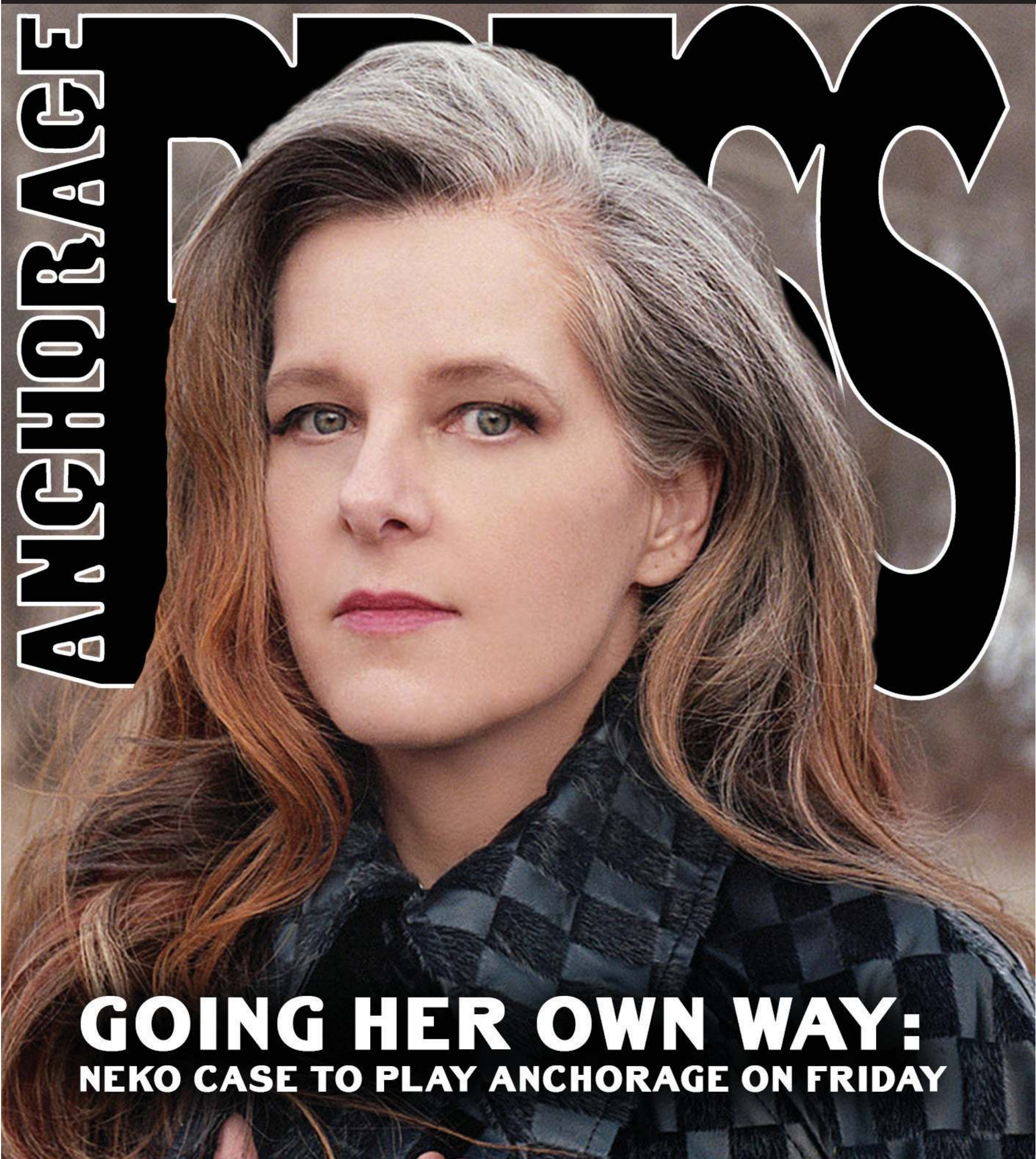
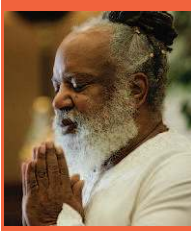




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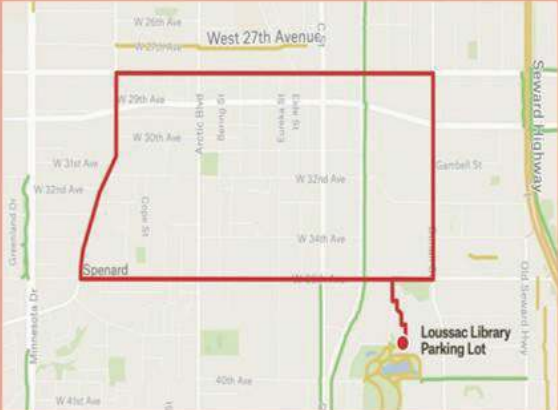


Start:
Loussac Library
11:00am
Sat., 9/17

Critical Mass Ride

Let's celebrate cycling and assert cyclists right to the road! Snacks, water, and bicycle maintenance will be provided.

See FB event for detailed route info:
<https://fb.me/e/1L3Nt0FKQ>



Critical Mass Anchorage rolls this Saturday

BY ANCHORAGE PRESS STAFF

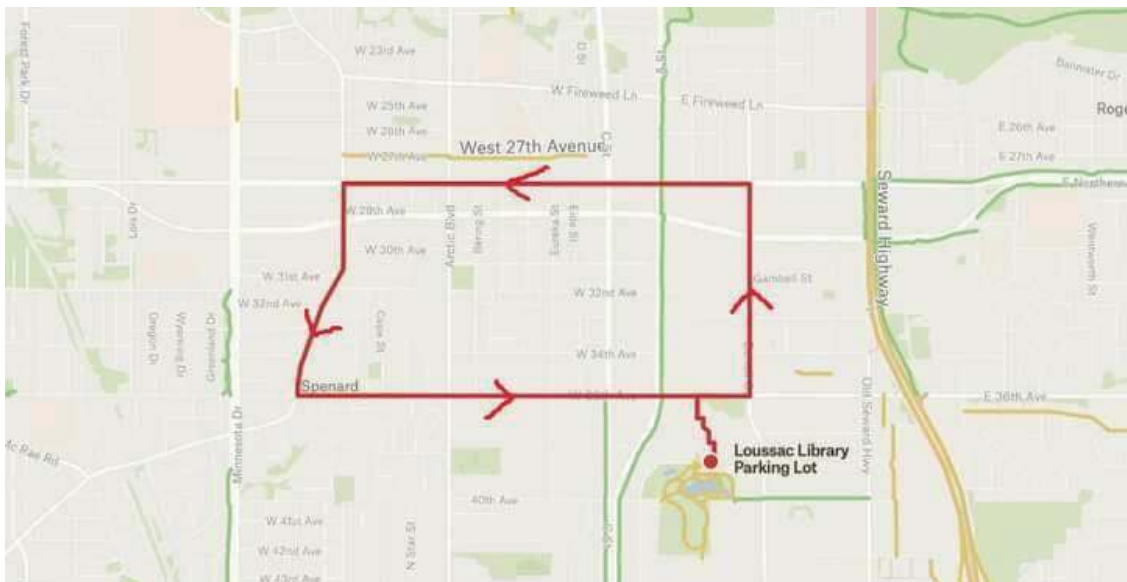
In nuclear engineering, a critical mass is the smallest amount of fissile material needed for a sustained nuclear chain reaction. On Saturday, September 17, a group of Alaskan Twitter users plan to kick off a chain reaction of their own.

“In a city as large as Anchorage, it’s disappointing that it is so unnavigable to pedestrians and cyclists,” says Olivia Garrett.

Part of a Twitter group of like-minded Alaskans, Garrett is co-organizing “Critical Mass: Ride for Anchorage.” The informal gathering is meant to draw attention to the lack of safe pedestrian paths while also calling attention to alternative modes of transportation. The Critical Mass movement, which is now worldwide, began in San Francisco in 1992. A testament to the movement, in Vienna, a Critical Mass Ride has been held every month since 2006 and attracts up to 1,000 or more riders.

Although Garrett and her co-organizers aren’t expecting a 1,000-bike crowd, their Facebook event had garnered 249 responses as of Wednesday morning.

“We have some assembly members who said they plan to attend, and so far, the feedback has been great, so we are hopeful for a big turnout,” says Garrett.



While Garrett is thrilled about the possibility of a large crowd, she cautions that only experienced, competent riders should attend as their bike route will take over busy city streets. The planned route begins at the Loussac Library at 11am. Riders will roll down Denali Street before bearing left on E 36th Ave and C Street as they return to the library. In total, the ride is 3.6 miles long and is anticipated to take about 45 minutes to complete. Snacks, bike maintenance, and water will be provided to riders in attendance.

To learn more about the event, visit: facebook.com/events/s/critical-mass-ride-for-anchorage/320416203581569.

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Mary Peltola, smiling on the center-right, poses with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Peltola's family on Sept. 13, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Her husband Gene Peltola is between Pelosi and Mary Peltola. (Photo by Andrew Kitchenman/Alaska Beacon)

Peltola sworn in as member of U.S. House

Family, other House members celebrate nation's first Alaska Native Congress member

BY ANDREW KITCHENMAN
ALASKA BEACON

Mary Peltola was sworn in on Tuesday as Alaska's sole member of the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress.

Peltola, a Democrat from Bethel, praised her predecessor, Republican Rep. Don Young, who died in March, saying that, like Young, she would represent all Alaskans.

"Don Young was a true institution, an Alaska icon," she said. "I'm committed to securing his legacy of bipartisanship."

Peltola touched on her roots.

"It is the honor of my life to represent Alaska, a place my elders and ancestors have called home for thousands of years, where to this day, many people in my community carry on our traditions of hunting and fishing," she said.

The event was celebrated by fellow House members and by members of Peltola's family and other supporters sitting in the House gallery, with people rising a few times to applaud and cheer the historic occasion. Family

members who attended the ceremony included her husband, Gene Peltola, seven children, two sisters and two grandchildren.

They were photographed with Peltola and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a ceremony after the official swearing-in.

There were a few things unique about the event. Most House members are joined on the floor by other members of their state's House delegation – with Alaska having only one member, members from different states gathered around Peltola. And U.S. senators usually don't attend many sessions of the other chamber, but both of Alaska's senators – Republicans Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan – joined Peltola.

For more than 20 minutes before the ceremony, Peltola chatted with Murkowski and Sullivan, as well as House members who lined up to greet her. They included the three most senior House Democrats – Pelosi, from California; Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Majority Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina – and Sharice Davids of Kansas, one of the two other Indigenous women in the House.

After Peltola was sworn in, Hoyer said it was an honor to welcome her. He credited her willingness to work with Republicans as contributing to Alaskans electing her.

"Like so many other Americans, they want to be represented by someone who is focused on bipartisanship and not on confrontation," he said.

Alaska Federation of Natives Co-chairs Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson attended the ceremony. Hoffman said afterward that the event was "spectacular."

"Mary was very much in the place in which she belongs," Hoffman said. "And she brought Alaska here

in such a real way. One of the people from home said by Mary being in Washington, D.C., it makes D.C. feel that much closer to Alaska. And it absolutely does. That is a perfect way to describe what Mary has done here."

Hoffman said hearing Peltola speak some Yup'ik on the House floor brought a sense of belonging to the chamber. Hoffman also said there were probably more people wearing piluguks, a style of mukluk, than has ever happened before during a member's swearing-in.

Nelson compared having Indigenous-language words spoken in Congress to land acknowledgements.

"There's no more powerful land acknowledgement than the Native people just speaking and being part of the land," he said.

The ceremony came a day after Peltola announced her staff members, who have a bipartisan background. Alex Ortiz, Young's last chief of staff, will be her chief of staff. Claire Richardson, who worked in the administrations of Democrat Tony Knowles and independent Bill Walker, will be Peltola's interim director of constituent services. Larry Persily, who has worked in various federal, state and municipal positions and a longtime journalist, is her senior policy adviser. Hector Jimenez will be her scheduler; his background includes serving as her deputy campaign manager and working in the oil and gas industry. And Josh Wilson, who has worked for Republican politicians, is her interim communications director.

Peltola's term in office ends on Jan. 3, 2023. Whether she serves beyond then depends on the outcome of the Nov. 8 election for the next two-year House term, in which Peltola faces Republicans Sarah Palin and Nick Begich and Libertarian Chris Bye in a ranked choice election.

