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A real-life fish tale Salmonfest turns 11

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JAMES BROOKS / ALASKA BEACON

Rep. David Eastman, R-Wasilla, speaks on the floor of the Alaska House of Representatives on Monday, May 2, 2022 at the Alaska State Capitol in Juneau.

Alaska legislator, member of Oath Keepers, faces lawsuit challenging his eligibility for office

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

A former member of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly is challenging the eligibility of Rep. David Eastman, R-Wasilla, for state office.

Randall Kowalke, aided by the civil rights law firm Northern Justice Project, filed suit in Anchorage Superior Court on Friday, saying in a legal complaint that Eastman's membership in the Oath Keepers militia violates the disloyalty clause of the Alaska Constitution.

Attorney Savannah Fletcher, representing Kowalke, said she intends to request a preliminary injunction seeking to have Eastman removed as a candidate in this year's legislative elections due to ineligibility.

Members of the Oath Keepers, including its founder, have been charged by the federal government with seditious conspiracy linked to the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol.

Eastman attended protests in Washington, D.C., that preceded the riots, but he has not been linked to any violent actions.

The lawsuit is similar to unsuccessful actions filed against state and federal lawmakers in other states, but those relied on federal law and the U.S. Constitution. The Alaska Constitution's disloyalty clause has never been cited in a court challenge here. Earlier this year, state legislators questioned whether it conflicts with free-speech rights.

"I think the takeaway is, what's our level of tolerance? What are we going to allow from our candidates or representatives? Are we going to allow full-blown communists? Jihad folks? Fascists? Particularly those that are supporting the overthrow of our government? I guess it's time to find out," Kowalke said.

Eastman said Monday night that he "just heard" of the lawsuit and did not offer additional comment.

"We are aware of this lawsuit but have not yet been served," said Patty Sullivan, a spokesperson for the Alaska Department of Law, which represents the Division of Elections in legal matters.

"The Division of Elections followed the process under State law and regulations and certified Representative Eastman as a candidate in the August 16 primary," Sullivan said.

The Alaska Constitution's disloyalty clause states that "No person who advocates, or who aids or belongs to any party or organization or association which advocates, the overthrow by force or violence of the United States or of the State shall be qualified to hold any public office of trust or profit under this constitution."

Earlier this year, members of the Alaska Legislature considered punishing Eastman for his membership in the Oath Keepers but ultimately took no action.

In February, the state House's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee held informational hearings about the Oath Keepers.

Matt Kriner, a senior research scholar at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, testified during the hearings and said afterward that the difficulty for anyone attempting to disqualify Eastman is the need to establish a link between him and the Oath Keepers who have been federally charged, and the need to allow due process for the Oath Keepers who have been charged but not yet convicted.

"Pre-court case being finalized, I don't think it meets this definition (of disloyalty)," he said.

In June, after 24 challenges, the Alaska Division of Elections upheld Eastman's candidacy.

"DOE is aware that Representative Eastman reportedly is a member of the Oath Keepers organization and attended the rally in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. DOE does not have any specific information about these allegations in its possession. But even assuming these allegations are true, DOE has determined that they do not — without more — provide a basis to prevent Representative Eastman from running for state office," said Division of Elections director Gail Fenumiai in a letter dated June 20.

Asked why he filed suit more than a month after that letter, Kowalke said it took that long for him to get organized and to decide to file.

A former Eastman supporter, he has been redistricted out of Eastman's state House district and said he is not attempting to sway the ongoing election. If necessary, he said, he will continue his case past the election and into the next legislative session because it will remain a live argument.

"I agree it's kind of a tight timeline," Fletcher said, "but we know that he's going to make it through the primary — there are fewer than four candidates in the running for his seat — so I think we still have enough time to have the courts weigh in on this before the November election."

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State primary election ballot isn't complicated, but it requires some education

I voted Tuesday afternoon at the state office building in downtown Fairbanks for the primary election and the special general election. There are a lot of names on the ballot, but this isn't hard or confusing.

Armed with this expertise, I am scheduled to give a presentation Wednesday at 7 p.m. on "Ranked Choice Voting: Will it Work for Alaska?" at 7 p.m. in the BP Design Theater, Room 401. The theater is in the new Joe Usibelli Engineering Building.



BY DERMOT COLE

If you can't make it in person, a link to the livestream presentation will be at the UAF Summer Sessions site.

Spoiler alert: I'm not sure how the ranked choice voting system will work in Alaska. The process will make the path to victory for candidates far less direct than in the past. It will force candidates to try to appeal to broader audiences. Candidates who refuse to reach out beyond their sliver of society will be harmed by this system.

I plan to get into several topics and hope for a lively discussion about the idea that the new system will lead to the election of more moderate candidates and arguments and whether voting for a single candidate makes sense, depending upon the field.

The new process is not the nightmare that some people claim and there are elements of the new system that are a clear improvement on the past.

The Wall Street Journal featured a overwrought column by a summer intern from Wasilla headlined, "Ranked-choice voting makes a joke of Alaska politics." Nothing in the column backs up that headline.

Columnist Sarah Montalbano complained that her father "threw away his primary ballot after voting in every election for decades," apparently because of the lengthy ballot issued for the U.S. House primary a couple of months ago. That reveals a lot about her father and nothing about the election process.

Just because the results are harder to predict in advance, that doesn't mean this approach is flawed. It will change what you have to do to win.

If there are more candidates than in the past, that is because the power of small groups in political parties to make all the advance decisions has been wiped out. That's a good thing. A lot of the candidates who filed for Congress were not serious and did not campaign.

Like any institutional change, the ranked choice voting system requires voter education and study.

When I proposed this title for my talk many months ago, I thought that perhaps we'd be entirely within the primary stage, where voters are asked to choose one candidate in each contest.

But that was before the death of Rep. Don Young and the process to find a replacement for the rest of his term.

My advice is to look up a sample ballot before you go to the polls, to understand your options. Make sure you have the right ballot for your district. Here is a link to the sample ballots.

The Division of Elections has done a good job in making the primary election and the special general election understandable on the ballots. The primary election is on one side of the ballot, while the special general election is on the other.

Vote for one candidate in each race in the primary. The flip side of the ballot—which contains the special general election for the U.S. House—allows you to rank the three candidates in whatever order you choose.

They are Sarah Palin, Nick Begich and Mary Peltola. There is a space for write-ins, but write-in votes will not be counted unless candidates register as write-in candidates with the state Division of Elections.

One of the big questions is when it makes sense to rank candidates and when it does not.

The best analysis I've read so far on the situation is this one from Jeannette Lee, an Alaska researcher who works for the Sightline Institute, a nonpartisan Northwest think tank.

Peltola is likely to gain about 40 percent of the vote, while Begich and Palin may total 60 percent between them. Either Begich or Palin is likely to finish third in the first round for the special general election.

Here's where ranked choice voting kicks in. The voters who chose the Round 1 loser as their No. 1 and ranked another candidate second will remain in the game. In fact, their second-choice votes will decide the election. In this scenario, where Peltola advances to Round 2, her supporters' second choices won't ever come into play. With three candidates in the race, the election will end in Round 2," Lee wrote.

"But if Peltola somehow loses in the first round, those of her supporters who failed to rank a second candidate will have forfeited a plum chance to influence the election. Ranking Peltola first and a Republican second would NOT allow the Republican to beat Peltola as long as she's still in the race."

"Again, Peltola supporters lose nothing by ranking a Republican second. But if she's out in Round 1, they'll have a say over who wins rather than letting other voters choose for them."

In this race, it comes down to whether Peltola voters have a preference for Begich or Palin. Those who don't may end up voting for her alone.

"Begich and Palin are in a dead heat for Round 1 votes, and they know it. Chances are only one of them will advance to the second round, no matter how you slice the roughly 60 percent of likely Republican voters in the Alaska electorate. The Republican who makes it to Round 2 has a very good chance of winning. Given the stakes, their campaigns have opted to attack each other, while winking at likely Peltola voters," Lee said.

This election is a warm-up for the November election. Whoever wins the special general election seat will be in Congress for a few months, but that may not be a huge advantage.

The primary election ballot also includes the candidates for the full two-year term. Tara Sweeney is likely to be a serious competitor in the primary, setting up a real four-way contest in November.

In Alaska U.S. Senate primary, a race to finish fourth

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

The majority of voters going to the polls Aug. 16 will likely be choosing one of three candidates for Alaska's U.S. Senate seat as their pick-one primary option: incumbent Republican Lisa Murkowski, Republican Party-endorsed Kelly Tshibaka or Democratic Party-endorsed Patricia Chesbro. It's the top four candidates, though, who will advance to the November ranked choice voting general election.

Sixteen other names are on the ballot. When asked who the fourth candidate will be, most political insiders didn't know or hadn't given it much thought. But a few names float to the top.

"I think it is anybody's guess," said Amber Lee, communications and political consultant based in Anchorage. "There are some people who have run multiple times, like Edgar (Blatchford), who may have slightly more name recognition, but it could literally be anyone."

Lobbyist and political consultant Jim Lottsfeldt similarly said he had "no clue." He wasn't familiar with the rest of the candidate pool and considers the competition for the fourth seat a "jump ball."

"I mean, I guess I could imagine that some people go, 'Oh, Professor Blatchford, I know him from UAA,' or, 'Edgar Blatchford, he was a commissioner under Frank Murkowski.' You know, he's run a couple times so Edgar will get some votes," said Lottsfeldt, who works for a super-political action committee for Lisa Murkowski.

Blatchford, an Alaska Native candidate, ran for the U.S. Senate Democratic primary in 2016 and received 33% of the votes, or second most, behind Ray Metcalfe's 50%. He ran again in 2020, getting 8.7% of the primary vote, second behind Al Gross's 79.8%. In 2018, Blatchford ran as a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor but dropped out. He's taught at the University of Alaska Anchorage; served as commissioners of two Alaska state departments; and is a former Seward mayor. He ran for Anchorage school board in 2021, placing fifth among six candidates for the same seat.

John-Henry Heckendorn, a partner at campaign management firm Ship Creek Group, said Blatchford could break into the top four due to name recognition, though added that undeclared candidate Huhkie Lee, has "a niche cult following."

Race, continued on page A13

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By Evan Linder and Andrew Hobgood



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Kinross greenlights Interior Alaska mine trucking plan, while state slow rolls transportation analysis

BY DERMOT COLE

That the Kinross feasibility study says the “high-grade, low-cost” Tetlin project should proceed is no surprise, given the push by Kinross and the billions at stake.

The owners expect to make \$800 per ounce of gold, with the trucks starting to run 24 hours a day in two years, hauling about 10 million pounds a day.

It’s also no surprise that the companies say the project is a go, even though the state transportation analysis—which Gov. Mike Dunleavy agreed to under public pressure—hasn’t started.

The state hasn’t selected a consultant to perform the transportation analysis announced four months ago, so it’s obvious that the mine feasibility study ignores the unanswered safety questions raised by the project.

The Tetlin mine would operate for 4.5 years, but promoters have made it clear they want to look for other reserves to keep the trucks going long after that.

Any reliable feasibility study by Kinross and Contango would consider the costs and public safety questions raised by a project that is founded on 192 truck trips a day between Fairbanks and Tetlin.

And 384 truck trips a day between Fairbanks and Fort Knox, which is about one every four minutes all day, every day.

The working premise is that the trucks pulling two trailers from Tetlin would be broken down into single loads at a freight yard in Fairbanks. The capacity of certain bridges between Fairbanks and Fort Knox and state rules about load limits are said to be the key factors.

DOT Commissioner Ryan Anderson, who owes his job to Dunleavy and is a political supporter of the governor, has not provided a clear picture to the public. At first, the state said that no analysis was needed, with the transportation department acting like a business partner of the mine promoters.

A citizens group called Advocates for Safe Alaska Highways has been trying to fill the gap, doing the work that the Dunleavy administration should be doing. They are asking questions that need answers before the trucking plan becomes a reality.

Unfortunately, it appears the state transportation study is



Kinross representatives in one of several socially distanced meetings with members of the village council upon signing the agreement on September 29th. From left to right: Jeremy Brans, Vice-President and General Manager, Fort Knox; Rick van Nieuwenhuysse, President & CEO, Contango ORE; Marianne Young, Council Member; Chief Michael Sam, Kristie Charlie, Tribal Administrator; Vince Paul, Village Council Member and Anna Atchison, External Affairs Manager, Fort Knox.

a Dunleavy campaign ploy to help him get past the November election.

As I wrote here in February, I suspect that Gov. Mike Dunleavy quietly gave Fort Knox and Contango a clear signal that the state would support the project and clear any obstacles.

Since the state owns part of the project through its \$10 million investment in Contango, the Dunleavy administration should release the feasibility study to the public.

Before Dunleavy claims that he doesn’t have the feasibility study, he knows nothing about a feasibility study and it’s not feasible for him to do anything, rest assured that none of that is true.

All he has to do is pick up the phone. The \$10 million the state has invested in Contango ORE gives the state a seat at the table.

On Thursday, Kinross and Contango ORE said their study concluded the project for 192 truck trips a day from Tetlin to Fairbanks is feasible and will be highly profitable.

