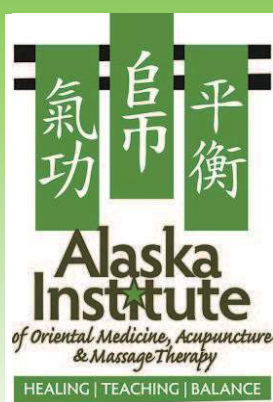


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James Roberts, Tim Bradner, Jean Bundy, Cody Herron-Webb, Dermot Cole, Darren Smith, Bill Sherwonit, Ned Rozell, Drew Erickson, John Christensen, David A. James, Mike Gordon, Lauren Langford, Cody Keim, Jordan Ring, and Sam Irwin.

Page Design
Ray Malupeng, Rommel Panciles, Eduardo Ong, and O'Hara Shipe

WICK COMMUNICATIONS ALASKA

Publisher
Tawni Davis
tawni.davis@frontiersman.com

Managing Editor
O'Hara Shipe
ohara.shipe@anchoragepress.com

Advertising Account Executives
Bridget Mackey
bridget.mackey@anchoragepress.com

Petra Albecker
petra.albecker@frontiersman.com

Ben Borg
ben.borg@frontiersman.com

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FHWA Announces \$45.7 Million Grant to Alaska's Native Village of Eyak to Improve Multi-Modal Transportation Access to Oil Spill Response Facility

Grant will fund transportation access to improve marine support services, emergency response

BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today announced it is providing a \$45.7 million grant to the Alaska's Native Village of Eyak to construct a highway, dock support facilities and boat ramp at the Marine Tribal Transportation and Shepard Point Oil Spill Response Facility. The grant will improve transportation access to the facility, which is currently under construction and will serve as a multi-modal transportation and oil spill emergency response center for tribal members and the broader community of Cordova and the surrounding area.

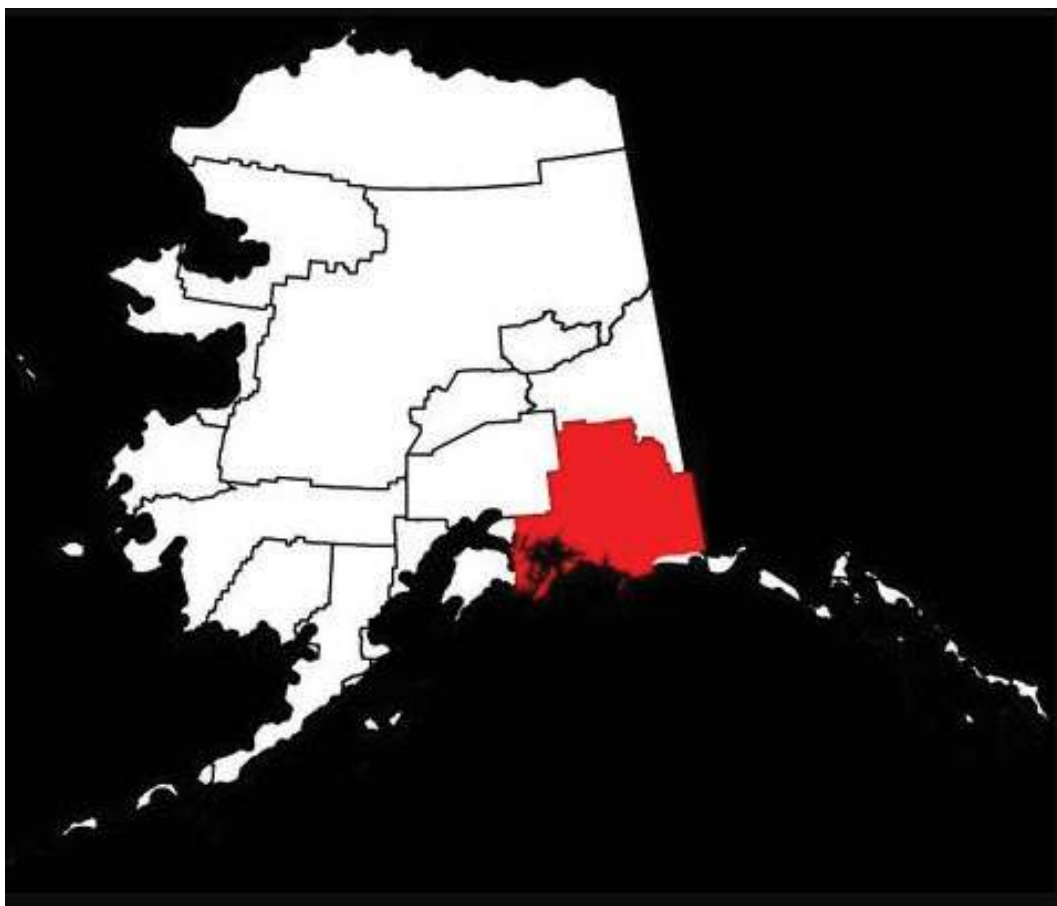
"Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're now modernizing more of the infrastructure that creates opportunity in tribal communities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "Today, we're proud to award over \$45 million to improve transportation access to the Marine Tribal Transportation and Shepard Point Oil Spill Response Facility in Alaska."

"The grant we're providing will help the Native Village of Eyak and surrounding communities respond to oil spills and other emergencies more effectively," said Acting Federal Highway Administrator Stephanie Pollack. "We're proud to partner with the Tribe on transportation improvements that will help protect the environment and prepare for events in the future by putting in place infrastructure that improves the safety and well-being of the Village and the Cordova community."

This is the second time the Native Village of Eyak has been selected to receive funding for the project from FHWA and builds on a \$40 million grant provided in Fiscal Year 2020. The facility is a long-time priority for the tribe following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill and will provide a central location for tribal members and the broader community to develop marine support services. The marine emergency response component of the project is expected to increase capabilities in the event of a wreck, marine vessel fire, injury or fatality by significantly improving oil spill and emergency response times for vessels in distress within the local and surrounding vicinity.

Funding for the grant is made possible through FHWA's Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Project program and reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's focus on serving Tribal communities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made significant changes to the program by increasing annual authorizations from \$100 million to \$355 million and ensuring tribal transportation facilities receive 50% of the appropriated funds. Critically, Tribes can apply for funding at 100% federal share with no matching requirement, a historic barrier for Tribal access to infrastructure funding.

The program provides Federal funding for construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of multi-modal transportation facilities that are



situated within, adjacent to, or provide access to Federal or Tribal lands. A project of national significance is typically a higher cost project that federal land management agencies and tribal governments cannot normally afford to build because the project would exhaust their financial resources. The project is also considered important to the well-being of the area where the project is located and surrounding community, supports safe access to popular destinations such as National Parks, or provides critical transportation support for hospitals and schools on Tribal lands.

Funding is also now available for Fiscal Year 2022 Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects in a Notice of Funding Opportunity and builds on the U.S. Department of Transportation's efforts to improve the safety of the nation's roadways for all road users. A key element of these efforts is the Department's recently announced Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program that will provide \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 to support regional, local, and Tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports the Department's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

FHWA also recently announced a Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund NOFO of up to \$120 million for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026, made possible by the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. To further assist the 574 federally recognized Tribes in addressing their transportation needs, FHWA has developed Transportation Funding Opportunities for Tribal Nations, a brochure that provides information on new highway programs created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as well as existing highway and bridge transportation funding programs. FHWA also has a Questions and Answers document for Tribes interested in undertaking bridge projects. The Department also has the DOT Navigator, a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

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Mary Peltola beats out Sarah Palin and Nick Begich in U.S. House race; Lisa Murkowski holds lead over Kelly Tshibaka, Trump favorite

BY TIM BRADNER

It appears that the big loser in Alaska’s Aug. 17 primary election was Donald Trump.

Trump ballyhooed Sarah Palin in Alaska’s congressional race and Kelly Tshibaka in the U.S. Senate race with hopes of dumping Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

Trump’s gambit fizzled despite his raucous rally in Alaska to stump for Palin and Tshibaka.

As of Wednesday morning, former Bethel legislator Mary Peltola, a Democrat and Alaska Native, held a strong lead in the Aug. 16 primary election counts over challengers Palin and Nick Begich.

In the governor’s race, incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy made a strong showing with 63,178 votes received, with Les Gara, a Democrat, drawing 33,244 and former Gov. Bill Walker netting 33,063. Charlie Pierce, a conservative Republican from Kenai, drew 10,363 votes.

The U.S. House race for Congress was being watched nationally mainly because of Palin, a former Alaska governor, and U.S. vice presidential candidate. She appears to have been soundly beaten by Peltola.

In the Senate race, the incumbent Republican, Murkowski, led her main challenger, Tshibaka, also Republican, with 80 percent of votes counted.

As of Wednesday morning, Murkowski received 43.7 percent of votes cast to Tshibaka’s 40.3 percent. However, the senator’s reelection is still uncertain because November will be a “ranked choice” election in which voters rank their favorites one through four, as compared with the primary, in which only the top choices were counted.

Patricia Chesbro, a Democrat on the ballot, pulled 3,386 votes or 2.2 percent of those cast. Buzz Kelley, a Republican also in the Senate race, received 2,600 votes or 2.28 percent on Aug. 16 and, being fourth, will appear again against Murkowski, Tshibaka, and Chesbro in November.

The Senate race numbers will change when those results are tallied in November. The primary lead by Murkowski is likely to grow as more rural precinct results are included, which are likely to favor Murkowski.

Tuesday’s result will also build momentum for Murkowski as the campaign heads toward November.

Meanwhile, Peltola appears to have soundly defeated her two high-profile, well-financed opponents, Palin and Begich. The former Bethel lawmaker will almost certainly be declared the winner to fill out Cong. Don Young’s two-year term that ends in January (Young died last March).

Peltola also led Palin, Begich, and a string of others in a second election for the full two-year congressional term in Congress, which begins in January.

That contest will be held again in the November general election with ranked-choice voting. Of course, the numbers will shift as the different choices are made, but Peltola is likely to maintain her momentum and serve a few weeks in Congress before November to fill out Young’s term. Undoubtedly, this will give her a shot of credibility in Alaska.

Murkowski, continued on page A18



Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Photo by Anna Moneymaker-Pool/Getty Images

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Dunleavy has nearly twice as many votes as closest rivals, who are nearly tied

With most precincts reporting, Walker and Gara are running neck and neck for second and Pierce leads Kurka for fourth place

BY ANDREW KITHENMAN
ALASKA BEACON

Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy received nearly twice as many votes as his nearest rival in the primary for governor, with more than half of Alaskans' votes reported on Tuesday. Former Gov. Bill Walker, an independent, and Democratic former state Rep. Les Gara were running neck and neck for second place. And Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce was leading over state Rep. Christopher Kurka as the more conservative alternative to Dunleavy in fourth place.

Other than deciding the fourth candidate in the ranked choice general election in November, the primary was essentially an opinion poll, with Dunleavy, Walker and Gara all advancing. Dunleavy said he was pleased with the early returns, in voters' first chance to weigh in on him since he was elected.

"We feel good about where we are, but this is only the start of the race," he said in a statement. He's running with former Corrections Commissioner Nancy Dahlstrom as his running mate in the first Alaska election in which candidates for governor can choose the lieutenant governor candidates.

Earlier in the evening, Dunleavy said he would analyze the results thoroughly.

"You're talking to an old college basketball player, and you kind of look at the gametape, you take things apart, and all campaigns can improve, so we'll take a look if we've got any holes anywhere and shore them up," he said.

It was the first primary in which any Alaskan could vote for candidates from any party since 1996. With more than 140,000 votes counted, Gara was 757 votes ahead of Walker, with each hovering around 22% of the votes compared with Dunleavy's 42%.

Gara said the primary "is just a pit stop on the way to November." He said his message of "jobs, education and



Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy speaks to news reporters at a news conference before vote accounts were announced on primary day, Aug. 16, 2022, at his campaign office in Anchorage. (Photo by Andrew Kitchenman/Alaska Beacon)

a woman's right to choose" was resonating with voters. And he noted that Republican voters have traditionally turned out at a much higher rate than Democrats in Alaska primaries. His running mate, Jessica Cook, is a teacher.

Walker said Tuesday afternoon that he felt good about his campaign heading into the general election. He added that many of his voters aren't used to voting in primaries, which under the old system were heavily partisan. He didn't face a primary when he was elected in 2014 and ran for re-election in 2018, since independents could petition to directly join the general election ballot. Now all candidates but write-ins must enter the primary.

"Our support is in the middle," Walker said of him and his running mate Heidi Drygas, a former labor commissioner who is a registered Democrat.

Both Walker and Gara said that they would be the strongest challenger to Dunleavy. Both are aiming to be preferred by more voters than the other, but also to be the second choice of those whose first preference is the other.

Pierce and Kurka both ran to Dunleavy's right. With 69% of precincts reporting, Pierce was at 7% while Kurka had 4%.

Pierce said before the results were reported that his campaign had been effective.

"We really worked hard to raise funds so we could go out and travel and meet voters," he said, adding that he feels he succeeded in offering Alaskans an alternative. He also said his candidacy had been strengthened by his running mate, Edie Grunwald, a retired Air Force colonel.

Kurka has highlighted his social conservatism and criticized Dunleavy's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said before results were announced that the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision overturning Roe v. Wade helped focus voters on candidates' positions on abortion. And he said that would benefit him as a consistent opponent.

"We need to put the judiciary in its proper role," Kurka said.

Kurka expressed hope that his outreach to absentee-ballot voters would help increase his vote count. His running mate Paul Hueper is a business owner.

Votes will be counted in the primary through Aug. 31.



The logo for Walker Drygas, featuring the text "GOVERNOR Walker Drygas" and "LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR" above "REBUILD ALASKA".

Bill Walker & Heidi Drygas

are on track to rebuild Alaska!

A photograph of Bill Walker and Heidi Drygas waving. Walker is wearing a blue t-shirt and Drygas is wearing a white t-shirt. They are standing in front of a scenic background of mountains and a body of water.

Paid for by Walker Drygas for Alaska, PO Box 92051, Anchorage, AK 99509

As a unity ticket, setting aside our respective partisan roots, being Alaskan is our most important label. We will end the divisiveness, get our economy back on track, and make it so Alaska is full of opportunities for people to build lives here and a fun place to live again.

Democratic candidate Peltola leads U.S. House race early, but Palin may win in final count

Former governor and Republican U.S. House candidate Sarah Palin stands to benefit from ranked choice voting

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Democratic candidate Mary Peltola left election day leading Alaska’s special election for U.S. House, but the state’s new ranked choice voting system may leave Republican candidate and former governor Sarah Palin the ultimate winner.

As of 2 a.m. Wednesday morning, with 323 of 402 precincts reporting, Peltola had earned 38.4% of first-choice vote in a race that will determine who fills Alaska’s lone U.S. House seat until January, completing the term left unfinished by the death of Congressman Don Young earlier this year.

Trailing Peltola, with 32.6% of first-choice votes, was Palin. Republican candidate Nick Begich III was in third with 29% of first-choice votes.

Many ballots remain to be counted, and some can arrive as late as Aug. 31 and still be added to the total.

Under Alaska’s new ranked choice election system, the candidate in third place on Aug. 31, the last date for ballots to arrive from overseas, will be eliminated.

Voters were given a chance to select a second choice, and anyone who had the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their votes go to their second choice instead.

The winner is the candidate with the most votes after that process.

Before the initial results were announced, Peltola said she felt good.