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At forum, Murkowski and Tshibaka offer different approaches on Biden

Negotiation and cooperation are better, Murkowski says, while Tshibaka proposes confrontation

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Incumbent Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski and her leading Republican challenger, Kelly Tshibaka, traded heated remarks on Tuesday in Ketchikan over road funding in last year's federal infrastructure bill.

The exchange highlighted a key difference between the two candidates when dealing with the administration of President Joe Biden. Both candidates say they have been frustrated by federal limits on mining, drilling and logging in Alaska.

Tshibaka said that if elected, she would use her position to confront and threaten the administration with budget cuts, audits and investigations; as the incumbent, Murkowski has preferred negotiation and — at times — compromise.

"I think that is one big difference between the two of us, quite honestly," Murkowski said. "I view my ability to work relationships to Alaska's benefit to be one of my great strengths."

Murkowski, Tshibaka, Democratic candidate Pat Chesbro and Republican candidate Buzz Kelley are on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. Kelley has suspended his campaign and has said he is supporting Tshibaka.

Chesbro finished the Aug. 16 primary election with 6.8% of the vote, a distant third behind Tshibaka (38.6%) and Murkowski (45.1%). Speaking to attendees of Southeast Conference, a regional meeting of business and political leaders, her appearance was quiet but brought murmurs from the crowd when she mistakenly said she looked forward to working with "those of you in Southcentral."

Most attendees' attention was on Murkowski and Tshibaka, the two perceived frontrunners.

Murkowski said her ability to work across party lines has brought benefits to the state.

She pointed to the infrastructure bill, which was backed by the Biden adminis-



Republican U.S. Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka speaks on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, at a candidate forum in Ketchikan. At left is Democratic candidate Pat Chesbro. Republican incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski attended by teleconference. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

tration and passed the Senate with Murkowski's help.

Money for the Alaska Marine Highway System, she said, "is there because I single-handedly put it there, whether it was the billion dollars for rural ferry service (or) what we did to permanently expand the authorized use of ferryboat terminal construction funding."

Murkowski put money into the bill, Tshibaka said, but she asked the crowd to consider whether federal departments' rules may foil Murkowski's efforts. Look at road construction, she suggested.

"The Biden administration has decided we will get no new roads from the infrastructure bill. That's what happens when we make deals with the Biden administration," she said.

"To suggest that there's no new roads that will be built under the infrastructure bill is just absolutely, flat out not true," Murkowski responded.

Tshibaka later said her comment was in reference to 2021 remarks by Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who said money would be used to address racial inequalities in highway design.

A Tshibaka aide said she also was referring to guidance from the Federal Highway Administration, which emphasizes road repair over construction.

Neither item says that no new roads will be built using federal infrastructure money.

The point, Tshibaka said, is that congressional efforts can be derailed by agency regulations unless members of Congress act.

She said that if elected, she would "hold (agencies) accountable through budget cuts and the appropriations committee, and hearings — like before the energy committee. Neither of those have happened yet, and it's time we do that. I will also leverage my extensive experience in the oversight network of the executive branch to begin auditing some of these agencies' regulations, and whether they've exceeded their statutory authority."

That approach has been championed by other Republicans in the U.S. Senate, including Alaska's other U.S. Senator, Dan Sullivan.

Tshibaka has also criticized Murkowski's votes in support of some Biden appointees and judicial nominees.

"She's become Biden's CEO. Yep. She's his chief enabling officer," Tshibaka said in July at an event hosted by former President Donald Trump.

Asked about those votes, some of which took place Tuesday, Murkowski posed a question of her own.

"I could take the approach and some of my colleagues here do, which is to oppose every single nominee out there. You tell me what Josh Hawley is getting for that," she said, referring to the Republican senator from Missouri.

"The same thing was what some of my Democratic colleagues did during the Trump administration. I think Elizabeth Warren just blackballed every single Trump nominee. How far did that get?" Murkowski said.

"You know, you can take that approach, and if that's going to be Tshibaka's approach, have at it, but you know what? Alaska is gonna lose out. Because until the Biden administration is gone, we've got to deal with them," she said.

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WASHINGTON, DC — DECEMBER 16: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) speaks at a press conference on December 16, 2021 in Washington, DC. Graham, who is the Ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, spoke on the Congressional Budget Office score for the Build Back Better spending bill and the effects it will have on the economy. (Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

U.S. Senate Republicans shy away from proposed 15-week national abortion ban

BY JENNIFER SHUTT
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Republicans are skeptical about a 15-week nationwide abortion ban that GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced Tuesday, with some saying they want to leave the issue to state lawmakers instead of taking it up in Congress.

“I think most of the members of my conference prefer that this be dealt with at the state level,” Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said during a press conference.

Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt agreed, later saying during a brief interview “that’s best left to the states.”

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida said he plans to review the legislation, but declined to say if he’d back it, or if he supports the general idea of banning abortions nationwide after 15 weeks.

“My position is there are to be reasonable restrictions and there’ll be exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother,” Scott said.

Limited exceptions

Graham’s abortion bill would allow exceptions for rape, incest, or the life or health of the pregnant patient, though not if the diagnosis includes “psychological or emotional conditions.”

The proposed legislation would not interfere with states that have stricter restrictions in place for determining when and how a woman can legally terminate a pregnancy. But the bill, which is unlikely to become law, would pare back abortion laws in bluer states that have broader abortion laws.

Graham’s office declined to respond to a request asking if the legislation has any co-sponsors.

The bill introduced Tuesday differs from a 20-week ban the South Carolina senator introduced during the last session of Congress that amassed 47 co-sponsors, including Blunt, McConnell and Scott.

Graham’s decision to reintroduce a nationwide abortion bill Tuesday is a change of course from comments he made following the Supreme Court’s decision.

“Before 1973, the law of the land was that each state can decide the issue of life—when life begins, whether or not to have an abortion, what circumstances around having an abortion,” Graham said on “Fox News Sunday” two days after the court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

“Now, what this court has done is taken us back to pre-1973 where each state can decide through their elected officials when life begins and how to treat life,” Graham added.

The Supreme Court’s opinion in the abortion case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, said that in ending the nationwide constitutional right to abortion “the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.”

It did not specifically say that only state lawmakers, not federal lawmakers, have authority to address abortion.

Democrats slam national ban

Democrats on Tuesday rebuked Graham for introducing the legislation, with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, calling the proposal “radical.”

“Proposals like the one today send a clear message from MAGA Republicans to women across the country—your body, our choice,” Schumer said.

Washington Democratic Sen. Patty Murray said Graham’s decision to introduce the measure was “chilling.” “All their talk of ‘returning the issue to the states’

clearly isn’t worth a single cent, because Republicans have made crystal clear with this bill that they are coming for abortion rights in every single state,” Murray said.

“Regardless of who you are or where you live, Republicans think they know best when it comes to your health care decisions.”

The legislation is unlikely to get a floor vote in the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate, and given McConnell’s comments Tuesday, it might not even get a floor vote if the GOP regains control of the chamber after the midterm elections in November.

If the bill were to come up, it would be subject to the 60-vote legislative filibuster and would likely not be able to get the bipartisan support needed to move onto final passage.

Abortion politics

Abortion has become a potentially challenging issue for Republicans heading into the midterm elections.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted after the court’s abortion decision showed about 53% of respondents disapproved of the conservative justices overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Another 30% of those polled approved and 16% said they didn’t approve or disapprove.

McConnell sought to give Republicans running in tough races plenty of runway on the issue of abortion Tuesday.

“I think every Republican senator running this year in these contested races has an answer as to how they feel about the issue. And it may be different in different states,” McConnell said.

“So I’d leave it up to our candidates, who are quite capable of handling this issue to determine for them what their response is.”

Alaska park managers preparing for loss of some of the state's most iconic attractions: glaciers

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

On the route to one of Alaska's most-viewed glaciers, there is little doubt about the destination. Visitors drive on Exit Glacier Road to get to the Exit Glacier trailhead of the 1-mile Exit Glacier trail that takes them to the face of Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park.

Now, with the climate continuing to warm, park managers are faced with a question: What will visitors do in that section of the park when rapidly shrinking Exit Glacier finally disappears from view?

"There's going to be some big changes in how we think about this area," said Benjamin Pister, leader of the park's resource management team. "It's not going to be about Exit Glacier in the future."

Fister is coordinating a project at Kenai Fjords that is envisioning and planning for visitor services in the decades to come. The Kenai Fjords Front-country Management Plan seeks to guide operations to 2040 and perhaps longer.

There is an obvious need for such planning.

As of 2015, Exit Glacier had retreated a little over 1.5 miles in two centuries. The loss is accelerating; from the early 2000s to now, the retreat has been close to half a mile. And. It is not just the terminus that is shriveling; the glacier is becoming narrower, exposing large areas of rock.

What's happening at Exit Glacier is being repeated across Alaska as warming temperatures hasten glaciers' retreat. That is forcing managers of some of the state's most popular tourism and recreation destinations to make changes now and plan for more in the future.

As Exit Glacier is shrinking, visitation to the Exit Glacier area of the park is steadily increasing, from about 120,000 in the summer of 2000 to more than 200,000 last summer, according to Park Service statistics.

The mile-long trail used by throngs of visitors, from elderly cruise ship passengers to young children to President Barack Obama in 2015, has been extended twice and now ends at a steep slope. Further extensions are impossible without some complicated and time-consuming blasting that would probably be futile, Pister said.

"By the time we built a new trail up to the glacier, the glacier won't be there anymore," he said.

Similarly, a stone pavilion along the trail that is now hemmed in by alder trees and other greenery. "This was built to have a nice view of the glacier. Obviously, it doesn't anymore," said Pister, stopping at the site. It has been repurposed to provide a natural history lesson about ecological changes that happen when glaciers disappear.

The park's frontcountry management process is just in its early stages. So far, it has attracted some public comment, including suggestions from locals for more visitor amenities in a different site, nearby Paradise Valley, that gets snowmachine use in the winter.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that attractions for Kenai Fjords' growing numbers of visitors do not disappear when Exit Glacier does.

There are some options, Pister said.

"Glaciers do some really amazing things to the landscape when they go away," he said. Yosemite National Park, for example, is a big glacial valley, and the valley left by Exit Glacier could be something like that, he said. "I prefer to think of it as a new Turnagain Pass," he said, referring to the mountainous area at the north end of the Kenai Peninsula.

Though Exit Glacier gets much of the attention, ice losses in Kenai Fjords are widespread.

A newly published study of 19 other glaciers in the park – a selection among the approximately three dozen that spill off the 700-square-mile Hard-



Benjamin Pister, director of resource management at Kenai Fjords National Park, stands on July 5 at a spot where the trail was extended to allow visitors to get as close as possible to rapidly retreating Exit Glacier. The park is trying to plan for a long-term future when the walk-up glacier, currently a prime tourist attraction, is no longer easily visible. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

ing Icefield – found that 14 have lost "substantial area" since the mid-1980s.

Between 1984 and 2021, the glaciers in the study showed a cumulative loss of about 16 square miles of ice area, about 57% of that at the terminus, or end, points and 43% along the sides. And the 2021 measurements may be already out of date, given how fast the losses are happening, said the study, by University of Washington and National Park Service scientists and published Aug. 5 in the *Journal of Glaciology*.

"Most obviously, the Kenai Fjords viewscape is changing dramatically as tidewater glaciers retreat onto land and land-terminating glaciers retreat into the alpine or out of sight around a bend," said the study, which recommends annual updates. "Our measurements indicate that most of the glaciers in Kenai Fjords National Park are shrinking rapidly, leading to measurable annual landscape change."

Like Kenai Fjords, other Alaska park or recreation sites with glaciers are undergoing rapid change – and some management adjustments.

At Portage Glacier, a popular Chugach National Forest destination about an hour's drive south of Anchorage, the visitor center no longer offers views of the glacier face. The center, built at the edge of Portage Lake with big picture windows facing the glacier, opened to the public in 1986; within a decade Portage Glacier had retreated out of sight, grounding on land on the opposite side of the lake. "Of course, the design was so you could see the glacier, and everything was sitting right here," said Adrienne McGill, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center's director.

Now seeing Portage Glacier up close requires a trip across the lake, which many visitors do by motorized tour boat. Exhibits at the visitor center, which typically serves hundreds of people a day during the summer season, place a lot of emphasis on glacial retreat and the landscape changes that follow.

Glaciers, continued on page A18

Where do Alaska bats spend the winter?

