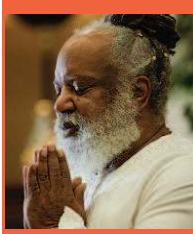


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Updated COVID-19 boosters available this week after FDA grants authorization and CDC approves new recommendations

BY CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

The updated bivalent COVID-19 boosters by Moderna and Pfizer are expected to be available this week in Alaska following last week's emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Alaska vaccine providers have ordered over 38,000 doses of the updated bivalent boosters, with deliveries anticipated this week.

The Moderna and Pfizer bivalent boosters target two strains of COVID-19 – the original strain of the virus and two omicron subvariants (BA.4 and BA.5), currently the most widespread subvariants. People aged 12 years and older are eligible if they have completed a primary series and it has been at least two months since either their primary or a booster dose. As of August 31, the original monovalent booster will not be available to people aged 12 years and older.

"It is great to have our first updated booster that protects against the virus currently circulating. This is another important tool to keep Alaskans protected against serious outcomes from COVID-19," said Alaska's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink. "This updated booster is becoming widely available across the state. If you have questions, please talk to your health care provider, local pharmacist, public health nurse or call our COVID-19 vaccine helpline at 907-646-3322."

As updated boosters become available, Alaskans have several options to find a vaccine provider or make an appointment:

- Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Text their ZIP code to 438829

- Call the Alaska COVID-19 Helpline at 907-646-3322 (hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays)

The Pfizer bivalent booster is currently authorized for people aged 12 years and older, while Moderna's is currently authorized for people aged 18 years and older. People aged 18 years and older may choose to receive either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster, regardless of which product they received previously.

The original formulas of Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson and Novavax vaccines will continue to be used for primary series. If Alaskans have not been vaccinated or have not completed their primary series, COVID vaccines are available at most pharmacies and health care providers' offices in Alaska.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have ongoing clinical trials for bivalent boosters for children aged 12 years and older, and plan to submit data to the FDA as soon as possible. With both influenza and COVID-19 circulating in Alaska, staying up to date on influenza and COVID-19 vaccines is important for the prevention of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. You are considered up-to-date on COVID vaccines if you have completed a primary series and received the most recent CDC-recommended booster dose.

For the latest information on updated bivalent boosters, including how to find a vaccine provider, visit covidvax.alaska.gov. Additional information COVID-19 can be found at covid19.alaska.gov. COVID-19 data for Alaska is available at on the COVID-19 data dashboard.

Finally, everyone aged 6 months and older should receive an annual flu shot. Flu vaccine is available now in Alaska; the CDC recommends people receive their flu shot in September or October, before flu begins circulating widely.

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Legislative primary results encouraged some Alaska House and Senate candidates to quit

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska’s new top-four primary election didn’t eliminate a single candidate for state House or Senate, but several candidates withdrew from November’s general election before a Monday deadline, citing their performance in the primary.

Most of the state’s House and Senate races now have fewer than three candidates, the minimum needed to trigger ranked-choice voting for those seats. The state’s new primary election system allows up to four candidates, regardless of party, to advance through the primary and to November.

Among 19 state Senate races, eight have at least three candidates. Of the 40 state House races, there are 14 with at least three options.

In other races, withdrawals have changed the blend of candidates, altering races that will determine partisan control of the state House and Senate.

That control will determine what legislation advances or fails over the next two years, but candidates say it’s too early to tell how the changes, coming amid a brand-new electoral system, will affect their races.

“We’re all guinea pigs,” said Ashley Carrick, a Democratic candidate for House District 35 in Fairbanks. “So we don’t really know yet what’s going to be a vote-splitting situation and what’s going to help candidates. I think all of the candidates in similar situations are asking themselves those questions.”

Among the races with notable withdrawals:

- In Anchorage, Alaskan Independence Party candidate Tim Huit withdrew, leaving Republican Kathy Henslee and Democrat Andy Josephson to compete in House District 13, whose boundaries were significantly redrawn by the redistricting process. Henslee had a one-vote margin over Josephson in the primary.
- Also in Anchorage, Democrat Jennie Armstrong and Republican former legislator Liz Vazquez will have a head-to-head race after Republican Joel McKinney and Constitution Party candidate Rick Beckes withdrew.
- Two East Anchorage state House districts became head-to-head matchups between Democrats and Republicans because of withdrawals. Both races are expected to be close.
- In Eagle River, four Republicans had been competing to replace Sen. Lora Reinbold, R-Eagle River. After the primary, two candidates withdrew, leaving incumbent Reps. Kelly Merrick and Ken McCarty to compete in November for a Senate seat.

Clayton Trotter, a University of Alaska Anchorage business professor, was one of the two candidates who withdrew. He finished the primary with 6.9% of the vote.

“If I had come out of the primary with 30% of the vote, I’d still be in. It’s that simple,” he said.

Because up to four candidates, regardless of party, may advance from the primary to the general election, Trotter could have stayed in the race and been on November’s ballot.



“I voted” stickers are seen on display at a polling station in Juneau’s Mendenhall Valley on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

He said that made the primary “a well-defined poll” rather than something that winnowed the field of candidates.

But in his case, that poll helped him decide to drop out. “It’s a strain on your family, it’s a strain on your budget, it’s a strain on your business relationships and just a strain to run for office,” Trotter said.

“If you have a reasonable probability of success, that’s one thing. But if it looks like you don’t have that reasonable probability of success, it just makes sense (to withdraw),” he said.

He said he will be supporting McCarty in the general election.

Joe Wright also withdrew from the Eagle River race. He received 11.3% of the vote and said redistricting played a role in his decision. Until late in the redistricting process, Eagle River could have been joined with another part of Anchorage, creating a better district for his politics. He’s decided to run for Anchorage Assembly instead.

Democrats and independents are watching the Eagle River race with interest. As a House lawmaker, Merrick was one of two Republicans who joined the House’s coalition majority.

She was twice censured by local Republicans for that decision but still received more than half the votes of local voters in the primary.

Democrats hope to create a coalition in the Senate next

year, and they believe Merrick could increase their odds — though Merrick herself has been noncommittal and remained so when contacted for this article.

“I’m going to continue running a positive campaign focused on my record of delivering for Chugiak-Eagle River,” she said. “The primary results are encouraging that Alaskans want legislators that are willing to work together to get things done.”

In Fairbanks, five candidates registered for the primary election for House District 35, but nonpartisan candidate Tim Parker withdrew, saying that family issues prevented him from campaigning as much as needed.

That means Constitution Party candidate Kieran Brown will take his place. Brown had been slated to be the only legislative candidate eliminated by the top-four primary.

Two Republicans and Carrick, the Democrat, remain in the race.

Kevin McKinley, one of the Republicans, said that regardless of the number of the candidates in the race, “you’re still going to have a lot of the basics that are going to be pertinent: getting out there, meeting the people, campaigning. That part isn’t going to change.”

But when it comes to ranked-choice voting strategy, that’s something campaigns are still figuring out, he said.

“Honestly, we’re going into uncharted territory,” McKinley said. “It’s a learning experience for everybody right now.”

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Republicans enraged by Alaska's special election should look in the mirror

BY MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

The victory of Mary Peltola in Alaska's special election for the U.S. House caught plenty of Republicans by surprise. Alaska saw about 60% of voters select one of the two GOP candidates on the first round, so therefore all 60% of those votes should align behind Republican Sarah Palin and it should have been a slam dunk, right?

Right?!? That's not at all how it played out, but it hasn't stopped GOP surprise from turning into anger and kneejerk accusations that it's the new voting system—not the way they ran the race or the candidates they put forward—that cost them a seat in Congress. And, you know what? That failure of self-reflection could cost them the next one, too.

Both Palin and third-place finisher Republican Nick Begich III responded to the results with tantrums on Wednesday night. Palin, who was counting on Begich voters to align behind her despite bad-mouthing him throughout the race, seemed to be set on blaming everyone but herself, pledging “to explain to Alaskans why ranked choice voting is not in the public's best interest” (and presumably why electing her is in the public's best interest) and continued to bag on Begich.

“I don't even know the dude,” Palin said at her campaign headquarters, according to ADN reporting. “I've lived here all my life. I don't know who he is, why is he taking all these pot shots?”

Begich was similarly tone-deaf in a statement that aimed much of its vitriol at Palin. “The biggest lesson as we move into the 2022 general election, is that ranked choice voting showed that a vote for Sara Palin is in reality a vote for Mary Peltola,” he said. “Palin simply doesn't have enough support from Alaskans to win an election.”

It should be noted that 28% of the votes for Begich were quite literally votes for Peltola, ensuring the moderate Democrat secured her win on Wednesday night.

That Begich voters didn't neatly line up behind Palin—who's deeply unpopular even among Republican voters but still popular enough to finish ahead of the Alaska Republican Party-endorsed Begich—seems to be unthinkable for Republicans, some of whom rushed to sow doubt on the system.

“Ranked-choice voting is a scam to rig elections,” tweeted Arkansas Republican U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton. “60% of Alaska voters voted for a Republican, but thanks to a convoluted process and ballot exhaustion—which disenfranchises voters—a Democrat ‘won.’”

If Republicans continue to rail against the system, failing to understand the new rules of a political system aimed at minimizing the vitriol of the zero-sum politics requires a



new approach by candidates and parties, then there's going to be a lot more Democrat wins in the future.

A strategy from a different time

That's because on paper this was a race that was a prime case for a comeback vote. Republicans are right that the 60% of the votes they commanded in the first round should have given them an advantage, but it overlooks the acrimony in each candidates' campaign as well as their refusal to truly embrace the system like Peltola has done on the campaign trail. Instead, they chose infighting.

One of the most important takeaways from last night is that about half of all Begich voters looked at Palin and found it preferable to vote for a Democrat (28.7%) or not at all (20.9%) in the subsequent rankings. It suggests that among many things, voters are relying on factors beyond simple party labels. It also suggests that not everyone has forgotten Palin's time as governor that ended in giving up on the state to chase the celebrity of the national right-wing media sphere.

The quality of a candidate matters.

Would Begich have beat Peltola in a head-to-head race? Perhaps but then again, he couldn't beat Palin despite having the bulk of the Alaska GOP's apparatus and elected officials on his side. If Begich wants to prove that he would've won in a head-to-head race, then he needed to convince more voters to send their first place votes his way. It's not the system's fault that voters picked Palin and Peltola over him.

Again, the quality of a candidate matters.

And that's perhaps the most galling takeaway from the reactions of Republican officials as they try to explain away the loss: That somehow Republican voters were tricked into electing a Democrat rather than it being an expression of their own political preferences. They're seemingly convinced that Republican voters will stick with Republicans no matter the quality. Instead, this election is a reminder that Alaska voters are not monolithic blocs that can be led by the nose to vote for certain candidates because of the letter next to their name.

In the big picture, this aggrieved response on the far right reflects the problems that have been festering within the GOP for years. With a primary system and media machine that has long awarded the most extreme and vitriolic of policy positions, Republicans by and large have barreled off into the wilds of the extreme-right. The party is high on its own supply. Now, voters are looking at the Trump-endorsed Palin and Begich (who really isn't all that far off politics-wise) and a significant chunk of voters decided to give the moderate Democrat a shot.

Republicans, continued on page A5

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Anchorage’s economic outlook depends on attracting workers

BY BILL POPP
ANCHORAGE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Earlier this month, Anchorage Economic Development Corp. shared our 2022 3-Year Outlook report, which forecasts what we expect for the next few years in our city’s economic landscape. Overall, we believe there is much to be optimistic about for the future of Anchorage, but we must be realistic about the types of investments and work that will be required to realize the brightest version of our future. That begins with a clear understanding of our current situation.

In 2022 we saw a 75% increase in new job postings during the first six months of the year compared to the average for the same period in the previous four years. In addition, Anchorage lost 15,000 working age adults between 2015 and 2021, and 34% of our 16- to 26-year-old population is leaving our state for the Lower 48. Our labor pool is shrinking while demand is growing. Naturally, population demographics and trends have a direct effect on the available labor force, but outmigration isn’t our only issue.

Across the U.S., the last 41 million baby boomers will reach full retirement age by 2030, and there are not anywhere near enough workers in the pipeline to replace this growing hole in the labor force. It’s clear we are not alone in these issues, but that means we are competing on a national scale for these workers, and even the retention of our own residents.

Some may assume our lack of available workers means that thousands of people are sitting at home playing video games and watching TV. We know this isn’t true, because Anchorage currently has a 79% labor force participation rate, much higher than the national rate of roughly 62%. However, there are those who are staying home because of a serious lack of affordable and available daycare, and there are those staying home for health reasons related to COVID.

So, what can be done? The good news is that we’re not starting from zero. Livability, a publication used to identify the best cities to live, work and play, recently shared that after researching over 2,300 cities for consideration in the 2022 Top 100 mid-sized cities in America to live, Anchorage was ranked the 23rd. In the end, we are competitive, and we have every reason to be optimistic about our future.

What will matter in addressing this challenge is how we as a city play the game to win the competition for workers. We are behind many other cities in the Lower 48 that have been upping their game over the last several years in efforts to attract and retain workforce. They’ve done this through a broad range of investments in quality of place projects including housing, public safety, education and many other aspects that are now making them magnets for attracting and retaining workforce.

At our Economic Outlook Luncheon, we heard from destination development expert Roger Brooks, who shared his extensive assessment of Anchorage with actionable



and simple suggestions for competitive improvement. These suggestions included creating and installing more vehicular, pedestrian and trailside wayfinding signs; clear definition of districts and neighborhoods to create a sense of place and arrival (Mountain View is a great example of this); facade beautification that is as easy as setting a bench and a few planters outside a business’ front door; and reducing the number of ground-level parking lots taking up valuable real estate downtown. Roger’s full list of recommendations is available to anyone here.

While Brooks’ research was anecdotal and qualitative, we’ve also invested in quantitative research on our city. Earlier this year we engaged TIP strategies, an economic development consulting agency, to study industry and workforce clusters in Anchorage, assess the impacts of the pandemic on our economy, and identify imminent risks and challenges as well as opportunities for growth. Later this year we’ll share the results of their detailed analysis.

