

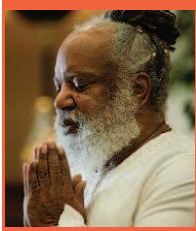
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Contributing Writers

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

Page Design

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

WICK COMMUNICATIONS ALASKA

Publisher

Tawni Davis
tawni.davis@frontiersman.com

Managing Editor

O'Hara Shipe
ohara.shipe@anchoragepress.com

Advertising Account Executives

Bridget Mackey
bridget.mackey@anchoragepress.com

Petra Albecker
petra.albecker@frontiersman.com

Ben Borg
ben.borg@frontiersman.com

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State judge to decide eligibility of Alaska lawmaker linked to Oath Keepers

A Matanuska-Susitna man says Rep. David Eastman has violated the 'disloyalty clause' of the Alaska Constitution

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

A state judge will decide by Thursday morning whether Wasilla Republican Rep. David Eastman remains eligible for this fall's general election.

Eastman and the Alaska Division of Elections have been sued by a Matanuska-Susitna Borough man who asserts Eastman's lifetime membership in a far-right organization violates a clause of the Alaska Constitution that forbids public officials from supporting groups that advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Randall Kowalke is seeking a preliminary injunction that would negate Eastman's candidacy, though his name may stay on election ballots because they have already been printed.

In a hearing Tuesday afternoon, Anchorage Superior Court Judge Jack McKenna heard oral arguments for and against Eastman's disqualification and said he would take the case under advisement, with a ruling by Thursday morning at the latest.

Randall Kowalke, a former member of the Mat-Su Borough Assembly, filed suit July 29, one month after the Alaska Division of Elections rejected multiple challenges to Eastman's candidacy.

Representing Kowalke is attorney Savannah Venetis Fletcher, who said much is at stake with the ruling from McKenna, an appointee of Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

"There's the integrity of an election, the enfranchisement of voters in House District 27, and the risk that an ineligible legislator will remain on the ballot," she said.

Kowalke's lawsuit argues that Eastman's lifetime membership in a group called the Oath Keepers violates the "disloyalty clause" of the Alaska Constitution.

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

Members of the Oath Keepers, including the group's founder, have been accused of various crimes associated with the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Several have pleaded guilty and are cooperating with federal prosecutors.

In a sworn affidavit, Eastman said he was present in Washington, D.C., at the time but did not participate in the insurrection and has never participated in "any Oath Keeper meeting or event."

But Fletcher argued that Eastman still fails to meet the state's constitutional standards. In written filings and on Tuesday, she said her case proves that Eastman is a member of the Oath Keepers, that the Oath Keepers advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government and that the Division of Elections has failed to properly enforce the constitution.

Joe Miller is representing Eastman. He is an attorney who unsuccessfully challenged Lisa Murkowski for U.S. Senate in 2010.

Speaking Tuesday, Miller called

the case a "political hit" and said that if Eastman is disqualified, it would disenfranchise voters in his Wasilla district. He noted the results of the Aug. 16 primary election, in which Eastman received more than half of the votes for House District 27.

"Your Honor, the fact of it is, if we take him off the ballot ... you're basically disenfranchising over half that district," Miller said.

Miller argued that Oath Keepers' bylaws do not advocate violent action against the U.S. government and that some members' crimes do not reflect on the organization as a whole.

"The Oath Keepers have been basically (dragged) through the media as this insurrectionist group, because as even admitted by plaintiff, a couple of dozen, maybe 32 people have been indicted out of the group," he said.

That Eastman was present at protests preceding the insurrection is not proof that he advocates the overthrow of the government, Miller said.

"The people that were there on the 6th were there to preserve constitutional government," he said.

"I think most of them still believe that they were complying with their constitutional oath — of course, we aren't talking about the violence and the other things took place — but in protesting what was going on," he said, drawing a line between insurrectionists and people who participated in protests preceding the insurrection.

If the accused Oath Keepers hadn't been leaders of the group, or if Eastman had disavowed his membership in the Oath Keepers, Fletcher said, "it might be a different situation. But those aren't the facts before us today."

"This is not a case about political arguments and differences in opinion on what one does or doesn't oppose. It's about using violence to further your goals in a system instead of going through the proper political means," Fletcher said.

McKenna asked Miller whether he would argue that Eastman is not a member of the Oath Keepers.

Plaintiffs, Miller responded, need to show that Eastman is a current member, not just a past one.

"Whether or not he's currently a member, that burden is on them," he said.

Assistant Attorney General Lael Harrison, representing the Division of Elections, said the agency won't say whether the Oath Keepers advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Instead, she said, the state's position is that the Division of Elections did not do anything wrong by failing to reject Eastman's candidacy. Removing Eastman's name from ballots would do more harm than good to the election process, she said.

"Anytime we tinker with (the election process), it has the potential to either cause an actual problem or cause a perception concern in the eye of the public," she said.

Fletcher said that if it's too late to remove Eastman from ballots, the Division of Elections could take alternative actions, such as mailing a notice that says Eastman has been deemed ineligible.



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The fighting Genevieve Mina

BY TIM BRADNER

Depending on the November election outcome, Genevieve Mina could be part of the new generation of young legislators in Juneau.

Mina and several other new candidates, like Löki Tobin running for the state Senate, will bring new talent to replace experienced, retiring legislators. Lawmakers like Reps. Chris Tuck and Ivy Spohnholz in the state House, and Sen. Tom Begich in the Senate, are not running again and will pass the torch. That’s assuming the November elections turn out as expected, but Mina (and Tobin, in the Senate) have a good chance.

Mina is 26 but appears young for her age. “How old are you?” she’s often asked in going door-to-door in her district. She plays along: “I’m 26, but I already have seven years of political experience,” much of it working in the Legislature.

Mina is not alone in beginning her legislative career early. Many well-known Alaska political leaders started at the same age, including Mark Begich, former Anchorage mayor, and U.S. senator, and Johnny Ellis, a longtime Anchorage state senator, now deceased.

Despite her young age, Mina has the chops. As staff to Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, D-Anch., she helped steer a major healthcare bill on telemedicine through the House this year and then worked with staff to Sen. David Wilson, a Republican from Wasilla, to get the bill through the Senate. The measure expanded the ability of patients and healthcare providers to do consultations by telemedicine in Alaska. The bill is now law.

Mina also worked on another Spohnholz initiative to expand transparency in healthcare pricing in Alaska. That bill passed too and is now law.

Mina’s political experience began in 2016 when she worked as an aide to Anchorage Assembly members, most closely with Eric Croft, and did a summer internship in Washington, D.C. She returned to Alaska to work as an intern for Spohnholz in 2017 under the Ted Stevens Legislative

Internship Program and was hired as staff for the 2021 and 2022 sessions.

Growing up around a small family health care enterprise Mina understands the problems and how a frayed support network can threaten people. Her mother, Evelyn Mina, is a nurse and founded Anchorage’s Genevieve Assisted Living Home. Guill Mina, her father, worked in the business until he passed in 2007.

“I know what it’s like to be without health insurance,” she said.

If elected, one of Mina’s priorities will be healthcare reform, particularly in strengthening behavioral health workforce gaps and reducing healthcare costs. She is also interested in state finances and the need for a state fiscal plan, having been briefed extensively on this by Cliff Groh. She’s also concerned about climate change and what can be done.

Energy efficiency and reduction of emissions are priorities.

“Mountain View, which is in the district in which I am running, experiences some of the highest utility burdens and asthma rates in Anchorage,” she said.

These issues resonate well in the inner-Anchorage district Mina is running in.

House District 19 was reconfigured in the recent redistricting and now includes parts of adjacent areas now represented by Reps. Harriet Drummond and Zack Fields, two fellow Democrats. The district boundaries were altered, and there is no incumbent in District 19, so it’s an open seat.

The district includes the neighborhoods of Airport Heights and Mountain View, and about half of Russian Jack. It is a mix of apartments and single-family homes, and it includes seven mobile home parks. In its politics, the district leans “purple,” meaning a mix of progressive (blue) and conservative (red), Mina says.

That suits Mina because she sees her role as a bridge-builder, crossing divides to build consensus. But it’s also a relatively low voter-turnout district that typically sees only 20-percent of registered voters casting ballots. Mina hopes to change that, urging people to register and vote, as she goes door-knocking through the district.

The district is mixed-income, but Mina understands the area. “I grew up there as the daughter of immigrants,” she said.

Indeed, Mina’s family history is an immigration success story. Her grandfather was a freedom fighter in the Philippines against the Japanese occupation in World War II, fighting as a guerilla. Based on his service, he was able to immigrate to the U.S. after the war. Once here, he brought his son, Mina’s father, who was then serving in the Philippines military, to the U.S. in 1985. Her mother was also able to immigrate.

However, Mina has lived in District 19 all of her life — except for a short period when she lived near Tudor Road. The district is changing, however, and it’s to Mina’s liking. There are younger people moving in, including many who are professionals and who are starting families. Mina feels she shares their values on issues like social and economic equity, environmental protection, and state fiscal reform.

Growing up, she attended Lake Otis and Airport Heights elementary schools; Wendler Middle School, East High, and then the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Mina’s years at the University of Alaska Anchorage were life-changing.

“I had decided that I didn’t want to work in healthcare professionally, so I started as a biology major with a minor in political science. But even in biology, I didn’t want to do medicine and biological fieldwork didn’t feel right for me, so I felt like I was just stuck,” she said.



It was then that she discovered the UAA Seawolves debate team, which ignited a fire in her. Biology fell by the wayside as a major, and she honed in on political science.

But Mina’s interest at UAA quickly became focused on debate.

“Being on the debate team for four and a half years taught me how to analyze an issue, particularly how to have an open mind and see another point of view,” she said.

Genevieve, continued on page A6

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U.S. Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia speaks at a press conference outside the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, Sept. 20, on her legislation to make it a felony to perform gender-affirming care on transgender youth. (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

Marjorie Taylor Greene leads GOP drive to criminalize gender-affirming care for transgender youth

BY JENNIFER SHUTT
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — Conservative Republicans gathered outside the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday to commit to bringing legislation to the floor that would make it a felony to perform gender-affirming care on transgender youth, should the GOP take control of the U.S. House following the November midterm elections.

“How on earth can this be happening in America? It’s hard to even understand,” said Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the main sponsor of the bill, referring to gender-affirming medical treatments sometimes used by transgender and nonbinary people, including minors.

The group touted the bill’s 37 GOP co-sponsors in the House, though that number is less than 10% of the chamber’s members, far short of the backing it would need to move on to the U.S. Senate even if Republicans take control of the House.

Greene’s office said the co-sponsors include Jim Banks of Indiana; Matt Gaetz, Byron Donalds and Greg Steube of Florida; Clay Higgins of Louisiana; Andrew Clyde and Barry Loudermilk of Georgia; Diana Harshbarger and Chuck Fleischmann of Tennessee; Paul Gosar of Arizona; Lauren Boebert and Doug Lamborn of Colorado; Glenn Grothman of Wisconsin; Madison Cawthorn of North Carolina; Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey; Fred Keller, Dan Meuser and Guy Reschenthaler of Pennsylvania; Matt Rosendale of Montana; Vicky Hartzler of Missouri; and Tracey Mann of Kansas.

State actions

Conservative Republicans across the country have been seizing on the issue of gender-affirming care for transgender youth and attempting to limit it. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, “numerous states have

implemented or considered actions aimed at limiting LGBTQ+ youth access to gender-affirming health care,” and some have enacted restrictions. The foundation says that 15 states in 2022 are considering 25 similar bills.

Numerous medical organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and American Osteopathic Association have voiced opposition to laws restricting gender-affirming care.

Lee Savio Beers, American Academy of Pediatrics president in 2021, said in a statement this year that it’s “critically important for every child to have access to quality, comprehensive and evidence-based care—transgender and gender-diverse youth are no exception.”

“As pediatricians, we will continue to speak up and advocate for our patients. We also want transgender and gender-diverse youth to know that not only do we care for them, we care about them, we value them and we will do all we can to ensure they have access to the care they need and deserve,” Beers added.

A federal appeals court in August upheld an injunction blocking Arkansas’ ban on gender-affirming medical treatments for transgender children, the Arkansas Advocate reported.

Felony for gender-affirming care

The legislation proposed in the U.S. House would make it a felony to perform more than a dozen gender-affirming medical procedures on someone under the age of 18 and would allow people who had that care as minors to file a civil lawsuit against each person who provided that care.

The legislation would also prevent federal dollars from going to gender-affirming care and would bar any federal employee from performing such a procedure, or procedures.

Higher education institutions would be prevented from offering instruction in gender-affirming care.

The measure includes exceptions for people who don’t have “normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action” as well as people with “both ovarian and testicular tissue,” the bill text says.

Anyone experiencing a disease, disorder, infection, or injury related to a previous gender-affirming procedure would be allowed to get care under the bill’s provisions.

There’s also an exception for anyone with a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness who would experience “imminent danger of death or impairment of a major bodily function” without one of the procedures or treatments.

Unlikely Senate passage

The bill is unlikely to get past the U.S. Senate’s 60-vote legislative filibuster even if Republicans take back that chamber following November’s midterm elections and the bill is able to pass the U.S. House. And the legislation would be certain to face a veto from President Joe Biden, who in June signed an executive order that seeks to safeguard LGBTQ+ health care.

The House GOP measure includes the phrase “gender-affirming” nearly 50 times throughout the bill text and Greene used the phrase on Tuesday before arguing that type of care doesn’t truly exist.

“States like California, Washington, New York and other Democrat controlled states want to fast track kids and tell parents they have no right to take away their children’s desire for gender-affirming care. There’s no such thing as gender-affirming care,” Greene said.

Rep. Bob Good, a Virginia Republican and a co-sponsor, questioned why more members of Congress weren’t at the press conference to support the legislation.

“Why wouldn’t every member of Congress be here?” Good asked.

Republican challenges nonpartisan incumbent in race to represent southern Southeast Alaska

Four-term Rep. Dan Ortiz got 52% of the August primary votes to Jeremy Bynum's 44%

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

A Republican Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly member is challenging the four-term incumbent to represent Ketchikan, Wrangell, Metlakatla, Coffman Cove and other communities of southern Southeast Alaska in the state House.