BY NED ROZELL

Jesika Reimer, a bat expert and consultant, has held in her hands little brown bats from the Northwest Territories to the Tanana River. Along with a few colleagues around Alaska, she is sharing new information about the farthest-north bat.

She said this palm-size creature that weighs as much as a quarter lives more than twice as long as your dog: from 35 to 40 years.

Mama bats, now hanging out there in some unknown space, are storing the sperm they received during mating swarms. If things go well this winter, the females will emerge next spring with a tiny fetus growing within them. They have only one pup each summer.

In early spring, mother bats suddenly appear in large maternity roosts. Alaskans have noticed bats flying in midsummer from notches in the peak of their cabins on the Salcha River and similar spots. The roosts are places where bats can rest in the daylight from their periods of hunting insects at dusk.

Following up on all the reports from people who have noticed bats in their buildings, biologists over the years have captured and tagged bats and have put out sound monitors to see when bats are squeaking around.

This delicate species' association with manmade structures makes some biologists think bats exist in northern Alaska only because of us: our houses and sheds have made a marginal area to hibernate slightly more safe and warm.

But Reimer and other biologists found bat maternity colonies away from buildings. In the Copper River Valley, Reimer and her coworkers in summer 2017 radio-tagged mother bats at their cabin roost. When later tracking them with handheld receivers, they found the mother bats did not return to the cabin.

Instead, they tracked the bats to an old cottonwood tree that had a foot-high pile of bat guano at its base. They counted more than 100 bats flying out of a crack in the tree.

There was a natural bat nursery, which suggests to Reimer that little brown bats don't need buildings, or humans, to thrive. Maybe they just roost in cabin crevices because they resemble the tight, dark spaces they rely upon in nature.

"Large maternity colonies in trees shoots down the theory that bats only came to Alaska as buildings went up," she said.

As Reimer was making her discovery, Colorado State University scientists working on Fort Wainwright lands were finding the same thing. Sound detectors they installed



Myotis lucifugus, the little brown bat, photographed near Haines Junction in the Yukon. Photo by Lea Randall.

in likely bat spots away from buildings picked up bat echolocation. Biologists radio-tracked bats to several dying or dead poplar and birch trees on Army lands near Fairbanks. They also tracked them to buildings.

One of those researchers, Garrett Savory, thinks their findings give a clue to one of the biggest mysteries surrounding far-north bats:

"I think bats do hibernate in interior Alaska, given that we have detected bats in early April when there is still snow on the ground, and have detected bats late into September," he said. "We still don't know where bats hibernate, however."

Reimer agrees that far-north bats must be hibernating north of the Alaska Range, rather than migrating south through the mountains.

From the Kenai Peninsula to Fairbanks, in springtime bats seem to all appear at their roost sites the instant the average air temperature gets above freezing. If they were migrating from farther south, there would probably be a time lag in the date the farthest north bats arrived in Fairbanks compared to when they appeared on the Kenai.

"It seems to suggest that they are spending the winter nearby," she said.

Since the late 1970s, the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute has provided this column free in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell ned.rozell@alaska.edu is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute. A version of this story ran appeared in 2019.



Jesika Reimer, Assistant Zoologist at UAA's Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS), retrieves a Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus) from a mist net so it can be banded and radio tagged on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) near Anchorage, Alaska. Researchers from ACCS and the Applied Environmental Research Center are working with DOD wildlife managers to determine where JBER bats roost and assess their potential vulnerability to white-nose syndrome. Photo by James R. Evans

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“Hattie Boy”

BY MIKE GORDON

Towhead can have a couple of different meanings. It can refer to a low alluvial shoal or sandbar in a river, or the “tow” in towhead can refer to the light-colored flax, hemp, or jute used in spinning. Thus people with light-colored and/or unruly hair are often referred to as towheads—especially children. My father was one such. His name was Harry, but his nickname and the name he was known by his entire life was Whitey.

Early in his life my dad had another nickname. The youngest surviving of eleven children, his older sisters referred to him as “Hattie Boy.” The name Hattie is English for the French name Henriette which became the female diminutive of the French Henri, or in English Henry or Harry. The name Henry is derived from the German words “haim” meaning “home” and “ric” meaning “ruler or power.” Hattie became a popular nickname toward the end of the 19th century.

When the girls returned home from school and everything was neat and tidy and in its proper place in their bedrooms they would announce, “‘Hattie Boy’ was here!” Dad had an alacritous compulsion for orderliness. I remember he had a shop in the garage of the house on Cambridge Way in Anchorage that he and mom moved into after the Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964 destroyed their home on McKenzie Drive. Using a pencil, he had outlined the shape of his carpentry tools—like hammers, saws, levels, and pliers—on the wall of the shop. And that is where you would always find those tools: right where they belonged.

Here’s where the story gets a little interesting. During the second semester of my sophomore year at the University of San Francisco, I lived off-campus on nearby Grove Street with Jim Braun, a Californian, and Marty Bell, who had graduated a year later than me from Anchorage West High School.

Marion laughed at Tom’s antics and said to me, “This place is fucking crazy, but it’s so YOU! It’s so neat and organized!”

I remember one photo taken at the time particularly well, although I don’t know where it is now or who took it. I was standing in front of the cupboards in the kitchen with Jim and Marty, showcasing rows of canned food in the background. The labels of each can were facing

precisely in the same direction, outward and evenly. My roommates had never seen anything like that, so they assigned me the nickname “Mother Goose”, and memorialized it with that photo.

I drove to California planning on a return to school at the University of San Francisco just before the 1964 quake. I ended up going to work to support my wife, Lilla, and young daughter, Michele. Bob Shepardson was the guy who at that time recruited me to go to work for New York Life as an insurance salesman. Years after Bob’s death his widow Marion came to visit me in Alaska. Ours was a very caring but strictly platonic relationship.

Marion spent a few nights in Anchorage with me in the late ‘70s. I recall it was during the winter. Of course we spent some time in Chilkoot Charlie’s. During Marion’s last night in town I asked her what she wanted to do and she said without hesitation, “I’d like to spend another evening at your bar.”

Marion and I were seated at the Show Bar being entertained by one of my bartenders, Tom Biss, who was reciting The Spell of the Yukon, by Robert Service. Tom was in great form. He was also the person with whom I was later to drive down the Alcan Highway in the middle of the night, destination Belize, to become an expatriate dive shop operator.

Now here’s where things get even more interesting. I recently flew to New Mexico to see my youngest grandson, Joseph, graduate from New Mexico State with a bachelor’s degree in Creative Media. Next I traveled to Bellingham, Washington to visit my son, Michael.

As mentioned previously, Michael is schizophrenic and had just resurfaced from a serious mental breakdown. He had been hospitalized for months and was finally getting settled into his own apartment. It was his fifty-second birthday. Michael loves sushi so his mother, Lilla, and I took him to a sushi bar. After sushi we took him shopping at a Michaels Arts and Crafts store for some posters for his apartment walls and to another store for some food and supplies.

Though the posters weren’t put up until that night and then unveiled to us the next day—perfectly aligned with each other and their surroundings—the food went

directly into Michael’s kitchen cupboard. Each can was precisely lined up, the labels all facing outward. We celebrated with a birthday cake, but I interrupted the festivities by taking a photo of Michael in front of his properly organized food cache.

Talk about a testament to the awesome power of genetics. Michael’s mother and I were divorced early in his life. He has spent most of his time in Washington State. He has, of course, spent time around me but he has never, as far as I know, seen me put the canned food away. He is simply an authentic third generation “Hattie Boy”—at least.

Though this tidiness is a trait that has been passed from father to son for at least three generations, it likely will end with Michael. Growing up I was always told by my parents that I had to be prolific in order to keep the Gordon name alive because my father was the only male in his family to father a boy. It was probably more important to keep “Hattie Boy” alive than the family name. I did my job fathering Michael, but Michael, being schizophrenic, will probably not father any children at all. And who knows how far that trait goes back in time and exactly how it got passed along from generation to generation.

I imagine a guy that looks sort of like me but hairier, stooped over, organizing similarly-sized smooth, rounded river rocks into a fire pit in front of a cave opening, while the rest of the clan looks on, mesmerized...

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.



Anchorage Symphony Orchestra

Opening Night featuring Bella Hristova

BY JENNIFER CARGILE

While the last 18 months found the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra losing its popular and long-standing Music Director Randy Fleischer and performing in two very unconventional seasons — one entirely virtually with more than 115 produced films and the next with half-filled halls due to COVID surges, the nimble and resilient Anchorage Symphony open their 77th season with some well-deserved bright spots. Last April the Orchestra announced they suspended their search for a new Music Director because over the course of last season, the musicians, board, staff, and patrons had grown fond of acting Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Elizabeth Schulze, had recognized the impact she had made on the Orchestra and believed she was a good fit for the organization. At their Season Finale, the ASO announced that Elizabeth accepted the position as the ASO’s new Music Director.

On September 24th, Elizabeth takes the podium for her first Classic Concert with the orchestra in her new role and has programmed it as her musical introduction to the community. She opens this celebratory concert beginning with a work from her mentor, Leonard Bernstein; introduces Anchorage audiences to Mary D. Watkins’ remarkable composition Five Movements in Color; presents violin powerhouse Bella Hristova performing Korngold’s Violin Concerto in D Major; and closes with Dvořák’s inspirational Symphony No. 9, “From the New World.”

While attending the Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship Program and studying under Leonard Bernstein, Elizabeth met fellow conducting student Randy Fleischer. This meeting turned into a long-lasting, deep friendship. With this dual connection in mind, Elizabeth programmed Bernstein’s Overture to Candide.

Leonard Bernstein was a composer, conductor, educator, and humanitarian who became an iconic figure in American cultural history. Regarded as the first great American conductor, he was a key figure in making symphonic orchestras relevant. He also sparked the interest of new generations through his televised and popular “Young People’s Concerts.” Bernstein served as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from 1958 to 1969 and conducted the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 30 seasons. As conducting professor at Tanglewood, he also helped mold a generation of conductors, including two ASO Music Directors – Randy and Elizabeth.

Anchorage audiences may remember the April 2018 joint ASO and Anchorage Opera production of Bernstein’s Candide. Based on the novella by Voltaire, this fast-paced, funny, and satirical operetta finds its main character setting off with friends to find the true meaning of life. Their escapades along the way include getting lost, war, mistaken identity, kidnapping, murder, and a shipwreck, yet they never give up. The overture to this wacky operetta highlights Bernstein’s splendid score and audience favorites like “Glitter and Be Gay.”

Elizabeth commented on the upcoming season, “You will find a female composer programmed on every concert, which was unintentional. Still, I am thrilled to introduce you to some of these brilliant voices who deserve to be heard.” The first of those new voices is the ASO premiere of two movements from Mary D. Watkins’ Five Movements in Color. The ASO is performing movements Once Upon a Time and Soul of Remembrance. A prolific composer, Watkins has written three operas, pieces for full symphony, chamber ensembles, jazz ensembles, and film scores. Her resume also lists her accomplishments as an arranger, record producer, performer (pianist since the age of 4), and teacher.

Watkins’ Five Movements in Color was commissioned by the Camellia Orchestra (Sacramento, CA) as part of Black History Month. She describes the piece as “a statement about the African-American experience.” Watkins describes the movement Once

Upon a Time as opening with “African drums, then the strings begin to tell a story that moves from peaceful to active to violent.” When discussing the movement Soul of Remembrance, she says, “A melody floats over a march. I saw my own people in their long march to fully express themselves as fully human. It’s bittersweet and nostalgic, a song of sorrow and a song of hope.”

Another new presence on the Atwood Stage is award-winning violinist Bella Hristova. Described by the Washington Post as “a player of impressive power and control,” Hristova has graced stages around the globe. Recently she performed throughout the US, Canada, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and New Zealand. Hristova is also a passionate proponent of new music and composers. She commissioned iconic American composer Joan Tower to write Second String Force for Unaccompanied Violin, which she premiered and performed throughout the US. Her husband, acclaimed composer, David Serkin Ludwig, was commissioned to write a violin concerto for her, which she continues to perform.

Hristova lives in Philadelphia with her husband and their beloved cats (one of which has his own Instagram page). She performs on a 1655 Nicolò Amati violin. On September 24th, she will join the ASO for Korngold’s Violin Concerto in D Major, the piece that made him “more than just a film composer.”