“We’ve reached out to 80,000 Alaskans over the last few days — Republicans, nonpartisan, Democrat — and we’re getting very positive feedback about the positive campaign that we’ve run and staying on message and keeping it on what Alaskans want and Alaskans’ needs,” she said Tuesday night.

But if Begich stays in third, political commentators have said they expect many of his voters may have Palin, a fellow Republican, as their second choice. If that’s the case — which won’t be known until the 31st — Palin will win.

The alternatives are leaving their second choice blank, picking a write-in or picking Peltola herself. If enough Begich voters have picked those alternatives, Peltola will win.

During her campaign for House, Palin denounced the ranked choice voting system, which was installed by voters in a 2020 ballot measure. Now, she’s likely to be its first beneficiary.

Pam Purvis, voting at Rogers Park Elementary School



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, now a candidate for U.S. House, is seen Saturday, July 9, 2022 during a campaign rally hosted by former President Donald Trump. (Photos by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

in Anchorage, said she picked Mary Peltola first and wants to see her in Congress as soon as possible.

“For four months, let’s make history,” she said, referring to the fact that, if elected, Peltola would be the first Alaska Native member of Congress.

She said Palin was her least favorite of the candidates, behind Tara Sweeney, a Republican who missed the cut-off for Tuesday’s special general election.

“I think Alaska deserves better,” Purvis said.

Brooke Cusack, who held signs for both Palin and U.S. Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka at an Anchorage street corner, said, “I’ve always trusted Sarah and I think that she would lead us a great way in Congress. It’s a choice I didn’t see coming, but I fully support it. I also support Nick as well,” she said.

She does not like ranked choice voting and declined to say if she used that option.

Peltola said she’s hopeful that many conservative and Republican voters will have ranked her second.

“I’ve been asking people directly — like I was at the Fairbanks Golden Days parade and when I’d see somebody with a sign either Sarah or Nick, I’d ask them, ‘Hey, would you consider me as your second-choice vote?’” she said. “And it was very favorable, the reactions that I got: a lot of laughter, a lot of thumbs up, a lot of positivity.”

Turnout was the highest for a primary election since at least 2014. With 80% of precincts reporting and thousands of absentee ballots still outstanding, turnout was at 26% of registered voters. (Turnout in 2014, boosted by a



Mary Peltola, Democratic candidate for U.S. House, speaks at an event in Juneau on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022.

referendum on an oil tax proposal, hit 39%).

Top four primary adds Sweeney to general election options

In addition to Tuesday’s special U.S. House race, voters were asked to vote in the primary election that will pick four candidates for Nov. 8’s general U.S. House election.

The winner of that vote will serve in Congress for a full two-year term.

As of Tuesday night, Peltola, Palin and Begich were running in first, second and third, followed by Sweeney, who missed the cutoff for the special U.S. House election.

With 323 of 402 precincts reporting, Peltola had 35.1% of the vote, followed by Palin at 31.4%, Begich at 27% and Sweeney at 3.6%.

Anton McParland, Peltola’s campaign manager, said her campaign doesn’t plan to let down its energy while it waits for results on the 31st. Instead, it’ll be turning its attention to the Nov. 8 general election.

“That part of the campaign is going to continue for the next two weeks while we wait, because we’re just going to keep it up for the general,” he said.

Sweeney, who joined supporters to wave signs on an Anchorage streetcorner, said, “I’m really focused on the general election and the longer-term seat,” she said. “My goal has always been to get into the top four in either election. And my focus now is on the general.”

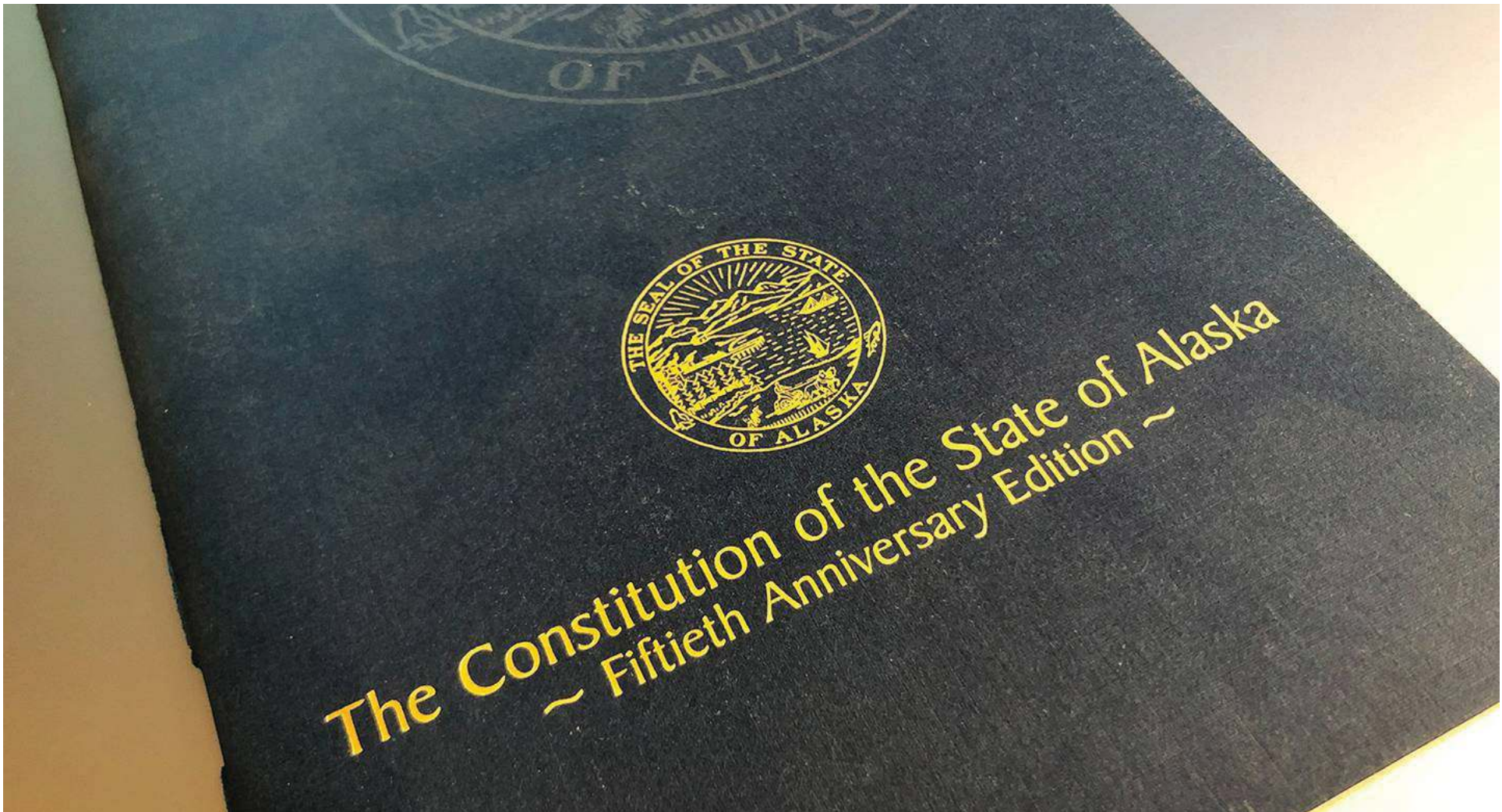
Yereth Rosen and Andrew Kitchenman contributed to this story.



Tara Sweeney, candidate for U.S. House, waves signs in Anchorage on Aug. 16. Sweeney was with a group of supporters at the intersection of Northern Lights and Seward, a popular spot for political rallies and demonstrations.



Republican Nick Begich waves at motorists passing through Midtown Anchorage during rush hour on Aug. 16. Begich is one of three listed candidates competing in the state’s first ranked choice election.



Shielded by state employees, Dunleavy tries to make political cowardice into a virtue

BY DERMOT COLE

Rest assured that Gov. Mike Dunleavy supports the November ballot measure to hold a constitutional convention.

And there is no doubt that Dunleavy supports Donald Trump's lies that he was robbed of the presidency in 2020.

But Dunleavy refuses to take a clear position on these and other matters, opting instead to keep on ducking.

Dunleavy is pursuing his penchant to avoid and evade. That worked in 2018, when Dunleavy's nonsensical claims about cutting 2,000 funded but unfilled jobs and his imaginary budget numbers faced no examination from Alaska news organizations.

This time, Dunleavy and his state employee/campaign handlers are trying to con Alaskans into thinking that his refusal to state an opinion on key topics is a red badge of courage, not of cowardice.

Take two of the easiest campaign issues that Dunleavy is ducking.

Dunleavy has refused to answer written questions from news organizations that, among other things, asked him to declare his position on the constitutional convention question and the lies that Trump is telling about the election.

Andrew Jensen, the \$90,000 state employee in the governor's office who is also the frontman for the Dunleavy campaign, makes the laughable claim that Dunleavy's campaign doesn't have the time to answer written questions or to have more than one interview with a news organization.

The truth is that "Standing Tall" doesn't want to say where he stands on anything except the PFD, federal overreach and freedom.

Ever since he launched the Donna Arduin debacle and the recall campaign succeeded in forcing him to reverse most of the elements of his so-called "Honest Budget," Dunleavy has tried to avoid being pinned down.

Here are two questions that Dunleavy hasn't answered in English:

"Do you believe Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 presidential election?"

"Do you support a constitutional convention?"

It's important that Alaskans know where candidates stand. Dunleavy's main challengers—Bill Walker and Les Gara—have answered those questions. Yes to the first. No to the second.

In an interview with the Alaska Beacon, here is how Dunleavy replied when asked if he supports a constitutional convention.

"Do I think the people of Alaska should contemplate whether we want to change the constitution or not? Yes, it's up to the people of Alaska," said Dunleavy, who went on for more than three minutes without answering the question.

All of this to avoid saying, "I support holding a constitutional convention."

Dunleavy's right-wing supporters assume a constitutional convention is the best way to ban abortion, guarantee big dividends and get people who agree with them to become judges.

His spokesman says he will support what the people decide, which is as bold as saying he will support sunrise tomorrow. Whoever is elected governor will support what the people decide.

Regarding Trump's lies about the 2020 election, the Alaska Beacon did not ask Dunleavy if he agrees with Trump, but the Anchorage Daily News had that on its list of questions that Dunleavy didn't answer.

When the Beacon asked lieutenant governor candidates if they agreed with Trump's lies, Jensen, the state employee who represents the Dunleavy campaign, claimed the subject is inappropriate for Nancy Dahlstrom, the proposed Dunleavy replacement for Kevin Meyer.

"To date, Dahlstrom has refused to answer questions about whether she believes Trump's claims, and a campaign spokesman declined to arrange an interview to clarify her position," the Alaska Beacon said.

"As you know," Jensen told reporter James Brooks, "she was commissioner of Corrections during 2020

and won't be commenting on questions related to Alaska's or the national election."

As Jensen knows and Brooks should know, Dahlstrom serving as a commissioner in 2020 has nothing to do with whether she accepts the lies of Donald Trump. On Twitter, Jensen tried to change the subject, saying, "The incoming head of elections isn't going to comment on prior elections."

Jensen, who used to be the editor of the Alaska Journal of Commerce before Dunleavy gave him the state/campaign job last fall, has staked out an absurd position for himself and Dunleavy.

What is really going on here is that if Dahlstrom speaks about Trump's lies, Dunleavy will have to as well.

The other two major candidates for lieutenant governor, Heidi Drygas and Jessica Cook, say they do not believe Trump's lies.

Scott Kendall, former chief of staff for Bill Walker, rightly challenged the refusal by Dunleavy's campaign to have Dahlstrom speak on election issues. Jensen and his boss, \$139,000 PR employee Dave Stieren, responded by trying to ridicule Kendall. Stieren calls him "soy boy." Your state dollars at work.

Dermot Cole @DermotMCole · 8/5/22 ...
.[@GovDunleavy](#) favors a constitutional convention, there is little doubt. But he doesn't have the courage to say so out loud to the wrong audience because it might cost him votes. That leaves the state employee "volunteers" running his campaign speaking in code. [#akleg](#) [#akgov](#)



Andrew Jensen @andrewdjensen · 5h ...

In the past two weeks, we have given 45 minutes to the Landmine, 30 minutes each to the AP and the Beacon, 45 minutes to the ADN, 45 minutes to the Nome Nugget, and 30 minutes with AKPM, not one with preconditions. But, the narrative. 🤔

3 1 1 1 1



Just. Dave. @radiostieren · 5h ...

We've devoted more time in a week to the press than Team Soy ever did to the Lt Gov scandal under their watch....

5 1 1 1 1



Andrew Jensen @andrewdjensen · 50m ...

Replying to [@DermotMCole](#) [@charissemillett](#) and 4 others

The Governor said he supports whatever the people decide, and that contrary to the fear mongering, the sky isn't going to fall if the people vote yes. It's funny to me how one side argues the constitution is so perfect, except for that one part they put in that lets people vote.

1 12 30 1

Supreme Court rules against forward funding for education, confirms limit on legislative power

Setting multi-year budgets in Alaska requires cash on hand, justices said

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

The Alaska Legislature may not set multi-year budgets for public education and other state agencies unless it provides up-front funding, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled Friday. The decision settles a three-year-old dispute between the Legislature and Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

It also represents a limit on legislative power and signals a victory for Dunleavy, who had sought to cut funding for K-12 schools and opposed a legislative attempt in 2018 to set the state's schools budget for two years.

Dunleavy later recanted the cut but his administration argued the principle of the matter in front of the Supreme Court, leading to Friday's ruling.

"We conclude that a requirement that funds be appropriated annually is implied in the Alaska Constitution's text and was intended by the framers," wrote Justice Peter Maassen on behalf of the court, which ruled unanimously.

The ruling reinforces a 2017 decision that upheld the ability of a governor and legislature to set the amount of the annual Permanent Fund dividend annually, regardless of a formula in state law.

"We see no textual justification for a different rule in the education contest," Maassen said, referencing the 2017 ruling.

"Allowing this form of forward funding for education for a year in advance would open the door for forward funding in other contexts and more years in advance, weakening the annual budgeting process intended by the constitution's framers," he said.

"The Alaska Supreme Court is upholding the Alaska Constitution with this opinion," said Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor in a prepared statement after the ruling. "The ruling says the legislature is always okay to spend money they have in this year or future years. What's not okay is to spend money they don't yet have, because that takes away the funding prerogative from future legislatures."

The legal dispute resolved Friday began with actions taken in 2018, when state lawmakers passed a bill setting the amount of K-12 school funding for two years — fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

Then-Gov. Bill Walker signed the bill into law but was defeated in the 2018 governor election by Dunleavy.

The new governor proposed cutting spending for K-12 schools in fiscal year 2020 as part of a plan to pay for a larger Permanent Fund dividend. Lawmakers rejected the idea and didn't include K-12 school funding in that year's budget, saying the amount had been set the prior year.

Dunleavy's attorney general at the time, Kevin Clarkson, opined that the decision was unconstitutional and left schools wholly unfunded as a result.

With the executive branch prepared to halt all school funding, the Legislature filed suit to compel payments according to the 2018 law.

As the legal proceedings commenced, the Legislature and governor negotiated an agreement that allowed continued funding, and in November 2019, Superior Court Judge Daniel Schally ruled in favor of the Legislature and an education group that had joined the lawsuit on the Legislature's side.

The executive branch appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in March 2021.

Maassen noted that the constitution does not explicitly state that forward funding is prohibited, but the intent of the constitution's framers is clear from context, he said.