In Jeremy Bynum's first time running for state office, he got 44% percent of the votes in the August primary to Rep. Dan Ortiz's 52%. Both live in Ketchikan. Four percent of voters chose Wrangell resident Shevaun Meggitt, who has since withdrawn and will not appear on the general election ballot.

Ortiz said he's feeling good going into the general election but not 100% confident. He noted that he is a nonpartisan independent and most voters in the district usually vote for Republicans.

"And so, the fact that I have a Republican opponent is always a threat in terms of making sure that you do everything you can to put yourself in the best possible position, but then in the end, it's going to be up to voters," said Ortiz on Monday.

Bynum said he's running to "bring a different voice."

"We have to have a choice and we also have to have a competitive spirit when it comes to these kinds of races, so that we can elevate the conversation for those important issues that are within our region, whether it's energy, or education, or housing, marine highway. And I didn't feel that there was a strong conversation happening within our election cycle," he said Monday.

Incumbent has education background

Ortiz, 64, wasn't born in Alaska, but has spent 54 years in the state, primarily calling Ketchikan home. Before his time in the Capitol, Ortiz spent about 30 years as a teacher at Ketchikan High School. He mainly taught social studies and history and spent his last eight years as a coach for the drama, debate and forensics team. That's what led him to becoming a legislator.

"We were debating things like the Pebble Mine or we debated oil taxes, all things that were in front of the Legislature at the time and, you know, by hearing both sides, which you always do in debate, it got me charged up in terms of trying to make a difference in a real, more concrete way in terms of policy at the state level," Ortiz said.

Ortiz first ran for the Alaska House of Representatives in 2014, the year he retired from teaching. He narrowly beat Republican candidate Chere Klein by 104 votes in the general election. Ortiz has held the seat ever since.

Several bills he's sponsored or cosponsored that have passed are related to the fishing industry, one of the main economic drivers in his district, he said. Recently, Ortiz sponsored House Bill 41, which allows nonprofits to pursue mariculture enhancement or restoration projects involving shellfish species, like red and blue king crab, sea cucumber, abalone and razor clams. It became law over the summer.

"In Alaska, we have the most coastal area of any other state by far and it's ripe for mariculture and the products that come from mariculture, and the market's not going to go away," Ortiz said. "So I was really excited about that, but I'm proud of the fact that my legislation has always come from my constituents, my constituents' needs. They bring me the idea and we go with it."

In an Alaska Beacon questionnaire, Ortiz identified "maintaining vital government services" as a top priority, including the Alaska Marine Highway System. On Monday, he said it's important for the Alaska Marine Highway to "return to a reliable, predictable schedule that residents can come to depend on, businesses can come to depend on."

Ferry service has been significantly reduced for several years due to things like funding cuts, an aging fleet and, more recently, finding people to hire, Ortiz said. With the federal infrastructure bill, though, "it's a new ballgame."

Ortiz hopes funding from the bill will go directly to operations and to repairing and building ships. "I'm hopeful that we'll be able to restore the system back to where it was before the 2018 budget level of service."

Challenger points to hydropower experience

Originally from Oregon, Bynum, 47, moved to Ketchikan in 2016 after spending summers in the community. He's acting manager for the electric division of the City of Ketchikan's public utilities and has been on the Borough Assembly since 2020. Both these experiences will help in state office, he said.

"I'm really involved in my job and I'm also really involved at the assembly level," Bynum said Monday. "Having a really good fundamental understanding of our local governments will give me an advantage when I'm in Juneau, to understand how decisions that we would make in Juneau directly impact the local communities."

Bynum credits his community involvement for giving him visibility, which helped him get 44% of the vote in the primary. He goes to or watches almost every City Council meeting, referees high school basketball games, is on the University of Alaska Southeast's Ketchikan Campus Advisory Council and has been on the board of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency.

"A lot of people in the community recognize that I care and that I'm engaged," Bynum said.

When asked about the biggest needs for his district or what issues people care about, Bynum listed several things that he called "interconnected." For instance, the Alaska Marine Highway System and the transportation of goods, housing, and what Bynum called "a people resource problem."



"Our industries that are in our communities are really struggling because of a lack of personnel and qualified people. And I think that the state needs to really evaluate what their role is in helping solve that problem," Bynum said.

His ideas include "incentivizing our secondary education to have a shift in focus on vocations and trades and certificate type programs," Bynum said. "So that our kids, when they're coming out of high school, have a better vision about what those kinds of jobs offer them, and how they can positively impact our communities."

Bynum, a licensed professional engineer, spent time in the U.S. Air Force as a power generation specialist. In college at Portland State University, he studied electrical engineering and served in the Air National Guard. He sees his background in engineering and hydroelectricity as something that sets him apart from Ortiz.

"I've been working in, specifically, clean renewable energy the majority of my career, over 20 years in hydropower. It is one of our strongest resources in our region, and one of our paths to enter energy independence in Alaska is water energy systems," he said. "So, we all recognize that energy is our future. It's going to spur business. It's going to allow electrification for homes going on to air source heat pumps, buses going to EV, electric ferries, EV cars on our islands, energy produced locally for the local community."

Campaigning

Both candidates are actively campaigning and raising money. As of Sept. 4, Bynum has raised almost \$22,000, the vast majority from personal donations either from him or his spouse. Other donations from individuals have ranged in the \$40 to \$250 level. He recently received two \$1,000 contributions from Steven Becker and Leslie Becker. Republican Leslie Becker unsuccessfully ran against Ortiz in 2020, losing by almost 1,900 votes.

As of last month, Ortiz had raised close to \$33,000. He's received \$1,000 donations from several labor unions, including those representing building trade workers, teachers and many public employees, and from dental groups. Numerous donations from individuals are in the \$25 to \$1,000 range.

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Here’s how to track campaign cash in Alaska election

A guide to searching the records of the Alaska Public Offices Commission

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Because of a federal court decision last year, the state’s failure to appeal that decision, and the Alaska Legislature’s failure to approve a new law, candidates for Alaska state Legislature and governor can accept unlimited amounts of money from individual donors.

Those donations may be unlimited, but each must be disclosed and published as public information. Donations to federal candidates — those running for U.S. House and U.S. Senate — do have limits, but they are public information, too. So are donations to third-party groups, such as unions, or groups supporting a particular ballot measure or industry.

Here’s what you need to know.

Why does it matter?

Campaign finance records — listings of who donates, how much a candidate has raised, and how much a candidate has spent — can show the strength or weakness of a political campaign, a clue to whether a candidate will win or lose.

When it comes to the U.S. House, for example, the candidate who raises the most money wins 90% of the time.

Tracking where donations come from can show whether a candidate’s support is in their own district, or if they’re receiving large amounts of money from people who don’t live in a particular place and can’t vote for that particular candidate.

Tracking who donates can reveal whether a particular corporation or industry believes a candidate is likely to support its interests. Looking at how much a person donates can show if a candidate is being backed by just a few wealthy people or if their ads are being bought with the small contributions of many people.

When to look

The Alaska Public Offices Commission, a state agency, regulates state-level races and publishes campaign finance reports on its website.

Anyone who intends to raise or spend at least \$5,000 while running for state office needs to register with the commission by filing a letter of intent.

These letters are searchable and sometimes are filed a year or more before an election. They’re useful for determining who is thinking about running for office but not a guarantee: Until someone registers with the Alaska Division of Elections, they’re not an official candidate.

When someone registers, they need to disclose their campaign spending and donations at different points: the start of the calendar year, 30 days before the primary election, 7 days before the primary, 30 days before the general election and 7 days before the general election.

Any donations within 7 days of an election get special reports.

Any of these times are good ones to look at records, because they’ll have the most up-to-date information available.

For this year’s Nov. 8 general election, all candidates need to report their fundraising on Oct. 10 and Nov. 1.

Even after the election, candidates can still accept donations to pay outstanding debts or to save for their next campaign. The deadline to do that is Dec. 23, and the final election report — including everything raised and spent — is due Feb. 15, 2023.

Federal candidates report their fundraising and spending with the Federal Election Commission, and they do have a limit. Candidates can only accept \$5,800 from an individual during an election cycle – \$2,900 for the primary and \$2,900 for the general.

Federal candidates report each quarter, plus a report before the election and a report after the election.

This year, a quarterly report is due Oct. 15, and the pre-election report is due Oct. 27. Post-election reports are due Dec. 8 and Jan. 31, 2023.

Because there was a special election for U.S. House this year, candidates needed to file some extra reports, the most recent being Sept. 15.

The FEC website is fairly user-friendly, but APOC searches are more difficult.

How to search state candidate information

When you open the APOC website, you’ll see a whole list of options. Clicking “Campaign Disclosure Reports” lets you search for specific candidates, specific donors, and even things candidates have spent their money on.

Other links — such as for “income” and “expenditures” — allow you to search all donations, regardless of candidate, or all spending, regardless of candidate.

All of the searches work roughly the same.

First, select the year you want to search. If you use the default “any year,” you may get results from prior elections that aren’t relevant anymore.

Second, select a date range, keeping in mind when candidates submit their reports. You can leave this blank, but you’ll have to look through all the reports a candidate has filed for an entire year.

If you’re just looking for the latest report, do yourself a favor and narrow it down. If you’re searching around Oct. 10, for example — because that’s when the next report is due — just search for reports filed between Sept. 10 and Oct. 10.

Next, use the drop-down menu labeled “any name” to select “candidate name.” This allows you to enter who you want to search for. Leaving it blank will show all the reports filed by every candidate for every office.

There’s another drop-down menu to the right of the candidate name, and that allows you to limit searches by the type of election — if you wanted to search for city election filings, for example — but it’s generally unnecessary.

How to read the filings

As a test, I’ve done a search for all reports filed by independent governor candidate Bill Walker between July 15 and Aug. 17. That range is big enough to include every report filed for the Aug. 16 primary election. You can see the result below.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE: FORMS						
Report Year:	Status:	Filed After:	Filed Before:	Candidate Name	Filter Type	
2022	Complete, Not Amended	7/15/2022	8/17/2022	Bill Walker	Any	
SearchExportClear						
Report Year	Report Type	Name	Total Income	Election Name	Submitted	Status
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$5,000.00	State Primary	08/10/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$3,500.00	State Primary	08/09/2022	Filed **
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$1,500.00	State Primary	08/07/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$600.00	State Primary	08/16/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$5,000.00	State Primary	08/14/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$800.00	State Primary	08/13/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$3,500.00	State Primary	08/11/2022	Filed
2022	24 Hour Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$2,500.00	State Primary	08/11/2022	Filed **
2022	Seven Day Report	Bill Walker	\$0.00	State Primary	08/09/2022	Filed
2022	Seven Day Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$59,487.09	State Primary	08/10/2022	Filed **
2022	Thirty Day Report	Bill Walker	\$0.00	State Primary	07/19/2022	Filed
2022	Thirty Day Report	Bill Walker / Heidi Drygas	\$831,896.22	State Primary	07/19/2022	Filed **

Note: There are additional features and columns available by right-clicking the column headers. You may add and remove columns under the 'Additional Fields' submenu.

Campaign, contined on page A18

Genevieve, from page A3

That ability is crucial because UAA’s debate team members have to be able to argue on both sides and to do it quickly. Once a topic was known, fifteen minutes of preparation was the norm. Debate also helped Mina learn to organize her thoughts and speak clearly and persuasively.

“Before joining the debate team, I was a mumbler and shy about speaking out,” she said.

UAA’s debate team, under its longtime director, Steve Johnson, has won international recognition. Mina was part of the team when it participated in the World University’s 2019 debating championships in Cape Town, South Africa. She and a teammate also won in a Seattle University debate tournament in 2018, continuing a long-term winning streak for the Seawolves team in that competition.

“My first two years on the debate team were particularly challenging because I felt insecure and intimidated by my other team members, and sensed that I didn’t fit in with the prestigious reputation of the team,” she said.

Her prepreparation for debate was an intense learning process that forced her to really commitment to the activity.

“Debate helped me dive into my weaker subject areas. It also required additional hours practicing with my coaches,” Mina said. “These were smaller goals compared with those of others on the team, but for someone like myself who grew up shy and soft-spoken, my debate career has been instrumental to my confidence and skills in issue-analysis.”

It was perfect preparation for someone entering politics. If elected to the House, Mina hopes to use those skills – to understand others’ views – to reach out and build bridges across the intense partisan divisions in the Legislature.



Courtesy image

Les Gara on oil taxes, balancing the budget, climate change, abortion, PFDs and more

BY DERMOT COLE

I want to commend four of the state’s major news organizations for agreeing on written questions to ask the candidates for governor, but complain about their decision to wait until the end of the month to release them.

The joint effort by the Anchorage Daily News, Alaska Public Media, the Alaska Beacon and KTOO makes it harder for Gov. Mike Dunleavy to blow off the exercise, as he did earlier this summer, having his state-paid frontman lie that Dunleavy was too busy and that he is already on the record answering everything.

Search the public record and what you really find is Dunleavy’s history of ducking for cover.

Dunleavy may still blow off the exercise and refuse to answer yes/no questions. The responses were due Monday, but because of the serious storm in Western Alaska, the candidates were given a couple of extra days to respond.

We should have the questions and the answers now, a partial solution to the dearth of real news coverage of the gubernatorial campaign. But the four organizations say they won’t release anything until the end of the month because they plan to use the answers “to populate an interactive candidate comparison tool.”

I’m all for populating interactive tools, whatever that means, but they should post the answers immediately on their websites.

I’ve made my opinion on this clear, but the four organizations set this up and want to control the flow of information.

They are refusing to share the information or even say if Dunleavy responded. But the answers to important questions should be disseminated across Alaska as soon as possible.

The lack of substantial campaign coverage makes this more important than ever. The dwindling contingent of Alaska political reporters simply can’t keep up with the demands placed on their time to do several things at once. Aside from the horse-race coverage, superficial stories based on press releases and the countless words spilled over PFDs, there has been little effort to dig into the candidates and their positions.

The questions posed to the candidates are good ones. Posting the information now does nothing to take away from the future “candidate comparison tool.” It doesn’t damage that idea. It improves on it.