Erich Korngold was an accomplished film composer who wanted to break out of Hollywood and write symphonic works. When World War II began, Korngold knew he needed the steady income film composing provided, so he committed to writing film scores until Hitler was defeated. After WW II, he returned to his dream and retired from films to concentrate on music for the concert hall. His Violin Concerto was the first such work. At that time, many believed that a successful film composer wasn’t a “real” composer but rather one who “sold his soul” to Hollywood. This ding to his professional reputation made Korngold determined to prove himself with a work that combined vitality and superb craftsmanship.

Korngold dedicated his Violin Concerto to Alma Mahler, the widow of his childhood mentor Gustav Mahler. The St Louis Symphony conducted by Vladimir Golschmann premiered the concerto in 1947 performing with Jascha Heifetz. The audience ovation was reported as the most enthusiastic in St. Louis concert history. Heifetz’s performance quickly made it Korngold’s most famous piece. However, Korngold’s association with Hollywood film music has obscured his other work and his legacy as a composer.

Elizabeth comments, “This evening of introduction ends with Dvořák’s Symphony No.9 “From the New World,” one of my favorites of his. Dvořák is a special figure for me and my family. My Great Uncle played the cello and performed under Maestro Dvořák’s baton several times.” Commissioned by the New York Philharmonic while he was the director of the National Conservatory of Music of America, Dvořák’s ninth symphony has been popular since its first performance over 125 years ago. At the premiere, the audience broke out in thunderous applause – between each movement.

Today it is considered one of the greatest triumphs of his career and is listed among the most popular symphonies of all time. Neil Armstrong even took a recording of it to the Moon with him on his Apollo 11 mission. It doesn’t get more epic than that!

Tickets for the ASO’s Opening Night are available to attend in-person or experience the multi-camera, high-definition livestream.

Anchorage Symphony’s Opening Night, Saturday, September 24, 2022, (7:30pm) in the Atwood Concert Hall, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Infrared headphones for the hearing impaired are available concert night from the House Manager on the Orchestra Level. Tickets: Adult, \$52-\$27; Youth, \$24.75-\$12.50; Senior, \$46.50-\$24.50; Streaming Only \$39 (prices include all surcharges and fees). Military, student and group discounts available. To purchase tickets, go to www.centertix.com or call 263-ARTS (2787), toll free at 1-877-ARTS- TIX.



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Leafly wmt



Neko Case. {Photo by Ebru Yildi}

Going her own way

Q&A with singer-songwriter Neko Case

BY ANCHORAGE PRESS STAFF

Neko Case steps out, cutting the sky and singing the stars, spinning fury and mercy as she goes. She loves the world and wears her heart on her sleeve, but she might eat it before you get to thinking it belongs to you.

Wild Creatures pulls together some high points of feral joy from twenty-one years of solo work by Neko Case. The Virginian marked Neko's debut as a solo artist in 1997. She delved into darkness in 2000 with Furnace Room Lullaby, scrawled Blacklisted in 2004 and recorded The Tigers Have Spoken live the same year. In 2006, she dreamed Fox Confessor Brings the Flood, and in 2009 unleashed Middle Cyclone. She plumbed her own life in 2013 for The Worse Things Get, the Harder I Fight, the Harder I Fight, the More I Love You, and raised hell in 2018 with Hell-On. Now in her third decade of recording under her own name, she's just getting started.

We jumped on a call with Neko ahead of her Friday, September 16 performance in Anchorage to talk about her newest work and what it's like to cut your own path as a female musician.

Press: Your newest album, "Wild Creatures," is not only a retrospective of your career but also a major multimedia project. What was it like working on a project of that scope?

Neko: Well, I was fortunate enough to know [artist] Laura Plansker who is the person who did the artwork – she had done the video for 'Last Lion of Albion' from my last record, so I had already been inspired by her work. She just has this really great aesthetic that is very off, but really beautiful and really inviting at the same time really

odd and disturbing.

Press: Do you feel like Plansker's visual art has a direct correlation to who you are as a songwriter?

Neko: I think so. To me, both of our work acknowledge that the world is equally full of beautiful and disturbing things.

Press: Another component of Wild Creatures are all of the artist acknowledgments – and there are some pretty big names that shared their feelings about your music. What did that feel like?

Neko: I didn't know that they were doing that, so it was a huge surprise. My manager just sent me a link one day I couldn't even get through reading all of them because it was so overwhelming. It's hard to think of yourself the way others see you. I still have a lot of thank you cards I need to send.

Press: One of the super cool parts about your music is that it defies being forced into a single genre. How have you been able to avoid being pigeonholed into a neat little category?

Neko: I think it's just how I naturally am as a songwriter. I am more of a linear songwriter and I want to tell little stories or make little movies every time I write. So, my songs are kind of like little soundscapes in a way and I think that might have something to do with it. Of course, there's a lot of things that don't, and maybe shouldn't go together, but rules are meant to be broken.

Press: You've definitely navigated the music industry on your own terms but I am curious, as someone who has been active for so long, what has been the biggest change you've seen the industry make?

Neko: Well, the industry itself still kind of sucks a dick. But there are more women and female-identifying performers in it now than there were – I would give zero

credit to the industry for that, and more to [the artists'] perseverance. The more women and female-identifying artists and musicians there are, the less barriers there are. It's been nice to see the next generation take having opportunities for granted because it means that they are able to. There's a real freedom in being able to just take things for granted and get lost in the moment to make some interesting, rather than constantly thinking about how I'm not supposed to be able to do that. When I was coming up, I thought, 'I'm a woman, nobody gives a fuck what I do, so why don't I just do what I want?' It's cool that female artists now are being listened to. The industry can't deny us anymore.

Press: I feel like that was a masterclass in how to be a boss bitch and supporting other women. Any advice for up-and-coming female artists?

Neko: Listen to the voice inside your head that tells you what you want. Practice and don't worry about what the crowd wants because the crowds will find you. We need more interesting music and less formulaic things. There are a lot of women right now who are really angry that they can't be played on Country Music Radio. It's like then fuck Country Music Radio! Why are we trying to win their approval? Why are we trying to get them to play more of us like they're not a dinosaur that should fucking die? I say, go over to the indie channel and get your music played where the adults fucking live.

Press: That very well may have been the pep talk I needed to hear. Thank you!

Neko: Well, the band I have a lot of time to think about these things on the road. (laughs)

Catch Neko Case live in Anchorage on Friday, September 16 at 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$48.50 and are available at Centertix.com.

Thurs 9pm @ Flattop

Jukebox KARAOKE Roadshow

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Live Music Lineup!

Thursday September 15
7:30 Jason Roach

Friday September 16
8:30 Agents of Karma

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7:30 Becky Kotter

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The Burger King

Smashed is a smashing success

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

I’ve got a bone to pick with nearly every burger place in town. Why hasn’t anyone bothered to serve up a proper smash burger? Of course, I’m referring to what I firmly believe to be the ultimate version of an American classic. I’d even go as far as to say there are two types of people in this world: those who have experienced a true smash burger and those who haven’t. As a longtime follower of food guru J. Kenji López-Alt, my senses were awoken long ago to this superior burger cooking method. With Mid-western roots, López-Alt created a burger utilized with great success by chains such as Shake Shack and Culvers.

The fact of the matter is, without ensuring an optimal sear for your patties, you may as well boil a puck of ground beef and call it good. Because without a good sear produced by the Maillard reaction, you won’t experience a gloriously browned, flavorful crust. And without a good crust, you’re doing yourself a disservice by not allowing your burgers to reach their full potential.

I’m an overly zealous burger fanatic, which is why I had high hopes upon hearing that local food truck Melt has evolved not only into a permanent fixture outside Magnetic North Brewing but also into a brand-new form altogether. Melt is now taking on the name “Smashed” and serving up smash burgers and fried chicken sandwiches instead of grilled cheeses.

Curious to know how they stack up, my journey began by venturing over to the brew-ery off East 88th Avenue. Upon walking up to the newly painted truck, I noticed only a handful of items available at Smashed. There’s the classic double cheeseburger with American cheese, shaved onions, pickles, and roasted garlic mayo — which, if you ask me, are the only toppings you really need on a burger. The next two sandwiches — the Double-Up Smash and Chili-Up Smash — are minor variations that add bacon or a ladle of house-made chili, respectively. Then there’s the sweet tea-brined fried chicken sandwich — a concept previously unbeknownst to me as an intriguing way to infuse flavor into an otherwise straightforward chicken sandwich.

Last but not least, Smashed offers a weekly burger special (dubbed the Pop-Up Smash) which allows chef and owner Jason Anderson to flex some of his creative muscles. On this first visit, they featured a kimchi burger which includes kimchi mayo and yuzu coleslaw. Believing that the stars had aligned as there’s no ingredient that allures me quite like fermented cabbage, I decided this would be the best way to gauge the full extent of this food truck’s prowess. So I placed an order for one, along with a chicken sandwich.

At \$15 apiece, the cost of these sandwiches may raise some eyebrows. But considering they come with fries and the fact that an order at McDonald’s will run you about the same price these days, I had no issues with paying up. After placing my order, I was handed a buzzer before I waited inside the brewery while nursing a glass of Magnetic North’s Kolsch — a crisp, grainy brew that proved to be highly drinkable. As it turns out, this beer won first place at the Alaska Craft Brew & Barley Wine Festival for Best Lawn Mower Brew, which is not at all surprising.

Based on initial glances, I could already tell that this burger was going to be stellar after heading back out to retrieve my sandwiches. One indispensable trait of any purported smash burger is the appearance of crispy laced edges around the patties — a result of increased surface contact with the griddle by way of smashing. Here, it was



demonstrated in full force with a crust reminiscent of a mouthwatering steak tucked into a shiny brioche bun and oozing with a copious amount of cheese.

Bite after joyous bite, I reveled in the thin, crisp patties, which contrasted with the creamy, slightly tangy quality of processed cheese. While the patties may have been lean, they were salted to perfection (unlike many of its contemporaries), and having them double stacked made for a hefty bite. As far as toppings go, the slaw was mild yet cool and crunchy, and I could discern the fermented quality of the kimchi in the viscous mayo. As an aside, let it be known that kimchi makes for a fantastic pairing with American cheese in myriad forms.

Needless to say, I was in love with what may have been one of the most exquisite burgers I’ve had in recent memory. This was a gratifying exercise in minimalism by showcasing that technique, and high-quality ingredients surpass an excess of toppings any day (shame on anyone who thinks otherwise). Even the fries were noteworthy in that they were dusted with a sweet and savory seasoning, while the potatoes themselves were light and contained wisps of fluffy, tender goodness on the inside.

The chicken sandwich proved to be yet another win. Encased within a thick layer of craggily breading was a whole chicken thigh as distinguished by tasty morsels of rendered fat. I can’t say with certainty that the sweet tea brine made a significant contribution compared to a salt or pickle brine, but the meat was abundantly juicy and flavorful, nonetheless. Chef Jason stopped by towards the end of the meal to ask how everything was, in addition to confirming my theory that the pickles are made in-house. I had no qualms telling him that I thought everything to be truly exceptional.

With a lineup of knockout sandwiches and no downsides except for their limited hours, it’s clear that Smashed has made the right decision in moving beyond its roots. Everyone is capable of slapping together a grilled cheese, but few can deliver the quintessential burger experience like they do here. But don’t just take my word for it — come and find enlightenment in the way of the smash burger for yourself.

Smashed is located at 8861 Golovin Street. They are open Wednesday — Sunday from 4 — 8pm. Visit them online at SmashedAnchorage.com.



