



**ALASKA NATIVE NYCHE ANDREW
CONTINUES ADVOCACY WORK AT YALE**

ANCHORAGE PRESS

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The 2022 Press Picks are coming!

We've been fielding a lot of questions lately about the 2022 edition of Press Picks. Traditionally, the annual contest kicks off in September, but this year, we wanted to work on fine-tuning our voting process in hopes of making it much smoother this go around. So, while we haven't started accepting nominations yet, they are right around the corner. Below are some dates to keep in mind.

October 24-31: Nomination Period

November 3-10: Voting Period

December 8: Winners Announced

The dates aren't the only thing we're changing up this year. We have also done a deep dive into our categories. In the past, there have been a number of overlapping categories such as best taco and best Mexican food. This year, we're combining some categories to up the ante on taking home top honors. In 2022, if you're in the restaurant business, you'll be judged on the overall strength of your menu, staff, and ambiance, rather than on a particular dish. Of course, there are a few exceptions, like Best Pho – with so many pho offerings in Anchorage, we wanted to know once and for all, who is the king or queen of noodles.

We've also nixed the locations categories. After all, Press Picks is about celebrating Anchorage businesses, rather than pointing out the best places to break up. We know some people might be bummed to see this section get the chop – heck, some of our staff were sad to see it go – but we are standing firm on our desire to celebrate rather than shade, local businesses.

While we have shaved off a few categories, rest assured that there are still hundreds of categories to vote on.

In the words of Effie Trinket, "May the odds be ever in your favor."

*O'Hara Shipe
Managing Editor*

PRESS PICKS



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In South Anchorage and Girdwood state Senate race, candidates confront crime fears

Roger Holland, Roselynn Cacy and Cathy Giessel are competing to represent Senate District E

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Even before his truck was stolen, Anchorage Republican Sen. Roger Holland had been hearing from his constituents about crime.

As he seeks re-election on Nov. 8, he's made the topic a top issue, but so have his two challengers, Democratic candidate Roselynn Cacy and Republican Cathy Giessel, the former Senate president whom Holland defeated in the Republican primary two years ago.

Different approaches on crime

Online, incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy has trumpeted a recent statistical report that found a steep decline in reported crimes.

Voters aren't feeling that decline on the Anchorage Hillside, Holland said. As he talks to residents, he's hearing about items taken from cars and yards at night.

"I can't help but think we're just a little too soft on crime," Holland said.

His truck, an older-model red vehicle, featured heavily in his 2020 campaign, but when he left it at a repair shop to be fixed, someone took it right out of the lot.

"That's the kind of thing that's going on right now," he said.

In her campaign, Giessel is hearing similar complaints about crime.

"As I go door to door, people are bringing up the issue of crime, stolen vehicles. Just stolen stuff, people getting into an unlocked car in their driveway and ruffling through it. So there isn't a sense in these subdivisions that actually crime is down," Giessel said.

She said the failure of the Alaska Legislature to restore a pension plan for police and firefighters has hurt municipal and state efforts to hire more police.

Alaska eliminated its defined-benefit pension plan for public employees in 2006, and a bill to restore that program for public safety employees died in the Senate this spring after passing the House.

"That's an important way of addressing that crime issue," Giessel said.

Cacy also supports the restoration of a pension program and said that more broadly, Alaska needs to restore funding for programs that offer residents reasons to stay away from crime.

"I think we need to do the things that make being a criminal a waste of time — providing education, jobs, skills, apprenticeship programs and supporting our kids in whatever they want to do that is healthy and good for them, whether it's sports or arts or music. We need to support things that would make people not want to steal something," she said.

Candidates close in primary

Cacy is a tax adviser with an MBA and worked for former U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel. She now serves on the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council. Giessel has worked as an advanced nurse practitioner and served for a decade as a state senator before losing to Holland. The incumbent is a retired member of the Coast Guard Reserves who formerly worked for the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

In the Aug. 16 primary elections, each candidate received roughly a third of the votes in their broad South Anchorage senate district that covers Girdwood and Whittier.

Giessel had a slight edge in those results, followed by Cacy and Holland, but Holland noted that the mix of voters in November may be different and will use ranked-choice voting.

Giessel and Cacy each declined to say who they will rank second. Holland noted the Alaska Republican Party's "rank the red" campaign but said he considers Giessel "a textbook Republican in name only" and will not rank her.

Before redistricting, their district had a stronger Republican lean than it does now, but a composite of results from prior elections shows it still tilts towards Republican candidates.

Campaign finance reports show Cacy has raised just over \$7,300 through Oct. 7. Holland has reported raising \$38,297 during the same period, including \$5,000 from Lucy Bauer of Anchorage and \$2,000 from fellow Republican state Sen. Shelley Hughes of Palmer.

Giessel has raised \$97,392 in the same period, including a pair of \$5,000 donations from John and Laura Arnold, Texas billionaires who have donated to moderate and bipartisan causes nationwide.

Housing a priority

In Girdwood, where single-family home prices are more than 50% above Alaska's statewide average, the three candidates said they've heard plenty of concern about housing.

Giessel said she doesn't have a "brilliant idea" about how to solve the issue, but said it could involve extended subsidies through the state-owned Alaska Housing Finance Corp.

Holland said he would like to see the state make more land available for construction but believes most of the solution will probably come from the municipal level, "trying to minimize regulations or change our inspection policies to make where it's easier to build in Anchorage."

Cacy said she's heard complaints about housing costs on the Hillside, not just in Girdwood. She suggested the state should seek to direct money from the 2021 federal infrastructure law toward water, sewer and road construction to support new homes in the district.

She said Anchorage's community councils have suggestions but feels they're not being heard.



"So I would like to connect the community councils and all of the other recommendations to look at what we can do about water, sewer, when we build houses and how to build them so you can afford to live on them but still they're good for the environment," she said.

Permanent Fund dividend arguments await

All three candidates expect the next legislative session will continue perennial legislative arguments over the future of the Permanent Fund dividend.

Cacy is a former treasurer for the Permanent Fund Defenders, a group that has advocated a constitutionally guaranteed dividend.

She said she supports using the traditional dividend distribution formula written in the 1980s. That formula has not been used since 2016, largely because it creates a deficit at lower oil prices.

Under the budget passed by the Legislature this spring, using the traditional formula would create a deficit of about \$600 million. Asked how she would balance the budget under the traditional formula, Cacy said she would not support service cuts and suggested the state could instead turn to more in the way of "designated funds," a budgetary term that refers to fees, grants and sources of revenue not involving taxes.

Holland said he also supports using the traditional formula but would like to see the payout deflated by transferring money out of the Permanent Fund and into the Constitutional Budget Reserve. Because the traditional formula uses the value of the Permanent Fund as a basis for setting the dividend, reducing the amount of money in the fund would reduce the cost of dividends while fulfilling the constitutional requirement to repay the budget reserve for past spending, he said.

Giessel said she supports a dividend plan called the "75-25," which would pay dividends using one-quarter of the annual cash transfer from the Alaska Permanent Fund to the state treasury.

If that formula had been used this year, it would have resulted in a payout of about \$1,300 per recipient.

Giessel said a budget with a dividend at that level would be stable regardless of the price of oil.

"I would like to see us get off of watching the oil price each day and then deciding how much we can spend. We've got to restore the Constitutional Budget Reserve and we've got to create a stable budget with planned capital expenditures," she said.

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A young woman with long dark hair, wearing blue medical scrubs and a stethoscope, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing against a light blue background.

The logo for Nightingale College, featuring a stylized flame icon above the text "NIGHTINGALE COLLEGE".

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.28 Million Grant to Kodiak Island Borough in Alaska Under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s First Bridge Investment Program Grants

Project will help plan for improvements to Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges

BY FHWH PRESS OFFICE

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today announced that it has awarded a \$1.28 million grant to Alaska’s Kodiak Island Borough under the first round of grants from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s competitive Bridge Investment Program. These early planning grants, going to 23 projects in 23 states, will help fund early phases of project development to create a pipeline of bridge construction projects, one of many ways in which the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help build, repair, and replace tens of thousands of bridges in communities across the country.

The Kodiak Island Borough in Alaska will receive \$1.28 million for the Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges’ Planning Study and other activities necessary to replace the two bridges in this rural area.

“Bridges represent more than just their physical structures—they connect people and communities and make it easier to go about our daily lives,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “These grants will help communities across the country move forward to modernize their bridges and make it easier for people and goods to move quickly, reliably, and safely to their destinations.”

In total, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Bridge Investment Program will make the single largest dedicated investment in bridges – \$12.5 billion over five years, with nearly \$2.4 billion available in Fiscal Year 2022 – since the construction of the Interstate highway system. The first round of planning grants under the Bridge Investment Program will provide \$18.4 million in Fiscal

Year 2022 funding for 23 projects in 23 states.

“Across the nation, the Biden-Harris Administration is making historic investments in thousands of bridges, which often serve as a community’s or region’s most important transportation link,” said Deputy Transportation Secretary Polly Trottenberg. “These Bridge Planning Grants will be used to create a pipeline of future bridge construction projects to improve safety, add or improve multi-modal access, support economic competitiveness, and to provide resilient highway infrastructure that is better able to withstand the effects of climate change.”

The full list of grant awards can be found on the FHWA web site: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/planninggrants2022/>

Planning grants under the Bridge Investment Program are available for projects in the early phases of project development, where eligible activities include planning, feasibility analysis, and revenue forecasting. By providing planning grants in addition to construction grants, US DOT can aid in the development stage of a project – whether owned by a state, a city, or a local community – that could then later be eligible to apply for a construction grant through a range of competitive grant programs where bridge projects are eligible, including the Bridge Investment Program, MEGA, INFRA, and RURAL, based on criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

“The Bridge Planning program will help create a pipeline of bridge projects that can potentially be awarded construction grants during the implementation of President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These planning grants were all made at the requested funding amounts for bridges that are critical to working people living in communities across the country,” said Acting



FILE — In this Nov. 10, 2020, file photo President-elect Joe Biden smiles as he speaks at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del. President-elect Biden turns 78 on Friday, Nov. 20. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster; File)

Federal Highway Administrator Stephanie Pollack. “Through the Bridge Investment Program, we are helping communities as they plan to restore and replace bridges that play vital roles for the people who use them in their daily lives. Planning for these activities is a critical step before construction can get underway.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a total of \$20 million in FY 2022 funding for Bridge Planning grants. FHWA will reserve the remaining \$1.6 million to award to projects identified under the upcoming Large Bridge Project grant awards that may be better suited for a planning grant than a construction grant.



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Dagnabit: Hogg Brothers Cafe

DAGNABIT!
BY MIKE GORDON

My friend David White was attending a community college in Hayward, California. He had just finished a cooking course, in the fall of 1976, when he decided to drive up the Alcan Highway to Anchorage. At the time he knew only one person in the entire state of Alaska—Michael Kerr, and although the state’s economy was still booming, pipeline construction was nearly finished. The first oil would begin its journey to Valdez the next summer.

Upon arriving in Anchorage, David first acquired a job at La Mex, a very popular Mexican restaurant across the street from Chilkoot Charlie’s on Spenard Road, and then worked as a manager for a while at Big Boy Burger, also on Spenard Road. One day he saw people loading food and supplies into a truck from a small restaurant wedged between two businesses: the Friendly Fireside Lounge and Spenard Bingo, both just to the north of Chilkoot Charlie’s.

The former was the Swing Bar (today it is a pot shop) and the latter is now the main stage area of Chilkoot Charlie’s. The movers said they were heading to Fairbanks and told David he could have the space if he wanted it—all he needed was money to replace the food and supplies they were removing.