So, here are a few questions for all of us as citizens of Anchorage to answer. To ensure that Anchorage can grow its economy over the next decade and beyond, what strategies are we willing to develop and invest in to grow our labor force? What are we willing to do to keep more locally grown workers here in our city? What are we willing to do to attract the thousands of workers we need now and in the future that we can’t grow locally? Our future success as a city will be driven by our answers.

Republicans, from page A4

The refusal to look inwards to understand where they may be out of step with public perception—after all a poll this week found 63% Alaskans support abortion access—and adjust to appeal to more voters is a recipe for that disconnect to only deepen. Even Palin adjusting to appeal to a chunk of the 11,222 Begich voters who decided not to vote for anyone could have changed the outcome.

And, as of today, it doesn’t appear that Palin’s willing to see reality. “Ranked-choice voting was sold as the way to make elections better reflect the will of the people,” Palin wrote in a statement released on Thursday. “As Alaska—and America—now sees, the exact opposite is true. The people of Alaska do not want the destructive democrat agenda to rule our land and our lives, but that’s what resulted from someone’s experiment.”

Apparently, she alone knows what Alaskans want.

Don’t discount Peltola

Of course, it’s easy to get completely caught up on the mess that is the Republican side of the equation. Just as critical to Mary Peltola’s victory is, well, Mary Peltola and the campaign that she has assembled with just a fraction of what Palin and Begich have spent. As I’ve written before, Peltola’s emergence has been a stroke of good luck for the Democrats who’ve found limited success with statewide candidates in recent years and may not have happened without the chaos of the special election.

Without the same constraint that the GOP showed in the special primary—where the only serious Republican candidates on the slate were the party-endorsed Begich and Palin—the progressives saw a flood of Democratic candidates and progressive independents. Given a wide slate of options, voters picked Peltola and in doing so found a candidate who seems well-suited to navigate the new election system with a disarming niceness and willingness to reach out to voters and make the appeal for their second-choice rankings.

Turns out that’s what the voters want.



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Sunrise over Thomsen Harbor in Alaska. Mt. Edgecumbe, Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Alaska. (Forest Service photo by Jeffrey Wickett/Northlight Photography LLC)

Final projects selected in \$25 million program for sustainable development in Southeast Alaska

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made its final funding decisions in a \$25 million program to support local organizations in Southeast Alaska, officials said on Tuesday.

The Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, announced last year, has now made commitments to over 30 local and regional partners for 70 locally driven projects, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an online announcement event.

“These projects and investments, I think, reflect our common commitment to acknowledging, respecting and honoring Indigenous ownership and stewardship, the knowledge, the values, the priorities,” Vilsack said. “I think it also reflects our commitment to a community-driven investment strategy that reflects the input from local folks. It reflects the local knowledge and priorities and certainly puts a premium on collaborative relationships.”

The strategy is being undertaken by two agencies of the Department of Agriculture – the U.S. Forest Service’s Rural Development division and Natural Resources Conservation Services. It is intended to help the region transition from past reliance on large-scale timber harvests in the 16.7 million-acre Tongass National Forest, which encompasses most of Southeast Alaska.

Of the \$25 million in project funding, about half will be managed by tribal and Indigenous organizations, for purposes that include arts and cultural support, enhancement of food security and support for cultural use of forest products.

The emphasis on Indigenous values and priorities was lauded by Richard Peterson, president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

“This is the first time in my 27 years as an elected person that I’ve actually seen this level of local decision-making,” Peterson said in the online event. “So often, we see decisions made at a national level that really don’t fit. We’ve got to

shoehorn them in. And this is happening at the local level. It’s really refreshing.”

The other half of the funding is for projects aimed at boosting infrastructure, community economic development and natural resource management.

That includes workforce development projects to help young commercial fishermen and to enhance mariculture operations, said Robert Venables, executive director of the Southeast Conference, a regional economic development organization. Many of the opportunities “will help the next generation not just find a job but be the job-makers,” Venables said.

The Southeast Alaska strategy is a new way of doing federal government business that can be replicated in other regions of the nation, Vilsack said.

“It’s a model that creates a real powerful partnership where the resources of the federal government are directed in a way that local folks understand and can help to direct,” Vilsack said. “I’m excited about the potential for this model to be expanded, to continue to be expanded in other mission areas of the USDA.”

Related to the sustainability projects is the Forest Service’s decision, announced last year, to restore the federal protections to the Tongass under what is known as the Roadless Rule. The 2001 Roadless Rule largely bans timber harvesting in areas currently without roads, thus preserving old-growth stands. Under the Trump administration, Alaska was exempted from the Roadless Rule.

The decision to reinstate the protections in Alaska has attracted over 110,000 public comments, which must be fully reviewed before the Biden administration completes its final rulemaking, Vilsack said at the news conference.

The final rule is expected by the end of the year, he said.

“I recognize that this may not have happened as quickly as some would like. But I am committed to getting this done to conserve this important resource,” he said. “I hope folks understand that we do have to follow through the process. We have to be respectful of the people who took time and energy to provide comments so that the record is as complete and as strong as it possibly could be in order to defend the decision that we’ve made to restore the protections of the 2001 Roadless Rule.”

Policy changes can help Alaska’s new farmers work in permafrost conditions, UAF experts say

As the climate warms, farming is becoming more feasible and more popular in the far north, but permafrost can cause complications

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

A century ago, when Fairbanks was a young mining town and a hilly area was set aside for agricultural experiments, people tried growing potatoes there to help feed the community. It was not a success. Disturbance of topsoil caused permafrost thaw, producing lots of mud in which tractors became mired, and the melt of below-ground ice wedges resulted in bumps nearly impossible for farm equipment to navigate.

Today, the area is part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks ski trail system and is called “Potato Field.” It holds an important lesson for farmers who are increasingly active as climate change expands the Alaska growing season and makes agriculture more attractive in the far north: Pay attention to permafrost.

In a new paper published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, experts from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and other organizations make recommendations for policies that can help the state’s farmers work in permafrost regions.

Unlike the situation in the Lower 48, where people are leaving the farming business, agriculture is on the rise in Alaska. The number of farms in Alaska grew 30% from 2012 to 2017, compared to a 3.2% decrease nationally during the same period, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s census.

But Alaska’s new farmers may need help understanding the best practices in areas where soils remain frozen year-round, said Melissa Ward Jones, lead author of the newly published paper.

“A lot of them are new to the state, so they might not be familiar with permafrost,” said Jones, who is with UAF’s Water and Environmental Research Center.

The published paper comes from a UAF project led by Jones and funded by the National Science Foundation that is intended to help new farming enterprises be successful. Called “Permafrost Grown,” it examines the interactions between permafrost, climate change, the built environment and agriculture.

Jones and her research partners are working with farmers and gardeners in various parts of the state as far north as Anaktuvuk Pass on the North Slope to figure out which crops grow best in permafrost conditions.

Climate change is a major factor driving the project. The growing season in Fairbanks expanded by about 45% in the century after the unsuccessful Potato Field cultivation, according to UAF experts. It has also expanded in some other key regions of the state. The Alaska growing season is projected to continue expanding, the experts said.

Expanded growing season aside, the challenges of frozen ground remain, and they vary with geography and ice content.

In the Fairbanks area, which has a vibrant farming sector, permafrost is classified as “discontinuous,” meaning it is distributed in a broken pattern, a big challenge is knowing for sure where the frozen soil exists. Some is mapped, but a lot is not. There are some hints, like existence of spruce stands, which tends to indicate permafrost presence, and south-facing slopes, which tend to indicate permafrost absence, but much uncertainty remains, Jones said. “You don’t really know, because it’s underground,” she said.

That leads to one of the recommendations: The presence of permafrost and its particular characteristics – to the extent that they are known – should be disclosed in detail to potential land buyers. Additionally, agency soil classifications generally lack explicit references to permafrost, and that should change, the paper said.

The economic reality is that affordable lands available for new high-latitude farming tend to have permafrost, the paper notes.

Even when permafrost presence is known, it can be categorized in different and inconsistent ways. In some places, such as far-north areas where it is continuous, it’s considered vitally important for supporting infrastructure, while in other places something of a nuisance because of its marginal nature.

Jones and her coauthors recommend establishing common references helpful to farmers and gardeners.

As for soil characteristics, there are enhanced risks from ice-rich permafrost, which is vulnerable to sudden thaw collapses that create sometimes water-filled areas of depression known as thermokarst.

That was the experience for Polar Peonies, a small Fairbanks operation that got started two decades ago but had to move to a new, higher-elevation, drier and warmer site at least 10 miles away.

The original growing site, though sloped, was at first a smooth surface, said Carolyn Chapin, one of the owners. That changed as below-ground ice wedges melted away, creating holes 4 or 5 feet deep, she said.

“Now it’s pockmarked and there’s three ponds at the bottom, and it looks like a BMX track,” she said.

The partners had to relocate all their plants, one by one, to the new site, Chapin said. The peonies are now growing there, though it will take some more time to produce a sizeable crop, she said.

Like Polar Peonies, which Chapin said is less than an acre in size, most high-latitude Alaska farms are small. That is another factor that policymakers should consider, according to Jones’ newly published paper. With typical farms being under 13 acres in size, the commonly dispensed advice about leaving fields alone to thaw for extended periods is not very useful, the paper notes.

Along with climate change, a major factor behind Alaska’s modern farming boom is the need for food security, Jones said.

In some ways, the food-security issue is related to climate change, as some loss of traditional food sources is attributed to the change.

At the mouth of the Yukon River, where salmon runs have failed, the local fish processor is now raising and selling vegetables, radio station KYUK reported.



In other ways, the modern Alaska farming boom is a revival of historical experience, when Alaska was much more isolated from Lower 48 food supplies.

At Pilgrim Hot Springs outside of Nome, Kawerak Inc., a Native nonprofit, has a program to cultivate crops on soils that have been used intermittently for farming and gardening for more than a century. Thanks to the geothermal characteristics, the area is something of a far-north oasis, with about 5 acres of soil that stands apart from the surrounding permafrost, said Amanda Toerdal, general manager at Pilgrim Hot Springs.

After a small test garden was cultivated last year, the program is now producing potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips and other cold-climate crops, Toerdal said. Customer response has been positive, she said. At an Aug. 24 pop-up produce market, the vegetables sold out completely, she said. A second market is possible or, in the alternative, harvested crops could go to the local food bank, she said.

“I think the vision and the ultimate goal is for Pilgrim Hot Springs to help out with food security in the region,” she said.

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.

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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.



Flowers and candles are placed around crosses at a memorial outside Robb Elementary School to honor the victims killed in this week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, Saturday, May 28, 2022. In the aftermath of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, governors around the country vowed to take steps to ensure their students would be kept safe. Months later, as students return to classrooms, money has begun to flow for school security upgrades, training and other new efforts to make classrooms safer. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

States' plans to make school safer reflect political divides

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — In the aftermath of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, governors around the country vowed to take steps to ensure their students would be kept safe.

Months later, as students return to classrooms, money has begun to flow for school security upgrades, training and other new efforts to make classrooms safer.

But the responses have often reflected political divisions: Many Republicans have emphasized school security spending, while Democrats have called for tighter gun control.

At every step, the actions have stirred debate over whether states are doing the right things to address the scourge of school shootings.

In a special legislative session in Arkansas last month, lawmakers set aside \$50 million for a school safety fund proposed by Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The rules for distributing the money haven't been finalized, but Hutchinson has said he wants it to help implement recommendations from a school safety commission he reinstated following the May shooting in Texas, where 19 students and two teachers were killed.

The shooting "served as a reminder that the threat of violence in our schools has not abated," Hutchinson said. "It continues to be real, and we have to act with a renewed sense of urgency to protect our children."

Texas was among several other states that set aside money for school security. Gov. Greg Abbott and other top Republican leaders announced \$105.5 million for school safety initiatives. Nearly half of that was slated for bullet-resistant shields for school police and \$17.1 million was for districts to purchase panic-alert technology.

Shooting, continued on page A18



Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson holds up an interim report from a commission formed to review school safety measures at a news conference at the state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark., Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022. In the aftermath of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, governors around the country vowed to take steps to ensure their students would be kept safe. Months later, as students return to classrooms, money has begun to flow for school security upgrades, training and other new efforts to make classrooms safer. (AP Photo/Andrew DeMillo, File)

Raised with trauma, Sandy Hook survivors send hope to Uvalde

BY DAVE COLLINS AND PAT EATON-ROBB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — The survivors who were able to walk out of Sandy Hook Elementary School nearly a decade ago want to share a message of hope with the children of Uvalde, Texas: You will learn how to live with your trauma, pain and grief. And it will get better.

They know what's ahead. There's shock, followed by numbness. There are struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder. Anxiety. Survivor's guilt. Anger that these shootings continue to happen in America. Reliving their trauma every time there's another mass shooting.

They know it will be hard to say they are from Uvalde. That well-meaning adults will sometimes make the wrong decisions to protect you. That grief can be unpredictable, and different for everyone.

"It's been nine years since Sandy Hook," said Ashley Hubner, 17, who was a second grader at the Newtown school when 20 children and six educators were killed on Dec. 14, 2012. "We had nine years for this to not happen again. And yet it did. And now these kids are going to have to go through the same exact thing. That's just, like, heartbreaking."

On May 24, a gunman killed 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. It was so striking to the Sandy Hook survivors because of how similar it was to their tragedy. Now on the cusp of adulthood, the survivors of Sandy Hook are telling their stories, some for the first time, about growing up as a mass shooting survivor to help the children in Texas, who return to school this week.

'I FEEL LIKE I'VE GROWN ALONGSIDE OF IT.'

Marie Gay was a 9-year-old third grader at the Sandy Hook school when the gunman shot his way into the building and killed the 26 victims, including her little sister, Josephine. All the children who died were first graders.

"Initially I thought it was a bear, the gunshots," said Gay, now an 18-year-old college student. "I don't know. We lived in rural Connecticut. I heard them and my first thought was, 'Oh, there's totally a bear just banging on the walls of the school.'"

Marie said adults around her were all well intentioned, but some of what they did after the tragedy bothered her.

Her teachers would take her out of the classroom before conducting any emergency drills. They were also careful not to use phrases like "bullet points" around her, which she found silly.