"Implicit in the budgetary clauses (of the Alaska Constitution) is a requirement that the budget be determined annually; when examined together, the budgetary clauses, the sources from which they were drawn, the underlying policies they were designed to promote, and our case law all support this conclusion," Maassen wrote.

Crucially for the current budget, the court's ruling does not preclude all forward funding. If the state has enough money on hand to pay for two years' worth of services, it may set the budget for two years.



Lawmakers did just that this spring, paying K-12 funding for fiscal year 2023 and setting aside \$1.2 billion in funding for K-12 schools in fiscal year 2024, which will begin after this year's election for governor. Dunleavy signed that budget bill.

"We acknowledge the importance of providing school districts with advance notice of their annual budget, and we agree that the Constitution may allow for some degree of creativity to ensure this is accomplished," the ruling says.

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.



Dagnabit!

Hazing

STORY BY MIKE GORDON

I could be wrong about this, but my recollection is that it was in 1959, my junior year at Anchorage High School, the school was ranked as one of the best in the country academically. It was also simultaneously ranked as one of the more prominent drinking schools, the latter credential being the one that received the most applause from me and my classmates. And my extracurricular activities certainly contributed more to that latter achievement than my scholastic achievements did to the former.

Many high schools and universities in America have had to deal with unacceptable hazing practices in athletic letter clubs, fraternities, and sororities. Anchorage High School, which became West High in 1961 the year after my graduation, was no exception. To the best of my knowledge Anchorage High School, or West High’s, last issue with hazing occurred in 1958, the year I was initiated into the Athletic Club after having lettered in hockey. I remember parts of the hazing well, and not just because it created a scandal and was the last year athletic hazing was allowed at the school.

The most personally humiliating event in the initiation was what is sometimes referred to as the “elephant walk,” but which we referred to as the “Choo-Choo Train.” If I’m not mistaken, it was overseen by our coaches. We were forced to crawl naked, through an obstacle course of benches, chairs, netting, and various other obstructions with one thumb up the rear end of the guy in front of us and the other one in our mouth.

When a whistle was blown, we were ordered to reverse the position of our thumbs, in the process yelling “Choo-Choo!” My thumb was folded into my hand and never got into the rear of the guy in front of me. Fortunately, the guy behind me was employing the same subterfuge. Under such circumstances one does the best one can.

Another ritual I remember having to perform was wandering around the lobby of the once-functioning 4th Avenue Theatre on a crowded weekend night eating popcorn out of a Kotex box. Given the choice of looking silly at the movies or playing “Choo-Choo Train,” I’ll take the former every time.

There was also a car wash in the school’s rear parking lot in which we initiates were required to wash the cars of letter club members, all wearing their letter jackets. Most of the lettermen came with various solids and liquids, as well as individual preparations for us to ingest upon command. The solids consisted generally of red peppers, the liquids being Liquid Smoke, Tabasco sauce and the like, while the individual preparations were usually some vile green concoctions. One of my fellow initiates was forced to drink and eat too many of the proffered delights for his system to manage and ended up hospitalized in a coma, creating the scandal that ended the whole affair.

During my freshman year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1960–1961) I lived on campus in Stevens Hall, and there wasn’t a lot to do socially. Since an enthusiastic counselor had signed me up for nineteen credits my first semester—despite my never having cracked a book in high school—it was just as well. It was time to apply myself.

In addition to that academic load, I was a starting defenseman for the school’s hockey team, the Nanooks. I also became proficient at table tennis and even better at playing pool, tutored by a fellow freshman exiled by his parents straight from the mean streets of Baltimore. For an outdoor diversion from our normal activities, including drinking liquor or beer whenever we could locate either, we would go rabbit and ptarmigan hunting on weekends.

Since UAF was a land grant college, my male classmates and I were required to participate in the ROTC program, and I even found myself on the drill team pledging for the Pershing Rifles, the only collegiate level military fraternity. The University of Alaska, in college, just outside of Fairbanks, was listed as Company A-11. I was a very committed trooper and I loved studying military tactics and military history, especially from the Civil War era, one of my favorite subjects to this day.

As I recall, the initiation, which was totally proper, took about a week during which we had to paint a brick blue on one side and white on the other with “PR” painted on each side in the opposite color. This brick had to be always with us, and I still have it in my home at age seventy-eight. If we encountered an officer we were required to come to attention, salute and have ready from memory any one of several ditties to deliver upon demand. I remember them well.

Q. How’s a cow? A. Sir. She walks, she talks, she’s full of chalk—the lactic fluid extracted from the female member of the bovine species, highly prolific to the Nth degree, Sir.

Q. What time is it? A. Sir. I apologize for the fact that my chronometer is in such inaccord with the great sidereal movement by which time is commonly reckoned that I cannot with complete accuracy state the exact time, however, without fear of being too far wrong, I will state that it is approximately (look at watch and state the time), Sir.

Q. What is leather? A. Sir. When the fresh skin of an animal, cleaned and divested of all hair, fat and other extraneous material is immersed in a dilute solution of tannic acid, a chemical combination ensues. The gelatinous tissue of the skin is converted into a non-putrescible substance, impervious to and insoluble in water. This, Sir, is leather, Sir.

If you got any little detail wrong, especially forgetting Sir where required, you were in for further grilling on the spot and perhaps some pushups.

The ROTC program was well run, producing an excellent drill team. I found myself at the University of San Francisco, also a land grant college, for my sophomore year, and though everything else was more to my liking, their ROTC program was not. It was slipshod and chock full of favoritism. Toward the end of my sophomore year, when we had to decide whether we would participate in upper division ROTC or not, I chose not to. I had taken and already passed the written and oral tests and had been accepted. All I had to do was put my signature on the dotted line, but I got so pissed off at an inspection when I saw one of the favored, ass-kisser officers brush-polishing his shoes before the inspection, then receiving a higher inspection score than I did, that I marched into the colonel’s office and told him he could take his “chicken-shit” program and “shove it.”

It was happenstance. I was lucky not to have gone into upper division ROTC

because it kept me out of Vietnam. I already had a scholastic deferment and, as fate would have it, I fell in love and got married during my junior year. The military didn’t start drafting married men until things got pretty heated over in Southeast Asia, and by then I had a child. When the military started drafting even men with children, they didn’t make it retroactive.

My battles were fought in the corporate world, being seventeen credits short of a college degree, trying to provide for my growing family by doing sales work, first for New York Life Insurance Company, then for Hallmark Cards, and finally for Gillette Safety Razor Company, Toiletries Division. But it was better than getting shot at.

I was annoyed when the practice of hazing was eliminated by the Anchorage School District because I was never going to be able to be the hazer. I had been required to go through it and felt that I was being cheated out of “getting even.” I know it was an immature reaction, but I was a sophomore in high school. The word sophomore, according to Webster’s Dictionary, is derived from the thinking of a sophomore in school, meaning someone who acts self-assured and opinionated, but is in reality inexperienced and immature. My sort of immature reaction is what, unchecked, helps perpetuate these degrading and potentially harmful practices.

The reality is that I was lucky the hazing ended since I have never had to deal with the moral predicament of having participated in the role of hazer. However, in retrospect I certainly was not as lucky missing out on being a hazer as I was not having to participate in our divisive and disastrous activities in Vietnam.

Despite sometimes getting it totally wrong, I have never been afraid of making big decisions, even on the spur of the moment. For the most part I believe it is better to do so than to be frozen with indecision and procrastination. Taking action exposes opportunities; indecision dispels them.

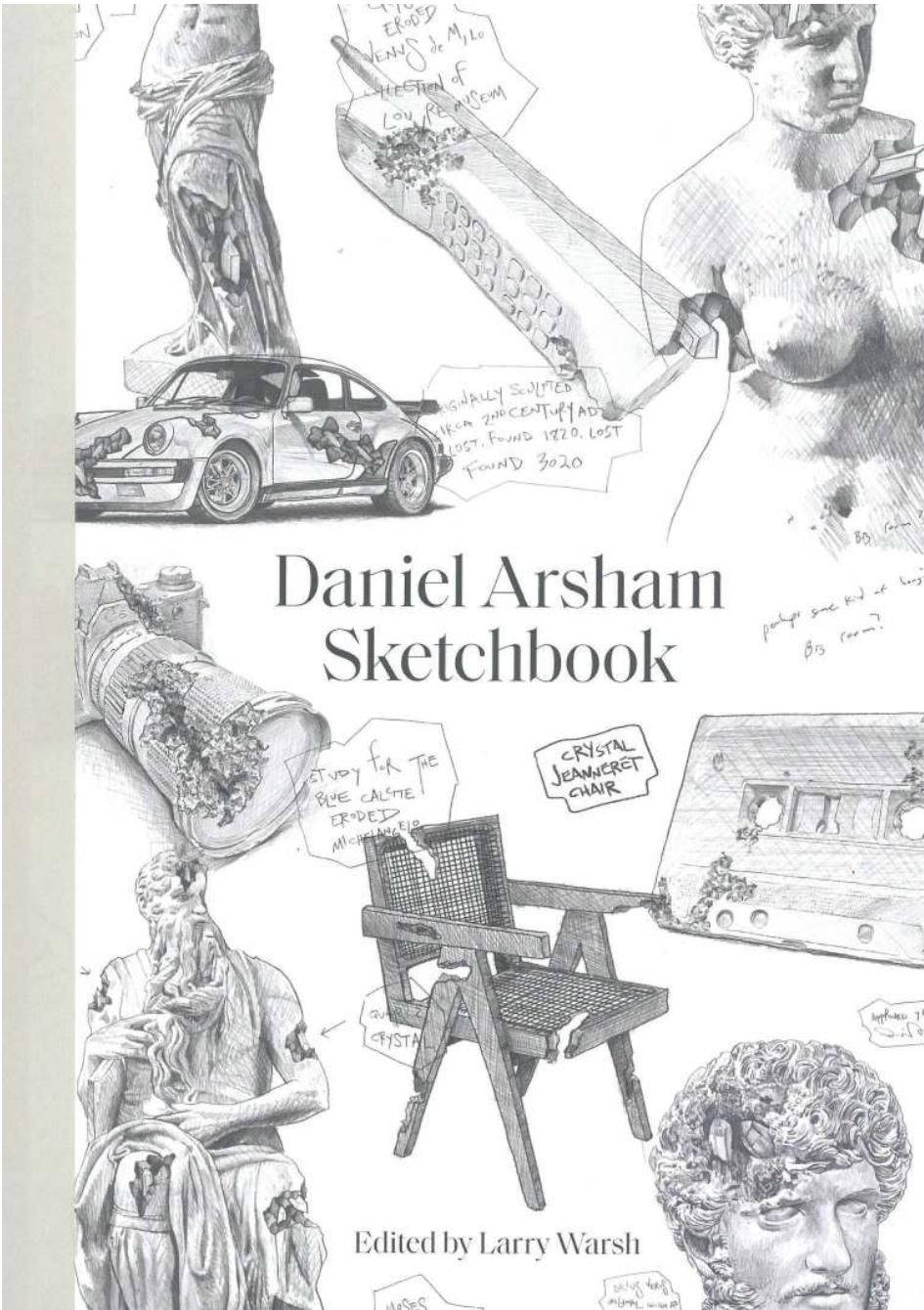


Sketching the Dog-Days of Summer Away

ART SLEUTH
BY JEAN BUNDY

What do you do when it rains on your August vacation? Or maybe it's too hot to put your flip-flop feet onto concrete sidewalks. August is a great month to get out pencils and sketch. It's cheap, easy, and will improve your painting, photography, or whatever media you gravitate to. Of course, you can add markers or watercolors, but I will be talking about plain old drawing pencils, which can be purchased in local art stores or online. Graphite pencils vary from super hard to very soft. I keep it simple and use 'Derwent' HB, 2B, and 4B pencils. HB is like a yellow school pencil, only better quality, and 2B and 4B are soft and softer for shading, or that quick rendering of an object or figure. The new battery-operated sharpeners are great for tucking into a day bag, and they produce a fine point, not like the cheap ones you grind by hand or that old pocket-knife.

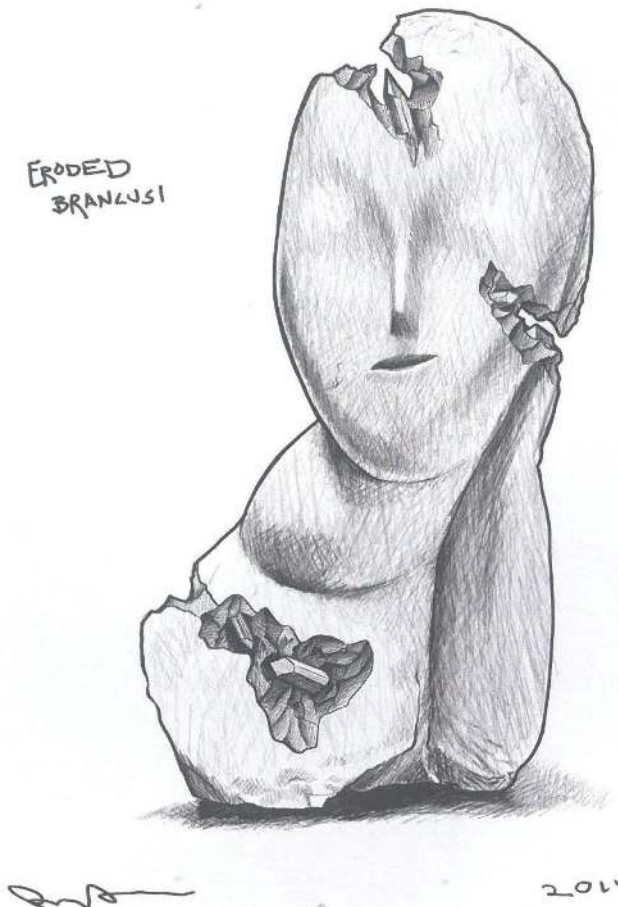
Sketchbooks come in a variety of sizes with paper that has a smooth or rough 'tooth'. Again, you can sketch on anything from a napkin like Picasso to a brown paper bag. Erasers are fun to create negative space; otherwise, dump the eraser--get bold, and scribble over your marks. Junk around your house, especially in the kitchen or garage, make for great compositions. Find a friend and draw them, or combine household objects with shrubbery or flowers. The collage medium is trendy at present, so try overlapping partial designs. By the way—you don't have to keep your doodles in that spiral book. I tear out my scribbles and put the pages in manila folders.



Studying artists' sketches is a way to experience how they think and compose before they apply paint or render in clay. 'Daniel Arsham Sketchbook' edited by Larry Warsh and 'Writing a Chrysanthemum: the drawings of rick barton' by Rachel Federman, the catalog from the Morgan Library & Museum exhibition (thru September 11, 2022) provide two different approaches to illustrating.

'Daniel Arsham Sketchbook' is the artist's genuine sketchbook. Arsham (b.1980), a graduate of Cooper Union, is a filmmaker, fashion, and set designer, whose company 'Snarkitecture' alters space much like a comedian might do when he smashes through a wall and leaves his outline in the plasterboard. Arsham's drawings depict barriers that are fluid and sag while his fanciful people melt. He did set designs for renowned Merce Cunningham (1919-2009), who not only choreographed but performed in Post-War 'Happenings'. Arsham plays with scale indicating an acute understanding of perspective and proportion. He erases/erodes parts of objects from cartoon figures to classical statuary. In Arsham's sketchbook, he jots notations, revealing his daily schedule to how he might execute a project.

