilot, and while Tobin kept her private flying license until recently, she’s doing what she really loves, which is helping people solve problems.

That was a quality Begich saw in Tobin when he started recruiting her to come to Juneau and work for him. He also saw the qualities of a potential outstanding legislator — one that could replace him when he left the Senate. The senator was also interested in seeing more people of color in the Legislature.

But Tobin had a few other stops to make. Having settled on a career in helping people, she discovered the world of nonprofits and philanthropy after a job as a volunteer coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club.

“I was bitten by the nonprofit bug,” she said.

Tobin spent three and half years in the Peace Corps in Azerbaijan, where she worked in small communities, mostly with women who were starting small enterprises.

“I spent a lot of time helping girls build self-confidence,” said Tobin.

It was a formative experience because Tobin learned how to navigate complex social discussions in a rural and very traditional society. In addition, she gained a new appreciation of America’s protection of human rights. Despite America’s faults, Tobin saw the true impact of human rights violations in countries where human rights, particularly women’s rights, are not protected.

“I went there carrying a lot of ideology and came home with more experience,” she said.

With Islam the official religion of Azerbaijan, Tobin became interested in the oft-misunderstood Muslim tradition.

The exposure to Islam made her a better Christian, too. “I love all religions, not so much literal interpretation (in Christianity or Islam) but the basic tenets of faith and the connection to community. I love the ritual,” she said. “I go to a lot of churches,” of many kinds

After Tobin returned to Alaska, she completed a master’s degree in Rural Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Rasmuson Foundation spotted her talent and steered her to the Alaska Community Foundation, which also led her back to working with rural Alaska organizations, including in Nome, her hometown.

Begich was still trying to recruit Tobin. She had said no twice, but he finally convinced her in 2018 after sensing her frustration in getting things done in community work. Begich told her the solution was to help change the rules – by working where the rules are changed – in the Legislature.

“The rules weren’t aligned in many cases,” she said.

Tobin’s baptism of fire came soon when she first went to Juneau in 2019. Begich



had served several terms in the Senate but knew he would someday depart. He wanted to get his overriding priority, statewide preschool, established in law as his legacy, and he tasked Tobin to take the lead in helping develop and get the bill through. Begich had many responsibilities, including being Minority Leader.

The opportunity immediately put Tobin in the room as high-level state policy decisions were made. She recalls sitting in on a meeting with Begich, Gov. Mike Dunleavy, and former state education commissioner Michael Johnson, where Begich worked to persuade the governor to support statewide pre-K as a part of his own and Johnson’s initiative to boost reading instruction for young children.

From that early meeting came the “Alaska Reads Act,” which passed the Legislature this year, and that will make fundamental changes in Alaska education. But getting the legislation passed wasn’t easy. Under Begich’s guidance, Tobin helped craft compromises and changes to get the bill through a Republican-led Senate. The bill passed unanimously through the Senate and survived a narrow one-vote victory in the state House. Last-minute problems created by misunderstandings and mixed priorities among Democrats and rural legislators nearly defeated the bill.

It was invaluable experience, not only in the policy-wonk world of education and early reading but also in bare-knuckles politics it took to get the bill through the state House.

If she is elected in the November general election, Tobin has two interests: education and transportation. In education, she mainly wants to monitor the implementation of the landmark Alaska Reads Act by the state administration and school districts, but transportation is another priority because of how, in her opinion, a poorly executed urban road development plan by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities adversely affected Fairview, a downtown Anchorage area populated by many people of color and that she would represent in Juneau.

Tobin is referring to DOTPF’s development of Ingra and Gambell thoroughfares which split and segmented Fairview, disrupting what was once a cohesive and stable low-to-middle-class neighborhood. The disruption hastened an exodus of middle-class people of color to other parts of Anchorage, changing Fairview’s character. There are better ways to do urban transportation planning, she feels.

Tobin is an avid biking enthusiast and believes urban streets should be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. In addition, her rural and aviation experience will help the Legislature oversee DOTPF’s rural airport operations and planning.

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More Alaskans now eligible for monkeypox vaccine, and some seem eager for that protection



LONDON, ENGLAND — JULY 23: A general view of a vial containing the monkeypox vaccine on July 23, 2022 in London, England. The NHS is expanding its monkeypox vaccine rollout in London as monkeypox cases continue to increase in the capital. Monkeypox, a rare disease, is part of the same family of viruses as smallpox. Photo by Hollie Adams/Getty Images

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska has expanded the eligibility for vaccination to prevent monkeypox, and residents are taking up on the offers for protection against the virus, officials with the state Department of Health said on Friday.

The department last week broadened eligibility standards to include people who have been in contact with someone exposed to monkeypox or at high risk of exposure, as well as people who have had multiple male-to-male sexual partners or anonymous sex over the last six months.

The main eligibility expansion concerns the timeframe of past sexual contacts, said Dr. Joe McLaughlin, Alaska’s state epidemiologist. Previously, that timeframe was two weeks, he said.

So far, Alaska has reported three cases of monkeypox among state residents and one case of a nonresident, according to the department.

Although that is a low number, Alaskans appear to welcome the opportunity to be vaccinated, McLaughlin said. One pop-up clinic in Anchorage reported that it had vaccinated 38 people by 3 p.m. Friday, with more people waiting for the service, McLaughlin said by email.

As of now, every U.S. state, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have reported cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the U.S. cases have been concentrated among gay and bisexual men, health officials in Alaska are trying to avoid casting monkeypox as relevant to only that part of the

population, McLaughlin said.

“We are trying very hard to inform the public about the fact that this virus does not discriminate by age, sex, race, sexual preferences, or any other demographic factor. It will infect anyone it can,” he said.

It is true that the data shows that nationally, most cases are among men who have had sex or intimate contact with other men, he said.

“However, women and children have also been infected. Over time, more and more women and children will become infected as the outbreak continues to unfold,” he said.

The state has partnered with tribal organizations to ensure vaccine access for anyone who has been exposed or is considered to be at risk for exposure, the department said. Along with the JYNNEOS vaccine that is available in Alaska, the state has received from the federal government a small supply of medicine to treat infected people. That medicine, tecovirimat (TPOXX), is licensed for treatment of smallpox but is now being used for treatment of monkeypox under new federal guidelines, the Department of Health said.

Globally, there have been over 41,000 cases of monkeypox in this year’s outbreak, the vast majority of them in places where monkeypox was not historically present, according to the CDC. Globally, 12 people had died from the disease as of Friday, with no U.S. deaths reported, the CDC said.

In the past, monkeypox was largely confined to rainforest regions of Africa, and death rates were as high as 11%, with young children at highest risk, according to the World Health Organization. In more recent times — but prior to the current outbreak — death rates ranged between 3% and 6%, according to the WHO.

What monkeypox outbreak? Little planning by colleges as students resume classes

BY JENNIFER SHUTT
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — College students are heading back to campus following more than two years of a pandemic that led many schools to empty out for full semesters and later move to hybrid schedules in a struggle to curb the spread of COVID-19.

But the attempt by colleges and universities to return to something resembling normal could be truncated by monkeypox, the virus that has steadily increased throughout the summer, challenging both the federal government and state and local public health officials.

Higher education plans for dealing with monkeypox appear opaque or nonexistent. Schools have begun sending students information about monkeypox through websites and newsletters, but large public colleges contacted by States Newsroom were unable to explain how they’ll help students isolate or keep up with their classes during the two to four weeks they’ll be contagious if they contract monkeypox.

Case counts throughout the United States began increasing after a Massachusetts man was diagnosed on May 17 and have since risen to more than 14,100 people in every state except Wyoming. The White House has declared this outbreak a national public health emergency.

American Public Health Association Executive Director Georges C. Benjamin said colleges should be preparing for the year by assuming they’ll have monkeypox cases on campus.

“My advice to universities is that, while we’re all trying to rapidly return to normal, the truth of the matter is they ought to have contingencies to provide support to students in a hybrid manner,” such as providing options for online study, he said in an interview. “Anybody who’s not making plans for that is going to find themselves deeply disappointed.”

Student health centers and health care providers that regularly treat college students should become extremely familiar with how the rashes and lesions are presenting in this monkeypox outbreak, he said.

“Rashes are high on the list of what people see in the student health centers,” Benjamin said. “The vast majority of those will be rashes for a range of other relatively benign conditions, but they want to make sure they’re really up to speed on the early phases of monkeypox.”

Preparation is key, he said. “There’s nothing to say they’ll have big outbreaks, but all schools should assume that they’re going to have somebody on their campus that has monkeypox,” Benjamin said. “The outbreak is just too widespread for that not to be the case.”

College responses vary

The virus, which is a cousin of smallpox, is characterized by a rash or lesions that can look like acne or mosquito bites. The virus can come with flu-like symptoms and painful muscle aches, though sometimes it can present with just the rash. No one in the United States has died in this monkeypox outbreak.

Unlike COVID-19, which is a respiratory virus that can spread somewhat easily from person to person, monkeypox is spread by direct physical contact with someone who has been infected. It can also spread by touching fabrics, such as bedding or towels, or surfaces an infected person has touched.

The current outbreak in the United States has spread predominantly among gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men, though cases have been diagnosed outside that population as well.

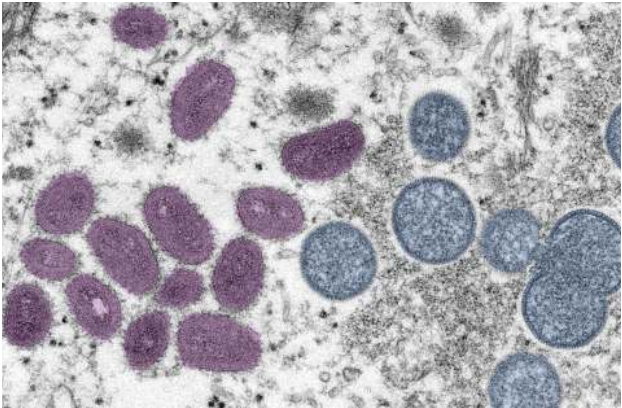
Among colleges and universities reviewed by States Newsroom, there’s no guidance about how students should address missed lectures, exams, labs, or work-study programs that might be critical for students’ financial aid. Colleges don’t offer insight on how students on academic or athletic scholarships might be affected if they miss a month of instruction, or practices due to monkeypox.

The university guidance also lacks information about how administrators will respond if several cases crop up in a dorm, or other on-campus housing.

In New Jersey, Rutgers University’s online guidance details what monkeypox is and how it spreads before telling students that “at this time, there is no need to take special precautions to avoid monkeypox unless you experience symptoms.”

Rutgers then directs students to the state health department and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites for more information.

A University of Maryland spokesperson shared websites run by the state health department, but said in a statement, “We don’t have any particular university’s plan. This is all general information that is provided for use by all Marylanders.”



This digitally colorized electron microscopic (EM) image depicts monkeypox virus particles, obtained from a clinical sample associated with a 2003 prairie dog outbreak. It was a thin section image from of a human skin sample. On the left were mature, oval-shaped virus particles, and on the right were the crescents, and spherical particles of immature virions. Photo by Cynthia S. Goldsmith, Russell Regnery and Hannah Bullock/U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The University of Georgia, where students are already back on campus ahead of the fall semester, says on its website the University Health Center’s “clinical staff are trained and fully prepared to identify any patient presenting with signs and symptoms consistent with monkeypox infection.”

The University of Iowa tells students who believe they have monkeypox to call the student health nursesline or seek care from their health care provider.

“Due to the length of the isolation period (2-4 weeks), students living in a residence hall will be expected to isolate off-campus until they are healed,” the website says. “In the rare event this is not possible, the University of Iowa will work with students to obtain alternative housing.”

Students at Iowa living off-campus should “take precautions to limit exposure to others living in the same household,” according to the university.

The University of Michigan’s webpage on monkeypox notes the “Public Health Response team has been closely monitoring the evolving situation with monkeypox — or MPV — and its potential impact on the U-M community.”

The University of Florida guidance, sent out this week, plainly tells students the “overwhelming majority of cases in the U.S. have been transmitted through intimate sexual contact.”

“It is important that you consider this in deciding how widely to engage in intimate activities,” it says.

A spokesperson for the University of Florida said the student health center plans to “increased promotion of health hygiene and safe sex messaging” to try to reduce spread.

Outbreak, contined on page A7

Still working on plans

Rachel Mack, spokesperson for the American College Health Association, said in a statement that “many colleges are still working on their plans to prevent and manage monkeypox outbreaks.”

At the moment, she said, “there isn’t much guidance specifically for colleges and universities,” including on how to address “unique considerations” like isolating students, making academic accommodations for students who contract the virus, providing extra cleaning and administering testing.

Colleges are working to come up with the best way to communicate with students effectively, she said.

“Because currently the virus is primarily affecting gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, some students may feel very fearful — or even stigmatized — while other students may mistakenly believe there is no risk to themselves,” Mack said.