She also felt "icky" about the thousands of gifts that poured into Newtown for all the children of Sandy Hook. She got upset the day hundreds of those presents were passed out to children who lined up outside the local intermediate school to get a doll or a game, she said.

"All that I could think about at the time was the one child in my sister's class who survived," she said. "I know I went through a lot too, but in my brain, I was like, I'm not understanding how all these people are like clamoring for gifts."

Marie said the shooting in Uvalde brought so many feelings. It was disheartening, she said, but also made her want to get out there and fight for things like mental health reform and gun control.



Jackie Hegarty, a rising senior at Newtown High School, holds a Sandy Hook Elementary School t-shirt, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in Newtown, Conn. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)

She said she would tell the children of Uvalde that grief is individual and that their path forward will be their own — and to be gentle with themselves and kind to others. Their pain and grief will remain a part of them, but they will learn to live with it. She still gets anxiety in lecture halls and looks for exits when she's in a classroom.

"There's reminders of it daily here at random times," she said. "But I feel like I've grown alongside of it and it's made me a better person."

'I THINK WHAT HAPPENED CHANGED MY ENTIRE LIFE.'

For Ashley Hubner, the trauma became part of her life as she grew up. Sometimes she became sad and cried. But it wasn't until middle school that her symptoms, including PTSD and depression, started to overwhelm her.

They would hit her harder around the anniversary of the shooting.

Ashley, now a senior at Newtown High School, was sitting in a circle with her second grade class for its usual morning meeting when the shooting started. Her sister, a kindergartner who also survived, was in another classroom.

Ashley and her classmates ran to the cubby area to hide. They heard their teacher call police to report an active shooter. The school intercom system clicked on, and everyone could hear gunshots, screaming and crying.

They were also frightened by footsteps they heard on the roof, which they didn't know at the time were those of first responders. When police finally came to lead them out, she and her classmates didn't want to open the door because they thought bad guys could be impersonating officers.

"We didn't want to let them in," she said. "And so like every single kid in my class screamed, 'No!' And it was so heartbreaking to hear a bunch of little kids screaming 'No.' But thank God we opened the door and it was actually the police."

The children formed a line. They were told to put their hands on the shoulders of their classmates and to close their eyes — to avoid seeing any of the carnage — as they were led out of the building. They were brought to a nearby firehouse, where she was reunited with her sister.

It was only last year that she was diagnosed with PTSD, depression, anxiety and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Many students have said they weren't diagnosed with mental health and other disorders until years later, likely because they were so young at the time of the shooting and their symptoms didn't fully develop for a while.

Uvalde, continued on page A10



Jackie Hegarty, a rising senior at Newtown High School, poses for a photo at Holcombe Hill Wildlife Preserve, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in Newtown, Conn. Hegarty, a triplet, was in second grade doing yoga with her classmates when the shooter opened fire right across the hall. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)



Ashley Hubner, a rising senior at Newtown High School, poses for a photo at Dickinson Memorial Park, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in Newtown, Conn. Hubner, who was sitting in a circle for her second-grade class's morning meeting when the Sandy Hook shooting started, hid in the classroom's cubby area with classmates. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)



A photo of Liv Doscher, left, with Sandy Hook Elementary School principal Dawn Hochsprung and friend Rayna Toth, right, during the sock hop on April 3, 2011, stands awaiting to be taken to college with Doscher, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, in Sandy Hook, Conn. Hochsprung died trying to protect students during the Sandy Hook shooting. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)



Uvalde, from page A9

“I think what happened changed my entire life,” she said. “Maybe when you’re an adult like you have trauma and then you’re able to kind of like overcome it because you had this person who you were before.

“But when you’re so young,” she said, “you don’t really have the person that you were before. You just take your surroundings and you take what you’re taught and you take that trauma and you make it a part of your life and you grow up with that and you have to like process that in the years forward.”

Ashley said she gets angry sometimes at her parents and adults and kids in school for not recognizing her problems earlier or not believing her when she told them what she was going through. She began therapy only recently.

“Take what you are feeling and, like, do that research and like get that help,” she said, offering advice to Uvalde survivors. “It’s so important to like know who you are and know what you have and like what you’re dealing with so that you can go through life a lot easier and like make your quality of life better.”

‘FOCUS ON HEALING YOURSELF.’

In her college application essay, Liv Doscher wrote about how she and her classmates were forced into a more mature mindset because of what happened in their school.

“I don’t think anyone no matter your age should have to go through something like that,” she said. “But kids are not equipped to deal with stuff like that. No one is, but especially kids.”

Liv and her third-grade classmates ran to a carpet in their room when they first heard what turned out to be gunshots. Some thought it was a joke at first and laughed, she said. Others, like her best friend, started crying immediately. Liv was confused.

Her teacher put some paper over the window in the door to the hallway, but it fell down. Liv was nervous to look at the door in fear of what she might see. Plus the shades on the windows to the outside were up. Liv felt exposed and vulnerable.

Then police officers ran by the windows to the outside, saw the children and yelled at them to go into an adjoining classroom that shared a door with theirs. With the blinds down, the other classroom was very dark, and she couldn’t recognize people to find comfort.

“I remember just kind of trying to see in the dark, trying to recognize people,” she said.

Police led the students and teachers out an exit on the opposite side of the school from the shooting. Liv remembers seeing an officer with “a huge gun.” She didn’t even know then what a gun was.

Like Ashley, she suffered for years with anxiety, especially at school, before being diagnosed and treated. She learned last year that she has ADHD, obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety.

She said it took so long because she kept what she was feeling inside, didn’t understand her emotions and didn’t reach out for help. She often felt numb. In December 2020, around the eighth anniversary of the shooting, she became extremely depressed and missed two weeks of school.

“I couldn’t get through days without crying,” she said. “And you don’t really realize it’s so debilitating sometimes.”

Her parents got her into therapy, which she credits for helping her cope. At school, there were frustrations in the years after the shooting, said Liv, now 18. One of the problems was not enough communication between school staff and students about what help and services were available to address mental health and other issues. Many school staff avoided talking about the shooting, she said, apparently to avoid retraumatizing students.

“I understand wanting to protect us, but we’ve seen the worst of it. We were there that day,” she said.

Students were only recently given two mental health days that do not count as absences. When the anniversary fell on a school day, she said, kids would be crying in the hallways trying to get to class. She was critical of school officials for not offering accommodations such as increased passing time between classes.

To the Uvalde children, Liv said not to be afraid, or ashamed, to communicate what you are feeling.

“Focus on healing yourself and focus on working through the trauma, what happened,” she said. “But also, you know, focus on holding onto life before and searching for positive things because there’s so many positive things. Finding pictures. Finding people that mean a lot to you. Just take that and just appreciate that.

“A huge part of that is like to not feel shame about where you are in your healing process,” she said. “Don’t compare yourself to others. Don’t feel invalid because someone may have it worse.”

“I SHOULDN’T HAVE TO BE STILL STRUGGLING WITH THIS TODAY.”

There have been several different kinds of therapies since the shooting to help Jackie Hegarty cope with PTSD. New mass shootings are a trigger, bringing her back to the day of the Sandy Hook shooting. Loud noises still startle her.

She was doing yoga with her second-grade class when the shooter opened fire right across the hall. She didn’t know what the gunshot sounds were. Kids in her class thought maybe a janitor dropped a trash can or somebody dropped a chair or a desk.

But no one could drop a trash can that many times.

“I remember running to my cubby and sitting on my backpack,” said Jackie, 17, who is a senior at Newtown High School. “And I remember being grateful that I was farther away from the door because I thought that the kid that was closest to the wall was going to get shot first.”

That Friday, like others, the children in her class got to bring in their favorite stuffed animals to watch movies with them. On that day, however, Jackie forgot hers — it wasn’t in her backpack when she went to reach for comfort.

Her class and teacher sat anxiously in the dark classroom. After the shooting ended and the gunman, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, had killed himself, police got to Jackie’s classroom and told them to cover their eyes as they were led out of the building. Along the way, Jackie opened her eyes. She doesn’t like to talk about what she saw.

“Once we were leaving, I was wondering how that could have happened so closely to me and that that could have been me and how come I’m walking out of the school right now and they aren’t,” she said. She is a triplet, and her two siblings survived.

When she and Liv went to the March For Our Lives anti-gun violence event in the nation’s capital this summer, there were a few moments of panic after someone yelled something during a moment of silence. People in

the crowd started running away. She couldn’t breathe, and kept running. Her chest tightened. She felt like she was going to throw up. She felt guilty for not being able to stay with her friends.

“But I shouldn’t have to be still struggling with this today and still having to search for treatment methods to improve my quality of life and to make me feel better because of how I react to things or, you know, the triggers and the stimuli I have. I’ll flinch with a loud noise.”

Jackie said she would tell the Uvalde children to not bottle up their feelings and to talk to family and friends.

“Because it’s so important to talk this stuff through and know that their feelings are validated and that we’re going to do everything that we can to make sure that things like this don’t have to happen,” she said.

“We’ve been through a similar thing and we want them to know that we care about them and they’re loved,” Jackie said.

‘I HAVE JUST NOW GOTTEN THE ABILITY TO SAY I AM FROM SANDY HOOK.’

The days that followed her brother Chase’s death at Sandy Hook Elementary are hard for Brittany Kowalski to remember. She does remember how trauma was inflicted on her family by others.

People spreading misinformation that the shooting was staged by actors emerged, the town was filled with media and a police officer guarded the family’s driveway.

“Between harassing phone calls from Sandy Hook ‘truthers,’ international news people trying to come into the house while we mourned the loss of my brother, having to keep the blinds down for weeks, maybe even months, because photographers were walking through the woods to get around the police vehicle in our driveway ... It felt like an alternate universe,” she said.

She was a freshman in a math class at Newtown High School when the shooting started, and the school went into lockdown. She and other students with siblings at Sandy Hook were called into an auditorium. She called her parents, but there was no answer.

“I couldn’t tell you how many people were in the room, but it felt like the sea of people was thinning out in both the slowest yet fastest time frame,” she said. “All of the people dissipated until I was the last person who hadn’t heard back.”

Over the next several years, she said, she would lie and tell people she was from other nearby towns. She calls it avoiding the “Oh, you’re from Sandy Hook” conversation. She didn’t want to console people for how they felt about what she had lived through.

“The feeling of empathy and pity are too similar when you are known due to a traumatic event that had global coverage. It’s been almost 10 years and I have just now gotten the ability to say ‘I am from Sandy Hook’ without the full amount of anxiety tangled into it.”

She would tell the children of Uvalde that you don’t have to grieve the same way the person next to you is grieving. She has Chase’s ashes tattooed on her chest.

“I still go to therapy, I still have days that feel like I have a rain cloud over my head but I have always been able to pull myself out of it or have someone in my support system give me a little extra help when needed. Texas brought up a lot of old emotions that I thought I had fully worked through. The disappointment, the anxiety and the hole in my heart seemed to rip back open.”

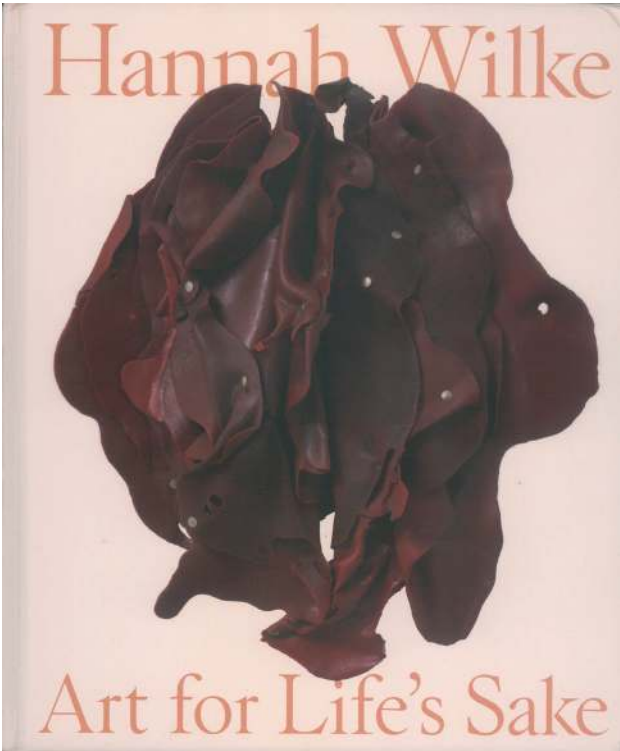
Eaton-Robb reported from Hartford, Connecticut.

A Soupçon of Women Artists: Professional and Intuitive

ART SLEUTH
BY JEAN BUNDY

It's cliché--women have been blamed, actually or metaphorically, since Eve in the Biblical garden. One doesn't have to read Julia Kristeva (b.1941) to realize being female is a hard job. Add children or aging to a woman's palette, and the discrimination scenario only worsens. I was in my late forties when I went to grad school; whenever a dignitary came to bestow wealth, or a potential teacher arrived to be interviewed, I was whisked away. It was like the scene from the movie 'Auntie Mame' (1958) where the pregnant secretary has to hide in an upstairs bedroom so the cocktail party guests don't faint at the sight of an unwed mother.

Two books: 'Hannah Wilke: Art for Life's Sake' ed. by Tamara Schenkenberg and Donna Wingate and 'Swimming with Laure Prouvost' by Mathilde Roman, illustrate the glass ceiling is at least bending, if not being punched through by women who combine: raising children, grocery shopping, feeding pets, mediating with partners, and somehow find time to make art or critique the aesthetic world.



In 'Hannah Wilke...', the eponymous artist was a Post-War feminist. Wilke (1940-1993) embedded herself into drawings, sculptures, and videos promoting the unabashed woman. Using her body as a canvas, Wilke highlighted female anatomical parts: breasts and vaginal interstices. Art historian Connie Butler writes, "Wilke used her body for evidence: as a tool of critique, as an object of our gaze, and as a spotlight on the problem of the subjugation of women's bodies throughout the history of art (Wilke 61)."