“At Manh Choh in Alaska, we completed a feasibility study ahead of schedule, and are proceeding with a project that we expect will add approximately 640,000 lower-cost

gold ounces to our production profile over its life of mine in one of the world’s best mining jurisdictions,” Kinross President and CEO J. Paul Rollinson said last week.

The ore from the Tetlin project is expected to contain 10 times more gold than the rocks processed now at Fort Knox, the company says. The new estimate of the Tetlin prospect shows an increase in the amount of gold per ton, which will help offset inflation, the promoters say.

“We are pleased to announce that we’re proceeding with the execution of the Manh Choh project in Alaska. Manh Choh provides a robust growth project for Kinross, adding high-grade, and low-cost production to Fort Knox. The project returns remain attractive despite the impact of inflation,” Paul Tomory, Kinross executive vice president, told investors Thursday.

“Our preproduction capital investment of \$190 million includes a higher than typical contingency to allow for the possibility of future inflation. The acquisition of permits is also progressing well. Earthworks and road construction will be the priority for the remainder of 2022, setting us up for a successful field season in 2023, and we expect to be in production during the second half of 2024.”

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Toolik Field Station gets \$19.7 million for next five years of operations

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

The Arctic’s largest scientific research station, a facility on Alaska’s North Slope, has received an increase in funding for the coming five years of operations, the University of Alaska Fairbanks announced on Tuesday.

Toolik Field Station, located 370 miles north of Fairbanks, has received \$19.7 million in NSF funding for the next five years, UAF announced.

That compares to funding of \$17.9 million for the period just ending, said Haley Dunleavy, a UAF spokesperson. The additional funding is enough to pay for a couple of additional full-time staffers and perhaps support some additional drone operations, she said

Toolik Field Station is operated by UAF’s Institute of Arctic Biology under a cooperative agreement with the NSF. It operates year-round and attracts scientists from around the world and supports long-term projects that include the Arctic Observing Network, the Arctic Long Term Ecological Research program and the National Ecological Observatory Network.

“The Institute of Arctic Biology is immensely proud of the world-class research opportunities provided by the outstanding team and facilities at Toolik Field Station and is delighted to see its longstanding partnership with NSF continuing strong,” Diane O’Brien, interim director of the Institute of Arctic Biology, said in a UAF statement. “Toolik Field Station is a major contributor to UAF’s position as an international leader in Arctic research and is a great way to show researchers worldwide what Alaska has to offer.”



PHOTO BY JASON STUCKEY/TOOLIK FIELD STATION

Toolik Field Station, in the northern foothills of Alaska’s Brooks Range, is seen from the air in 2019. The station hosts up to 150 residents at a time and supports about 500 scientists annually with 11 laboratories, six dorms and a dining hall. It is operated by UAF’s Institute of Arctic Biology and funded by the National Science Foundation. The NSF just allocated \$19.7 million for the coming five years of operation.

The NSF provides all the funding for Toolik Field Station operations, though scientists who travel and work there usually secure their own project funding, Dunleavy said.

The NSF is also paying for new infrastructure, including a medical clinic, that will better support research projects conducted outside of the summer seasons, the UAF statement said.

Marginalizing concerns on Alaska salmon bycatch and the Yukon-Kuskokwim subsistence fisheries

BY FREDDIE R. OLIN IV

The past two seasons and now this 2022 season, Chinook and chum fisheries have crashed to historical low-abundance runs on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Yup’ik and Athabascan peoples, villages and communities have relied upon each fishery from time immemorial for putting healthy foods on the table. Many Canadian First Nations and communities also rely upon the same fisheries on the Canadian side of the Yukon River and headwaters in Yukon and British Columbia. Federal and state management on the U.S. side has not strongly advocated for these subsistence fisheries in the face of commercial fisheries on an industrial scale in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). The recent State of Alaska budget for fiscal year 2023 (FY23) has only further marginalized already marginalized Alaska Native and First Nations subsistence fisherwomen and men.

The leadership of the Alaska State Legislature included several budget items in the FY23 capital budget, featuring funding to conduct studies to better understand how salmon bycatch in BSAI commercial fisheries may be affecting the abundance in the Chinook and chum salmon runs up the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

The gubernatorial administration, however, had their own ideas and the governor line-item-vetoed each salmon bycatch-related budget item, all totalling less than \$1.4 million. While line-item vetoes are commonplace in each state budget, what is striking is that the studies were to be conducted by primarily Alaska Native-managed organizations based in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions – the very regions where communities, villages and peoples are most affected by low-abundance salmon runs and arguably salmon bycatch in BSAI fisheries. The governor’s office released text justifications for each line item veto, with a blanket statement describing existing activities by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to understand and address BSAI salmon bycatch. If the case of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game involved success in addressing BSAI salmon bycatch, the line-item vetoes could be digestible. The case, however, is not a resounding success and including additional resources to better understand the issue could not have hurt.

Because the FY23 state budget is one of the largest in the history of the Alaska State Legislature after the North Slope crude oil price rise related to geopolitical events on the far side of the world, an amount under \$1.4 million was barely a blip in the upward trend. A capital budget item funding replacement of diving boards for a high school swimming pool in Anchorage survived the governor’s veto power, only a few budget items down from the proposed bycatch studies all detailed in the budget legislation. This leads many involved in the process to ask: What gives? Why have these critically important salmon bycatch studies been so decisively cut from the FY23 budget?

The gubernatorial administration last fall organized an Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force. There was news coverage about the process to place leaders from each stakeholder group – commercial fisheries, subsistence fisheries, fish processors, and others – on the task force. Task forces in state government rarely have biting power when it comes to making changes from the status quo, but they are still important exercises in organizing various experts involved in issue areas like healthcare, homelessness and salmon bycatch. Task forces then make formal recommendations for our leaders in elected offices like the Alaska gubernatorial administration and the Alaska State Legislature. Who were those eventually appointed by the administration to sit on the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force? Too many members are commercial fisheries stakeholders, including those whose boats and trawl nets are taking salmon bycatch in the tens of thousands and in some cases hundreds of thousands each year. One seat was designated as the “Alaska Native” seat, which was ironically filled by a non-Native individual who was further identified as “representing two Alaska Native corporations.”

What activities, studies or recommendations has the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force made for the gubernatorial administration and Alaska State Legislature to consider? After seven meetings starting in January 2022 and the most recent meeting held in July 2022, there have been no publicly released findings, statements, recommendations or anything forward looking by the task force as a whole. The collective revenue and profit margins (for those who are profit oriented) from each organization represented would make \$1.4 million a relative drop in the bucket.

So why have the salmon bycatch-related budget items been



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Salmon hang to dry on a rack at Lake Clark National Park in 2018. Lake Clark is part of the Bristol Bay region.

line-item-vetoed from the FY23 budget, when Chinook and chum fisheries the past two seasons and now this 2022 season have not been able to provide food on the tables for those who most desperately need it? What will it take for the federal and state governments and agencies to fully understand what is happening, and for any elected leader, any agency, any division, any individual specialist to stand up and say: “We need to advocate for those who subsist on Chinook and chum salmon fisheries on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, and we need to do it now in the strongest possible way to protect their food security and their way of life from time immemorial and into the far future”?

What will Yukon-Kuskokwim subsistence salmon fisheries look like in the next five to 10 years? Will salmon runs improve to historical average levels? Will bycatch continue indiscriminately taking salmon from Yukon and Kuskokwim subsistence fisherwomen and men? Even during historical average levels every salmon taken in BSAI as bycatch is potentially a salmon taken from dinner tables on either side of the US-Canadian border. What if Yukon-Kuskokwim salmon fisheries catastrophically crash, never to return to historical averages? The Alaska salmon fishery is one of the last remaining wild, healthy and abundant fisheries in the entire world. Perhaps it won’t be long before we will see supermarket labels stating “Yukon-Kuskokwim farmed salmon” next to “Atlantic farmed salmon.”

State of the Race: Progressives hold fundraising edge in most key legislative races

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

All but one of the 59 legislative races on this year’s ticket (remember Sen. Donny Olson, D-Golovin, gets this year off thanks to redistricting) have four candidates or fewer in the primary election, which means that all but one candidate in the race for Fairbanks’ House District 35 will automatically advance to the general election.

Still, the fundraising reports give us our first, good look at where the momentum is in the race to control the levers of power in the Alaska Legislature. The last four years should also serve as a good reminder about just how important the Alaska Legislature is in shaping policy—or at the very least checking the worst impulses of a governor.

In very broad strokes, Democrats and progressive independents in key races—the ones that will determine whether the House keeps its bipartisan coalition and whether Republicans hold onto their splintered Senate majority—have taken strong fundraising leads against their conservative opponents. That’s particularly true in Anchorage and Fairbanks where progressives hold commanding fundraising leads in every competitive race and aren’t that far behind in typically conservative districts.

Of course, fundraising doesn’t automatically translate to votes. There have been plenty of campaigns that turn out to have been bad investments come election day.

That said, the introduction of ranked-choice voting throws a lot of the traditional wisdom about these races out the window. Where the semi-closed party primaries required candidates to appeal to their base, ranked-choice voting *should* elevate the importance of groups of voters that were once overlooked. That 20% to 30% of voters in Eagle River who regularly vote for the Democrat really don’t matter all that much under the old system, but now they’re up for grabs in a race between four Republicans. Money could go a long way to reaching out to new and untapped groups of voters.

Anyway, today’s write-up was starting to get *really* long with the 15 legislative races I was highlighting, so today’s will be looking at the key Senate races:

The Senate

As it currently stands, the Senate has 13 Republicans and one Democrat organized into its majority. Six Democrats make up the minority. The Republican majority, however, has a long-standing rift between hardline conservatives and moderate Republicans that could make an opening for a bipartisan coalition. The Republicans haven’t exactly done themselves a lot of favors with bitter primaries that have targeted its “moderate” members (people like John Coghill and Cathy Giessel).

The underlying numbers: Thanks to this year’s round of redistricting, Democrats stand to pick up two Senate seats in the Anchorage area (one being competitive and the other as close to a gimme as can be) while Republicans are hoping that this’ll be the year to send Fairbanks Democratic Sen. Scott Kawasaki packing after 16 years in office. There are five more races that are essentially intraparty challenges that will go a long way to determining the flavor of representation for those districts, with implications for any potential bipartisan coalition.

The big headliner of those races is over in West Anchorage where Democratic Rep. Matt Claman’s fundraising is nearly an order of magnitude larger than incumbent Republican Sen. Mia Costello. Redistricting paired Republican Sens. Costello and Natasha von Imhof together with von Imhof deciding to bow out (more for personal reasons rather than the race itself) in a district that is far bluer than either Republican saw before. While von Imhof has been one of the chamber’s moderates, Costello has positioned herself as a Very Conservative candidate that labor groups are largely pinning the blame on for the failure of the retirement legislation this year.

Claman, who has always been a powerhouse fundraiser, has raised a whopping \$110,789.92 from 281 individuals and 13 groups. That’s a figure we’d typically see by general election day and not three months



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY VARDEMAN/CREATIVE COMMONS

The Alaska State Capitol building as photographed in 2010.

out. Meanwhile, Costello’s fundraising is anemic for an embattled incumbent with just \$14,330.25 raised from 59 individuals and 4 groups.

Senate P — Downtown Fairbanks/Badger Road

Kawasaki has been a thorn in the side of Republicans ever since he won his House seat in 2006, which the GOP responded to with a brazen effort to give him the boot during the 2010 round of redistricting. The latest round hasn’t made things any easier with a larger chunk of the conservative Badger Road area added to the district. In terms of fundraising, though, Kawasaki reports \$23,710.00 raised from 26 individuals and 12 groups but doesn’t appear to have any significant fundraising after the legislative session. Fairbanks Republican Mayor Jim Matherly is the challenger here with \$19,555.00 raised from 80 individuals.

Intraparty battles

The last big-ticket Senate races won’t have an impact on the R-D balance in the Legislature, but they will have a big impact on the flavor of Rs and Ds in Juneau and therefore the possibility of a bipartisan coalition.

The race for Senate District E—the South Anchorage seat that was swept up in the redistricting she-nanigans at the last minute before the courts put the kibosh on the board’s plan—pits incumbent Republican Sen. Roger Holland against former Republican Senate President Cathy Giessel (as well as Democrat Roselynn Cacy). Giessel has had a consistent march of fundraising over the campaign cycle and currently sits at \$47,025.00 raise from 116 individuals and five labor groups. Holland, who found himself on the outs with the party for a minute over the trans athlete bill, has raised just \$11,710.00. Democrat Cacy has raised \$4,435.52.

Calling Giessel a “moderate” would have been unthinkable before the election of Gov. Mike Dunleavy, but she quickly became a hero for refusing to fall into line with the governor’s proposed draconian cuts. She worked well with Minority Leader Tom Begich to get things done and a budget passed but came under fire from the party and eventually was shown the door in the 2020 Republican primary. Whether she’s game for a bipartisan coalition will depend greatly on who’s in the governor’s office.