PRESSING EVENTS

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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

Tom Rush

@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Fri 9/16

Featured



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

Neko Case

@ 7pm

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage

Monica Rizzio

@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Tom Rush

@ 7pm

Roots on the Rails, Anchorage

Featured



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

Featured



Fall Vendor Marketplace

@ 10am

Get an early start on your Christmas shopping! Featuring local small businesses and crafters. Find something truly unique for your loved ones (or yourself!). Midtown Mall, 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. amber@midtownmall.com, 907-602-6225

The Great Alaska Quilt Show

@ 11am

Sep 17th - Sep 18th

After two years the Great Alaska Quilt Show is back. First United Methodist Church, 725 West 9th Avenue, Anchorage. anchoragequilters@gmail.com, 907-360-6570

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

Featured



Pirate Cove 2 to 7pm, Anchorage Pirate Pub Crawl 7pm to Midnight

@ 2pm

Anchorage Pirate Pub Crawl and Pirate Cove is a celebration of all things piratical as we raises funds in support of the Blood Bank of Alaska Town Square Park, 544 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage. anchoragepiratepubcrawl@gmail.com, 907-229-6328

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 17th - Sep 25th

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Comedian Chas Elstner

@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 9/18

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

Thu 9/22

Resin Art Class-Northern Lights Wall Art (You Pick Shape) *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 6pm / \$55

Resin Art is a form of abstract flow art, the pieces are unique and no two pieces are exactly the same! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletrebe1@gmail.com

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

Fri 9/23

2022 Moose Loop Virtual Race

@ 5am / \$35-\$35

Sep 23rd - Sep 30th

Anywhere, Anchorage

Featured



Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta

@ 7pm / \$150-\$1300

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, 600 W 7th Ave, 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

Sat 9/24

Salsa Saturdays

@ 6pm / \$16

Williwaw, 609 F Street, Anchorage

KillBill Sax

@ 6:30pm

Main Event Grill, Catering & Event Spaces, 1041 E 76th Ave, Anchorage

Featured



Oktoberfest 2022

@ 2pm

555 W 5th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage

Featured



Ayrton Jones at the Dena Ina Center Presented by Value Liquor & KWHL 106.5

@ 8pm

Seattle singer, songwriter, and guitarist Ayrton Jones plays a fiery amalgam of Jimi Hendrix-inspired guitar wizardry, heavy grunge grooves, and a hard blues-rock feel with occasional detours into hip-hop and soul. 600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenchies and Wrenches Steampunk Cabaret Show

@ 8pm / \$24

Sep 24th - 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

Sun 9/25

Nic's Race 5k, Kids 2k, & Duathlon

@ 12am / \$5-\$30

Sep 25th - Oct 2nd

Kincaid Park, 9401 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenchies and Wrenches Steampunk Cabaret Show

@ 11:30am / \$24

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

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

Wed 9/28

Bonny Sosa Tuesday Night Races 3-Service High School

@ 2:30am

Citywide Programs - Outdoors, P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

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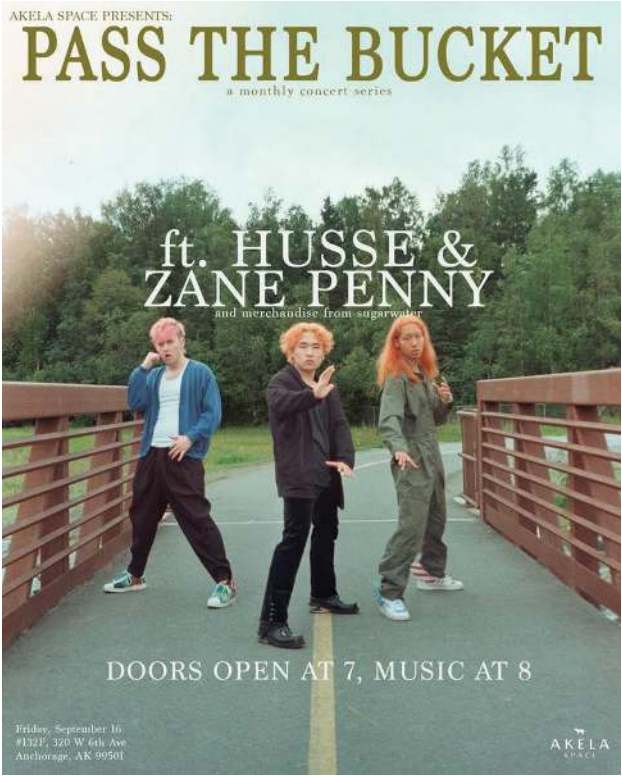
powered by **event**



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

Thursday, September 15th

Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Mad Myrna’s –Myrna’s Thursday Night Revue 10p-2a
The Marlin (Fairbanks) – Karaoke with Kellie B.! 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 – Thirsty Third Thursdays 9p-1a
VFW Post 9785 (Eagle River) – Glacier Hoppers 7p-10p
Williwaw Social – Local Showcase feat: H. Troy Anniskett and Matt & Co. 9p-12a



Friday, September 16th

Akela Space – Pass the Bucket w/ Husse & Zane Penny 7p-10p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Neko Case 7:30p-9p
Alaska Dance Promotions – Friday Night Dance Lounge 9p-1
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
Everett’s (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Chas Elstner 7p-8:15p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy’s – Agents of Karma 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot’s – The Stack Alaska 10p-2:45a
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – The Village People Live 6p-10p
O’Malley’s On The Green – Zen Trembles 7p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Nothin But Trouble Live 7p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p

Valley Performing Arts (Wasilla) - Opening Night of DEARLY DEPARTED 7p-10p
Van’s Dive Bar – Strawberry Friend, She, & Sample Text 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – When the Leaves Fall: An EDM Dance Party w/ DJ Joe Brady 9:30p-2a

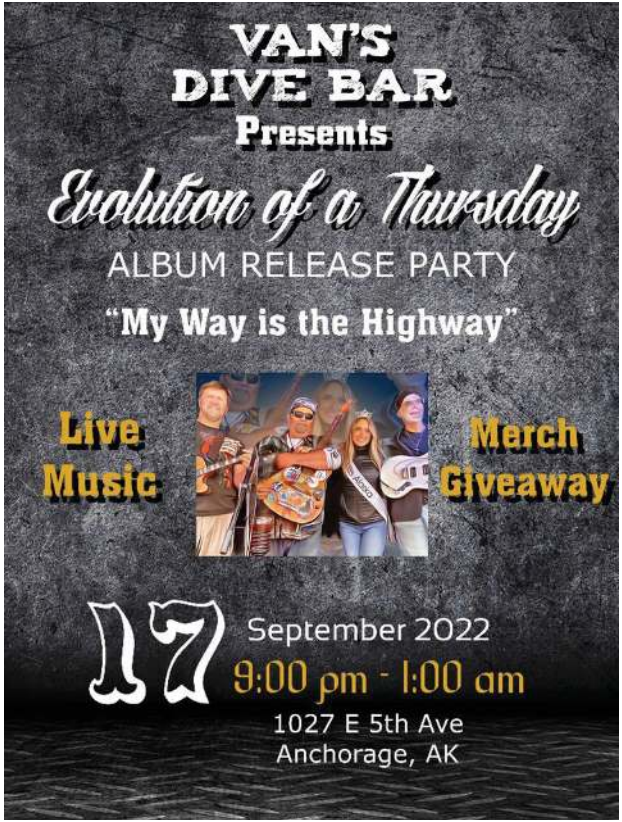


Saturday, September 17th

American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Glacier Blues Band 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club – A Night To Remember Formal with Silver Train 7p-11p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – Danger Money Live 8p -2a
Don Jose’s Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy’s – Pirate Pub Crawl with Rogues & Wenches 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike’s & the Main Street Grill - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot’s – The Stack Alaska 10p-2:45a
Koot’s – Comedian Chas Elstner 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Matanuska Brewing (Eagle River) – P.O.D. Live w/ The Millenial Falcons 5p-10p
Out North Theatre – Mostly Melanin Arts 7:30p-10p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – I Like Robots LIVE 7p-10p
The Raven Bar – Country Underwear Party 9p-2:30a
Serrano’s Mexican Grill – Leo Ash & HarpDaddy 8p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – Evolution Of A Thursday ALBUM RELEASE PARTY 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Jolly Roger Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 9p-2a

Sunday, September 18th

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p -2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
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 19th

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

Tuesday, September 20th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/ Gary Stedman! 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 21st

907 Alehouse –Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie’s Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Koot’s – KASH Country Night at Koot’s 7p-11:30p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
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

Visit AKConcerts.com and subscribe to their weekly newsletter for a listing of music events across the state.



HEY MI!



(Above) Blackwater Railroad, Roland Roberts Band, and Melissa Mitchell at the 5th Annual Hope Hangout Photos by @TrueNorthPhotoAK
(Below) Misterwives and locals Lilac at Williwaw on Saturday, September 10.
Photos by @OhEmmyGreen





WOMEN OF ROCK

MUST BE 21+ WITH PROPER ID.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
REGINA CATHERINE WELCH

SEP 11 & 25

GENERAL \$25
VIP \$40

CENTERTIX.COM

The first night of “Women of Rock” at Koot’s was hit with a near capacity crowd. Anchorage’s divas performed everything from Sheryl Crow, Paramore, Pat Benator, and Radiohead. The second performance is next weekend. Photos by @ShipeShots



Legendary folk artist Tom Rush in plays Anchorage on Saturday

BY O'HARA SHIPE

As a child, Tom Rush's parents forced him to take piano lessons. Although this would be Rush's first indoctrination into the world of music, the aspiring musician recalls that the lessons were torture. "I think my parents and teacher were just lucky that they weren't harmed in the process of me learning to play," jokes Rush. But when an older cousin introduced him to the ukulele, Rush was hooked.

"In my eyes, my cousin was a superstar," explains Rush. "He had this trick where he could take a lit cigarette, flip it back in his mouth and dive into the swimming pool. I mean, how cool is that?"

The ukulele eventually gave way to the guitar as Rush found himself surrounded by 1950s rock'n'roll. For a time, a teenage Rush dreamed of rockstardom. However, a trip outside of his native New England exposed him to guitarist and songwriter, Josh White.

"When I first heard a Josh White record, it knocked my socks off! I'd never heard someone play the guitar like that, and I knew instantly that that was the kind of music I wanted to make," says Rush.

Rush found his niche performing as part of various folk trios until he matriculated at Harvard University in 1961. In Cambridge, Rush soon learned that his folk hero, and by extension himself, were too commercial. According to Rush, folk music was defined by living in remote cabins in the woods and making your own instruments out of whatever was around. Luckily for Rush, this antiquated notion of folk music would give way to a

broader spectrum of sounds and looks.

"I think people started to figure out that [folk] wasn't marketable in such a narrow scope. I was just lucky enough to be on the cusp of things changing," says Rush.

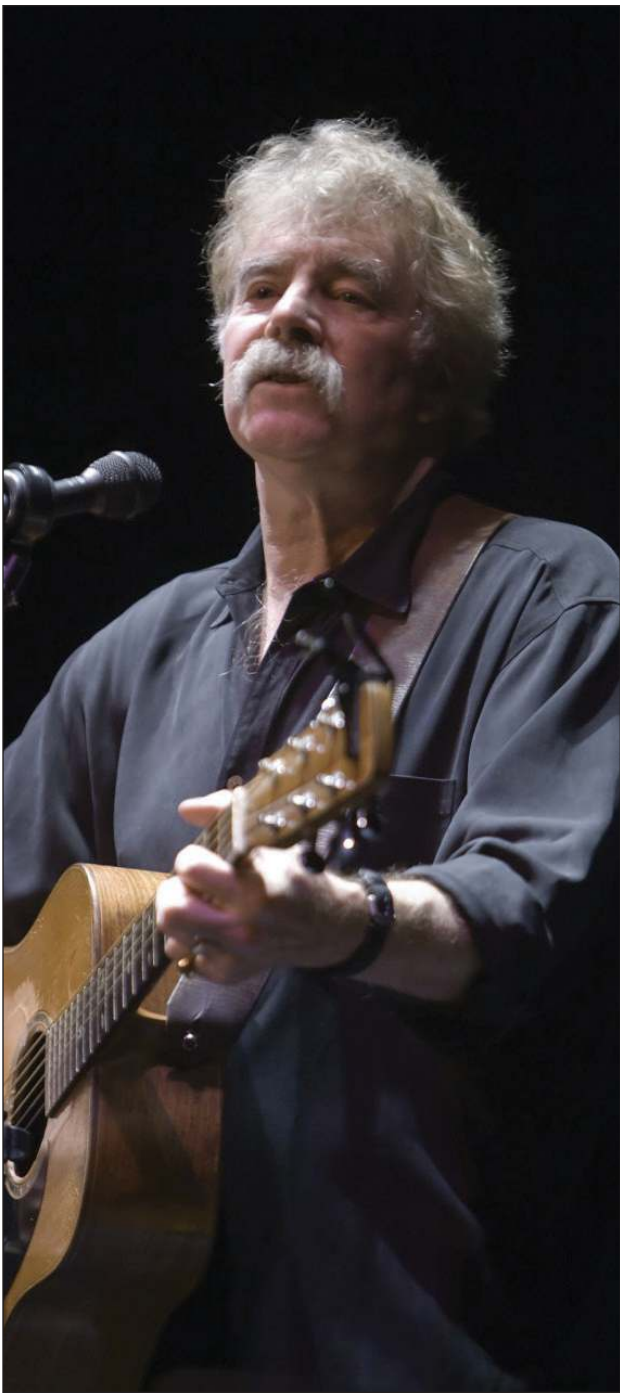
While still an undergraduate at Harvard, Rush assumed a regular spot at local hootenannies and the prestigious Club 47. After cutting his teeth in Cambridge, Rush signed with Elektra Records in 1965. He would produce three albums under the label, culminating in "The Circle Game," which Rolling Stone dubbed the ushering in of the singer/songwriter era. But Rush was only getting started. His early recordings introduced the world to the work of Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne, and James Taylor, while also influencing country superstar Garth Brooks.