Wilke fabricated body parts multiple times, in clay, chewing gum, and kneaded-erasers, which she then displayed in rows or on her own body. She emphasized the pliability of inexpensive materials that could easily replicate the multiple folds of a woman's vaginal area, or which could pose as metaphorical substitutes for the many layers of a woman's capabilities--often overlooked. By mass-producing anatomical parts, using disposable materials, real body parts lose uniqueness--thus voyeurism becomes inconsequential. Wilke writes, "Women aren't supposed to spit, or be vulgar, or erotic (Wilke 106)."

Wilke's video 'Gestures' (1974, YouTube) depicts the artist kneading her face like making bread. Artist Nadia Myre writes, "As a painter might sketch her subject, studying the composition before applying pigment to canvas, Wilke--an artist who worked with her body as a medium--captured her image with a video camera to register and catalog movements, drawing out a vocabulary of poses and archetypes for a repertoire that she would revisit throughout her career (Wilke 83)." In 1987, Wilke was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and continued to photograph herself as a cancer victim, finally succumbing in 1993. Wilke insisted, "Art is for life's sake (Wilke 40)."

'Swimming...' by art critic Mathilde Roman high-

lights her extraordinary friendship with artist Laure Prouvost, a difficult task in the art world, where egos and jealousy are rampant. Prouvost was a 2013 Turner Prize winner and France's representing artist for the Venice Biennale (2019) with her project 'Deep See Blue Surrounding You' which had a video component to help the public suspend at least partial reality, before immersing themselves in her installation consisting of a fabricated oceanic floor where sea creatures and vegetation mixed with plastic detritus. The word 'Sea' is replaced by 'See', suggesting viewers think about what oceans have become--garbage dumps.



Roman, who lives in Nice with her husband and two children, invited Prouvost (pregnant with child number three) and her family to cohabitate during the early days of the Covid-2020 lockdown. Like many in the art world, not being able to interact with their aesthetic worlds except via Zoom, was unsettling.

Roman and Prouvost found comfort by swimming off Nice's beaches. Roman writes, "We donned masks and snorkels and set our movements and inspirations to a rhythm, letting the waves roll us around, swimming from buoy to buoy, following schools of fish. A plastic hand wedged between two rocks waved at us and made us laugh (Roman 42)." On another aquatic excursion, Roman writes, "We're swimming further out than usual, stretching and pulling our limbs, our bodies and conversations floating. A distance away from the beach, in this blue environment, we experience a reversal of sensations, the loss of direction between sky and earth, top and bottom (Roman 54)."

I watched Prouvost's videos (YouTube) which contain frenetic imaging, the artist pontificating, and text occasionally popping in. Prouvost is expanding the oeuvre of earlier artists/writers--imagination mixed with reality. I sensed Laurie Anderson's fast-paced self-inflicted videos, Barbara Kruger's wordplay, Jacques Derrida's bursts through picture frames, and Roland Barthes' dissection of signage. Like Prouvost, Roman's verbiage intersects stream-of-consciousness with overlaying aspects of her art, family, and play. Both women are boldly 'mixing art with life' while finding 'resources from closeness with others' (Roman 54).

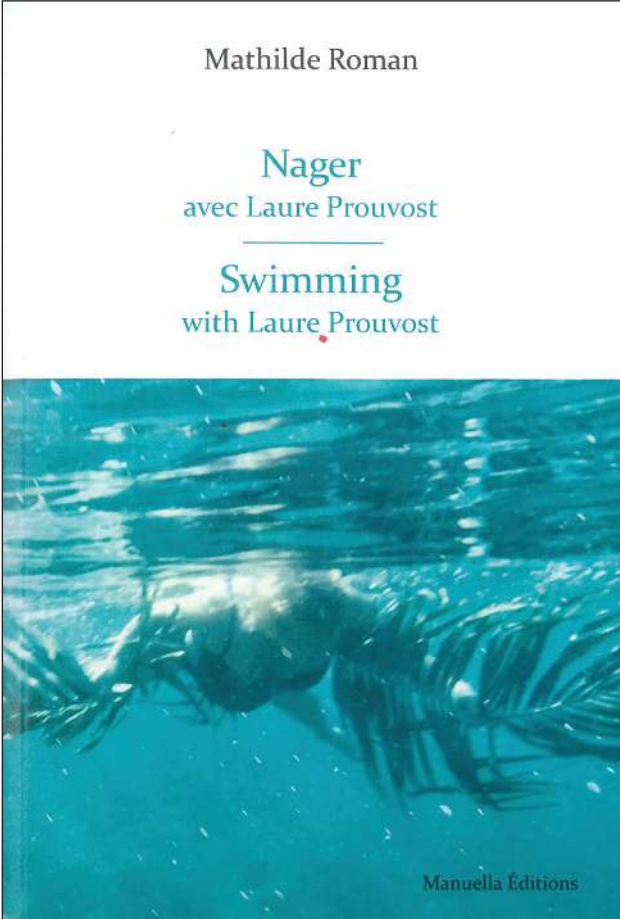
Women artists are finally getting acknowledged, with Post-war female Abstract-Expressionists like Joan Mitchell (1925-1992) posthumously getting bi-coastal exhibitions. A superb Ab-Ex painting at the National Portrait Gallery, DC, is Elaine de Kooning (1918-1989) 'John F. Kennedy' (1963). Her loose green brushstrokes penetrate the psyche and narrative of this president's short time in office--the Cape Cod/Camelot glitz overlaid with the Cuban Missile Crisis and his secret affair with Marilyn Monroe. De Kooning's painting is better than the traditional style of situating celebrities behind a desk and perhaps better than her husband Willem's raw



interpretation of women. There's Artemesia Gentileschi (1593-1653), whose rape trial and thumb screw issues have now elevated her to becoming today's quintessential suffering female artist. Back then, for a woman to paint, a male relative had to be the teacher. With no apprenticeships or guilds 'for you'--it was 'get back to your petit point and embroidery'! Hard to imagine this was an Oscar winner--'Woman of the Year' (1942) Katharine Hepburn decides she must quit being an international reporter after marrying Spencer Tracy, a mediocre sports writer. Hepburn is also pressured to realize she cannot adopt a Greek refugee boy in place of having biological children.

Let's hope women continue to be fulfilled and acclaimed for creativity without forfeiting their nurturing components. As Wilke proclaimed, "I become my art; my art becomes me (Wilke 83)."

Mini Sleuth: 'Hannah Wilke: Art for Life's Sake' ed. by Tamara H. Schenkenberg and Donna Wingate is on Amazon. 'Swimming with Laure Prouvost' by Mathilde Roman is available thru manuella@manuella-editions.fr. Thank you, Jodi Price at Princeton University 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 Pictor Gallery, NYC.
Email: 38144@alaska.net

PRESSING EVENTS

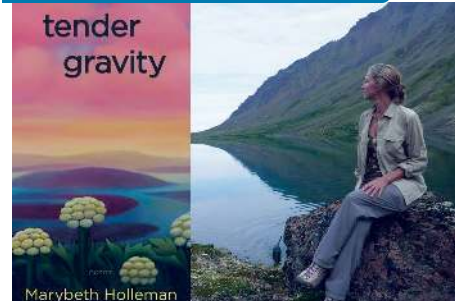
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Thu 9/08

Featured

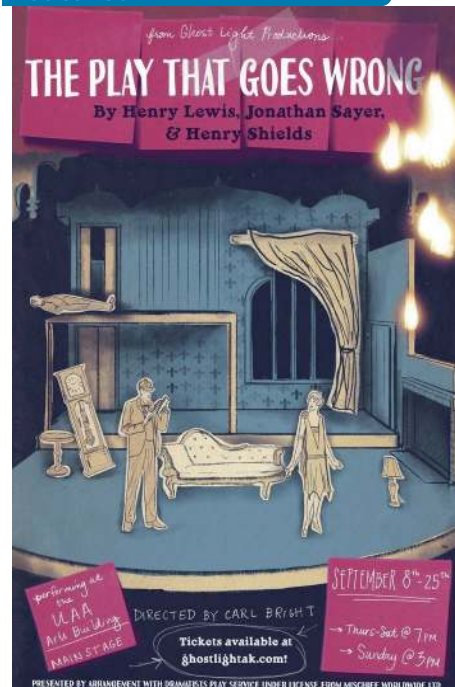


Marybeth Holleman
tender gravity Poetry Reading & Conversation hosted by Trustees for Alaska
@ 6pm

Trustees for Alaska presents a reading & conversation from tender gravity by Marybeth Holleman, a book of poetry charting a course of love, loss and connection to Alaska's remote lands and seascapes. Organic Oasis | Restaurant & Juice Bar, 2610 Spenard Road, Anchorage. tlhman@trustees.org, 907-433-2006



Featured



The Play That Goes Wrong
@ 7pm / \$40

The Play That Goes Wrong is a GUT BUSTING chaotic comedy following the Cornley Drama Society as they produce THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage



Open Mic with Shalah Rose
@ 7pm

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

Fri 9/09

The Sensuous Senator
@ 7pm / \$25

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 2 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

IM&B Kickball Game
@ 8pm

UAA Recreational Sports - Online, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Featured



Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenchies and Wrenches Steampunk Cabaret Show
@ 8pm / \$24

Sep 9th - Sep 25th
Join Sweet Cheeks Cabaret, Anchorage's premier burlesque experience, in our second scripted show of the year! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com



Sat 9/10

Featured



The Great Alaska Duck Race
@ 10:30am

The Great Alaska Duck Race is Alaska's premiere statewide fundraising event for youth sports, education, and local community organizations! Hosted by local educational nonprofit Alaska EXCEL. King's Landing At Ship Creek, 00207123000, Anchorage. jklaes@excelalaska.org, 907-699-8926

KillBill Sax: Private Event
@ 6pm

Anchorage Museum, 625 C St, Anchorage

The Play That Goes Wrong
@ 7pm / \$40

The Play That Goes Wrong is a GUT BUSTING chaotic comedy following the Cornley Drama Society as they produce THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage

Monica Rizzio
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Comedian Erik Escobar
@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 9/11

The Play That Goes Wrong
@ 3pm / \$40

The Play That Goes Wrong is a GUT BUSTING chaotic comedy following the Cornley Drama Society as they produce THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage

Steve Aoki: Anchorage, AK
@ 7pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

Mon 9/12

Monica Rizzio
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Tue 9/13

IM Basketball 5on5
@ 3am

Sep 13th - Nov 30th
Seawolf Sports Complex, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

Tom Rush
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Wed 9/14

Bonny Sosa Tuesday Night Races 1-Kincaid
@ 2:30am

Kincaid Outdoor Center, 9401 W Raspberry Rd, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Tom Rush
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Chauseum: Arctic Chaos Tour Live at Koot's
@ 9pm / \$15

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Chauseum
@ 9pm

Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Thu 9/15

IM Soccer 6on6
@ 3am

Sep 15th - Dec 1st
Seawolf Sports Complex, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

Open Mic with Shalah Rose
@ 7pm

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

Fri 9/16

Featured



Neko Case
@ 7pm

Case has a powerful, untrained contralto voice, which has been described by contemporaries and critics as a "flamethrower," [4] "a powerhouse [which] seems like it might level buildings," a 120-mph fastball," and a "vocal tornado". Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage



The Sensuous Senator
@ 7pm / \$25

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 2 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

Monica Rizzio
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenchies and Wrenches Steampunk Cabaret Show
@ 8pm / \$24

Sep 16th - Sep 25th
Please join Sweet Cheeks Cabaret, Anchorage's premier burlesque experience, in our second scripted show of the year! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Sat 9/17

The Play That Goes Wrong
@ 7pm / \$40

The Play That Goes Wrong is a GUT BUSTING chaotic comedy following the Cornley Drama Society as they produce THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage

Tom Rush
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Featured



Smithsonian magazine
museum day
Saturday, September 17, 2022
Free Admission to Oscar Anderson House Museum

Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day at Oscar Anderson House Museum
@ 9am / Free

The Oscar Anderson House Museum will close for the season on Saturday, September 17. It will be open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The museum will be celebrating the annual Smithsonian Museum Day. 420 M St, 420 M Street, Anchorage. akpreservation@gmail.com, 907-929-9870



Featured



Big Cat Jubilee at the Alaska Zoo
@ 12pm

Join us at the Alaska Zoo on Saturday, September 17th from Noon to 4pm to learn about the Amur tigers, snow leopards and lynx of the zoo as well as ways to support local cat rescue and adoptions. Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'-Malley Road, Anchorage. aom@alaska zoo.org, 907-346-2133



Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenchies and Wrenches Steampunk Cabaret Show
@ 8pm / \$24

Sep 17th - Sep 25th
Please join Sweet Cheeks Cabaret, Anchorage's premier burlesque experience, in our second scripted show of the year! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Phenom
@ 10pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

Sun 9/18

The Sensuous Senator
@ 3pm / \$25

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 2 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713

The Play That Goes Wrong
@ 3pm / \$40

The Play That Goes Wrong is a GUT BUSTING chaotic comedy following the Cornley Drama Society as they produce THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage

Tom Rush
@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Tue 9/20

Phenom
@ 6pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

Wed 9/21

Phenom
@ 6pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F St, Anchorage

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powered by **event**



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

Thursday, September 8th

The Broken Blender – Bluegrass Hall of Fame Member: Fiddler & the Crossroads 8p-11p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Garcia’s Cantina & Café (Eagle River) – Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Mad Myrna’s – Thursday Vibe w/ DJ Covy 10p-2a
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – QUEER AS HELL 9p-1a



Friday, September 9th

Alaska Dance Promotions – Friday Night Dance Lounge 9p-1
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with J.J. Shockley! 6p-8p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Erik Escobar 7p-8:15p
Four Corners Lounge (Palmer) – Arctic Outlaws 10p-2a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hilltop Ski Area – Hwy 9 6p-9p
Humpty’s – The Vintage Retro 9:30p-1:30a
Koot’s – The Ken Peltier Band 10p-2:30a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Dr. Crue Tribute to Motley Crue 6p-10p
O’Malley’s On The Green – Silver Train 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Roland Roberts Band Live 7p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Williwaw Social – Punk N’ Spice Emo Night w/ DJ GRE 10p-2a