In the meantime, I’ll post the results here from the major candidates if the candidates send me the information. I’ll even post Dunleavy’s, saving any editorial comments of mine until another time. If he doesn’t reply, I think I could come up with his answers on my own.

I’ve had no response from Bill Walker’s campaign, but Democrat Les Gara was quick to share the information. I wrote about his answers to the yes/no questions Monday.

Here is the rest of what he had to say:

Why are you running for governor?

Les Gara: Alaskans deserve a future of better schools, good paying jobs, and true, equal opportunity to succeed again. 20,000 more people have left Alaska than moved here under Gov. Dunleavy, because they see no future for themselves or future work for their children, and no commitment to public education. As the only pro-choice candidate for governor, I want to make sure we protect reproductive freedom, and appoint judges who won’t reverse Alaska’s pro-choice caselaw. And I believe in equal rights, not government interference in decisions about whom one is allowed to love. As someone who grew up in foster care, I believe everyone deserves the chance to succeed. Instead we have a state with struggling schools, years of austerity construction and community infrastructure budgets. That’s left people out of needed work, and caused many Alaskans to move to other states with their job skills. This Governor has shown a lack of commitment to protect our fish. His poor policies range from his misguided support of a toxic Pebble Mine, to Outside Factory Trawlers the Governor’s nominees have allowed to dump over 1,000 tons of halibut and over 500,000 chum dead, just in the Bering Sea. He’s given Outside corporations a priority over Alaska’s fish. That excessive waste needs to be reversed.

Gara, continued on page A20



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

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Republican U.S. House candidates Sarah Palin (on screen) and Nick Begich III (below, at left) appear at a candidate forum Thursday, Sept. 15 in Ketchikan. At right is event moderator Robert Venables. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

Fourteen years on, Palin’s ‘bridge to nowhere’ comment still resounds

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Ketchikan residents still remember the moment when Sarah Palin said on national TV, “thanks but no thanks for that bridge to nowhere.”

The bridge would have linked the Southeast Alaska town with neighboring Gravina Island, home to the city airport and flat land now seen as needed for affordable housing.

“When you mention Sarah Palin, it’s the first thing people think about,” said Jeremy Bynum, a member of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and candidate for state House, about the bridge.

“It’s synonymous,” he said.

Palin’s speech was 14 years ago, but as she seeks a full term in the U.S. House of Representatives, that action and others from her time as governor and a Republican vice presidential candidate have overshadowed her campaign for U.S. House.

Polling indicates support for Palin has barely budged since the start of her campaign, and the number of Alaskans who disapprove of her — about 60% of registered voters — has also remained steady.

On Thursday, Palin and fellow Republican Nick Begich appeared at a U.S. House candidate forum in Ketchikan. In an Aug. 16 special election, the pair split Alaska’s Republican votes, helping Democratic candidate Mary Peltola win the race. Peltola was sworn in this week and did not attend the forum.

All three, and Libertarian candidate Chris Bye, are seeking a full two-year House term in the Nov. 8 general election.

In August, Palin had more support than Begich but less than Peltola. Under Alaska’s new ranked-choice voting

system, Begich was eliminated, allowing his supporters to put their votes toward a different candidate. Half chose Peltola or no one at all, denying Palin a victory.

Polling since the election indicates the pattern is likely to repeat in November unless something changes in the race.

During the forum, Begich and Palin were mostly civil toward each other — a change from their campaigns during the special election — but Begich brought applause in the city’s civic center when he reminded attendees of the bridge.

“If we had a bridge in Ketchikan to Gravina Island, maybe we wouldn’t have such a problem with housing down here,” Begich said.

“I will tell you, you know, when you see politicians trying to score political points by canceling the projects that this community relies on, that should tell you everything about where their priorities are. It’s not with you. It’s with them,” he said.

Trevor Shaw, a local resident who formerly served in local government and unsuccessfully ran for state House, said Palin’s handling of the bridge was flawed.

“It wasn’t that it was canceled, it was how it was canceled,” he said. “We found out when the rest of the country did.”

He recalls Palin telling the local chamber of commerce, weeks before her speech, that she supported the bridge.

The Gravina Island Bridge was a priority of former Congressman Don Young, who earmarked millions of dollars in the federal budget for it, only to see Palin reject the money.

Begich and Palin, seeking to hold the office Young once held, both said they oppose earmarks and would not use them.

“Absolutely not,” Palin said. “Earmarks are a problem in Congress. It leads to the crony capitalism, to the favoritism, to the corruption in Washington, D.C., where politicians are trying to bring home the bacon to serve the constituents in order to get reelected and reelected.”

Earmarks by former Alaska officials, including Young and former U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, built many projects in rural Alaska, and the Ketchikan audience appeared uncomfortable with the positions of Begich and Palin on the issue.

Attendees of Southeast Conference, a regional gathering of political and business leaders, said housing and child care are among their top needs, and Gravina Island is seen as a place where housing can be built affordably in Ketchikan. Southeast Conference held Thursday’s forum.

Bynum said that local officials know the bridge is unlikely to return, but he and others said there’s still a need to get to Gravina Island, whether by ferry or bridge.

“Access is the biggest thing,” said Borough Assembly member Jaimie Palmer.



New environmental study of Ambler road project kicks off with call for public input

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said it will start collecting public input on how it should carry out a new environmental review of the controversial Ambler Access Project.

The scoping period for a supplemental environmental impact statement on the project starts on Tuesday and will run for 45 days, the BLM said Friday. Scoping is the initial phase in the review process in which issues to be studied and addressed are identified.

“Diverse, on-the-ground perspectives are vital in promoting co-stewardship and ensuring resilient landscapes,” BLM Fairbanks District Manager Geoff Beyersdorf said in a statement. “We are eager to hear from the public, Tribes and corporations to aid in helping us make an informed, durable decision.”

The BLM committed to conduct the supplemental environmental impact statement to correct what Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and other department officials said were deficiencies in an environmental review conducted by the Trump administration.

The Trump administration followed up its own EIS process by granting a right-of-way in 2020 that allows the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to proceed with the 211-mile road through the Brooks Range foothills to the isolated Ambler mining district in northwestern Alaska.

AIDEA, a state corporation focused on development, is proposing to build the road to enable commercial development of mines that would produce copper and other metals. The main beneficiary of the road would be Ambler Metals LLC, a joint venture of Vancouver-based Trilogy Metals Inc. and the Australian mining company South32.

NANA Corp., the regional Native corporation in that part of the state, also has a partnership arrangement because it owns some of the mining property.

The commitment to conduct a supplemental EIS and to pause the right-of-way approval, announced in February, came in response to lawsuits that sought to overturn the Trump administration approval.

Critics say the road and its associated development will damage habitat used by



Matt Cameron

the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, one of the largest caribou herds in North America, and important environmental and cultural values. Haaland and other Interior officials concluded that the Trump administration’s review did not properly consult with tribal governments or consider subsistence and cultural concerns.

A draft supplemental environmental impact statement, or SEIS, is expected to be published in the second quarter of 2023, the Interior Department said in a status report filed Friday in U.S. District Court. Notice of the start of scoping, one of the formal steps required under the National Environmental Policy Act, emphasizes that “input of Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations will be of critical importance to the SEIS,” Interior’s status report said.

The BLM’s approach to the impact statement has been criticized by both road supporters and opponents.

Supporters of the road argue that the new environmental analysis is unnecessary and amounts to a delaying tactic by the Biden administration. Opponents of the road argue that the right-of-way should have been scrapped entirely rather than suspended and that the new analysis is too narrowly focused, leaving some deficiencies unaddressed.

Agreement with Japanese company boosts fortunes of planned hydropower project near Alaska’s capital, developers say

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

A new agreement with Japan’s leading hydroelectric operator will give the long-planned Sweetheart Lake project south of Juneau a boost toward development, developers promoting the project said on Thursday.

The agreement is between Juneau Hydropower, the corporation planning the Sweetheart Lake hydro project, and J-Power, a major Japanese hydroelectric company.

The Sweetheart Lake project is planned and permitted for a site about 30 miles south of Juneau in the Tongass National Forest. J-Power, which signed the project development agreement in July, built and owns and operates 61 hydroelectric facilities, and it operates 1,500 miles of transmission lines in Japan, representatives of the companies said at an Anchorage news conference held Thursday.

“What it does is it allows us to partner with a team player who’s got an extremely deep bench,” Duff Mitchell, managing director of Juneau Hydropower, said in an interview on Friday.

The Sweetheart Lake project would have a capacity of 19.8 megawatts and promises to boost Juneau’s energy generation by a fifth, according to Mitchell’s estimates. The cost is estimated at over \$200 million.

Under the joint development agreement, J-Power will have some ownership share in the project, but that share is yet to be determined, Mitchell said.

The cornerstone user will be Coeur Alaska’s Kensington mine, a gold producer north of Juneau.

At the Anchorage news conference held Thursday, Stephen Ball, Coeur Alaska’s general manager, called the prospect “exciting.”

“From our perspective, the opportunity to bring clean hydropower to Kensington is a root driving force for us. It gives us the opportunity to get off of diesel power and onto clean energy,” Ball said.

Beyond Kensington, Mitchell said, there is an opportunity for Juneau’s electric utility, Alaska Electric Light and Power.

Additionally, it will help bring Juneau closer to the goals of its 2011 climate action plan, which calls for a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2032, Mitchell said.

Construction is expected to start next year, with operations starting two or three years after then, Mitchell said.

The Sweetheart Lake project has been in the works for more than a decade.

The initial application for a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was filed in 2009. From then until 2016, the process went through numerous permitting steps, including an environmental impact statement. All required permits were completed by 2016, Mitchell said.

To comply with the Roadless Rule in the Tongass, the project was designed with a tunnel to be used as the transportation route for vehicles and equipment moving from the near-tidewater power station to the water-supply lake. After construction, equipment that is needed for operations will be left at the upper end of the tunnel, while construction equipment no longer needed will be driven down to the power station site, Mitchell said.

After that, the tunnel will be converted to a line for water transport, he said.

“We had to be a little bit creative,” Mitchell said.

Though the project is located south of Juneau, it requires transmission north. The plan is for an 8.6-mile transmission line from the power plant to the existing Juneau grid, and then a 31-mile transmission line north from there to the Kensington mine.



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The upper atmosphere-heating facility named HAARP is located on about 5,000 acres between the small Alaska towns of Glennallen and Tok. Photo by Ned Rozell.

An attempt to de-mystify the mysterious

BY NED ROZELL

NEAR GAKONA, ALASKA — In this wild place where dump truck drivers once tipped load after load of gravel onto the moss to make roads and building pads, scientists rolled open an iron gate one recent Saturday afternoon.

They invited in conspiracy theorists, reality-TV hosts and salmon fishermen from Chistochina to the grounds of a mysterious antenna field. It’s a facility that some claim has caused caribou to walk backward. It has been rumored to activate earthquakes, and to hold human souls in a sort of northern purgatory.

Scientists were a bit to blame for all the allegations of weirdness out here between the Copper and Gakona rivers. First off, they used an acronym to name it — HAARP, which stands for High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program.

That acronym added to the mystery of a field of antennas that can heat a region of space far above our heads with radio waves powered by five powerful diesel generators, each the size of a fuel truck.

The science of studying a region we can’t see by perturbing it with enough electricity to power a small city — located in a place where wolves and bears pad without a sound across its few gravel roads — is hard to wrap your head around.

A few people really understand HAARP, though. They were standing on those smoothed piles of gravel that Saturday when the foreboding metal gate clicked open.

My former boss Sue Mitchell (now retired) initiated this “open house” a few years ago. She was there again



Geophysical Institute Director Bob McCoy poses with visitor Michael Lewis from Anchorage during a recent open house of the ionosphere-heating facility known as HAARP between Glennallen and Tok. Photo by Ned Rozell.

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in 2022, greeting people at the first table of the first building visitors walked into. I asked her why.

“So we could be as transparent and open as possible,” she said. “Throw open the gate, and show people what’s here.”

When she worked at the Geophysical Institute, Mitchell took the considerable hit of answering phone calls about the HAARP facility. She had no answers for people who were sure the antenna field was somehow controlling their minds.

“My hope has been by showing people what really goes on, the facts will speak for themselves,” she said. “That doesn’t always work. People sometimes make decisions emotionally, not always based on the facts.”

It doesn’t help when the facts are so hard to understand. Here’s a try:

The antenna field at this 5,408-acre site far from any Alaska town was first a chunk of black-spruce forest and wetlands U.S Air Force officials purchased from

the Native corporation Ahtna in 1989. The idea was to use the location to build an over-the-horizon radar that would allow technicians to observe bombers or missiles that might be headed for America over the pole.

Due to the end of the Cold War, that radar was never built. Instead, Air Force workers installed a field of 18 antennas that broadcast high-frequency waves up to the ionosphere, the region of space that is home to the aurora.

The antenna field over the years grew to 180, each powered by two transmitters. A researcher has called it the world’s largest ham radio.

HAARP is a group of high-frequency radio transmitters (in the ham-radio band) powered by five diesel generators — four from tugboats and one from a locomotive. When activated, the transmitters send a focused beam of radio-wave energy into the ionosphere, 50-600 miles overhead.

Mysterious, contined on page A17

Mud holes along Chugach State Park's trail to Hidden Lake are a disgrace

BY CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

The Chugach State Park trail that leads to Hidden Lake—and also has a branch that goes to Ship Lake Pass, The Wedge, and The Ramp—has always had some muddy sections, which can be particularly bad during the “shoulder seasons” with their freeze-thaw cycles, and in summer after extended rainfalls. But never have they been as awful as this year.

On late summer and early autumn hikes in search of blueberries, Jan Myers and I (and our dogs) had to negotiate huge boot-sucking mud holes that are the worst I’ve ever seen along this route, and among the worst I’ve observed anywhere in the Front Range in my 40 years of hiking there.

This summer’s unusually heavy rainfall is partly to blame. But so is our state government’s disgraceful, and frankly baffling, unwillingness to provide sufficient funding and staff to adequately maintain popular trails (and other facilities) in one of our nation’s premier state parks. It’s been said many times by many people, but is worth repeating: if located elsewhere in the United States, Anchorage’s half-million-acre “backyard wilderness” would likely be a national park, it is that marvelous a place of wildlands and waters and recreational opportunities.