"I've always been the kind of artist who likes to collaborate, and I think I have a pretty good ear for good music," explains Rush casually. "Even back in Cambridge, nothing made me happier than introducing audiences to new music. When people can go home saying, 'Wow! I had never heard of that person before, but they were really good,' it was a good night."

Although Rush is now in his 80s, he shows no signs of slowing. Every Sunday, the legend performs for a paid audience via his website, TomRush.com.

"Originally, I turned to online shows as a way to cope with the pandemic. Then I started having a lot of fun with it and am excited to keep it going. It's a little bit of storytelling and a little bit of music, and of course, a lot of fun," says Rush.

You can catch Tom Rush live at the Sydney Laurence Theatre on Saturday, September 17 at 7:30pm. He will be accompanied by Seth Glier and Monica Rizzo. Tickets are available at CenterTix.com and start at \$50.



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Super Crossword

BEASTLY SNACK

- ACROSS**

1 Tea and ale

6 Brunch menu items

13 Difficult to pin down

20 Newswoman Shriver

21 Ancient Italian region

22 Like adoptees and swindle victims

23 Start of a riddle

25 French scholar Peter

26 Buddy

27 Sly-fox link

28 Passenger-screening org.

29 Shallowest Great Lake

30 Crocheted coverlet

33 Mess up

36 Retina spot that might degenerate

38 Chou En- —

39 Riddle, part 2

42 Running herd

45 Marked with stripes

46 "Alfie" actress Long
- 47 Ghana's capital

51 Whiz

52 Printing proof, informally

56 Riddle, part 3

61 Jinx

62 Whim

63 A single time

64 Eastern "way"

65 Shirt tag information

66 Andre of tennis

67 Application to thinning hair

69 Give a job to

71 Zip

72 Abbr. on military mail

74 Lip

75 Almond confection

76 Food fish

77 Riddle, part 4

80 Very little, in recipes

82 — -mo

83 Syrian president since 2000

84 Scottish seaport

85 Skin art

88 Carts away

92 End of the riddle

98 Prefix with lingual
- 99 Novelist or dramatist

100 Professors' privileges

101 Provo or Orem native

104 Doily material

105 Belly muscles

107 Old Russian space station

108 "Trinity" novelist Leon

109 Barge in answer

111 Riddle's

117 Cleaned thoroughly

118 Runs in

119 Gads about

120 Draft horse's gear

121 Person icing a cake

122 Fashion flair
- 10 Natural gas component

11 Knotted neckwear

12 Declare

13 Approx. airport stats

14 Ritchie Valens hit

15 Small guitar, for short

16 One drafted for service

17 Trapped by habit

18 Manly

19 Win the affection of

24 Pound fraction

28 Shorten

30 Capone and Pacino

31 Pudgy

32 Big black-and-white mammal

33 "Yuck!"

34 Football's Cowboys, on scoreboards

35 Big 1940s computer

37 Crooning cowboy Gene

40 Set — (start wedding plans)

41 R&B singer — Marie
- 43 Operate wrongly

44 Ratchet wheel engagers

48 When doubled, tot's train

49 Versatile stoves

50 Peaceful, simple place

53 "Goodbye, Columbus" author

54 Divide into different districts

55 Some daisies

56 Activist Jagger

57 "No more for me, thanks"

58 NBA Hall of Famer Thomas

59 Stoops (to)

60 Go-getters

65 Spreads apart

67 Public unveilings of products

68 Fishing tools

70 Agra's Taj —

73 Basil-based green sauce

75 Propel a bike

77 Allowance

78 Unconfined
- 79 Big laughs

81 Like some lotteries and liquor stores

86 Diatribes

87 Part of SFPD

89 Take forcibly

90 Monkly title

91 Fish part

92 Like a wise bird

93 Lingua —

94 One who triumphs

95 Uno or dos

96 Spring blooms

97 Most minimal

102 Wedding cake layers

103 Knotted neckwear

106 Mattresses' places

108 Pre-'91 superpower

110 Suffix with script

111 U.K. military fliers

112 Mess up

113 Beatified Fr. woman

114 Wall-climbing plant

115 Food fish

116 Dir. from Fresno to L.A.
- DOWN**
- 1 X6 carmaker
- 2 "Go, team!"
- 3 Distinctive time
- 4 Coven member
- 5 Comic — Baron Cohen
- 6 Female gamete
- 7 Gibson of "Gallipoli"
- 8 Ultimate goal
- 9 Eases

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LEGALS

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

Ski Bum Ventures 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 9/15/22, 9/22/22, 9/29/22

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

Am I unlovable?

Dear Oskar,
How can you love yourself when you feel you made the wrong choice or feel unlovable?
—How to love myself



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear How to Love Myself,
The simple answer is that loving yourself means ALL OF YOU — imperfections and all — so how could you not love yourself? You’re wonderful!
It’s a no-brainer to love what’s good and easy. But, of course, anyone can do that — it’s like loving a gooey brownie. But to love oneself when you feel you haven’t done something right, messed up, mistreated someone, or committed any one of a million other infractions in life? That is real love.
Most people grow up with conditional love: “Good girl for cleaning your room.” “Good boy for sharing.” “You broke my favorite golf club. I’ll never forgive you.” I can’t love a child who doesn’t obey me.” On the other hand, unconditional love means that no matter what you do, you are still loved.

Unconditional love is real, so why not begin to give that kind of love to yourself? I assume it’s because you are holding on to an old belief that you’ll love yourself when you are good enough. But I am here to encourage you to love yourself as you are today, with all your bumps, bruises, mishaps, faux pas, imperfections, and so on!
My son is 9 and learning how to cook. He is so excited about this experience. He dreams of making cookies, muffins, eggs, bacon, and beyond. But he, like everyone else, gets caught between the dream and the learning. For example, the other day, he was making an egg. He took out all of his ingredients and tools: egg, salt, butter, water, pan, bowl, fork, and spatula. When he broke his egg into the bowl, he made sure that there were no pieces of the shell. He carefully pinched in some salt and poured some water. He whisked, heated the pan, and put in the butter. He waited (which is difficult for him) and asked me to check if the pan was ready. It was, and so he poured his egg into the pan. He waited again as the egg began to cook, then gently folded it to make it light and fluffy. But it crumbled as he tried to pick it up off the pan and put it on the plate.
He had done so well. What an accomplishment to learn to cook! An egg, although simple, is no easy feat. I watched him as he walked to the table. His face looked over his plate as if something had gone wrong. He sat down and took a bite, then paused. I could already guess what was coming next: “Mamma, my egg isn’t good. I don’t think I can do this. It’s not like your eggs.” I could see from his face his internal mind beating him up, telling him he was wrong, not good enough, and never would be. He could not see what I could — the beauty that he was, the joy that he had created in trying something new, the bravery in his willingness to get it wrong.
I leaned over to him and took his hand. “My little love, there’s no better time to love yourself than when you think you don’t deserve it.”
And so I say to you, my little one (because aren’t we all just children of the Universe?): Love yourself as much as you can until finally, you can’t decipher when to do it or not, so you just always do. There is nothing that is not lovable about you. We all do things we are not proud of—perhaps steal, lie, or hurt another person—but these are things we can grow from. We can make amends to those people we have hurt or wronged and change. Without loving ourselves through these moments, we cannot grow. We’ll just continue to hurt ourselves and hurt others. Love is the light that helps us grow, like the sun to a tree. So be gentle to yourself on this journey, and all will be well.

Super Crossword

Answers

B	R	E	W	S		O	M	E	L	E	T	S		E	L	U	S	I	V	E	
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Glaciers, from page A6

Some leaf through the scrapbook of photographs at the front desk that shows Portage Glacier’s face from years past, and some are return visitors who are shocked by the changes, McGill said. “They reminisce a lot when they come here,” she said.
At Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, a Tongass National Forest site that gets over 600,000 visitors annually, the Forest Service is going through its own process to upgrade facilities for what is expected to be an even bigger crush of tourists in a less-icy future. The situation is not as extreme as at Exit or Portage glaciers, but changes are coming, said Monique Nelson, a land management planner at the Tongass working on the project. “In the next 20 to 40 years, you probably won’t be able to see it from the visitor center,” she said of the glacier.
The Forest Service has a master plan to expand facilities, adding another visitor center closer to the glacier, and to transform footpaths into designated trails to take walkers to the ice edge. The plan also contemplates motorized boat tours, such as that at Portage. Some of that is controversial with Juneau locals, who have expressed concerns about overdevelopment of a well-loved recreational site, Nelson said.
At Denali National Park, where the sole park road is plagued with thaw-induced landslide dangers, most critically at the midpoint, glacial loss at higher elevations is affecting the mountain-climbing season. On Kahiltna Glacier, which is used as base camp for most Denali mountaineering expeditions, conditions are starting to get marginal for ski-equipped planes that ferry climbers on and off the mountain, said Mike Loso, a National Park Service geologist and glacier expert who works out of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Because of melt dangers, in the latter part of the season, plane operations have to shift to a Kahiltna Glacier site about half a mile uphill, Loso said. That is as far as the planes can move, he said; crevasses and rock faces preclude any shifts farther uphill.
At Glacier Bay National Park in Southeast Alaska, 250 years of glacial retreat has been so dramatic that the land is actually rising. Through a phenomenon known as “isostatic rebound,” uncovered land that was previously compacted by heavy glacial ice has now sprung up, expanding the onshore territory.
For Glacier Bay’s visitors, the ice losses are a prime attraction.
Most Glacier Bay visitors come on cruise ships, and those cruise passengers want to see tidewater glaciers calving ice chunks into the sea, Loso said. There are about six or seven tidewater glaciers remaining in the park, but as they crumble and melt, they will “ground themselves out” and no longer extend to marine waters, he said. “The trend overall is clear, and I can say with confidence that there are going to be fewer tidewater glaciers for cruise ship passengers to look at over there,” he said.
That might mean a shift to Wrangell-St. Elias to the west, where Hubbard Glacier, currently the destination for only a few cruise ships, “is still huge and going to be calving ice for a long time,” he said.
Wrangell-St. Elias has its own trail problem linked to glacial retreat. The trail to Root Glacier, like the more heavily trod Exit Glacier trail, has been extended about 0.4 miles. That might seem like a minor distance, but it has made for some tougher travel to the park’s most accessible glacier, Loso said.

“You have to drop further down the hillside and go further up the valley every year to get to the ice,” he said. “In 30 years, what used to be an easy day hike for all of our visitors might be a much more challenging and difficult trip to make.”
There is potentially a side benefit of glacial melt: a big and expanding proglacial lake that didn’t exist 30 year ago at the base of Kennicott Glacier. “It’s a new thing. McCarthy is sort of a lakefront town,” Loso said.
But glacial melt also creates dangers. An ominous trend in all the world’s mountainous and glaciated areas is the increasing risks for landslides and the localized tsunamis they cause as glaciers that buttress mountain slopes shrink. Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias, with their combination of glacial ice, steep mountainsides, coastlines and locations at latitudes where glacial conditions have become marginal, are considered global hotspots for such slides. At Glacier Bay, there were at least 24 large rockslides or rock avalanches that occurred between 1986 and 2016 that were tied to warming conditions, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Wrangell-St. Elias in 2015 had North America’s largest non-volcanic landslide on record, a huge slope collapse caused by the combination of glacial retreat and upper-elevation thaw. The resulting tsunami in Taan Fjord that rose as high as 633 feet up the opposite slope, ripping out trees. No injuries or effects on people in Alaska parks, but a similar landslide and tsunami in Greenland in 2017 killed four people.
Continued sweeping changes in Alaska’s glacial landscapes are considered inevitable.
Loso is working on a project to predict the rate of retreat in all of Alaska’s national parks. So far, results show that the outlook over the next few decades is grim for glaciers at parks across Alaska, he said.
“Wrangell-St. Elias is the only park that retains anything close to its glacial coverage,” he said. “Wrangell is the glacier heavyweight.”
Future generations of Alaskans and Alaska visitors present at the end of the century will likely catch only faraway glimpses of the glacial ice that is currently a fixture in the Alaska scenery, he said.
“When you look at the year 2100, the stuff we’re talking about, it’s going to be distant,” he said. “It’s going to be hard for the public to see glaciers anywhere.”