Fifty feet away, on the other side of Spenard Bingo, I was operating Chilkoot Charlie’s. At the time it was a bustling twenty-five-foot by one-hundred-foot raucous and rustic Alaskan saloon. My manager, Cliff Martin, aka Crazy Cliff, or just Craze, worked in a colorful Hollywood Indian outfit, including the big, black, high-topped hat sporting a big upright black feather.

I would show up at night wearing long-handled underwear, a fur-lined jock strap on the outside, Bunny boots, an Australian Outback hat, and a kazoo in my mouth. Eventually, I found an authentic WWI infantry uniform, leggings and all, and a dark blue fabric flying helmet with goggles. Add a white scarf and bingo—you had Rocky the Flying Mutherfucker—a XXX-rated Spenardian takeoff on the Rocky and Bullwinkle television cartoon series popular at the time.

If you remember Rocky paddling the canoe with Bullwinkle, Natasha, and Boris seated in it as the latter cried “Strook! Strook!” through a bullhorn in his Soviet spy accent, you are probably collecting Social Security checks each month.

When David and Michael approached me for a loan to start their restaurant, I happily staked them with \$500 against future chili sales in the club. To promote business in their startup café, they both gamboled around the club in the inch or two of peanut shells on the floor serving hors d’oeuvres while wearing plastic porcine noses and oinking loudly. The practice might have been scoffed at by Madison Avenue types, but it worked, and another landmark operation had begun in the heart of Spenard.

David and his fun-loving roommates in the Bay Area had derived their gang’s nickname from their refrigerator (filled mostly with beer) that had its brand name, Hogg Brothers Custom, emblazoned in metal letters on the front door. They were the Hogg Brothers, and their name survived the lengthy drive up the Alcan Highway to become David’s chosen name for the new Spenard eating institution.

David tells me the front window frame for the café came from an old mining shack in Hatcher Pass, adding an authentic Alaskan touch to the decor. The logo was three colorful oinkers, as I recall, and the place was decorated with porcine paraphernalia, large and small, lovingly donated by patrons. Shelli and I purchased and donated the stuffed head of a wild boar that we found at a garage sale, but the boys rejected it.

David said, “It looks like it died the death of psoriasis!” Which reminds me.

Early-on in the history of Chilkoot Charlie’s I came across one of the weirdest investments of a lifetime. A guy was selling his booth at the Alaska State Fair. It was a three-sided plywood structure with a curtain across the front; the whole thing was colorfully painted inside and out with depictions of a two-headed pig. Comments like AMAZING, ONE-OF-A-KIND, WEIRD and STRANGE in large black letters described what was on display inside. ONLY \$1.00!!! A passerby would perhaps expect to see a real, live, two-headed pig in there.

There was, in fact, a two-headed pig inside the booth, but it was about a foot long and in a jar of formaldehyde. The pig and the booth were all mine for only \$500. Though I never set up the booth at the club or the fair, I did put the pig in the jar on display behind the bar. I am told by a reliable source that it is still there.

The Hogg Brothers Café initially served sandwiches, burgers, and omelets all day long. They tried operating at night for a time, but it was too rowdy despite being, and remaining, sort of neutral ground where partiers could break bread

in peace. Patrons who were 86ed from Chilkoot Charlie’s had a habit of shifting their activities to the Friendly Fireside Lounge—watering hole of last resort—located on the other side of The Hogg Brothers Café.

I and my staff would sometimes sit cozily among these 86ed patrons in the café and although relations were naturally somewhat strained, as a credit to the establishment, I don’t recall anyone ever breaking the peace.

The café eventually, and wisely, settled for the breakfast and lunch trade. It soon became everybody’s favorite place to cure a hangover and goggle at a waitress named Angie, a pretty, vivacious young gal with a beautiful smile who was in the habit of wearing a see-through white blouse that profiled her full breasts. Not surprisingly, Angie’s tip jar was the envy of all.

As if David’s fun-loving, outgoing personality and Angie’s smile and profile weren’t enough to keep customers coming back there was a permanent crew of characters installed at the Hogg Brothers, including Viene Yorke, Ready Freddie (Larry) Cole, and Garrett Hawkins. After about a year and a half, Mike left to take a job as a code violations inspector at the Municipality of Anchorage, a position that better suited his personality.

Underpinning everything was David’s love of cooking and dedication to the quality of his ingredients. The place cranked out killer omelets and burgers. Portions were large and prices were reasonable. At any given time, you’d find hung-over lawyers in suits sitting next to hung-over pipeline workers in Carhartt overalls listening to the blaring music of Led Zeppelin, their heads buried in their newspapers, glancing furtively at Angie’s beguiling profile while pigging out on massive omelets accompanied by heaps of home-fried potatoes. My favorite omelet was the Tierra: cheese, avocado, tomato, Canadian bacon, and sour cream, \$6.00. Add Tabasco. It was to die for.

There was nothing pretentious or fancy about the Hogg Brothers Café. It was a “greasy spoon,” but it was everybody’s favorite “greasy spoon.” Not only were David and I such good friends that we made the yearly pilgrimage to the duck flats across Cook Inlet on opening day of duck-hunting season, but our employees were all friends with each other as well.

Chilkoot Charlie’s had an annual holiday party that was held during those years at the Rabbit Creek Inn on the Old Seward Highway just beyond Rabbit Creek Road. Owners and staff of the Hogg Brothers Café, Arctic Music Co., K & L Distributors, plus our lawyer and accountant, were all invited. These were formal but raucous affairs with scripted agendas and some of the most fun I ever had.

We ridiculed one another, presented real and comical gifts, told off-color stories on employees that probably would end in a lawsuit today, and cured our hangovers in the morning over omelets at the Hogg Brothers Café. I am told that on one such morning we threw down shots of Jagermeister and danced around the kitchen. Just for the record, I can neither confirm nor deny that.

In 1985, with the original Hogg Brothers Café in Spenard doing well, David made a foray into the Kenai Peninsula by opening a location in Anchor Point. He operated there for about a year until he found a building on Pioneer Avenue in Homer. There, he had a restaurant/eating place license and by all accounts the place was successful. But he also had a sublease, and the guy with the lease jacked up the monthly payment on him. Unable to find another location, he just closed it up.

All good things do come to an end. The lady that owned the Friendly Fireside Lounge, who was David’s landlord, sold out to me. A major Spenard character, Vern Rollins, threw in with David’s ex-landlord and Viene Yorke, bought David’s interest, and they moved the Hogg Brothers Café to Northern Lights Boulevard where the Spenard Roadhouse is now. It didn’t last long. The atmosphere was gone. It felt like you were eating in a school cafeteria. Also gone were David’s welcoming presence and his focus on quality, not to mention Angie’s profile.

David left Alaska in 1988 and went to work as a neurology technician at Ohio County Hospital in Hartford, Kentucky, about an hour and a half west of Louisville. He is still chief technician and trainer there, but his love of cooking also landed him back in the restaurant business. For over a dozen years now he has owned and operated a Hartford restaurant named Capers. He has a full liquor license and serves dinners with nothing but five-star reviews. Capers is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday for lunch and dinner and Sunday for breakfast.

A couple of years ago Shelli and I, after visiting with my daughter’s family in New Mexico, flew to St. Louis to visit with Jack Kent and Jan, then went on to Tennessee to see one of Shelli’s brothers. Since we were in the “neighborhood,” we drove to Hartford, Kentucky to visit with David.

He hadn’t changed a bit. He welcomed us with open arms and friends of his put us up in their comfortable home on pilings right next to the Green River. We had the opportunity to dine at Capers several times, including breakfast the last day, but since I haven’t eaten meat in over twenty years, I took a pass on the kindly proffered Tierra omelet.





ARIES: "Magic Realism Bot" is a Twitter account that generates ideas for new fairy tales. Since you will benefit from imagining your life as a fairy tale in the coming weeks, I'll offer you a few possibilities. 1. You marry a rainbow. The two of you have children: a daughter who can sing like a river and a son who is as gleeful as the wind. 2. You make friends with a raven that gives you savvy financial advice. 3. You invent a new kind of dancing; it involves crying and laughing while making holy prayer gestures toward your favorite star. 4. An angel and a lake monster join forces to help you dream up fun new adventures. 5. You discover a field of enchanted dandelions. They have the power to generate algorithms that reveal secrets about where to find wonders and marvels.

TAURUS: On February 1, 1976, singer Elvis Presley was partying with buddies at his home in Memphis, Tennessee. As the revelry grew, he got an impetuous longing for an 8,000-calorie sandwich made with French bread, peanut butter, blueberry preserves, and slabs of bacon. Since this delicacy was only available at a certain restaurant in Denver, Colorado, Elvis and his entourage spontaneously hopped onto his private jet and flew 900 miles to get there. In accordance with astrological omens, Taurus, I encourage you to summon an equally keen determination to obtain pleasurable treasures. Hopefully, though, they will be more important than a sandwich. The odds of you procuring necessary luxuries that heal and inspire are much higher than usual.

GEMINI: In accordance with astrological omens, I ask you to embody Giovanni's attitude. Shed any worries that your caring and trying and loving have been blunders. Celebrate them, be proud of them, and promise yourself that you will keep caring and trying and loving. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to renew your commitment to your highest goodness.

CANCERIAN: "I was born near Amarillo, Texas, where the US Energy Department stores over 20,000 plutonium cores from old nuclear warheads. Perhaps that explains some of my brain's mutant qualities. I'm not normal. I'm odd and iconoclastic. On the other hand, I don't think my peculiarity makes me better than anyone. It's just who I am. I love millions of people who aren't as quirky as me, and I enjoy communicating with unweird people as much as I do with weirdos. Everything I just said is a preamble for my main message, Cancerian: The coming weeks will be prime time for you to give extra honor and credit to your personal eccentricities, even if they comprise a minor part of your personality.

LEO: What reminds you, even in your fragments, that you are whole? Now is an excellent time to identify the people, animals, and influences that help you generate a sense of unity and completeness. Once you're clear about that, spend quality time doing what you can to nurture those healers. Maybe you can even help them feel more cohesion and harmony in themselves.

VIRGO: Virgo journalist Sydney J. Harris described "the three hardest tasks in the world." He said they weren't "physical feats nor intellectual achievements, but moral acts." Here they are: 1. to return love for hate; 2. to include the excluded; 3. to say "I was wrong." I believe you will have a special talent for all three of these brave actions in the coming weeks, Virgo. Amazingly, you're also more likely than usual to be on the receiving end of those brave actions. Congratulations in advance!

LIBRA: Libran poet W. S. Merwin had a teacher who advised him, "Don't lose your arrogance yet. You can do that when you're older. Lose it too soon, and you may merely replace it with vanity." I think that counsel is wise for you to meditate on right now. Here's how I interpret it: Give honor and respect to your fine abilities. Salute and nurture your ripe talents. Talk to yourself realistically about the success you have accomplished. If you build up your appreciation for what is legitimately great about you, you won't be tempted to resort to false pride or self-absorbed egotism.

SCORPIO: In his absurdist play *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett offers us two characters, Vladimir and Estragon, who patiently wait for a white-bearded man named Godot. They're convinced he will provide them with profound help, perhaps even salvation. Alas, although they wait and wait and wait, Godot never arrives. Near the end, when they have abandoned hope, Vladimir says to Estragon, "We are not saints, but we have kept our appointment." My sense is that you Scorpions, like Vladimir and Estragon, may be close to giving up your own vigils. Please don't! I believe your personal equivalent to Godot will ultimately appear. Summon more patience.

