

ANCHORAGE PRESS

**A BROTHER seeks answers over
ALASKA DEATHS IN CUSTODY**

ANCHORAGE PRESS

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Alaska absentee ballots should have two stamps, but one is OK, officials say

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

This year's Alaska general election absentee ballot is a hefty document, weighing in between 1.1 and 1.2 ounces.

If it were an ordinary letter, that's weighty enough to need two stamps. But if voters forget, officials at the Alaska Division of Elections and the U.S. Postal Service say this year's absentee ballots will still be carried — and counted — with just one stamp.

"If a return ballot is nevertheless entered into the mailstream with insufficient or unpaid postage, it is the Postal Service's policy not to delay the delivery of completed absentee balloting materials, including mail-in ballots," said James Boxrud, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service's western region.

Tiffany Montemayor, public relations manager for the Alaska Division of Elections, pointed to USPS Publication 632, which states, "Short-paid and unpaid absentee balloting materials will not be returned to the voter for additional postage. Postage is collected from the election office upon delivery or at a later date. The Postal Service will not delay delivery of balloting materials with insufficient postage."

The current price for one first-class stamp is 60 cents.

The first absentee ballots for the Nov. 8 general election have already been sent, and the design of the return envelope includes a box for only one stamp, but fine print in the absentee ballot instructions says to attach 84 cents' worth of postage.

That dissonance led to concerned posts on social media, some containing erroneous information.

Montemayor said there's no statutory requirement that a ballot have a certain amount of postage to be counted. Ballots dropped off at a polling place or one of the regional elections offices don't need to have postage, for example.

"Ballots that meet statutory requirements are eligible to be counted. Those requirements are: The voter is eligible to vote; (the ballot) has a voter signature, one voter identifier, witness signature, is postmarked on or before Nov 8, and arrives within the statutory timeframe following the election (10 days if postmarked within the US and 15 days if postmarked outside the US)," she said.

Nineteen states prepay postage for their absentee ballots, according to records kept by the National Conference of State Legislatures.



Alaska is not one of the 19, and a proposal to change that failed to pass the Alaska Legislature as part of a broader election-reform bill this year.

Ballots in the June 11 special by-mail primary election for U.S. House were postage-paid, but that was because federal law requires postage-paid envelopes for so-called UOCAVA voters — members of the military and Americans living overseas. They're covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

In the June primary, which was held on short notice following the death of Rep. Don Young, there wasn't time to set up a system to determine who got free postage and who didn't, so the Division of Elections gave it to everyone.

In the November general election, when absentee voters request a ballot, they check a box indicating whether they're a UOCAVA voter — and thus eligible for free postage — or not. Most Alaskans don't check that box and don't receive free postage.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 29. To request one, apply online or call the Division of Elections at 907-270-2700 or 877-375-6508.

The ballot must be delivered to an early or Election Day polling site, put into a dropbox at a regional elections office or be postmarked by Nov. 8. Ballots mailed from rural Alaska may take several days to reach Anchorage, where most mail is postmarked. Ballots may also be hand-postmarked by a clerk in a postal office.

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ANCHORAGE, AK 99503		N/A	08/01/2022
Purpose of expenditure			
POLITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES			

The images above are from Pages 425 and 537 of the RGA report to the IRS this week, saying the Republican Governors Association is paying Brett Huber's company \$11,500 a month to manage the Dunleavy support group in Alaska. Huber has testified he wasn't sure where the money was coming from and he denied having any real role in managing the Dunleavy support group. The image below is from the report filed last week with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, claiming that A Stronger Alaska, not the RGA, is paying Huber \$11,500 a month. A Stronger Alaska appears to be a fake front group for the RGA.

08/01/2022	Electronic Funds Transfer	MACLEAN, Virginia 22101 STRATEGIC SYNERGIES LLC 200 E. 34TH AVE. #586 ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99501	CONSULTING/POLITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$11,500.00
08/01/2022	Electronic Funds Transfer	CHAIN BRIDGE BANK, N.A. 1445A LAUGHLIN AVE. MACLEAN, Virginia 22101	BANK FEES	\$10.00
09/01/2022	Electronic Funds Transfer	STRATEGIC SYNERGIES LLC 200 E. 34TH AVE. #586 ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99501	CONSULTING/POLITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$11,500.00

Republican Governors Association inadvertently reveals financing of Dunleavy shell group with IRS filings

BY DERMOT COLE

The Republican Governors Association filed its quarterly financial report with the IRS late Monday.

I thought that perhaps the group would have been warned by its attorneys about the legal problems it faces in Alaska and amend its IRS reports to try to erase a serious campaign finance scandal before it goes any further.

But we can be thankful that the news didn't get back to D.C. or the organization isn't worried about the level of Alaska campaign finance enforcement.

Simply put, the new IRS report adds more evidence that the Republican Governors Association is paying the freight for the Dunleavy support group.

This is not what the Republican Governors Association is telling Alaskans and the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

The GOP group claims that the Dunleavy support group it allegedly created, "A Stronger Alaska," is boosting Dunleavy and attacking his opponents with money from the \$3 million the RGA transferred to the support group in 2021.

This assertion is critical because A Stronger Alaska is registered with the state as an "independent expenditure" group for this campaign, while the Republican Governors Association isn't.

It doesn't matter that the same D.C. individuals control both groups. This is not a matter of moving money from your left pocket to the right pocket.

The Republican Governors Association has filed legal documents in Alaska going back to early 2021 claiming it created a separate legal entity to back Dunleavy and gave it \$3 million to spend any way it wanted.

The IRS filings show that A Stronger Alaska hasn't received any money from the RGA, which means that it doesn't have any money to spend. Which means that the unregistered RGA is calling the shots and that A Stronger Alaska is a political scam.