'Writing a Chrysanthemum' is a soupçon of Rick Barton's (1928-1992) line-drawings, which illustrate how this artist can fill an entire page and not end up with over-worked compositions—a hard task to achieve! Barton was a San Francisco 'Beat' artist, but also worked in Los Angeles, Mexico, and Spain. An autodidact with only two years of high school, he came from an impoverished Manhattan upbringing but man-



aged to spend hours at the Metropolitan Museum and the New York Public Library. In 1947, Barton served in the US Navy, traveling to Asia and becoming acquainted with Chinese linear styles. Although there is no evidence to date, he may have attended NYC's Amédée Ozenfant School of Fine Arts after being discharged. Barton went to San Francisco in 1956 and was attracted to the Bay area with its Catholic Church architecture and bohemian café lifestyle.

What does it mean to render a familiar object in pencil and then further rework the image, which ultimately becomes part of your unique style? Two examples here examine the art of Arsham and Barton.

Arsham's 'Eroded Brancusi' (2014) parodies the minimal sculpted heads that Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957) chiseled, which now reside in modern art museums worldwide. Brancusi's heads are quiet and passive and display reverence for life. Unlike Brancusi, Barton added an elevated left arm and pursing lips, which makes his sculptural rendition look snarky. One of the gouges in the left cheek looks like the missing hand of the raised arm, contributing to the image looking seductive. On paper, Arsham routinely carves out chunks of material from his objects, like leaving a void in a 'Lego' construction or making a sculpture look damaged by conservation neglect. He reworks the ordinary, making viewers puzzle over the original intent of that object or any object.

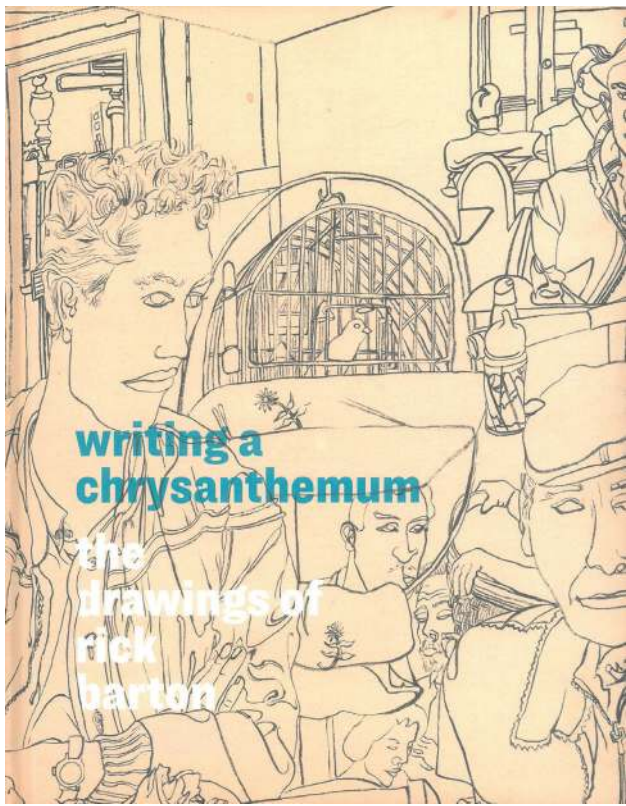
Barton's 'Lady Take Care' (1960) depicts a lonely woman at a bar. A shadowy half-drawn female at the right could actually exist or might just be a figment of the woman's imagination. Bar stools replace patrons who aren't there either. Flower vases and lampshades substitute for mythical bartenders and waiters, who appear to mingle in between oversized glassware, creating the feeling of a crowded and noisy venue—alas, only existing in Barton's imagination. But it appears a customer might be entering at the far right after all. Uniquely, Barton's overlapping figures and defiance of perspective fill the paper and become an entire mural of undulating lines. Drawings puzzle viewers—are these compositions representative or abstract? Barton celebrates a mundane world not unlike what Lautrec (1864-1901) did in Parisian nightclubs and bordellos. Until this Morgan show, Barton's drawings, which are housed in the UCLA Library, were virtually unknown. Note: Barton composed in ink but could easily have rendered with pencils.

Arsham and Barton craft everyday objects to exuberantly create compositions—their way. So get out those pencils and find some paper; be imaginative and observational—but your way. Happy dog days of summer!

Mini Sleuth: 'Daniel Arsham Sketchbook' edited by Larry Warsh and 'Writing a Chrysanthemum' by Rachel Federman are at Amazon. Thank you to Jodie Price at Princeton Univ. Press.

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

Email: 38144@alaska.net



PRESSING EVENTS

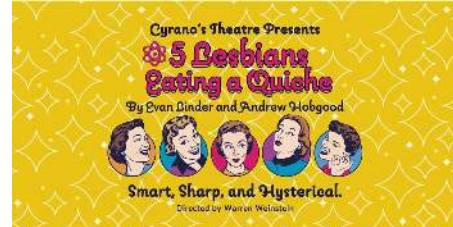
ANCHORAGE PRESS

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Thu 8/18

Featured



5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos 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 8/19

Featured



28th Annual Alaska Greek Festival

@ 3pm

Aug 19th - Aug 21st

Come & enjoy a taste of Greece with the best homemade Greek food and Greek pastries in Alaska! August 19 - August 21 at 2800 O'Malley Rd. Free parking & admission. Facebook: Alaska Greek Festival. Alaska Greek Festival, 2800 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. akgreekfestival@gmail.com



Sat 8/20

Resin Art Class-Salmon On Wood Hanger

Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>

@ 12:30pm / \$55

Learn the basics of working with resin, pigment powders & resin dyes to create a unique salmon art piece on a wood cutout! Wood hanger included! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Dog Days of Summer

@ 5pm

Top off your summer with an afternoon of puppy love! Bernie's Bungalow Lounge, 626 D Street, Anchorage, United States. lucky_darcy@yahoo.com, 907-306-2158

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

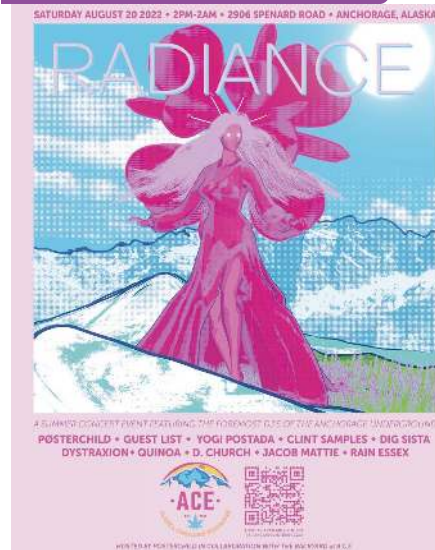
Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Her Time to Play

@ 9pm

Aug 20th - Nov 5th
Fairview Community Recreation Center, 1121 East 10th Ave., Anchorage, United States. 907-343-4355

Featured



Radiance

@ 2pm / \$20

An experience in Spenard that is hard to miss. With a local artist coming together to brighten and show off the talents of Anchorage in the heart of its art district. Alaska Cannabis Exchange, 2906 Spenard Road, Anchorage. jeramy@cannabisace.com, 907-360-8036



Comedian Sam Tallent

@ 9:30pm / \$20

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

Supernova Alaska: SUPERNOVA LIVE AT HUMPY'S

@ 9:30pm

Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse, 610 W 6th Ave, Anchorage

Sun 8/21

Featured



The Super Serious, No Fun .5K Run

@ 12pm / \$25-\$35

We're bringing back the grueling .5K course. Beginning and ending at your race oasis, Midnight Sun Brewing Co., this intense course takes you around one entire city block. As you attempt to conquer this beast, take respite at one (or all, who's judging?) of our rest stops along the way—kick your feet up, unwind, refuel, get pro*-tips from the Rage City skaters, and more. Midnight Sun Brewing Co., 8111 Dimond Hook Dr., Anchorage



5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 3pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Tue 8/23

Featured



Start Off on the Right Foot: How to Begin a Romance Novel

@ 7pm

How do you write a romance that grabs your readers' attention? We'll show how to hit all the right notes to write stellar first pages, including examples of published romance novels. Anchorage, United States. lynnlovegreen@gmail.com, 907-345-5831



Wed 8/24

Art Class-BirchTree Painting Advanced

Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>

@ 6pm / \$48

Let's paint birch trees on a wood canvas! You choose your background colors! Advanced Reservation Required <http://sparkletribe.net> Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Anthony Nunziata

@ 7pm

Grand Princess Cruise - Private Event, Anchorage

Stories with Mr. Clay

@ 7:15pm

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

Thu 8/25

Featured



Picnic in the Garden

@ 6pm / \$65

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



Art Class-Resin Fireweed Wall Art

Advanced Reservation Required

<http://sparkletribe.net>

@ 6pm / \$55

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

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Fri 8/26

Anchorage Socrates Cafe

@ 10am

discussion of contemporary philosophical issues 3230 Lake Otis Pkwy, 3230 Lake Otis Parkway, Anchorage. lcooperak@gmail.com, 907-980-8871

Featured



Stevie Stone

@ 7pm / \$25-\$75

Aug 26th - Aug 27th

Stevie Stone is an American rapper from Columbia, Missouri. He was signed to Tech N9ne's Strange Music record label from 2011 to 2021 and has since founded his own record label Ahdasee Records. He has released seven studio albums including Black Lion, with his most recent being Raising The Bar in April 2022. Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 7pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Sat 8/27

Featured



Alaska Craft Brew Festival - Summer Edition 2022

@ 12pm / \$10-\$55

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



Salsa Saturdays

@ 6pm / \$16

Williwaw, 609 F Street, Anchorage, United States

Sun 8/28

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

@ 3pm / \$30

Join us for a farcical, interactive comedy! Cyranos Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Arcada String Quartet

@ 4:30pm

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

Wed 8/31

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 17th

Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Danger & Diva Live 7:30p-10:30p
The Crystal Saloon (Juneau) – Open Mic ft. Annie Bartholomew 8p-11p
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpty’s – Will Balcao 8:30p-12:30a
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Myrna’s Thursday Night Revue 9p-11p
Mad Myrna’s – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Main Street Tap & Grill (Kenai) – Comedian Sam Tallent 7p-10p
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Karaoke with Kellie B.! 10p-2a
The Seaview Café (Hope) – Jam Night w/ Andy Mullen 7p-11p
Sheldon Community Arts Hanger (Talkeetna) – Kuf Knotz & Christine Elise 8p-11p
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Thirsty Third Thursdays w/ The 7 Duo 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – The Eternal Cowboys Rock the Roof 8p-12a



Friday, August 18th

Akela Space – Medium Build 7p-11p
Alaska Dance Promotions – Alaska Latin Dance Fest 8p-1a
Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - CAAMP 7p-10p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Uncle Jim, the EastSide Balladeer! 6p-8p
Arctic Valley Ski Area – Chugach Fest 2022 5p-12a
The Carousel Lounge – DECEPTICIDE Double Set 9p-1a
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Sam Tallent 7p-8:15p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Golden Saloon (McCarthy) – Denali Cooks 9p-12a
Hilltop Ski Area – Under the Tree Music Scene: The River Livers 7p-8:30p
Humpty’s – Marc Brown & The Blues Core 9:30p-1:30a
Just the Tips (Fairbanks) - Live Music w/ Modern Natives 5:30p-10p
Klondike Mikes & The Main Street Grill (Palmer) - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2:30a
Koot’s – DJ Aristocat & DJ Cross 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
O’Malley’s on the Green – Danger Money 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Talkeetna Village Park – John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet 5p-7p
Williwaw Social – The Star of Alaska Karaoke Tournament Finals 6p-10p



Saturday, August 19th

ACE Spenard – Radiance AK 2p-2a
Alaska Dance Promotions – Alaska Latin Dance Fest 12p-1a
Alaska State Fair (Palmer) -Chris Janson 7p-10p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
Arctic Valley Ski Area – Chugach Fest 2022 12p-12a
Bernie’s Bungalow Lounge – Dog Days of Summer: SCPA Puppy Adoption 5p-10p
Broken Blender – Tony Gebhard 8p-12a
The Carousel Lounge – Danger Money Live 9p-1a
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 7p-8p
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4174 (Chugiak) – Karaoke 7p-11p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – Michael Kirkpatrick 4p-7p
Humpty’s – Derral Gleason 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mikes & The Main Street Grill (Palmer) - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot’s – Comedian Sam Tallent 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot’s – Bad Charlotte 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Peratrovich Park (Anchorage) – Downtown Jazz in the Park 4p-6p
Raven Bar – Hot Raven Nights: Underwear Beach Party 9p-2a
Williwaw Social – Animal House Dance PAW-ty with DJ Aristocat & DJ Cross 10p-2:30a

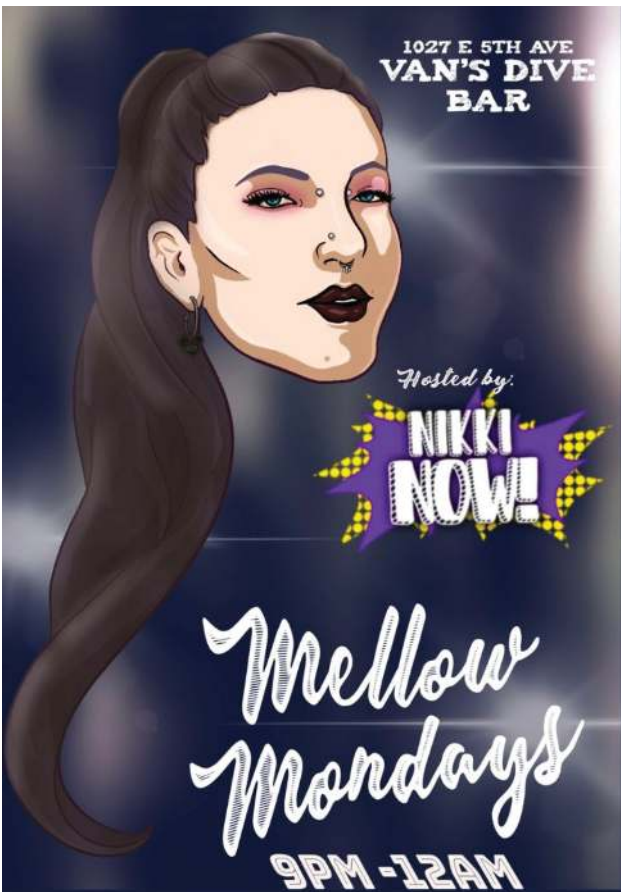


Sunday, August 20th

Alaska Dance Promotions – Alaska Latin Dance Fest 3p-5p
Alaska State Fair (Palmer) -Blue Oyster Cult 6p-10p
Anchorage Town Square Park – ANC Market Social 11a-5p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Cyrano’s Playhouse – 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche 3p-4p
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
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
Writer’s Block Bookstore & Café - Beat Roots 15th Anniversary House Music Brunch 12p-6p

Monday, August 21st

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) -Toby Mac 7p-10p
Crow Creek Mine (Girdwood) – Larry Zarella 6p-8:30p
Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Nikki Now 9:30p-12a



Tuesday, August 22nd

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Open Band Jam Night 6:30p-9:30p
Anchorage Museum – Lunch on the Lawn: The Forest That Never Sleeps 11:30a-1:30p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Humpty’s – Jared Woods 8:30p-12:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – The Open Stage 7p-10p
Koot’s – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Turnagain Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
Van’s Dive Bar – OPEN JAM w/ Daylight Mike 9p-12a

Wednesday, August 22rd

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie’s Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpty’s – Jared Woods 8:30p-12:30a
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 7p-11:30p
Koot’s –Koots Karaoke 10p-2a
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Movin’ With Jerry Presents: 80’s HIIT Circuit 7p-10p

Biden signs into law Democrats' wide-ranging climate change, health care and tax bill

BY JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed his party's signature climate, health care and tax package into law Tuesday, capping off more than a year of tumultuous negotiations that saw his original proposal to Congress slimmed down considerably.