One longtime wet and muddy section of the Hidden Lake Trail has been largely fixed by a hardened and side-boarded gravel trail that passes through boggy meadows just beyond the bridge that crosses the South Fork Campbell Creek (slightly more than two miles from the Glen Alps trailhead), though even parts of that have become flooded at times by this summer’s deluge.

The first bad stretch of muddy trail begins as it approaches and then enters a hemlock grove, less than a quarter mile from the bridge. Much of that section has been churned into a muddy mess, but two spots in particular have become mud bogs, as people understandably try to walk around the quagmires, which only expands them.

Anticipating mucky conditions, I wore knee-high rubber boots on my first late-summer hike up the trail. I figured I would simply stomp right through the mud holes rather than walk their edges. But the mud had become so soupy and so deep that it nearly went over the tops of those knee-high boots.

On a September outing, I gingerly took a step into the middle of a trail bog to see how deep it might be, and the mud’s grip nearly pulled off my boot.

You can bet I stayed near the margins of the mud-holed sections from that point on.

The second place that’s a huge and growing mess is where the trail passes through a wetland meadow, on the far side of a dry, rocky bench. This spot too is located

before the trail reaches Hidden Creek and splits to the two main destinations.

In some ways this second spot is worse than the hemlock mud holes, because there’s no stand of trees to limit the spread. The most recent time I hiked here, the main trail had become a creek channel filled with flowing water and surrounded by thick mud. Not surprisingly,

the area last week . . . We will certainly be adding it to a list of potential work. But we cannot say at this point when we might be able to take it on . . . Parts of this trail may need boardwalk or stairs.”

Corwin followed up to say, “I echo Judy’s response. Thanks for the message and pictures. All this rain has exacerbated an ongoing issue in that area. It has been added to my radar to address in the future.”

All of that’s encouraging, but in fact this is a long-standing problem. If I remember correctly, several years ago there was a plan to reroute the trail in

places, to avoid the existing mud holes and prevent new ones. Efforts to put in a new and more sustainable route were begun, but ended before much work was done. I don’t know why.

The bigger problem is our state government’s continued refusal to properly fund and staff Chugach and several other gems of the Alaska State Parks system, not to mention its many other recreational areas and facilities. As the Anchorage Daily News recently reported, things are only getting worse: since the start of the pandemic, greatly increased numbers of people are recreating in Chugach and other parks, yet there’s been no comparable boost of the money and personnel that Alaska’s world-class system of state parks needs—and deserves—to properly accommodate those visitors.

As the Chugach Park Fund’s Judy Caminer told the ADN, “It truly is a puzzle, given the amount of money Alaska has in revenues . . . that more emphasis is not placed on funding state park needs.”

It also makes no sense, given the push to promote and invest in Alaska’s tourism industry. Why not invest in our remarkable system of state parks, which are among the most accessible—and marvelous—wilderness and wildlife-rich areas in Alaska?

As I’ve written before, the failure to properly maintain popular trails at Chugach and other state parks is both symptomatic and symbolic of a long-running and unacceptable disgrace, the disrespect and lack of care shown to our state parks system, which has for too long been overlooked and ignored.

It’s long past time that we Alaskans, the state’s tourism industry, and our elected and appointed officials give our state parks the respect and attention they deserve. One great place to start

would be the many trails (and too few trailheads) that provide access into and through the “backyard wilderness” that so

gloriously adjoins Alaska’s urban center and, according to park officials, attracts an estimated 1.5 million visitors every year.

Anchorage nature writer and wildlands/wildlife advocate Bill Sherwonit is a widely published essayist and the author of more than a dozen books, including “Alaska’s Accessible Wilderness: A Traveler’s Guide to Alaska’s State Parks” and “Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska’s Wildlife.” Readers wishing to send comments or questions directly to Bill may do so at akgriz@hotmail.com.



hikers and hill runners had created a maze of secondary paths, where they tried to circumvent the mud bog, which only serves to further damage the meadow.

It seems that much of the problem could be fixed with boardwalk, to bridge the muddiest sections.

After my most recent tromp through the mud, I contacted Chugach Superintendent Ben Corwin and a couple of non-profit groups that have helped with other Front Range trail projects in recent years.

Judy Caminer of the Chugach Park Fund replied by email, “Bill, we are on the same wavelength. I walked

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Thursday, September 22nd

The Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Spirit of Scotland w/ Skerryvore 5p-8p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpys - Ukulele Russ & The One Man Frontier Band 8:30p-12:30a
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Williwaw Social – DEcarcerated: A Night of Hope & Art with incarcerated Alaskans 6p-9p
Williwaw Social – Local Showcase feat: Pepper Kit and Matt Faubion 9p-12a



Friday, September 23rd

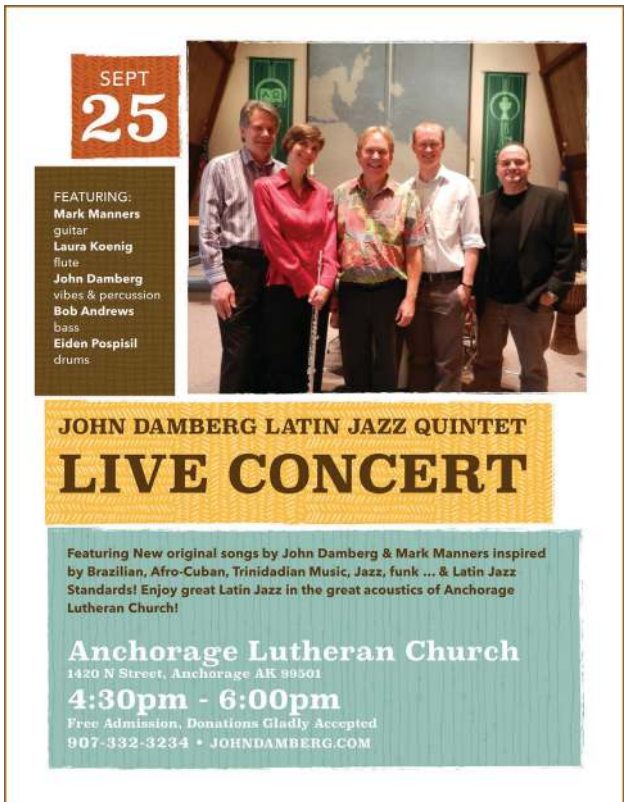
Alaska Dance Promotions – Friday Night Dance Lounge 9p-1a
Alice Champagne's Palace (Homer) – Roland Roberts
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with J Stevens 6p-8p
Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – Fall Choir Concert 7p-10p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
Corks & Hops (Eagle River) – Jared Woods Live 6p-10p
Dena'ina Civic Convention Center – Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta Celebration 7p-10p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ Tony Daro 7p-8:15p
Garcia's Cantina & Café (Eagle River) – I Like Robots 9p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – Velvet LALA 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – Beaux presents "School Bois" 7:30p-10p
Koot's – Last Burn '22 (a Brother Buffalo Hiatus Show) 10p-2:45a
Koot's – The Stack Alaska 10p-2:45a
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Nave Spenard – Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Rosie Rush, & Kayti Heller 6:30p-9p
O'Malley's On The Green – Melissa "Jazzmom" Fischer 7p-10p

Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – The Ken Peltier Band 7p-10p
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 7p-9:30p
Valley Performing Arts (Wasilla) - DEARLY DEPARTED: A Comedy 7p-10p
Van's Dive Bar – The Nameless 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Kirk Land: A Williwaw Signature Dance Party 9:30p-2



Saturday, September 24th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Opening Night w/ the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra 7:30p-9:30p
Alaska Pacific University – Matanuska at Midnight 8p-12a
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Danger Money Live 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club – Saturday Night Social 7p-11p
The Broken Blender – Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Wenches and Wrenches 8p-9:30p
Cafecito Bonita – R&B Neo Soul Small Concert Series w/ Chris Hawk 7p-9p
The Carousel Lounge – Unknowns Live 10p -2a
Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – Zen Trembles 4p-8p
The Howling Dog Saloon (Fairbanks) – Petty Crimes: A Tom Petty Tribute 9:30p-12a
Juneau-Douglas High School (Juneau) – Simply Three 7p-9p
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill - Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – House of Dreams: Rave at the Space Station 8p-2:30a



Sunday, September 25th

Anchorage Lutheran Church – ALC Concert Series: John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet 4:30p-7p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot's – Anchorage Cabaret: Women of Rock 7p-10p
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – Industry Night w/ Joe Brady 10p-2a
UAA Fine Arts Building – The Play That Goes Wrong 3p-5:30p
UAF Charles Davis Concert Hall (Fairbanks) – Season Opener 4p-6p
Valley Performing Arts (Wasilla) - DEARLY DEPARTED: A Comedy 2p-5p
Van's Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a
Williwaw Social – Waking Up in Vegas: DRAG BRUNCH 12p-2:30p

Monday, September 26th

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

Tuesday, September 27th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Open Band Jam Night! 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 28th

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



The Scots are coming!

Scottish Celtic Rockers Skerryvore play Anchorage on Friday

BY O’HARA SHIPE
PHOTO BY KRIS KESIAK



RAPID FIRE Q&A WITH FIDDLER CRAIG ESPIE

What do you get when you cross classic rock, bagpipes, and Celtic sensibility? Two-time Scottish traditional music “Live Act of the Year,” Skerryvore.

A surprisingly delightful mix of fiddle, accordions, and bagpipes, alongside guitar and vocals, Skerryvore represents the best of contemporary Scottish music.

Skerryvore’s fiddler, Craig Espie, says that when the band formed in 2005, their sound was rooted in traditional Celtic music. However, as the band grew, so did their sound. Initially, only four members strong, Skerryvore gigged as a Cèilidh band.

“When we started, we were just a band of four, and there were no vocals and no electric guitars. We were a purely Cèilidh band, which is, you know, for dancing at pubs and weddings,” says Espie.

But as guitarist and singer Alec Dalglish found his writing chops, the band’s sound became too big to be contained in tiny Scottish pubs.

“When Alec became a singer and songwriter, other members started joining the band and bringing their own inspirations to the music. [Skerryvore] just kind of evolved into having everybody’s different musical influences all represented. I think it was a really natural transition for us,” adds Espie.

The band’s evolved sound can best be described as a dash of 80s pop, a sprinkle of The Dropkick Murphys, and a whole lot of bagpipe.

Not surprisingly, the band has been a model for up-and-coming Scottish bands who want to defy genres while staying true to their heritage.

“There’s certainly a decent growing number of younger bands who are taking traditional music and incorporating modern influences. There are a lot of bands taking pop and rock elements and putting that together alongside the bagpipes and accordions, and fiddles to create something new. We’ve been doing it for a while, and of course, there were people before us, but there’s a lot more now, and its created quite a decent scene,” says Espie.

While young Scottish musicians are battling for the spotlight, the old adage, “often copied, but never duplicated,” seems to apply when it comes to Skerryvore.

Skerryvore takes the Discovery Theatre stage on Friday, September 23 at 7:30pm. They will also host a “Spirit of Scotland” whisky tasting event on Thursday, September 22 at 5pm. Both events are sold out.

Press: Since you guys are heading to Kodiak before coming to Anchorage, who in the band most likely to get eaten by a bear?

Espie: When we were playing in Idaho recently, [keyboardist] Alan [Scobie] found a life size teddy bear and danced with it for about a half hour. So, if he tried to do that with a real Kodiak bear, I think he’d be the first casualty.

Press: While you’re in Anchorage, you guys are doing a musical whisky flight with drinks from Scotland. In the spirit of local cuisine, would you rather try muktuk or aku-taq?

Espie: I’m going to go with muktuk.

Press: In Survivor: Alaska edition, who in the band would win?

Espie: Me! I can build a fire and my dad was a boyscout leader. So, I would know how to make a shelter of sorts, too.

Press: Who would be the first voted off and why?

Espie: [Bagpiper] Scott [Wood] would be for a number of reasons. He snores too loudly. Plus, I am sure he would trip over things and knock them over and destroy the clumsiness. So, yeah, Scott would be voted off for general clumsiness.

Press: Are there any stereotypes about Alaska that you hope are true?

Espie: Well, Alaska is a bucket list item for us, so I think we are all hoping to see the mountains and ocean. The sky isn’t looking clear when we are going to be there but I we’re still hoping that Alaska is as stunning as everyone says it is.

Learn more about Skerryvore and listen to their music by visiting Skerryvore.com. We recommend wearing your best tartan to heighten the experience.



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Wonder Women

Women of Rock returns to Koot's on Sunday

STORY AND PHOTOS BY O'HARA SHIPE

Two weeks ago, Koot's was atwitter as the main stage lights turned red and eight of Anchorage's best female vocalists crowded around three mic stands. From the first strike of an E Chord, the audience was enraptured by the powerhouse vocal harmonies of Katie Strock, Bekah Hilton, Denne Baez, Regina Welch, Malie D, Lisa Willis, and Kendra and Mercedes Arciniega. But this isn't the first time that the Koot's stage has welcomed Anchorage's Women of Rock, and it won't be the last.

"We had this idea of doing a rock show for the first time, but as an opera and musical theatre person, I didn't know many rock singers. So, we sort of spitballed for a while and thought it would be cool to feature frontwomen in Anchorage bands singing music by female rock stars," says Women of Rock organizer, Lisa Willis.

The first iteration of the production was in 2019 when Velvet La La lead singer Katie Strock was given the honor of being its first musical director. Since then, the production has continued to grow sonically, and this year features songs from Sheryl Crow, Radiohead, Paramore, and Pat Benatar, to name a few.

"This is definitely my chance to live out my Ann Wilson dreams," says Willis.

While Willis might be living her best Ann Wilson life, her own career is nothing to sneeze at.

"My mom says I was singing before I could talk. I have memories of singing Tiffany into my hairbrush and conducting orchestras with my chopsticks. I wanted to audition for Star Search something fierce, but my parents felt that was a heartache they could prevent. I still have hard feelings about it, though," laughs Willis.

Her determination to make her singing dreams come true led Willis to compete at the regional level for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions – she is one on a very short list of Alaskans to do so. Willis has also performed leading and supporting roles with the Anchorage Opera and in 2018, was nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a Professional Musical by Broadway World.