Since anyone can contract monkeypox, Mack emphasized that colleges “should communicate it as a public health concern for all. However, campus communications can be tailored to different audiences to be most effective.”

Benjamin said student health centers need to understand how to access the antiviral drug Tpoxx that federal officials are using to treat monkeypox cases. At the moment, the federal government requires an “onerous” amount of paperwork to dispense the prescription medication for monkeypox patients, he said.

Universities, Benjamin said, will need to determine how they’ll isolate students who test positive and how they’ll ensure those students can keep up with their coursework.

Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, said the current monkeypox outbreak has spread “further and wider than it ever had before” because the virus “found itself in a social/sexual network and really exploited those network effects.”

Colleges and universities, he said, should be able to keep cases at bay if they follow some best practices. That includes explaining the virus during orientation, preparing the student health center to test and get test results quickly, planning for the complicated process required to order the antiviral being used to treat monkeypox, providing a bridge between students and the health depart-

ments distributing the vaccine and having a plan in place to isolate students who test positive.

“It’s something that universities have to be proactive about because it’s likely that they’re going to have people that have cases on their campuses,” Adalja said. “And I think if they’re managed swiftly and competently, you won’t have much sustained spread.”

Mark O’Neill, press secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, said in a statement that “while everyone should be aware of the presence of monkeypox, most individuals, including college students, are at low risk of contracting monkeypox as the disease does not spread easily between people.”

The CDC, he writes, “maintains that people who contract monkeypox typically have skin-to-skin contact, direct contact with body fluids, or prolonged face-to-face contact with someone who already has monkeypox.”

Those three things, however, could make up a typical Saturday night for some college students, especially if they don’t realize they have monkeypox.

Some states, though, are moving ahead on plans. Kevin Litten, spokesperson for the Louisiana Department of Health, said staff are meeting with “higher education leaders and student body presidents next week to provide an update on the monkeypox outbreak, our response and the latest guidance and a communications toolkit.”

“We see these materials as a starting point for their own education and awareness-raising efforts on campuses,” he said.

Monkeypox transmission

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said this week that 98% of monkeypox cases are in men and that “among cases with known recent sexual history and gender, 93% of cases were among men who reported recent sexual contact with other men.”

Monkeypox is transmissible from the time symptoms begin through when the rash has completely disappeared and a new layer of skin has formed, a trajectory that typically lasts between two and four weeks.

That timeline, much longer than with COVID-19, could create significant problems for students, many of whom don’t have remote classes anymore and would likely miss much of their coursework.

College students also often live in crowded houses and apartments where completely avoiding contact with someone who tests positive or all the fabrics they may have touched could be especially challenging.

The federal government began the outbreak as the

only entity allowed to test for monkeypox, but has since opened up testing to commercial laboratories.

Vaccine demand high

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began distributing the Jynneos vaccine, which requires two doses, to state health departments earlier this summer.

Guidance for who is eligible has evolved as cases have increased.

At the moment, the CDC recommends vaccination for people who are identified as a close contact of a person diagnosed with monkeypox. People who have had a sexual partner from the past two weeks test positive are eligible, as are people with multiple sexual partners in an area with monkeypox cases. Anyone whose job might expose them to monkeypox, such as a healthcare or laboratory worker, is also eligible.

But demand has far outpaced supply in many areas, leading the federal government to announce earlier this month that it would approve emergency use for injecting the vaccine just under the skin, or intradermally.

The move away from injecting the vaccine subcutaneously, below the layers of fat in the arm the way most people have experienced, is expected to allow health care providers to get up to five doses out of each vial instead of one.

Benjamin said the United States is behind on distributing the vaccine.

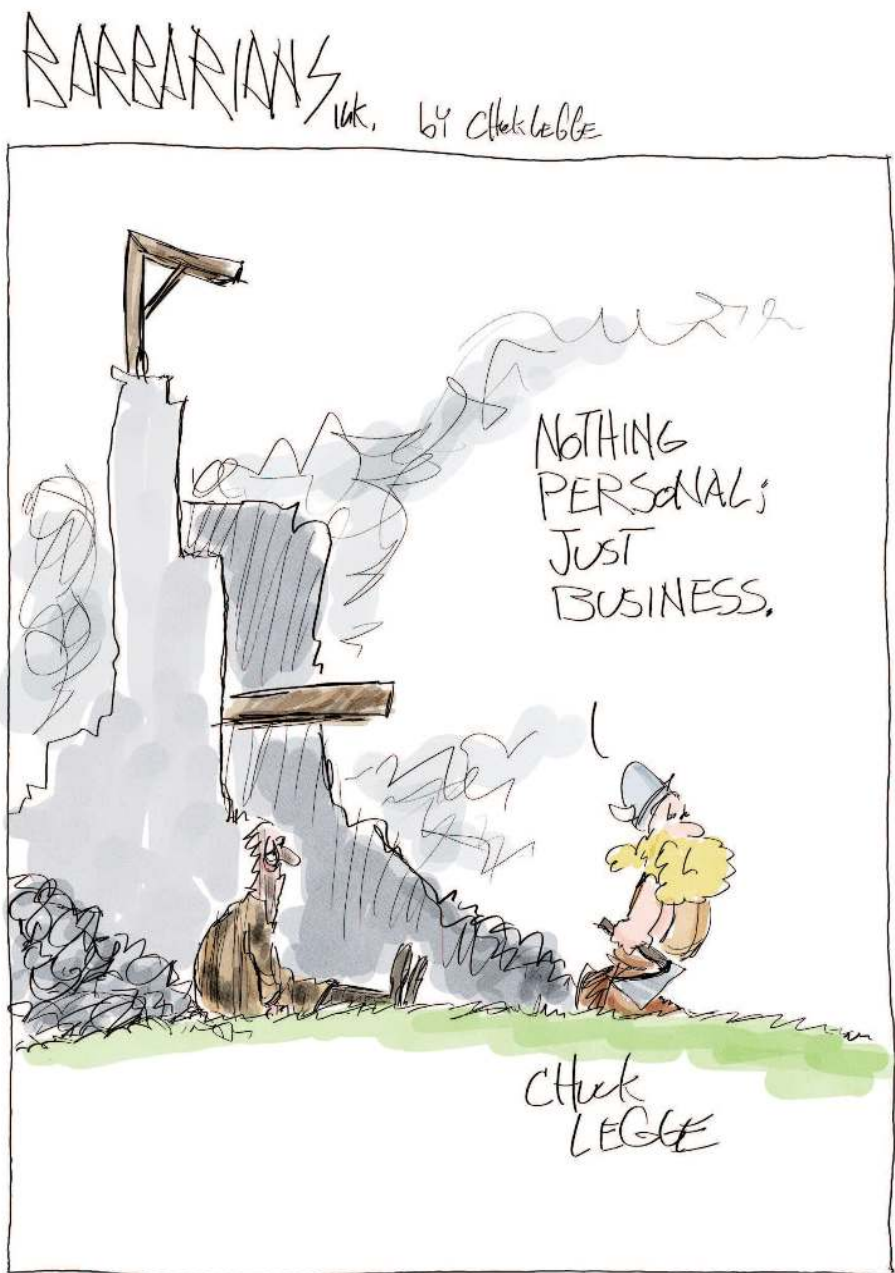
“We have an inadequate number of vaccines, overall. Our pipeline is very thin,” he said, adding that “the manufacturer has already said they’re not sure they can keep up with the demand.”

Adalja was highly critical of the federal government’s response to monkeypox so far, saying “it should have been easier to get a handle on” the virus had there not been “systemic incompetence that you see in the government.”

“The federal response has been dismal from the very beginning, because what you’ve seen is a response that’s very reminiscent of the same mistakes that were made during COVID-19,” he said.

Adalja, however, is optimistic that colleges and universities have learned enough from their COVID-19 experiences as well as from meningitis outbreaks on campus to keep monkeypox from becoming widespread among students.

“I think that there’s a risk on college campuses, that there’s going to be cases and they may see some limited spread,” Adalja said. “But it’s not going to be a disruptive force in the way COVID-19 was on college campuses.”



Wick Communications Alaska is currently recruiting for the position of a **GENERAL ASSIGNMENTS REPORTER**



who can enhance our community coverage on multiple platforms. The Frontiersman publishes a print edition three times per week, and is an online daily that serves a region the size of West Virginia with more than 100,000 residents. The area is known for offering a variety of outdoor activities ranging from camping, hiking, biking and fishing in the summer, to skiing and snowmachining in the winter. **The Mat-Su** is less than an hour drive away from Anchorage, Alaska’s largest city. There are benefits of both a small town atmosphere and close proximity to the big city. In less than an hour residents can find outdoor adventure or some of Alaska’s most popular restaurants and shopping options.

We are in search of a versatile general assignments reporter with a broad skill set to add to our newsroom, and also assist with coverage in the Eagle River and Anchorage areas. Applicants must have a passion for community journalism, and the ability to offer a variety of coverage including news, features, events, sports and the outdoors. Candidates must also have the ability to shoot and edit their own photos, and assist with multimedia and social media, special projects and our daily newsletter. Preferred candidates must have at least three years of experience in print journalism, and a degree in journalism, communications or related program.

To apply, email a letter of application, resume, letters of recommendation and samples of your work to managing editor **Jeremiah Bartz** at editor@frontiersman.com.

The Adventures of Cinderella

The Rock n’ Rolla

BY TINDERELLA

Lead singer of English rock band Oasis, Liam Gallagher, gave sage advice in the band’s 1996 smash hit ‘Don’t Look Back in Anger’. “Please don’t put your life in the hands of a rock ‘n’ roll band who’ll throw it all away,” wails the singer.

Of course, Gallagher was under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and I am quite certain he didn’t intend his lyrics to be a warning for Tinder hopefuls. Nonetheless, I should have heeded his warning when I matched with a local musician – let’s call him Milo.

Milo had everything I was looking for – a good job, wonderful kids, and a love of music. It seemed like a slam dunk. Still, there was a major question mark when it came to Milo. You see, we knew each other in real life, he had never so much as made a flirty comment to me, and he rarely liked my posts on social media. For all intents and purposes, Milo was an acquaintance who had zero romantic interest in me. But there he was, super liking my profile.

He messaged first with an unimaginative “hey,” and although my spidey senses told me to leave the message on read, my loneliness told me to respond in kind.

“Hey! Funny meeting you on here...,” I replied coyly.

“Yeah, same to you,” he replied.

His short reply gave me nowhere to go but I pressed forward.

“I’m kind of surprised you swiped on me. We’ve known each other for a while but I never knew you liked me,” I prodded.

“Yeah, I got divorced and am just trying this out. We should meet,” he said.

Women often get accused of reading too much into things, but I would argue that those 13 words contained everything I needed to know – he wasn’t emotionally available and was looking for casual sex. Or, at least, that’s how I would read it now as a much wiser woman. Instead, in my naïve and hopeful state, I read the message as: “I wasn’t expecting to find someone I was interested in on here, but I did, so we should go on a date.” Suffice it to say, I read too much into the message, but these things happen when you’re earnest in your desire to find a partner. They also happen when you put on love blinders like I tend to.

We decided to meet for dinner after he dropped his kids off at his exes. Originally, the plan was to meet at a restaurant on neutral territory at 7pm. Although I am typically chronically late, I managed to put my face on and decide on an outfit by 6:30pm – that’s when I received a text from Milo.

“I’m running a little. Can we bump to 7:30,” the text read.

“Of course! No problem,” I replied.

At 7:30pm my phone buzzed again.

“I’m still running late. Can we bump to 8pm?”

“Sure,” I replied again.

8pm came and went with no text. Another hour passed with no word from Milo. I was starting to get agitated by the time I heard from him at 9:30pm.

“10pm?”

“Are you sure you want to meet up? Maybe we should postpone,” I suggested.

“No, I am good. Let’s meet at 10pm,” Milo replied.

I had butterflies when I pulled up to the restaurant at 10pm. I had been on edge for 3.5 hours, so I was anxious to down an adult beverage and settle into the date.

When Milo sat down, he remarked that he thought I looked beautiful. It had been a while since I had heard those words, so I was elated.

The conversation flowed as effortlessly as our cocktails, and I delighted at how well the date was going. Then, with no warning, Milo dropped a bomb.

“I can’t do this. You’re too nice,” he said.

“What can’t you do,” I asked.

“I can’t hook up with you. You’re too nice, and you’re the marrying kind of girl, not the one-night-stand,” he replied.

I’m sure the expression on my face gave away my confusion. Firstly, I thought we were on a date with no expectations for a hookup. Secondly, it would take a lot more than a \$15 burger to guarantee sex. And thirdly, how the fuck did he know what kind of girl I was? I could be a one-night-stand girl if I wanted to be, damn it!

I mean, I’m not, but I could be.