SAGITTARIUS: Poet Charles Wright has testified, "I admire and revere and am awed by a good many writers. But Emily Dickinson is the only writer I've ever read who knows my name, whose work has influenced me at my heart's core, whose music is the music of songs I've listened to and remembered in my very body." In my astrological reckoning, now is an excellent time for you Sagittarians to identify artists and creators who provide you with similar exaltation. And if there are no Emily Dickinson-type influences in your life, find at least one! You need to be touched and transformed by sublime inspiration.

CAPRICORN: I've read and studied poetry for many years, but only recently discovered Capricorn poet Lizette Woodworth Reese (1856–1935). How is it possible I missed her? Her contemporary, journalist H. L. Mencken, described her work as "one of the imperishable glories of American literature." She received many other accolades while alive. But today, she is virtually unknown, and many of her books are out of print. In bringing her to your attention, I am announcing my prediction about you: Anything in your life that resembles Reese's reputation will change in the next 12 months. If you have until now not gotten the recognition or gratitude you deserve, at least some of it will arrive.

AQUARIUS: Author Sophia Dembling defines a friend as a person who consoles you when you're feeling desperate and with whom you don't feel alone. A friend is someone whose life is interesting to you and who is interested in your life. Maybe most importantly, a friend must not be boring. What's your definition, Aquarius? Now is an excellent time to get clear about the qualities you want in a friend. It's also a favorable phase to seek out vital new friendships as you de-emphasize mediocre and overly demanding alliances.

PISCES: Do you or do you not wish to capitalize on the boost that's available? Are you or are you not going to claim and use the challenging gift that would complicate your life but also expedite your growth? Act soon, Pisces! If you don't, the potential dispensation may disappear. This is an excellent chance to prove you're not afraid of achieving more success and wielding more power. I hope you will summon the extra courage necessary to triumph over shyness and timidity. Please claim your rightful upgrade!



DAN SAVAGE'S SAVAGE LOVE

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

I'm a 31-year-old cis man married to a 33-year-old non-binary partner, and our relationship has always been very vanilla. Over the past few years, I've discovered that I'm a kinky person, with a particular interest in both domination and submission. It took me a long time to summon the courage to bring this up with my spouse, as they have a cocktail of factors that could complicate play around power dynamics. This includes a history of trauma and sexual abuse, anxiety, body image, and self-esteem issues, and residual religious guilt. In the past, even discussing sex and sexuality in the abstract has been fraught. But our first conversation went surprisingly well. My spouse is cautiously open to exploring submission, and they want to continue the conversation. I have real optimism that centering consent, boundaries, and communication in D/s play might actually make sex feel safer for them. And I hope that isn't just dickful thinking. So, now I'm the dog that caught the car and I'm terrified of messing this up. What advice would you give to gently ease into D/s play from a vanilla relationship? Can you recommend any books or podcasts that approach this kink at a firmly JV level and center safety and consent? My spouse is a reader and an academic at heart, and that might be a way to explore the idea from within their comfort zone.

- Don't Overwhelm My Spouse

"Let me address the elephant in the room right away," said Rena Martine. "Why on earth would a survivor of sexual trauma actually want to engage in D/s sex?"

Martine is a sexual intimacy coach who has helped couples explore BDSM and other forms of erotic power exchange. She's also a former sex crimes prosecutor, which makes her particularly sensitive to issues faced by survivors of sexual assault and abuse.

"When it comes to trauma, there's a concept known as 'restaging,'" said Martine, "which means the trauma survivor takes a situation where they felt powerless and 'restages' it, so they're actually in the director's chair and choosing to give up some of that control."

While BDSM isn't therapy, some people who have submissive desires and traumatic sexual histories find giving up control to a trusted partner empowering and low-key therapeutic. Instead of control being something an untrustworthy abuser took from them, control becomes a precious thing they loaned to someone they could trust. And when they handed it over, they knew it would be returned, either at a set time or immediately if the sub used their safe word.

"Research by Dr. Justin Lehmler tells us that victims of sex crimes are actually more likely than nonvictims to fantasize about almost all aspects of BDSM," added Martine. "Anyone who's curious about the science of sexual fantasies should read his book, *Tell Me What You Want*. And Holly Richmond's *Reclaiming Pleasure* is a great starting point for any sexual assault survivor."

Before you attempt to engage in D/s play or even begin to discuss your fantasies in detail, Martine recommends thinking about the emotional needs that shape these fantasies.

"What is it about domination and submission that appeals to each of them?" Martine said. "What aspects of D/s play are they excited about? Having a conversation about the 'why' will ensure they can each approach this new dynamic from a place of compassion and safety."

Now, if you give thought to the "why," DOMS, and your honest answer is, "Because it turns me on," that's good enough. And if your spouse's honest answer is, "Because my partner is interested in this and I'm interested in exploring it," that's good enough.

While some people into BDSM can point to one specific experience or something that shaped them more broadly (like a religious upbringing), you don't need to justify your interest in D/s or BDSM by making a list of traumatic experiences. If this kind of play—this kind of theater for two—turns you both on, that's a perfectly valid reason to explore D/s play. As for getting started, Martine had a really good suggestion.

"My favorite newbie recommendation for easing into D/s play is using a sleep mask," said Martine. "It's innocuous, easy to remove, and gives each player a chance to practice surrendering control by giving up one of their five senses."

Taking a baby step like that—playing with a simple blindfold and nothing else—is a great way to test the waters while you keep talking about other "junior varsity" kinks you and your spouse feel safe exploring together.

"And for general D/s tips," said Martine, "check out Lina Dune's *Ask A Sub* podcast." Follow Rena Martine on Instagram [@_rena.martine](https://www.instagram.com/_rena.martine).



Squirrely behavior

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

Sometimes when we least expect it, we stumble into small wonders that enlarge our understanding of the world, or deepen our appreciation of the wild beings with whom we share the landscape.

This happened to me recently while walking along the Turnagain Arm Trail, at Anchorage’s southern fringes. I’d taken a side path to an open rocky bench that offers sweeping views of Cook Inlet and adjoining lands, and was headed back to the main trail, when off to my right I noticed a most curious thing: a tree cavity stuffed with a dozen or so bright red rose hips.

About head high—which means some 5 to 6 feet off the ground—the cache had been placed in a dead cottonwood, the tree’s upper parts snapped off and a hole pecked into its trunk by some cavity-nesting bird.

The bird must have abandoned its efforts, because the hole—about two inches across—appeared too shallow to serve as a nest. But it proved large enough for an enterprising animal to store some food, that critter almost certainly a squirrel (which may have widened the entryway a bit to make its job easier). At least that’s my best guess.

From past walks through these woods, I know that red squirrels eat rose hips. And I can’t imagine what other forest creature would haul a bunch of the fruits several feet up a tree trunk and place them so carefully into such a small space.

There’s also plenty of evidence that squirrels are diligent stockpilers of food, particularly as winter approaches, the best example being the large reserves of spruce cones that they accumulate, in some places creating huge middens.

My detection of the rose hips cache reminds me of a couple other surprising discoveries I made along this trail more than a decade ago. In one instance I was alerted to a squirrel’s presence by its rustling scamper through the forest understory to a nearby cottonwood. Following the squirrel’s movements, I spotted its stretched-out, tree-hugging body about 30 feet off the trail, a large, reddish clump in its mouth.

Wishing to know more, I put binoculars to eyes, focused on the animal, and learned something new: the red squirrel’s diet includes devil’s club berries. This one had plucked a spiny stem rich with the bright red fruits.

Though considered bitterly inedible by humans, devil’s club berries are known to be a favorite food of black bears. I’ve also seen songbirds nibbling the berries in winter, when food choices are limited. But I never imagined them to be part of a squirrel’s diet.

I wished I could have seen the squirrel collecting its prize. I know they’re nimble creatures, but would have loved to observe one balancing atop a devil’s club bush while snipping the berry cluster. Aren’t they bothered by the plant’s thorny stalks and leaves?

That same year I witnessed another amazing sight: perched on a large cottonwood limb, a red squirrel squatted beside a pile of white fluff. Hunched over, tail laid flat along the branch, it was eating the seeds from green, cob-like cottonwood pods, much like a person would eat corn-on-the-cob, discarding the pod’s cottony fibers as it dined. Scanning the tree, I spotted a half-dozen more cotton piles scattered along its branches, some as large as cantaloupe melons.

I’m not sure why the discovery of squirrels’ fondness for devil’s club berries and cottonwood seeds or their



caching of rose hips has surprised me so much. From research I’ve done and my own observations, I know that red squirrels, like bears and humans and ravens, are opportunistic omnivores. In other words they’ll eat just about anything, depending on the circumstances. In the wilds, their forest diet ranges from seeds to berries to fungi, leaf buds, insects and bird eggs and even the occasional songbird nestling.

For all of that, I tend to link our local squirrels most closely with two basic food groups: spruce cones and birdseed.

Of course their reliance on spruce cones has been greatly compromised by the large-scale die-off of spruce trees throughout much of Southcentral Alaska during the recent (and ongoing) spruce bark beetle outbreak. Now, more than ever, red squirrels must improvise and be flexible in the foods they consume.

The problem isn’t nearly as severe in places like Anchorage, thanks to the abundance of bird feeders put out by us humans. Squirrels seem especially partial to black-oil sunflower seeds, peanuts and peanut butter. It’s no coincidence that all of those are calorie-rich foods, especially valuable in winter.

I first experienced squirrels’ passion for sunflower seeds when I lived on Anchorage’s Hillside. After I’d scattered the seeds along my upper-deck railing, it was a toss-up as to which critters would find the seed first: black-capped chickadees and red-breasted nuthatches, or squirrels. Eventually I scattered peanuts on the ground, hoping they would satisfy the squirrels’ appetites but that strategy worked only some of the time.

Truth be told, I really didn’t mind an occasional raid. It’s only when they became marauding regulars that I, in turn, became territorially assertive and chased them off, pound-

ing my fist on the railing and screaming expletives. Squirrels, I liked to think, understood such combative behavior, since they too aggressively defend their small homelands from one another, driving off trespassing sneaks.

Since I moved to west Anchorage squirrels haven’t been as much of a problem, almost certainly because some of my neighbors put out much more elaborate and easy to reach offerings of food than I; and my few bird feeders are difficult, if not impossible, to reach.

Because they’re small and common and sometimes an annoyance, red squirrels are usually overlooked or ignored or disdained by people, even those who consider themselves wildlife lovers. Rarely, if ever, do you see folks oohing or aahing at a squirrel, as they do at bears, moose, Dall sheep, or even beavers or porcupines.

I too sometimes take squirrels for granted. And yes, I’ve occasionally cursed them. But they’re among my favorite forest critters and I routinely listen for their chatter on my hikes, just as I keep my ears alert for bird song.

The simple fact is this: our forests would seem much emptier without squirrels and songbirds. In deepest winter, when sometimes even squirrels and chickadees are quiet, local woodlands are indeed lonelier places to someone who appreciates their company and voices.

When I’m walking through the woods, the presence of a nearby squirrel is almost always enough to get me to stop. Their energy and antics lift my spirits, bring a smile to my face, occasionally even make me goofy. Sometimes we simply watch each other a while; other times we may engage in conversations that to most folks might seem nonsensical.

Squirrely, contined on page A10

Tuesday Night Trivia!

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday October 13
7:30 Ukulele Russ
Friday October 14
8:30 Nothin But Trouble
Saturday October 15
8:30 Woodrow
Wednesday October 19
7:30 Will Balcao

@Humpy's

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Big Screen TV's at Flattop!