However, despite her solo accomplishments, Women of Rock is one of her proudest endeavors.

"This show is the most empowering thing," says Willis. "I think that anything that boosts women is important, and anything that boosts local performers is important. Alaskan women have a well-deserved tough girl image, but we're also fun and creative, and supportive of each other. The camaraderie is obvious when we're together. Female musicians get this weird rap for being Divas or whatever, but honestly, I have not encountered that with any of these ladies, and this is my third time doing the show. They know what they need to do a successful performance, and they're not hesitant to ask for it."

Although all of the Women of Rock singers are well-established vocalists, that doesn't mean they aren't taking this unique opportunity to learn from one another.

"Rehearsals are great because it's a chance to see these powerhouses be vulnerable with their craft and be open to feedback. That can be tough, but everyone knows just the right way to deliver their advice because they know what it's like to be on the receiving end," says Willis.

Receiving critical feedback is only one part of the equation when it comes to displaying vulnerability. For many of the women, their chosen songs offer a glimpse into their personal life.

"I have been struggling with post-partum depression following the birth of my son, so this song has a deep meaning for me," explained Malie D ahead of her performance of Sheryl Crow's 'If it Makes You Happy' at the September 11 show.

Indeed, it is those moments of truth and catharsis that make Women of Rock special. But even amid the sorrowful instances, the show has given all the women reasons to smile.

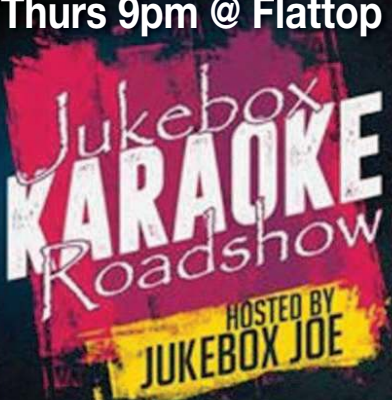
"Pre-show is always my favorite because we go from Xtratufs and hoodies to full-out rock glam, and the green room is full of 'you look amazing' and 'OMG, that looks so great on you,'" says Willis.

If you missed the first performance of Women of Rock, you have another chance to catch it on September 25. Tickets start at \$24 and are available at CenterTix.com.





Thurs 9pm @ Flattop



HOSTED BY JUKEBOX JOE

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday September 22
7:30 Ukulele Russ

Friday September 23
8:30 Velvet LaLa

Saturday September 24
8:30 Chill Factor

Tuesday September 27
7:30 Regina & Will

Wednesday September 28
7:30 Jason Roach

@Humpy's



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Super Crossword

BREAKFAST
STACKS

- ACROSS

1 Like ludicrous comedies

9 Ballpark stat

12 Yak it up

15 Dad

19 For all time to come

20 One, in Bonn

21 "Jumbo shrimp," e.g.

23 Classic morning combo

25 Trial software phase

26 Donned

27 1969 film featuring two hippies

29 Downed

30 — mignons (beef tidbits)

33 "Fighting" NCAA team

34 Beatle buddy Sutcliffe

36 "If you ask me," in texts

37 Rough- — (unrefined)

39 Group of 20

42 Irritated

46 Things often dyed and hidden

50 Word often ending in "ly": Abbr.

52 Food carton abbr.

53 Mascara mistake

54 "I don't find it that simple!"

59 Republic of China's capital

61 Southern Wyoming city

62 Actress Kazan of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

63 Charade

64 Roman Cath., e.g.

66 Summer Games gp.

67 Incites

68 Pulls off a difficult feat effortlessly

73 Tick away

75 Main character in "Despicable Me"

76 Bank acct. buildup

77 — -jongg

80 Recording room

81 Be exultant about

84 Madrid's land, in Madrid

87 They're boiled for 180 seconds

90 Zesty flavors

91 Afresh

92 That, in 84-Across

93 Sitting duck

95 Parks and Ponselle

97 Patrol for prey

101 Army division

102 Jai alai cheer

103 Genetic inits.

105 Henchman of Daddy Warbucks

108 Goes aboard

110 Large antelope

113 Dish topped with hollandaise sauce, informally

116 Funny Johnson

117 Be worry-free

119 Food that's literally represented five times in this puzzle

124 Strengthen from below

125 Bit of mail: Abbr.

126 Be similar to

127 Chili tidbit

128 Common PC file extension

129 Demure

130 One doing property appraisal

40 Funny Martha

41 Old Tokyo

43 "— big deal"

44 Mark who created Huck Finn

45 Eyelid woe

47 Strike lightly

48 Govt. office supplier

49 Isr. neighbor

51 Latin Bible

55 Lack of success

56 Melville novel

57 Puerto —

58 Gift add-ons

60 Irritating

65 Wide shoe spec

67 Poetic dusk

68 Began a big battle

69 "... blackbirds baked in —"

70 Ice house: Var.

71 Brisk gait

72 Good two-pair hand, in poker lingo

73 Prefix with biology

74 Tempts

77 Chutney fruits

78 San —, Texas

79 Expedite

80 Polaris, e.g.

81 Growl like a dog

82 "— -haw!"

83 Grocery chain inits.

85 Douglas fir, for Oregon

86 Birdie + 1

88 MSN, e.g.

89 Wd. in a thesaurus

94 Striped female stalker

96 Smile evilly

98 Gambling parlor, for short

99 Tricycle parts

100 Duration

104 Slack-jawed

106 Mad

107 — admin

109 Abounds

110 Chow

111 Maui goose

112 Meat-stamping org.

114 E.U. body comprising half a dozen nations

115 "Auld Lang —"

116 Birds' class

118 Decade count

120 Man-mouse link

121 Sit-ups work them

122 — Poke (candy)

123 "— out!"

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LEGALS

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

Mysterious, from page A10

Since it opened in 2003 with funding the late Sen. Ted Stevens helped secure, HAARP has hosted many scientists doing basic science on the auroral zone. Others used it to do applied research for the military. In one such study, researchers used the antenna array to heat a part of the ionosphere that in turn acted as a low frequency antenna that could send an ocean-penetrating signal to a submarine. That ping could tell a submarine captain to surface in order to receive conventional radio communications. This place almost fell to bulldozers in 2012, when the Department of Defense wanted out from under the cost of running the facility (which includes about \$250,000 each year just to heat the dozens of transmitter buildings in the winter). About then, Bob McCoy, the director of the Geophysical Institute and a space physicist himself, lobbied for the institute to take over the site. Scientists rallied around him, as did the university president at the time. At the same time, leaders of the National Research Council held a workshop about HAARP. They wrote a 70-page report on science that could be accomplished with the facility. "Even though it's esoteric and hard to understand, it's the best," McCoy said in 2015. The university administration gave McCoy a loan to keep HAARP running. He gambled that he could pay it back by drumming up business from scientists. They would use the transmitters and pay for it with grants from funding agencies. That gamble is paying off, with a new 5-year grant from the National Science Foundation. McCoy was there at the entrance to HAARP that Saturday, answering questions from people like Michael Lewis of Anchorage. Lewis, who wore a baseball hat he had covered with tin foil (apparently for fun), said he had always wanted to see the facility. McCoy posed for a photo with him. Visitors were allowed all over the grounds of the facility during the open house. Swampy ground limited them to drive and walk the few miles of road and gravel pad, including the dormant transmitter array. Scientists and engineers were stationed at strategic points to explain what the complicated equipment did when it was on. A few guests were ham-radio enthusiasts, but most seemed to be just curious people. After the five-hour open house ended, the black gate shut behind the final car. Then, HAARP reverted to what it is most of the year: a silent pile of gravel sprouting with antennae. There, songbirds on their way south flitted through the spruce and on the ground beneath the antenna masts.

Baby blues

Dear Oskar,
I am seven months pregnant with my second child. My first child and I have always been close, and he has always been such a good boy. But in the last couple of months, he has become so difficult to deal with. I am already feeling a little nervous about having two children, and now my once easy child has become uneasy, and it's making things worse. What can I do to help my son?
—Another on the way



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Another On The Way,
I feel for you. I have been where you have been: The joy of a new baby coming; the worry of what will be; the question of how to handle it gracefully; and a little one who is unhappy.
I had my second child when my daughter was 2 1/2. My first daughter and I were very close—we spent all our time together. When my second child came into the world, I continued that closeness with my first child and just added my second child into the mix as if nothing had happened. But the truth was, something had happened: Suddenly, there was another person with us all the time. My eldest child started saying things like, “Mamma, leave the baby. She’s ok,” or “Put the baby down.”
I tried spending more time with my eldest daughter, thinking that she might stop asking me to turn my attention away from my other child, but nothing seemed to change. She was still trying to push the baby away whenever we were all together. It was distressing, especially because I really wanted to raise a family with members that felt close to one another. I thought about it a lot and finally had a realization: How would I feel if my husband came home with a new girlfriend and said, “Hey Honey, my girlfriend is going to live with us, and it’s gonna be a lot of fun!”
So the next day, I sat down with my daughter and had a heart-to-heart. “I realized this must be difficult for you, having a new baby in the house. Before the baby, it was just you and me, and now it’s not. I can imagine you might feel scared that I don’t love you as much or that your sister is now more important than you. But the truth is there is nothing that can take away even a tiny bit of my love for you. With your sister here, my heart has opened even more, and my love is even bigger now. Plus, your sister loves you, too, so there is even more love in this house than before. I will never stop loving you, and I am sorry that I didn’t think about how you were feeling.”
My daughter took it all in and said, “Thank you, Mommy, for understanding how I am feeling.” I was stunned to hear that come from her mouth. It made me understand even more that children at any age can and need clear communication. From that day on, everything changed. She never pushed her baby sister away again.
We all need reassurance that when someone new comes—a new sibling, a grandparent we’ve never met, old friends, new friends, etc.—we will still be important and loved.
At the time that this event happened in my life, I owned a children’s clothing shop where many of my customers were pregnant. I shared my own experiences with every parent who told me they had the same problem. Sometimes they would say, “But Oskar, my child is only 18 months. They won’t understand. They can barely talk.” My response was always the same: “Try, and you will see that when we take in each other’s point of view, there can only be a beautiful outcome.”
I wish you the best with your family and your new child. I know you will find the right words in your heart.

Super Crossword

Answers

F	A	R	C	I	C	A	L		R	B	I		G	A	B		P	A	P	A
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Campaign, from page A6

Each candidate report is broken down into roughly four parts. At the top is information that tells you who filed the report, who the candidate is, what election it’s for and what information is included in the report.
Here, for example, we can see under “report information” that this includes everything from July 16 — when they filed their 30-day report — through Aug. 6.
The part after that, called “financial summary,” shows the financial health of the candidate’s campaign.
The first line, “beginning cash on hand,” tells you how much money the campaign had on July 16, the day this report begins. The second line, “total income reported,” lists how much money the candidate received in donations from July 16 through Aug. 6, the period we saw under “report information.”
The next line, expenditures, shows how much the candidate spent from July 16 through Aug. 6.
If you add cash on hand to income, then subtract expenditures, you get “closing cash on hand,” which is how much money the campaign had on Aug. 6.
If the candidate has any debts — things it’s bought but hasn’t paid for yet — those are listed on the report, and subtracting those from “closing cash on hand” gets you “surplus/deficit,” how much money they have available to spend.
Off to the right are entries for how much money the candidate has raised and spent for their entire campaign, not just the period covered in this report.
The next part of the report, “income,” lists who donated to a campaign, where they live, and how much they gave. State law requires all of this information to be collected by the campaign and published. Again, this example lists only donations between July 16 and Aug. 6; other reports will cover other periods.
The last part of the report, “expenditures,” lists all the things a candidate has bought with their donations during the period listed on the report.
If a listing in either “income” or “expenditures” is blue instead of black, it indicates that someone donated an item to a candidate — usually airline miles or airline tickets, but silent auction items or campaign signs donated by a candidate to themselves (needed if they’re recycling items from a prior campaign) show up in blue.
Other searches
If you’re looking for a specific donor or want to search for all donations to a candidate, regardless of when they were made, go to the APOC site and click “Campaign Disclosure Reports – Search Income.”
There’s a similar expenses-only search if you’re trying to figure out, say, how many candidates have spent money buying candy.
Candidates and individuals aren’t the only ones involved in elections. Groups supporting or opposing ballot measures have to follow similar reporting schedules and rules as candidates. Their filings will show up under “Campaign Disclosure Reports” if you search the name of the group. In some cases, the best way to learn that name is to look for the fine print at the bottom of a printed ad or to listen for the quickly-spoken disclosure at the end of a TV or radio ad.
These groups are limited by law, but there’s another category of political group that’s worth knowing about.

APOC Online Reports

HOME

POFD/LFD

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

LOBBYING

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

COMMISSION ACTIONS

State of Alaska > Department of Administration > APOC > Online Reports > Independent Expenditures > Forms

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE FORMS 15-6

Report Year:

Status:

Filed After:

Filed Before:

Any Name

Filer Type

Any

Complete, Not Amended

9/11/2022

Any

Search

Export

Clear

Report Year	Filer Type	Filer	Expenditures	Expenditure Total	Debts	Debt Total	Submitted	Status
2022	Other	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association Sattler, Natalie	1	\$25.00	1	\$450.00	09/15/2022	Filed
2022	Other	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association Sattler, Natalie	1	\$614.80	0	\$0.00	09/15/2022	Filed
2022	Other	American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska Garvey, Michael	1	\$383.50	0	\$0.00	09/12/2022	Filed
2022	Other	American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska Garvey, Michael	1	\$3,000.00	1	\$3,000.00	09/18/2022	Filed
2022	Other	American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska Garvey, Michael P	2	\$652.99	0	\$0.00	09/16/2022	Filed**
2022	Other	City of Soldotna Hewitt, Brekke Danaee	3	\$35.87	0	\$0.00	09/15/2022	Filed
2022	Registered Group	2022 - Protect Our Rights: No on 1	2	\$280.52	0	\$0.00	09/13/2022	Filed
2022	Registered Group	2022 - Putting Alaskans First Committee	5	\$13,050.00	0	\$0.00	09/15/2022	Filed
2022	Other	Trail Mix, Inc. Auwaerter, Carolyn	1	\$152.20	0	\$0.00	09/13/2022	Filed

Note: There are additional features and columns available by right-clicking the column headers.