When the check arrived, I offered to split the bill because, apparently, I had read things wrong, and this wasn’t a date. As I pulled my Visa card out, Milo snatched the bill and handed his card to the waitress. Again, confusion was plastered all over my face. If we weren’t on a date, why was he paying? And was he only paying because he felt guilty about luring me out for a hookup? The whole situation had my mind spinning.

We left the restaurant, and Milo walked me to my car before spinning me around to passionately kiss me. When we detached, Milo had an impish grin, but he didn’t say a thing as he skipped back to his car.

On my drive home, I flitted between excitement and bewilderment. That mix of emotions continued for the next six months as I continued to chase Milo. Some nights, he would profess love and suggest we run away together. Other nights, he would invite me to a show and introduce me to another girl he was dating. (Yes, amazingly, he really did have the balls to do that).

It took about a year of being clit-teased before I finally pulled the cord. As someone who is always at odds with being hopelessly optimistic and savagely exploited, the situation took a long time to recover from – for me, at least. Nevertheless, Milo moved on without hesitation and became involved with a slew of women before settling on someone who is the polar opposite of me.

At this point, I am indifferent when it comes to Milo. But, admittedly, I can’t help but wonder how a philandering man like Milo could find his “soulmate” while I am still searching? Perhaps the song lyrics I should have embraced were Ciara’s ‘Like a Boy’: “What if I had a thing on the side? Made ya cry? Would the rules change up, or would they still apply? If I played you like a toy... Sometimes I wish I could act like a boy.”



Inuit Circumpolar Council gets new Alaska president and vice president

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

The Inuit Circumpolar Council’s Alaska branch has new leadership, the organization announced on Tuesday.

Marie KasaNnaaluk Greene, a former chief executive of NANA Regional Corp., is the new president, and Nicole Kannik Panigiuq “Kanayurak” Wojciechowski is the new vice president, the organization said.

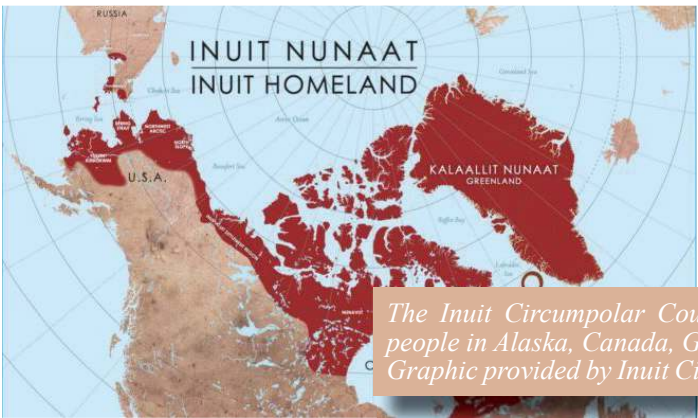
The ICC represents Inuit people in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Russia’s Chukotka region at the Arctic Council, which includes eight countries that work on Arctic issues together.

Greene is from Deering and, in addition to her work at NANA, has served on several boards and was recently elected to the Kotzebue Tribal Council. Wojciechowski, from Utqiagvik, is the deputy director of wildlife management for the North Slope Borough and has focused on combining Indigenous knowledge with Western science to ensure sustainable harvests of fish and wildlife, ICC-Alaska said in its statement.

Both Greene and Wojciechowski have several years of experience working with ICC. They succeed Jimmy Stotts, a longtime leader of the organization in Alaska, and of the Alaska branch, and Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf, who has served as ICC-Alaska’s vice president while also serving on the organization’s executive committee.

Stotts, from Utqiagvik, has been involved with ICC for decades and first represented Alaska on the international council in 1980. Metcalf, from the village of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island, is director of the Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission.

Council, contined on page A12



The Inuit Circumpolar Council represents Inuit people in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Russia. Graphic provided by Inuit Circumpolar Council

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September First Friday

ADP
ANCHORAGE
PRESS

September 2nd, 2022

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

2. Weather Boutique - 720 D St., Suite B (11am-6:00pm)

3. Tundra Herb Company - 520 W 6th Ave., Suite A (9am-11:55pm)

4. The Kobuk - 504 W 5th Ave. (10am-5pm)

5. Wild Scoops - 429 E St. (12-10pm)

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Sevigny Studio
312 G St. (10am-9pm)
Touchy-Feely: New original exclusive pieces by Katie Sevigny on mix media, pen and ink, acrylic, and pastels.

428 G Street (11am-11pm)

2 Slices & a Pint \$13.50

1 Slice Side Salad & Pint \$14.50

August 25-August 31, 2022

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ANCHORAGE PRESS A9

PRESSING EVENTS

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Thu 8/25

Featured



Picnic in the Garden

@ 6pm / \$65

Alaskan summers are meant to be enjoyed outside! The last "Picnic in the Garden" for 2022 will take place on Thursday, August 25th! 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, United States. Karen.Allred@alaskabg.org, 907-770-3692



Art Class-Resin Fireweed Wall Art Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>

@ 6pm / \$55

Learn the basics of working with resin, pigment powders, and resin dyes to create a unique resin art piece on a wood cutout. Advanced Reservation Required <http://sparkletribe.com> Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Cocktails for a Cause

@ 6pm / \$50-\$75

Fox Hollow Chalet, 11701 Brayton Dr., Anchorage, United States

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debar Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Open Mic with Shalah Rose

@ 7pm

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

Fri 8/26

Featured



Steve Stone

@ 7pm / \$25-\$75

Aug 26th - Aug 27th

Stephen Williams, better known as Steve Stone, is an American rapper from St. Louis, Missouri. He was signed with Ruthless Records, where he released his debut album "The New Kid Comin". His song Midwest Explosion was well received because of his collaboration with fellow KC artist Tech N9ne. He also gained fame when touring with Tech on the K.O.D. Tour. A while later, he signed to Tech N9ne's record label, Strange Music, where he currently resides. Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debar Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Sat 8/27

Featured



Alaska Craft Brew Festival - Summer Edition 2022

@ 12pm / \$10-\$55

We can't go a whole year without beer! Join the Alaska Craft Brew Festival for a Summer Edition on the Park Strip. Delaney Park Strip - West End, West 10th Avenue, Anchorage



Art Class-Layered Bear Wall Art Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>

@ 12:30pm / \$52

A fun painting class with 5 layers of laser-cut wood for this large winter bear! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Salsa Saturdays

@ 6pm / \$16

Williwaw, 609 F Street, Anchorage, United States

Comedian Jason Russell

@ 7pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage, United States

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debar Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Comedian Jason Russell

@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage, United States

Sun 8/28

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 3pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debar Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Arcada String Quartet

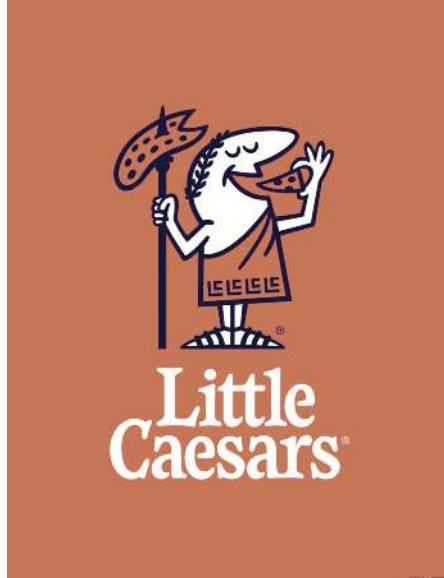
@ 4:30pm

Arcada String Quartet is a professional string quartet sharing the word of God through instrumental music of high quality, performing arrangements of hymns and classical music repertoire. Anchorage Lutheran Church, 1420 N Street, Anchorage. tamarialice@gmail.com, 907-982-9777

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Tue 8/30

Featured



Little Caesars 'Grand Opening'

@ 11am

DETROIT -- Little Caesars Pizza is celebrating the grand opening of its new restaurant at 500 East Benson Boulevard. 500 E Benson Blvd, 500 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, United States. Walter@Blitz-Investments.com, 907-351-0796

Wed 8/31

Stories with Mr. Clay

@ 7:15pm

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

Thu 9/01

Welcome//Waqaa!

@ 6pm

Welcome everyone to Coronation 50 with the ICOAA! The Raven, 708 East 4th Avenue, Anchorage, United States. lucky_darcy@yahoo.com, 907-306-2158

Open Mic with Shalah Rose

@ 7pm

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

Fri 9/02

Featured

IN STATE/OUT OF STATE SHOW



In State/Out of State Show Coronation 50 of All Alaska

@ 7pm / \$10

The Imperial Court of All Alaska invites you for an evening to celebrate the past reign and welcome the new Emperor and Empress of All Alaska. The evening will feature the introduction of all candidates, some rare performances from special guests and the crowning of the newly elected monarchs. Williwaw, 609 F St., Anchorage



Sat 9/03

Featured



You Pick at Clark's Apple Orchard, LLC

@ 10am / \$1-\$5

The 2022 Apple You-Pick will be held on September 3rd from 10 am to 3 pm. Due to the increased popularity of this event, we will be selling admission tickets to the You-Pick on AlaskaTix.com. Clark's Apple Orchard, 3200 Rabbit Creek Road, Anchorage



Brown Bear Bus Run

@ 12pm / \$20

The Raven, 708 East 4th Avenue, Anchorage

Sun 9/04

Mountain Or Tropical Beach Wall Art Painting *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 11:30am / \$65

Sep 4th - Sep 5th

Paint one of these gorgeous large wall paintings! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage, United States. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Coronation 50 of All Alaska

@ 7pm / \$35

Mad Myrna's, 530 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Mon 9/05

Victory Brunch Coronation 50

@ 11am / \$20

The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage

Featured



Auditions for Reunion (After the End of the World)

@ 5pm

Sep 5th - Sep 7th

Auditions for Reunion (After the End of the World), by Will Quam, directed by Kat Altman September 5th and 7th from 4:00-7:00PM, and September 6th from 1-3PM at 4105 E Turnagain Blvd, suite G-2 Alaska Theatre Of Youth, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard Ste G-2, Anchorage, United States. outreach@alaskatheatreofyouth.org, 907-338-4901

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

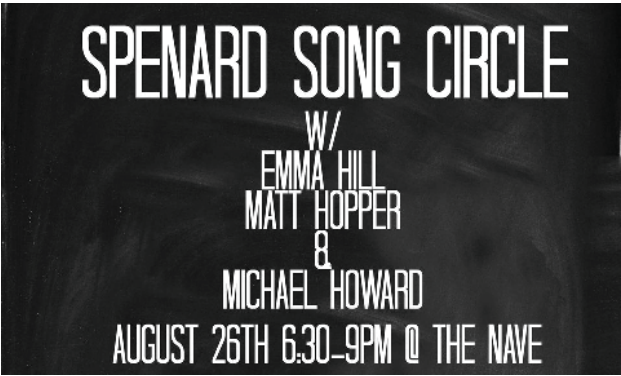
Thursday, August 25th

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - Chayce Beckham 7p-10p
Bernies' Bungalow Lounge – Alcan Alley 7p-10p
Cyrano's Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – Ukulele Russ 8:30p-12:30a
Mad Myrna's – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Petroleum Club of Anchorage – Jared Woods 5p-8p
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van's Dive Bar – Celebrating Uly's Birthday! 7p-12a
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-12a



Friday, August 26th

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) -Rise Against 7p-10p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Gary Stedman! 6p-8p
Bernies' Bungalow Lounge – Boogie Shoes 7p-10p
Bernies' Bungalow Lounge – DJ Soup 10p-1a
Cyrano's Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
verett's (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Jason Russell 7p-8:15p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: The Meat Rockets 7p-8:30p
Humpy's – Rebel Blues 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mikes & The Main Street Grill (Palmer) - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – The Stack Live 10p-2:30a
Koot's – Stevie Stone & Alaska Redd 10p-2a
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Nave Spenard – Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Matt Hopper, & Michael Howard 6:30p-9p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Van's Dive Bar – Ed Washington LIVE 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – All The Single Ladies Dance Party w/ Fan Service 9:30p-2a



Saturday, August 27th

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - LeAnn Rimes 7p-10p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
Bernie's Bungalow Lounge – Lloyd's Noize 8p-1a
Cafecito Bonito – Lights Down Low: Trinity: R&B Neo Soul Small Concert Series 7p-9p
The Carousel Lounge – Special Karaoke Birthday Saturday 8p-1a
Cyrano's Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
Delaney Park Strip – Alaska Craft Brew Festival w/ The Stack 12p-3p
Delaney Park Strip – Alaska Craft Brew Festival w/ I Like Robots 6p-9p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – Nothin But Trouble 9:30p-1:30a
Jack Sprat (Girdwood) – Odd Union 7:30p-9p
Klondike Mikes & The Main Street Grill (Palmer) - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – Comedian Jason Russell 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot's – Local Roots w/ Lilac, The House Opinion, & Concrete To Clouds 9p-1a
Koot's – The Stack Live 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Raven Bar – Hot Raven Nights: Femme Night 9p-2a
Serrano's Mexican Grill – Hwy9 8p-11p
Van's Dive Bar – The 7 Duo ft Odds R Good 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Salsa Saturdays w/ Anaya Latin Dance 6p-10p
Williwaw Social – Pop vs. Rock Dance Party w/ DJ Cross 10:30p-2:30a