Every SUNDAY

FLATTOP PIZZA @ 600 W. 6TH AVE • HUMPY'S GREAT ALASKAN ALEHOUSE @ 610 W. 6TH AVE



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

Thursday, October 13th

Bartlett High School – October Pops: The Music of Video Games 6:30p-8p
Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpys - Ukulele Russ 7:30p-12:30a
Koot's – The Ken Peltier Band 7p-10p
Koot's – Tony Valentine's GIRLS NIGHT OUT f/o the Chippendales 8p-12a
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show PREVIEW benefiting Katie's Handprint! 6p-9p
Sullivan's Steakhouse – Live Music from Melissa "Jazz-mom" Fischer 5:30p-8:30p
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van's Dive Bar – QUEER AS HELL 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Penny's House of Horrors 8p-12a



Friday, October 14th

Akela Space – Pass the Bucket: Cariño 6p-9p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Anchorage Opera's 60th Anniversary 4p-6p
Alaska Dance Promotions – Friday Night Dance Lounge 9p-1a
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – Friday Night Feast w/ 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Acoustic Steak Night with Uncle Jim, the EastSide Balladeer! 6p-8p
The Broken Blender – House of 1,000 Pasties: A Halloween Cabaret 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – Supernova Live 10p-2a
Cathedral of Our Lady Guadalupe – Alaska Chamber Singers: Duruflé Requiem 7:30p-9p
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 7p-8:20p
Dirty Skillet (Hope) – Todd & Angela Grebe 6p-10p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Standup Comedy w/ Kathleen Dunbar 7p-8:15p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
Four Corner's Lounge (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Glenn Massay Theater (Palmer) – Little Shop of Horrors 7p-9p
Humpy's – Nothin' But Trouble 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Tony Valentine's GIRLS NIGHT OUT f/o the Chippendales 8p-12a
Koot's – The Stack Live 10:30p-2:45a
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p

Mid Valley Greenhouse (Wasilla) – MidValley Scream-house 8p-10:30p
The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Blues Band 10p-2a
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Peterson Tower (Anchorage) – Silent Auction Fundraiser & Live Music Benefit 5:30p-8:30p
Sullivan's Steakhouse – Live Music from Tom Bargelski 5:30p-8:30p
Wind Ensemble Fall Concert 7:30p-9p
Van's Dive Bar – Zen Trembles 9p-1a
Waffles & Whatnot – Rocktober Rally w/ Music by Pepper Kit 6p-9p
Williwaw Social – Bad Bad Hats live in Alaska with SunDog 7p-10p
Williwaw Social – Walking On A Dream: An Indie Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 10p-2a
The Writer's Block – The Healing Voice EP Release: True Passion 6p-7:30p



Saturday, October 15th

American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Danger Money Live 8p-12a
The Broken Blender – House of 1,000 Pasties: A Halloween Cabaret 8p-9:30p
Cathedral of Our Lady Guadalupe – Alaska Chamber Singers: Duruflé Requiem 7:30p-9p
The Crowbar – The CANDYMAN Dance Party w/ DJ Manny 10p-3a
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 7p-8:20p
Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Four Corner's Lounge (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a

The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Glenn Massay Theater (Palmer) – Little Shop of Horrors 2p-4p & 7p-9p
Humpy's – Woodrow 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Comedian Kathleen Dunbar 7p & 9:30p
Koot's – The Stack Live 10:30p-2:45a
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
Mid Valley Greenhouse (Wasilla) – MidValley Scream-house 8p-10:30p
The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Glacier Blues Band 10p-2a
The Nave – Halloween Carnival w/ Village Mutt & The High Femmes 4:30p-9:30p
Williwaw Social – Animal Masquerade 6 : Walker & Royce + VNSSA 8p-1:30a



Sunday, October 16th

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 3p-4:20p
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – Industry Night w/ Joe Brady 10p-2a
Van's Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday, October 17th

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

Tuesday, October 18th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/ Gary Stedman! 6:30p-9:30p
Anchorage Museum – Trail Tales 7p-9p
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, October 19th

907 Alehouse –Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpys - Will Balcao 7:30p-12:30a
Koot's – Country Night with DJ Lefty 8p-12a
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot's –Koots Karaoke 10p-2a
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Shaun Pacarro LIVE 6p-9p
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

PRESSING EVENTS

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Thu 10/13

Resin Art Class-Ocean Wave Wall Hanger *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 6:30pm / \$58

Learn the basics of working with resin to create a unique wall hanger for mugs, keys, coats, etc., Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Featured



With

@ 7pm / \$30

Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org



Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

@ 7:30pm / \$12.50-\$60

William a Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Fri 10/14

Pepper Kit: Donna Mears for State House | Rocktober Rally

@ 6pm

Waffles and Whatnot, 500 Muldoon Rd #5, Anchorage

Featured



Undiscovered Worlds

@ 6:30pm / \$10

The UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theatre will present Undiscovered Worlds on Friday October 14, at 6:30 PM located in the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building - Room 220. UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle, Anchorage. 907-786-6358



Reunion (After the End of the World)

@ 7pm / \$15

Oct 14th - Oct 23rd

Alaska Theatre of Youth presents; Reunion (After the End of the World) by Will Quam 3700 Alumni Dr, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. outreach@alaskatheatreofyouth.org, 907-338-4901

Bad Bad Hats

@ 7pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage

Scales of the Universe

@ 8pm / \$10

The UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theatre will present Scales of the Universe on Friday October 14, at 8:00 PM, located at the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building - Room 220. UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Featured



GALACTICA: A Space Cabaret

@ 7:30pm / \$25-\$35

Oct 14th - Oct 22nd

Blast off to a new dimension of entertainment with Galactica, an adults-only cabaret in support of Pulse Dance Company featuring local burlesque stars. Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard Road, Anchorage. pulsedancecompany@gmail.com, 907-272-1010



Sat 10/15

Rock Climbing Camp with Alaska Rock Gym 10/14

@ 2am

Oct 15th - Oct 14th

Alaska Rock Gym, 4840 Fairbanks St., Anchorage. 907-742-5317

Anchorage Farmers Market

@ 9am

locally grown produce, flowers, and freshly prepared foods 1420 Cordova St, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage. info@anchoragefarmersmarket.org, 907-277-1622

Alaska Crafted 2022

@ 1pm / \$10-\$75

Alaska Aviation Museum, 4721 Aircraft Drive, Anchorage

With

@ 7pm / \$30

Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Astronomar

@ 9pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage

Comedian Kathleen Dunbar

@ 9:30pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 10/16

Fall Vendor Marketplace

@ 12pm

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

Mon 10/17

Resin Art Class-Ocean Wave Wall Art*Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 6pm / \$50

Learn the basics of working with resin, dyes & pigment powders to create a beautiful ocean wave wall art piece on a wood cradle board. Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Thu 10/20

ART CLASS-ABSTRACT RESIN

HEART*Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 5:30pm / \$55

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

Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

@ 7:30pm / \$12.50-\$60

William a Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Fri 10/21

Haunted Trails

@ 7pm / Free-\$10

Goose Lake Park, 2811 UAA Drive, Anchorage

Featured



"Pirates of Penzance" -

Oct 21, 22 & 23

@ 8pm / \$30.25

"Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert & Sullivan. Set sail for swashbuckling adventure! Chart a course for this fun-filled voyage perfect for the whole family. Oct 21, 22 & 23 at the PAC Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage. jberry@anchorageopera.org, 907-279-2557



Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: House of 1,000 Pasties - A Halloween Cabaret

@ 8pm / \$24

Tricks and Treats and Sweet Shrieks will fill the night at one of our most favorite times of the year. Join us for a night of spooky and sexy fun! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Sat 10/22

ART CLASS-LAYERED LANDSCAPE WALL ART *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 11:30am / \$70

Join us and paint one of these beautiful large five layer mountain landscape wall art pieces from laser-cut wood! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Julie Moraes Artistry Suite A3 Suite is in front of the building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Featured



2022 AK Ski Swap

@ 12pm

Sell your old winter gear and find the best deals on new-to-you skis, ski boots, snowboards, and winter clothing at the Ski Swap! Alaska Airlines Center, 3550 Providence Drive, Anchorage. akskiswap49@gmail.com, 907-786-4806



Enchanted Trails

@ 1:30pm / Free-\$10

Goose Lake Park, 2811 UAA Drive, Anchorage

Comedian Ahmed Ahmed

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

With

@ 7pm / \$30

Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

T.G. Sheppard

@ 7pm / \$48

William a Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

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@ 8pm / \$30.25

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TG Sheppard

@ 8:15pm

Wm.Egan Civic & Convention Center, 555 W 5th Ave, Anchorage

Comedian Ahmed Ahmed

@ 9pm / \$20-\$25

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 10/23

With

@ 3pm / \$30

Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarrr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Featured



ALC Concert Series:

John Zimmerman,

Organist

@ 4:30pm

Celebrating the king of instruments with a wide variety of music for organ

spanning four centuries, come hear the beauty & power of the fine organ at Anchorage Lutheran which celebrates its 45th year! Anchorage Lutheran Church, 1420 N Street, Anchorage. tamarialice@gmail.com, 907-982-9777



Wed 10/26

Bonny Sosa Tuesday Night Races Kincaid Costume Run

@ 2:30am

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

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The Hunger of Crows

Homer's Richard Chiappone releases first full-length novel

BY DAVID A. JAMES

"I think I'd proven that I could write books that no one would buy," Richard Chiappone said, with the self-effacing humor of a man who enjoys his work but doesn't take himself seriously. This time, however, "I set out to write a commercial book. I wanted to get a few more readers. My short story collections didn't sell very well. Nobody's short story collections sell well. But people who read them liked them, and I felt that if I could reach more readers, I would have more people who were happy about what I wrote."

People seem to be happy about Chiappone's new book, *The Hunger of Crows*, his first full-length novel. It follows two well-crafted collections of essays and short fiction that marked his emergence as an Alaskan literary voice at once both thought-provoking and whimsical. Both of these elements are again in full bloom this time around, as is a theme that runs through many of his writings.

"I think when I started writing," Chiappone said, "I was writing about middle-aged guys who are questioning everything. And I may have just imprinted on that like a duckling and haven't gotten beyond it very well."

It makes sense that this would be his starting point. While he writes with the skill of someone who's been at it his entire life, Chiappone didn't plan on being an author and didn't even begin writing until he himself was entering middle age. He didn't even reach Alaska until his thirties.

Born and raised in the border city of Niagara Falls, New York, Chiappone "spent a lot of time in Canada fishing and camping" while growing up, he said. This was before the Clean Water Act, when the waste from decades of industrial activity left the Niagara River badly polluted, sending him north into Ontario seeking untainted fishing opportunities.

Having grown up reading Jack London, Chiappone always considered the North as the place he wanted to be, but it took time for him to get here. Though expected by his family to attend college, he instead married young, and by the age of 25 had three children. Being a father kept him out of Vietnam, but it didn't keep him married. After getting divorced, the faltering economy of Upstate New York in the 1970s prompted him to relocate to Las Vegas. There he married his wife Lynn, and in 1982 moved to Alaska, where he opened a wallpapering business in Anchorage while she obtained a counseling certificate and went to work in the city's schools. "I was 34 when I finally moved up here," he said.

This was when Chiappone decided to give writing a try, just as a side hustle. In 1986 he submitted a short story to a contest in the Anchorage Daily News. It won an honorable mention, prompting him to enter college at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "I finally got a bachelor's degree when I was forty-three or so," he said. "Then I stuck around for the MFA because I liked writing and I liked writing workshops." Chiappone remained on the faculty of the UAA Master's in Fine Arts creative writing program until it was discontinued in 2020.

Even as he was developing as a writer, working with some of the state's luminaries such as his mentor, Ronald Spatz, founder and executive editor of *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Chiappone continued to run his wallpapering business. That working class background finds its way

into his writing still, lending his work an earthiness not always found in modern literature, even in Alaska where the divisions between blue and white collar work is more blurred than it is elsewhere.