You may add and remove columns under the 'Additional Fields' submenu.

So-called “independent expenditure” groups are allowed to accept and spend unlimited amounts of money as long as they don’t coordinate directly with a candidate or campaign.
Independent expenditure groups are required to file reports within 10 days any time they collect or spend money.
To search those filings, click “independent expenditures” at the top of the APOC website. Using only a date range will reveal everything filed within a given period of time.

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ARIES: Even when your courage has a touch of foolhardiness, even when your quest for adventure makes you a bit reckless, you can be resourceful enough to avoid dicey consequences. Maybe more than any other sign of the zodiac, you periodically outfox karma. But in the coming weeks, I will nevertheless counsel you *not* to barge into situations where rash boldness might lead to wrong moves. Please do not flirt with escapades that could turn into chancy gambles. At least for the foreseeable future, I hope you will be prudent and cagey in your quest for interesting and educational fun.

TAURUS: In 1946, medical professionals in the UK established the Common Cold Unit. Its goal was to discover practical treatments for the familiar viral infection known as the cold. Over the next 43 years, until it was shut down, the agency produced just one useful innovation: zinc gluconate lozenges. This treatment reduces the severity and length of a cold if taken within 24 hours of onset. So the results of all that research were modest, but they were also much better than nothing. During the coming weeks, you may experience comparable phenomena, Taurus: less spectacular outcomes than you might wish, but still very worthwhile.

GEMINI: Here's a scenario that could be both an invigorating metaphor and a literal event. Put on rollerblades. Get out onto a long flat surface. Build up a comfortable speed. Fill your lungs with the elixir of life. Praise the sun and the wind. Sing your favorite songs. Swing your arms all the way forward and all the way back. Forward: power. Backward: power. Glide and coast and flow with sheer joy. Cruise along with confidence in the instinctive skill of your beautiful body. Evaporate thoughts. Free yourself of every concern and every idea. Keep rambling until you feel spacious and vast.

CANCERIAN: I'm getting a psychic vision of you cuddled up in your warm bed, surrounded by stuffed animals and wrapped in soft, thick blankets covered with images of bunnies and dolphins. Your headphones are on, and the songs pouring into your cozy awareness are silky smooth tonics that rouse sweet memories of all the times you felt most wanted and most at home in the world. I think I see a cup of hot chocolate on your bedstand, too, and your favorite dessert. Got all that, fellow Cancerian? In the coming days and nights, I suggest you enjoy an abundance of experiences akin to what I've described here.

LEO: For 15 years, Leo cartoonist Gary Larson created The Far Side, a hilarious comic strip featuring intelligent talking animals. It was syndicated in more than 1,900 newspapers. But like all of us, he has had failures, too. In one of his books, Larson describes the most disappointing event in his life. He was eating a meal in the same dining area as a famous cartoonist he admired, Charles Addams, creator of The Addams Family. Larson felt a strong urge to go over and introduce himself to Addams. But he was too shy and tongue-tied to do so. Don't be like Larson in the coming weeks, dear Leo. Reach out and connect with receptive people you'd love to communicate with. Make the first move in contacting someone who could be important to you in the future. Be bold in seeking new links and affiliations. Always be respectful, of course.

VIRGO: "Love your mistakes and foibles," Virgo astrologer William Sebrans advises his fellow Virgos. "They aren't going away. And it's your calling in life—some would say a superpower—to home in on them and finesse them. Why? Because you may be able to fix them or improve them with panache—for your benefit and the welfare of those you love." While this counsel is always relevant for you, dear Virgo, it will be especially so in the coming weeks.

LIBRA: Tips for making the most of the next three weeks: 1. Be proud as you teeter charismatically on the fence. Relish the power that comes from being in between. 2. Act as vividly congenial and staunchly beautiful as you dare. 3. Experiment with making artful arrangements of pretty much everything you are part of. 4. Flatter others sincerely. Use praise as one of your secret powers. 5. Cultivate an open-minded skepticism that blends discernment and curiosity. 6. Plot and scheme in behalf of harmony, but never kiss ass.

SCORPIO: Poet Mary Oliver wrote, "There is within each of us a self that is neither a child, nor a servant of the hours. It is a third self, occasional in some of us, tyrant in others. This self is out of love with the ordinary; it is out of love with time. It has a hunger for eternity." During the coming weeks, Scorpio, I will be cheering for the ascendancy of that self in you. More than usual, you need to commune with fantastic truths and transcendent joys. To be in maximum alignment with the good fortune that life has prepared for you, you must give your loving attention to the highest and noblest visions of your personal destiny that you can imagine.

SAGITTARIUS: Tips to get the most out of the next three weeks: 1. Use your imagination to make everything seem fascinating and wonderful. 2. When you give advice to others, be sure to listen to it yourself. 3. Move away from having a rigid conception of yourself and move toward having a fluid fantasy about yourself. 4. Be the first to laugh at and correct your own mistakes. (It'll give you the credibility to make even better mistakes in the future.) 5. Inspire other people to love being themselves and not want to be like you.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn poet William Stafford wrote, "Saying things you do not have to say weakens your talk. Hearing things you do not need to hear dulls your hearing." Those ideas are always true, of course, but I think it's especially crucial that you heed them in the coming weeks. In my oracular opinion, you need to build your personal power right now. An important way to do that is by being discriminating about what you take in and put out. For best results, speak your truths as often and as clearly as possible. And do all you can to avoid exposing yourself to trivial and delusional "truths" that are really just opinions or misinformation.

AQUARIUS: You are an extra authentic Aquarius if people say that you get yourself into the weirdest, most interesting trouble they've ever seen. You are an ultra-genuine Aquarius if people follow the twists and pivots of your life as they would a soap opera. And I suspect you will fulfill these potentials to the max in the coming weeks. The upcoming chapter of your life story might be as entertaining as any you have had in years. Luckily, imminent events are also likely to bring you soulful lessons that make you wiser and wilder. I'm excited to see what happens!

PISCES: In a poem to a lover, Pablo Neruda wrote, "At night I dream that you and I are two plants that grew together, roots entwined." I suspect you Pisceans could have similar deepening and interweaving experiences sometime soon—not only with a lover but with any treasured person or animal you long to be even closer to than you already are. Now is a time to seek more robust and resilient intimacy.



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](#).

At a party recently I was chatting with a parent who mentioned that he lets his (elementary school age) kids look at porn. He had a laissez-faire attitude about the whole thing, but I found it disturbing. Am I being a judge-y childless witch?

There were no middle schools where I grew up, so an "elementary school age" child could be a six-year-old first grader or 14-year-old eighth grader. For the record: I obviously don't think a six-year-old should view porn, and a responsible parent would not allow a young child to view pornography. I also know it's almost impossible for a parent to stop a motivated 14-year-old kid from looking at porn. So, if this man's children are older, perhaps he said, "lets his kids," when he meant, "can't stop his kids." Whatever his kids' ages, you can't stop him from not stopping his kid from looking at porn, but you are free to offer him some unsolicited advice. (Is there anything parents enjoy more?) You could also send him the clip of Billie Eilish on Howard Stern talking about how watching porn at a young age really messed with her head.

My husband likes to be naked all the time at home. I think he should cover up when he's in front of the big window in our front room and can be seen from the street, but he says I am being body shame-y. What do you think?

I dated a guy who thought he should be able to walk around in front of his large picture windows at home, naked and sometimes hard (morning wood-y), and he was adamant about it. And then one day the police came and arrested him for indecent exposure. Anyway, you should put up curtains and/or plant some tall bushes in front of those picture windows.

44-year-old here who's on the dating scene for the first time in 11 years. A few months ago, I hit it off with a hot, hot guy. Great! My problem/question is about distractions during sex, and I need a sanity check. Once during intercourse, Hot Guy called out an answer to an NPR news quiz that was playing in the background. Is this behavior rude? I'm operating under the assumption that if one's mind wanders during sex, one should at least pretend to be focused.

"Maybe this letter writer should've chosen a more appropriate time for intimate relations—like when This American Life is playing," said Peter Sagal, the host of Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!, National Public Radio's long-running news quiz program. "Still, I completely understand why the letter writer would be offended by this man's behavior. First, by thinking our show would be appropriate as an audio background for lovemaking—although Bill Kurtis is known, for good reason, as the Barry White of anchormen. And second, the fact that he actually answered questions out loud while in flagrante. But the letter writer shouldn't think he was completely ignoring her to concentrate on us: our questions aren't that hard."

Been playing with one of my fellow guys recently—I'm a gay guy—who says he's into men, but who absolutely refuses to let me (or anyone else) touch his butt. What is this?

The Ass Ceiling. (It's also a boundary of his, and one you must respect—but you're free to ask him about it. Conversations, even follow-up conversations, about limits, boundaries, and reasonable expectations are not inherently coercive. Wanting to better understand a "no" doesn't mean you didn't hear it and don't respect it. But at the start of a follow-up conversation like that, you need to emphasize that you did, indeed, hear that "no," and will, of course, continue to respect it.)

I'm a 40-year-old cis het man. For more than 20 years—most of my life so far—I've been obsessed with one woman. We were never a couple, and I haven't had contact with her since my mid-20s. How to get past this? The easiest way would probably be to start a relationship with another woman. Or I could get therapy—but I don't know if my insurance would cover it.

Some days my Instagram feed is mostly memes about how straight guys will do literally anything to avoid getting the therapy they clearly need... and your question brought every one of those memes to mind. I mean, you've been miserable for almost two decades and you can't be bothered to check whether your health insurance covers the therapy you so clearly need? Jesus, dude. Make that phone call, get some therapy, don't date anyone until you've been seeing your therapist for at least a year.

My husband and I (bio female, newly transmasculine) recently became poly. We have created a "closed kitchen table poly quad" with our two best friends. The breakdown is one older married couple, one younger engaged couple, and it's getting serious. We are now talking about moving in together. Any tips on living together for poly newbies? I think we have a chance at making it work long-term, but I don't want to add pressure.

Here's a tip for poly newbies: don't move in with other singles, couples, triads, batallions, etc., you just started dating. If moving in together is the right thing to do, moving in together will still be the right thing three years from now. If it's the wrong thing to do, moving in together will be a disaster three months from now. Take it slow.

I'm a married man. My wife is gone for extended periods of time during military deployments. She wants me to date while she's away. I'm curious if there's a particular app you recommend for my situation. I will not lead anyone on who is hoping to find their forever partner. This is temporary. I also don't need the rest of the world to find out. Being socially monogamous is a big priority for us.

Tinder is a good place for straight people to find casual sex partners, but you have to show your face, which ups your chances of getting found out. Feeld, a dating app for people seeking thirds (and other things), doesn't require you to post a face pic, so you can get to know someone a bit—and explain your situation at greater length—before sharing a face pic. You could still wind up swapping face pics with someone you or your wife knows, works with, so if being socially monogamous as a couple—that is, perceived to be monogamous when you are not—is your first priority, you shouldn't get on the apps (or date anyone else) at all.

How will you balance the state's budget?

Les Gara: We need to stop turning people against each other. Except for this year's Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has led to one year of higher oil revenue, this state has been fighting with constant deficits, and harming schools, public safety, jobs and the economy with excessive cuts. We need to stop making people fight each other about needed priorities. This state has cut the budget almost constantly since 2014. Governor Dunleavy attempted an irresponsible, devastating \$1/4 billion cut to public education in 2019, and emptying our \$1 billion power cost reduction fund (PCE), as his "plan". His education cut would have fired over 2,800 teachers and educators. With little revenue, he has forced people to fight over the crumbs, and between schools, construction and infrastructure jobs, job training and a University, a strong PFD, and needed renewable energy projects. With a fair share for our oil, by ending \$1.2 billion in oil company tax credit subsidies the state gives to the wealthiest oil companies in the world, we could fund all of Alaska's priorities, and have a strong PFD without harming schools, jobs, a Marine Highway, renewable energy project construction, and the things that build a future. We should be equal partners with our oil industry, but have become junior partners. I voted against these subsidies, and Governor Dunleavy voted for them when we were legislators in 2013.

What steps would you take to help restore depleted salmon populations and ensure salmon runs remain strong in Alaska?

Les Gara: We have to make sure we move ahead with responsible development, but not irresponsible development like the Pebble Mine. Pebble threatens the world's greatest remaining salmon runs. I oppose that project. Governor Dunleavy supports it and has sued on behalf of its Canadian mine owners. I don't believe in trading mines for fish, but do support responsible mining, and Alaska has a current history of operating mines that is responsible. We have to stop the excessive killing of fish by Outside Factory Trawlers, which the Governor's nominees have allowed. Killing over 1,000 tons of halibut and 500,000 chum salmon in just the Bering Sea is irresponsible. We have to act to continue to protect the clean water needed for vibrant fisheries. I believe in building renewable energy across the state to help stem global warming, which is harming our fisheries. And we have to do the fishery studies we need to to protect fish and adopt smart management. We should also listen to those who fish for a living, including subsistence fishermen in smaller communities, as we adopt smart policy.

Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned, what, if any, legal changes would you propose in Alaska with regard to access to abortion?

Les Gara: I'm the only pro-choice candidate in this race, with the only record of supporting choice among the candidates. It's why I have the endorsement of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates (Planned Parenthood's endorsing arm). I do respect that Bill Walker says he will try to put his beliefs against choice to the side this time as Governor. Given Gov. Dunleavy's promise to try to eliminate the right to choose with a constitutional amendment, Walker will get my second ranking in November. I cannot vote for a candidate who promises to take away the right to choose, and who, like Gov. Dunleavy, opposes abortion even in cases of rape and incest. I'm the only candidate who has said I'll do what's truly needed to protect choice — ask future judges if they will uphold Alaska's caselaw protecting the right to choose. That's what keeps choice legal in Alaska. Alaska can lose our freedom on this and other issues just as they did at the federal level — with state Supreme Court Justices who reverse our pro-choice caselaw. I'll veto legislation that rolls back the right to choose, and work to expand safe contraception to a year-long prescription.

What will you do as governor to address climate change?