Flanked by a handful of Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn and West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin III, Biden sharply contrasted his outlook for the country with that of Republicans, who unanimously voted against the package.

"My fellow Americans, that's the choice we face — we can protect the already powerful or show the courage to build a future where everybody has an even shot," Biden said. "That's the America I believe in."

The law, which passed the U.S. Senate following a 51-50 vote and the U.S. House on a party-line 220-207 vote, totals about \$750 billion in new spending, though it would actually reduce the country's deficit in the long term by allowing Medicare to negotiate some prescription drug prices and changing a handful of taxes.

Sparse attendance

The signing Tuesday at the White House was attended by just five Democrats, in part because Congress is in the middle of its August recess with lawmakers back in their home states campaigning ahead of the November elections. Reps. Frank Pallone of New Jersey and Kathy Castor of Florida accompanied Manchin, Schumer and Clyburn.

But Biden, who returned to Washington, D.C., to sign the bill after vacationing at a South Carolina beach, plans to hold a second event to mark the bill's enactment on Sept. 6. That celebration will likely have many more Democrats in attendance.

No Republicans voted for the package, which Democrats advanced using the complicated budget reconciliation process that gets around the U.S. Senate's legislative filibuster.

Biden said Tuesday that the new law would set up Americans for a better future.

"The bill I'm about to sign is not just about today, it's about tomorrow," Biden said.

"It's about delivering progress and prosperity to American families, it's about showing the American people that democracy still works in America, notwithstanding all the talk of its demise."

Historic climate funding

The law, which will roll out in phases over the next few years, will funnel \$370 billion to clean energy programs, including electric vehicle tax credits and tax incentives for energy companies to produce renewable energy.

Biden said that the "bill is the biggest step forward on climate ever."

It will cap Medicare recipients' out-of-pocket prescription costs at \$2,000 annually beginning in 2025 and will allow the federal government to negotiate the prices of some of the more expensive Medicare prescription drugs beginning in 2026.

The cost of insulin for Medicare patients would be capped at \$35, though Democrats were unable to keep a provision in the final agreement that would have capped the monthly co-pay for people with private health insurance.

The proposals throughout the package are paid for by instituting a 15% minimum tax on corporations with incomes more than \$1 billion and a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks, as well as by allowing Medicare to negotiate some prescription drug prices.



Boosting Internal Revenue Service coffers by \$80 billion to increase compliance with tax laws already in place as well as the new changes is expected to bring in additional revenue, helping to further offset the roughly \$750 billion price tag for the package.

IRS budget breakdown

The IRS funding would be divided up with \$46.5 billion to bolster staff and update technology, \$25.3 billion for operations support, \$4.8 billion to update business systems and \$3.2 billion for taxpayer services.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen wrote in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles P. Rettig earlier this month that the federal government's boost in funding for the agency would not lead audit rates to "rise relative to recent years for households making under \$400,000 annually."

"Instead, enforcement resources will focus on high-end noncompliance," Yellen wrote.

While the legislation, named the Inflation Reduction Act, is expected to reduce the nation's deficit, it likely won't have much of an impact on inflation, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The agency's analysts wrote that the "the bill would have a negligible effect on inflation" during the current year and that during 2023 "inflation would probably be between 0.1 percentage point lower and 0.1 percentage point higher under the bill than it would be under current law."

The Penn Wharton Budget Model from the University of Pennsylvania had a similar assessment, estimating that the law "would have no meaningful effect on inflation in the near term but would reduce inflation by around 0.1 percentage points by the middle of the first decade."

"These point estimates, however, are not statistically different from zero, indicating a low level of confidence that the legislation would have any measurable impact on inflation," The Penn Wharton Budget Model said.

Many setbacks

The legislation, originally pitched by Biden as a multi-trillion-dollar proposal dubbed Build Back Better, took more than a year to come together.

Democrats in the U.S. House originally passed a \$2 trillion package last November before the legislation stalled out in the U.S. Senate amid disagreements between progressive and centrist Democrats about the size and elements of the bill.

Manchin and Arizona Democrat Kyrsten Sinema were

considered significant obstacles to enacting many of the more progressive legislative goals, including closing the carried interest loophole that primarily benefits wealthy hedge fund managers and providing subsidies for child care and paid family leave programs.

Manchin and Schumer, a New York Democrat, relaunched negotiations earlier this summer following many starts and stops during the first half of the year.

At the time, many Democrats were skeptical anything would come of the closely held, private talks, but encouraged the two to reach a final agreement that would meet some of the party's goals.

The duo announced the surprise agreement on July 27, but Schumer needed to make some tweaks to the bill to get Sinema on board.

With the support of all 50 of the Senate's Democrats secured, Schumer brought the legislation to the floor for debate and an all-night amendment voting session known as vote-a-rama earlier this month.

The Senate passed the measure on a 51-50 vote on Aug. 7 with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the tie-breaking vote amid uniform Republican opposition.

The package then cleared the U.S. House on Aug. 12 after members broke their summer recess to return to Capitol Hill to debate and then vote on the bill.

Promoting the new law

Biden and many of his Cabinet secretaries are expected to travel throughout the country in the coming weeks to champion the new law ahead of the November midterm elections.

Progressive Democrats have already begun making their pitch to voters on the provisions left by the wayside, telling constituents that those proposals could become law if more Democrats are elected to Congress later this year.

Republicans, who uniformly voted against the bill, are making the opposite case.

During floor debate and on the campaign trail, GOP lawmakers say the law will increase energy costs, lead to IRS audits on families and small businesses, and harm the economy.

"Our economy is in a fragile state as we emerge from this pandemic," Michigan GOP Rep. Fred Upton said during floor debate, while touting his support of several bipartisan packages this Congress. "We have seen decades-high inflation that is crushing Main Street and squeezing the middle class."

Hill climbing with Denali: déjà vu on McHugh

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

The year was 2013, my first with Denali. About a month after she entered my life, my 1-year-old pup and I headed up McHugh Peak, our second hill climb together and our most ambitious outing yet.

At the time I was steadfastly keeping a “Denali Diary,” so the events of that June 16 adventure are documented in considerable detail. But even without looking at my entry for that day, a few memories come immediately and vividly to mind when I recall that ascent of McHugh, the first of many we’ve done over the years on what’s become one of my—our—favorite mountains.

The memories begin with this: once freed from her leash, Denali ranged far and wide across McHugh’s alpine flanks, spurred to race ever-farther distances by the high-pitched calls of ground squirrels, those squirrels safely diving into their tunneled homes before my excited puppy could get close, and she refusing to give up the chase.

Denali once roamed far enough away that I lost track of her and worried she might descend the slopes dropping from the rocky spine we were traversing.

To pull some details from my diary, “Finally she responds to my loud, echoing calls—and is one tired puppy when she returns, lying exhausted in a snow field. Still, she makes it to the top in good shape and stays closer in her tired condition.”

On our descent, Denali again rushed ahead. This time—a detail I’d forgotten—she somehow injured her right front leg. A close inspection didn’t reveal any obvious injury, so I assumed she had simply strained a muscle. “She walks with a slight limp,” I would recount in my diary, “though seems to forget—or ignore—any pain when again chasing a squirrel call and/or running to meet other dogs.”

After one such chase Denali looked so beat that I decided we needed a rest stop. Which leads to another vivid memory: once sprawled on the ground, my pup showed no inclination to move when I advised her, “Okay girl, time to go.” Instead she closed her eyes as if to nap.

Here I’ll pull more details from my diary: “Feeling sorry for my worn-out puppy, I pick her up and carry her a while, finally putting her back down on an uphill section of trail. She moves slowly but steadily for a while, then again poops out. So I carry her again. But she is suddenly revitalized when we meet a group of dogs (an encounter I’d forgotten). At some point, several dogs begin romping and running and chasing each other across the tundra, Denali included. You’d never guess she injured a leg!”

Not long after the frolicking ended, Denali “crashed” once more and showed no desire to continue. I again picked up my “exhausted, beat puppy” and carried her down most of the last, long slope to the trailhead.

No question, she’d pushed herself too far, too hard. But as a friend commented later, it was my responsibility to make sure she didn’t overdo it. I should have put her back on leash once it was clear she couldn’t resist “giving chase” when opportunities presented themselves, even in her tired, aching condition.

Back home I gave her “rimadyl for puppies” (a pain and anti-inflammatory medicine). “She still has a great appetite and gobbles up her dinner,” I wrote that night. Finishing my journal entry I noted, “It’s now nearly 9:30 and she has spent most of the evening asleep. Hoping the leg strain/pull is nothing serious.”

To my great relief, the injury did turn out to be minor. A few days of R&R and she was back to her usual energetic, rascally, fully fit self and within a week we headed back into the hills east of Anchorage.

Nine summers later, I’ve been thinking about that first ascent of McHugh Peak with Denali because of a recent experience that was strikingly similar in some ways. At times it felt, as NY Yankee great Yogi Berra might say, like “Déjà vu all over again.”

One key difference, of course, is that Denali is now an old-timer, like her human companion. At 10, she still has the enthusiasm of a puppy, but not the stamina. And her body has many miles on it.

We have to pace ourselves more now—which means I have to be even more certain that my aging “pup” doesn’t push things too hard. That in turn means fewer trips into the mountains and, as a rule, shorter outings. But now and then we still get up high on favorite peaks and McHugh recently seemed doable after several days of shorter, less strenuous walks.

This time we were joined by Jan and her dog, Guido, another rascally sort.



Denali on McHugh Peak. (Photo by Bill Sherwonit)

We hadn’t climbed McHugh in months and were drawn there by a sunny, blue-sky August day, breaking a long string of gray, wet ones. It was a perfect day to get up into the Chugach Front Range, with temperatures ranging from the fifties into the sixties, and only a light breeze moving through the mountains.

Moving at a steady pace, we reached McHugh’s summit ridge in good shape.

Denali roamed across the landscape, as she still tends to do, but not nearly as far. And she largely seemed to ignore the calls of ground squirrels, or at least didn’t charge back-and-forth across the tundra. It was almost as if she were pacing herself.

After a rest and picnic break, Jan and I decided to follow the summit ridge to the east. That meant side-hilling across boulder-strewn slopes and a loss of elevation, followed by more uphill climbing. The glorious view made the extra effort worthwhile and everyone—dogs and humans—still seemed to be doing well.

Then, on a downhill stretch through grassy meadows, a squirrel squeaked—and Denali and Guido went racing toward it, my dog running harder than I’d seen all day, perhaps pushed along by Guido’s equally enthusiastic pursuit.

Not long after, Denali showed the first signs of what I call a “hitch” in her stride. Not exactly a limp, but no longer did her body move in a fluid way, suggesting she’d hurt herself, if only slightly.

She also began to slow down.

Images of our 2013 descent flashed through my mind. I hoped I wouldn’t have to carry her; only 28 pounds as a 1-year-old pup, she now weighs 40 pounds or so. And I’m not as strong as I used to be.

A short time later, another squirrel chattered. And the two danged dogs again charged across the tundra. Not far, but far enough for Denali to show a more pronounced limp afterward. I yelled at her but really was more miffed at myself for not putting her on leash. When I did so then, Denali dragged behind me as if reluctant to move at my pace.

After a while I took her off leash because she seemed more willing to proceed on her own terms. She can be a stubborn gal.

When our path took us near a hemlock bush, Denali headed toward it. Noticeably panting, she lowered her body into its shade and placed her head on the tundra. The message was clear: she needed to rest.

I went to Denali’s side, squatted beside her and offered some words of encouragement while stroking her fur. I also offered water, but she refused to drink. Looking up, I then shouted to Jan, “We need to stop a while.”

I worried that Denali might not be able to continue on her own, feared that she might collapse if pushed too hard, realized I might have to carry her a ways after all.

After sitting beside her for several minutes, I decided to see if she was willing to move or needed more time. I stood and took a few steps down the trail, then turned to her and asked, “Ready to go?”

Denali hesitated as if considering her options, then stood and began walking again, slowly but steadily, with what seemed to me a stronger, more determined stride. She still had a hitch, but not as pronounced.

We took our time and as we moved closer to the trailhead and the car, Denali seemed get her “second wind” and she picked up her pace, perhaps because she knew we’d soon be done, and the sooner the better.

Once at the car, she jumped into the back—I’d been thinking I’d have to lift her—and then dozed on the drive home. She got a Rimadyl with her meal, which she gobbled down, and she slept most of the evening.

The next day Denali seemed to have largely recovered from the hill climb, though she seemed a bit “low energy” and had a barely noticeable hitch in her stride when we took an easy walk along the Coastal Trail.

I’ve been thinking about McHugh Peak in the days since then. I can’t say for sure we’ll reach the mountain’s summit ridge on future hill climbs, though I’d bet we do. But of one thing I’m sure: Denali and I will continue walking McHugh’s slopes as long as we are able, we love that mountain too much to stay away.

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.

Secrets of an ancient horse of the Yukon

BY NED ROZELL

WHITEHORSE, YUKON — A few minutes' walk from the bank of the aquamarine upper Yukon River in northwestern Canada, thousands of bones of ancient creatures rest in boxes and on shelves.

Here in the lab of Yukon government paleontologists are the remains of saber-toothed cats, bears with boxy faces that stood 8 feet tall, woolly mammoths and sloths the size of gorillas.

Of all these time-hardened riches of the past, Elizabeth Hall has a cherished piece — the fragment of a horse's foreleg that fits in the palm of her hand.

Hall, a paleontologist for the Yukon, has been digging up, identifying, and studying fossilized bones since her first trip to a gold mine in 2003. That's when a geneticist on the same trip removed a bone from a cut in a hillside where it had remained in place for thousands of years.

The Yukon — a territory of Canada east of the Alaska border — is a great place to find the preserved remains of ancient creatures. One reason is that the immense ice sheet that covered most of North America (including Chicago and New York City) did not press down on central Yukon nor the middle of Alaska. That spared the landscape from the abrasion of millions of pounds of flowing ice.

The Yukon is also similar to northern Alaska in that much of the ground in which miners search for gold has remained frozen for a very long time, due to the penetrating cold air of the past.

These two features have helped the Beringian lion, the camel and a beaver the size of a person to endure in this place, even as it has changed from a windy grassland to a dense forest of spruce, aspen and willow.

This preservative environment, along with cooperative and curious gold miners, has led Yukon paleontologists including Hall to many recent discoveries, including a mummified wolf pup.

Along with the howls of that wolf's parents, the hoofbeats of horses was a common sound here in the distant past. That's where the story circles back to Hall.

In summer 2003, she was a student at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver when she applied for the Yukon Student Training Employment Program.

That led her to step onto a small plane on a remote airstrip a few hundred miles northwest of Whitehorse. Thistle Creek is not far from Dawson City, the epicenter of the Gold Rush in the late 1800s that drew so many prospectors to northwestern Canada. The same stampede was responsible for much of the white settling of Alaska.

On that summer day 19 years ago at Thistle Creek, Hall watched a scientist pry a rich brown bone fragment from between two lines of ash deposited by prehistoric volcanic eruptions. A researcher identified the bone as



Elizabeth Hall, assistant paleontologist for the Yukon government in Whitehorse, stands in her office laboratory. Photos by Ned Rozell

the metacarpal bone of a horse, which is sort of like one of our fingers.