The race for the vacant Senate District J—which covers Anchorage’s Mountain View and U-Med areas—sees three of the four candidates in a virtual tie with \$600 separating Democratic Rep. Geran Tarr (\$7,809.14), Democratic candidate Drew Cason (\$7,454.00) and Republican candidate Andrew Satterfield (\$7,202.68). Anchorage Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar, however, has outraised their combined total with \$25,417.01 raised from 178 individuals and two groups with most coming in the two weeks before the reporting deadline.

There’s a lot of folks who are not particularly jazzed at the prospect of a Sen. Tarr, as evidenced by the aides who went on the record to call her an abusive boss. They’re likely, then, happy to see Anchorage Assemblyman Dunbar with a commanding lead in the race. While Dunbar gets branded as a bombastic liberal by right-wingers, he, like most of the Anchorage Assembly, is more moderate than most would think.

Former Dunleavy chief of staff and architect of the unconstitutional loyalty pledge firings Tuckerman Babcock leads the way in the fundraising race to fill the Kenai Senate seat held by retiring Sen. Peter Micciche with \$78,000 from 189 individuals and four Republican groups. Republican Jesse Bjorkman, a teacher and member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, is the main challenger in the race with \$21,760.39 in fundraising from 46 individuals and two contributions from the APEA/AFT and NEA groups.

The schism among Republican legislators and those bitter party primaries can largely be traced back to Babcock. He’s gunning for a hardline pure-Republican majority that would likely be lockstep with a Republican governor. It’s also worth pointing out that Micciche’s lone contribution to a candidate is to Bjorkman, which would be a \$100 in-kind contribution for letting Bjorkman borrow his sign stand lumber.

With the retirement of Eagle River Republican Sen. Lora Reinhold, the seat is wide open for a challenge primarily between Republican Reps. Kelly Merrick and Ken McCarty. McCarty is the party favorite after Merrick broke from the ranks to join the bipartisan coalition, where she held the powerful position of House Finance Committee co-chair (and brought home loads of capital project spending). Thanks to a lot of help from labor groups, Merrick holds a commanding edge in terms of fundraising with \$64,275.00 to her name from 80 individuals and a whopping 17 labor groups. McCarty has raised about half of that with \$26,896.36 from 42 individuals and no PAC contributions. The race also has Republicans Joe Wright and Richard Clayton Trotter, who’ve raised a combined \$5,000.

Judging by the interest from the labor groups, Merrick is one of the best hopes at electing a coalition-friendly Republican. Like other coalition-friendly Republicans, Merrick would have likely been toast in a Republican primary but now stands a far better shot at winning with Ballot Measure 2.

Finally, Republican Sen. Mike Shower has raised \$12,632 from 28 individuals to defend against Republican challenger Doug Massie, who retired from a 25-year career as a state trooper earlier this year. Massie has raised \$15,450.00 from 28 individuals and has received a single contribution from the PSEA PAC.

While I can’t say much about what a Sen. Massie would be like, Sen. Shower has been a conservative blowhard with some wild ideas about how elections should be run.

Dagnabit!

The time I ran over Augustus Chidley

BY MIKE GORDON

“Guess what?”
“What?”
“I got into a bar fight, chipped my front tooth, and have to wear this ugly white temporary for a while.”
“Guess what?”
“What?”
“I have to have my tonsils removed”
“Guess what?”
“What?”
“I bought a new poppy red Mustang convertible with wire wheels.”

The year was 1964. Bob Seale, my New York Life personal manager at Number One Montgomery Street in San Francisco never grew tired of the “Guess what?” game. Bob was always very animated and melodramatic and loved to retell my adventures.

My first wife, daughter Michele, and I lived on the second floor of an old apartment building under the freeway on Octavia Street, managed by a young couple who were friends of ours from my years at the University of San Francisco. Below us lived old lady Fogel and her beautiful daughter. When our friends, the Lonergans, and we would party on weekends old lady Fogel would bang on the metal garbage chute that ran down the middle of the building with her broom and shout up at me, “Go home, you stupid from Alaska!” As you might imagine, I had a couple of appropriate responses. One time a drunken vagrant crawled in old lady Fogel’s downstairs window and was taking a nap on her couch when the daughter got home. Lucky for him it was the daughter.

That Mustang was the coolest car on the road at the time. When I’d drive down Fillmore Street kids would chant from the sidewalks, “Mustang! Mustang!” With its white convertible top it was a show-stopper. My friend and landlord, Pat Loneran, was so jealous and covetous of that car he wouldn’t talk to me for a week after I brought it home.

The general manager at New York Life, a dignified, grey-haired guy named Jack Cullen, called me into his office after my purchase and said, “Whatever you end up doing, young man, you had better make a lot of money.” At twenty years of age, I was at the time the youngest New York Life salesman in the entire country.

There were no parking spaces in our building so I had to rent a very cramped one-car space in a building about a half block away to park my Mustang. When backing out I couldn’t see worth a damn and had to go very slowly because there were only a couple of inches on either side of the car at the garage door opening. One morning on my way to the office, wearing a three-piece suit, button-down shirt, and wing-tipped shoes, I was backing ever-so-slowly across the sidewalk when suddenly I felt an unusual bump and heard a low, groaning sound. I leaned out my opened door, looked back toward the street, and saw two legs sticking out from under my car.

I thought, “Oh, my God! I’ve almost run over someone!” As a matter of fact, I had backed over the legs of an old man, and when I put the car in forward and drove part way back into the garage I ran over them again, though I didn’t realize it at the time. Fortunately for the old guy, he had fallen lengthwise into the sunken area where the sidewalk met the street. I really can’t explain to this day how it happened but, believe me, I was scared shitless. On his side of the equation, I surmised there had been some alcohol involved. Not only was I afraid I might have killed someone, but we were a struggling young couple and I was late on my car insurance payment to State Farm.

After giving what assistance I could and procuring an ambulance I immediately began the task of communicating with the State Farm people and canvassing the neighborhood for any eye-witnesses. Though I was almost certain the incident had been witnessed, no one would admit to having seen it.

The State Farm representative I dealt with wasn’t much older than me. He was helpful, but not entirely reassuring. He told me my coverage should be in place while leaving the matter open to a decision from higher up the chain of command. Over the next couple of days, and sleepless nights, we learned the old-timer’s name was Augustus Chidley, that he was a veteran, and had been taken to Marine Hospital for treatment.

Another college friend of mine from the University of San Francisco, John Sellai, was managing Pinelli’s Flower Shop out in the avenues. I called John and ordered a twenty-five-dollar flower arrangement sent to Mr. Chidley. That was a lot of money for me at the time.

The State Farm guy had been in contact with the hospital and learned that Mr. Chidley was okay and able to receive visitors, so we arranged a mutually convenient time to meet at Marine Hospital. My understanding was that it was nothing but a goodwill visit, but it turned out my new insurance friend had other plans.

At the appointed time we were at the reception desk of the hospital asking the whereabouts of Mr. Chidley. The nurse at the counter told us rather unceremoniously that Mr. Chidley was not in a good mood.

“Did you send him flowers? He just now refused to accept them.”
Giving me a quizzical look, she said, “See how they spelled his name on the Get Well card!”

I stared in horror at the card on the flower arrangement my good buddy John had sent on my behalf to soften up the old guy. It was addressed to Augustus Shitley.

After a momentary discussion, the nurse agreed to take us to see Mr. Chidley. We sucked it up and followed her. He was in a large ward and appeared to be well taken care of, but he was definitely not in a good mood. We made our introductions. I made my apology interrupted by, “You not only ran over me once; you ran over me twice!”



There were a few light moments provided by the nurses who had nicknamed him “Old Rubber Legs,” because, amazingly, neither of his legs had been fractured by the incident, but I thought it best not to bring up the flowers and the unfortunate misspelling of his name. Mr. Chidley, who was more upset about his glasses being broken than anything else, began to calm down—a perfect time for my friendly insurance agent to make his lowball offer of \$1,500 to settle all present and future claims. To say the offer wasn’t well received would be the understatement of the mid-1960s in that part of the country.

World War II broke out again in all its fury (numerous expletives deleted).
“You scoundrels! Get the hell out of here! I’ve been in two world wars! I’ve been gassed! I’ve been run over by tanks! No goddamn, punk kid is going to kill me by running over me with a fancy new car!”

It turned out I did have coverage with State Farm, and fortunately, everyone survived the incident. In the meantime, I had to go to Number One Montgomery Street and report to my personal manager, Bob Seale.

“Guess what?”
“What?”
“I ran over an old man.”

Dagnabit! is a new column by the infamous former owner of Koot’s, Mike Gordon. This nostalgic romp through pre-statehood Alaska, tells the little known stories of the rough-and-tumble 70s, and the few years of the 80s Gordon refers to as the Glory Days, when anything was possible and money was no object.

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**.

“Travel North Black Girl”

BOOK REVIEW
BY DAVID A. JAMES

In the closing scene of Olivia Hill’s recent memoir “Travel North Black Girl,” the author, who has just spent a long school year with her husband, a teacher in the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq village of Tatitlek on Prince William Sound, boards a plane alone and leaves. It was the early 1980s, and with her marriage crumbling and the couple’s standing in the village damaged by her husband’s growing alcohol and drug problems, Hill decided for the first time in her life to take control of her own future.

“I had gained a sense of power over me that I didn’t have before, by simply making the choice,” Hill told me by phone earlier this summer. “Something I’d had so little of in my life. And in that moment, I made a choice. I put myself on that plane. And I thought it was a choice that was going to make me strong enough to do anything and everything.”

Readers can be forgiven for thinking that she maintained her newfound autonomy in the decades since, but real life isn’t like fiction, and Hill said she’s had to keep fighting for that independence ever since. “It’s one thing to come of age, and you have your ah-ha moment,” she explained. “Then you have to live it out. But you’re still living it out using old tools, and damaged tools. I had to meet the challenges of what had shaped me, and put those things away, get rid of them, and start replacing them.”

This gets to the theme of the memoir, where she writes of growing up poor and Black in Kansas City in a family that was at once both nurturing and abusive. In many ways, it prepared her for Tatitlek, where she saw the social ills she had grown up enduring sometimes mirrored. Yet there was also a familiar source of comfort she knew from her own upbringing, one that maintained social cohesion. “It was one of the things that I found being in an indigenous village in Alaska,” she said. “They also held that sense of belief about sharing stories.”

Listening to stories, Hill said, is something she learned from a young age. “The thing that I possess, if I possess anything at all, is how I heard things. I listened as a little kid to the old folks. I’d sit by the window.”

Hill grew up in a family that was tightly bonded, but also capable of inflicting considerable harm on each other. In her book, she writes quite matter-of-factly about the violence that was done to her as a child, even at the hands of relatives, and of the complex emotions that arise in families where loyalty to each other is inextricably entwined with moments of horror. “I had to live with that,” she said, speaking of her brother, “someone I both loved, and also hated for the abuse, but that was the only protector that I had at any point in my life, growing up as a kid.”

A protector is what her husband Seth failed to be in Tatitlek. The two came to Alaska in 1982 so he could obtain a teaching job. Seth was a Jewish Peace Corps veteran whom Hill met and married at a young age. Their mixed-race marriage was frowned on by his friends, and denounced by his father. She found herself wondering if Seth had married her as a problem to solve, even as his own problems festered. The stresses on their union, both internal and external, followed them to the village,

and the book weaves back and forth between that fateful school year and Hill’s tumultuous life leading up to it.

In the closing pages, it seems the marriage is over, and Hill is careful to note that both of them came up short. Hill told me the couple reconciled that summer, though, and Seth asked her to return north where he was exploring further teaching opportunities. “My words to him were, ‘Anywhere but Fairbanks.’ And what does he do? He takes a job in Fairbanks.”

Hill spent well over a decade in the Golden Heart City, where her writing career began as her marriage reached its end. While learning culinary arts she signed up for an English course with the late renowned poet Patricia Monaghan, who was then teaching at the University of Alaska. The two developed a close and enduring friendship as Monaghan mentored Hill in the art of composition.

Hill wrote a short story for the class about the church she was attending at the time, titled “Oh God, Forgive Me For Thinking That.” Monaghan submitted it to a literary magazine, and it became Hill’s first published work. “And from that moment on, I became the writer that I never got a chance to be when I was a little kid writing poetry in junior high,” Hill said.

Monaghan would also guide Hill into theater, and Hill’s first script, “Mother Spence,” won the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center. She followed this with “The Price of Bail,” a full length play about three sisters – a nurse, a prostitute, and a student – and their brother, who stands accused of rape. Their mother demands they come up with bail money to get their brother out of jail.