In 2002, Lynn got a job with the Homer schools, and the couple relocated, although Chiappone continued dividing his time between their Kenai Peninsula home and Anchorage. He maintained his business until 2010, and only shut it down when his back became too problematic for hard physical work.

Meanwhile, he kept writing short stories until tragedy entered his life. "My twenty-seven-year-old daughter died in 2004 from cancer. I found that I couldn't really write fiction anymore at that point. Because the kind of fiction I write is character-driven. I create characters and put them in a situation and sit back and see what they do next."

As he worked through his emotions over the loss of his daughter, Chiappone said, "I kept veering off down these rabbit holes of grief and morose and self-pity, and it was killing every story. If I had been writing Moby Dick, there would have been a twenty-seven-year-old girl onboard the Pequod who had cancer. I couldn't avoid it."

Seeking an alternative approach, he turned to writing comic nonfiction pieces for the Anchorage Press instead. These were observational bits about life in Alaska. "They were very silly essays that allowed me to keep writing, which I like to do. I love seeing words on the page come together. But without sending me down into a hole of, like I say, self-pity and grief. That's why I wrote nonfiction for a while."

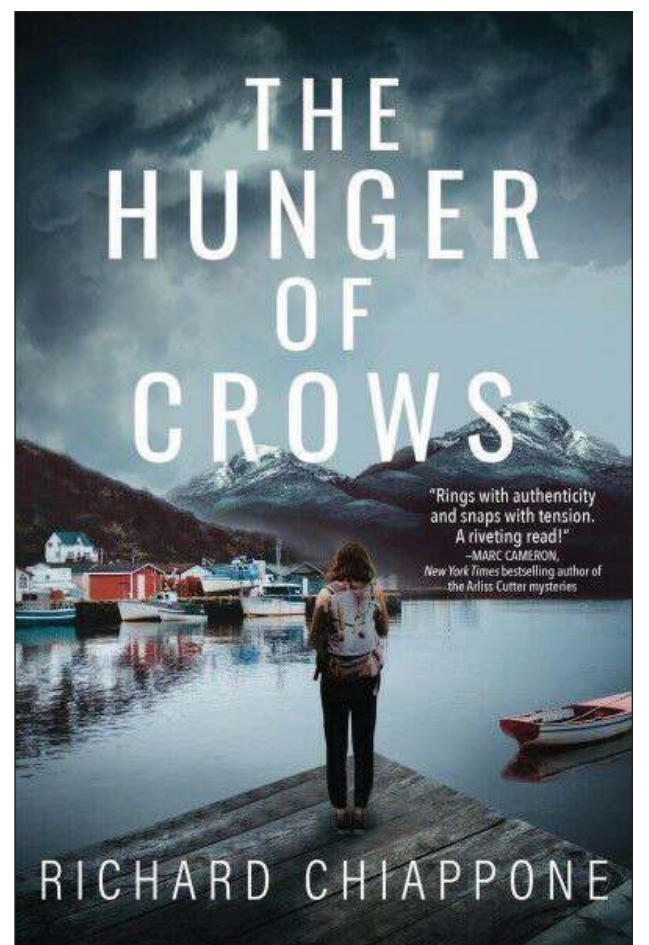
Chiappone's first collection, *Opening Days*, was published in 2010. It gathered some of his nonfiction and fiction work together with travelogues and more. This was followed in 2016 by *Liar's Code*, a selection of essays about fishing in New York, Alaska, and beyond. The recently published *The Hunger of Crows*, however, marks a new direction in Chiappone's literary career.

The novel originated as a short story included in his first book about a waitress in Homer who is on a skiff that sinks. Characters from that story evolved into Carla Merino and Scott Crockett, the lead characters in the new work. Chiappone said fellow Homer author Nancy Lord, who he counts as a dear friend, told him she found this story particularly compelling. He had personally felt it was incomplete, so he looked at it again and asked himself, "Why is this Carla person in Homer? Who is this Scott guy to her?"

"I had these two characters, and I knew they had to get together somehow," Chiappone said. He knew Carla was hiding out in Alaska, as many people do, and as he figured out why. "I just kept adding more and more to the story."

It was a lengthy process. Chiappone began fleshing out the novel and by 2016 had sent it to an agent. After two additional years of revisions, he said, that agent rejected it. Then he found another agency that worked with him on it for two more years. By 2020 the book was ready to go, and it was submitted to Crooked Lane, a crime novel publisher.

Writing a novel was new to Chiappone. He had never planned out his short stories, letting them find their direction on the page. He quickly learned that with a novel he couldn't get away with this. "It was a clumsy way to go about it," he said. "Like learning to fly an airplane by getting in it and flying. There were a few hard landings along the way. Don't try this at home, because it's really dumb."



On the surface, *The Hunger of Crows* is a thriller about Carla, a no-longer-young woman living in Phoenix who makes a habit of stealing a memento from each man she sleeps with. One night she goes home with a mysterious guy named Cosmo D'Angelo, and after the night's activities, covertly steals a photograph from his bedside dresser. The picture includes a much younger D'Angelo somewhere in Latin America, alongside a military officer and a businessman from the country it was taken in, as well as Gordon McKint, who by the time the story opens is a border security contractor and far-right presidential candidate. The photograph indicates that McKint, a dangerous man, had lied to congress about his past ventures, and now Carla holds the proof. She learns to her horror that D'Angelo, her one-night stand, is McKint's fixer. Realizing she's in trouble, she runs, landing in Homer where she hopes to disappear into the remote fishing town.

This being a thriller, it goes without saying that McKint and D'Angelo will locate her, and what transpires takes up the balance of a tale that touches on America's dalliances in Latin America and the emerging authoritarian trend in our politics, while capturing daily life in Homer with persistent humor that brightens the story despite its fairly serious plot.

One thing Chiappone did weave into this tale was his daughter's death, evoked when the fictional D'Angelo's own daughter succumbs to the same cancer. He said it took years of trying before he had enough control over the emotions that his loss left him with to be able to effectively channel the event into writing.

"Now, decades later, I can write about it," Chiappone said. "But I certainly didn't know that D'Angelo was going to have a sick daughter. I thought he was just a bad guy." Instead, D'Angelo develops into a sympathetic character, a middle-aged guy who is questioning everything. It adds complexity to the story. As in real life, nothing is completely black and white.

"I think at different times in my life, there were reasons why I gravitated towards one style or genre or another," Chiappone said. But now that he's a novelist, he's sticking to it. With this book on the shelves, he's already hard at work on the next. Once again, Homer will provide the setting, and he said he won't be holding back. "I'm too old to worry about a career in writing, so I can write any kind of novels," he concluded, before adding mischievously, "I don't really care much if I'm beloved by critics. There's a lot of comic stuff about Homer."

Squirrely, from page A7

I know it's silly, if not downright odd, but occasionally I chitter and chatter back to the squirrel. It's my way of being playful, though I'm not sure the squirrels agree. As often as not, they respond with what seems like agitated scolding.

In gaining my attention, squirrels have revealed bits and pieces of their lives that I never would have imagined. Here are two more examples I'll share: I once discovered that a squirrel inhabiting a campground area had somehow lugged a full roll of toilet paper high into a spruce tree. The roll was partially shredded, its new owner apparently using the paper for nest material.

I have also seen a squirrel haul a mushroom up a tree. I'm especially intrigued by their taste for fungi. How do they know which mushrooms are poisonous? Do they

ever become intoxicated by nibbling fungal fruits? As a companion once commented, "Some of them seem like they're on psychedelics."

I'll end with an admission: for a while after I took up bird feeding, I didn't consider red squirrels to be much more than thieving little rodents. But the more I've learned, the more impressed I've become with the ways of *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, from their climbing and jumping talents to their dietary tastes, food-harvesting methods and adaptability. Like so many other wild creatures that we humans tend to ignore or dismiss or dislike (and sometimes persecute), squirrels are remarkable animals once you begin to know them and their ways of being in the world.

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

Arctic Boulevard’s Hidden Gem

Hong Kong Spirit Food serves up authentic Chinese

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

Tucked away off the beaten path around Arctic Boulevard and International Airport Road is a small, hole-in-the-wall restaurant rewarding inquisitive diners with a remarkable taste of Chinese cuisine. Hong Kong Spirit Food not only serves up a modest selection of classic entrees, they also feature dim sum—the renowned dining practice which originated in teahouses a couple of millennia ago in the form of small portions of food allotted to Silk Road travelers. Since then, dim sum has evolved to encompass an enormous range of dishes, including dumplings, cakes, and a few peculiarities like chicken feet.

To me, dim sum always feels like an event due to its grandiose scale—a sentiment likely to be shared by anyone who’s experienced the real deal by seeing stacks of steam baskets being carted around, luring patrons into trying just one more bite. You won’t find the full-on experience at Hong Kong Spirit Food as the reality is that most venerable dim sum joints require an army of chefs, each with a mastery over dozens of dishes. Instead, this local business operates much like your typical restaurant and foregoes all the grandeur, which makes even more sense given that their dining area is about the size of a small café.

It’s important to note that Hong Kong Spirit Food reserves its condensed take on dim sum for weekends only. As for the rest of their menu, you’ll find the likes of mapo tofu, stir-fried noodles, and roast duck (which can even be purchased whole), along with a host of freshly baked pastries—much like a couple of other places in town. There’s a lot to examine here, so I arrived on a Saturday with an empty stomach to assess how this quaint establishment fares at its multi-pronged approach to showcasing Chinese food in all its glory.

Once our party was seated, we began the proceedings with a customary pot of tea—pu-erh to be exact, which in addition to having a delicate, floral flavor, is a variety distinguished by its fermented properties and known to aid in digestion. This was a smart move, given that I decided to chuck self-restraint out the window after fervently poring over the bevy of options.

The dim sum side of Hong Kong Spirit Food’s menu is relegated to the last few pages and having been deemed responsible for ordering for the table, I started to work my way backwards while reciting everything to our server based on all that looked appetizing. A few items such as their chicken feet and rice noodle rolls were already sold out by mid-afternoon, but we still ended up with a fairly decent haul comprised of no less than the following: barbeque pork buns, pork belly bao buns, xio mai, sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaf, mapo tofu, roast duck with rice, and a taro egg puff.

As the food started to arrive, my eyes were suddenly transfixed on the sensuous jiggle of thick pork belly slices nestled in between steaming bao buns. I wasn’t all that impressed with the rest of the bao’s presentation, and the buns only looked to have marginal rise, but the fatty pork belly shone as the true star of the show as it was cooked into a soft gelatinous state and infused with a five-spice inflected glaze resulting in a dish that pulled no punches and supremely decadent. Apart from a lack of fixin’s, this was a rousing celebration of perhaps my favorite cut of pork.



Next on my queue were the barbeque pork buns, which appeared as giant gobs of dough stuffed with sweet and sticky barbeque pork—otherwise known as cha siu. To me, the most prominent aspect was the distinct level of sweetness in the buns themselves. Sure, the meat was indeed saucy and savory, but in the end, these didn’t stray too far from your average portrayal.

I consider myself somewhat of a shumai fiend, so whenever I see them on a menu, I’ve got to try them. If you’re unfortunate enough to have never had these, picture the fattiest meatball you’ve ever have encased in a translucent wrapper and steamed to juicy perfection. There’s a signature funkiness to the filling (made from pork, shrimp, and mushroom) that plays a large part in my overall enjoyment along with the slippery smooth quality of the dumpling skin. Really, the only flaw I could discern with these is that there wasn’t enough to sate my addiction—though to be fair, I could eat an entire tray full of these.