Sunday, August 28th

Alaska Dance Promotions – Friday Night Dance Lounge 9p-1
Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - Dry Bar Comedy 6p-10p
Anchorage Lutheran – ALC Concert Series: Arcada String Quartet 4:30p-6p
Anchorage Town Square Park – ANC Market Social 11a-5p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Cyrano's Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 3p-4p
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a
Williwaw Social – Drag Me To The Moon: DRAG BRUNCH! 12p-2p & 2:30p-4:30p

Monday, August 29th

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - Darci Lynne 7p-10p
Koot's – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Mellow Mondays w/ Nikki Now 9:30p-12a

Tuesday, August 30th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Unplugged: Acoustic Song Circle 6:30p-9:30p
Anchorage Museum – Lunch on the Lawn: Sally Quinto 11:30a-1:30p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Humpy's – Jared Woods 8:30p-12:30a
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – The Open Stage 7p-10p
Koot's – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Williwaw Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
Van's Dive Bar – OPEN JAM w/ Daylight Mike 9p-12a

Wednesday, August 31st

Soldotna Creek Park (Soldotna) – Matt Hopper and the Roman Candles with Appalaskan Jess Opening 6p-9p
907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot's – KASH Country Night at Koot's 7p-11:30p
Koot's – Koots Karaoke 10p-2a
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
St. John United Methodist Church – Neighborhood Block Party w/ DJ Chester Chomp 5p-7p
Van's Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a



UA ‘mining summit’ excludes all questions mine promoters don’t want to hear

BY DERMOT COLE

The University of Alaska and the Wilson Center seem to have forgotten the importance of testing assumptions in setting up the agenda for the so-called “minerals summit” at UAF.

The summit is structured like an Alaska Miners Association convention or a cheerleading rally for speculators trying to get on the Vancouver stock exchange than an independent evaluation of major issues facing Alaska.

Speaker after speaker Monday said Alaska has unlimited potential for more mines, the federal government and Outside environmental groups are stopping progress, miners are misunderstood, too much land is off limits to mining and we need to clear every obstacle for companies to dig more holes in Alaska to better compete with China.

Endlessly repeating the mindless claim that “we do it better than anyone in the world” is not a substitute for analysis. Listen long enough and you get the idea that the mining companies are in Alaska for altruistic and patriotic purposes.

One goal of this event is to “generate discussion on how to frame mining in Alaska as a national imperative.” That’s a narrow focus, leaving no room for those who believe that generations to come might be far better off were we to make it a national imperative to keep more resources in the ground.

I don’t expect Dan Sullivan, Lisa Murkowski or Mike Dunleavy to admit that there are legitimate competing points of view.

Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, the president and CEO of Contango ORE, said people have to be re-educated about the value and importance of mining, as they don’t understand what things are made of. He said the state should spend \$10 million to re-educate people, countering the claim that mining is evil. Since its state money we’re talking about, not mining company money, another speaker jumped in to say the state should spend \$20 million to sell the mining message.

The state has already given \$10 million to Nieuwenhuyse’s company through an investment from the Alaska Permanent Fund. Contango is a 30 percent partner in the Kinross plan to turn Interior Alaska highways into mining supply roads by trucking ore from Tetlin to the Fort Knox mine.

Any dollar that the state puts into “re-education”

should include matters not covered by the speakers at UAF—such as the mining tax rates that haven’t changed since the 1950s and that foreign companies dominate the industry.

“Alaska’s current mineral taxation system does not need to be revised. The system is comprehensive and fair to the state and the industry,” the mining companies declared in 2019.

There is a place for mining in Alaska. The gadgets and tools of the modern world require minerals that have to come out of the ground. To fail to recognize this is a threat to the future of our society. There won’t be a boom in electric cars unless more minerals are mined.

And yet, the claim that this is all about national security—and that every assumption from every promoter is valid—reminds me a bit of the “ask no questions” run-up to the war in Iraq.

The political atmosphere at the event is one in which Alaska’s U.S. senators, state politicians and state employees pushing the Dunleavy reelection campaign are completely at home.

It was a mistake for the university, which is heavily promoting this gathering, to include no one who dares raise uncomfortable questions about the mining industry and its future in Alaska.

The pitch to Alaskans at the so-called summit is that strategic and critical minerals are a national priority and it should be a state priority to obliterate political obstacles to get those resources into production as soon as possible.

Missing from the UA and Wilson Center promotional plan is the analytical attitude necessary to deal with questions that mining promoters would rather suppress about social and environmental impacts, taxes, royalties and the consequences of balancing short-term and long-term costs and benefits from mining or keeping land undisturbed for future generations.

Exactly how much of a critical or strategic mineral is necessary in a given location to justify a giant mine or road project that is aimed mainly at gold? What are the competing values that need to be considered? What is responsible mining? What should it look like in the future? Who stands to gain the most? Are the benefits likely to go to foreign investors? Are more state subsidies a good idea? What more needs to be done to limit environmental damage?

The University of Alaska failed to expand the discussion to take these and other questions into account.

Council, from page A9

As in Alaska, the other three branches have their own leadership, all of which are united through an international structure.

The Alaska branch represents Inupiat and Yup’ik people of northern and western Alaska.

Dalee Sambo Dorough of Alaska recently ended her four-year term as the ICC’s international chair, passing on that role at the organization’s July general assembly to Sara Olsvig of Greenland.

ICC is one of the six permanent participants at the eight-nation Arctic Council. The permanent participants represent Indigenous peoples whose homelands cross borders. It also has formal status with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Maritime Organization.

Among the ICC’s international work is a focus on elevating Indigenous knowledge. The ICC recently released a set of protocols to guide scientists’ and industries’ engagement with Inuit communities.

ICC-Alaska has also placed a strong focus on food sovereignty and security, which is one of six priorities in the organization’s 2018-2022 strategic plan.



Marie KasaNnaaluk Greene, a former chief executive of NANA Corp., is the new president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council of Alaska. Photos provided by ICC-Alaska



Nicole Kannik Paniguiq “Kanayurak” Wojciechowski, deputy director of the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, is the new vice president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska.

Sunny day prompts thoughts about strange weather patterns & offers plentiful delights

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

About to begin a Sunday afternoon walk with my friend William and canine companion Denali, I noticed a strange sensation on my face: the warmth of bright sunshine touching skin.

“Wow, look at that,” I shouted with unabashed glee while turning my gaze toward the sky. “The sun is out!”

The sun’s appearance did seem something of a small miracle and cause for celebration, especially when our solar system’s singular star continued shining upon the Anchorage area for the next several hours (even if hidden briefly now and then by clouds).

At least in my part of town, just about all the neighbors took advantage of that sunny circumstance to get outdoors, no rain gear required. Many moons have passed since I’ve seen so many smiling dog walkers. People seemed downright giddy, whether walking dogs, mowing lawns, riding bikes, or tending to their gardens.

As anyone who lives in Southcentral Alaska is well aware, most of August—and July before it—has been gray, somber, and wet. And as those gray, wet days have piled up, the month has at times seemed exceedingly dreary. But then we humans tend to be fickle sorts. It wasn’t so long ago that we were practically begging for rain, to end early summer’s drought conditions.

Through the first three weeks of August, the National Weather Service’s (NWS) Anchorage office recorded 5.65 inches of rain, nearly three times the “norm” of 1.90 inches through Aug. 21. That total was boosted considerably by a single storm that drenched our city with 1.61 inches of moisture during one 24-hour period, the most in 18 years according to NWS climate researcher Brian Brettschneider.

With 10 days to go until month’s end, Anchorage had recorded the third-highest August rainfall total ever, though it seems unlikely we’ll top the record of 9.77 inches, set in 1989 (the second-highest August rainfall, 8.37 inches in 1997, also seems out of reach, but might be attainable with a couple of good rainstorms).

The combination of extended drought conditions—the period from early April through early July was the driest in our city’s history—followed by a thorough soaking that has now lasted some seven weeks, has made for the strangest Anchorage summer weather I can recall. And it hasn’t been Anchorage alone. Much of our state experienced weeks of extreme dryness in late spring and early summer, combined at times with record-setting heat and unprecedented wildfires. Then the heavenly floodgates opened, leading to an unusually long spell of wetness that has included what Brettschneider calls “high precipitation events.”

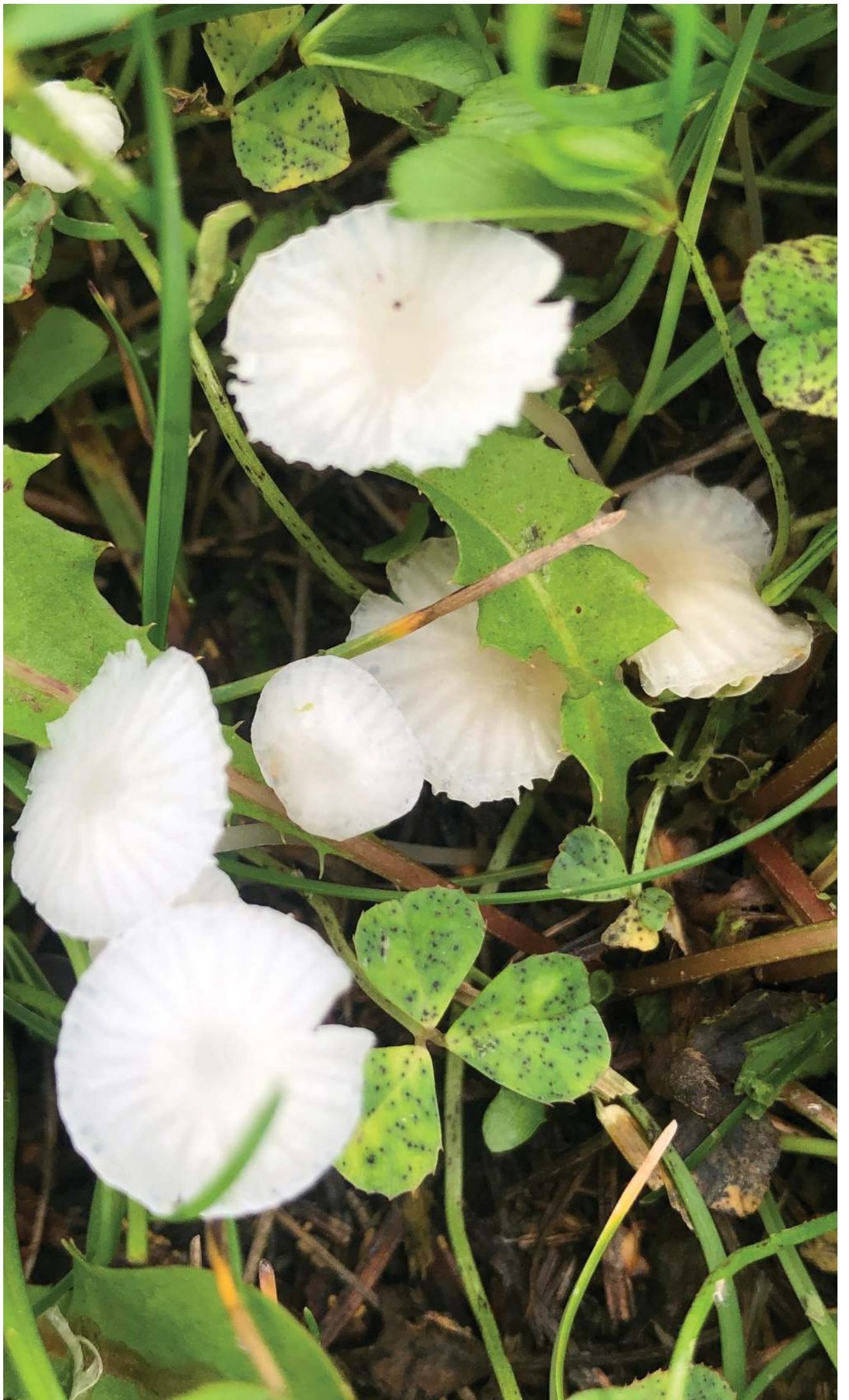
This crazy mixture has impressed even weather forecasters and climate researchers. Rick Thoman, a climate specialist at UAF, has aptly called it “weather whiplash extraordinaire.” And Brettschneider has compared it to a switch being flipped, “quite dramatically.”

In short, it’s been a summer of extremes here in Anchorage.

For a long time it seemed soaking rains would never arrive; then it’s been like a faucet that can’t be turned off. Fortunately for us, it’s been more of a drip, drip, drip than the torrential downpours that have caused catastrophic flooding in some parts of the world. Similarly, our early summer drought didn’t lead to any disastrous wildfires locally. Still, as noted above, some unparalleled wildfires blazed across remote parts of Alaska, most notably the Southwest region, where more than 1.2 million acres burned, a record for that region.