The geneticist handed the bone to Hall. The hard-as-ivory fragment was still cold with the memory of being frozen in place for who-knew-how many thousands of years.

The scientists there at Thistle Creek were excited because they knew the fossil bones they had gathered that day — a few from horses and some from mammoth and mastodon — were quite old.

The researchers had to wait a long time before the picture of the horse became unusually clear.

Nine years later, a sample sawed out of the horse bone yielded the world's oldest, most completely sequenced DNA genome.

That meant that the scientists suddenly knew that horse was munching grasses and sedge at Thistle Creek 765,000 years ago. They also knew the horse was a male that galloped the frigid grasslands alongside mastodons, camels and lions.

Hall compared extracting the exquisite DNA from the bone to finding a film of the horse's life with no scenes missing.

"You now know everything about this one particular creature," she said.

The Thistle Creek find helped other scientists from around the world learn more about horses, which have been around for 55 million years (compared to about 6 million for humans). For instance, that horse's DNA led scientists to prove the existence of a stilt-legged horse that came afterward.

In early August 2022, Hall had just returned from a trip to Carmacks, north of Whitehorse, to examine a bison skull found during excavation there. She didn't know what the next ring of the phone might bring.

As she spoke from a room surrounded by about 45,000 fossilized bones of creatures like the saiga antelope long gone from the Yukon, she held out a small fossil that was her first experience with bone-finding in the far north.

"It's still my favorite specimen."

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

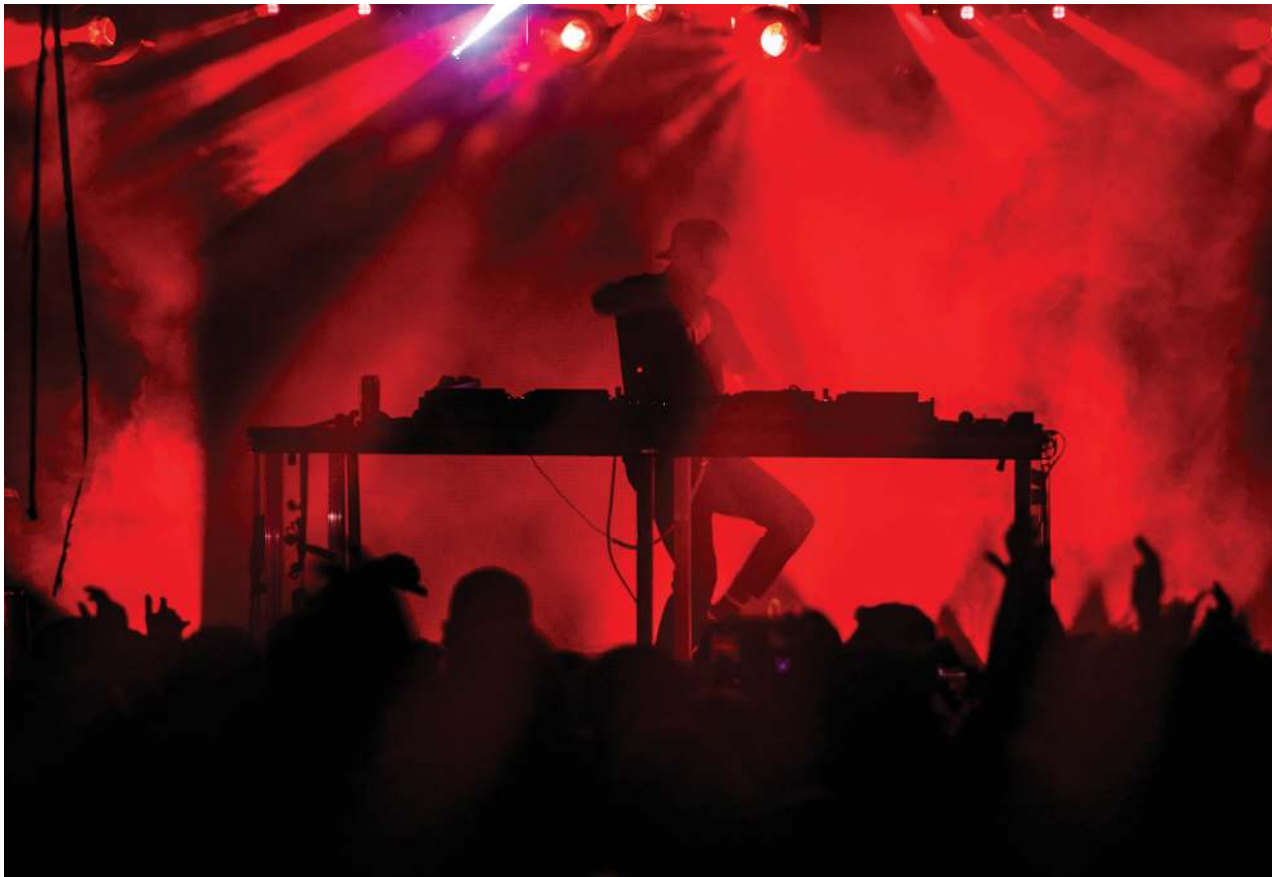


Elizabeth Hall, assistant paleontologist for the Yukon government in Whitehorse, holds in her hand a leg bone from a horse that is 765,000 years old.

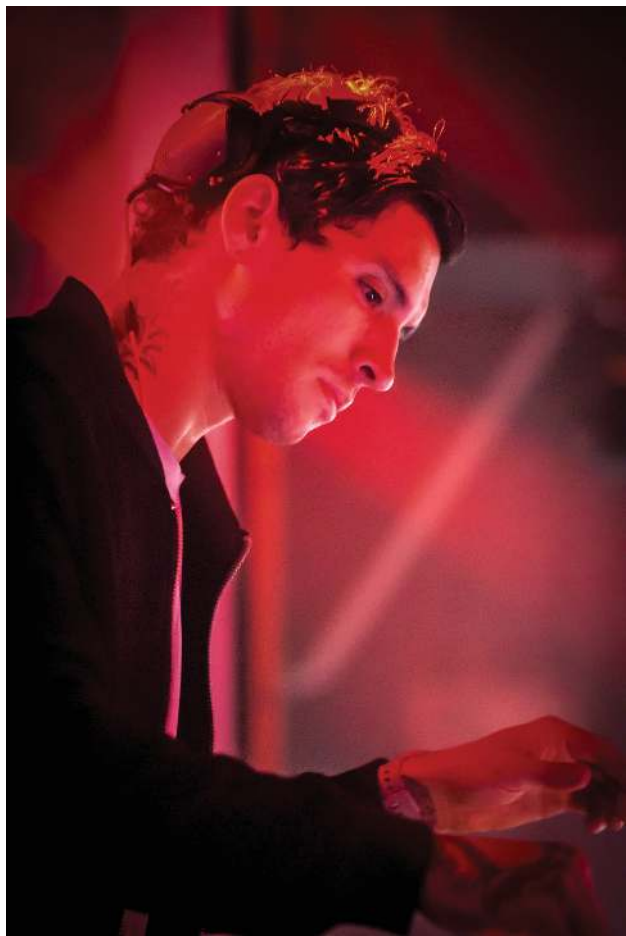


Elizabeth Hall holds the leg bone of a horse that is 765,000 years old. A paleontologist for the Yukon government, Hall helped extract the fossil from a Yukon gold mine during her first far-north field experience in 2003.

IEYMI!



Los Angeles-based EDM producer and remixer with tracks ranging from chill trap to future garage, Jauz, took over Williwaw for another killer summer show. Photos by @TrueNorthPhotoAK



Backstories

Wicked Wanda Prince

STORY AND PHOTO BY O'HARA SHIPE



Wanda Prince's flaming red manicured nails and an engraved golden ring with the word "Chilkoot's" peep out from underneath her long black jacket as she reaches for her glass of wine. It's a slow Monday night at Koot's, but Prince blends in so well with the surrounding bar that if it weren't for her nails, you might miss her entirely. But once you grab a seat next to this vivacious 87-year-old, you'll never overlook her presence again.

"My first night on the job, I had a guy come in and ask me to show him my boobs for \$5. Since I didn't actually know how to bartend and didn't want to make a drink, I pulled up my shirt and let him have it. Mind you, I have great boobs," proclaims Prince within minutes of our introduction. "You know, I was even on 'Girls Gone Wild.' They made me the promo for Alaska."

Once Prince steps into her familiar surroundings, the infamous tilted Birdhouse bar, any shred of modesty is put on the shelf alongside her oversized coat. Although Prince has never been a shrinking violet, it wasn't until her 67th year that she started to transform into her alter-ego, Wicked Wanda.

As the General Manager of the now deceased Northern Lights Hotel, Prince used her Southern charm to assuage customers and staff. While she excelled at her white-collar job, the seedier parts of life had always called to her. So, when she was given the opportunity to work as a bouncer at the raucous Blues Central nightclub in Anchorage, she didn't hesitate to take the job.

"I've never had to actually bounce anyone, but I did have to ask one person to leave one time. I think it's just better to smile at people and say, 'give me \$5,'" says Prince.

Transitioning into the face of Birdhouse wasn't quite as smooth. Prince says that she cried before her first shift.

"I'd never made a drink before, and I really didn't know what I was doing. Then I showed my boobs a few times on my first shift, and I thought I was going to get fired right away. I told my friend about it, and she let me know that [former owner] Mike Gordon was watching the security footage in the office and that I was definitely going to get a raise," laughs Prince.

Twenty years later, Prince has mastered the art of making a drink. She's also mastered her uncanny ability to coax a smile out of anyone who stumbles into the Birdhouse from 4-7pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

"Well, I don't know how to put it into words, but [the Birdhouse] is sort of a part of my social life. I meet so many beautiful people from so many different places. And somehow, I always leave them smiling. You know, they might come in and be in bad spirits or a bad mood, but I can usually get them to respond with a smile before they leave. That's my goal each night," explains Prince.

Not unlike a naughty Care Bear, Prince relies on a series of carefully crafted gags to steal smiles. The first involves an oversized phallus hidden underneath her work apron. If that doesn't work, she's not afraid to break out the big guns.

"Oh yeah, I have a whole box of dildos in all different sizes, shapes, and colors because we don't discriminate," brags Prince as she unlocks a secret safe behind the bar. "It's kind of hard not to laugh when someone hands you a dildo at a bar."

Prince may have become as infamous as Koot's for her debauchery, but it is her kind eyes, gentle manner, and open heart that have made her beloved.

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

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Super Crossword

NFL MIX-UP

- ACROSS
- 1 Cheddar-like cheese

6 Pointy heel

14 Catching with a lariat

20 Love to bits

21 Decorative park shelter

22 Intro

23 NFL team whose logo is a red planet?

25 Canadian metropolis

26 Guitar ridge

27 Manning of the Giants

28 Co. kingpins

30 Cookout raiders

31 NFL team whose logo is a prairie?

38 President of Syria

41 Small-time

42 Actresses Longoria and Mendes

43 NFL team whose logo is a bracelet?

48 Poet Jonson

51 Estrada of "CHiPs"

52 D-Day invasion river

53 Here-there link

54 Opposite of staccato

56 Headed up

57 Thurman of "Robin Hood"

58 NFL team whose logo is a steak?

61 "— Fideles" (yule carol)

63 Go by ship

65 Pre-takeoff abbr.

66 Biblical "ark-itect"

67 NFL team whose logo is a Lipitor pill?

72 Gillette razor

75 Rhinoplasty doc

76 Nix from Nixon, say

77 Like most slasher films

81 NFL team whose logo is a sword?

85 Diving seabird

86 Wood chopper

87 Venus — (Louvre statue)

88 Brian of electronica

89 Super-close buds

91 Where a goatee grows

92 Just-OK mark

93 NFL team whose logo is a cheese curd?

98 Old film critic James

99 Justice Kagan

100 Oscar winner Witherspoon

101 NFL team whose logo is an amoeba?

108 Arkin of film

109 San —, Italy

110 L-P link

111 Final Four org.

115 "Honor Thy Father" author Gay

117 NFL team whose logo is a perfume bottle?

123 Lounging

124 Board, as a train

125 Slabs

126 Alleviate

127 Half a school year

128 Really vexed

DOWN

1 Baby cow

2 Smell

3 Be defeated

4 "St. Elmo's Fire" bunch

5 Longing

6 Kind of wheat

7 Lucky charm

8 "— done it!"

9 Fleur-de- —

10 "A Nightmare on — Street"

11 Carrere of "True Lies"

12 Illuminator on a dime

13 Advent

14 President on a dime

15 Choose

16 Floral parts

17 Nonsensical

18 Pond wrigglers

19 Lawn stuff

24 Catch on to

29 Baseballer Hersher

32 Tyrant Amin

33 Light meal

34 Prefix with cycle

35 Burglarize

36 Actor Hugh

37 Artist's stand

38 Amtrak train

39 Fathered

40 Sarcastic

44 Ladies' club policy

45 Target of the Million Mom March, for short

46 What the weary have, in a saying

47 Little cave

48 Chachi player Scott

49 Volcano in Sicily

50 Light meal

55 "Who ya — call?"

57 Colorado tribe

58 Affront, informally

59 Pupil, in Paris

60 Suffragist — B. Wells

62 "My Two Dads" actress Keanan

63 Karate teacher

64 Former name of Kazakhstan's capital

68 Prefix with 101-Down

69 Ending for auction

70 Bridge beam

71 Rile

72 "Moneytalks" rock band

73 You, quaintly

74 "The — of the Ancient Mariner"

78 Western lake

79 Leaves

80 Concentrated

82 Put straight

83 Taken eco-friendly measures

84 Like fillets

85 Movie-archiving org.

89 U2 vocalist

90 Apartment sharer, to a Brit

91 Neat and wholesome

94 Nixing mark

95 High peak

96 For every

97 Old PC screen

98 Trojan hero

101 Birth-related

102 Thrill

103 Swansea locale

104 Stockpile

105 Opposite of day, in Italy

106 Soon to receive, as a treat

107 Fa follower

112 Traffic marker

113 Singer Paul

114 Office helper: Abbr.

116 Iceland-to-Ireland dir.

118 NASA lander

119 Chimp, e.g.

120 Denials

121 Blast creator

122 "Eureka!"
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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- LEGALS
- Bread & Brew, LLC dba Bread & Brew located at 1450 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant or Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Craig McCarty 42.857%, Sherrie McCarty 42.857%, and Alexis Johnson 14.286% to Craig McCarty 85.714%, and Alexis Johnson 14.286% . Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At jana@jdwccounsel.com or JDW, LLC 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 8/18/22, 8/25/22, 9/01/22
- 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
- August 18-August 24, 2022
- PRESS | A17

Guilty Daughter

Dear Oskar,
My mother and I have had a very difficult relationship. She is very critical of almost everything I do. I recently cut off all communication with her. I feel so guilty. What if something happens to her? Is it o.k. for me to cut her off? Does that make me a bad daughter?
—Guilty Daughter



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Guilty Daughter,
I am going to assume that you are over the age of 18, which means that you are legally an adult. Congrats, your life is yours now.
As an adult, you have the freedom to do what is right for you. Let's just imagine that this woman is not your mother (don't worry, we'll

give her back to you in a minute). Let's pretend she is a neighbor. Would you feel guilty about not staying in communication with her? Probably not. So why your mother?
We are raised to believe that what the outside world tells us is right, rather than what we know to be true. That means we give power to other people to tell us who we should be and what we should be doing.
As a parent, my job is to take care of my children. To give them food, water, shelter, love, and guidance. At the end of the day, if one of my children decides that they hate me and never wants to speak to me again, I would be heartbroken, of course, but I also would respect their decision.
I have discovered in my life that the worst kind of people are the ones who try to control others. I used to hang around those types of people, and you know what I discovered? It doesn't actually feel nice when I'm around them! I had to learn the hard way that there is no way to change them. The

only thing you can do is let them go.
So no, Guilty Daughter, you do not owe your mother anything. Personally, it took me a long time to learn that. But now that I have, I'm living a much happier life. Do not feel obligated to take someone's punches because of the label that society has for your relationship.
The other thing that's important is to know that we teach people how to treat us. By walking away and doing what is right for you, you're practicing the act of self-love. Self-love leads to self-esteem, and people with self-esteem are treated well because that's the only interaction they will allow.
Relationships are changeable, but only when we are willing to change. So I encourage you to follow your heart and do what feels right for you, because at the end of the day, a mother's most important role is to be loving, so it's your job to be the best mother to yourself. When you do, you'll find yourself around loving people that lift you up, as you deserve!