Saturday, September 10th

Anchorage Moose Lodge – Glacier Hoppers Live 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club – Social Dance & Lessons 7p-10:30p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – The Glacier Blues Band 8p -2a
Don Jose’s Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Cold Fusion 7p-11p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpty’s – Woodrow 9:30p-1:30a
Jack Sprat (Girdwood) – Past Our Prime 7p-10p
Koot’s – Velvet La La 10p-2a
Koot’s – Comedian Erik Escobar 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – Tributes to Nirvana & Jane’s Addiction 4p-9p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Nervis Rex LIVE 7p-10p
Red Dot Studios (Online) – Alaska Redd Artist Showcase 5p-6p
Spenard Market - Knock on Wood Marimba Ensemble 10a-2p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – The Lone Wolves 9p-12a
Wilda Marston Theatre – 2022 Hispanic Heritage Awareness Month Comedy Show 7:30p-9p
Williwaw Social – Misterwives live in Alaska! 6p-10p
Williwaw Social – 2000s Video Dance Party/Concert After Party w/ Spencer Lee 10p-2a

Sunday, September 11th

Alaska State Fair (Palmer) - Byron Nicholai & I Sing, You
Anchorage Lutheran: ALC Concert Series: Anchorage Classical Guitar Center 4:30p-7p

Anchorage Town Square Park – ANC Market Social 11a-5p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p -2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot’s – Women of Rock 7p-10p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – Industry Night w/ Joe Brady 10p-2a
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 3p-5:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a



Monday, September 12th

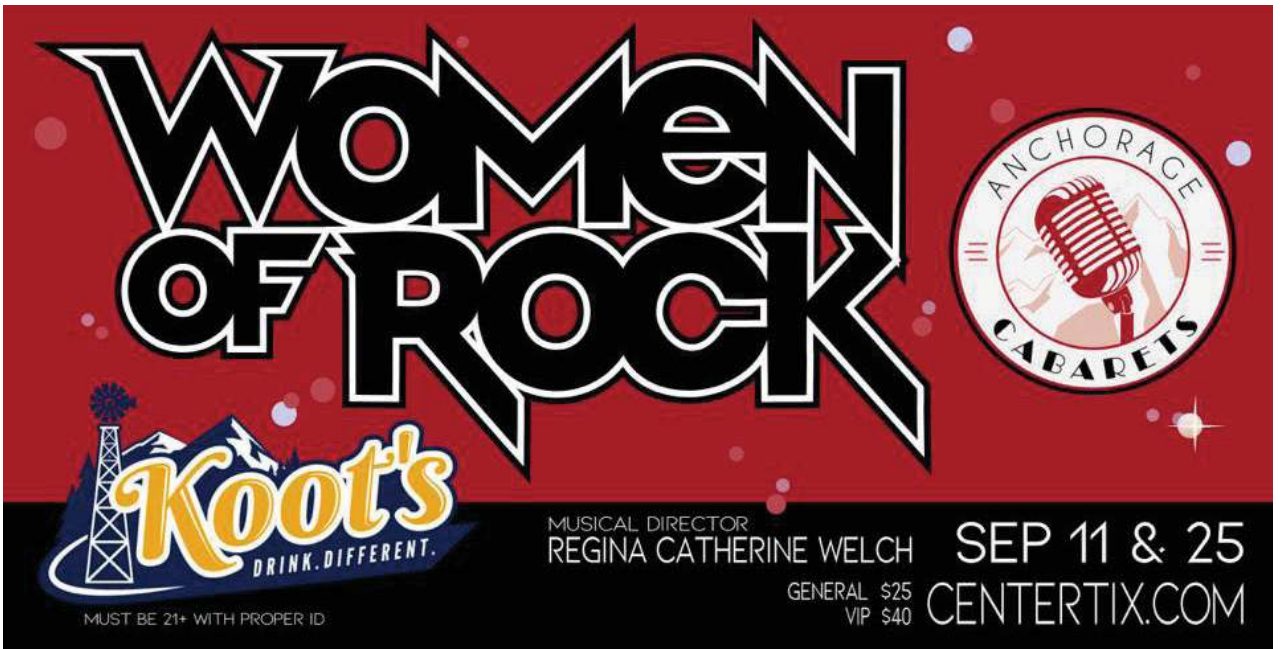
Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Mellow Mondays w/ Nikki Now 9:30p-12a

Tuesday, September 13th

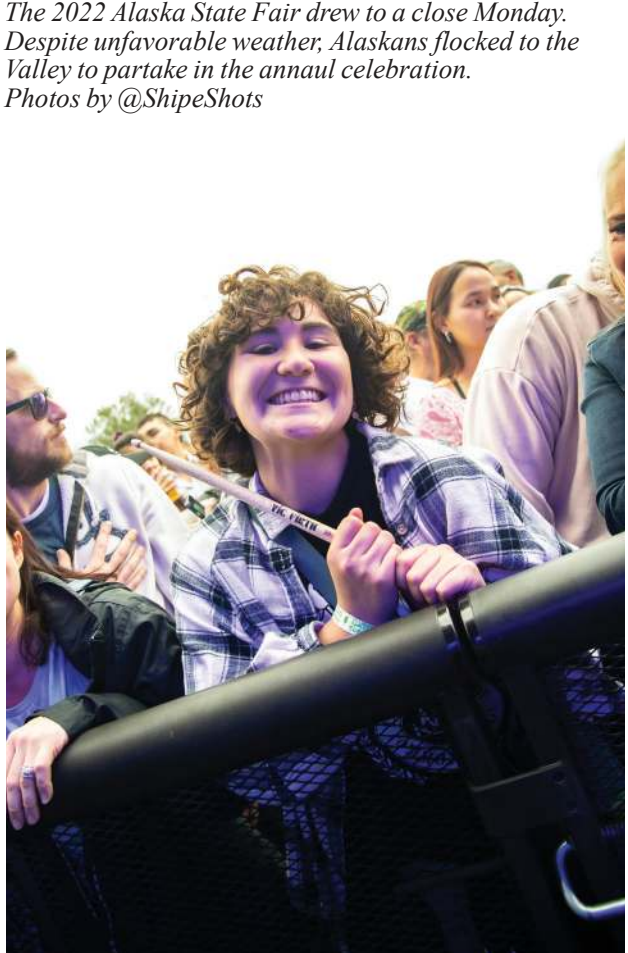
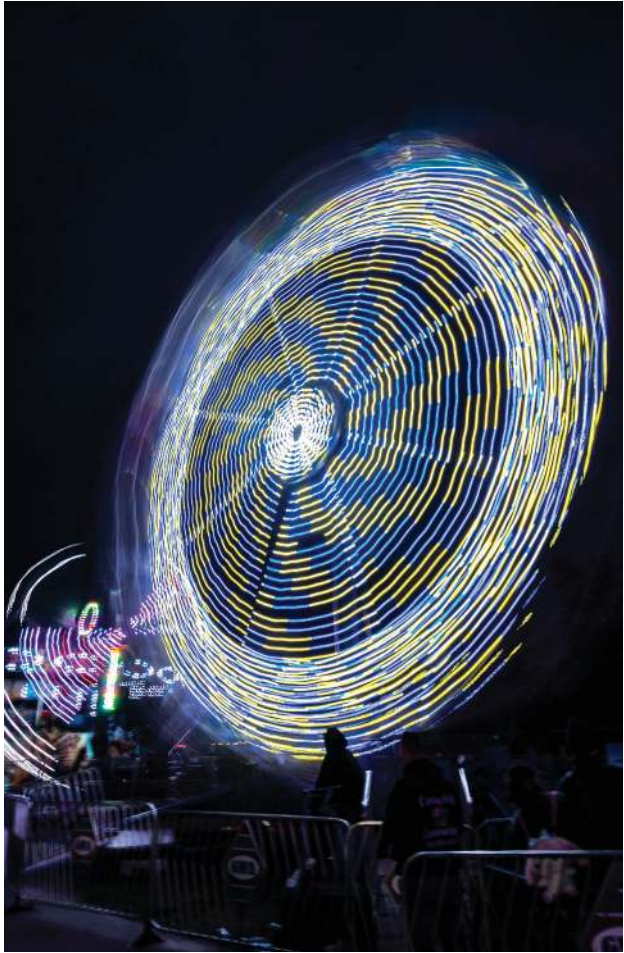
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/ Roused By Bulls 6:30p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – The Open Stage 7p-10p
Koot’s – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Williwaw Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
Van’s Dive Bar – OPEN JAM w/ Daylight Mike 9p-12a

Wednesday, September 14th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
The Crystal Saloon (Juneau) – BABEFEST 7p-10p
Eddie’s Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 7p-11:30p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot’s – Chauseum: Arctic Chaos Tour Live at Koot’s 9p-11p
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



I E Y M I !



The 2022 Alaska State Fair drew to a close Monday. Despite unfavorable weather, Alaskans flocked to the Valley to partake in the annual celebration. Photos by @ShipeShots




Thurs 9pm @ Flattop

Jukebox KARAOKE Roadshow

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Thursday September 8
8:30 Van & Marlowe

Friday September 9
9:30 The Vintage Retro

Saturday September 10
9:30 The Leo Ash Band

Tuesday September 13
8:30 Lil Trouble

Wednesday September 14
8:30 Becky Kotter

@Humpy's



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Anne Sears is no longer Alaska’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons investigator

Sears retires after five months, state spokesman says investigating MMIP remains a ‘top priority’

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

After five months on the job, Anne Sears is no longer Alaska’s investigator for missing and murdered Indigenous people with the Alaska State Troopers. When the Department of Public Safety hired her in April, the position was the first of its kind in the state. Now, the critical role is unfilled.

In late August, Sears “decided to go back into retirement to spend more time with her family,” according to Austin McDaniel, communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

“The Alaska State Troopers are currently working to identify and hire a new MMIP Investigator for this critical role. The investigation of missing persons and murder cases involving Alaska Natives is a top priority for the State of Alaska,” McDaniel wrote in an email Tuesday. The political website the Alaska Landmine first reported the news.

McDaniel said the department intends to fill the position as soon as possible. As MMIP investigator, Sears was tasked with working on unsolved cases across the Alaska State Troopers’ area of responsibility. The position works closely with trooper investigators and criminal intelligence analysts within the Alaska Bureau of Investigation.

Sears’ work

Sears’ last day on the job was Sept. 2. In her five months on the job, McDaniel said Sears worked on several cold cases, “including the murder of Arnoldine Simone Hill from 2020 and other significant cases.”

Sears also spent time traveling and speaking with community groups, Alaska Native communities and associations, and speaking to family members of missing or murdered indigenous people, according to McDaniel.

There are no subordinate staff associated with the position, but the next MMIP investigator will likely work with a tribal liaison on outreach and engagement.

“With the FY 2023 budget, the Governor and Alaska Legislature provided DPS with funding for a Tribal Liaison within the Alaska State Troopers,” wrote McDaniel.

Need for investigators continues

Kaax’kwei Leona Santiago said there needs to be more than one person in the state working on missing and murdered Indigenous people cases.

“I don’t think one person can do that job. There is a need for more than one person,” Santiago said.

Santiago is part of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska’s Violence Against Women Task Force and helped organize the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People rally held in front of Alaska State Capitol in May, which Sears spoke at. Santiago hopes the position is filled quickly.

“It’s a position that’s very important to Alaska. We have very many murdered and missing women and people, even young, young teenagers,” Santiago said.

Across the country, thousands of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people are unsolved and



Anne Sears speaks at Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s June 28 news conference about the state budget. Sears recently retired for a second time after a five-month stint as Alaska’s special investigator for cases of murdered and missing Indigenous people. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

many go unreported. Of states with the highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls cases, Alaska is fourth, according to a report by the Urban Indian Health Institute. Anchorage ranks third in top 10 cities with the highest cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed murder as the third-leading cause of death for American Indian or Alaska Native women in 2016.

Sears originally came out of retirement to be the state’s MMIP investigator. She spent 22 years in law enforcement and was the first Alaska Native woman hired to be an Alaska state trooper. She worked as one in Palmer, Galena, Nome, Fairbanks and Kotzebue, and retired in October 2021.

She started the MMIP investigator job April 4. In May, she said she felt very fortunate to have been asked to take on the job.

“Being in law enforcement for 22 years, being an Indigenous woman, being born and raised in the state of Alaska, having lived all over Alaska growing up, then working all over Alaska as a state trooper and being in public service for 30 years has kind of all culminated in this one position, this one purpose, this one issue. I feel very fortunate that I was asked to take this on and privileged to have been asked to take this on,” she said.

Council report due in October

As the MMIP investigator, Sears was part of the 11-member Governor’s Alaska Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. The council, which started meeting earlier this year, is tasked with delivering a final report to the governor by Oct. 15 that provides recommendations for improving interagency cooperation

on missing person protocols, improving public safety in tribal communities that have no law enforcement presence and ways to improve investigations.

At a council meeting on Tuesday, Sears’ name was called in the meeting roll call. No one replied. About 20 minutes into the meeting, council member Sam Vandergaw mentioned Sears’ departure from the position.

“I don’t know if it’s been announced already, but Anne Sears is no longer working with us. She decided she wanted to remain retired, so that’s what she’s doing,” said Vandergaw, who is an assistant attorney general.

Council Chair Valerie Chadwick implied that Vandergaw’s comment was the first she had heard of Sears’ departure. She included that among several concerns related to the council’s work.

“And now I’m hearing about Anne leaving. So I’m seeing if anybody else has been feeling kind of lost as I’ve been feeling lost,” Chadwick said.

Chadwick asked the council’s support staff how the council moves forward with noticing the governor that there’s now a vacancy left by Sears’ departure.

According to McDaniel, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Cockrell “holds the seat that Investigator Sears had on the Governor’s Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. Commissioner Cockrell will resume attending these critical meetings and working with the council on their final report.”

Cockrell was not at the Tuesday council meeting.