Increasingly extreme weather is what climate change models predict for our planet, as the Earth’s atmosphere continues to warm. I’d suggest we got a taste of that here in Anchorage this summer and it certainly seemed to grab the attention of many residents, even if there were no awful consequences—except, perhaps, for the homeless folks who ended up in the Centennial Park campground because of failed strategies by our city’s administration.

In a curious way, Sunday’s unexpected bounty of bright and beautiful sunshine is what led me to consider writing about the strange—and in my experience, unparalleled—weather we’ve experienced in Anchorage



this summer, especially the abrupt shift from drought to deluge. Though, to be sure, our crazy summer weather is something I’ve reflected upon quite a bit of late, as the string of wet, gray days has shown no sign of ceasing.

At the same time, Sunday’s sunny break opened me to a greater variety of “small, wild wonders” than I’ve noticed in quite a while. Whether that’s because I was more observant when soaked in sunlight than I’ve been when pelted by rain, or because the sun’s warmth drew other creatures out of hiding, is hard to say. Maybe a little of both.

Whatever the reasons, here’s some of what grabbed my attention on that lovely day. While walking through Kincaid Park, I happened upon the first bumblebee I’d noticed in weeks. That bee’s buzzing presence was followed by the equally rare sighting (at least this August) of a butterfly, the mourning cloak fluttering through the forest and then landing on a nearby bush, sharing its winged beauty.

City Wilds, contined on page A18

If a lake drains in northern Alaska . . .

BY NED ROZELL

“Lakes seem, on the scale of years or of human life spans, permanent features of landscapes, but they are geologically transitory, usually born of catastrophes, to mature and die quietly.” — George Evelyn Hutchinson, “A Treatise on Limnology,” 1957.

Harry Potter Lake did not die quietly. Water in the basin on Alaska’s North Slope cut through a 30-foot strip of tundra in early July 2022. The lake then roared into a creek. The creek swelled like a python for a day, robbing Harry Potter Lake of the majority of its water.

Scientists know this because they were watching the lake with game cameras and satellite images.

Chris Arp, of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Water and Environmental Research Center, named Harry Potter Lake because his daughter was enjoying the book series when he first encountered the lake. It also somewhat resembles a wizard’s hat when seen from above.

Arp and other scientists were monitoring the lake because it’s in an area oil companies are considering for development. The lake was large enough that while standing on one side of the water-filled oval in that flat, buggy landscape, you could not see the far shore.

During field work four years ago, Arp noticed that the lake basin was perched 10 feet above the creek level. If gravity had its way, lake water would some day make it into the creek.

Arp noticed a trickle of water between the lake and the river in summer 2021. When he returned this summer, the water was doing its thing.

“By late June that water had begun to cut a major niche, which increased the flow and caused it to erode even faster,” Arp said from Deadhorse after returning from the lake basin in mid-August. “We realized then it was going to go soon.”

Judy Kayaak Creek — the nearby stream that received all that water — flows into larger drainages that empty into the Arctic Ocean northwest of the village of Nuiqsut.

On July 7, 2022, the erosive power of the water cut a new channel, sending a torrent of lake water flooding into the creek.

Judy Kayaak Creek pirated almost the entire volume of Harry Potter Lake in about 24 hours. The creek raged



Harry Potter Lake, at the top of this photo, as it looked four years ago, perched 10 feet above and 30 feet away from the creek that in 2022 received most of its water. Photo by Chris Arp.

with 100 times its normal volume during the peak flow. “It was probably strong north winds in early July that ultimately pushed enough water over that outlet to trigger the failure,” Arp said.

Alaska’s treeless North Slope is peppered with lakes that have formed because of surface water that thaws frozen ground. Those lakes have emptied themselves for at least 10,000 years or so, leaving behind scars on the landscape and a fertile place for new plants.

Drained lake basins make up more than half of the Arctic coastal plain, the part of the Alaska map that most resembles Swiss cheese.

The disappearance of Harry Potter Lake is “kind of a tree falling in the forest type of thing,” according to Arp. Rarely do people get to see it.

And no one saw the breach this time — except for the cameras standing on posts near the new outlet of the lake

and satellites orbiting 500 miles overhead.

Meteorologists at the National Weather Service warned the residents of the village of Nuiqsut, who might have fish camps along the creek, to be watchful for the sudden pulse of water (which did no reported damage).

Other living things have noticed the absence of Harry Potter Lake. Arp flew over the basin one last time on Aug. 15. He noticed it was full of ducks, shorebirds and other waterbirds attracted for some reason to the ponded, muddy lake bed.

“It was kind of amazing how fast they moved in,” he said.

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



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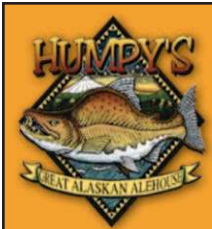
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Harry Potter Lake, at the top of this drone photo, after most of its water drained into a nearby creek on Alaska’s North Slope in early July 2022. Photo by Allen Bondurant.



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HOSTED BY **JUKEBOX JOE**

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8:30 Ukulele Russ

Friday August 26
9:30 Rebel Blues

Saturday August 27
9:30 Nothin But Trouble

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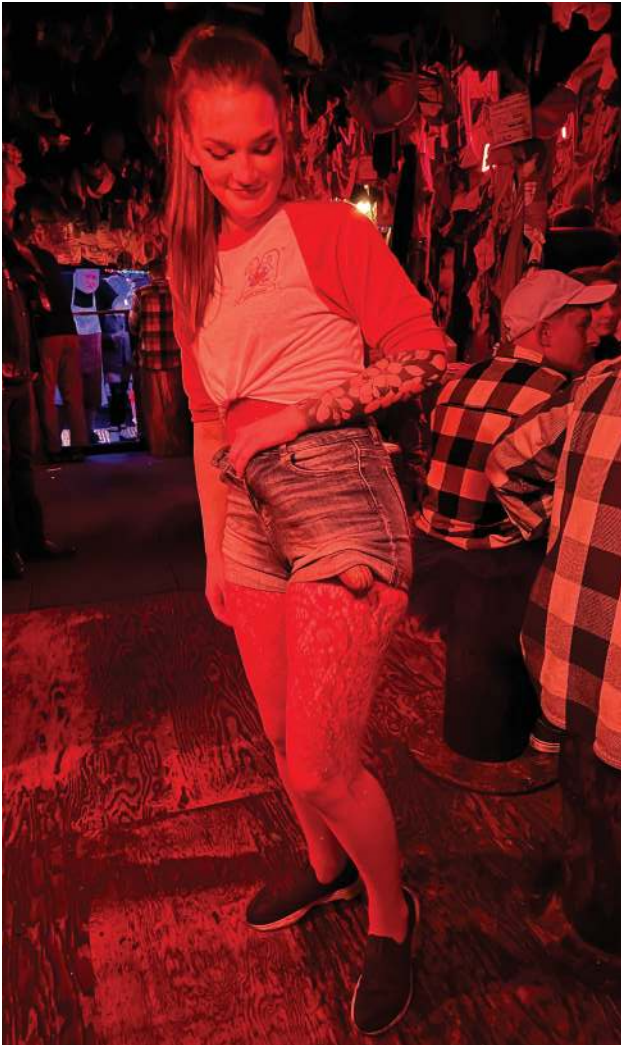
IEYMI!



A line wrapped around the block to get into the Animal House Dance Party at Williwaw on August 20, 2022. Photo by @ShipeShots



Decepticide brought down the house at the Carousel on Friday, August 19, 2022. Photos by @ShipeShots



A new legendary Birdhouse apron was awarded on August 20, 2022 for the tilted bar's 20th Anniversary. Photo by @ShipeShots



High Hopes

The High Times Cannabis Cup Returns to Anchorage

BY O'HARA SHIPE

An open laptop was precariously placed on a breakroom table at Enlighten's growing facility last Monday. Behind the computer, High Times Director of Events and Competition, Mark Kazinec, furiously typed in a series of entries on an elaborate spreadsheet in between fielding endless phone calls.

"I am determined to make this event go well," explained a jittery Kazinec in between calls.

Although he was dressed in stoner fashion — slip-on shoes and a tie-dyed shirt — Kazinec is the antithesis of what one would expect of a pothead. In fact, Kazinec was brimming with energy as he rattled off the details of the upcoming High Times Alaska Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition.

After a five-minute sales pitch, Kazinec slowed down a little bit before addressing the elephant in the room — the 2018 Alaska Cannabis Cup.

"Alaskans have a long memory, so there has been a lot of skepticism about [High Times] after what happened four years ago," says Kazinec.

In what has gone down in the Alaskan Cannabis industry as an epic failure, the 2018 Cannabis Cup festival endured the last-minute disappearance of headlining act Methodman and Redman and accusations that awards were bought by the highest bidders. Although the accusations of cheating were never substantiated, the fiasco left a bad taste in the mouths of Alaskans, many of whom disavowed High Times.

But four years have passed, and Kazinec and his team have high hopes for the updated version of the cup.

"This year, we are doing the High Times Cannabis Cup People's Choice edition. So, it's really different from what we did in 2018 because now it's open to the public making it more democratized," explained Kazinec.

Traditionally, Cannabis competitions have been judged by a panel of vetted industry insiders. However, this iteration is an attempt to eliminate the opportunity for cheating by putting consumers in the driver's seat by offering nine categories of product kits priced between \$119 - \$279.

"We've collected products from about 70 different brands and put them into 2,000 judging kits that will be available for purchase at selected dispensaries in Sitka, Wasilla, Palmer, Ketchikan, Anchorage, Seward, Talkeetna, and Fairbanks. We really have tried to spread things around to make this statewide and to give more consumers a chance to be involved," said Kazinec.

At the outset, the cup seems to be running smoothly but with judging kits being picked up this weekend, there is still a chance for disaster to strike.

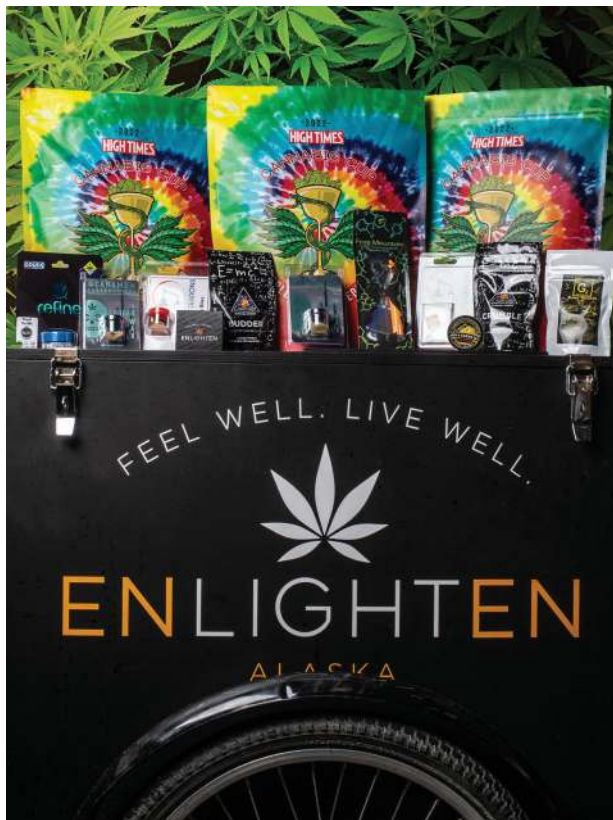
"Obviously, there is a risk when you do something like this because you have no guarantee that the people who purchase the kits will follow through with filling out the judging forms. But we will be sending out multiple reminder emails and text messages to encourage people to really judge these products. Part of this working well relies on Alaskan consumers to honor the work and money that local businesses have poured into the event by taking the responsibility of judging seriously. The industry wants real, authentic feedback and this is a unique opportunity for them to get that," explained Kazinec.

The hard and soft costs of entering the competition aren't lost on Kazinec who freely admits that entering products wasn't cheap.

"The last product revenue was huge, especially when you factor in the taxes that we have to pay no matter what the weed is used for. I think that was probably that's probably the biggest issue I had with the whole thing — that \$800 a pound tax is hard when you're a smaller grower. And that doesn't even mention the costs of labor



High Times Director of Events and Competition, Mark Kazinec, holds a packed judging kit (top). Products found in the concentrates judging kit (bottom). Kazinec (lower left) visits Enlighten's growing facility (bottom right).



or packaging," said High North Cannabis owner Jason Heileg.

The exorbitant tax structure of the Alaskan Cannabis community has proved to be a major hurdle for growers across the state.

"Anyone who thinks they are going to enter the industry to make a lot of money finds out quickly that that isn't the case. You have to grow because you love the plant, not because you expect to get rich. Growing in Alaska is a labor love," Quintessence Farms owner Nicholas Gelinas told Alaska Leaf Magazine in a February 2022 interview.