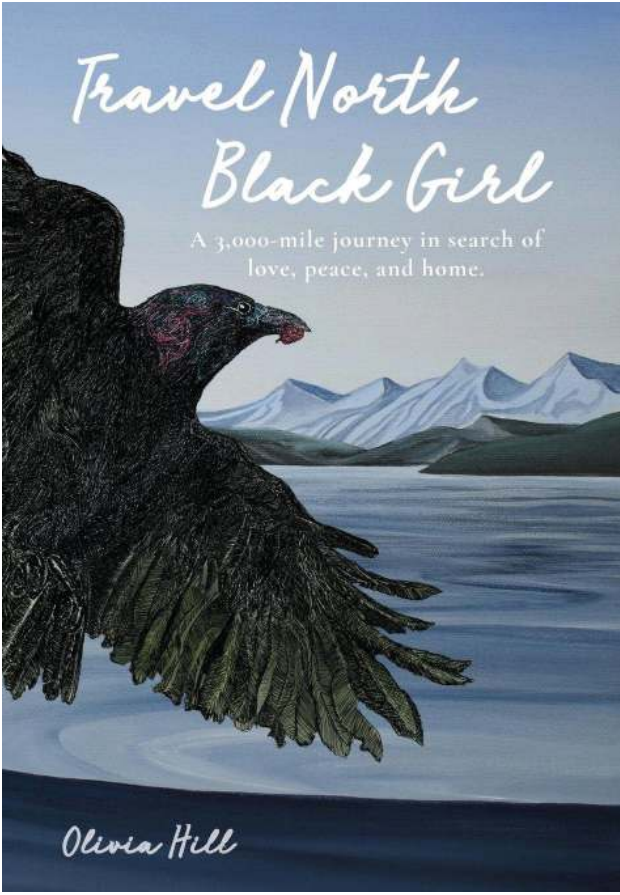
“It had an overlay of this idea of ancestry and culture,” Hill explained of the play’s themes, which are echoed in her memoir. She wanted to present “the roots of the power of ancestors, pulling something out of us that gives you the sense of ability. Where you belong.”

Despite these initial successes, Hill struggled to get her work noticed. She suffered a nervous breakdown, spent a year in treatment, then subsequently found herself a divorced single mother in a cabin in Fairbanks, barely scraping by. “My daughter will tell you to this day that she remembers when all we had to eat was rice,” she said.

Hill’s writing subsequently took a backseat to raising her two children, and she eventually left Alaska, although she retains close ties to Fairbanks. Her career took her to the East Coast where she ran a gourmet foods company, then eventually back to Kansas City, where she now lives with her son, daughter, and grandchild. While her daughter was attending graduate school, Hill cared for her grandson, and it was this was when she returned to the storytelling that has been such a part of her life. “I was sitting in my grandson’s pre-k center with nothing to do,” she recalled, “and I started the book, sitting in that parking lot, in the car, writing.”

“I thought I was writing it for my daughter to give it to her as a graduate gift from graduate school,” Hill continued. “But I soon realized there was more to it than that. Yes, it was for her, but it was for her in the bigger sense of the hers like her. I want what happened to me not to have to happen to someone else.”

Part of what Hill had to overcome was the natural reticence towards sharing stories with the broader culture



that exists within Black communities. “In Black culture, you don’t do that,” she said. To share, she explained, “meant danger. It meant the possibility of your life. It’s a carry-over from all of those things. We haven’t learned what you give and you don’t give. You give nothing.”

She said what she wants her readers to take away from the book – especially young Black readers who seek to be writers – is “the empowerment. For me, being a woman, being African American, having dealt with mental illness, depression, just the layers and layers and layers. There’s a lot of shame that society has attached to us. And in that shame you stay silent. I wanted to break that.”

Black Americans have been coming to Alaska since at least the 1840s, when Black whalers plied waters beyond what was then Russian territory, and they have been here ever since. “People don’t think of us as being in Alaska,” Hill said. “Yet we are there.”

Their stories, however, have rarely been told, and publication of “Travel North Black Girl” is a significant work for that reason alone. But it’s Hill’s storytelling skills and focus on prompting readers to pause and follow their own reflections that make it a truly notable book. She doesn’t tell her readers what to think. She instead gives them much to think about on their own. One needn’t be Black, female, Alaskan, or anything else other than human to find commonality in her account.

“Ordinary people,” need to tell their stories, Hill emphasized. “Everyday people. Tell them to your kids, tell them to your grandkids, tell it to your neighbor. Share pieces of your life. Those are the things that will help us to realize that there is not that much difference between us.

“Everyday people’s stories are the foundation of a nation.”



Olivia Hill at age 22.

ART SLEUTH
BY JEAN BUNDY

Enter Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller (1908-1979) who acquired an appreciation for collecting primitive art from his mother Abby, founder of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) 1929. Rockefeller became a pioneer for elucidating “how unprimitive primitive art really is (48).” In 1939, he became MoMA’s first president and oversaw the exhibition, “Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art” (1940). Rockefeller offered the Metropolitan

Jean Bundy, MFA, Ph.D. is a writer/painter living in Anchorage. She is a VP at AICA-Int. and serves on Governance for Pictor Gallery, NYC. Email: 38144@alaska.net

A9

PRESSING EVENTS

ANCHORAGE PRESS

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Thu 8/04

Featured



26th Annual **FRY FISH, NOT PEOPLE** Fish Fry

A Dinner Benefit for
ALASKANS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
Thursday, August 4, 2022 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Lidia Selkregg Chalet, Russian Jack Springs Park, Anchorage
Lidia Selkregg, Chair, Russian Jack Springs Park, Anchorage
Special Guest and Keynote Speaker
DELIA PEREZ MEYER
Artist, educator and long time anti-death penalty activist
from Austin, Texas. Sister of Louis Perez, inmate on
Death Row in Texas.

Annual AADP FISH FRY
@ 5pm
Celebrity fish judges and
chefs, silent auction, spe-
cial speaker Delia Perez
Meyer, entertainment. Fun
for the family. Russian Jack
Park, Russian Jack Park, 1600 Lidia
Selkregg Lane, Anchorage. scjohnson@gci.net, 907-301-5005



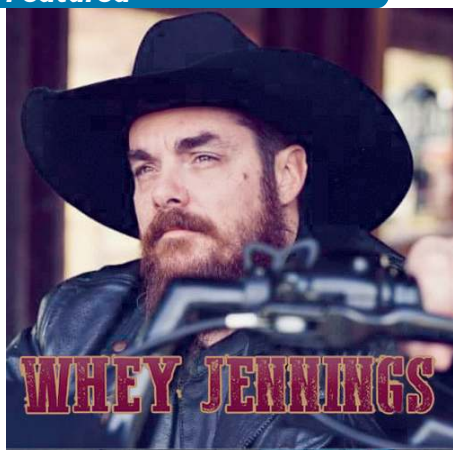
Alaska's Upcoming Elections

@ 7pm
Informational Event on Alaska's New Election System
Anchorage. info@akcommonground.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

Featured



WHEY JENNINGS (Way-
lon Jennings' grandson)
live at Koot's!
@ 9pm / \$20
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd,
Anchorage



Fri 8/05

Sandra Harrington First Friday at 2 Friends Gallery

@ 5pm
Mixed Media artist Sandy Harrington will be showing
her newest creations 2 Friends Gallery, 341 East Ben-
son Boulevard, Anchorage. 2friendsgallery@gmail.com, 907-277-0404

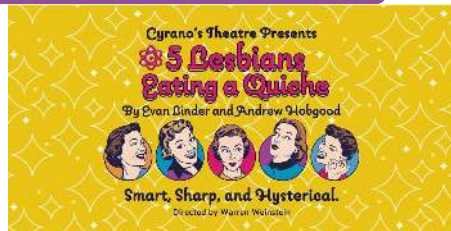
First Friday with Elizabeth Belanger

@ 5pm
First Friday Opening, August 5 from 5pm-7pm Cyra-
no's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org

Resin Art Class-Ocean Wave Wall Hanger

- Advanced Reservation Required
sparkletribe.net
@ 6:30pm / \$58
Learn the basics of working with acrylic paint, resin &
resin dye - Reservations Required <http://sparkletribe.net>
Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East
Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Sute A3
Suite is in front of the building facing the street, An-
chorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Featured



5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, inter-
active comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800
Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org



Sat 8/06

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org

Comedian Manny Maldonado

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

Comedian Manny Maldonado

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

Sun 8/07

Alaska: Bike Denali (7-day)

@ 12am / Free
Aug 7th - Aug 13th
Anchorage, AK, 5000 W International Airport Rd., An-
chorage. 828-435-0627

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 3pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org

Mon 8/08

Spenard Recreation Center Junior Scrubs Academy

@ 8pm
Aug 8th - Aug 12th
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 West 48th, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Tue 8/09

Vocal Alchemy for Personal Healing

@ 7pm / \$20
On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, YOU are invited to
join me in my Vocal Alchemy, Vocal Sound Healing
Class. Your body is a vessel of sound. Come and learn
how to use the voice to heal yourself. ATOM Center
AK, 6000 C Street, Anchorage. info@tamarazeno.com, 206-375-8529

Wed 8/10

Featured



Beyond Van Gogh The Immersive Experience

@ 10am / \$40
Imagine being completely
immersed in more than 300
of the greatest works of
post-Impressionist artist
Vincent Van Gogh. Dena'ina Civic and
Convention Center, 600 West 7th Avenue,
Anchorage. john@tellemgrodypr.com,
310-210-8779



Stories with Mr. Clay

@ 7:15pm
Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane,
Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Thu 8/11

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr 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 8/12

Resin Art Class Northern Lights Polar Bear - Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>
@ 6pm / \$50
Northern Lights Polar Bear - Learn the basics of work-
ing with resin, pigment powders & resin dyes - Ad-
vanced Reservation Required <http://sparkletribe.net>
Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boule-
vard, Julie Moraes Artistry Sute A3 Suite is in front of
the building facing the street, Anchorage.
sparkletribe1@gmail.com

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org

Sat 8/13

Featured



Crash Course: Interac- tive & Episodic Fiction

@ 10am / \$10
Kate Johnson, the co-
founder of the Interactive
Fiction app Zory, breaks
down the basics of gami-
fied fiction apps. Anchorage. lynnlovegreen@gmail.com, 907-345-5831



Volunteer Extravaganza

@ 10am
Learn about Habitat for Humanity's volunteer opportu-
nities and get involved! ReStore, 1200 West Northern
Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. jroberts@habitatanchorage.org

Moore Kismet

@ 6pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

JAUZ: Bite This! Block Party Tour

@ 6pm
Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyrano's
Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage.
alexis@cyranos.org

Comedian Jason Collings

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

Comedian Jason Collings

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

For event details and
even more listings
visit us online!

Featured



August Fund Dog Adoption

@ 3pm
Come join us while we
hang out with some of the
living legends of the Idi-
tarod trail! We are trying to
find forever homes for these retired ath-
letes who are looking for love. So come
find your new pal Alaska Cannabis Ex-
change, 2906 Spenard Road, Anchorage.
jeramy@cannabisace.com, 907-360-8036



Featured



Jo Koy
@ 8pm
Sullivan Arena, 1600 Gam-
bell St, Anchorage



Sun 8/14

907 Frenchies and A.C.E. Small Dog Meet Up

@ 4pm
Join A.C.E and 907 Frenchies for a meet up in The
Backyard! Come down to this free event and meet
other small dogs and small dog lovers while you enjoy
music, games, and food! The Backyard at A.C.E, 2906
Spenard Road, Anchorage. jeramy@cannabisace.com,
907-360-8036

Wed 8/17

Art Class-Painted Drink Tumbler - Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>
@ 6pm / \$48
Paint a drink tumbler in this class, we will be painting a
double insulated stainless steel travel tumbler with vi-
brant alcohol inks - Advanced Reservation Required
<http://sparkletribe.net> Turnagain Arts Building, 4105
East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Sute
A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, An-
chorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Stories with Mr. Clay

@ 7:15pm
Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane,
Anchorage. 907-343-4355

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

Thursday, August 4th

Alaska Cannabis Exchange – Open Mic with Shalah Rose 7p-9p
Anchorage Town Square Park – Live After Five w/ Blackwater Railroad Co. 5:30p-8p
Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva Live 7:30p-10:30p
The Carousel Lounge – Open Mic Thursdays hosted by Jesse LeBoeuf 9p-1a
Creekbend Company (Hope) - The California Honeydrops 4p-9p
Dirty Skillet (Hope) – Thursdays w/ Hwy9 6p-9p
Fairview Inn (Talkeetna) – Jared Woods 9p-1a
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Gwin’s Lodge (Cooper Landing) – Jim Lewin & Diana Z Salmonfest Pre-Party 8p-12a
Humpy’s – JD Cox 8:30p-12:30a
Koot’s – Whey Jennings live 9p-1a
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
The Seaview Café (Hope) – Jam Night w/ Andy Mullen 7p-11p
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-12a



Friday, August 5th

American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 6p-8p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with J Stevens 6p-8p
Anchorage Distillery – Cabins of Alaska First Friday Show 5p-8p
Bernie’s Bungalow Lounge – Alaska Thunder Funk 7p-10p
Birch Books (Wasilla) – Open Mic Night 5p-7p
The Carousel Lounge – Danger Money Band 10p-2a
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
Downtown Palmer Pavilion (Palmer) – Mario Carboni featuring Norm Hamlet 11:30a-1:30p
Downtown Palmer Pavilion (Palmer) – Lulu Small Band 11:30a-1:30p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show - Manny Maldanado 7p-8:15p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Girdwood Public Library (Girdwood) – Preschool Music with Timbre Music House Band 11:30a-12p
The Green Can AK (Homer) - Atzlee & Nikos Kilcher Live Music! 9p-11p
Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: Jerry’s Situation 7p-8:30p
Humpy’s – Glacier Hoppers 9:30p-1:30a
Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds (Ninilchick) – Salmonfest 2022 12p-2a