Mapo tofu is a dish that varies from an oily, mouth-numbing exercise in capsaicin punishment to more of a homestyle variety; that’s basically what was presented here. But I love this dish in all its forms and to serve an authentic Sichuan version would have seemed a bit out of character for this joint. What made this entrée so great was the silky quality of the tofu combined with meaty pebbles of pork—all bathed in a mildly spiced, stew-like sauce on a heaping platter. As usual, this was served with a bowl of rice to effectively capture all of the warm, comforting sauce. To demonstrate just how difficult this was to put down, I even stole a few extra bites long after I had declared myself full.

Out of all the available entrees, I thought the roast duck would be the best measure of quality, with this being a Chinese restaurant and all. That’s because it requires quite a lot of skill to prevent the meat from getting tough and dry while ensuring the excessive fat is sufficiently rendered. With this take, we were able to savor about

half a bird’s worth of marinated meat, skin, and fat, all layered atop a few bone fragments. This, in turn, introduced a minor risk of injury as I made every effort to consume every last bit of succulent meat, all packed with flavors of cinnamon, clove, and star anise.

The only downside is that the skin wasn’t at all crispy, which left me feeling a bit mournful as this could’ve otherwise reached near perfection. But as a whole, this immensely flavorful dish was largely a win—especially when amplified with the accompanying plum sauce which came across very much like a sophisticated sweet and sour sauce.

The last thing we sampled was a taro egg puff—essentially a purple-tinged bubble waffle known for being a popular Hong Kong snack food. Though it was served sans toppings, the multiple orb-like protrusions added a fun visual flair before the waffle was torn into bit by bit. There was an appreciable vanilla flavor in the batter, which meshed well with the mild sweetness of taro. Furthermore, a few chunks of the root vegetable were embedded within to make for a pleasing textural contrast. Overall, this was a satisfying conclusion to our meal and suggested that Hong Kong Spirit Food is quite capable when it comes to their baked goods as well.

After filling up on as much food as possible, I sat back and sipped the last dregs of my tea to help fight any impulse to fall into a post-meal nap. This is comfort food, after all, and I found that the leisurely pace combined with a hospitable atmosphere beckoned me to stay and linger on this lazy weekend. There’s a lot that Hong Kong Spirit Food gets right with its array of authentic and lovingly crafted dishes, and though their selection may only offer a tiny glimpse into the vast realm of dim sum, this hidden gem stands as an emblematic gateway to some of the finest riches of Chinese cuisine.

Hong Kong Spirit Food is located at 570 W 53rd Ave. They are open Wednesday — Friday from 10am — 7pm and Saturday — Sunday from 8am — 7pm.



Alaska Native Nyche Andrew continues advocacy work at Yale

BY SHEHLA ANJUM

In the spring of 2018, Nyche Andrew took a stand against the Anchorage School District (ASD). Only a freshman at Service High School at the time, Andrew was perturbed by the District's policy about students wearing Native regalia or other items of cultural significance to graduation.

When Tigran, Andrew's brother, discussed his idea of wearing culturally significant clothing with the school principal, their mother, Jacqueline Morris, who was readying the regalia, went with him. The principal sent their request to his superiors at the District, who hesitated about giving their permission. As graduation approached, Tigran was granted permission to alter the "traditional" graduation garb by wearing a sealskin cap and mukluks. But approval from the ASD didn't stop some school staff members from asking him to take off his cap.

"The administration was concerned about preserving uniformity of clothing among the graduating students," Andrew said.

The hostility and indifference shown by school officials about his wearing the regalia troubled Andrew. She failed to understand why school authorities were reluctant to allow students to wear clothing that honored their culture and tradition. Raised by an Inupiaq mother and a Yup'ik father, Andrew had always had strong ties to her Indigenous roots, so this fight was close to Andrew's heart.

"I saw [Tigran] struggle all that year. I was about to be a sophomore, and I knew I wanted to wear my Yup'ik headdress at graduation. So, I began conversations with my Mom and the principal to make it easier for me to wear the regalia," Andrew said.

That year marked a turning point for Andrew.

"This was the first time that I became aware of having to justify our Nativeness to an institution or an administration for the simple reason of wanting to wear a headdress to honor our family, our people, and our culture. I didn't think it was just. That experience opened my eyes to many things, and I am still learning; specifically, the way education treats Native people," she said.

By the fall of 2018, Service High's principal knew that the issue of regalia would come up again and that the District was considering a review of its policy. So he decided to name Andrew and her mother to the Anchorage School District's Native Advisory Committee.

The Native Advisory Committee worked with the District and devised a new policy for the 2019 graduation allowing students to add leis, beadwork, or sealskin to their graduation caps. But it wouldn't allow them to replace their graduation caps with anything else. Andrew helped in the process, testifying before the school board while dressed in her regalia. She also began sending letters seeking support from legislators, villages, and Native corporations.

In addition to serving on the District's Native Advisory Committee, Andrew also organized the Indigenous Student Union at Service High School. She wanted to create a safe space for herself and others from minority communities. The group focused on empowering Native students to take pride in their identity.

"I started the group because I faced some bullying and racism from some classmates about my decision to wear regalia at graduation," Andrew said.



Shipe Shots Photography — Editorial Photography

The group worked to raise cultural awareness among all students and implemented land acknowledgment to recognize the original owners of the land—the Alaska Native people.

To Andrew, the school district's changes to the graduation attire policy in 2019 were not satisfactory. So, she continued to push for fewer restrictions. Through the Native Advisory Committee, Andrew continued advocating for the rights of both Native students and for students from other cultures to display items of cultural significance at graduation.

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a cancellation of all graduation ceremonies in 2020. But by 2021's graduation, the work by Andrew and others resulted in the school district's adoption of a new, more inclusive policy for what students could wear on graduation.

"On graduation day, I wore my Yup'ik headdress, kuspuk, and mukluks, and my best friend, who is from Pakistan, wore her traditional clothing underneath her gown," explained Andrew.

When Andrew began working on making it easier for all students to express pride in their cultures, she was only fifteen and didn't think of herself as an activist.

"At that age, I could not think of myself as anything else but a high school student. Even now, I think of myself not so much as an activist but as someone who is just passionate about doing what is good. If that is activism, then I am an activist," Andrew said.

Going to college was always in Andrew's plans. Even as she worked on the regalia policy, she tried her best to maintain her grades in the hope of attending an Ivy League school. But when it came time to apply to colleges, Andrew was unsure she was a strong enough candidate for acceptance.

However, her fears were assuaged when she was honored with two national prizes for her work with the ASD. In 2020, when she was a junior at Service High, she received the Yale Basset Award for Community Engage-

ment, and in 2021, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. Both awards recognized her work to eliminate racism and for her community engagement. Winning the Yale Bassett Award in particular, bolstered her confidence.

"That award motivated me. I realized that I could do whatever I wanted. I applied to Yale and got accepted," she said.

Her work on the ASD's regalia policy continued during her first year at Yale, as the new policy did not work as smoothly as Andrew and others had hoped. As a result, during the 2021 graduation, students at some high schools were asked to take off their regalia.

"The Native Advisory Committee asked me how I envisioned the policy and requested my help. So I worked with them during the fall of my first year at Yale," she said.

At Yale, Andrew carries on her work for racial equality. She joined Yale's Native American Cultural Center and is involved in the school's Native and Indigenous Student Association. As a college freshman, she also joined other Native students in protesting against the celebration of Columbus Day.

"That protest didn't change the administration's mind, but we succeeded in getting the student body to agree that it should be Indigenous Peoples Day, not Columbus Day," Andrew said.

In early September, Andrew received another award when the Bering Straits Native Corporation named her the Youth Culture Bearer Award recipient. The award recognized her work in high school, that made it possible for Anchorage School District students to wear traditional regalia. Andrew is proud of that award and noted that "it was the first time the award went to someone who lived outside the region but was a descendent."

Now a sophomore, Andrew continues her activism and her studies at Yale. But, she is confident she will return to Alaska, either after receiving her BA or MA.

"I don't know what my career will be. But whatever it is, it will be in Alaska," she said.



Kelsey Aho holds a jar of clay she collected while fishing for hooligan on Turnagain Arm near Anchorage in 2021. Photo courtesy Kelsey Aho.

Grains of Alaska made into art

BY NED ROZELL

Kelsey Aho works as a mapmaker for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. She is also an artist who collects earthen materials on her travels around the state.

Throughout Alaska, Aho has gathered mineral soils — including clays when she can find them — as well as ash. She has collected from, among other places, the Denali Highway, Hartney Bay near Cordova, the Chilkat River and Murphy Dome in Fairbanks.

Aho transforms the soil into palm-size ceramic tiles that help her share Alaska with people who might not get to those places.

“I can hand a piece of the Yukon River or Mendenhall Glacier to someone thousands of miles away and say ‘This is what the glacier’s edge looks like,’ or as they move their hand across the piece, ‘This is what the river feels like.’”

Aho creates the touchstones in the pottery studio by forming the material into a square shape after mixing it with commercial clay. Then she slides the tiles into a kiln and heats them to about 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. The tiles come out as brittle ceramic pieces that turn into stoneware when partially glazed and fired a second time to about 2,200 degrees.

She got the idea for the project after her aunt and uncle’s house in Michigan burned down. Aho’s father Doug, a fellow clay enthusiast, gathered some of the ash and gave it to his daughter.

Grains, continued on page A16



Kelsey Aho holds ceramic tiles she has fired from clays and ash found around Alaska. Ned Rozell photo.

Gubernatorial candidates spar over gas pipeline, fiscal plans and other issues at Anchorage debate

The event, hosted by the RDC, was the first to feature all four candidates in one place — including Dunleavy and Pierce, whose appearances have been less frequent

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

Gov. Mike Dunleavy tangled with his challengers Tuesday in an Anchorage debate that featured the first joint appearance of all four gubernatorial candidates on the ballot.

At the debate, held by the Resource Development Council for Alaska, sparks flew over several issues. One was the long-desired but never-built pipeline shipping massive reserves of North Slope natural gas to markets.

Republican Dunleavy accused independent Bill Walker, his predecessor and current challenger, of pursuing a project that was an “illusion” and “nothing real.” And the incumbent governor said, in contrast, his progress has been solid.

“We’ve never been closer to a gasline than we are today,” he said, touting past permitting, federal loan guarantees and ongoing meetings in Asia and Texas.

“This will be the first time and we’re this close to a private-sector-led project, as opposed to a project in which members’ of this organization’s arms have been twisted and some maybe threatened,” he said. “Don’t be surprised if in the very near future — the very near future — there’s an announcement that’s real, not one that’s make-believe.”

Walker accused Dunleavy of abandoning momentum for a liquefied natural gas project that had been building for years.

When he left office in 2018, Walker said, there were 15 memorandums of understanding signed — albeit non-binding — that included giant companies like Exxon Mobil and Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd.

“The largest buyers of LNG in the world all came and signed up and said we want a piece of this project. After I left, those were allowed to expire. I received calls from Mr. Hirose, the president of Tokyo Gas, about a month when I was out of office, that said, ‘What happened, our calls aren’t returned, what’s going on?’”

Former Rep. Les Gara, the Democratic candidate for governor, scoffed at Dunleavy’s promise of a big announcement.

“You haven’t heard a word about the gas pipeline from this governor for his first three years. Only during this election have you started to hear interest again in a gasline. Come on,” Gara said to the audience.

He said that while he has supported various governors’ gas pipeline plans, the project has to be modernized for an age when carbon emissions and global climate change are top concerns.