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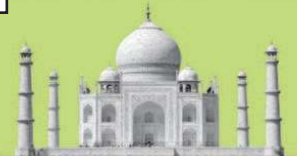
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GIFTS OF
THE YEAR

ACROSS

- 1 First scale syllables
7 Gripping tool
11 Arid expanse in Mongolia
15 Move like a grasshopper
19 "Not Afraid" rapper
20 Affirmation of self-ability
21 De-wrinkle
22 Giant fair
23 Stocks and shares [1st]
25 Stand-up comedian Richard
26 Super serves
27 Low digit
28 Play starter
29 American robin's close relative [5th]
31 Figure on a kid's toy battleground [10th]
35 Revolutionary War mercenaries
36 Wed. follows it
37 Yellow-disked flower
39 'Zine
40 Canon camera line
43 Rapping noise
- 47 She sang "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" [15th]
51 Online selling
52 Driver's license, SSN, etc.
55 Determined to accomplish
56 Living space
57 1988-91 war drama series [20th]
60 Earth's heater
61 Bluegrass fiddler Alison
62 Longtime ISP option
63 Laundry receptacle
65 &&&&
66 "Hey, over here ..."
68 Tree of eastern North America [25th]
72 Lid fastener
76 Infamous Idi
78 Very small minority
80 Mineral spring
81 Taxi driver
84 Angry

- 87 Small, pungent pickling vegetable [30th]
89 Player's top effort, informally
90 Literary leaf
92 Part of IPA
93 Slow a car down
94 Dorothy's magical shoes [40th]
97 Filleted
99 Cough up
100 Low digit
101 Rascalion
104 PC key abbr.
105 Daughter of JFK
109 Half-million-selling album [50th]
114 Mae West play [60th]
116 "Dies —" (hymn)
117 Dog coater
118 "Eso Beso" singer Paul
119 Reversed sort
120 Occasion associated with the starts of 10 answers in this puzzle
124 Salt Lake City NCAA team

- 125 Soothe
126 Profit
127 Actor Steven
128 Work honcho
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130 Possesses
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3 Get mature
4 Ending for propyl
5 Sea, to Henri
6 "— big boy now"
7 Glutinous
8 Cold drink, informally
9 Like biting writing
10 U.S. Navy off.
11 Toy for a boy, traditionally
12 Longtime cookies
13 Bail provider
14 Part of IPO
15 Find out
16 "How rude!"
17 Gorillas, e.g.
18 Opulent
24 Tearful
29 "As a matter of fact, I do!"
30 Hollow-eyed
32 Sully
33 Ban

- 34 Grazing area
38 Near-grads: Abbr.
41 Part of 122-Down
42 Beholds
43 Quick review
44 Eldest Musketeer
45 Kite features
46 Has a link (with)
48 Actor Erwin
49 Whole lot
50 Disconcert
53 Author Roald
54 1976-81 skit series
58 Sink bowl
59 Color shade
61 Get down to propose
64 "It's freezing!"
65 Filmmaker Hitchcock
67 Singer Wynette
69 See 70-Down
70 With 69-Down, tourist's printed guide
71 Ring, as bells
73 Nepali, e.g.
74 Said words
75 Sectioned, as a window
77 Conductor
79 Teeter
81 Be a kvetch
- 82 Juan's water
83 Sweetums
84 Swabby's tool
85 High mount
86 Semi fuel
88 College org. for sailors-to-be
90 Occasion for unrestricted amusement
91 Tolkien terror
95 More silly
96 Eastern Michigan city
98 Corn serving
102 "Top o' the — to ya!"
103 Prairies, e.g.
106 Accrue
107 "Victory is yours"
108 Brother on "Frasier"
110 Actor Patel of "Lion"
111 No longer a minor
112 Countryish
113 In a deadpan manner
114 Smear on, as paint
115 Crazy about
120 Past
121 PC key abbr.
122 Speed Wagon maker
123 Golfer Snead

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LEGALS

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

Gourmet Ventures Inc dba Red Robin located at 1190 N. Muldoon Road, Anchorage, is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to No Premises. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov . Anchorage Press Publish Dates 9/01/22, 9/08/22, 9/15/22

TPS Alaska LLC dba The Pizza Studio located at No Premises is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to Gourmet Ventures Inc dba Red Robin, located at 1190 N. Muldoon Road, 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 . Anchorage Press Publish Dates 9/01/22, 9/08/22, 9/15/22

Helpful Susan

Dear Oskar,
My husband has been out of work for a year and has taken little action toward getting a job. I recently asked a friend if he would hire my husband, and he said yes. When I came to my husband to let him know the good news, he was angry at me for getting in the way. I'm just being helpful. Shouldn't he be grateful I helped him?
—Helpful Susan



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Helpful Susan,
First, let me acknowledge your desire to help your husband. It's a beautiful thing to want to help others. But helping others does not mean doing things for them that they can do for themselves. I used to be like you. My husband did not work for eight years. I was overwhelmed with taking care of everything on my own, so I was constantly introducing him to people to get jobs, prodding him, or meeting people I thought he should talk to about getting a job. I figured maybe he just needed help. I knew that sometimes I needed help and was grateful when people lent me a hand. But when it came to my husband, that never worked. The difference was I was asking for help, my then-husband WAS NOT!

At the time, I didn't understand two important lessons: People need to face consequences in order to grow, and jumping in to fix other people's problems was not helpful.
For most of my life, I walked around in fear of doing things. There was an imaginary person pointing their finger at me and saying in a wicked witch-like voice, "There are consequences!" Not only did I not want to have them, I didn't want to have someone else have them, so I tried to be a savior. Eventually, I finally came to understand that a consequence is just a natural result of an action, not a punishment.
For instance, if I don't open my mail, I'm probably not going to see my electric bill in the pile. If I don't open it, I don't pay it, and the electric company will turn off my electricity. There isn't a lot of natural light in my apartment, which means it will be totally dark, and I will probably run into my furniture or a wall and possibly fall and hurt myself. Hopefully, that pain—a result of not opening my mail—would bring me to a new awareness that opening mail and paying bills is a source of joy, not pain.
Here's a real consequence I had to learn: By taking care of others too much, I wasn't able to properly take care of myself or have a balanced relationship with my husband. Coming to that realization was a difficult process, but the pain brought me the courage to leave that marriage and seek relationships that were more in harmony.
Not jumping in to help people when they don't ask for it also isn't easy. Of course, when someone asks you for help, please help if you so feel called. You can also ask if someone needs help and if they say yes, go ahead. But if they say no, let it go. Remember, when someone isn't asking for help, it's not your place to insert yourself.
I know you're in a tricky situation, but as you allow your husband the dignity to figure things out for himself, you are giving yourself the dignity to make better choices for yourself. As always, I wish you much love on your journey.

Super Crossword

Answers

D	O	R	E	M	I		V	I	S	E		G	O	B	I		L	E	A	P
E	M	I	N	E	M		I	C	A	N		I	R	O	N		E	X	P	O
P	A	P	E	R	A	S	S	E	T	S		J	E	N	I		A	C	E	S
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T	I	N	S	O	L	D	I	E	R			H	E	S	S	I	A	N	S	
			T	U	E		D	A	I	S	Y			M	A	G		E	O	S
R	A	T	A	T	A	T				C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	G	A	Y	L
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C	H	I	N	A	B	E	A	C	H			S	U	N			K	R	A	
A	O	L		W	A	S	H	T	U	B						A	N	D	S	
P	S	S	T			S	I	L	V	E	R	M	A	P	L	E		H	A	S
			A	M	I	N						R	A	R	E	F	E	W		S
C	A	B	M	A	N			M	A	D			P	E	A	R	L	O	N	I
A	G	A	M	E			F	O	L	I	O		A	L	E		B	R	A	
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		C	A	R	O	L	I	N	E				G	O	L	D	R	E	C	
D	I	A	M	O	N	D	L	I	L				I	R	A	E				F
A	N	K	A			I	D	O	L			A	N	N	I	V	E	R	S	A
U	T	E	S			E	A	S	E			G	A	I	N		S	E	A	
B	O	S	S			R	Y	E	S			O	W	N	S		C	O	M	E



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott passes in front of a memorial outside Robb Elementary School to honor the victims killed in a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, May 29, 2022. In the aftermath of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, governors around the country vowed to take steps to ensure their students would be kept safe. Months later, as students return to classrooms, money has begun to flow for school security upgrades, training and other new efforts to make classrooms safer. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills, File)

Shooting, from page A8

Other Republican governors who made money available for security upgrades include Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who announced \$100 million for school security three days after the Uvalde shooting, and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, whose state is giving \$2.6 million to increase training capacity and classes for school resource officers.
“While these are the latest measures we’re taking to ensure our children’s safety, I can assure you they will not be the last. I will work with anyone, even in the midst of a heated election cycle, to protect our students,” Kemp, who is running for reelection, said in June.
Some of the Republican governors who have moved aggressively to bolster school security have ruled out any kind of gun control measures.
Hutchinson had said there should be a conversation about raising the age to purchase an AR-15-style rifle — the type of weapon used in Uvalde — but didn’t pursue such a measure during the session. Abbott also has pushed back on calls for more gun control by families of the Uvalde shooting victims. Oklahoma Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt vowed to fight any firearms restrictions when he signed an executive order on training for law enforcement and risk assessment at schools.
In California, which already had some of the nation’s toughest gun laws, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a dozen more this legislative session and even took out ads in Texas newspapers criticizing the state’s stances on guns.
“We’re sick and tired of being on the defense in this movement,” Newsom said in July.
In New Jersey, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy signed legislation last month requiring the state’s nearly 600 school districts to set up assessment teams aimed at stemming violence in schools. One of the bill’s sponsors recounted hearing of an Uvalde victim who pretended to have been killed in the attack to escape the shooter.
“Does anybody want to teach this — how to play dead?” Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, a Democrat, said during a hearing in June.
Despite the partisan divisions on gun violence, a group of governors says it will attempt to find common ground. A task force created by the National Governor Association following the Uvalde shooting will develop recommendations to stop mass shootings, with an emphasis on school safety. Hutchinson, a former chairman of the association, has said the task force will focus in part on how states might use money coming to them through the bipartisan gun control bill President Joe Biden signed in June.
Teachers, political opponents and others have raised questions about the scope and effectiveness of state leaders’ plans.
In Arkansas, Democratic lawmakers questioned whether districts taking the new grant program’s money would be required to have an armed presence on campus, one of the initial recommendations from the state’s school safety commission.
“It’s one thing to say ‘school safety,’ but that runs the gamut of so much,” said Democratic Sen. Linda Chesterfield, a retired educator and the only legislator to vote against the grant program. “What specifically do you have in mind, and what price is it going to cost? I guess I’m just tired of having to fly by the seat of my pants and not know a thing about what’s going to go into that (commission’s) report.”
In Ohio, teachers unions say one-time funding that’s for equipment like door locks and radio systems — but not ongoing needs like personnel — is helpful but not enough.
Schools need money for staffing, too, including for safety and mental health personnel, said Scott DiMauro, president of the Ohio Education Association.
“Ideally, you’re gonna use funding to ensure that every school that wants to hire well-trained school resource officers, as part of their school safety plan, can do that,” DiMauro said. “And from that perspective, you know, the \$100 million isn’t going to solve the problem in the long run.”
Associated Press writers Samantha Hendrickson in Columbus, Ohio; Jeff Amy in Atlanta; Paul Weber in Austin, Texas; Don Thompson in Sacramento, California; Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City; and Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

11580 Old Seward Hwy
(907) 344-0716

601 W. Dimond
(907) 349-3712

7141 Jewel lake Rd
(907) 243-0749



ARIES: Aries-born Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was one of the greatest basketball players ever. He excelled at most aspects of the game. Some experts say his rebounding was only average for a player his size—seven feet, two inches. But he is still the third-best rebounder in National Basketball Association history. And he played for 20 years, until age 40. What tips might Abdul-Jabbar have for you now? Here’s a suggestion from him that aligns with your current astrological omens: “Work on those parts of your game that are fundamentally weak.”

TAURUS: As a Taurus, you are always wise to be reverent toward your five senses. They are your glorious treasures, your marvelous superpowers, your sublime assets. In the coming weeks, they will serve you even better than usual. As you deploy them with all your amazement and appreciation unfurled, they will boost your intelligence. They will heighten your intuition in ways that guide you to good decisions. You will tune into interesting truths that had previously been hidden from you. I suspect your sensory apparatus will be so sharp and clear that it will work almost as extrasensory powers.

GEMINI: When you Geminis are at your best, you don’t merely tolerate dualities. You enjoy and embrace them. You work with them eagerly. While many non-Geminis regard oppositions and paradoxes as at best inconvenient and at worst obstructive, you often find how the apparent polarities are woven together and complementary. That’s why so many of you are connoisseurs of love that’s both tough and tender. You can be effective in seemingly contradictory situations that confuse and immobilize others. All these skills of yours should come in handy during the coming weeks. Use them to the hilt.

CANCERIAN: Henry David Thoreau always had two notebooks—one for facts, and the other for poetry. But Thoreau had a hard time keeping them apart, as he often found facts more poetic than his poems. Judging from your current astrological omens, Cancerian, I suspect you are entering a time when facts will be even more poetic than usual. If you open yourself to the magic of reality, the mundane details of everyday life will delight you and appeal to your sense of wonder. Routine events will veer toward the marvelous.

LEO: “What good is it if you read Plato but never clean your toilet?” writes author Alice Munro. To which I add, “What good is it if you have brilliant breakthroughs and intriguing insights but never translate them into practical changes in your daily rhythm?” I’m not saying you are guilty of these sins, Leo. But I want to ensure that you *won’t* be guilty of these sins in the coming weeks. It’s crucial to your long-term future that you devote quality time to being earthy and grounded and pragmatic.

VIRGO: “To love oneself is hard work,” declares Virgo author Hanif Abdurraqib. He adds, “But I think it becomes harder when you realize that you’re actually required to love multiple versions of yourself that show up without warning throughout a day, throughout a week, throughout a month, throughout a life.” Let’s make that your inspirational strategy, Virgo. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to refine, deepen, and invigorate your love for all your selves. It may be hard work, but I bet it will also be fun and exhilarating.

LIBRA: How to be the best Libra you can be in the next three weeks: 1. Make sure your cool attention to detail never gets chilly. Warm it up now and then. Invite your heart to add its counsel to your head’s observations. Tenderize your objectivity. 2. Always be willing to be puzzled. Always be entertained and educated by your puzzle-ment. Proceed on the theory that nothing ever changes unless somebody is puzzled. 3. Practice, practice, practice the art of moderation. Do so with the intention of using it as a flexible skill rather than an unthinking habit. 4. Applying the Goldilocks principle will be essential. Everything must be just right: neither too much nor too little; neither overly grand nor overly modest.