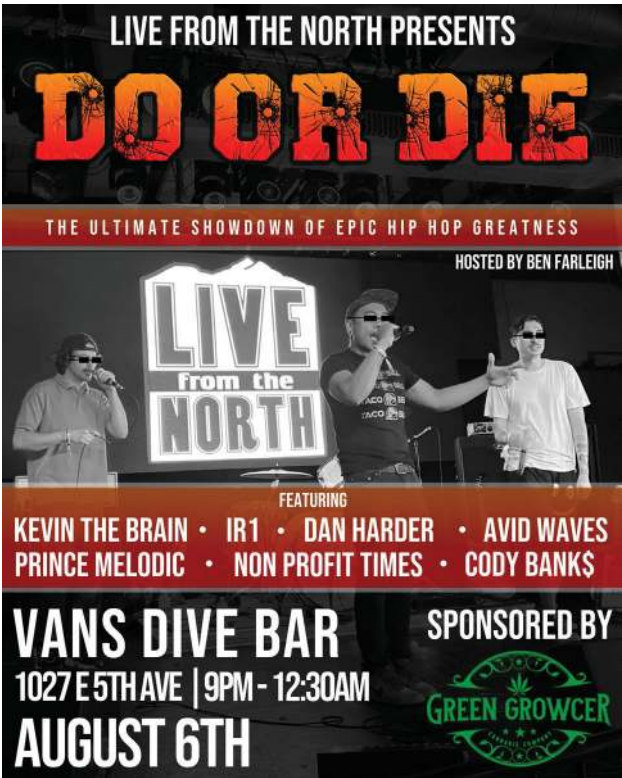
Koot’s – The Star of Alaska Karaoke Tournament Semi-Finals 10p-2:30a
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Ricochet & Ken Peltier 6p-10p
O’Malley’s on the Green – The Vintage Retro 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p-7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Rebel Blues Band LIVE 7p-10p
Pioneer Park (Fairbanks) – First Friday Fest 12p-8p
Roundup Steakhouse & Saloon (Fairbanks) – Round Up Karaoke Weekend Nights! 9:30p-2a
The Seaview Café (Hope) – Matt Hopper 7p-11p
The Sitzmark (Girdwood) – Cerutti / Eriksson 7p-10p
Talkeetna Village Park – Valley Below 5p-7p
UAA Recital Hall – Anchorage Chamber Music Festival: Beethoven, Strauss, Bartok 7:30p-9p
Van’s Dive Bar – The Nameless RETURNS w/ Village Mutt & Wash Your Hands 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Reggae Dance Party with H3 8p-11p
Williwaw Social – Beach Party with DJ Covy 11p-2a



Saturday, August 6th

Anchorage Chamber Music Festival – House Concert: Fairy Tales and Animals 8p-9p
Anchorage Social Dance Club – Social Dance 8p-11p
The Carousel Lounge – Danger Money Band 10p-2a
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy’s – Chill Factor 9:30p-1:30a
Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds (Ninilchick) – Salmonfest 2022 11a-2a

Koot’s – Comedian Manny Maldonado 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Jamie O’Neal Band & Ken Peltier 6p-10p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers LIVE 7p-10p
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Downtown Jazz in the Park 4p-6p
The Seaview Café (Hope) – Highway 9 7p-11p
Sitka National Historical Park - Nature Music 7p-10p
Spenard Farmer’s Market – Knock On Wood Marimba Ensemble 10a-12p
Van’s Dive Bar – Do Or Die Hip Hop Showcase 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – 90s vs 00s Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 9:30p-2a



Sunday, August 7th

Anchorage Social Dance Club – Social Dance 5:30p-8p
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
Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds (Ninilchick) – Salmonfest 2022 11a-9:45p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday, August 8th

Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-9:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – Nikki Now 9:30p-12a

Tuesday, August 9th

Anchorage Museum – Ava Earl 11:30a-1:30p
Cantwell Lodge (Cantwell) – Live Music w/ Cami from Miami 8p-2a
Humpy’s – Will Balcao 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 – Turnagain Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Troph y Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
Van’s Dive Bar – OPEN JAM w/ Daylight Mike 9p-12a

Wednesday, August 10th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Humpy’s – Diana Z & Jim Lewin 8:30p-12:30a
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 7p-11:30p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a
Westchester Lagoon – Wild Salmon Day w/ Ava Earl 6p-8p

A real-life fish tale

The iconic Salmonfest turns 11

STORY BY ZEV KATZ

Barely a speck on a map of Alaska, most days, it would be easy to drive through Ninilchik without realizing it. But all of that changes for three days at the beginning of August when Salmonfest rolls into town.

The iconic festival began in 2011 in response to threats to Alaska's greatest natural resource – salmon. Originally called Salmonstock, the festival was created by Jim Stearns, a longtime environmental activist and former employee of the Grateful Dead who envisioned the festival as a real-life fish tale, growing with each iteration.

Within a few years, Salmonstock quickly became a powerful force in promoting, preserving, and protecting salmon and salmon habitat through music, education, and environmentally focused art. Now named Salmonfest, one of the festival's most prominent features is the Salmon Causeway which encourages guests to learn, engage and take action on any of the many issues facing Alaska and the world at large.

"Since 2015, Salmonfest has donated over \$150,000 to salmon and related initiatives. Moreover, the festival strives to be a Zero Waste event where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. We also use steel pints in our beer tents, and locally sourced goods and services whenever possible," said organizer David Stearns. "The energy that's created when a bunch of people come together to celebrate the summer and salmon in Alaska is almost palpable!"

While environmental preservation is at the heart of Salmonfest, it's also an unparalleled three-day celebration of Alaskan music. Local heavy-hitters Blackwater Railroad, The Jangle Bees, and the Super Saturated Sugar Strings are given the same credence as up-and-comers Witty Youngman and Ayla Ray. In fact, there are so many Alaskan acts, that in many ways, Salmonfest has become the state's biggest showcase of local music.



Although local music plays a big role in adding uniquely Alaskan vibes to the festival, one of the biggest draws is the headliners, which have included Jason Mraz, Ani DiFranco, and Sarah Jarosz. As in years past, this year's festival is again littered with heavy hitters like Shakey Graves, Umphrey's McGee, Diggin Dirt, The California Honeydrops, and Kuf Knots and Christine Elise.

"If people are interested in my music, there's gonna be a lot in it for them. If they've never heard it, I've got a lot of tricks up my sleeve. It should be fun," said Shakey Graves.

"The caliber of the music, the spectacles seen at the festival, and the collective energy that's created, sets us apart," added Stearns.

He isn't wrong. This year's festival has seen ticket purchases from 48 states and 14 countries. Incredibly, tickets have sold out days before the festival is set to start. But don't let that discourage you from making the journey south. According to their website, a limited quantity of tickets are being held at the purchase gate for those returning from Bristol Bay as well as others who have been dealing with extenuating circumstances. However, buyers beware of online platforms claiming to have tickets for sale. There are a number of scammers looking to take advantage of those still hunting for tickets.

In addition to music, Salmonfest attendees will be treated to a smorgasbord of Alaskan cuisine featuring, what else, but salmon. Sustainably-focused arts and crafts vendors will also be onsite selling unique baubles to commemorate the experience.

Salmonfest takes place August 5 – 7th and the first band takes the stage at 12:30pm Friday. For more information about the 2022 Salmonfest, visit SalmonFestAlaska.org.



The many rewards of picking berries—especially ‘tundra blues’

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

I picked my first ripened berry of the season on July 10th, a strawberry from my girlfriend Jan’s patch. Then, less than a week later, I did my first serious “wild berry” picking of the summer. The yield was a quart’s worth of red currants found in Anchorage woodlands. The currants were big and juicy, with just the right amount of tartness, and abundant enough that I filled my yogurt container in only 15 or 20 minutes.

By month’s end, I also grazed on raspberries while walking through Kincaid Park with a friend, William, a seasonal ritual we share. I nibbled salmonberries and watermelon berries on a hike up Falls Creek valley with Jan and our dogs. And on one late July outing, I collected enough early-season blueberries to just about fill another yogurt container with the tiny, purplish-blue fruits.

Jan was skeptical that I’d find a patch of sufficiently ripened blueberries before the start of August to bring home a quart of them, but after putting some in her mouth, she agreed they were pretty darn good.

To be honest, I’d been on a scouting mission that day and didn’t expect to do any gathering. As expected, I did find some promising spots. But the dark blue fruits they held were mixed with others still hard and green; it was clear those patches needed more time.

Then I happened upon a patch of tiny blues that had ripened early on a hillside baked by the sun. The great majority were blue and moist, though a few had begun to “wrinkle,” evidence that some in the patch were already beginning to dry out. So I retrieved a container buried deep inside my pack and picked a bunch — much earlier than expected.

It wasn’t easy picking because the berries were so small and clung to little branches that hugged the ground. But yes, it was worth it, and as Jan would agree, those tiny blues are mighty tasty!

And so I got an early jump on the blueberry-picking season. Though I enjoy other wild berries, and what I call the “feral” strawberries from Jan’s patch, “tundra blues” are my favorite, the ones I savor most. By season’s end, I might pick two or three quarts of red currants, raspberries, and strawberries, but I’ll pick gallons of wild blues.

Some blueberries I’ll eat fresh; others will be packaged and put into the freezer, later to be made into pies or eaten in pancakes or with yogurt, the latter a year-round breakfast treat. (I’ll note here that I’ve discovered blueberries and red currants to be a perfect complement to each other in both texture and taste when eaten with yogurt, but my harvest of currants is usually more opportunistic than planned, and I collect far fewer of them.)

I suppose you could say my hunt for wild blues began in June with scouting trips into the mountains to check on the tiny, pinkish, bell-shaped flowers that blossom on blueberry plants. I recognize that flowers do not always yield berries, but they are often a good indicator of the fruiting to come. I then follow their progress as they transition to hard green fruit and eventually to juicy and scrumptious purplish-blue berries.

From August through September and, weather permitting, into October, I’ll regularly go into the Chugach



BY BILL SHERWONIT

Chugach Front Range tundra blues.

Front Range to seek out patches rich in tundra blues.

Like any dedicated wild blueberry picker, over the years, I’ve found some reliable “secret” spots (a few of them also secret to others, I’ve learned), in various sorts of terrain.

Among the things I’ve noticed in the quarter century (or more) that I’ve been a dedicated berry-picker, is that depending on the weather and other variables, the production of any single patch may vary considerably from year to year. That’s one reason I have several places where I gather blues. It’s also why I’m always alert for new “hot spots” on my ventures into the hills.

Though not as obsessed, Jan will join me on several Chugach picking excursions, which usually means a hike of considerable length and, in some cases, a hill climb of a thousand feet or more.

Unlike most berry pickers, I prefer to combine my blueberry gathering with a substantial hike. Not only does this put me beyond the reach of most other pickers — I prefer to get the blues in solitude — it also makes my berry picking part of a larger experience.

Another difference with many berry pickers: Jan and I are hand pickers. I’ve never used a comb or rake. I think that’s partly because it allows a more direct connection with the fruits, and the plants.

When I’m more mindful, handpicking can become something of a meditation. Perhaps that’s possible with a tool as well, but for me, the touch is important. It helps to slow me down — though yes, sometimes I hurry to fill that last container). And as Jan has observed, I tend to “pick clean,” with minimal debris, while combing or raking also collects leaves and twigs and other stuff.

On most outings, I tend to gather enough blueberries to fill two or three quart containers, so I rarely pick for more than an hour or two. However, I might spend several hours in the mountains. This is a good reason to have “secret” spots—or at least places that are unlikely

to draw crowds of pickers. I can take what I want and leave plenty of berries in place for future picking, knowing there’s a good chance the patch won’t be emptied of blues when I return.

That’s an important consideration because my preferred patches tend to be small and would be easily depleted if several people — or even one hard-core, gather-till-they’re-gone picker — were to find them.

I’ve hinted at this above, but it’s worth repeating and expanding upon here. A big part of what I’ve come to love about picking tundra blueberries is the entirety of the experience: discovering rich patches, sometimes in places I never would have imagined them to be, a part of getting to know the local landscape; doing the early season scouting; following the transition from flower to hard, green fruit, to ripened berry; the picking itself, sometimes in solitude, sometimes shared; the good company of my patient and stoic dog, Denali, who graciously curls up nearby, no matter how benign or harsh the weather; the hike to and from the patch, which often presents opportunities for other adventures; the sharing of the fruits of my labor (though I can hardly call it work); the quiet time spent back home, often with joyful music playing in the background, while I transfer the berries from container to freezer storage bag (being sure to keep some blues fresh in the refrigerator); and the eating of the berries, both in the wilds and later at home, usually in yogurt but also pancakes and pies, this eating another form of sharing with Jan; and the sense of blessing that all of this evokes, the enrichment of both body and spirit.