LEGALS

Momma O's Seafood MR LLC. Is making application for a new Restaurant/Eating Place AS 04.11.100 liquor license doing business as Momma O's Seafood located at 2636 Spenard Road #1 Anchorage. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.
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Murkowski, from page A3

In the race to fill out the remainder of Young's term, Peltola had 56,892 votes, or 38.3 percent, in the Wednesday morning count to Palin's 48,304, or 32.5 percent, and Begich's 43,038 votes, or 29 percent.

Although it was thinner because there were more people on the ballot Peltola also held the lead over Palin and Begich in the primary election for the full two-year term in Congress.

In that contest, Peltola captured 53,342, or 35 percent of votes tabulated, compared with 47,783, or 31.4 percent for Palin and 40,972, or 26.9 percent for Begich. Another Alaska Native candidate, Tara Sweeney, was also on that ballot and pulled 5,427, or 3.5 percent of the votes. In November, these people, the top four, will square off again in ranked choice.

The House race results are tentative, but Peltola's lead in both races is likely to widen as rural Alaska votes are tallied.

In Anchorage legislative races, new contenders challenged familiar incumbents. Again, these were also first choices by voters, and again the November general election is ranked choice among the top four primary winners.

In most cases, there were fewer than four candidates in legislative races, which means all listed on the primary ballot will appear again in November but will be subject to ranked choice.

In Anchorage's southside Senate District E, Cathy Giessel has a lead over incumbent Sen. Roger Holland by 3,745 to 3,238. Both are Republicans.

In Anchorage Senate District F, James Kaufman, a Republican now in the state House, received 4,775 votes compared with 3,755 for Janice Park, a Democrat. This is also a south Anchorage district.

In Anchorage Senate District G, incumbent Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, a Democrat, received 3,696 votes to Republican Marcus Sanders' 2,916. In Senate District H, Matt Claman, now in the state House and a Democrat, received 4,926 votes to Republican incumbent Mia Costello's 4,750.

In Anchorage Senate District I, a downtown district, Loki Tobin received 2,646 votes to Heather Herndon's 1,333. Tobin is a Democrat, and Herndon a Republican.

In Senate District J, also Anchorage, Forrest Dunbar, a Democrat, received 2,434 votes to Republican Andrew Satterfield, a Republican, who netted 1,648. State Rep. Geran Tarr, also in the race, received 726 votes and Drew Cason, also Democrat, netted 173.

In Senate District K, also downtown, incumbent Sen. Bill Wielechowski, a Democrat, received 3,412 votes to 2,808 for challenger John Cunningham, Republican.

The Anchorage House races held some surprises, although there will be a second matchup in November in the ranked-choice election.

In House District 10, south Anchorage, Craig Johnson, a conservative Republican, outpolled two Democrats, Caroline Storm, and Sue Levi.

In House District 13, Andy Josephson, a Democrat and incumbent legislator was trailing Republican Katherine Henslee. In House District 14, Alyse Galvin, nonpartisan, made a very strong showing. In House District 17, Harriett Drummond, a Democrat, trailed Zack Fields, another Democrat. Finally, in House District 19, Mina Genevieve, Democrat, dominated the results.



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Twenty states, D.C. join in opposing Texas lawsuit on emergency abortion care

BY JENNIFER SHUTT



Xavier Becerra, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, testifies at his confirmation hearing in February 2021 in Washington, D.C. In July, Becerra released a letter reasserting that under federal law, emergency abortions remain a right. Texas then sued to oppose that position, and on Tuesday, 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a brief opposing Texas' lawsuit. (Photo by Michael Reynolds-Pool/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — Attorneys general from 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a brief in federal court on Tuesday, challenging Texas' assertion that states shouldn't have to comply with a federal law that protects doctors who end a pregnancy to save the patient's life.

The brief argues the judge in the case shouldn't grant Texas' request for preliminary injunctive relief that would stop the federal government from enforcing the law, or a pre-judgment ruling, on the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

"For decades, the federal government and courts throughout the country have interpreted EMTALA to require treatment for emergency conditions relating to pregnancy that do not involve active labor and have concluded that stabilizing treatment may include emergency abortion care when necessary to treat an emergency condition," the attorneys general wrote in the 28-page brief.

The attorneys general also wrote that "emergency abortion care is necessary to avoid serious harmful outcomes (including death) in numerous situations such as when a patient presents with an ectopic pregnancy, severe preeclampsia, complications from abortion including self-induced abortion, and other medical conditions for which immediate medical attention is needed."

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, and the District of Columbia all signed onto the brief, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Texas challenge

The current debate between Texas and anti-abortion organizations, and the federal government began in July when U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released a letter reasserting that under EMTALA "no matter where you live, women have the right to emergency care — including abortion care."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration a few days later, arguing that EMTALA doesn't guarantee access to abortion. He said that because the Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* the Constitution no longer holds the right to abortion that EMTALA is "an unconstitutional exercise of authority and must be held unlawful and set aside."

The Texas lawsuit said that the HHS guidance would force health care providers "to choose between violating state law under threat of criminal penalty or jeopardizing their ability to participate in" federal health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Paxton also wrote the federal law violates the 10th Amendment, which says that any powers not given to the federal government by the Constitution fall to the states and the

people. The brief filed by the 20 states and the District of Columbia on Tuesday urges the federal judge in the case not to grant Texas' request for a preliminary injunction.

The attorneys general wrote that they have a substantial interest in the case because the states themselves are health care providers for millions of people as well as regulators of health care.

They argued that their states have a "strong interest in protecting the rights of their residents who may need emergency medical care while present as students, workers, or visitors in Texas and other States that may attempt to prohibit emergency abortion care contrary to EMTALA's requirements."

They also wrote that "if patients in Texas are denied necessary emergency abortion care, they may travel to nearby States (including amici New Mexico and Colorado) to receive the emergency care they need."

"These States would thus experience additional pressures on their already overwhelmed hospital systems, especially in rural and underserved areas that would be most significantly affected," they wrote.

Reports of postponed care

The states sought to highlight the wide-ranging impact that blocking EMTALA protections for abortion would have for patients who need a pregnancy ended to avoid severe health complications or death.

The brief noted that "doctors in Texas reported postponing care 'until a patient's health or pregnancy complication has deteriorated to the point that their life was in danger, including multiple cases where patients were sent home, only to return once they were in sepsis.'"

"As another example, a physician at an academic medical center described how a hospital asked her to accept a patient 'who was already septic' after the transferring hospital, on conscience-refusal grounds, refused to perform the abortion needed to save the patient's life, instead transferring the patient in an unstable state because the fetus had cardiac activity," the brief states. "The physician who treated the patient after the transfer reported the transferring hospital for violating EMTALA."

The states wrote that if Texas, or other states with severe abortion restrictions, didn't have to comply with EMTALA it would have a significant impact on health care providers in nearby states.

"Emergency rooms in New Mexico and Colorado and other neighboring states will inevitably need to absorb the out-of-state patient need for care that Texas's law will cause, at a time when the states continue to wrestle with an ongoing global pandemic and new public health crises," they wrote.



ARIES: Andrei Tarkovsky wrote, “All my life, I’ve been going around waiting for something—as if I were waiting in a railway station. And I’ve always felt as if the living I’ve done so far hasn’t actually been real life but a long wait for it—a long wait for something real.” If I could speak with Tarkovsky right now, I would cheerfully tell him that his wait will soon be over. I’d say that in the coming months, Aries people who have been postponing and postponing, who have been standing by and holding on and biding time, will have an excellent chance to begin inhabiting their full, rich destiny.

TAURUS: Taurus poet Sherko Bekas wrote, “Each joy I wear, its sleeves are either too short or too long, too loose or too tight on me. And each sorrow I wear fits as if it were made for me wherever I am.” With this as our starting point, Taurus, I’m pleased to report some good news. In the next three weeks, you will have zero sorrows to try on and wear like a garment. And there will be at least three joys that fit just right. The sleeves will be the correct length, and the form will be neither too loose nor too tight.

GEMINI: Tips on how to get the most out of the coming weeks: 1. Create a big spacious realization by weaving together several small hunches. 2. Keep a little angel on your right shoulder and a little devil on your left shoulder. Enjoy listening to them argue, and don’t get attached to anything they say. 3. Do the unexpected until it becomes expected. Then abandon it and try a new, unexpected experiment. 4. Meditate expansively on the question, “How many careers can I have in one lifetime?” 5. Enhance your home so it feels even more comfortable.

CANCERIAN: Be fluid and flexible while still being rooted and sturdy. Be soft and sensitive even as you are also firm and resolute. Be mostly modest and adaptable, but become assertive and outspoken as necessary. Be cautious about inviting and seeking out challenges, but be bold and brash when a golden challenge arrives. Be your naturally generous self most of the time, but avoid giving too much. Got all that, Cancerian? Carrying out the multifaceted assignments I just described might be nearly impossible for most of the other signs of the zodiac, but they are in your wheelhouse.

LEO: “I’ve swung from ancient vines in the caves of Jamaica,” exults Hoodoo priestess Luisah Teish. “I’ve danced with delight around totem poles and pressed foreheads with Maori warriors. I’ve joked with the pale fox in the crossroads, then wrestled with the jaguar and won. I have embraced great trees between my thighs and spoken words of love to thunder while riding lightning bolts.” I offer Teish’s celebratory brag to inspire you as you formulate plans for the coming weeks and months. What exhilarating adventures will you give yourself? What expansive encounters will you learn from? What travels outside of your comfort zone will you dare? The time is right for upsurges and upturns and upgrades.

VIRGO: In his poem “The Pupil,” Virgo-born Donald Justice speaks of how he spent “a whole week practicing for that moment on the threshold.” I advise you to do the same, Virgo. The goal is to be as prepared as you can be for the upcoming rite of transition—without, of course, being neurotically over-prepared. It’s fine and natural to honor the tension of anticipation, using it as motivation to do your best. One other thing: As you get ready, please have as much fun as possible. Visualize the sense of accomplishment you’ll feel when you’ve reached the other side of the test.

LIBRA: “One is always at home in one’s past,” wrote author Vladimir Nabokov. But I encourage you to rebel against that theory, Libra. For now, find a way to NOT feel at home in your past. Question it, be curious about it, re-evaluate it. My hope is that you will then be motivated to change how your history lives in you. Now is an excellent time to reconfigure your life story, to develop a revised relationship with its plot twists and evolution. Revisit and update some of your memories. Re-evaluate the meanings of key events. Enchanting healings will materialize if you do.

SCORPIO: Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Scorpios are most likely to regard that old pop tune by the Animals as your theme song. “I’m just a soul whose intentions are good,” croons lead singer Eric Burdon. “Oh, Lord, please don’t let me be misunderstood.” But you may have less motivation to express that sentiment in the coming weeks, dear Scorpio. I suspect you will experience record-breaking levels of being seen and appreciated for who you are. For best results, do this: 1. Inform your deep psyche that you have no attachment to being misunderstood. 2. Tell your deep psyche that you would very much like to be well understood.

SAGITTARIUS: “Unless we are creators, we are not fully alive,” wrote Sagittarian author Madeleine L’Engle. She was referring to everyone, not just people in the arts. She believed that to be soulful humans, we must always make new things, generate fresh possibilities, and explore novel approaches. The restless urge to transform what already exists can be expressed in how we do our jobs, our parenting, our intimate relationships, and every other activity. You are now entering a phase, Sagittarius, when this initiatory energy will be especially available, needed, and valuable.

CAPRICORN: In her poem “Valentine,” Capricorn poet Carol Ann Duffy tells a lover she won’t give her a “red rose or a satin heart.” Instead, her token of affection is an onion, a symbol of multi-layered complexity. “Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,” Duffy writes, “possessive and faithful as we are, for as long as we are.” She adds that the onion will “blind you with tears like a lover.” OK. I understand the tough attitude expressed by Duffy. Romance isn’t a relentlessly sweet, sentimental romp through paradise. But I don’t recommend that you imitate her approach to your love life in the coming weeks and months. Appreciate the sometimes shadowy and labyrinthine convolutions, yes, but don’t make them more important than beauty and joy and love.

AQUARIUS: Be extra expressive with the people and animals you care about. Be even more amusing and generous than usual. Dare to be abundantly entertaining and engaging and empathetic. Make it your goal to draw out your allies’ dormant potentials and inspire them to love themselves even more than they already do. I’ll tell you about the endearing terms that author Vladimir Nabokov called his wife. Consider using them with your dear ones: “My sun, my soul, my song, my bird, my pink sky, my sunny rainbow, my little music, my inexpressible delight, my tenderness, my lightness, my dear life, my dear eyes, kittykin, poochums, goosikins, sparrowling, bird of paradise.”

PISCES : Sometimes, you may feel you’re under the influence of a debilitating spell or hindered by a murky curse. Pisceans are prone to such worries. But here’s a secret. More than any other zodiac sign, you have the power to escape from spells. Even if you have never studied the occult or read a witch’s grimoire, you possess a natural facility for the natural magic that disperses curses. From the depths of your psyche, you can summon the spiritual force necessary to cleanse the gunk and free yourself. Now is a perfect time to prove to yourself that what I’ve said here is true.



DAN SAVAGE’S SAVAGE LOVE

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



I’m a 40-year-old female, cis-het. I have very discerning tastes in men, and always end up alone. Any way to be more open without sacrificing my standards?

You’ve either had a terrible run of bad luck—assuming you’ve dated more than ten men—or you’ve set your standards impossibly high. Some food for thought: perhaps you think you want a long-term relationship because you were told that’s what you’re supposed to want—you were told that’s what all good people want—but you actually don’t want a long-term relationship. They don’t make you happy. But instead of telling yourself that you’re a good person who prefers short-term relationships and/or being alone, you’ve set your standards so high—you’ve dialed them up to sabotage—because you want to be alone. And instead of owning that about yourself, you find fault in the men you date.

P.S. There’s no settling down without settling for.

Is there any way to enjoy anal while having a hemorrhoid?

Nope, sorry. You need to wait for it to heal.

I’m a 36-year-old man. If I get too psyched out to stay hard for (extremely rare) anal with my wife, should I just get some Viagra?

Well, that depends. Does your wife like long anal sex sessions? If the answer to that question is yes, then Viagra could help. Because in addition to helping you get and stay hard, Viagra and other ED meds can delay orgasm. But if your wife doesn’t like long anal sex sessions—if she generally wants you to hurry the fuck up and get the assfuck-ing over with—lasting longer could make those already rare anal sex sessions rarer still. Maybe try a cockring instead?

Tips for helping a penis-haver last longer when penetrating other than cockrings? (Cockrings are great, but they don’t help with longevity.)