SCORPIO: There are blessings in every abyss. You, of all the signs in the zodiac, have the greatest capacity to find those blessings and make them yours. Likewise, there is an abyss in each blessing. You, of all the signs, have the most power to make sure your experiences in the abyss don’t detract from but enhance the blessing. In the coming weeks, dear Scorpio, take maximum advantage of these superpowers of yours. Be a master of zeroing in on the opportunities seeded in the dilemmas. Show everyone how to home in on and enjoy the delights in the darkness. Be an inspirational role model as you extract redemption from the messes.

SAGITTARIUS: One of my favorite Sagittarians is practical mystic Caroline Myss, who was born with sun and Mercury and ascendant in Sagittarius. In accordance with current astrological omens, I’ve gathered six of her quotes to serve your current needs. 1. There isn’t anything in your life that cannot be changed. 2. When you do not seek or need approval, you are at your most powerful. 3. Healing comes from gathering wisdom from past actions and letting go of the pain that the education cost you. 4. The soul always knows what to do to heal itself. 5. What serves your spirit enhances your body. What diminishes your spirit diminishes your body. 6. What is in you is stronger than what is out there to defeat you.

CAPRICORN: I have always felt you Capricorns are wise to commune with rocks, dirt, mud, sand, and clay. I think you should regularly touch the actual earth with your hands and bare feet. If I’m out hiking with a Capricorn friend, I might urge them to sniff blooming mushrooms and lean down to kiss the exposed roots of trees. Direct encounters with natural wonders are like magic potions and miracle medicine for you. Moreover, you flourish when you nurture close personal relationships with anything that might be described as foundational. This is always true, but will be extra true for you in the coming weeks.

AQUARIUS: The coming weeks will be a favorable time to dream up creative solutions to problems that haven’t fully materialized yet. Then you can apply your discoveries as you address problems that already exist. In other words, dear Aquarius, I’m telling you that your uncanny facility for glimpsing the future can be useful in enhancing your life in the present. Your almost psychic capacity to foretell the coming trends will be instrumental as you fix glitches in the here and now.

PISCES : In the coming weeks, logic may be of only partial use to you. Information acquired through your senses might prove less than fully adequate, as well. On the other hand, your talents for feeling deeply and tapping into your intuition can provide you with highly accurate intelligence. Here’s a further tip to help you maximize your ability to understand reality: Visit a river or creek or lake. Converse with the fish and frogs and turtles and beavers. Study the ways of the crabs and crayfish and eels. Sing songs to the dragonflies and whirligig beetles and lacewings.



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 38-year-old cis het woman who is also a public high school teacher in a small town. After a string of unsatisfying relationships in my 20s, I realized that I’ve only experienced sexual pleasure without a partner. Despite being excited by the idea of partnered sex, once there’s a dick inside me, I hate it. Only one thing still seemed appealing: receiving oral sex. I’d love that with someone skilled. By age 33, I gave up dating since finding a partner only interested in going down on me seemed both impossible and selfish. I put all my energy into my career, my family, and my community. After years of fighting the fascism that is gaining hold in our public schools, I’m burnt out and my standard self-care routines aren’t cutting it. I’m considering seeking companionship once again. Is there an easy way to find a partner interested in eating me out but not (or only rarely) anything else? I know the best options are the apps but there are parents as well as former students on those. I already have a target on my back as a liberal teacher. I can’t afford to get caught seeking sex online and the time and energy to date before disclosing my sexual preference sounds exhausting. I don’t want another apple-themed gift. I want my pussy licked.

-Teacher After Cunnilingus Only

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Why would anyone want to be a teacher these days?

Outraged parents, shit pay, shittier governors, racist demagoguery, book bans, “don’t say gay” laws... and on top of all that, not being free to look for sex where everyone else does these days—on the apps—because you might get spotted by a parent who is also looking for sex on the apps and then get attacked at a school board meeting that makes the local news and goes viral and then have to endure a month of death threats after getting dragged on Libs of TikTok and Fox News.

According to ABC News, fewer and fewer people these days do want to be teachers. There are 300,000 teacher and school staff vacancies in the United States right now, a situation the Washington Post describes as “catastrophic,” with red states and Trump counties experiencing the worst shortages. Which should come as no surprise to anyone who’s been paying attention, as red states and rural areas are overrun with precisely the kind of deranged Trump supporters and other assorted conspiracy theorists who keep attacking teachers and school librarians and administrators.

But there are shortages of teachers in more progressive places too, TACO, which means you could easily get a job in a big city in a blue state. Not only would you be less likely to be spotted on the apps by a parent with a kid in your school in a blue state (because there a lot more people on the apps in big cities), you would also be far less likely to be attacked by a parent who did spot you on an app. (Less likely to get attacked, more likely to get licked.) And just as the governors of blue states think you should be able to teach about, oh, slavery and redlining and segregation and Jim Crow (and the Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese internment camps during WWII and the Trail of Tears and on and on), most blue state governors would be fine with you getting your pussy licked—on your own time, by other consenting adults—if that’s what you want.

Hoping to get some tips from other teachers, I shared your email on Twitter. Suggestions ranged from getting on FetLife, which can be a problematic place, to checking out—and perhaps posting on—the r/RandomActsOfMuffDive subreddit on Reddit. And more than a few of my followers wondered whether you might prefer a woman to a man, seeing as you never really cared for dick.

Being a gay dude, however, I know plenty of people who are attracted to men but don’t enjoy getting fucked. (Some guys are tops, some guys are sides.) Luckily for you, TACO, there are straight and bi men out there who only want to eat pussy. I’ve heard from scores of them over the years. Some had severe erectile dysfunction and preferred succeeding at cunnilingus to failing at vaginal intercourse; others were straight male submissives who wanted to orally service a woman without getting anything in return; and more than a few were men who loved eating pussy and somehow wound up married to women who hated oral sex and these men wanted to find women to go down on—and just go down on—outside their relationships, with their wives’ permission (in some cases) or without it (in most cases).

But to find them you’re going to have to get on the apps, TACO, which may mean getting out of your small town.



Dagnabit!

Attempted Robbery

BY MIKE GORDON

The ‘70s and ‘80s were pretty crazy in Anchorage. Some of it spilled over into the ‘90s. Jon A. Woodard was fascinated by Steven Segal—the 6’ 4”, ponytail-sporting actor, martial artist and stuntman. Jon mimicked Steven’s appearance, including the trademark black clothes and ponytail. Woodard wanted to establish a reputation for himself as a tough guy—as an outlaw. Eminently successful, he wound up convicted of robbery and second-degree murder and was sentenced to 66 years in prison.

The sorry tale of this callow, delusional twenty-seven-year-old’s crime was well-covered in the local press: He murdered a hapless Loomis guard while attempting to rob the Carr’s Aurora Village grocery store located in Spenard between Northern Lights and Benson Boulevards. What was not covered was that before Woodard’s fateful grocery store misadventure he had tried to rob Chilkoot Charlie’s.

In the aftermath of the attempt at Koot’s, I learned that Woodard and accomplices had visited the bar on several occasions during the day shift to case the place. He had casually asked a lot of questions of the bar staff. He knew that the person who counted the bartender banks was named Olga (Cwikla). He knew that she performed her duties in an office across the hall from a set of bathrooms toward the rear of the club, and just inside the back door where the janitorial crew exited in the mornings to take out the trash. He knew that Beth Berke sometimes helped Olga with counting down the banks and filling out the daily reports. He knew there would be a lot of cash in the safe from the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights of the upcoming three-day Memorial Day weekend. He knew Olga’s approximate arrival and departure times.

Woodard chose the morning of Monday, May 25, 1992 to strike. He waited in the alley for the clean-up crew to open the rear door to dump the trash, then forced them back into the club at gunpoint and into the lady’s room across the hall from the office. He then kicked in both office doors—inner and outer. In the outer office he found two locked and secured safes, one for dropping night bartender sales, the other a gun safe compartmentalized to accommodate a dozen bartenders’ banks. In the inner office he found two desks, the master safe locked like the others, and some security equipment—but no Olga.

“Where’s Olga?” Woodard demanded of the terrified clean-up crew who were being held at gunpoint by an accomplice.

“She’s off today,” they replied in unison.

“Where’s Beth Berke?” he barked.

“She’s not here either,” they said.

It was a holiday Monday. The banks were closed. Olga and Beth had taken the day off. Our general manager, Doran Powell, had done the Sunday night banks after closing early Monday morning, then gone home to bed. None of our management was present. The only people on the premises were cleaning up from the night before and of course none of them had combinations to the safes, all of which were secured in their respective locations. Woodard had miscalculated. Unmentioned in the press because no money had been taken and no one had been shot, and undeterred by his lack of success at Koot’s, Woodard chose his next target.

Two weeks later, on the morning of Monday, June 8, 1992, Woodard, wearing a mask, strode into Carr’s Aurora Village. Again, he had help. Twenty-six-year-old Sean Pierce, a convicted forger, was the lookout. Twenty-five-year-old David Van Housen, a Carr’s employee who stocked produce on the midnight to eight a.m. shift had familiarized Woodard with the store layout and told him when the guard would be making his cash pickup. Twenty-three-year-old Karl Bohlin allegedly helped hide some of the cash after the robbery.

At the time there was an open-air box-shaped cubicle that acted as an office in the middle of the front area of the store. It had shoulder-height Plexiglas windows on all four sides and was only about five feet tall. Terrence Becker, the Loomis guard that fateful day, was inside collecting cash for transport to the bank. At his height Woodard could easily reach over the top of the cubicle

to point his gun at Becker. When he did, and demanded cash, Becker started to reach for his own gun.

Woodard warned, “Don’t do that.” Becker, for some sibylline reason, did it anyway. Woodard shot him in the side of the head and escaped with about \$50,000 in cash.

When Doran Powell learned later in the day of the May 25th attempted robbery of Koot’s he was afraid whoever had tried to rob us might come back before we could make our deposits at the bank on Tuesday morning, so he took evasive action. Imagine Shelli’s surprise that Monday evening when after returning from a trip to Canada to visit her great-aunt Ferne, she opened the dryer in our condo to find bank bags bulging with nearly \$100,000 in cash. It was a clever place for Doran to hide the money. The condo was secured with an alarm system, Shelli was in Canada, and I was not yet home from my second attempt at summitting Mt. Everest.

Returning from Nepal the following week, I immediately went about tightening security procedures. We installed solid oak doors in metal frames in both the inner and outer offices. Both doors were equipped with security bars and the intercom system was upgraded. Whoever was working in the inner office was never to let anyone into that office until they had first been let into the outer office and reinstalled the bar on the outer office door. If a person was leaving the office instructions were to close and lock the inner office door behind them before removing the bar and opening the outer door. Any person left in the inner office was to put the bar back up before the outer office bar was removed. There was never to be clear-and-open access to the inner office. Though I warned Olga—and others—many times, human nature being what it is, I was generally the only one who always followed the procedures.

Woodard was to learn the problem with accomplices: they talk. None of them had anticipated 48-year-old Terrence Becker being shot in the head. The Daily Sitka Sentinel reported on September 4, 1992:

“A convicted forger who admitted serving as lookout during a June supermarket heist that left an armored truck guard dead has pleaded no contest to armed robbery.

Sean Thomas Pierce, 26, entered the plea in Anchorage Superior Court on Thursday.

In return, Pierce will be given immunity from prosecution for murder, and he will receive no more than four years in prison if he testifies against his friends, who allegedly carried out the deadly robbery.”

The same paper reported on August 12, 1993: “A man who helped his friend with a 1992 supermarket robbery that turned fatal has been given two and a half years in prison.

David Van Housen, 26, an employee of the Carrs supermarket, gave inside information to Jon Woodard, who robbed the store of about \$50,000 and killed an armored-car guard.

Judge Karen Hunt sentenced Van Housen to the short term, saying he was genuinely sorry for his act and had excellent prospects for rehabilitation.”

On September 27, 1993 the Sitka Sentinel wrote: “A man convicted of killing an armored car guard during a supermarket robbery has been sentenced to 66 years in prison.

Jon Woodard, 28, was sentenced Friday for second-degree murder. He was convicted earlier this year in the June, 1992 shooting death of Terry Becker.

Judge Karen Hunt rejected the prosecution’s request that Woodard be given the maximum 99 years, saying, “While he is dangerous, he doesn’t qualify as a worst offender.”

Woodard is to stand trial later this year on two other robbery charges, and he is accused of federal weapons violations.

The 66-year sentence means Woodard can apply for parole in 22 years.”

Woodard, in fact, the last time I checked was residing in a federal halfway house in Anchorage. Terrence Becker, born on May 19, 1944 in San Mateo, California, left behind a widow, Gail Ito; a son T.J.; a mother, Mary Becker; two brothers, John and Stephen; and sisters Mary Ellen Becker and Margaret O’Brien, none of whom will ever see him again. Terrence had worked for Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking for 15 years. Three years before his death he took a job with Alaska Security, which became Loomis. His hobbies included hiking, ocean kayaking, downhill skiing and practical shooting, none of which he will ever do again.

Though I am not one to question the wisdom of Judge Hunt’s sentencing decision, I do wonder what Woodard would have had to do to qualify as a “worst offender.” Since he was convicted of second degree murder I surmise he would have had to commit first degree—premeditated—murder, though the line between the two is sometimes fuzzy.

I have often pondered what the outcome would have been had Woodard not miscalculated in his attempted robbery of Chilkoot Charlie’s. What if the nexus of potential lethality had occurred there instead of a few blocks away?