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.

Race, from page A3

“He’s actually running some ads that are mostly built around hype, which struck me as like, if you’re talking about somebody who can scrape together 5% of the vote, maybe there’s something there,” Heckendorn said.

Fundraising

At \$22,464, Lee has fundraised the most money as of June 30 after Murkowski, Tshibaka and Chesbro. Lee, a Wasilla resident and attorney, is listed as a presidential candidate by the Federal Election Commission, with a fundraising committee formed before the 2020 election; his Medium website says he’s running for President in 2024.

Other U.S. Senate candidates to raise money are independent Shoshana Gungerstein, with \$15,365, and Libertarian Sean Thorne, with \$4,497, as of June 30.

Lottsfeldt said he’s seen Gungerstein signs, “but I’m not optimistic that she’s going to capture anyone’s attention.”

Among political insiders, Gungerstein, who lists a Juneau address, was mostly a mystery. The Juneau Empire reported Gungurstein was “emphatically vague on the details of her work and life.”

“She declined to say which companies she had worked for, citing privacy issues, she also declined to say where she grew up and exactly how long she’s lived in Alaska,” the Empire reported.

Actual polling

Several people mentioned Dustin Darden as a possible fourth candidate, including Alaska Survey Research pollster Ivan Moore, who put Darden in a July poll.

“I have not run a primary question on it, but I have run a few generals and so have given some thought to who, out of the list of people who have filed, has the best chance of making that final four,” Moore said.

His conclusion is that it will be one of two candidates. One is Dustin Darden: “For better or worse, because the dude has name ID. It’s not always good name ID but it’s still name ID,” Moore said.

The poll conducted by Alaska Survey Research had Darden coming in with 5% of the vote in round one of the vote count.

Darden, who listed Alex Jones’ Infowars as his campaign website with the Alaska Division of Election, has filed to run for numerous Anchorage and state elections. He’s known for his political signs, running an anti-fluoride campaign, and disrupting Anchorage Assembly meetings, among other things.

“And then the other guy is Sean Thorne, who is the Libertarian, and Libertarians tend to be fairly loyal third-party voters,” Moore said.

Another way a candidate could emerge in the number four spot is if “some other political interest decided to prop them up” because it would be advantageous for one

of the competitive candidates, Heckendorn said.

For instance, “maybe the Murkowski campaign decides that Dustin Darden might pull a few votes from Tshibaka, because Tshibaka would be the competitive candidate most closely aligned with Dustin Darden, but I have not seen any evidence that that’s happening.”

Does it matter?

Moore said whoever comes in fourth is “completely irrelevant because they’re going to get eliminated first and then it’ll be down to a three-person race.” Long-time political consultant Art Hackney echoed the sentiment, calling the fourth person “immaterial.”

Ephraim Froehlich, managing principal at policy consulting firm AKWA-DC, disagrees. He said the fourth slot winner is “vitally impactful” for the results of a ranked choice vote general election. Froehlich was on the advisory board for Alaskans for Better Elections in November 2020 when ranked choice voting was on the ballot.

“That fourth candidate will likely be eliminated first, and thus their votes redistributed. If it’s a candidate with polarizing views in any direction, Murkowski is unlikely to get their second-place votes. If it’s a more centrist candidate like Gungerstein, who is spending significant targeted online ad dollars, Alaska’s senior senator will benefit. In any case, the importance and result of that fourth-place slot cannot be ignored.”

IEYMI!



In the spirit of military service, Arctic Thunder Open House is an event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to give back to the local community. Photos by @sam.i_photography





Drag, community, bingo and tapas, Drag Loteria presented by Arciniega Stree Productions has become an east side staple. The event happens on the last Sunday of each month at Cafecito Bonito. Photos by @truenorthphotoak.



Alaska's most eccentric athletes gathered at the outdoor arena near Ben Boeke to compete in the 11th Annual Mid-night Sunburn bike polo tournament. Photos by @adrianbarniak



SALMONFEST



3 DAYS of Fish FUN & MUSIC

ray troll

UMPHREY'S MCGEE

SHAKEY GRAVES

SAT + SUN



RISING APPALACHIA • THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS

KYLE HOLLINGSWORTH • DIGGIN' DIRT • MOONALICE • TRIPP ST • AFROLICIOUS • STEVE POLTZ • ORDINARY ELEPHANT • KUF KNOTZ AND CHRISTINE ELISE
BLACK WATER RAILROAD CO. • HOPE SOCIAL CLUB • TIM EASTON • NELLIE CLAY • THE SUPER SATURATED SUGAR STRINGS • FOXFEATHER
AYLA RAY • COUSIN CURTISS • ALEC LYTL & THEM ROUNDERS • GORDIE TENTREES • ROLAND ROBERTS BAND • JIM LEWIN • SHE'S WITH ME
PIPELINE VOCAL PROJECT • ELIZA SPEAR • MARIO CARBONI • THE JIMBO SCOTT STRING BAND • BLACK RIVER REVUE • THE JANGLES BEES
THE YALE WHIFFENPOOFS • SUPERFREQUENCY • ATZ LEE & NIKOS KILCHER • ROAR N REPRESENT (RNR) • HARPDADDY & THE BACKCOUNTRY MOJO
CORY LUTJEN & THE TRAVELING BLUES BAND • GROVER ANDERSON & THE LAMPOLIERS • FREE CREATURES • TRUE RECKONING • DJ FRACTAL THEORY • PIXIEBILLY
PAST OUR PRIME • MICHAEL JAMES WHEELER • MASHA TRETIKOVA • ERIN HEIST • WITTY YOUNGMAN • SAUCY YODA • THE RIVER LIVERS! • DAN LESPERANCE • OCEAN GROWN
HOT MESS • FISHER POETS • HWY9 • KAYTI HELLER • JIM MALONEY • WILEY POST • BUTCH LEMAN • FROZEN WHITEFISH • THE HORSENECKS • BENJAMMIN & THE JAMMIN BAND

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Super Crossword

EVASIVE
STATEMENT

- ACROSS
- 1 Capital of Kenya

8 Cleared up some space

16 Link up

20 Brought into harmony

21 Sign of a warm welcome

22 Meara of comedy

23 Start of a riddle

26 Cock-a-doodle- —

27 Safecracker, informally

28 Vinyl albums, for short

29 Chose, as on a survey

30 Batman player West

33 Peter of "Casablanca"

35 Stare in disbelief

38 Baby's cry

40 Riddle, part 2

44 Filmdom, in France

47 Stephen of "Utopia"

48 Old Russ. state

49 Spring flower

50 Downhiller's gear holder

52 Humane U.S. org.

54 Riddle, part 3

59 Routine-bound

61 Tic-tac-toe winning row

62 Waikiki souvenir

63 Rejoinder to "Not so!"

64 Capital of Qatar

65 In Minnesota or Montana

69 Extra NHL periods

71 Riddle, part 4

78 Supersecret govt. group

79 Tetley tidbit

80 Quite a long time

82 Fine violin, informally

86 Stage design

89 New Year in Hanoi

90 Election turndown

92 Riddle, part 5

97 Allow entry

98 "Ha! I was right!"

99 Thailand, formerly

100 Pal, in Caen

102 — -Magnon

103 French WWII battle city

104 End of the riddle

110 "Wolf" cable channel

112 Followers: Suffix

113 "You beat me"

114 Gum globs

115 Facility with hot tubs

117 Gamble

119 Subpoena, e.g.

120 Go fast, quaintly

122 Riddle's answer

131 Atoll unit

132 Trip in a "stretch" car

133 Stacked messily

134 It may grow on a rock

135 Reduces to a fine mist

136 Capable of being stretched out

6 Looks upon

7 Suffix with cyan-

8 Lawn-Boy products

9 Orbital point farthest from Earth

10 C-H linkup

11 Suffix with butyl

12 Jogged

13 Hobbit's foe

14 Brunch staple

15 Abbr. on a new car's sticker

16 Face part

17 Being displayed

18 Pertaining to

19 Require

24 Novice

25 Chicago-to-Memphis dir.

30 Frightened

31 Fails to

32 Plains tribe

34 — vez (again, in Spain)

35 Teri of "Tootsie"

36 Disney mermaid name

37 Old hat

39 Etchers' liquids

41 Jacob's twin

42 Bake-off entry

43 That, in Oviedo

45 Small iPod

46 Big name in waffles

51 Jewish deli treat

53 Rugged cliff

55 Zero

56 Way in or out

57 Most awful

58 New York county

60 Syllables of rebuke

66 Lunar stage

67 — kwon do

68 Hilton rival

70 Texter's "Catch ya later"

72 Not finish later than

73 "— Three Lives"

74 — pot (sinus clearer)

75 Roof feature

76 "Yeah, understood"

77 Turned in

81 Spanish men

82 Some NCOs

83 Hit the horn

84 Routines to determine who's present

85 Append

87 Snaky letters

88 Be snaky

91 Mishmash

93 7'6" cager Ming

94 "Witness" actor Lukas

95 Novelist Tan

96 Dits' partners, in Morse code

101 Biofuel option

105 Birdbrain

106 Fiery lecture

107 Antipasto morsels

108 Carry

109 Annoying sorts

111 Pistons' org.

115 Be fishy?

116 Coin of Cali

118 Fitzgerald of song

119 Phenom

121 Tehran's land

123 French article

124 Spanish for "I love"

125 — Kippur

126 — Lanka

127 Plum center

128 Half of VI

129 Pipe fitting

130 Visualize

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LEGALS

Amy and Geary York; Owners of The Cooks Nook L.L.C, is submitting an application for a new Restaurant Eating Place License, AS 04.11.100 liquor license doing business as The Dirty Apron located at 3565 Arctic Blvd Ste D3, Anchorage AK, 99503. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 7/28/22, 8/04/22, 8/11/22

Host Chen ANC FB, LLC dba Sleeping Lady Airport Lounge located at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, 500 W. International Airport Road, Ste. C3119, Anchorage, AK 99502 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary Tourism AS 04.11.400 (d) liquor license to Delta Sky Club Alaska, LLC dba Delta Sky Club. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, The Law Offices of Ernouf & Coffey, P.C. At P.O. Box 212314, Anchorage, Alaska 99521 and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 8/04/22, 8/11/22, 8/18/22

TRANSFER OF A RESTURANT/
EATING
PLACE LIQUOR LICENSE
Fat Ptarmigan Management LLC dba Anchorage Cider House at Fat Ptarmigan located at 441 West 5th Ave. Suite 100, Anchorage AK. Is applying for a transfer of a Restaurant/ Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license to Fat Ptarmigan LLC. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the



Q&As with Alaska's 2022 governor candidates

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Les Gara, Democratic candidate from Anchorage

How should the state of Alaska set the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?

I believe in a strong, growing PFD people can bank on, not the false, unfunded PFD promises this Governor has made to get votes.

We can have a strong PFD (that doesn't take away from schools and other major priorities). But a Governor has to have the courage to fund it, without taking from schools,

jobs, and the priorities that make Alaska strong, which Gov. Dunleavy never has. That's why Dunleavy's PFD averaged \$1,230 his first 3 years as Governor.

Last year, with no plan again to fund a PFD, Dunleavy came up with a last minute plan to raid \$3 billion from the Permanent Fund. That would have been the largest raid and reduction in Permanent Fund value in state history.

The most important part is funding a PFD, so it's real and not false, and doesn't require last-minute raids on the Permanent Fund by a Governor without a plan. Gov. Dunleavy has refused to do that until Russia's invasion of Ukraine this year sent us one year of higher oil revenue, in an election year.

His record on the PFD is poor. In 2016 as a legislator, he voted to uphold the 2016 PFD Veto that reduced the PFD to \$1,020 (I voted to override that veto saying it was not the way to set PFD policy Alaskans would accept, and Alaskans have been pitted against each other ever since).

Dunleavy has NEVER proposed any sustainable way to fund a PFD. My PFD with be real, strong, and funded.

We have to fund what we promise. I'd end \$1.2 billion of unjustifiable oil company subsidies, so we have the funds to stop pitting Alaskans who support schools, a PFD, a construction job budget, road maintenance, and renewable energy projects against each other.

By getting a fair share for Alaska's oil, we could have a growing PFD exceeding \$2,000 EVERY year, and could strongly support schools, seniors, renewable energy projects, construction jobs, needed infrastructure and community projects, road maintenance, a strong Marine Highway, children, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.

This Governor has turned Alaskans against each other over these things every year. I'll work to unite Alaskans again.

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?

As someone who grew up in foster care, I know people deserve a fair and equal opportunity to succeed in life. Most Alaskans have battled some form of harm, but all of us deserve the right to a good education, opportunity, and an economy with good paying jobs, whether they are born rich or poor. The biggest need is to have a state with a bright future again, and that means good schools and good jobs.

20,000 more people have left Alaska than moved here under this Governor because they see no commitment to public education for their children, and no future allowing their children to find good work here. I'd build a stronger economy.