Even with the high costs and uncertainty surrounding the participation of kit purchasers, Heileg believes that the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

"We don't know if the money will come back to us in the form of future sales, but we hope it does. As a brand, we have always been pretty generous about letting people sample our products and we wouldn't be here without them spreading the word. So, from that standpoint, we don't mind investing in the competition," said Heileg.

Cannabaska's lead grower, Jason Lepley echoed Heileg's sentiments.

"I think it's worth it whenever you can get your product in the hands of people that aren't in Anchorage. The exposure is worth the time and money investment because it's great exposure," explained Lepley.

Certainly, exposure to new markets is the primary reason to enter a competition like this, but Lepley is also hoping to use it as an opportunity to refine his products.

"A lot of people are gonna get to smoke our flower. Some will love it. Some will hate it. Some will say it's okay. Either way, that feedback is vital. We just rebuilt our cultivation facility and we want to know what people think about our flower. We can think we're great but entering a competition like this is a great starting point to find out what people really think," said Lepley.

However, Lepley isn't just focused on the feedback, he also wants to win.

"I mean, it's always fun to win because everyone wants to be able to say they are the best of the best," explained Lepley.

Judging kits for the High Times Alaska Cannabis Cup will be available for pick-up on Saturday, August 27, 2022, at select dispensaries. To pre-register for a kit, learn more, or see a list of participating dispensaries, visit cannabiscup.com/alaska-2022



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APT CITY SIGHTS

Super Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Inexpensive

8 Nazareth's ancient locale

15 Carbo-loading food

20 Conditionally free prisoner

21 Ram into from behind

22 Voices below mezzos

23 Pooch in a Texas city?

25 Vegas machines

26 Certain snake

27 Employ

28 Margarine, quaintly

30 Eight in front?

31 "That's — -brainer"

33 Lock opener in an Oklahoma city?

38 Display stand for curios

42 Marked, as on a ballot

43 Toothy tool

44 See 56-Across

45 Young lady in a California city?

50 Song satirist Tom

52 Stroll along

53 Aegean, e.g.

54 "Shrek!" writer William

56 With 44-Across, "In all probability ..."

57 Cake alternative

58 Cake levels

60 Subway in a Duke Ellington title

63 West of film

64 Long seat in a Kansas city?

70 Year-by-year records

72 AFL- —

73 Pooh's mopey pal

74 Band gig in an Arkansas city?

81 Playfully shy

82 Hispanic woman

83 Lines on street maps

84 Plato's "T"

85 "M*A*S*H" co-star

88 Microbe-filled

91 Municipal law: Abbr.

92 — Carlo

94 "The Far Side" cartoonist Gary

97 Opening for light in a Wisconsin city?

100 Alias letters

101 "— So Fine" (1963 #1 hit)

103 Singer Yoko

104 Anybody

105 Boxy vehicle in a Virginia city?

111 Scarlet, e.g.

112 Casino game with 80 balls

113 Ruinous end

114 Banks do it

116 Cooked in the style of

119 Maya Angelou's "Still —"

121 Sluggard in a Florida city?

127 Dr. Watson player Bruce

128 As a help to

129 Sign off on

130 Disney Hall architect Frank

131 Try

132 Arrange in a different way

4 Cheat

5 Aged

6 Chain of cosmetics stores

7 Actress Garr

8 Rosey of the 1960s Rams

9 — Lingus (Irish carrier)

10 China's Chou En- —

11 Angry feeling

12 Strung along

13 — Gay (warplane)

14 Yard tools

15 Fathers

16 Sign off on

17 Actress Channing

18 Walked unsteadily

19 Ore analysts

24 Wall St. opportunist

29 Of speech

31 Light-footed

32 Campbell of "Scream" films

34 Acne care brand

35 Ale barrels

36 Emend

37 Pile up debt

38 That, to Lucia

39 Orchestral drums

40 Surrounding, as sound

41 Cow on milk cartons

46 Lustful look

47 Noble Brit

48 Get, as profit

49 — fire under (roused)

51 Sweetums

55 Fido's threat

58 Boob tube

59 Large bag

61 "Nine" Tony nominee Karen

62 Cynical reply

63 — de mer

64 Earthen pot

65 Actor Cage, to pals

66 Entryway

67 "Not possible"

68 Toasted bread cube

69 "Yo!"

71 Map source

75 Highway semi

76 Blood type, for short

77 Vocalist Vikki

78 Net tyro

79 "Fame" singer Irene

80 Singers Arnold and Grant

84 Moderately muscular

85 "Great Jewish Joke Book" writer

86 Body of water off Buffalo

87 Get closer, quaintly

89 Kitty's call

90 Yearnings

92 Act silently

93 Fleecy female

95 "Well well!"

96 Dweeby sort

98 11th mo.

99 Vocabulary

102 "Enough!"

106 Tough puzzle

107 Opposite of 104-Across

108 Actresses Stone and Watson

109 Off the ground

110 Omaha loc.

115 Get closer

116 Between the sheets, say

117 Mandolin kin

118 Love god

120 "Tarzan" star Ron

122 Fruit stone

123 Major fuss

124 — -TURN (street sign)

125 — -Magnon man

126 That woman

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LEGALS

Bread & Brew, LLC dba Bread & Brew located at 1450 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant or Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Craig McCarty 42.857%, Sherrie McCarty 42.857%, and Alexis Johnson 14.286% to Craig McCarty 85.714%, and Alexis Johnson 14.286% . Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At jana@jdwcounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 8/18/22, 8/25/22, 9/01/22

Emerald Tours, Inc. is making application for a new Restaurant or Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license doing business as Basecamp Eatery located at 194 Hightower Rd., Girdwood, AK 99587. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 8/25/22, 9/01/22, 9/08/22

Momma O's Seafood MR LLC. Is making application for a new Restaurant/Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license doing business as Momma O's Seafood located at 2636 Spenard Road #1 Anchorage. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK

LEGAL

99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.
 Anchorage Press
 Publish Dates 8/11/22, 8/18/22, 8/25/22

Manifest Destiny LLC dba BurgerFi located at 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard #118 Anchorage, is applying for a transfer of a Restaurant/Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Richard & Andrea Hobbs 50% and Raymond Kizer 12.50% to Richard Hobbs 51% and Ray Kizer 11.50%. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7 th Ave Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov
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Lost but found

Dear Oskar,
 I've just moved to Seattle from New Jersey. I am very close with my family, but I knew that Seattle was right for me, so I had to go. I miss my family, and they miss me. I am feeling confused. How do you forge your own path while still keeping connection?
 —Lost but found.



ASK OSKAR
 BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Lost But Found,
 Congratulations on following your heart! It's not always an easy thing to do, especially when there is a risk of losing something dear, like the people you love.
 There is a belief among most people that connection is about being with someone physically, and that when we are not physically together, then we are not really together—"Out of sight, out of mind." But that's not true, at least not for the connections that are made in the heart. That's why even when those people we deeply love pass on, we still think of them and take them with us throughout our days.
 Change is disorienting, so It is easy to be confused when we experience something different for the first time. You are used to your family connection being rooted in your close proximity to each other. This new part of your journey requires you to have patience and faith, and to trust that your important connection with your family is still there, even when you are not.
 I empathize with you. I have created a very close family, and my eldest daughter will be going to the other side of the country for a semester of school. All at once, my heart aches and delights in the joy that she is finding her way.
 My faith will be tested as yours is, but I have experience on my side. As one who had followed her heart and lived around the world, I have had to leave many people I love. I can tell you that those relationships that are formed in the heart stay in the heart.
 For example, my eldest brother has always been someone who has been a "heart relationship" for me. He left home when I was 10 years old, and although he has not been there physically for many of my life events, I feel as close to him as if he were living next door. Yes, the day-to-day stuff is not there, but I carry his love inside—and he's always a phone call away—so he's still a part of the bigger pieces of my life, and knowing that helps keep me going.
 As for day-to-day life, I have had the great privilege to meet and befriend so many people that have helped me see things in new ways. I've come to appreciate the fact that if my family were around, I might not have been opened up to all of these new perspectives because I would have been too tied to my family. This experience of having more people in my life has actually strengthened my connection to those "back home," because my heart has become fuller and, as a result, more able to give and receive.
 I trust that as you stay connected to your heart's journey, you will be able to stay connected to your family, knowing they too are having wonderful experiences to share with you. Send pictures often and text them messages just to say you love them. After all, it is in sharing with one another that true connections are felt.

Super Crossword

Answers

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City Wilds, from page A13

Minutes later, the movements of small songbirds caught my attention. Upon stopping I could make out Wilson's and orange-crowned warblers moving among red-berried elder bushes and birch trees, the first warblers I've seen in a long while, likely fattening up for their journey south. And shortly after that, a strikingly patterned orb-weaving spider perched in the middle of her web grabbed my attention.
 On other, shorter walks, I strolled among loudly chattering chickadees, their voices cheering as always and, to my ears, cheerful in nature, and on this day accompanied for a few moments by robin song, the first I'd heard in weeks and unusual this late in summer. In my own neighborhood, blue darter dragonflies zoomed here and there. And though they've benefited from our abundant August moisture, it was only on this sunny day that I noticed the great number of tiny white mushrooms called snowy waxcaps that had fruited among the grass and clover; like the day, they were bright and beautiful.
 For all of these gifts, and others, I give thanks, including the soaking rains that our local landscape so desperately needed after a too-long stretch of the gloriously bright, clear blue-skies and sunny summer days that I love so much.
 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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Max and the Axe

DAGNABIT!
BY MIKE GORDON

The first U.S. soldiers were killed in South Vietnam in July 1959 when their living quarters near Saigon were raided by guerillas. Those were not “shots heard ‘round the world,” though they should have been. I was a junior at Anchorage High School, and it was around this time I went on a memorable moose hunting trip with Bill Peters and Max Pierce, both friends of my parents.

Max, an Internal Revenue Service investigator, had a kind of face you never forgot. Not because it was characteristic in any way—just the opposite. It was a face devoid of anything remotely resembling personality. He had a saturnine countenance that ran straight through. You could have given Max a million dollars or stuck a hot poker up his ass and his reaction would have been equally unremarkable.

As an adolescent I never could understand what his wife Ruth saw in Max or what my parents saw in the company of either of them.

Much later my older sister Pat told me, “It had a lot to do with drinking.”

How I became involved in the moose hunting trip with Max and Bill remains a childhood mystery.

Bill Peters was the consummate Alaskan character. Before the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964, he reigned over the Portage Garage fifty miles south of Anchorage. The garage sank roughly six feet during the earthquake, along with the rest of Portage. Due to its proximity to the end of Turnagain Arm, its abruptly reduced elevation, and the height of the tides in the Arm, the site of that fledgling community became, and remains, an uninhabitable saltwater slough. The remains of the Portage Garage can barely be seen today.

But at the time of this story Portage was thriving. It was the gateway to the ice-free port of Whittier, via railroad and a couple of tunnels through the mountains, which was still occupied by the United States Army. You could not drive to Whittier and there was no reason to put your vehicle on a railroad car destined for Whittier because there was not any place to drive it once you got there. Nearly everyone in Whittier lived in the same fourteen-story building, the Hodge Building, due to the heavy snowfalls—241 inches a year on average. That’s over twenty feet, in case you’re calculating.

That single building, years later converted into a condominium development and renamed Begich Towers, housed practically everything in the community, including a bowling alley, a cafeteria, a movie theater, and a barber shop. During winters the locals dug tunnels in the deep snow between the Hodge Building and other buildings in town.

The Hodge Building opened for business in November 1956 to much fanfare and was referred to as the “wilderness skyscraper.” It was named after a remarkable but little-known man, Walter Hodge, a West Point graduate with a civil engineering degree from Cornell University. In 1930 Hodge was assigned to the Alaska Road Commission and he designed and built roads and bridges all over the territory. A few days before Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese, he was appointed Executive Officer of the 18th Engineer Brigade tasked with working on the construction of the Alaska-Canada, or Alcan Highway. The highway, originally 1,700 miles long, was completed in 1942 and took only nine months to construct. A soldier working on it described it as being “miles and miles of miles and miles.”

In 1972 the building received its new moniker in honor of U.S Representative Nick Begich, who served as Alaska’s sole congressman for a little over a year and a half before disappearing, along with his aide, Russell Brown; the pilot, Don Jonz; and House Majority Leader, Hale Boggs in a Cessna 310 on a flight from Anchorage to Juneau for a campaign fundraiser. I managed to purchase two side-by-side apartments on the top floor of the building at a state auction during the late ‘70s that I eventually sold to real estate developer Pete Zamarillo to help finance my second divorce.