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



CANNAGUIDE

YOUR MAP TO ANCHORAGE'S DANK SIDE



Alaska Cannabis Exchange
2906 Spenard Road
(907) 301-4208
Joints are 20% of Monday



House of Green
3105 Minnesota Dr
(907) 929-3105
1.5g "Fat Boy" Prerolls



Cold City Cannabis
1210 E 70th Ave
(907) 222-9988
Pre-roll fire sale
1 for \$6 and 10 for \$45



Uncle Herb's - Arctic
6511 Arctic Spur Rd
(907) 561-4372
Open 8am - 11pm Daily

Uncle Herb's - Boniface
360 Boniface Pkwy
(907) 561-4372
Open 8am - 12pm Daily



King Street Cannabis Company
8430 Laviento Drive
20% discount for seniors & vets



Cloudberry Cannabis
3307 Spenard Road
(907) 644-3010
Voted Best of Weed Maps



Catalyst Cannabis Co. Old Seward Hwy
9900 Old Seward Hwy
(907) 344 - 0668
Buy 3 Edibles, Get 4th for a 1¢ on Friday

Catalyst Cannabis Co. Muldoon
317 Muldoon Rd
(907) 222 - 6847

Want to see your dispensary featured? Contact our sales team at 907-561-7737.

Primo AK
12870 Old Seward Hwy
(907) 336-2837

The Frost Farms
8535 Dimond D Cir
(907) 522-5050

Alaskan Leaf
1211 W 36th Ave
(907) 770-0262

Ganja Guys
101 E International Rd
(907) 206-4420

Prohibitionists Fear Democracy More Than Marijuana

BY PAUL AREMENTANO

Those who wish to perpetuate the failed public policy of cannabis criminalization have lost the hearts and minds of the American public. And they know it.

With public support for marijuana policy reform reaching super-majority status in recent years, prohibitionists and other political opponents have largely abandoned efforts to try and influence public opinion. Rather, they are now relying on gamesmanship to prevent voters from weighing in on the issue. In some cases, they are even willing to overturn the will of the electorate to get their way.

This was the case last election. In Mississippi and South Dakota, reform opponents successfully litigated to nullify election results for a pair of marijuana legalization measures, thereby nullifying the votes cast by 73 percent and 54 percent of voters respectively.

That same year in Nebraska, members of the state Supreme Court struck down a proposed medical cannabis access initiative months after it had been approved by the Secretary of State's office. Polling in the state showed that 77 percent of Nebraskans backed the initiative, but they never got the chance to show their support at the polls. Months later, Florida's Republican attorney general successfully brought suit to preemptively deny a proposed 2022 legalization initiative from appearing on the ballot.

Opponents are engaging in similar tactics this election cycle. In Arkansas, they are seeking to invalidate voters' pending decision on a statewide proposal to legalize marijuana possession and retail sales. Although the measure will appear on the November ballot, it is now up to justices on the state Supreme Court to determine if the votes will ever be counted. In a filing before the court, opponents of the measure have cynically called upon judges to "protect the interests and rights of [the minority of] Arkansans who oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana." (Statewide polling from earlier this year identified majority support for legalization among voters.)

In Missouri, representatives of a leading prohibitionist organization have joined legal efforts to try and disqualify a citizens' initiative legalizing marijuana use by adults and providing legal relief for those with prior low-level convictions. Earlier this month, Secretary of State John Ashcroft issued a certificate of sufficiency to the Legal Missouri 2022 campaign, formally placing their initiative on the November ballot. But now opponents contend that election officials erred in doing so, opining that they may have miscounted. (Opponents' basis for this claim appears to rest solely on initial media reports speculating that advocates risked falling short of signature requirements in one or two districts. Campaign proponents had vociferously denied these reports.) A statewide survey, published earlier this month, finds that 62 percent of registered voters back legalization.

In a healthy democracy, those with competing visions on public policy vie for voters' support and abide by their voting decisions. In this case, however, it is becoming clear that those who oppose marijuana policy reform would rather take voters out of the equation altogether. Whether or not one personally supports or opposes cannabis legalization, these cynical and undemocratic tactics ought to be a cause of deep concern.

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Seattle, as seen from the window seat of a New York to Seattle flight. Ned Rozell photo.

Chasing the sun from New York to Alaska

BY NED ROZELL

When I left my sister’s house in Brooklyn yesterday afternoon, I was 4,200 miles from my home. That’s a long way, but I slept in my Fairbanks bed before the next sunrise.

Enabling this incredible time travel are modern jet aircraft like the Boeing 737-700, which carried me and 125 others on the first leg of my journey, from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

I settled into my window seat to savor an experience I sometimes take for granted — the traverse of our country in one day.

As the plane roared off the busy runway, we looped over the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean. We arced westward until the pilot had the nose pointed toward the other coast.

In minutes, we were over northern Pennsylvania, the second of ten states and one province (Ontario) we would hurdle during the next 5 1/2 hours.

We soon climbed to smooth air about six miles high. The pilot chose this cruising altitude because less air molecules exist up high. The plane glides with less friction, saving fuel, while the engines still have enough oxygen to combust the fuel. At that height, we were more than one mile above the tallest mountain on Earth but still more than 50 miles beneath the aurora borealis.

Tiny feathers of frost formed on my window. The temperature outside the plane was minus 62 degrees Fahrenheit. We were near the tropopause, the frigid boundary between Earth’s atmosphere and the troposphere.

That 737-700, the most common commercial airliner, carried more than 6,500 gallons of jet fuel, giving the aircraft a range of more than 5,000 miles. The pilot could have flown me straight from New Jersey to Fairbanks.

The plane burned 750 gallons of jet fuel each hour. That was about 33 gallons apiece for each passenger, which seems pretty efficient when compared to those toy trucks hauling our goods on the highways below.

As it burned, each gallon of jet fuel combined with 23 pounds of oxygen and turned into 20 pounds of carbon dioxide and just over nine pounds of water, noticeable

as flowing white contrails. By taking this flight, me and the other passengers were each contributing about 800 pounds of carbon to the atmosphere, the 30-mile shell of gases surrounding Earth.

Propelled by two jet engines, we were zipping along at 514 miles per hour. Thirty-five thousand feet above St. Cloud, Minnesota, we were ten times faster than cars approaching the city, 40 times faster than a rider on horseback.

It’s hard to fathom 500 miles per hour, but we reached the border of Idaho at 6:07 p.m. Our route took us over the northern portion of the panhandle. We entered Washington at 6:15, spending just eight minutes in Idaho airspace.

We were not the only aircraft above Idaho. Workers for the company Flight Aware estimated that there was an average of 9,928 planes in the sky every moment of every day. That means 1.3 million people are now sipping a drink a few miles above our heads.

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 ned.rozell@alaska.edu is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute. A version of this story appeared in 2018.

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A view of Manhattan from the window seat of a New York to Seattle flight. Ned Rozell photo.

Synchronicity: a meaningful coincidence

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

Wolverine Peak has long been a favorite place of mine, a mountain visible from much of Anchorage and one that I visit throughout the year, though nowadays I rarely ascend to the summit.

Over the years I've identified several landmarks along the trail that leads to Wolverine's large alpine bowl, where the landscape "opens up" into what I consider the mountain's upper alpine reaches.

Some of the landmarks were named by other hikers and hill climbers, some by me. For instance, there's the Mud Bog, a flat stretch that is often mucky, particularly in spring and during wet summers like this one. Not far beyond there's Turnaround Rock, then the Hemlock Tunnel, The Sidehill Ramp, and The Rockpile, a giant rock cairn at the entrance to the open tundra and a place where I tend to veer from the main trail, toward other personal landmarks.

A number of these places have vivid memories attached to them, none more so than The Sidehill Ramp. While recently hiking along that section of trail, my thoughts drifted back a full decade, to a mystifying encounter I had with the animal for which Wolverine Peak is named.

The story of that encounter begins with me standing high above Anchorage on a crisp and clear autumn afternoon in September 2012, my right hand clutching a plastic bag and my mind filled with vivid, bittersweet memories.

Named Rusty Point, the rocky ledge on which I was perched lies at the western end of a mountain spine that drops from the summit of Wolverine Peak (and which my girlfriend, Jan, has aptly named Rusty Ridge, another memorable place).

My thoughts that September day were pulled to a summer three years earlier, when I walked that untrailed and rubbly ridgeline with my 8½-year-old collie mix, Coya. Though I've been a "dog person" all my life, Coya was the first I had made my own. Not long after our lives intersected, it became clear that she loved to roam the hills as much as I. And in the years since then, she'd proven to be as companionable and enthusiastic a hiking partner as any mountain Rambler could ever want.

Sitting side by side while taking a snack break that midsummer day in 2009, we'd been stunned to watch a wolverine, engaged in her own alpine wanderings, step onto the ridge, no more than 10 yards away.

Apparently, as shocked as Coya and I, the wolverine momentarily froze. Then she slowly circled us, showing no evidence of either fear or aggression, but rather curiosity. Meanwhile, I held tightly onto my squirming dog. After her initial surprise, Coya clearly wished to give chase. That, I knew, could have ended badly, given the wolverines' fierce demeanor.

With Coya safely in my arms, she and I shared the wolverine's remarkably calm company for the next quarter-hour, until the animal loped out of sight.

Over the years I'd shared many other memorable wildlife encounters with Coya, but nothing could match our 2009 meeting with a wolverine, so rarely seen even where the species' population is healthy.

Memories of that day still evoke wonder and delight. But in 2012 they'd been tempered by sadness and longing. In May my zestful, mountain-loving dog had become seriously ill with what her doctor described as a rare—and, it turned out, virulent—cancer. With Coya no longer able to venture into the hills or even go on extended walks in town, she and I had to settle for short neighborhood strolls and time spent lolling in front-yard sunshine. Less than three weeks after she first showed symptoms of the disease, I gently and sorrowfully held Coya in my arms one last time while she was injected with a euthanizing potion.

Now in September, I had come to Rusty Point to leave a handful of Coya's ashes. Other hikers rarely visit this location, so I would have all the time I needed to be alone and quietly reminisce, at a place rich with memories of our rambles together.

I'd brought my Chugach journal to record some notes. Browsing through it I noticed that Coya last journeyed here the previous fall. As usual, we'd had the spot all to ourselves.

My jottings reminded me that Coya's final day at Rusty Point had been sunny and crisp, the autumn air



Rusty Point had been sunny and crisp, the autumn air made colder by a brisk northeast wind. A pair of ravens circled around us and I had found some late-blooming wildflowers, including an alpine forget-me-not, its petals still a deep and vibrant blue. Four Dall sheep grazed far below us on a south-facing hillside, while atop the ridge we'd come across a pile of wolfish scat.

I set the journal aside. Then, whispering something like a prayer, I spread Coya's dusty gray remains and tiny bone fragments among alpine plants and beneath a couple of lichen-crusting rocks, in places where I knew we once sat side by side. Then, in peaceful solitude, I reclined on the tundra beneath brilliantly blue heavens.

With the September sun warm on my face, I closed my eyes and both mourned my loss and recalled the joy that Coya had brought me, while imagining her body nestled affectionately against mine.

I lingered up high for more than an hour, thoughts of wolverine inevitably mixed with those of Coya. Our meeting along this ridge three years prior still struck me as an amazing thing.

After one last look around, I began an unhurried descent across untrailed tundra and twenty minutes later rejoined the heavily used path that hikers follow to Wolverine Peak's summit. As usual, I carried binoculars. Noticing them, a middle-aged couple ascending the trail asked, "Seen any wildlife?"

"Not much today," I replied. "A couple of distant moose, a soaring bald eagle, some songbirds. That's about it."

Several minutes after that brief exchange, now descending The Sidehill Ramp, I happened to glance off to my left, toward the hillside Coya once routinely explored on our return to the Prospect Heights trailhead. I could still clearly picture her weaving back and forth, head bent and nose searching the tundra.

Movement high on the same slope Coya once loved to roam grabbed my attention. Crossing it at an unhurried pace was a slender, dark, long-tailed animal built low to the ground. Waves of recognition exploded through my body while my mind shouted, WOLVERINE!

Bursting to alert other hikers to the animal's presence, I glanced up and down the trail, but no one was in sight. So I returned my gaze to the wolverine and stood absolutely still. This was a different one than the ear-tagged female Coya and I had met three years earlier. For reasons I can't fully explain, it struck me as a young adult male.

Whether following a scent or otherwise preoccupied, the wolverine appeared unaware of my presence while zigzagging downhill in the sort of hop-stepping way that weasels move. Though coming steadily closer, he didn't once look my way that I could tell.

Only upon reaching the trail—now a dozen feet from

where I stood, maybe less—did the wolverine seem to notice me. He stood on his back legs and peered at me a few moments, then turned and began to retreat back uphill. But instead of racing away, he moved at a casual pace, even stopping now and then to gaze back in my direction.

Reaching the top of the rise, the wolverine loped out of sight. But a few seconds later he reappeared and again looked my way, still inquisitive. He then repeated this behavior a couple of more times. Not until the voices of approaching hikers broke the silence—and the spell—did he vanish.

No more than a mile from where Coya and I had met the other wolverine three years earlier, I remained still, mind and emotions churning.

It's easy enough, in our modern Western culture, to consider this second wolverine's appearance pure chance. But the details of the day and the circumstances of our encounter suggest to me that something more, something not easily explained or understood by the rational mind, may have been at play here.

The famed psychiatrist Carl Jung might have said I experienced synchronicity: a "meaningful coincidence" in which two events are linked by something other than cause and effect. Often an association is made between some aspect of a person's inner life and an occurrence in the outer world.

There was no question that I felt a deep connection between this wolverine's appearance and my earlier remembrance of Coya and the spreading of her ashes, the reason that I had returned to this mountain. The more intuitive part of me somehow understood—and continues to understand—that what happened on Wolverine Peak's flanks that September day was no simple coincidence, no accident.

While the notion of synchronicity seems to fit, the word, the idea, that flashed through my mind in those moments was "visitation." I can't say for sure that the wolverine carried some message or that Coya's spirit was somehow present, but there's no question I had been visited by something mysterious, something marvelous in nature.

Taking a deep breath, I glanced uphill one more time, toward the place I spotted this second wolverine. Then I resumed my own retreat to the trailhead, both shaken and exuberant.

Even now, a decade later, I feel the shivers and exhilaration that passed through me on that long-ago September day, blessed by the presence of wolverine.

Anchorage nature writer and wildlands/wildlife advocate Bill Sherwonit is a widely published essayist and the author of more than a dozen books. Readers wishing to send comments or questions email akgriz@hotmail.com.

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