We need to end \$1.2 billion of unjustifiable state oil company subsidies, so we can afford the things that create opportunity and an economy. With those funds we could have great schools again, have a construction, infrastructure, and renewable energy budget that puts people to work across Alaska, not just in an election year. We could help families afford quality child care so they can go to work.

Good schools, a strong, affordable university and great job training will allow us to train a needed workforce, help people achieve their goals, and produce the workforce businesses need. If we don't do this, people will keep moving away, and we won't have the workforce to build a strong economy.

On the Gasline question – the questionnaire only offers a Yes or No option. The state can invest a modest amount if needed, only if we know we will make a positive return for Alaskans. A pipeline where we smartly and safely store greenhouse gasses underground will be the most likely to succeed. Politicians can't keep promising failed gasline projects. The world is moving towards green energy. Politicians have to stop ignoring reality, and prove the natural gas technology to store greenhouse gasses is credible (it's promising) as Asian natural gas buyers face rightful pressure to curb global warming. I would not favor a deal with Communist China, an untrustworthy partner.

What policies and laws should Alaska follow with regard to abortion?

I'm the only pro-choice candidate for Governor in this race. We should respect a woman's right to choose, and require insurance companies and Medicaid to cover a year of contraception, which would reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions. I'm the only candidate who'll ask future judges whether they'll follow our pro-choice case-law, so we don't lose the right to choose by appointing judges who'll take it away, as was just done on the federal level.

All my opponents describe themselves as "pro-life". Some are extremists on choice, and would ban the right to choose. Governor Walker is pro-life. When he was governor he sued to block most Medicaid coverage of abortion for low income Alaskans, which was consistent with his current pro-life values. He promises, as he did last time he was Governor, that he'll put his personal views against choice to the side.

In the end, last time he could not act against his personal pro-life values. Voters can judge his current promise and his past record.

I can only say with confidence what I'll do. I'm the only candidate who can truthfully say I'm pro-choice and believe in your right to choose.

Governor, continued on page A19

LEGALS

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at
550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600
Anchorage AK 99501 or
alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov
Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 7/21/22, 7/28/22,
8/04/22

ALASKAN FAMILY OWNED!!
VALUE LIQUOR

11580 Old Seward Hwy
(907) 344-0716
601 W. Dimond
(907) 349-3712
7141 Jewel lake Rd
(907) 243-0749

Super Crossword

Answers

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Forging your own path

Dear Oskar,
I've just moved to Seattle from New Jersey. I am very close with my family, but I knew 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.

Governor, from page A18

All my remaining opponents are extreme in their opposition to the right to choose. In August I hope you'll vote for me and Jessica, the only pro-choice team in this race. In November, when there's ranked choice voting, I'll rank Walker second, ahead of candidates who are extreme in their anti-choice positions and views, and who I know for sure will act to eliminate your right to choose.

How should the state reduce the threat of gun violence and mass shootings?

Alaska is a state where people need firearms to hunt, and for self defense, and I would not change that. I support the 2nd Amendment. There is room for smart, bi-partisan safety legislation that Republicans and Democrats support, that does not take away 2nd Amendment rights. Republican and Democratic states, and former Republican Vice President Mike Pence, have supported carefully written laws allowing the temporary removal of firearms from those who are a proven fatal danger to themselves or others. Such a law needs to be written in a way that requires evidence, and due process, so firearms aren't wrongly removed from anyone.

People on both sides of this issue agree we have inadequate mental health treatment, and we should do more than just say those words. We have to act to fill Alaska's major mental health treatment gaps. That will make us safer, and provide humane help to those in need.

Currently former President Trump's ban on equipment that can turn a legal firearm into an illegal automatic weapon (bump stocks) is being debated in the courts. If the Trump federal order falls, I would try to find bi-partisan consensus on equipment that allows one press of a trigger to shoot multiple rounds of ammunition, and that rule would have to be narrowly and smartly written. Citizens deserve legal firearms, but machine guns that shoot multiple rounds with one pull of a trigger are already illegal, and equipment turning a firearm into a machine gun shouldn't be allowed as the number of mass shootings continues.

Christopher Kurka, Republican candidate from Wasilla

How should the state of Alaska set the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?

Like it always has before it was stolen: with the traditional formula currently in statute. As Governor I will veto all budget bills until the legislature sends me a bill with the full statutory Permanent Fund Dividend! I am the only candidate who has been willing to make this commitment.

Regarding the yes/no question #2 above: the question is disingenuous. The \$30 billion in the Earning Reserves Account of the Permanent Fund is largely made up of stolen PFD's. Those pushing for moving the ERA into the corpus of the fund want to do so for the purpose of increased government spending. I have consistently fought to pay back stolen PFD's and will continue to do so.

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?

Freedom! Alaska is swimming in wealth and potential economic opportunity yet the government stands in the way or responsible development. We need to get the government out of the way so that the private sector can effectively pursue resource development and economic growth in Alaska.

What policies and laws should Alaska follow with regard to abortion?

The Alaska Constitution in Art. 1 Sec. 1 opens with the words "This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural Right to Life..." On day one of a Kurka administration I will end the abortion payments to Planned Parenthood. I will continue to push the legislature to pass the Life at Conception/Pre-born Child Equality Act, guaranteeing equal protection under the law for children in the womb.

How should the state reduce the threat of gun violence and mass shootings?

More guns! We need to eliminate criminal safety zones and stop providing soft targets for mass killers in the form of "gun free zones". Teachers have a constitutionally protected right to be armed; as Governor I will ensure that right is protected.

Billy Toien, Libertarian candidate from Anchorage

How should the state of Alaska set the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?

According to the historic formula after a 100% state audit.

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?

Re-founding the state and then a 100% state audit.

What policies and laws should Alaska follow with regard to abortion?

Although my personal sentiments are pro-life; this is not something that can be forced one way or the other by legislation.

How should the state reduce the threat of gun violence and mass shootings?

An un-infringed right of self defense. Also, we must cease and desist the drugging of our children.

Bill Walker, nonpartisan candidate from Valdez

How should the state of Alaska set the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?

A governor does not have a checkbook, the legislature does, and it is very misleading for a governor to guarantee any PFD amount without the support of the legislature. For more than eight years, the legislature has been high centered over the amount of the Dividend. We commit to provide real leadership, and work with the Legislature to update the 40-year-old formula for a predictable amount that Alaskans can rely upon long into the future. Our position is that the PFD should be predictable and the highest we can afford but not at the expense of future generations receiving a PFD, high taxes, or weakened government services such as education and public safety.

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?

Alaska's biggest need is leadership with a vision for its economy and its future — and that takes real leadership. Right now, Alaska is like a rudderless ship bouncing off the rocks with no captain taking the helm. We need to rebuild trust, enact a fiscal plan, resolve the PFD formula and grow the Permanent Fund. A stable, balanced budget, with reasonable PFDs, affordable housing, childcare and low cost energy sets the stage for economic development. Too many Alaskans are leaving the state because they can't see an economic future for themselves or their families. This must be corrected, and we've got to get our economy growing again. Too many businesses are leaving the state, or deciding not to invest here, because the economy is weak and energy prices are too high. We must stabilize our budget, invest in education, lower the cost of energy, and rebuild our infrastructure to get our economy growing once again.

What policies and laws should Alaska follow with regard to abortion?

Alaska's Constitution is clear: the constitutional right to privacy protects a woman's right to choose in our state. That constitutional right will continue to be protected in our administration, and we oppose a constitutional convention. Our administration will veto any legislation that violates this and any other right or runs afoul of constitutional protections.

How should the state reduce the threat of gun violence and mass shootings?

Many Alaskans remember one of the country's first mass shootings in Bethel. Most of us remember where we were when we heard the terrible news of the lives lost that day. Gun violence is tragic, and often preventable. We strongly support the Second Amendment and are both gun owners ourselves. Alaskans, however, also understand the importance of responsible gun ownership. With the increasing discussion of red-flag laws that work to keep guns out of the hands of mentally ill, dangerous, or unfit individuals we think Alaska can both defend our right to bear arms while working to prevent gun violence and mass shootings here in Alaska.

Charlie Pierce, Republican candidate from Soldotna

How should the state of Alaska set the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?

I support the payment of the PFD by the statutory formula and will work to restore the the statutory PFD as an "Alaskan Right"

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?

Alaska is faced with a number of significant needs. To single any one out would not do justice to the residents of our state. Managing our budget, the PFD allocation, our education system, senior citizen, military and veteran affairs are just a few requiring attention and leadership.

What policies and laws should Alaska follow with regard to abortion?

The laws of the State of Alaska must be followed. The constitution, as currently written addresses abortion under the "right to privacy" provision.

How should the state reduce the threat of gun violence and mass shootings?

64.5 % of Alaska households have firearms and our right to bear arms is a fabric of Alaskan society. Our states "gun violence" statistics are a majority caused by criminal activity and domestic disputes. Firearm safety, early intervention in domestic issues and a support for law enforcement are all measures that can be taken to reduce those threats. As Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough I introduced and passed an Ordinance declaring the Borough to be a 2nd amendment sanctuary Borough, to protect your right to bear arms.

Kicking Our Secret Addictions

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Aries poet Ada Limón advises us to notice and love “the music of the world.” She says that praising and giving attention to the good things “are as important and necessary as witnessing and naming and holding the grief and sorrow that comes with being alive.” This is always a crucial principle to keep in mind, but it will be extra essential for you in the coming weeks. Your ability to attract the influences and resources you need most will thrive if you focus on and celebrate the music of the world. PS: I encourage you to sing more than usual, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Here’s my hope for you in the coming months: You will cultivate a specialty for connecting people and situations that need to be affiliated but aren’t yet. You will regard your flair for blending as a gift you offer generously. Can you picture yourself doing that? I think it will be fun and will also benefit you in unexpected ways. So here’s my proposed plan: Conspire to heal fragmentation and schisms. Unite heavenly and earthly things. Keep the far side and the near side in touch with each other. Never let the past forget about the future, and vice versa. One more thing, Taurus: Be gleefully imaginative as you mix and conjoin and combine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

In a play by Gemini philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, a character says, “Hell is other people.” What did he mean by that? One interpretation is that our fellow humans always judge us, and their judgments rarely align with who we really are and who we imagine ourselves to be. Here’s my solution for that problem: Choose allies and companions whose views of you match your own. Is that so hard? I suspect it will be easier than usual for you in the coming months, Gemini. Take advantage of life’s natural tendency to connect you with cohorts who appreciate you. Be picky as you avoid the hell of other people.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22)

The people most likely to succeed as entrepreneurs are those with a high degree of analytical intelligence. Right? Well, it’s more complicated than that. Reasoning ability and problem-solving skills are key skills, but not as important as emotional intelligence: the power to understand and manage feelings. I mention this, Cancerian, because the coming months will be a favorable time to advance your ambitions by enhancing and expressing your emotional intelligence.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

In the coming weeks, Leo, I urge you to always be confident that YOU ARE THE PARTY! Everywhere you go, bring the spirits of fun and revelry. Be educationally entertaining and entertainingly educational. Amuse yourself by making life more interesting for everyone. At the same time, be kind and humble, never arrogant or insensitive. A vital part of your assignment is to nourish and inspire others with your radiance and charm. That formula will ensure you get everything you need. I foresee bounty flowing your way! PS: Regularly reward your admirers and followers with your magnanimous Cheshire-cat grin.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

In my Astrological Book of Life, here’s what I have inscribed about Virgos: You may not always find the perfect solution, but you are skilled at finding the best solution available. This will be an especially valuable knack in the coming weeks, both for yourself and others. I trust you will scan for practical but compassionate answers, even if they are partial. And I hope you will address at least some of everyone’s needs, even if no one is completely satisfied. You can be the master of creative compromise that we all need. Thanks in advance for your excellent service!

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Everyone knows that “balance” is a keyword for you Librans. However, there are many interpretations of what balance entails. Here’s how I define it for you during the coming weeks: 1. an openness to consider several different ways to capitalize on an opportunity, but to ultimately choose just one way; 2. the ability to see and understand all sides of every story, while also knowing that for pragmatism’s sake you must endorse a single version of the story; 3. the capacity to be both constructively critical and supportively sympathetic; 4. the facility to be welcoming and inviting while still maintaining healthy boundaries.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

“Life is enchanting for me because I have so much control over what I think,” my Scorpio friend Daria told me. “If I decide to flatter myself with comments about how attractive I am, I can do just that. If I would like to imagine a good fairy visiting me while I sleep and giving me a dream of having an orgasm with my lover while we fly over the Serengeti Plains, I can.” I asked her about the times when worries gush forth unbidden from her subconscious mind and disturb her joy. She said, “I simply picture myself shoving those worries in a hole in the ground and blowing them up with an exploding rose.”