But I digress. Bill Peters attended to all the cars that were left in Portage by people coming and going from Whittier. They were stored in a big parking lot across the Seward Highway from his garage. He parked them, removed the snow from them, got them started after long stretches of disuse, and repaired them in his shop if they were in need. He had a thriving business. So did Dick and Mary Lou Redmond who owned Diamond Jim’s bar, located right next door to the garage until the bar was moved to Indian after the 1964 earthquake and subsequent littoral encroachment.

Bill was a brilliantly self-sufficient man who feared nothing and could do most anything. He ran a trap line for beaver and muskrat along the railroad tracks, their stretched and drying pelts hanging in circular metal rings all around the place. He could make “corned beef” out of his seasonal moose or repair your transmission. The last time I saw him was along the Hope Road years after the quake. He had built a cabin just off the roadway and was digging a water well the hard way—by hand—shoring it up with hand-cut logs and removing dirt with a rope and bucket as he descended.

Bill also had an impressive menagerie at the garage. He could have charged admission and perhaps did to the stray tourist of the time. He raised peacocks, pheasants, pigeons, quail, rabbits, ducks, geese, chickens, and two young calves, just for starters. In addition to overseeing the garage operation, he managed to feed and water all the critters every day and tend his vegetable garden during the summer months.

Bill was a brawler and a boozier, and when he drove to Anchorage for that rare weekend of fun, he would stay at our home, clean up, and head for the Forest Park Country Club. My mom said he was a womanizer. Bill would get shit-faced drunk, come back to the house loud and obnoxious, and he and my dad would stay up all night long. Drunk and disorderly, he literally destroyed one Christmas Eve at our home on Iliamna Drive.

I was a sophomore or junior in high school at the time and I loved Bill Peters for all



of his incivilities.

He taught me how to “Drive the car. Don’t let it drive you.”

He would take me on the trap line with him and we’d shoot ducks along the railroad tracks. He gave me a deal on an old, ugly Cushman motorcycle, the engine of which he had re-bored. It wasn’t much to look at, but because it had been re-bored, it would keep up with the brand-new flashy Cushman Eagles of the day. I’m lucky I didn’t kill myself on it.

Bill was a man’s man and a woman’s man all wrapped in one and I’d have followed him to the end of the earth, so it doesn’t really matter to me how I ended up on that moose hunt with him and Max. I still remember the peculiar look on my mother’s face when, at age 12, I innocently blurted to her after having seen Bill naked in our shower, “Mom, his balls hang all the way down to here!” my right hand reaching almost to the floor.

Bill had previously hunted for moose near the lake at the head of Twenty Mile River, a glacial stream that flows into Turnagain Arm just north of Portage, also a great spot to dip-net for hooligan, aka smelt or candlefish, around the second week in May. He arranged for himself and Max and me to be flown in by float plane and to be picked up in three days. My parents were to watch the Portage Garage during that time—no small undertaking.

Unbeknownst to us or anyone else but him, our pilot crashed his plane while returning from taking another hunter into the Bush a couple of days later, and though surviving the crash, had to walk back to civilization. Bill and Max and I were comfortable enough in a small log cabin by the lake, though we never saw hide nor hair of a moose. We had enough provisions for the three days we were to be there, and when the fourth rolled around, we took advantage of a package of powdered eggs that had been left in the cabin. We fashioned fishing poles from alder saplings and used some salmon eggs, also left in the cabin, to catch Dolly Varden trout.

It wasn’t unusual for a pilot to be a day or so late to pick you up in those days. You just dealt with it. The guides generally had only one plane and depending on weather and circumstances might or might not be on time. But when the fifth day rolled around, we decided we’d better start taking things into our own hands. The plan was to build a raft and float ourselves and our gear down the river to the Seward Highway.

This is when I witnessed Max begin the most amazing transformation. He had been his usual dull self until then, but it seems when Max was young and before he had become a mindless bureaucratic cog, he had worked in a government CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Camp during the Great Depression. He grabbed the double-bladed axe from the cabin, which like most cabins in those days was stocked and equipped for people in circumstances such as ours and suggested that he cut the logs for the raft because he was “pretty good” with an axe. Bill and I readily but dubiously agreed and then stood in awe as Max cut and trimmed log after log. He was a virtuoso. Envious beavers took a work break to witness the performance.

Another couple of days rolled by and the raft began to take shape. The character and humanity in Max’s face grew in direct proportion to the size of the blisters on those pencil-pushing hands.

In my spare time, I read and reread the copy of The Life of Billy the Kid, also left in the cabin. If you want to know anything about Billy the Kid or Pat Garrett, just ask me. I can even tell you what pages the mustard stains were on: 36 and 39. One scene sticks out in my memory. The Kid was drinking in a bar when a guy walked in with matching pearl-handled revolvers strapped to his waist. The Kid had already spotted those revolvers and considered how nice they would look on him when the fellow wearing them, who had had too much to drink, began to berate the Kid. “The Kid’s an egg sucker,” he said. “The Kid’s a goddamn egg sucker!”

The guy with the pearl-handled revolvers, too drunk to be scared, was challenging a real, flesh-and-blood sociopath who was fixated on his pretty guns. When I set down the book and left Billy, now wearing brand new matching pearl-handled revolvers, to check on the raft progress Max was working on his umpteenth blister.

Now on day seven in the woods the Dolly Varden and powdered eggs, though heaven sent, were wearing pretty thin but the raft was ready and appeared seaworthy. We piled all of our gear onto it, tied a long rope to one end, and Max and Bill pulled it along the shore while I, on board with a pole, steadied the load and kept the raft from intersecting with the shore. It took a couple of hours for us to get to the other end of the lake from which the creek drained and just as we were preparing to embark on our down-river journey, our pilot circled the lake and landed. It was no doubt a good thing for us and our gear because, though I understood the circumstances and felt I was in capable hands, Twenty Mile River is not exactly the lazy Mississippi and there were no nautical engineers in our group. Nor did I fancy being the only one on board that vessel.

My parents, junior high school teachers, neither mechanically inclined, were happy to see us for reasons aside from our survival. In addition to taking care of the garage business, the garden, the animals and birds all those days, they had to feed the two calves by mixing up their meal and letting them lick and suck it off their fingers, which were practically raw, twice a day.

It was rumored that a few days later Max chased Ruth around their small L Street apartment naked as a jay bird, with a plum in his mouth. I’ve often wondered if that bureaucratic cog hadn’t permanently slipped its gear.

Dagnabit! is a new column that takes a nostalgic romp through pre-statehood Alaska, spotlighting the the rough-and-tumble 70s and 80s.



ARIES: In the coming weeks, I urge you to flee from stale and rigid certainty. Rebel against dogmatic attitudes and arrogant opinions. Be skeptical of unequivocal answers to nuanced questions. Instead, dear Aries, give your amused reverence to all that’s mysterious and enigmatic. Bask in the glimmer of intriguing paradoxes. Draw inspiration and healing from the fertile unknown. For inspiration, write out this Mary Oliver poem and carry it with you: “Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers. Let me keep company with those who say ‘Look!’ and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.”

TAURUS: A blogger named Chaconia writes, “I’ve cultivated a lifetime of being low maintenance and easy-going, and now I’ve decided I’m done with it. Demanding Me is born today.” I’m giving you temporary permission to make a similar declaration, Taurus. The astrological omens suggest that in the coming weeks, you have every right to be a charming, enchanting, and generous version of a demanding person. So I authorize you to be just that. Enjoy yourself as you ask for more of everything.

GEMINI: The witch Lisa Chamberlain writes about the magical properties of colors. About brown, she says it “represents endurance, solidity, grounding, and strength.” She adds that it’s used in magic to enhance “balance, concentration, material gain, home, and companion animals.” According to my reading of the astrological omens, the upcoming weeks should be a deeply brown time for you Geminis. To move your imagination in a righteous direction, have fun wearing clothes in shades of brown. Grace your environment with things that have the hues of chestnut, umber, mahogany, sepia, and burnt sienna.

CANCERIAN: Cancerian poet Danusha Laméris discovered that earthworms have taste buds all over their bodies. Now she loves to imagine she’s giving them gifts when she drops bits of apples, beets, avocados, melons, and carrot tops into the compost bin. “I’d always thought theirs a menial life, eyeless and hidden, almost vulgar.” But now that she understands “they bear a pleasure so sublime,” she wants to help the worms fulfill their destinies. I mention this, Cancerian, because I suspect you may have comparable turnarounds in the coming weeks. Long-held ideas may need adjustments. Incomplete understandings will be filled in when you learn the rest of the story.

LEO: You should never allow yourself to be tamed by others. That advice is always apropos for you Leos, and even more crucial to heed in the coming weeks. You need to cultivate maximum access to the raw, primal sources of your life energy. Your ability to thrive depends on how well you identify and express the beautiful animal within you. Here’s my only caveat: If you imagine there may be value in being tamed a little, in harnessing your brilliant beast, do the taming yourself. And assign that task to the part of you that possesses the wildest wisdom.

VIRGO: Whenever you are contemplating a major decision, I hope you raise questions like these: 1. Which option shows the most self-respect? 2. Which path would be the best way to honor yourself? 3. Which choice is most likely to help you fulfill the purposes you came to earth to carry out? 4. Which course of action would enable you to express your best gifts? Are there questions you would add, Virgo? I expect the coming months will require you to generate key decisions at a higher rate than usual, so I hope you will make intensive use of my guiding inquiries, as well as any others you formulate.

LIBRA: Libran blogger Ana-Sofia Cardelle writes, “I look back on past versions of myself with such love and tenderness. I want to embrace myself at different parts of my life.” I hope you’re inspired by her thoughts as you carry out the following actions: 1. Create an altar filled with treasures that symbolize major turning points in your destiny. 2. Forgive yourself for what you imagine to be old errors and ignorance. 3. Summon memories of the persons you were at ages 7, 12, and 17, and write a kind, thoughtful message to each. 4. Literally kiss seven different photos of your face from earlier in your life. 5. Say “thank you” and “bless you” to the self you were when you succeeded at two challenging tests in the past.

SCORPIO: You know more about how karma works than all the other signs. Scorpio-style intelligence typically has a fine intuitive grasp of how today’s realities evolved out of the deep patterns and rhythms of the past. But that doesn’t mean you perfectly understand how karma works. And in the coming weeks, I urge you to be eager to learn more. Become even savvier about how the law of cause and effect impacts the destinies of you and your allies.

SAGITTARIUS: Kabbalistic writer Simon Jacobson says, “Like a flame, the soul always reaches upward. The soul’s fire wants to defy the confines of life. It cannot tolerate the mediocrity and monotony of sheer materialism. Its passion knows no limits as it craves for the beyond.” That sounds both marvelous and hazardous, right? Jacobson concludes, “Whether the soul’s fire will be a constructive or destructive force is dependent on the person’s motivation.” According to my astrological analysis, your deep motivations are likely to be extra noble and generous in the coming weeks, Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN: In the Spanish language, there’s the idiom pensando en la inmortalidad del cangrejo. Its literal translation is “thinking about the immortality of the crab.” It applies to a person engaged in creative daydreaming—her imagination wandering freely in hopes of rousing innovative solutions to practical dilemmas. Other languages have similar idioms. In Finnish, istun ja mietin syntyjä syviä means “wondering about the world’s early origins.” Polish has marzyć o niebieskich migdałach, or “dreaming about blue almonds.” I encourage you to enjoy an abundance of such explorations in the coming days, Capricorn. You need to fantasize more than usual.

AQUARIUS: My Aquarian reader Georgie Lee wrote to tell me what it’s like being an Aquarius. I offer it to you because you are potentially at the peak of expressing the qualities she names. She says, “Accept that you don’t really have to understand yourself. Be at peace with how you constantly ramble, swerve, and weave to become more of yourself. Appreciate how each electric shift leads to the next electric shift, always changing who you are forever. Within the churning, ever-yearning current, marvel at how you remain eternal, steady, and solid—yet always evolving, always on a higher ground before.”

PISCES : Here’s a good way build your vibrancy: Use your emotional intelligence to avoid swimming against strong currents for extended periods. Please note that swimming against strong currents is fine, even advisable, for brief phases. Doing so boosts your stamina and fosters your trust in your resilience. I recommend you swim in the same direction as the currents or swim where the water is calm and currentless. In the coming weeks, I suspect you can enjoy many freestyle excursions as you head in the same direction as vigorous currents.



DAN SAVAGE’S SAVAGE LOVE

This is a preview of this week’s Savage Love. The full version is now exclusively available on Dan’s website savage.love.

I’ve been with my wife for ten years. We are both 36 years old. We moved in fast and didn’t take time to learn certain things about one another. For example, I watch porn, which she only found out about after we moved in. She had a visceral reaction. She told me it was a dealbreaker for her; no negotiation. I agreed to stop but didn’t. Fast forward ten years and now I’m medicated for ADHD, which makes it much easier to avoid impulse behaviors like looking at porn. We have come close to divorce over this issue, as well as over how toxic I was before getting treatment for my ADHD. I’ve contributed my share of negativity to the marriage.