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ARIES: My reader Monica Ballard has this advice for you Aries folks: “If you don’t vividly ask for and eagerly welcome the gifts the Universe has in store for you, you may have to settle for trinkets and baubles. So never settle.” That’s always useful counsel for you Rams. And in the coming weeks, you will be wise to heed it with extra intensity. Here’s a good metaphor to spur you on: Don’t fill up on junk snacks or glitzy hors d’oeuvres. Instead, hold out for gourmet feasts featuring healthy, delectable entrées.

TAURUS:I will remind you about a potential superpower that is your birthright to develop: You can help people to act in service to the deepest truths and strongest love. You can even teach them how to do it. Have you been ripening this talent in 2022? Have you been bringing it more to the forefront of your relationships? I hope so. The coming months will stir you to go further than ever before in expressing this gift. For best results, take a vow to nurture the deepest truths and strongest love in all your thoughts and dealings with others.

GEMINI: Your mind is sometimes a lush and beautiful maze that you get lost in. Is that a problem? Now and then it is, yes. But just as often, it’s an entertaining blessing. As you wander around amidst the lavish finery, not quite sure of where you are or where you’re going, you often make discoveries that rouse your half-dormant potentials. You luckily stumble into unforeseen insights you didn’t realize you needed to know. I believe the description I just articulated fits your current ramble through the amazing maze. My advice: Don’t be in a mad rush to escape.

CANCERIAN: “Poetry is a life-cherishing force,” said Pulitzer Prize-winner Mary Oliver, who published 33 volumes of poetry and read hundreds of other poets. Her statement isn’t true for everyone, of course. To reach the point where reading poetry provides our souls with nourishment, we may have to work hard to learn how to appreciate it. Some of us don’t have the leisure or temperament to do so. In any case, Cancerian, what are your life-cherishing forces? What influences inspire you to know and feel all that’s most precious about your time on earth? Now would be an excellent time to ruminate on those treasures—and take steps to nurture them with tender ingenuity.

LEO: Please promise me you will respect and revere your glorious star power in the coming weeks. I feel it’s important, both to you and those whose lives you touch, that you exalt and exult in your access to your magnificence. For everyone’s benefit, you should play freely with the art of being majestic and regal and sovereign. To do this right, you must refrain from indulging in trivial wishes, passing fancies, and minor attractions. You must give yourself to what’s stellar. You must serve your holiest longings, your riveting dreams, and your thrilling hopes.

VIRGO: It’s impossible to be perfect. It’s neither healthy nor productive to obsess on perfectionism. You know these things. You understand you can’t afford to get bogged down in overthinking and overreaching and overpolishing. And when you are at your best, you sublimate such manic urges. You transform them into the elegant intention to clarify and refine and refresh. With grace and care, you express useful beauty instead of aiming for hyper-immaculate precision. I believe that in the coming weeks, dear Virgo, you will be a master of these services—skilled at performing them for yourself and others.

LIBRA: According to Libran poet T. S. Eliot, “What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.” Those are your guiding thoughts for the coming days, Libra. You’re almost ready to start fresh; you’re on the verge of being able to start planning your launch date or grand opening. Now all you have to do is create a big crisp emptiness where the next phase will have plenty of room to germinate. The best way to do that is to finish the old process as completely as possible.

SCORPIO: Now and then, you slip into phases when you’re poised on the brink of either self-damage or self-discovery. You wobble and lurch on the borderline where self-undoing vies with self-creation. Whenever this situation arises, here are key questions to ask yourself: Is there a strategy you can implement to ensure that you glide into self-discovery and self-creation? Is there a homing thought that will lure you away from the perverse temptations of self-damage and self-undoing? The answers to these queries are always yes—if you regard love as your top priority and if you serve the cause of love over every other consideration.

SAGITTARIUS: “Sometimes serendipity is just intention unmasked,” said Sagittarian author Elizabeth Berg. I suspect her theory will be true for you in the coming weeks. You have done an adroit job of formulating your intentions and collecting the information you need to carry out your intentions. What may be best now is to relax your focus as you make room for life to respond to your diligent preparations. “I’m a great believer in luck,” said my Uncle Ned. “I’ve found that the harder I work, the more luck I have.” He was correct, but it’s also true that luck sometimes surges your way when you’ve taken a break from your hard work.

CAPRICORN: Tips to get the most out of the next six weeks: 1. Be the cautiously optimistic voice of reason. Be the methodical motivator who prods and inspires. Organize as you uplift. Encourage others as you build efficiency. 2. Don’t take other people’s apparent stupidity or rudeness as personal affronts. Try to understand how the suffering they have endured may have led to their behavior. 3. Be your own father. Guide yourself as a wise and benevolent male elder would. 4. Seek new ways to experience euphoria and enchantment, with an emphasis on what pleasures will also make you healthier.

AQUARIUS: Aquarian author Richard Ford has advice for writers: “Find what causes a commotion in your heart. Find a way to write about that.” I will amend his counsel to apply to all of you non-writers, as well. By my reckoning, the coming weeks will be prime time to be gleefully honest as you identify what causes commotions in your heart. Why should you do that? Because it will lead you to the good decisions you need to make in the coming months. As you attend to this holy homework, I suggest you direct the following invitation to the universe: “Beguile me, mystify me, delight me, fascinate me, and rouse me to feel deep, delicious feelings.”

PISCES : According to my reading of the astrological omens, Pisces, it’s your task right now to identify which people intensify your loneliness and which really do fill the gaps. And then devote yourself with extra care to cultivating your connections with the gap-fillers. Loneliness is sometimes a good thing—a state that helps you renew and deepen your communion with your deep self. But I don’t believe that’s your assignment these days. Instead, you’ll be wise to experience intimacy that enriches your sense of feeling at home in the world.



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 monogamous and have been dating my boyfriend who identifies as straight for a little over a year. He told me that he had a strict “no contact with exes” policy when we first met. Due to some sketchy behavior, lies and gaslighting on his part—regarding contacts with his ex-girlfriends, open dating profiles, and multiple private Instagram accounts—I checked his phone, and my suspicions were confirmed. He didn’t cheat but there were some inappropriate messages that he apologized for. He blocked all his exes and is on the straight and narrow now.

At the time I checked his phone, I also found strange messages to one of his male friends. My BF sent this guy nudes and videos of him having sex with other women. (This was before we met.) There were also messages detailing how much they admired and missed each other’s cocks, and my boyfriend said he wanted to fuck other women with his friend. When I asked him about his relationship with this man, he said that they are just good friends, and that this kind of sexting was “something straight guys do.” I don’t think any of my past straight boyfriends ever talked about missing other guys’ cocks, but this is the first boyfriend whose phone I ever checked for shenanigans. Is this something straight guys do?

I don’t care if my boyfriend was bisexual, but I don’t want to be lied to. And I really don’t want to be the crazy girlfriend, but my boyfriend had framed photos of this particular guy in his house that I made him remove. I also asked him to cut off all contact with this man. This is all fresh in my mind because we ran into this guy the other night. They kept telling each other how good they both looked and my BF was visibly nervous the whole time. Is my boyfriend telling me the truth? Do straight guys who don’t have any sexual interest in their friends send them dick pics? My BF is in his mid-40s. He knows I’m bi. The “no contact with exes” rule was his idea, not mine, and I think this guy counts as an ex and should remain blocked. Do you agree?

- *Straight Men Exchanging Long Lusty Texts Exuding Sexual Tension*

Your boyfriend made the rule—no contact with exes (not even eye contact on the subway?)—but at some point, after the lying and gaslighting, you became the enforcer: digging through his phone, ordering him to block his exes, take down framed photos, etc.

He was apparently willing to overlook your snooping, SMELLTEST, seeing as you’re still together. And you were apparently willing to overlook the mountain of incriminating evidence you found on his phone. While you honored his “no contact with exes” rule from the start, he was swapping texts, sexts, and photos with his exes the whole time, lurking on dating apps, and maintaining multiple Instagram accounts. You concluded he hadn’t cheated on you—he just broke his own stupid rule—but in my experience, SMELLTEST, “rules for thee, not for me” types are rarely very good at honoring monogamous commitments over the long term. I’m not saying he’s cheated on you already, but if not getting cheated on ever is important to you... he might not be the guy.

As for his claim that swapping dick pics and compliments are things straight guys do...

I haven’t had a chance to snoop through Harry Styles’ phone, SMELLTEST, so I can’t definitively say that no straight guy has ever sent another straight guy his dick pics. (Or spat on another straight guy at a film premiere.) And seeing as lots of straight men enjoy playing “gay chicken” these days (and posting the videos to TikTok), it stands to reason that some straight guys may be swapping dick pics and ironic messages about how badly they want each other’s cocks for the lols. But I don’t think that kind of behavior is common among straight guys, particularly straight guys in their 40s.

My hunch is that your guy had and enjoyed a few MMF threesomes with this guy before you met, and it was in that context—with a woman in the room to heterosexualize any incidental homosexual contact—that he came to appreciate his friend’s cock. Seeing as you dug through his phone long enough to find all the dating apps he’s on, all the messages he’d been swapping with ex-girlfriends, and all those fake Instagram accounts, SMELLTEST, if he was bisexual you probably would’ve found messages he’d sent to other men and his Grindr, Scruff, and Sniffies accounts too.

If this friend is the only guy your boyfriend has ever messed around with, SMELLTEST, if that one guy’s cock is the only cock he’s ever wanted to push past his tonsils, your boyfriend is free to round himself down to straight. I also don’t think having messed around with this one dude makes them “exes” in the romantic/dating sense of the term, and I think you should let your boyfriend put his picture back up.

Finally, SMELLTEST, what the two of you are doing—this guy with his no-contact rules about exes and his lies, you with your snooping and demands to take down photos—sounds so exhausting. Is this a relationship or a police state? If he can manage to remain monogamous and gets a charge out of swapping dick pics with an old friend, what harm is there in that? Why not let him have that? And if the guy was hot... why not let both of them have you?

P.S. I hope those videos you BF sent his friend of him having sex with other women were taken with the consent of those other women and that he had their permission to share those videos with his friend.



The Adventures of Cinderella

The Boomerang

BY TINDERELLA

I still remember sitting front row at Totem Theatre, popcorn and Sour Patch Kids in hand, as the opening credits to the Lion King rolled. I sat in rapture as Carmen Twillie’s deep voice belted: “Through despair and hope/Through faith and love/Till we find our place/On the path unwinding/In the circle/The circle of life.” About 15mins later, I sat in disbelief, crying while Simba prodded his dead father, Mufasa. Twenty-eight years later, and I’m still trying to reconcile that trauma. But I digress. The point is that everything is cyclical, and that includes failed Tinder dates.

Every year, would-be suitors seem to follow a pattern I like to call “the boomerang.” In the early spring, as the winter thaws, the hearts of serial Tinder daters grow colder while they prepare to dump the one they’re with in hopes of an upgrade. The key is securing as many dates as possible during this period so you can hone your ideal dating sales pitch. By the time that’s locked in, it’s summer, and a veritable smorgasbord of horny tourists is ripe for the picking. After a summer of hookups, the boomerang dater circles back to their spring dates to find a suitable one to pass the winter with. And you guessed it, the cycle repeats.

When I met Mike in April, he had already carefully curated his bio: early 40s, about to retire from the military, former pro athlete, well-educated, and well-traveled. Coupled with his chiseled jaw, toothy smile, and obvious omission of hunting pictures, his profile was like the great white buffalo of Tinder profiles. In fact, his profile was so spot on that I questioned its legitimacy. Surely, someone of his ilk couldn’t exist in real life. But as you’ve probably noticed, I have no impulse control, so I

swiped right on the off chance he was real.

The gambling-esque “It’s a Match!” graphic splashed across my screen, and immediately, I had a new message alert. That familiar feeling of excitement coursed through my body as I opened what had to be the most underwhelming message possible – “Yo!”

I sat staring at the screen for several minutes, hoping a second message was coming because where on earth do you go from “Yo”? Two days later, and those two letters still sat in my inbox as I wracked my brain for a pithy response. With nothing coming to mind, I responded in kind – “Yo!”

Our chat, now filled with four letters, sat abandoned for about a week before I broke the silence.

“So, you’re from the East Coast. That’s cool. What brought you up here.”