I bring Daria’s mind-management expertise to your attention, Scorpio, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to raise your mastery over what you think.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

People might impatiently advise you to relax and settle down. Others might tell you to stop dreaming such big visions and formulating such adventurous plans. Still others might give you the side-eye because they imagine you are having too much fun and brainstorming too wildly and laughing too loudly. If you receive messages like those, give the complainers a copy of this horoscope. It will tell them that YOU WILL NOT COMPLY WITH ANY INHIBITING DIRECTIVES. Your astrologer, me, authorizes you to be as vast and venturesome and enterprising and spontaneous as you dare. In doing so, I am speaking on behalf of the cosmic rhythms. Your plucky audacity has been heavenly ordained.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

In accordance with astrological omens, I hereby authorize you to worry, worry, and worry some more. Stew and simmer and ferment as you weigh all the options and mull the correct actions. But when the time is right, end your fretting with crisp decisiveness. Shake off any residual doubt that still clings to you. And then undertake robust action to transform the situation that provoked your righteous brooding. In my astrological opinion, what I have just described is your best plan for success in the coming days.

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18)

“I was looking for a love unlike my parents’ love or my sister’s love or the love on a foreign kitchen floor,” writes Rebecca Dinerstein Knight in her novel The Sunlit Night. “I wanted to forgive my mother and father for their misery and find myself a light man who lived buoyantly and to be both his light and his dark.” I offer you her thoughts, Aquarius, in the hope of inspiring you to expand and deepen your ideas about the love you want. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to revise and reinvigorate your definitions of intimacy and togetherness. You will have extra power to see new truths about how best to create maximum synergy and symbiosis.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

“Even raw and messy emotions can be understood as a form of light, crackling and bursting with energy,” writes Jungian psychoanalyst Clarissa Pinkola Estés. For example, “We can use the light of rage in a positive way, in order to see into places we cannot usually see.” Likewise, confusion might be a healthy sign that a long-held misunderstanding is dissolving. Disappointment may herald the demise of an unrealistic expectation. So let’s unleash a big cheer for raw and messy emotions, Pisces! I suspect they will soon be your gateway to clarity and renewal.

That Husband Over There

SAVVAGE LOVE
BY DAN SAVAGE

I'm a 36-year-old married woman who fantasizes about her husband of 10 years being intimate with other women. This isn't a new thing for me. I've fantasized about this for years, but we've never acted on it. He is intrigued but afraid that it might somehow damage our relationship. But I've done some research on it and it's something I'm eager to try. (With my husband's consent, of course!) But in all my research, I've found different and sometimes conflicting definitions of what it means to be a "cuckquean." I'm interested in watching my husband pleasure and be pleased by another woman in a purely physical way. I'm not interested in being "cheated on." No flirty texts, no unsanctioned coffee dates. I've read accounts of women who are turned on by the humiliation and insecurity of their partner being with others, often women the husband knows "in real life," either through work or through social life. In my case, I would rather my husband not even know the name of the other woman. And he would only be able to sleep with her with my consent and I would want to be "in control" of the situation. So, what does that make me? Do cuckqueans come in all different proclivities? I feel like the end result is the same—my partner bedding someone else—but my motivation is different than what I've seen.
—What The Cuck Am I?

“The scenario WTCAL describes sounds more like hotwifing with the gender roles reversed than cuckolding,” said Venus, host of The Venus Cuckoldress Podcast.

“She’s interested in hothusbanding!”

Let’s quickly define terms: a man into hotwifing enjoys “sharing” his wife with other men, WTCAL, and a woman into hot husbanding enjoys “sharing” her husband with other women. (All this sharing, of course, is consensual.) Cuckolds, on the other hand, aren’t sharing their wives. They’re being “cheated on” by their wives. And cuckqueans aren’t sharing their husbands. They’re being “cheated on” by their husbands. Cuckolds and cuckqueans, by definition, don’t just wanna see their spouses fucking another person, they also want their partners to humiliate and degrade them. (I put “cheated on” in quotes because the “cheating” is consensual and symbolic; likewise, “sharing” is in quotes above because spouses aren’t property.)

“But cuckolding and hotwifing have a really wide spectrum of practices and dynamics,” said Venus. “Some cucks are submissive and get into degradation and some cucks really aren’t subs or into degradation at all. I don’t see why hothusbanding/cuckqueaning can’t be just as varied. Humiliation, submission, and degradation don’t have to be involved!”

Venus is right: there are guys out there who call themselves cuckolds but aren’t subs and don’t wanna be humiliated or degraded. But I would argue that these guys aren’t cuckolds, WTCAL, just as I would argue that you aren’t a cuckquean. We have lots of words to describe letting your partner fuck other people—open, monogamish, swinging, mate-swapping, hotwifing, hothusbanding, stag and vixen, CNM—but we only have one word to describe letting your partner fuck other people while getting off on being humiliated and degraded: cuckolding. And since most people

understand cuckolding to involve humiliation and degradation, telling someone you’re a cuckold when you’re not into those things is like telling someone you’re a power bottom when you don’t like anal or telling someone you’re into impact play when you don’t like having your ass so much as tapped. It confuses rather than clarifies. What’s worse, tell someone you’re a cuckold/cuckquean and they might start degrading you while they’re fucking your partner, which would ruin everything for everybody.

As for setting up a sex date for your husband with an anonymous woman, Venus had a practical suggestion.

“There are a lot more men out there looking for casual sex than there are women,” said Venus, “which makes WTCAL’s fantasy difficult to pull off. But I know a woman whose wife wanted to be blindfolded and then have a group of women come in—all strangers to her—and go down on her. Not an easy fantasy to pull off either! So, they hired a sex worker to facilitate things and it was amazing. Perhaps this would be an ideal solution—hiring a sex worker—because then WTCAL would be in total control.”

Finally, WTCAL, re-reading your letter just now . . . it sounds to me like what you really wanna do is . . . whore your husband out. It’s an expression I’ve heard gay men use to describe setting up an anonymous encounter for their boyfriends or husbands. You find someone you wanna see fuck your husband—taking care to find someone your husband would wanna fuck—and give your husband enough notice (to prep) but no “choice” (symbolically). Cuckolds and cuckqueans are subs and a sub can “top from below,” as the saying goes, but at least officially a cuck doesn’t have the power. Someone who’s whoring his husband out, on the other hand, has all the power. And that’s what you want, right?

Follow Venus on Twitter @CuckoldressV, and check out her podcast, blog, dating advice, and more at www.venuscuckoldress.com.

The perfect pairing

Whisky & Ramen

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

Anyone who’s been through 4th Avenue over the last couple of years is bound to have noticed a new restaurant emerge from nowhere — its development seemingly trapped in stasis as a result of the pandemic. People have been curious about what this long-gestating project has in the works, with the name “Whisky & Ramen” serving as the only hint as to what’s behind the curtain. The allusion to this unusual pairing initially struck me as a bit odd, but my interest levels skyrocketed once I caught a glimpse on Instagram of a lavishly designed interior, the likes of which Anchorage has never seen.

The prevailing question is this: when will they ever open? I’m happy to report they already have—in a sense. As part of their soft opening phase, Whisky & Ramen has offered limited reservations since July, with only a select few diners fortunate enough to get a sneak peek of the latest entry in the city’s ongoing ramen renaissance.

This not-so-eminant food critic and ramen aficionado was lucky to snag a table last week to assess whether Whisky & Ramen delivers on the immense hype ahead of their grand opening in September. Are they set to be the next illustrious jewel in Alaska’s culinary crown? Or do they need more time to mature in the aging barrel?

We walked through the obscured entrance and were immediately transported to an enormous dining hall. A long catwalk along one of the walls leads to a ramen bar with a grand stairwell leading down to a basement level equipped with communal tables, a dry-aging cabinet filled with massive portions of wagyu rib roast (surely a sign of exciting things to come), and a cavernous, dimly lit bar sectioned off towards the rear. Aesthetically, it was all very sleek and stunning, with the overall design centered around a theme similar to “Japandi” — a blend of Scandinavian and Japanese influences.

We were seated at the ramen bar with a full view of their kitchen. It was there we had the pleasure of interacting with a few of their staff, including their head chef along with the owner. We were informed that not only are all their noodles made in-house but the recipes for the few types of noodle varieties available were developed in Japan and honed to such

precision that the water’s pH levels were tested to ensure consistent, supreme chewiness. The collective passion and enthusiasm of the staff for this ambitious venture were near palpable, and I appreciated the level of intimacy that the bar afforded.

After perusing the menu and seeing five different types of ramen available, I decided to cram as much as possible out of fear that Whisky & Ramen’s popularity would delay our return. So, we ordered three of their appetizers, starting with their whisky pork buns—three freshly-steamed buns filled with whisky-miso crisped pulled pork, pickled cucumber, micro cilantro, and okonomi sauce. The texture of the buns was pillow-like and not at all tacky, while the deeply braised, saucy pork was umami-laden, but balanced by the freshness of cilantro and lightly pickled cucumbers. These were tasty, and a great indicator that the kitchen isn’t holding back on flavor.

Next to arrive was the scotch tamago — somewhat of a straightforward depiction of the classic British staple served with micro greens and a dab of spicy mayo. The beauty here was in the flawless execution, for the egg was cooked to a perfect jammy consistency while the panko breadcrumb coating was skillfully



fried, producing a veritable nesting doll of flavors and textures. I do wish they could’ve thrown in an additional egg for the price, but I guess that’s just upscale dining for you.

The last appetizer to hit our palates was a generous plate of chicken wings: twice-fried and served with a yuzu soy chili-crisp dipping sauce. Believe me, when I say you’ve never had wings this crispy before — in fact, these were so shatteringly crisp that I was tempted to gnaw on the cartilage on the ends of the flats (which I did). The meat was evenly seasoned, and the fat had rendered down to become the pure, essence of savory chicken flavor. You know these were some spectacular wings when it occurs to me that I hardly bothered using any of the sauce.

Having deemed that the appetizers were a resounding success, I simply could not contain my excitement any longer once our ramen bowls arrived. I had ordered The Dark Horse: made with a spicy burnt miso pork broth, wavy noodles, more of the whisky-miso pulled pork, a “6.5-minute egg”, and a mushroom ragu topping. The broth — widely considered to be the heart and soul of



PHOTOS BY JIN CHONG

authentic ramen — was at first characterized by roasted, almost nutty notes from miso combined with the luxurious fattiness of pork.

As the elements dispersed and coalesced, I found that my ramen took on the unmistakable flavors of Lao Gan Ma chili crisp—perhaps one of the greatest condiments known to man, though it may have been a tad bit heavy-handed here. As for the noodles? They were as springy, resilient, and toothsome as I could’ve hoped for. The pork was gloriously tender when had along with the hot soup, while the thinly sliced mushroom topping was explosive in its own right—its earthy and meaty qualities having been amplified to register off the charts.

For thoroughness’ sake, I traded bowls with my dining companion to sample some of her Chintan ramen, dubbed the Sugamo Star, which came with a chicken dominant broth, pork loin chashu, menma, and black truffle. To put it simply, the broth tasted like an expertly roasted chicken in soup form. The shoyu tare helped inform the overall flavor profile, and while the stock was noticeably lighter and not as salty compared to my broth, I found it to be just as all-consuming and difficult to put down, except for a cocktail break here and there.

I would be remiss not to mention the exceptional craft of their in-house mixologist, whose array of creative cocktails exhibits an advanced skill level. Take, for instance, the Flowers of Edo — made from sesame-washed rye along with honey ginger syrup, orange bitters, and smoked oolong. Fat washing is an esoteric infusion process wherein oil is combined with a spirit to impart subtle flavor and in this case, lend a creamy mouthfeel to the overall body. As if that weren’t exciting enough, the smoked tea contributed a powerful bouquet from start to finish, one that evokes the scent of campfires. Out of the few cocktails I sampled this evening, the Flowers of Edo stood out as one of my favorite drinks in recent memory.

It felt surreal stepping back out to 4th Avenue, as if we were temporarily displaced to some divine food realm far removed from Alaska. It used to be that traveling out of state was my only option to enjoy such a captivating bowl of ramen. But I can confidently say that the years of hard work and dedication from the owners and company have unquestionably paid off in that they’ve renewed my hope for the future of Anchorage dining. When the floodgates open later this year and the restaurant begins catering to the masses, perhaps then, you too will come to realize that whisky and ramen might just be the perfect pairing after all.





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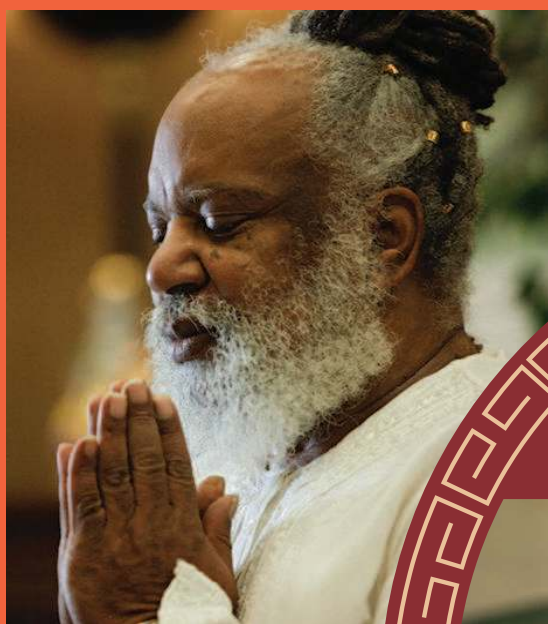
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