Cockrings are great; I recommended them to another reader five second ago. But while a snug-but-not-too-tight cockring can help keep a penis-haver’s penis hard by gently restricting blood flow out of the penis-haver’s penis, cockrings don’t make penis-havers “last longer,” e.g., they don’t delay ejaculation. (Cockring 101: Gentle restriction is good; trapping blood in the penis is not. Cockrings should be snug, not tight.) If you’ve already tried all the standard-issue advice to treat premature ejaculation (which I’ve covered before and don’t have the space to re-re-rehearse in a Quickies column), an ED med like Viagra might help (for the reasons mentioned above); a low-dose SSRI is also an effective treatment for premature ejaculation.

P.S. Whenever someone writes “penis-haver” my slightly dyslexic brain reads “penis-halver,” as in, someone who cuts a penis in half—which some people in the body modification community have done, and bon(e) appetit to anyone brave enough to do a Google image search.

An ex-boyfriend is seeing trans prostitutes. Do I tell his current wife IF an opportunity to do so should arise? And it will, as we live on a small island. I would’ve wanted to know if we were still together. Should she not be offered the same?

If you truly live on a small island—small enough that everyone knows everyone else’s business but large enough to have more than one trans sex worker—then your ex-boyfriend’s wife is gonna find out sooner or later. But even if it means she finds out a little later, it would be better if she found out from someone other than you. Assuming your ex’s wife doesn’t already know and approve, if the bearer of bad news is a bitter ex—or someone who can easily be cast as one—your ex-boyfriend will have a much easier time convincing his wife that it isn’t true. Better she should hear it from the vicar.

I’m a gay boy in the big city and I want to start doing sex work as a side gig. But I have no idea how to start. First steps?

First steps: get vaccinated against monkeypox, Hep A and B, and HPV, and get on PrEP. Then talk with other people who are doing or have done sex work. There are a lot of sex workers on Twitter; most aren’t there to solicit customers, but to advocate for their rights and create community. Follow and learn.

What is the best lube for anal sex with sensitive skin?

We’re big fans of Spunk. Full disclosure: This isn’t a paid endorsement—but the last time I mentioned Spunk in a column, they sent me a case. That was years ago... and we’re almost out. Cough, cough.

Is it safe to eat ass while pregnant? Me, the ass eater, is the pregnant one. This is a question from Sweden.

Pregnant women are allowed eat whenever they want. (Hello, Sweden!) Also, I am not a doctor and hopefully one will speak up in the comments thread.

Closed bi woman here who is finally realizing that I want to date women. Is it better to come out to close friends/family and THEN date openly? Or is it better to date around and then only come out to straight friends/family if I find a long-term partner?

Even if you got away with it—even if you dated women and never had to come out because you didn’t wind up with a woman—do you really want to have to worry about getting caught on an app seeking women or on a date with a woman? And do you really wanna be the kind of bisexual person who makes bisexual invisibility and bisexual erasure worse than they already are? Come out. And who knows? One your friends—maybe even one of the hot ones—may not be any straighter than you are.

We often talk about warning signs/red flags with kinky Doms. What about subs?

No one should play with a Dom who tells inexperienced subs that “real” submissives don’t have limits. That’s the biggest and reddest flag in BDSM. On the flipside, no one should play with subs who say they don’t have limits and/or can’t ask for what they want. Obviously, a Dom who says, “You can’t object,” is more dangerous. But a sub who says, “You have to guess,” isn’t a safe player either. A sub like that attracts two types of Dom: shitty Doms who are only too thrilled to do whatever they want, even if (especially if) the sub winds up traumatized, and inexperienced Doms who don’t want to traumatize anyone but could wind up traumatizing the sub and themselves if they guess wrong.

ACLT Neighborhood Business of the Year Delights

Tatilani's Polynesian cuisine will take you to the islands

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

When it comes to fostering a thriving ethnic community, the local Polynesian population stands as one of the more prominent examples in town. While they are not the most populous group, signs of their cultural impact on Alaska can be seen all over, from the various lei vendors cropping up every Spring or just seeing spam musubi sold at gas stations. As a member of this proud, close-knit community, perhaps it's no surprise that Gene Grey, co-owner and chef of Tatilani Restaurant was recently awarded the 2022 Neighborhood Business of the Year award by the Anchorage Community Land Trust.

Such a milestone deserves to be recognized, and I could think of no better way to do so in my capacity than by going to Tatilani for the first time to see what they're all about. Polynesian and Japanese cuisines are what's on offer at this restaurant which is now in its second year of operation after opening at the height of the pandemic. While Anchorage is home to a plethora of Japanese restaurants, I reckon the number of restaurants serving up Polynesian food can be counted on just a single hand. With that in mind and having very little knowledge on this broad cuisine, I was hoping to educate myself as much as I wanted to gorge on this fusion of influences spanning the Pacific.

My experience began with taking a familiar route toward the old DMV building and the adjacent auto shop where Kay's Family Restaurant once stood. It's apparent this space used to have some connection with the neighboring auto business as visible through a massive garage door looming over half of their dining space, allowing plenty of natural lighting to pour in. Things were rather quiet upon walking in, though I was shortly attended to by a lone server whose hospitality helped lift my spirits from the drearily overcast weather outside.

While looking through the menu, my eyes gravitated towards the unfamiliar before eventually settling for their *mamoe* or "lamb flaps"—sold a la carte and by the pound. As a clueless mainlander, I wasn't quite sure what to make out of these flaps of lamb, but I remained cautiously excited to delve into this foreign entrée. To round things out, I also ordered their Fireball Bombers—a plate of jazzed-up jalapeno poppers filled with spicy tuna, crabmeat, and cream cheese. Last on my list was a serving of their grilled chicken teriyaki. I felt pretty confident in selecting these items based on the server's assurance that these were all great choices. Several Hawaiian reggae tracks and some mindless scrolling later, my food started to arrive, starting with the Fireball Bombers.

These stuffed jalapenos were presented in a neat row and doused in a combination of an eel-lava sauce and spicy mayo. The filling had a smooth, mild savoriness to it, though I personally would've preferred a little more cream cheese for more of its signature tang. It wasn't until I noticed a dab of an orange-hued mixture tucked into my final piece, that I remembered spicy tuna was one of the ingredients, which shows how much of an impact it had overall. But still, the tempura coating had crisped up nicely, and the jalapeno had a fresh, vegetal crunch.



Soon after, the enigmatic lamb flaps standing in a thin sauce were delivered to my table. The chances of this dish winning any sort of beauty pageant are likely slim to none, but this saucy plate of unctuousness managed to slay with its intoxicating aroma—encouraging me to dig right in. What looked to be tough, chewy layers of fat were mostly rendered down with plenty of shredded meat attached. The sauce—in all its sweet, sticky goodness—was the absolute star of the show and completely saturated the whole dish to de-funkify the lamb. Make no mistake: this was a salt bomb in the truest sense, and I occasionally had to stop and drink a copious amount of water—something my mother always scolded me for needing to do more of anyway.

Another thing that came to my aid from the intensity of the *mamoe* was a serving of roasted taro that was graciously offered to me by the server. I was confused upon receiving what looked to be a small loaf of bread, when in fact, it was the starchy root vegetable in about as natural of a state as it could've been prepared. I pierced a section with my fork and took a bite to enjoy its stodgy texture with a faint hint of sweetness.

In addition to this being a good foil to the meat, the pure, homey flavor of taro reminded me of Korean sweet potatoes and served as a reminder that food is often at its best when minimally prepared. Really, the only downside to this Samoan staple was that it just about filled every last void in my stomach, leaving very little room for me to move onto the largest plate of chicken teriyaki I've ever seen.

It wasn't just the portion size that managed to impress with this dish of



Japanese origin—between the lingering traces of smoke and edges laced with char, these grilled cutlets were probably the best chicken teriyaki I've had in years. There was no hint of stringiness to the meat—no, this was as juicy and succulent as I could've wanted. And for what it's worth, the teriyaki leftovers kept me occupied for days with no decline in quality.

I returned to Tatilani a few days later for a takeout order of oka, a specialty vaguely familiar to me in that it very much resembles Hawaiian poke (which also happens to be served here). The restaurant was slammed on a Sunday afternoon with parties rushing in every other minute, suggesting Tatilani may have already established itself as a go-to spot for the after-church crowd.

The difference with this Samoan take on raw fish lies in the use of coconut milk as the principal ingredient in the curing liquid. This enabled me to savor the natural flavor of ahi tuna in contrast with typically sodium-rich poke—a preparation often seen employed as a crutch for subpar fish. A bit of green onion and diced cucumber helped lift this refreshing, silky discovery, which I will likely find myself craving again soon.

For all its merits as a restaurant, Tatilani prevails as a testament to the resiliency and efforts of a family determined to pursue their dreams and bring their passion for Polynesian food and culture to the masses. Their success is driven by their love for one another, as seen in the very name of this undertaking (an amalgamation derived from the names of the family's three sisters). Their hard work has produced some killer chicken teriyaki and other Polynesian and Japanese specialties

the people of Anchorage are fortunate to have available. So the next time you find yourself in the mood for either sushi or short ribs, you can count on the wonderful folks at Tatilani to help escort you to your next island getaway.

Tatilani Restaurant is located at 3002 Spenard Road, Suite 101. They are open Monday — Friday from 10am — 9pm, and Saturday — Sunday from 11am — Midnight. View their menu at TatilaniRestaurant.com.



Co-owner, Gene Gray accepts the ACLT Neighborhood Business of the Year Award. (Photo by Jovell Rennie, courtesy of ACLT)



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CANNAGUIDE

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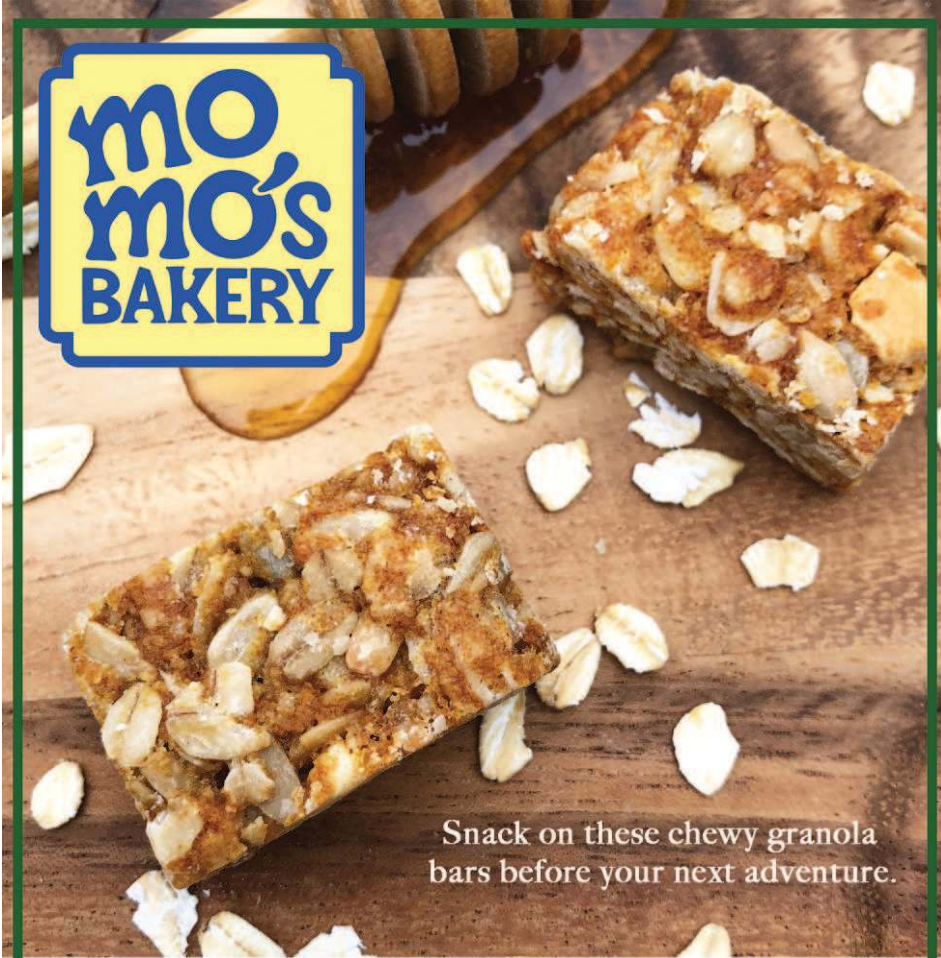
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UNCLE Herb's

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We live in a beautiful City and in an incredible State.
Let's work together to keep it up by doing our part.
Election is upon us and every vote is important!

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The Birdhouse Turns 20 this Saturday!

BY O'HARA SHIPE

So, there I was, a newly minted 21-year-old about to imbibe her first legal drink in the iconic Birdhouse at Koot's. The bartender had poured me the classic "Blow-job" shot – made with Kahlua, Bailey's, and an excessive amount of whipped cream piled on top. I watched wide-eyed as the bartender made a naked Barbie Doll gyrate in a dirty, celebratory dance. When Barbie had touched her toes for the last time, I reached for my glass. Immediately, my hand was swatted away, and I was instructed to take the shot without using my hands. "It's just like giving a blowjob," exclaimed the bartender.

I looked sheepishly at my dad, who had agreed to be my birthday drinking buddy, and despite the embarrassment, I went for it – well, sort of. As it turns out, my mouth is disproportionately small compared to the normal adult population. After what felt like an eternity of awkwardly bobbing my head up and down in an attempt to pick up the shot, the bartender took pity on me and let me finish with my hands (pun intended).

When it comes to the Birdhouse, stories like mine abound. In fact, it's the plethora of gags like the "call of the ptarmigan", Wicked Wanda's famous dick apron, and the disrobing ritual that has made the Birdhouse the one place every Anchorage takes visiting Outsiders.

This Saturday, the delightfully naughty bar turns 20 and longtime bartenders Mike Wachsmuth and Wanda are looking forward to celebrating with the kind of shenanigans that made the bar famous in the first place.

"Oh yeah, I have been putting together a special playlist for the occasion," says Wachsmuth before breaking out into a chorus from Connie Vannett's 'Pussy Cat Song.' Before the end of the song, everyone in the bar is singing in unison: "Sore, wet, hot, bald pussy. Just a friendly little cat."

For Wachsmuth, the Birdhouse is an opportunity to shed his 9-to-5 business persona and embrace something a little kookier and a whole lot more fun. "I've been bartending here for about 10 years, and what I love about it is that you get to meet people who you



would never cross paths with any other way. Just last week, we had a bunch of Aussies in here, and now, I have a standing invitation to visit Australia. This place brings people together in a special way," explains Wachsmuth.

On Saturday, another one of the bar's most infamous bonding rituals is returning – the wolverine-hormone-infused pickles.

"I won't tell you what they're made with but let's just say that those who try to eat them only have a success rate of about 10 percent," explains Wachsmuth with a giant grin.

Join Wanda, Mike, and the whole Koot's crew for a uniquely Alaskan celebration on Saturday, August 20 at Koot's (2435 Spenard Road). The party kicks off at 7pm with music by Bad Charlotte.



**IT'S THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY
FOR
THE BIRDHOUSE
AT KOOT'S!**



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SUNDAY, AUG 28 | 2PM

JR. RODEO
FRIDAY, AUG 26 | 6PM



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SATURDAY, SEPT 3 | 1 & 5PM
SUNDAY, SEPT 4 | 4PM



DEMOLITION DERBY

FRIDAY, SEPT 2 | 6PM



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