“Military. What’s your number,” he asked.

Things weren’t off to a good start, but weirdly, his aloofness was attractive. After weeks of being propositioned for threesomes with married couples, his response was a welcomed change of pace, so I gave him my number. And then my phone rang.

“Yo! It’s Mike,” said what can only be described as a super-hot, deep male voice.

Trying to be funny, I replied, “who is this?”

“It’s Mike. You know, from Tinder,” he replied with a little less confidence.

“I know who it is. I was just fucking with you,” I replied with a laugh.

For the next two months, Mike would call multiple times a day, and our conversations were always flirty, but he never suggested meeting in person. As he became a regular part of my day, I began to develop feelings and longed to meet him face-

to-face. He, on the other hand, was still perusing Tinder and using me as an emotional placeholder – something I painfully learned when he called on a sunny day in May.

“Wait, so you just played me for the last two months,” I asked breathlessly as my heart dropped to the pit of my stomach. “That’s really cold, Mike.”

“Nah, it’s not like that. She’s just hot, and I want to check it out. We’re cool, right,” he explained.

“No, we’re not cool! You’ve really hurt my feelings, and I don’t know what I did to deserve being treated so poorly,” I told him as I choked back tears. “Lose my number!”

The summer came and went, and there I was, still single, and still inexplicably thinking about Mike. Then out of the blue, in early September, I received a familiar message on Tinder.

“Yo!”

Like clockwork, the boomerang had returned and smacked me in the middle of my far too forgiving face. We would continue to have periods of nonstop communication, followed by even longer periods of absolute silence. Mike kept me on the hook by occasionally hanging out, and while nothing physical ever happened, he would flirt mercilessly and then leave me hanging. This lasted for two years before I finally resigned myself to the fact that no matter how many times Mike circled back to me, I would never be more than a placeholder. Sometimes I find myself fighting the urge to latch onto his perpetually moving boomerang. Then I remember how much I hate spinning carnival rides, and I reply to his mating call with two letters of my own – “no.”



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Cannabis Legalization Applies "Competitive Pressure" to Pharmaceuticals Market

BY NORML



San Luis Obispo, CA: Cannabis legalization negatively impacts stock market returns for pharmaceutical companies, according to data published in the journal PLOS One.

Researchers affiliated with California Polytechnic State University assessed whether the passage of statewide legalization laws influences pharmaceutical firms' stock market returns.

Authors reported that legalization is correlated with lower returns. "Returns decreased in response to both medical and recreational legalization, for both generic and brand drug-makers," they reported. "Investors anticipate a single legalization event to reduce drug-maker annual sales by \$3 billion on average."

They concluded: "Legal cannabis applies competitive pressure to both generic and brand drug markets, across both classes of drug-makers. ... We predict that if the remaining ... states without medical cannabis legalization were to legalize cannabis, spending on conventional pharmaceutical drugs would decrease by almost 11 percent. ... The size of the response we see suggests that investors expect a large substitution away from conventional pharmaceuticals. ... The market's recognition of cannabis as an alternative to conventional medications documented here underscores the need for additional research into the medical potential of cannabis [and] ... suggests [that] cannabis might be a useful tool for increasing competition in U.S. drug markets."

Prior studies have consistently shown that those with access to cannabis products typically reduce or eliminate their consumption of pharmaceutical drugs over time, particularly with respect to the use of opioids, benzodiazepines, anxiolytics, and sleep aids.

Specifically, data published earlier this year in the journal Health Economics identified "significant reductions in the volume of prescriptions within the drug classes that align with the medical indications for pain, depression, anxiety, sleep, psychosis, and seizures" in states that had enacted adult-use cannabis legalization. Prior ecological studies have similarly identified an association between the adoption of medical cannabis access laws and reduced Medicaid prescription drug spending.

Full text of the study, "US cannabis laws projected to cost generic and brand pharmaceutical firms billions," appears in PLOS One. Additional information on cannabis/prescription drug substitution is available from NORML.



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Life imitates art in ACT’s “The Sensuous Senator”

BY O’HARA SHIPE

Often, art imitates life and with the nation in the throes of election season, the timeliness of Anchorage Community Theatre’s production of “The Sensuous Senator” is spot on.

Written by Michael Parker, The Sensuous Senator is a fast-paced and fun comedy about smooth-talking Senator Douglas who is running for President on a “morality” platform. But when his wife Lois leaves to attend a conference in Chicago, he does not hesitate to invite Veronica, his secretary and lover, over. Finding her unavailable, he has an escort agency send voluptuous Fiona. All seems well until his elderly Congressional colleague and neighbor locks himself out and asks to spend the night. Then Congressman Jack Maguire drops in unexpectedly and Fiona, unsure who her client is, zeros in on him. Meanwhile, Veronica changes her plans and appears on the scene. Before Lois reaches the airport, her fashionable Washington townhouse is swarming with libidinous politicians, scantily dressed women, security police, and a muckraking reporter from The National Intruder! When snow closes the airport and she returns home, the bedlam crescendos to a surprise ending.

Although the production’s main character Senator Douglas struggles to reconcile his political promises with his personal desires, veteran actor Ralph Lynch, says the role isn’t a stretch.

“Playing a character who purports to be moral is fundamentally quite simple. We all have visions of moral perfection and we all accept our limitations. That’s really about it. It’s not hard to play it, it’s hard to live it,” explains Lynch.

For Marrin Eighinger, who is making her local directorial debut, the production is an important reminder not to take things at face value when voting this year.

“It’s important to put on a show like the Sensuous Senator because it puts into perspective how much politics are really a performance of their own. The show opens with Senator Harry Douglas and his associates leading a press conference to announce his campaign for presidency and they are effectively giving their own performances of what they believe the press wants to see. The show helps remind the audience that there is more than one side to everyone, and it shows us the consequences of choosing to believe only what a person wants you to see,” Marrin says.



The Sensuous Senator runs from September 9 – October 2 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 3 pm. Tickets are available online, over email, or call ACT at (907) 344- 4713. As always, you can visit their website at actalaska.org for more information.



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Sunshine and spontaneity lead to surprise sighting of beluga whales

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

Brief windows of opportunity sometimes appear in unexpected ways. If a person is open to possibilities and doesn't hold too tightly to plans or schedules, his day may be enriched by moments of serendipitous delight, even wonder.

As one who tends to keep a largely ordered life, I've had to relearn this lesson over and over. Fortunately, I seem to have become a bit more spontaneous, and also learned to pay greater attention to what might be called my intuitive self—my gut instincts—as I've grown older.

I was reminded of all this one recent morning, which had begun as I'd expected: my body seated in front of a computer screen while I zoomed into a meeting with some friends. This group of older men meets once a week. And on that particular day, our conversation ranged from politics to Anchorage's unusually wet late-summer weather (now extending into fall).

The morning had begun in yet more drizzly, dreary grayness. But as we shared stories, the clouds parted, blue sky appeared, and sunlight suddenly brightened the local landscape. Looking out my bedroom window, I was struck by how the leaves on front-yard birch trees now glowed warmly.

A few of us commented on the sun's surprising, and most welcome, arrival; the day had been forecast to be gray and mostly rainy. I said something about it being beautiful enough to make a guy want to go outside, before the rain returned. And in that moment I realized that, yes, I would do just that.

"No offense to you guys," I told the others, "but I'm going to get my dog and go for a walk in the sun, while it's here."

After a "good to see you guys" farewell, I left the meeting, called Denali, grabbed a jacket and hat, and headed out the door. It was still early enough in the day—and late enough in the year—that the sun's light streamed into Anchorage at a low angle, which meant that we walked in a rich, golden light that gave my neighborhood a kind of glowing radiance.

I figured this would be a short, local walk, just enough to revel in the unexpected glory of the morning. For no particular reason, except maybe for the sweeping views and the wilder surroundings, I decided we'd stroll to the Coastal Trail.

Along the way Denali and I crossed paths with several other walkers.

"Beautiful morning, isn't it?" I said in greeting.

"Yes, it certainly is," everyone agreed, smiles on their faces. "It's great to see the sun."

Upon reaching the Coastal Trail, I looked out toward Cook Inlet, a natural instinct. And what I saw both startled and cheered me: a pod of beluga whales were moving through the inlet's calm, gray waters, their large and sleek white bodies gleaming in the morning sun.

Conditions couldn't have been better to watch the whales glide past and it seemed that anyone walking along the trail would notice them, unless completely self-absorbed.

The belugas' graceful swim through the water seemed both relaxed and purposeful. They were moving right to left, in other words down the inlet, toward Point Woronzof and eventually Turnagain Arm, where they are most commonly and easily seen, by people traveling the Seward Highway. Had they been hunting in the upper inlet? Were they headed toward other hunting opportunities in the arm or did they have other motivations?

There's so much I don't know—even researchers still don't know—about Cook Inlet's endangered population of beluga whales, which according to the most recent counts number less than 300 (down precipitously from an estimated 1,300 individuals in the late 1970s). But on this morning walk I was simply happy and thankful to get a glimpse of the whales, which I so rarely see in my own wanderings along Anchorage's coast and Turnagain Arm.

Which reminded me: less than a week earlier I'd seen a pod of belugas—perhaps this same group—while walking the Turnagain Arm Trail with Jan and our dogs. That time, the belugas seemed to be "milling around" rather than on the move and we wondered if they might be feeding. To see them from such a height—we were at least several hundred feet above them—was a first for us, but at the same time the whales were almost immediately below, giving us an excellent view of their strikingly white bodies, which at times seemed to be floating along the surface.

On this morning, Denali and I followed the belugas a while, but their speed was much greater than ours and within minutes they were distant, tiny white specks.

Continuing our own wanderings, we met a man and woman who also had watched the belugas. The man told us he'd counted at least 16 as they'd passed by, the most he'd ever seen at one time. I hadn't been counting, but wasn't surprised by the number. In the short time we'd watched I too had seen an unusually large number of the whales.

Though unplanned, our timing—like the morning's burst of sunny weather—had been just about perfect. If Denali and I had reached the Coastal Trail only a few minutes later, we would likely have missed the belugas' brief, exhilarating passage.

I was again reminded how much "wild life" goes on around us all the time, that we mostly miss or fail to notice. In a way, I'd been rewarded with—or graced by—the whales' presence only because I'd made the spur-of-the-moment decision to get out into the world, beckoned by the sunlight that has seemed all too uncommon in recent days and weeks.

Other small moments of grace—and the sun itself—enriched our walk, but the whales, along with the morning's golden glow, are what I'll remember most. And yes, I'll also remember heeding that intuitive call to leave the house.

The clouds returned while Denali and I wandered here and there, gradually dimming the sun, then hiding it once more.

By the time we'd returned to the house, nearly two hours later, I felt a drop or two of rain on my skin. Not long after, a steady rain began to fall and it continued, hard at times, through the afternoon and much of the evening. That rain, like the belugas, reinforced the lessons I'd relearned that day: pay attention; be open to possibilities; and trust my more intuitive nature. Let it be ever more so.

Postscript: A "Belugas Count!" public event is scheduled for this Saturday, September 7, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. along the Anchorage coast and Turnagain Arm. More information about the event is available at this website: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2022-belugas-count

Anchorage nature writer and wildlands/wildlife advocate Bill Sherwonit is a widely published essayist and the author of more than a dozen books, including "Living with Wildness: An Alaskan Odyssey" and "Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife." Readers wishing to send comments or questions directly to Bill may do so at akgriz@hotmail.co

BELUGAS COUNT!

Is Back For 2022

After a 2-year pause, NOAA Fisheries and our partners are excited to announce the return of the Annual Belugas Count! event — Saturday, September 17, in the greater Cook Inlet area.

BELUGAS COUNT! IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

ABOUT COOK INLET BELUGAS

- ONLY ABOUT 300 LEFT IN COOK INLET
- ENDANGERED
- NOAA SPECIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This Citizen Science Celebration will be held at designated viewing stations around Cook Inlet on Saturday, September 17 between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. See event website for specific station times.

VIEWING STATIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE STAFFED
DEPENDENT ON NEEDED COVID PRECAUTIONS
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BINOCULARS AND CAMERAS.

For more information, scan QR code or visit: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2022-belugas-count

COVID-19 SAFETY: This is an outdoor event and will comply with all federal, state, and local COVID-19 safety requirements and guidelines. Participants and the public are encouraged to practice social distancing and wear a mask if others near you are wearing one. Event safety guidelines are subject to change to reflect new and updated government COVID requirements.



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