Now, as it stands, the agreement we have is that I will not watch porn of any kind. This is where we really start to differ. To her, porn is masturbating to ANYTHING. Looking at porn? Not allowed. Looking at women in bikinis? Not allowed. Coming across something that sexually charges me and masturbating to it? I have betrayed her trust. So, I don’t watch “porn” anymore but I feel extremely resentful about how I am controlled. The latest example of this was when she was helping our kid play a game on a device that had to be connected to Facebook. Mine was connected, and a message came up with a recent conversation. In it I thanked a friend for being there for me, checking in on me, sending jokes, etc. This friend likes to send funny memes, some of which are risqué. I mentioned that I appreciated his jokes, even the ones that would have “upset my wife.” She is now accusing me of using friends (and memes) as loopholes to get around my promise NOT to look at porn.

I’m so tired. I have so much shame around masturbation now and I feel like I have no privacy. We are about to see another couples’ counselor. Any suggestions for me?
- Worried About This Constant Harassment Eroding Relationship

I don’t know exactly what your wife has had to put up with. You mention toxic behavior on your part prior to seeking treatment for ADHD. Toxic energy, toxic actions, toxic toxins—whatever you did, I’m going to assume your bullshit came close to intolerable, WATCHER, and award your wife some points for putting up with your bullshit.

With that said...

Giving up porn is a price of admission some are willing to pay. A person with an otherwise healthy relationship to porn—someone who, like most people, can enjoy porn in moderation, someone who can use porn without neglecting their partner sexually and/or being inconsiderate about their partner’s feelings—sometimes falls in love with a person who, for whatever reason, can’t stand the idea of their partner watching porn. Some people have sensitivities, others have insecurities; some on the Left have political objections, some on the Right have religious objections. Giving up porn is not something I would ever agree to, but a reasonable person might agree to stop watching porn (or pretend they’ve stopped watching porn) for someone they love.

But if the person who insisted their partner stop watching porn later defines absolutely everything as porn—porn itself, non-pornographic photos, good-looking people walking down the street, memes shared by friends—then it was never about the porn. It wasn’t about their insecurities or their political objections or their precious religious beliefs. It was about control. And the worst thing about controlling people is that they’re never satisfied. No matter how much control a romantic partner gives up, it’s never enough. A controlling person’s demands escalate slowly at the start of a new relationship, WATCHER, when it’s still relatively easy for someone to end things. But once the relationship is harder to exit—once leases have been signed, marriages have been performed, children have been born—the controlling person’s demands not only escalate rapidly, they also tend to become more arbitrary and irrational. (No memes? Really?)

Your wife’s bullshit is intolerable, WATCHER, and you shouldn’t put up with it.

Everyone is entitled to privacy, even married people. Likewise, everyone enjoys a zone of erotic autonomy, even married people. Experiences you fantasize about, when and how you masturbate, things you can safely do without violating your monogamous commitment and/or putting your partner at risk... not only shouldn’t someone try to take those things from you, it’s not in anyone’s power to take those things from you. We can’t police our partner’s fantasies. Ideally, our partners feel safe sharing their fantasies with us and involving us to the extent we can or wish to be involved. But we can’t prevent our partners from looking at whatever they want to look at, provided they’re considerate about when and where, and we certainly can’t stop our partners from thinking about whatever they want to think about, dick in hand or no dick in hand.

Get a divorce. Or get better at telling your wife what she insists on hearing, doing whatever you want when you’re safely in the zone (of erotic autonomy), and covering your tracks.

P.S. If the last couples’ counselor you saw didn’t turn to your wife at the end of your first session and say, “You’re a fucking psycho,” they sucked at their job.



Holding out for a gyro

Meraki Hellenic Grill is known for serving up fresh, bountiful helpings of Mediterranean staples

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

This week’s food review highlights a spot that, up until recently, looked to have been shuttered for good in 2020. As one of a few places to find delicious Greek food nearby (and perhaps one of the better restaurants out in Eagle River), Meraki Hellenic Grill was known for serving up fresh, bountiful helpings of Mediterranean staples such as gyros, kebabs, and salads.

As with many others, I was saddened upon hearing news of their closure, though one positive outcome is that they’ve since been replaced by Da J3rk Spot, whose jerk chicken and braised oxtail are simply to die for. But I guess you just can’t keep a good business down, because very much like a phoenix rising out of the ashes, Meraki has been resurrected and can now be found shacking up with That Wing Place on Boniface as the latest in a string of symbiotic food ventures that seems to be all the rage these days.

Given that the annual Alaska Greek Festival took place this past weekend, I thought it was appropriate to revisit this dearly missed forum for this storied cuisine. Besides, what with my eating and drinking habits being reflective of the bleak transition to Fall as of late, my body and overall well-being could certainly benefit from what’s often touted as the healthiest diet around—at least if I manage to stave off the allure of spit-roasted meats (spoiler alert: I didn’t).

Meraki’s menu is decidedly more street food oriented, so they currently don’t offer any more involved dishes such as moussaka or pastitsio. However, I did notice an all-new specials board during last week’s visit which featured a few additional options such as spanakopita and Aegean grilled octopus, the latter of which immediately caught my interest. But otherwise, their focus lies squarely on a handful of appetizers, salads, gyros, and platters.

The platters are arguably the high point of Meraki’s selections, as these massive smorgasbords are essentially complete meals in and of themselves. These consist of one of three proteins served atop a pile of French fries and bolstered with pita slices, tzatziki, and grilled vegetables—it’s enough to make your heart flutter in every sense of the phrase.

Having tried it before, I was set on ordering their premium platter known as the Hellenic Mix Grill, which includes a trio of lamb kebab, grilled chicken, and pork along with all of the aforementioned accouterments. But I figured I should at least try and incorporate something remotely healthy, so I threw in a couple of starters.

I began with an order of dolmades, which consist of rolled-up grape leaves stuffed with rice and herbs. These briny, cigar-shaped delicacies were covered in an emulsified lemony sauce called avgolemono which further enhanced the acidic properties of the dish. The grains of rice were plump and hearty, reminiscent of a good



creamy risotto except exploding with the unmistakable flavor of dill. I’m happy to say these were a solid representation of my favorite Greek appetizer.

Curiosity got the best of me as I ended up ordering their octopus special, described as being grilled over an open flame and plated with olive oil, vinegar, and hummus spread. I’m certainly no stranger to eating cephalopods but I can’t say I’ve had them through a Mediterranean style preparation before. As far as looks go, this whole tentacle was charred all over and imposing in its simple, yet remarkable plating. Whilst cutting into it with my fork and knife, I could already see that the octopus was tender and not at all rubbery.



There’s nothing quite like the soft, chewy texture of a well-cooked octopus. But what really sold me on this was the smooth nuttiness of the hummus accented with the fruity qualities of the full-bodied olive oil. Swirling the octopus around in this creamy base made for a mouthwatering combination and proved just how good food can be with just a few quality ingredients and proper treatment with fire.

At last, it came time for me to scale the veritable mountain of meat and potatoes known as the Hellenic Mix Grill. Just one look at this formidable opponent is enough to convince that there’s very little chance of

this being a disappointment. Sure enough, every single component of this platter was satisfying. I enjoyed being able to combine the meats, pita, veggies and fries however I wanted in a choose-your-own-adventure style of dining that was simply fun to eat along with two sauces available at my disposal: a cool, creamy tzatziki dressing and—oddly enough—Dijon mustard.

A glimpse into Meraki’s kitchen through their Facebook page reveals the process for their chicken in which they stack marinated thighs on a vertical rotisserie and cooked until the fat is rendered so that the meat continuously bastes itself. The pork looked to have been made in the same fashion based on the contrast between juicy sections and crispy charred bits—it was just as, if not more enjoyable than the chicken as it brimmed with fat and flavor while showing little to no signs of dryness.

Then there’s the lamb kebab, which if a certain 2000s rom-com is to be believed, is suitable for vegetarians. The springy texture of ground lamb was imbued with a mélange of warm, earthy spices that were aromatic as all get-out and hit like a ton of bricks. With such pronounced savory characteristics in the kebab, the tzatziki dip served as the ideal accompaniment with its lactic acidity combined with the freshness of cucumbers and dill. If it were socially acceptable, you’d see me downing this dip with a spoon.

After all that I ate, and considering my propensity for gastrointestinal distress, I didn’t feel lethargic or weighed down at the conclusion of this meal—in fact, I felt pretty good. Whatever secrets may lie behind Meraki’s soulful recreations of classic Greek fare, one thing is certain: it’s great to see them back and better than ever. One can only hope they stick around for good this time, as the superb quality of their food and service may leave you wishing you were Greek too.

The Meraki Hellenic Grill is located at 360 Boniface Pkwy and is open Monday — Saturday from 11am — 8pm.





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Jeremiah Throckmorton’s Cosmic Connection

PHOTO AND STORY BY O’HARA SHIPE
ALASKA LEAF MAGAZINE

It’s impossible to talk about Wasilla-based glassblower Jeremiah Throckmorton without mentioning cosmic connections. Defined as universe-guided relationships formed with others, cosmic connections have been there every step of Throckmorton’s career.

“I randomly came across a High Times magazine when I was working at an Anchorage liquor store in 1999. I remember seeing the glass and being really excited by it. That’s really how I got started making pipes,” said Throckmorton.

He jokes now that his parents always wanted him to be a lawyer or a doctor, but he decided he could best put his hands to work with glass. However, his ascent to becoming one of Alaska’s most prolific pipe makers wasn’t easy.

“It took me and my now ex-wife 20 years to build Cosmic Glass LLC. I spent years working as a sloper to get enough money for the equipment. Once we got rolling, she managed the orders, and I spent long hours in front of the torch banging out bulk orders. It really became a family business,” said Throckmorton.

With business booming, Throckmorton lived in relative anonymity, and that was precisely the way he liked it.

“I never put my face or name on the pipes. I’ve just never been the kind of person to like being out there. I think that also kept me focused because I wasn’t looking up to see what my competitors were doing. I was just focused on making the best work I could,” said Throckmorton.

Three months ago, Throckmorton decided it was time to step out from behind the torch and become the public face of Cosmic Glass LLC. Although he admits it’s been a challenge, he is enjoying the notoriety he is beginning to receive from his weekly glassblowing live streams.

“I think its kind of cool for customers to finally know who is behind the pipes they use. It adds some character and personality that wasn’t there before,” said Throckmorton.

His embrace of social media has helped him infiltrate the Lower-48. Currently, over 100 headshops and dispensaries from Alaska to Maine carry Cosmic Glass LLC.

“When I stop to think about it, it’s pretty cool. I’ve definitely come a long way,” said Throckmorton with a smile.

Follow Throckmorton on Instagram @CosmicGlassInc.



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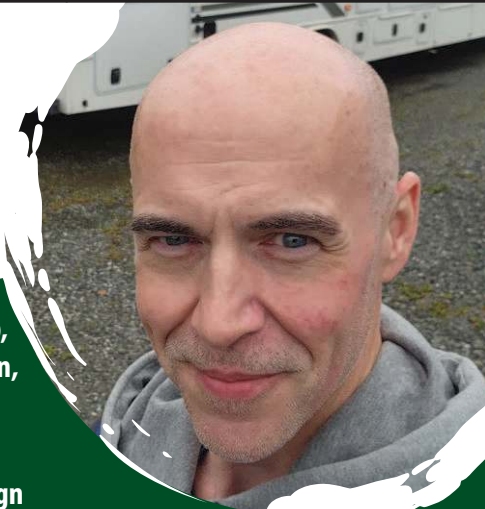
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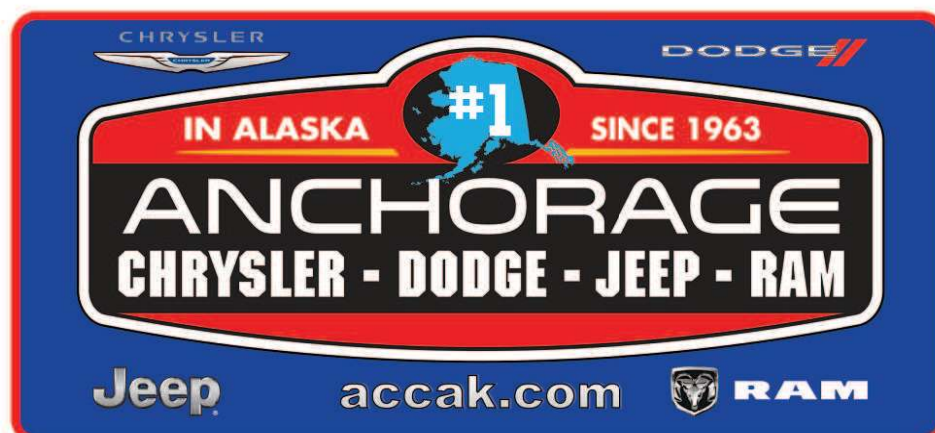
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