“You have to get out of the 1960s mindset. If you’re just going to promote the same old project, it’s not going to happen, just like it hasn’t happened,” Gara said. He urged the use of emerging technology to sequester carbon resulting from natural gas production. “The world



Gubernatorial candidates at an Anchorage debate on Tuesday use signs to indicate their votes on a ballot measure about a new constitutional convention. Opposing the idea of a convention to rewrite the state’s constitution are, from left, former Gov. Bill Walker, an independent, and former state Rep. Les Gara, a Democrat. In favor of the convention are incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy and former Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce, both Republicans. The four appeared at a debate held by the Resource Development Council for Alaska. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

is asking for clean energy. They’re not asking for 1960s energy anymore.”

Former Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce, making a rare debate appearance, did harken back to decades past, including the boom oil and gas years in Cook Inlet. Now there’s a possibility of LNG imports into a region that once was an exporter, he said. “I thought that would be a very embarrassing day in the state of Alaska where we have a tanker, an LNG tanker that fills from a port, probably from Canada, produced in Canada, that offloads into Alaska,” he said.

Sparks also over fiscal issues, mostly between Gara and Dunleavy

Gara said the lack of a meaningful fiscal plan has cascading effects through the state, including no dependable capital budget, lackluster funding of education and hardships on the less fortunate, and “people are leaving in droves.” Any recent bump up in the Alaska fiscal situation is due only to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and subsequent oil price increase, which “is not a fiscal plan,” he said. He was particularly critical of Dunleavy’s attempt in 2019 to cut 41% of state funding for the University of Alaska system.

Dunleavy defended his fiscal record. “We are in better shape today fiscally than we were when I came into office. I inherited a \$1.6 billion deficit,” he said. Since then, the state’s bond rating has improved and other indicators are up, he said. “We’re in better shape today than we were four years ago, and we’ll be in even better shape four years from now, when I’m your governor.”

Walker said he coped with hard fiscal times. When he got into office in 2014, Alaska North Slope crude was selling for \$26 a barrel. He said he helped shepherd in a new approach to drawing from the Alaska Permanent Fund, the state’s oil-wealth fund, that brought a \$4.3 billion deficit to about \$1 billion and drastically reduced the state’s dependence on fluctuating oil revenues. The new system depends on drawing a fixed percentage of the fund’s total market value each year.

“I come back into office, we’ll finish that job on having a fiscal plan,” he said.

In the aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Alaska North Slope crude prices jumped above \$120 a barrel at points in the spring and summer but more recently have hovered in the low- to mid-90s, according to the state Department of Revenue.

The debate covered other issues, including fisheries management, workforce development, mining, timber and promotion of tourism.

Gara blasted Dunleavy for his support of the Pebble Mine, which the Democrat said damages Alaska’s reputation, among other things.

“It’s wrong to push the Pebble Mine when that’s a danger to the greatest remaining salmon runs in the world. That’s what this governor is doing. He’s giving this state a black eye.” He said.

Gara also blasted Dunleavy’s fishery policies, which he said are allowing over 1,000 tons of halibut and over 500,000 chum salmon to be dumped “dead to the bottom of the ocean.” Dunleavy responded by pointing to the bycatch task force he appointed to study the problem and make recommendations.

The debate featured what might have been Dunleavy’s clearest statement yet on his position on a rewrite of the state’s constitution.

In a lightning-round session, Dunleavy and Pierce both held up “yes” signs conveying their intention to vote for a new constitutional convention. Walker and Gara held up “no” signs to convey their intentions. The question of holding a new constitutional convention goes before Alaska voters every 10 years, and so far voters have rejected the idea.

Tuesday’s event was the first debate event that featured Pierce with all three of the other candidates. Pierce has been elusive, and Dunleavy has committed to attending only five debates, one of which he missed as he engaged with the response to the mid-September storm in western Alaska.

When he spoke, Pierce spend a lot of time reminiscing about past good times in Alaska, including catches of big salmon from Kenai River runs that are dwindling. North Slope oil production that peaked in the late 1980s at 2 million barrels a day, and the large amounts of federal money that the late U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, who died in 2010, used to secure for Alaska.

In his closing statement, Pierce invoked the late Rep. Don Young and urged conservative votes in not just the gubernatorial race but also in the race for the U.S. House seat now held by Democrat and special election winner Mary Peltola.

“I’m going to take the liberty to tell you that I love the color red,” Pierce said. He asked the audience to consider what Young “would tell you about his replacement” and to vote their consciences. “What I’m going to encourage you to do is rank the red,” he said, a phrase Alaska Republicans have used to urge voters to rank party members in the election.

Correction: This story has been updated to correct the day of the debate, which was Tuesday.

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BEST OF BREED

- ACROSS
- 1 Agents, informally

5 Wombs

10 Soccer great Mia

14 Warms up

19 Fix up copy

20 Condor claw

21 Emollient plant juice

22 Incandescent

23 Good occasion to buy securities

25 After-hours

26 Youngest of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

27 Davenport, e.g.

28 Dish of melted cheese on toast

31 Small marsupial with long hind limbs

35 Doubters

36 Dutch painter Jan

37 Actress Thurman

38 Depot: Abbr.

41 Financier Onassis

42 Rocker Nugent

43 Tiny flash of light

45 Light classical orchestra

51 Flips out

53 Met again, as a legislature

55 Painful spots

56 Mendelssohn orchestral piece in A minor

62 Merlot, e.g.

63 "Yentl" actress Feldshuh

64 Paranormal gift, for short

65 Prankster's messy missile

66 Prankster's messy missile

67 Hunt quarry

68 Pack animals around Lhasa

73 Actor Julia

75 "Dr." of rap

76 Lean red meat source

77 — Bo

78 Eisenhower's wife

79 On Soc. Security, say

80 Popover served with roast beef

86 Thin as —

88 Gorbachev's wife

89 "Count" of jazz

90 "The Simpsons" airer

93 "Lorna —"

95 — -cone

98 U.S. spy org.

99 Part of OTC

101 Platform for iDevices

102 Entr— (interludes)

104 Dispute go-betweens

109 Very sleek

112 Maine and Montana, to Canada

115 Fact fudgers

116 Firefighter Red

117 Residence

118 Crossbreed apropos to this puzzle (hint: see the starts of 10 long answers)

123 Resolved to accomplish

124 Fairway club

125 At the zenith

126 Org. looking for aliens

127 Party givers

128 Annoyer

129 Playwright Clifford

130 Eve's garden

DOWN

1 Yank's rival

2 Instruct

3 Flew, as a plane

4 Patron of physicians

5 Ogden native

6 Pothole filler

7 Lean red meat source

8 Fish spawn

9 Bisected

10 Corridor

11 " 'Tis so sad"

12 Fliers drawn to flames

13 African mongoose

14 Very sharp road curves

15 Heron variety

16 Cover story

17 Pick-me-up

18 Hits hard

24 Thom — shoes

29 Canon camera

30 Prefix with space

31 Q-U link

32 Big swallows

33 Mennonite subgroup

34 Oversaw

39 Recipe amt.

40 Ark builder

43 Moo goo — pan

44 Lovers' get-together

46 "You can't — train"

47 Sports drink brand

48 Art of paper folding

49 Waddling bird

50 Opposite of NNW

51 Didn't leave the house

52 To the — degree

54 Ones who can sense others' feelings, in sci-fi

56 Engine additive

57 Jockey Angel or baseballer Wil

58 Burden too heavily

59 Lay eyes on

60 Suffix with neat

61 "Absolutely!"

68 Novelist Josephine

69 "I believe ...," in texts

70 Small donkey

71 Water nymph

72 "— darn tootin'!"

74 Chair piece

78 Roman 1,501

79 Brit. mil. fliers

81 Go- — (kid's racer)

82 Certain Indian believer

83 Kindle buy

84 Violet variety

85 Purpose

87 Podiums

91 Stadium part

92 Frigate, e.g.

94 Engine additive

95 Really raged

96 Web location

97 —Kosh B'gosh

100 Suffix with Vietnam

102 Luc's gal pal

103 Vulgar

104 Embarrass

105 Calf-roping competition

106 Little imps

107 — -proof

108 Place to shop

110 Retort to "It ain't so!"

111 Ice mishaps

113 "Famous" cookie guy

114 Tepee

119 Purpose

120 No. on a road sign

121 Decay

122 Mark, as a ballot square
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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- LEGALS
- Enlighten Alaska Old Seward, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license # 34403, doing business as Enlighten Alaska, located at 7317 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage, AK, 99518, UNITED STATES.
- Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at
- marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At jana@jdwccounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 10/13/22, 10/20/22, 10/27/22
- NORTHERN HOSPITALITY GROUP II, INC is making application for a new package store, AS 04.11.150 package store license doing business as Prospectors Provisions located at 2415 C St, Anchorage, Ak, 99503. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov. Anchorage Press Publish Dates 10/06/22, 10/13/22, 10/20/22
- October 13-October 19, 2022
- PRESS A15

When is it time to leave?

No one gets married to get divorced. Marriage is one of those tricky relationships. Although divorce is an option in this country, most of us get married with the belief that this person is the ONE...our be all and end all.

So when the question comes...Do I leave? It's a heavy one at best, especially since I'm going to assume from your question that you have kids and you have lived a lot of life with this person. I wish I could just tell you to leave or stay and then we could end this painful conundrum, but what I would like to give you is the key to your heart



ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

where I know the answer lies. And to do that I will share a little bit of my story with you in the hope that my journey will inspire you to find your own perfect road and answers.

I was married for 13 years with 3 young children when the divorce question came to my mind. I wanted nothing more than to shove that puppy back down and pretend I didn't hear it. It was like when your kid says, "Mommy how are babies made?" You know you need to start the conversation but you're squirming inside.

From my experience of being a Spiritual Life Coach and helping others along the road, I knew the only way to get the answer was to go inside. I like to think of it like going on a solo fishing trip (not that I have ever done that): I must stay still and quiet (meditation), allow myself to get used to the rocking of the boat (learn to sit with my feelings), and drop my line deep to find the biggest fish (allow myself to go to the deepest part of me).

Every day I allowed myself to go on these mini fishing trips for 15 minutes, and the more I did the more I noticed that the flight or fight response that was running my life was gone. I found myself pausing more before I responded to people's questions. I started to notice that I had never sat down properly to feed myself, and I began eating sitting with my legs under the table enjoying my food. I started taking naps (yes, naps!) And best of all I started having mimi dance parties in my kitchen when no one was around.

All of those simple things I was doing were slowly opening me up. I found the key to my heart! It had been there the whole time waiting for me to find it. This inner peace and connection with myself was making me stronger and I naturally knew it was time to bring the universe in. My meditation was teaching me to trust that there was a benevolent force out there that wanted to help me. I noticed that my world not only didn't fall apart when I wasn't controlling it for 15 minutes, but that I felt better. So I started asking for signs and guidance, and I began seeing a lot of birds flying away. And then finally one day, I knew without a doubt that leaving my marriage was the right way to go.

The piece about the kids was easy for me by that stage in my life. I always wanted my children to really live their truth, and by finding what my truth was in my marriage, I was modeling for them what that life looked like. I knew they would have their own moments in their lives where they would have to leave, jobs, relationships, places and such, and this would act like a template for them.

I won't tell you that leaving was easy or without pain and fighting, because it's divorce. But I can tell you from the other side of the tunnel, my life turned out to be better than I could ever imagine. My children are thriving and happy. I fell in love with myself and I'm doing things I never dreamed I could do. I have dated and had fun and even fell madly in love. But most importantly I learned that life had so much more waiting for me when I learned to follow my heart.