Les Gara: I have a record fighting climate change, while allowing responsible development. I voted for our Renewable Energy Fund, which put \$50 million annually into helping startup renewable energy projects across the state. Governor Dunleavy hasn't funded that amount once. I co-wrote Alaska's only rules requiring state,

school and University buildings to be built to cost-effective energy efficiency rules, reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. I believe in using our oil wealth to help build renewable energy projects across rural and urban Alaska. Renewable energy helps stem global warming, lowers energy costs, and puts people to work. To move forward, we need the revenue to do this, and ending Alaska oil company subsidies would help us move forward on a better, cleaner, lower cost energy policy.

How would you work with people who have different political viewpoints? Provide examples of how you have successfully done this in the past.

Les Gara: I believe in working across party lines, and always have. Policy and people take priority over political parties. I've worked across party lines, passing the largest reform for foster youth to succeed in life in state history, in 2018. I did that by passing it through a Republican-led Senate. Every Senator stood up one by one to co-sponsor that legislation. You have to build relationships with people, understand the fair goals of other legislators, and work together to find common ground. This Governor says he represents only those who voted for him. I believe you represent everyone, from every corner of this state. I've passed substantial legislation and policy as a legislator, by working across party lines, and convincing Republicans and Democrats to support good policy, and to ignore party affiliation.

How should Alaska Permanent Fund dividends be set?

Les Gara: We have to end the 10-year battle over the PFD, and recognize many people rely on it, but also recognize we can't make people fight between a PFD, schools, renewable energy, jobs, and the things that create a future. With a fair share for our oil, we'd be able to easily fund a strong PFD of over \$2,200, that grows annually, and that gets paid, not just falsely promised. By ending \$1.2 billion in oil company subsidies, we'd have the funds for a strong PFD. I supported this year's PFD and energy relief check added to the PFD, as we had high oil revenue because of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. But that's not a fiscal plan or the future. Without oil revenue in his first three years, this Governor made false PFD promises that came with no funding, resulting in an average \$1,230 PFD from 2019-2021. Governor Dunleavy voted for the \$1,000 vetoed PFD in 2016. He doesn't truly believe in a strong PFD, or he'd propose the funding for it. I'd fund a strong PFD, and not give away our oil wealth as he has. Under his plan we'll be back to cuts to everything, and a \$1,200 PFD once Russia's invasion of Ukraine ends.

What, if anything, needs to change about how candidates and elections are funded?

Les Gara: I believe in campaign donation limits, and have voted for them. Governor Dunleavy

admits he believes outsiders should be able to donate as much as they want with no dollar limits, and purposely chose not to appeal a ruling against our voter initiative-passed \$500 donation limit. Because of him, we are one of two states that allows unlimited campaign donations, and that is terrible policy.

How will you facilitate inter-governmental relationships with Alaska's 229 sovereign tribes?

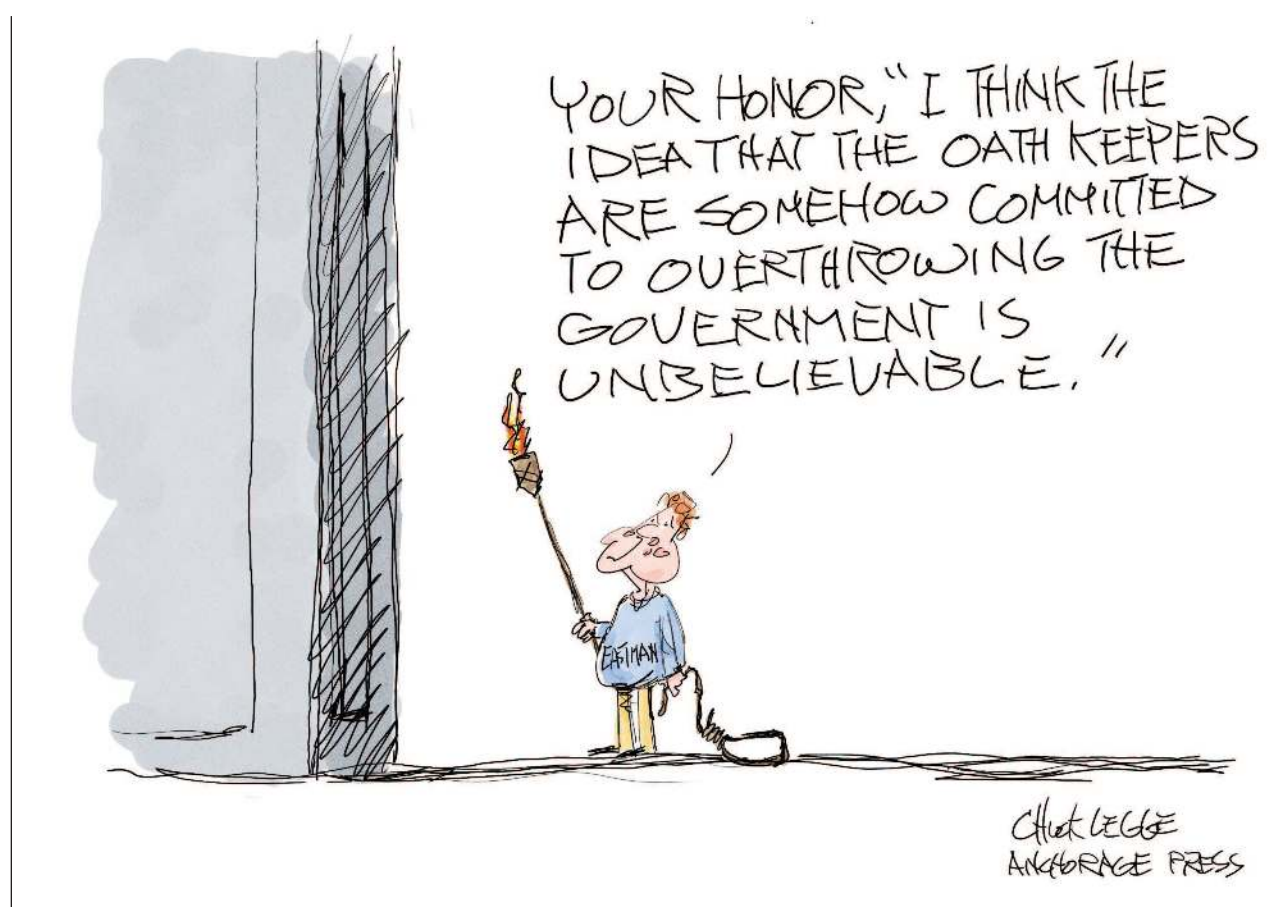
Les Gara: Tribal compacting works, and I have supported it. As a legislator I helped this by saying family members should be consulted before a child is placed in a strange foster home, and tribal entities know the good relative placements in a child's community. We have contracted with tribes to help identify healthy relative placements. We should adopt an effective version of the federal tribal consultation practice of public notice and involvement on projects that affect tribal lands and members.

What will you do to improve child care access and affordability in Alaska?

Les Gara: Other states have moved forward with models that help, and this Governor, instead, just vetoed \$4 million in child care assistance this summer. We should work on choosing the best, most effective of those plans. Other states, and the City of Juneau, have programs that, at no cost to providers, help train child-care workers to get the education they need to be better providers, and help supplement the wages of trained child care workers (Wage\$ in Tennessee for example). Colorado helps reduce the cost of care by aid to help pay for child care facility rent and fixed costs.

What other important issue would you like to discuss?

Les Gara: We should solve the problems this Governor has been silent on. We need fair school funding and teacher, police, firefighter and public servant benefits, so we can attract and retain the best professionals. Right now teachers, police, child protection workers, Marine Highway workers and firefighters just train in Alaska, at our cost, and then move to one of the 49 states with better pay, and that offer attractive pension benefits. I'm the only candidate who, when in office, proposed keeping school, including school busing funds up with the cost of inflation and who proposed reinstating a cost-effective pension plan. Today we are over \$100 million behind inflation on school funding just since 2014. I voted against the end of public servant pensions, knowing it would harm our ability to hire and retain teachers, police and other workers. I'm the only candidate who has tried to add them back. We also need to get police to the dozens of rural communities that have none. That's 19th century law enforcement, and is dangerous. And we have to solve Alaska's major shortage of mental health, counselling, children's mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals. That is harming lives.



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B2B Cannabis Platform LeafLink Tops \$1B in Payments Transactions

BY PYMNTS



B2B cannabis platform LeafLink has topped \$1 billion in transactions processed by its payments solutions since the company processed its first order in 2016. LeafLink processed these payments transactions for 1,700 operators in 22 markets, according to a Wednesday (Sept. 21) press release.

"LeafLink looks to the future of cannabis and constantly strives to elevate the ways retailers and brands transact with each other," LeafLink CEO and Co-Founder Ryan G. Smith said in the release. "As cannabis rapidly evolves, it is essential that our platform keeps up with the changing needs of our customers as we provide critical liquidity to the industry."

LeafLink's platform offers flexible and direct payments that let retailers and brands choose when and how they get paid, according to the release.

The platform also streamlines other parts of the operations of brands, distributors and retailers with tools that help them create, manage, pay for and ship their orders, the release stated.

"We are incredibly proud to reach the \$1 billion milestone in payments transactions and look forward to further expanding the LeafLink community in the coming years," Smith said in the release.

In addition to reaching the payments milestone, LeafLink processed \$5 billion in annual orders last year, accounting for 42% of the wholesale cannabis trade in the United States, per the release.

Those figures are up from the \$1 billion in annualized orders and 16% of all U.S. wholesale cannabis orders that were reported in 2019.

Read more by visiting: pymnts.com/news/ecommerce/2019/leaflink-cannabis-wholesale/

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Dagnabit!

Glory Days

BY MIKE GORDON

Construction of the Alyeska Pipeline took place from 1969 to 1977 and employed roughly 70,000 people. The actual construction started on March 27, 1975 and was completed on May 31, 1977. The first oil flowed down the pipe on June 20, 1977, traversing 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the north coast of Alaska to the port town of Valdez on the southern coast. And on the evening of August 1, 1977, the SS Arco Juneau sailed for the Atlantic Richfield refinery in Cherry Point, Washington with the first tanker full of black gold.

Once pipeline construction was complete, most of the workers from that boom time returned to the Lower 48, and it took a while for Alaska's economy to recover. But in the early '80s the state entered the period I refer to as the Glory Days

The pipeline craziness was over and the speculative craziness ramped up. Alaska was on a roll. Anything was possible and money was no object. Banks were lending money by the truckload and real estate developers with limitless credit were building shaky empires on Anchorage's unstable, earthquake-prone soil. There was only so much property to be had in the Anchorage bowl, and conventional wisdom held it would never be worth less. No one had ever lost money investing in Anchorage real estate—and never would.

Awash in petro-dollars, the State of Alaska eliminated the personal income tax and instituted the Permanent Fund Dividend. Legislators representing localities far and wide carved out big bucks from the state budget for an array of capital projects. Anchorage's Project '80s massively increased the city's infrastructure and quality of life by funding the expanding Coastal Trail, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, the Sullivan Arena, the Egan Convention Center, the Loussac Library, and more.

There was a cheering squad for any big project, no matter how grandiose—like moving the capitol to Willow, building a domed city in Denali Park, and turning the 874-foot-high Bodenbug Butte into an international destination with a tram hauling tourists to a fancy restaurant on the summit.

One real estate speculator, Pete Zamarello, told me (in such a way that I felt he was talking about me personally) that because of increasing property taxes, the average Anchorage business person soon would no longer be able to afford to own the property upon which his or her business was located. About that time his ubiquitous, unimaginative strip malls sprang up like invasive weeds. They did not sport Pete's name on them, but everyone knew who was building them. They were—and still are—an eye-sore and blight on the community, though admittedly housing some fine local small business operations.

Pete lived in a purple-colored mansion out near Turnagain-by-the-Sea subdivision. Like Pete, the house was loud, garish and didn't fit comfortably into its surroundings. Pete hated bankers. He bought a block-size tract of land across the street from National Bank of Alaska to the south—where GCI, Arby's, and the Matanuska Brewing Company are now—and bragged to me that he was going to erect a building higher than National Bank of Alaska so he could "piss down on Elmer." Elmer Rasmuson, (1909-2000), the president and chairman of that bank, was a former mayor of Anchorage and an unparalleled Alaskan philanthropist.

My nightclub, Chilkoot Charlie's, was booming. I was building a big new condo in Woodside East overlooking the greenbelt, and I was adding property and seating capacity to the club operation. I owned and stayed frequently in my two condos in Hawaii. Western Airlines had hooked a whole bunch of us Alaskans on Hawaii with their "triangle fare." If you were flying to Los Angeles you could stop over in Hawaii for nothing. Zero. Nada. I used to visit the islands whenever my tan would start to fade, for which I now pay the price of regular visits to my dermatologist.