Oskar Saville is the former lead Singer of 10,000 Maniacs from 2002 to 2007. She is a writer, podcaster of; Conversations with Oskar, and a Spiritual life Coach and Energy healer. She lives in New York City with her 3 awesome kids.

Email questions to osavilledoyle@gmail.com
Podcast: Conversations with Oskar — Spotify, Apple Podcast, Anchor FM
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Super Crossword

Answers

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Grains, from page A13

Aho pulverized the ash before applying it to the exterior of a few serving dishes she fired at a studio in Juneau. There, the ash melted, creating a shiny coating with colors and textures reminiscent of the lost house and some of the things within it.

Since then, Aho has spread clay from Alaska beaches into jars and slipped ash from road cuts into Ziplocs. She has asked friends and scientists roaming the state to do the same.

This effort has netted her bags of Alaska from all over, including permafrost soils pulled by scientists from beneath the frozen ground surface. Aho has created pottery from the fragments of Alaska and given them back to people who brought her the raw materials.

Over the days and weeks, the raw and fired clays have deepened her connection with Alaska.

"It's been my way of exploring and building a relationship with the land," Aho said.

Aho's Alaska pottery tiles will be featured at the Alaska Biennial 2022 exhibit at Anchorage Museum from Nov. 4, 2022, until March 5, 2023.

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



Kelsey Aho shows ceramic tiles she created from minerals gathered around Alaska. Ned Rozell photo.

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11 states to share in \$1 billion in funding for small businesses, entrepreneurs

In Alaska, up to \$59.9 million in federal money will boost lending to commercial fishing, mariculture, manufacturing and tourism, according to the U.S. Treasury Department

BY JENNIFER SHUTT
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration announced Tuesday that an additional 11 states will receive up to \$1 billion to support small businesses and entrepreneurs. Funding for the programs will come from the State Small Business Credit Initiative that Democrats reauthorized and expanded in their \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, known as the American Rescue Plan. The new tranche of funding will go to Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio and Utah. “We know that even when we completely control for credit worthiness, small business owners of color, women, face unfair loan denials and higher interest rates,” Gene Sperling, senior adviser to the president and American Rescue Plan coordinator, said during a briefing with reporters. “We know that too much venture capital goes to just a few cities and parts of our country,” he added. “And the SSBCI, the State Small Business Credit Initiative, is designed to ensure that ... capital is flowing everywhere and that it’s going to those

The impact of Alaska’s programs is expected to be greatest in rural and remote communities that have struggled to attract capital in commercial fishing and mariculture, manufacturing, and tourism sectors with high upfront capital costs.
— Summary of new funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative

fishing and mariculture, manufacturing, and tourism sectors with high upfront capital costs,” according to the summary. Minnesota Democratic U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, whose state would receive up to \$97 million, said during the call that funding would go toward “early stage investments in key sectors like information technology, software, ag, clean technology, manufacturing and more.” In Nevada, five different programs will get up to \$112.9 million for loan and venture capital programs. The funding is expected to lead to more than 2,000 jobs and to capital improvements for energy and water efficiency at commercial properties. “That’s something that really makes a difference here in the desert—we’re the hottest, we’re the driest, we’re the sunniest state, so that will certainly be helpful,” Rep. Dina Titus, a Nevada Democrat on the press call, said of the investments in energy and water efficiency. Jacob Leibenluft, U.S. Treasury chief recovery officer, said that federal officials are directing the funding toward small businesses that have traditionally had a harder time accessing capital.



Fishing boats are lined up at the Seward harbor on Aug. 27, 2022. In Alaska, up to \$59.9 million in federal money will boost lending to commercial fishing, mariculture, manufacturing and tourism, according to a statement from the U.S. Treasury Department. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

“We know that during the peak of the pandemic, the small businesses who too often have been shut out of the financial system historically, including minority-owned small businesses, are often hit the hardest,” Leibenluft said. “And that’s why we intentionally designed the program to drive investments to underserved entrepreneurs.” Tuesday’s announcement of an additional \$1 billion in federal dollars for 11 states brings the total amount of money approved for the program to \$4.8 billion for 31 states.

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If Tshibaka was ‘exonerated’ in federal fraud case, where is the evidence?

BY DERMOT COLE

More than a year ago I first wrote of the 2011 federal fraud investigation of U.S. Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka.

Now that the fraud claims have become central in attack ads against Tshibaka, Alaska news organizations owe it to their readers, listeners and viewers to put the investigation in context and report on what it means and doesn't mean.

Here is the redacted investigation, which I stumbled onto while researching Tshibaka's background. In sermons made by Tshibaka and her husband, Niki, in their Virginia church, they confirmed that Tshibaka was investigated and that the authors of the report wanted her prosecuted.

The National Reconnaissance Office of Inspector General investigators recommended that fraud charges be pursued against Tshibaka. The Department of Justice declined prosecution "in favor of administrative action" by the Office of Director of National Intelligence, where Tshibaka was employed.

According to Tshibaka supporter Suzanne Downing, an opponent of Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Mitch McConnell's super pac has 'unleashed the hounds of hell' on Tshibaka with its attack ads. This is a bit excessive, on a par with Downing's claim that Donna Arduin was the best-dressed woman in Juneau.

The problem for Hounds of Hell Downing and Tshibaka is that the McConnell attack ads are based on a real investigation by federal officials who found that Tshibaka billed the government for 596 hours of work that she wasn't entitled to get paid for.

The investigators, who had no connection to the person who made the original complaint, concluded that between 2008 and 2011 Tshibaka falsified her federal work records and claimed that she worked 596 hours that she should not have been paid for.

The disputed hours included comp time claims, unexplained absences during the day, inappropriately charging hours to excused absences when she was already on leave and when there was an early dismissal for federal holidays. At her pay grade, the hours cost the government \$36,000.

There is no evidence that the investigation was wrong.

Downing, who clearly hasn't bothered to read the full investigation, simply repeats the claim Tshibaka has been making since 2011, that Tshibaka was "exonerated" in some fashion.

To be "exonerated," there would have to be a document that says the National Reconnaissance Office of Inspector General produced a false report.

All that Tshibaka has to do to quiet the hounds of hell is to produce the evidence that the investigation was erroneous. She won't.

Tshibaka also claimed in 2011 that her "exculpatory evidence" was not considered or reviewed in the NRO investigation. But she was interviewed for the investigation and given the chance to make her case.

It is possible that Tshibaka's superiors at the ODNI opted to ignore the inspector general's investigation because the report did not put her superiors in a good light and said they were not aware of some of the things that Tshibaka was charging comp time for, such as "physical fitness."

She submitted an affidavit saying that most of the 596 questioned hours were those during which she worked remotely. She her supervisor approved her working remotely 20 hours a month, but the inspector general said her supervisors did not substantiate that statement.

The investigation mentions interviews with Tshibaka in the presence of her attorney and evidence that she provided during questioning. She referred to "37 days of badge machine errors" and said she had taken comp time for physical fitness activities no more than 7 times, a lower number than she had given in an earlier interview.

The NRO inspector general said her "supervisors were unable to substantiate all of the compensatory hours for which she claimed to have received approval to work outside the office."

In 2011, the NRO investigators asked her how much time she spent on Bible studies, Agency Christian Fellowship and meeting or praying with friends in the cafeteria or elsewhere. "We're allowed to talk to people," the report quoted her as saying.

"She had no idea how much time she spent a week in these activities," the report said.

The 596 disputed hours did not include the

unknown amount of time during office hours that she spent on Bible studies, conducting interviews for a book and other church activities. There were dozens of personal folders and documents about her church activities on her Agency Internet Network. She said at first she did 20 interviews for her book, a project she never finished, and later revised that number to 11, conducted over five months.

The investigation concluded that from March 2008 to February 2011, she claimed 596 hours for which she should not have been paid. This did not include the 25 work days in which she had received the OK to work at home.

When Tshibaka received phone calls at home, she was tracking the time to count as comp time, the report said. She also went running at the end of the work day at times and charged that as comp time, though a person who appears to have been her supervisor said he was not aware that she was doing either of those things. He also said he was not aware that she had taken excused absences for physical fitness activities.

The Office of Inspector General briefed the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia on May 17, 2011, but that office "declined prosecution in favor of agency administrative action."

Tshibaka was transferred within the same agency shortly after the report recommending "administrative action" was completed.

At the time she told friends and wrote on her blog that her new job was one she really wanted. But in a 2014 sermon, Tshibaka contradicted that claim. She said she wasn't happy, having been moved to a cubicle down the hall. She said that God had told her she would be given a position with broader responsibilities.

"I found a quiet place at work where I could hide where I screamed out to God almost every day at work, 'This is not broad. I don't understand. Are you messing with me?'"

She said she waited for two years when an old boss of hers called about a job that could put her back on the track that the investigation had knocked her off of. Six weeks later, in July 2013, she had a new job with the inspector general's office of the Federal Trade Commission, with broader responsibilities.

She was later named acting inspector general of the Federal Trade Commission. In late 2014, she told her congregation that God had promised her she would be promoted and she took that to mean she would become the permanent inspector general.

In a 2014 sermon, Niki said that Kelly wasn't there that day because she didn't get the job.

"What was difficult was that the person got appointed to the position was a former boss of hers back when she was working in the intelligence community and this person is known to be a really bad manager. And she was a person that Kelly worked for years to try to get away from," Niki said in his sermon.

"And so for her it wasn't so much just the disappointment of not getting the job. It's like 'God, what are you doing? It's like I'm being chased after by this lion. Like, this is not the person. Of all the people that you would have put over me, why are you putting this person over me when you know I prayed for years to get away from this person? And you helped me escape from under this person's leadership."

"So that's been very difficult for her, trying to work through feeling unsafe," Niki said.

The comment about God helping her "escape" from Roslyn Mazer's leadership refers to Kelly Tshibaka's experience in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the fraud investigation that clouded Tshibaka's career.

3) 50 USC §3024(m)
(U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] provided an affidavit in which she explained that the
(c) questionable hours were attributable primarily to time she worked "remotely," that is, at home and elsewhere outside of badged facilities, and work-related phone calls and emails she received after leaving the office. [redacted] supervisors were unable to substantiate all of the compensatory hours for which she claimed to have received approval to work outside the office. [redacted] also attributed some of the questionable hours to engaging in fitness activities outdoors, the inaccuracy of badge records or unintentional recording errors by her or others. Further, she claimed she appropriately used excused absences.

3) 50 USC §3024(m)
(U//~~FOUO~~) The investigation found sufficient evidence to support a conclusion that
(c) [redacted] actions violated Title 18 United States Code 287, False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent Claims, as well as CIA Agency Regulation [redacted] (b)(3) 50 USC [redacted] and ODNI policies.

Tshibaka provided an affidavit in which she said she worked remotely for most of the 596 hours, but her supervisors were unable to substantiate her claims, a key reason why the investigators wanted fraud charges against her.

(b)(3) 50 USC §3024(m)
(b)(6) (U//~~FOUO~~) NRO OIG analysis of [redacted] time and attendance records compared
(b)(7)(c) to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), ODNI, and NRO facility ingress and egress records indicated that she recorded 596 questionable hours on her time and attendance records from 3 March 2008 to 25 February 2011. The questionable hours included shortages on days she claimed to have worked compensatory time, unexplained absences during the day, and inappropriate charging of hours to excused absences when she was previously on approved leave for the entire workday when there was an early dismissal for federal holidays. [redacted] is currently a GS-15, step 4 and, at the average 2008 through 2011 pay rates, the 596 questionable hours equate to approximately \$36,000.

This is from the redacted 2011 federal investigation of Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka that found 596 "questionable hours" on her time and attendance records as a federal employee.

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