I became close friends with a musical duo named Cecilio and Kapono, popularly known as C & K, who were all the rage in Hawaii during the '70s and '80s. They both looked Hawaiian, though Cecilio was Mexican as his name suggests. Henry Kapono is the only

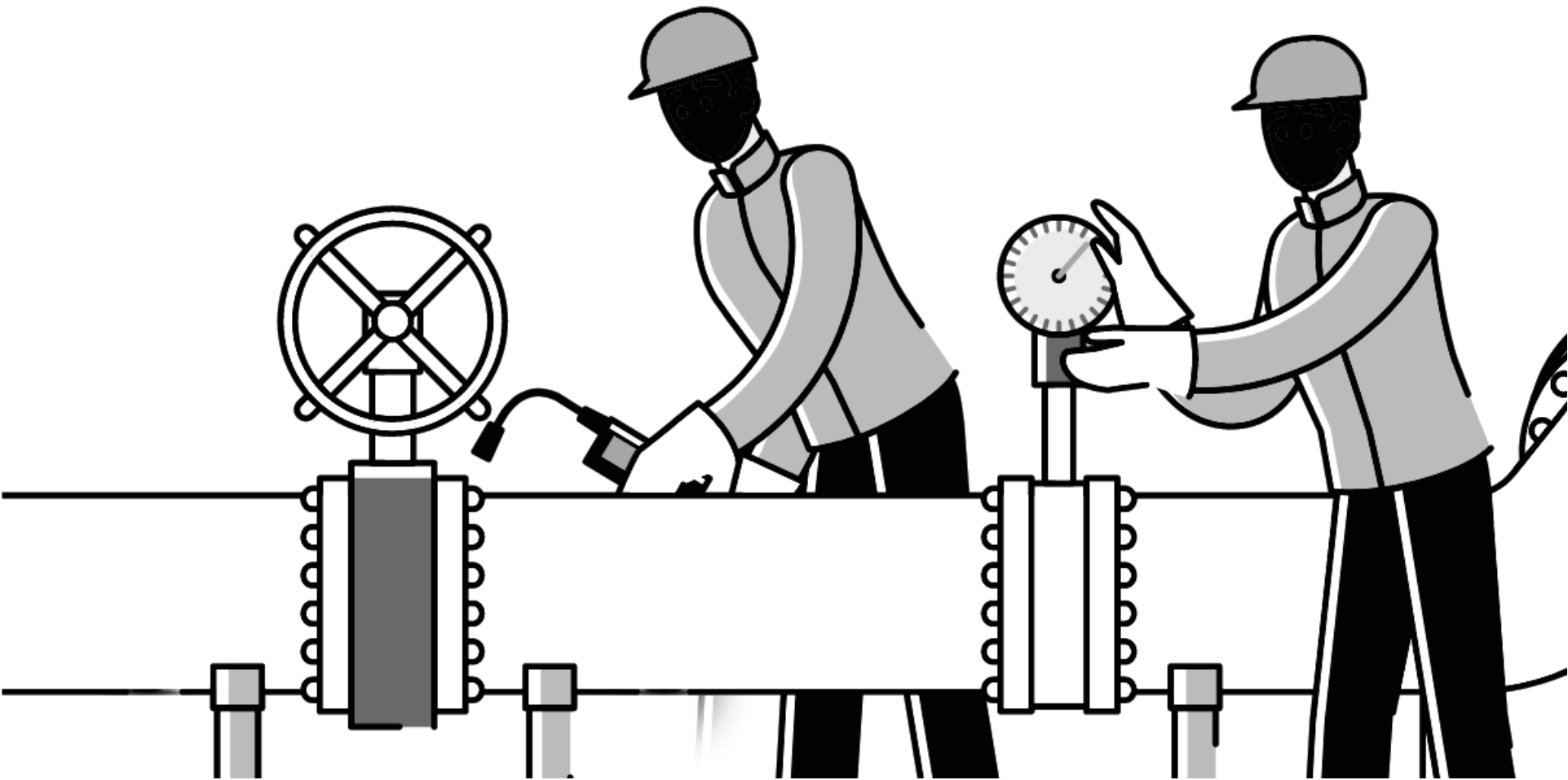
one-hundred-percent Hawaiian I ever met. He is also a world-class musician. The gods must have introduced C and K. I always compared their style of music to Seals and Croft. How they could harmonize! They successfully brought traditional Hawaiian music into the world of pop music but sadly were never able to make the leap to the mainland and national recognition.

One day out of the blue I received a phone call from Henry Kreutz, C & K's manager, asking if they might play a gig at Chilkoot Charlie's. I didn't have a suitable stage at the time. I hadn't yet added the Spenard Bingo Hall to the north, nor had I incorporated what used to be a fenced-in yard at the far southwest corner of the building, which is now the area occupied by the Ice Bar on the ground floor and the Russian Room upstairs.

I told Henry if he came to Anchorage he could stay at my home, and I'd see if I could get the boys a gig at Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. He and a friend named Mel Mossman did come to Anchorage, stayed with me, and I managed to get the duo a gig at the ski resort. Years later C & K played Koot's on several occasions. My niece, Teri, was fortunate enough to have the boys sing at her wedding reception at my Woodside East townhouse.

They once visited our little cabin in the woods on a wild adventure to Halibut Cove and many years later, in the role of "Pastor Mike," I performed the wedding ceremony for Henry Kreutz and his bride, Nalani, at our present home in the Cove. More recently, Henry's son Olin became a celebrity in Hawaii by playing center for the Chicago Bears. Henry went from being famous in his own right to being referred to as Olin's father. And proud father he was.

A lot of my friends were in the real estate business—several at Jack White Company—the top real estate brokerage firm in town and were amassing multi-million dollar portfolios. My wife, Shelli, and I earned real estate licenses ourselves. I hung my license at Jack White Company—an attempt at business diversification and to distance myself from the liquor industry. I naively thought I could hand off the operation of my nightclub to my management but I found that, as the saying goes,



“When the cat’s away the mice will play.”

Around this time, but when I no longer had my license hanging on their wall, I was invited to an afternoon holiday party at Jack White Company along with a lot of other investors, contractors, bankers, brokers, and the like. It was a nice affair with no shortage of beer and wine, so by the time I and a handful of my friends departed for the Chef’s Inn we were pretty lit up.

The Chef’s Inn, owned by Dale Mormon, was a hot spot at the northwest corner of Arctic Boulevard and Northern Lights Boulevard. It later became Blues Central and is now the Anchorage Billiard Palace, owned by my Irish whiskey drinking pal, Paul Schuldt. Dale always had amazingly good bartenders, any one of whom could individually serve the entire club when it was packed with people drinking heavily. The house specialty was roast beef French dip sandwiches that you prepared yourself. Another draw was the elevated dance floor. During the day patrons sat around it to eat lunch and dinner, and after dinner it was great fun for those who wanted to kick up their heels—that is until Dale’s insurance company put the kibosh on it.

Ever notice that insurance companies are no fun? They also put the kibosh on the once-flourishing hot-air balloon industry that festooned the sky above Anchorage with colorfully decorated orbs, the magnificent Chugach Range framing the background. As far as I know there had not been a single covered loss. Maybe I am delusional, but doesn’t that look like a business opportunity for insurance companies? Anyway, balloonists couldn’t afford the premiums, which let the air out of the fledgling industry.

Dale was an excellent bar operator and was married to a beautiful woman, but he had a monumental drinking problem, like a lot of operators of the era. He would regularly go to sleep with his head on the bar during business hours and had the uncanny ability to somehow or other remain aware of what was going on around him, lifting his head to rejoin a conversation or to give an order to an employee out of the middle of what appeared to be a coma. One afternoon a lady, upset about something or other, stepped over Dale—who was sprawled out on the floor in the middle of the aisle in front of the bar—and demanded to talk to the owner. The bartender said, “You just stepped over him, lady.”

Our group that afternoon at the Chef’s Inn was Terry Pfleiger (1943-2016), an agent at Jack White Company; Kris Gratrix (ca. 1945-2012), a commercial building contractor; Norman Rokeberg, then a leasing agent at Jack White Company; probably Buster Newton, a real estate developer; and yours truly. There might have been one or two others I can’t remember. I’ve already admitted we’d been drinking.

Kris Gratrix was a successful contractor, and beneath his gruff exterior pumped a kindly heart. But in junior high and high school he had been what might be called a “problem child.” My dad grew up on the rough streets of Pittsburgh, and as a coach at Central Junior High always gravitated toward kids like Kris, and they toward him. Kris remained friends with my dad until my dad’s death and would visit us every so often to pay his respects.

Kris was boisterous and tended to brag about his accomplishments. He had been gasconading for a good while at the Chef’s Inn that day and receiving a fair amount of ridicule because of it when Terry Pfleiger finally said, “Kris, I’ve figured out how to make a fortune.” Kris, in his cups and unsuspecting, took the bait.

“Yeah? How’s that?”

“I’m going to buy you for what you’re worth and sell you for what you think you’re worth.”

Well, that brought a lot of laughs from people around the table, but Kris was not one of the sources of laughter. He was a big, tough guy. And he was very pissed off. He stood up, grabbed the table around which we all sat and dumped it on end—all our drinks and glasses crashed to the floor. Then he headed straight for Terry, chairs and stools flying in every direction.

I leapt to my feet, getting myself between the David-and-Goliath mismatch that would have occurred if Kris made it to Terry. Kris was coming on like a bull

with a full head of steam when we collided and both lost our balance, falling into the wall with the full impact of both of us on my right shoulder. That incident was roughly forty years ago and I still can rarely go to sleep on my right side. I also suffer from restricted movement, chronic pain, and visible atrophy. As with the Charleston Express incident: no good deed goes unpunished, right?

Kris departed the havoc he’d created spewing a stream of curses and threats and piled into his brand new orange Corvette. We all watched as he threw it into reverse, stomped on the gas pedal, and roared backward smacking into a big unforgiving metal light pole in the club’s front parking lot. Then he swung the mangled car around and roared off down Northern Lights Boulevard, leaving steaming black tire marks and thick smoke in his wake.

The drinking probably resumed once the mess had been cleaned up, as did the rampant real estate speculation—until the mid-1980s oil glut and subsequent economic crash.

In an effort to chasten wayward members of the OPEC cartel, or as some might assert, to crater the Soviet economy, Saudi Arabia’s oil minister opened the spigots in the desert kingdom and flooded the world market with black goo. Few were left standing in the aftermath of the financial tsunami that hit oil patches everywhere, including Alaska with its almost totally oil-dependent economy.

Alaskans in search of work began leaving the state in droves. They’d just drop their house keys off at Alaska Housing Finance Corporation on their way south and haul what, after a garage sale, remained of their personal belongings down the Alcan Highway.

People have said to me, “Well, people still drink. It mustn’t have been a problem for Chilkoot Charlie’s.”

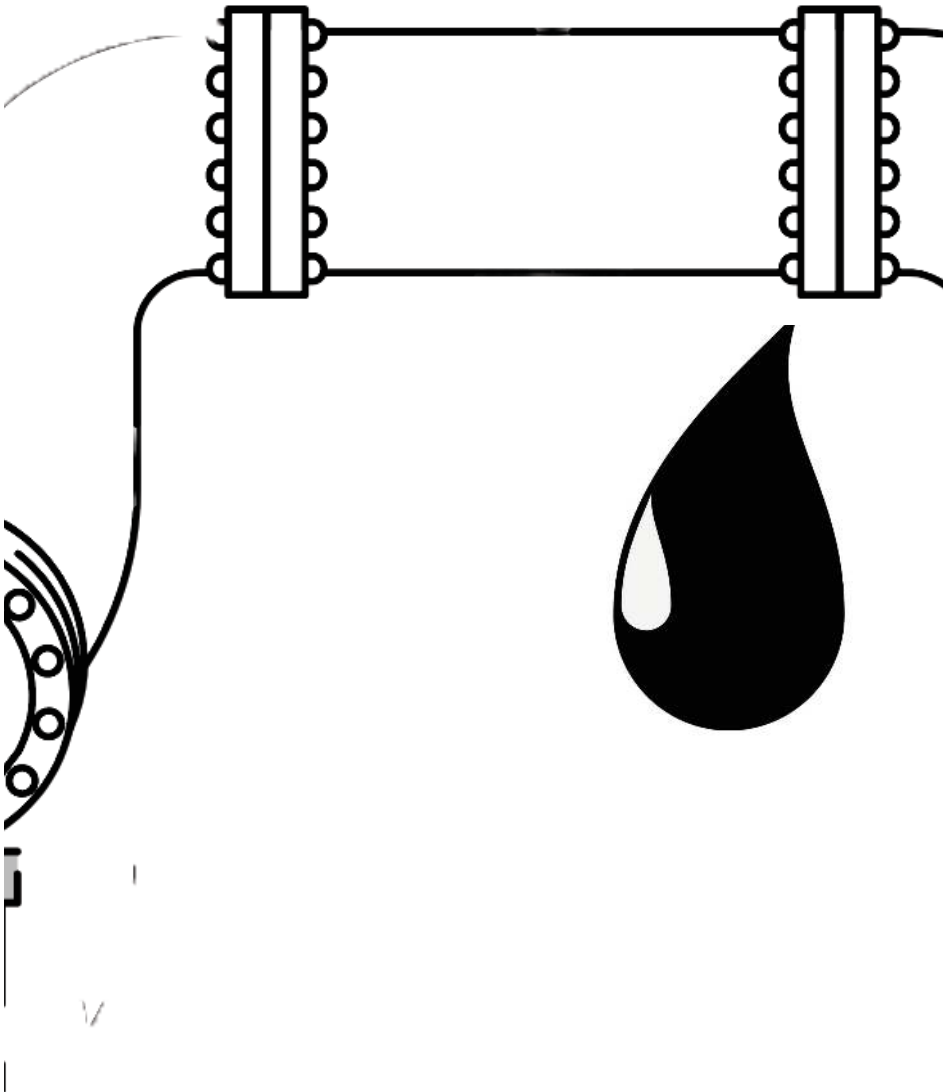
Wrong. Just for the record, the bar business depends on expendable income. People still drink when the economy sours, but they find less expensive ways to do it—like going out once a week instead of two or three times, drinking a six-pack in their car in the parking lot before entering the bar, hiding a pint bottle in their coat, or going to a house party instead.

From Yamani’s figurative opening of the Saudi oil spigot in the fall of 1985 to Joseph Hazelwood’s literal ramming of the Exxon Valdez into Bligh Reef in March 1989, I suspect one of the only people turning a profit in Alaska was the one that owned the U-Haul franchise. Ironically, Hazelwood’s colossal ineptitude created such a mess that Exxon’s efforts to clean it up rejuvenated the Alaskan economy.

By the time the economy did come around again, I was on my third banker. I had done a work-out with the Small Business Administration and Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, I had borrowed all my life insurance cash values, emptied my IRA account, taken a second mortgage on my home, and sold those two lovely condos in Hawaii. I sold one to a Japanese buyer for cash, deposited the money in my business checking account, and watched it disappear like a diamond ring down the bathroom sink.

As Cecilio might have said in his native tongue, “Adios.”

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.



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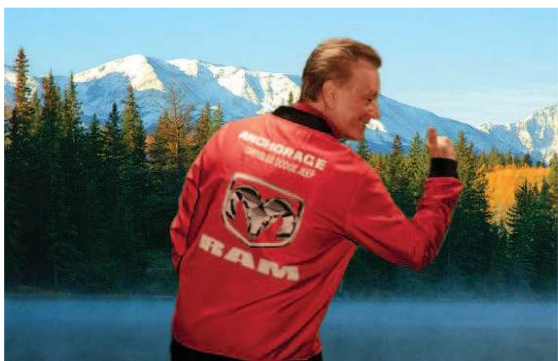


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