But A Stronger Alaska is claiming to the APOC that it is paying for services that the RGA is really paying for.

The GOP governors may not know it yet, but they've made it much easier with their IRS reports for the Alaska Public Offices Commission to act quickly and decisively on a new campaign finance complaint.

The complaint charges that A Stronger Alaska is a "sham entity" that appears to exist only on its registration form with the Alaska Public Offices Commission and may not even have a back account.

As I wrote here Sunday, the RGA claimed that it transferred \$3 million to the Dunleavy support group on Feb. 25, 2021, three days before a new law went into effect that required the identification of donors.

If a transfer took place, it would have to be reported to the IRS.

The RGA has never reported a \$3 million transfer to the IRS.

The only place it has mentioned \$3 million is in filings with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

The RGA is either filing false reports with the IRS or false reports with the APOC.



Gov. Mike Dunleavy

I believe the false reports are those filed with the Alaska commission, a notoriously understaffed entity that doesn't have the resources to do its job.

There is more evidence in the public record that A Stronger Alaska is not what it claims to be. The RGA keeps reporting to the IRS that it is paying for the services of Brett Huber, who is the leading Alaska figure hired to run the Dunleavy support group.

Huber's contract with A Stronger Alaska requires him to send invoices to an employee with an RGA email address.

The new IRS document reinforces the earlier reports. The significant expenses that A Stronger Alaska claims to be paying are coming out of the Republican Governors Association coffers.

This should clarify matters for Huber, who testified Friday that he wasn't sure who was paying him \$11,500 in monthly installments as the money is automatically transferred into his bank account.

The RGA told the IRS it sent \$11,500 to Huber on Aug. 1 and Sept. 1.

Here is the report the RGA filed with the IRS.

On Monday, the Alaska Public Interest Research Group and the 907 Initiative filed a detailed complaint about the shell game. The complaint says the evidence supporting the allegations is "incredibly strong" as it is based mainly on sworn filings with the IRS and APOC from the RGA and its Dunleavy support group.

The allegations are serious enough and the amount of money is large enough that the agency should not hesitate to deal with this on an emergency basis before the election.

There are rarely campaign finance complaints that are this obvious. The APOC should shut down the Dunleavy support group.



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Abortion bans are motivating midterm voters, national poll shows

BY EMMARIE HUETTEMAN
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

Half of voters say the Supreme Court’s decision overturning the constitutional right to an abortion has made them more motivated to vote in next month’s midterm elections, with enthusiasm growing especially among Democrats and those living in states with abortion bans, according to a new poll from KFF.

The survey also showed that most voters, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, do not think abortion should be prohibited in cases of rape or incest, nor do they support laws that set criminal punishments for abortion providers and women who have abortions.

The findings, collected in late September through KFF’s regular survey of public opinion on health care issues, highlight that even the majority of Republican voters oppose some of the laws that have strictly restrained abortion access — including for those who have been raped — that are now in effect in Republican-led states such as Texas and Missouri. However, states with such strict standards have so far authorized abortions to save the life of a mother.

With Democrats currently holding control of the House of Representatives and the Senate by narrow margins and several close races underway, control of Congress could hinge on voter turnout. And while voters are less likely to pick candidates based on a single issue, an important issue may make them more likely to vote.

The KFF poll showed neither party holds a notable “motivation advantage,” with more than half of both Democratic and Republican voters reporting they feel more inclined to vote in this election than previous ones. Voters who said they were independents, however, said they were less inclined to vote than in previous elections.

The difference was in their reasons. Of those voters who said they are more motivated, the top issue for Democrats was reproductive rights, while the top issue for Republicans was the economy and inflation. Independents were equally split between abortion and the economy. Almost 7 in 10 Democrats said they were motivated by the court’s decision, compared with 49% of independents and 32% of Republicans.

Among women of reproductive age, 44% said they are more motivated to vote this year, with nearly 6 in 10 attributing their feelings to the court’s decision and more than 5 in 10 pointing to abortion laws in their home state.

Of voters living in states with full abortion bans, 51% said their state’s laws had made them more motivated to vote, suggesting the potential for higher Democratic voter turnout in several Republican states.

The poll showed 76% of all voters motivated by the court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* plan to vote for candidates who support abortion access.

The findings also showed striking agreement: More than 8 in 10 voters nationally oppose laws that prohibit abortion in cases of rape or incest — as do more than 8 in 10 voters living in states with the strictest abortion bans, as well as more than 8 in 10 voters living in states with abortion protections.



While 70% of Republican voters approved of the court’s decision, a majority of Republicans also said they oppose laws that ban abortion in all cases or that make it a crime to have or perform an abortion.

Seven in 10 Republican voters oppose prohibiting abortion in cases of rape or incest. About 64% of Republicans oppose laws that make it a crime for women to obtain an abortion, while 51% oppose laws that make it a crime for a doctor to perform one.

One-third of Republicans oppose prohibiting abortion once fetal cardiac activity is detected, typically about six weeks after a woman’s last menstrual cycle — the marker that has become the basis for six-week abortion bans in several states.

The KFF poll also asked voters about changes to Medicare under the Inflation Reduction Act, landmark legislation approved by the Democratic-controlled Congress in August. About a third or fewer of Americans are aware of the law’s health provisions, which include extending financial subsidies for those who purchase health insurance on the Affordable Care Act’s marketplaces, limiting out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries, capping their insulin costs, and allowing the federal government to negotiate the price of some prescription drugs for those in Medicare.

The poll showed that Americans 65 and older, who stand to benefit most as Medicare’s primary beneficiaries, are more likely to vote for candidates who support the law’s changes for health care costs.

The online and telephone survey was conducted Sept. 15-26 with a sample of 1,534 adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for the full sample, although among subgroups the sampling error may be higher.

This story was originally published by Kaiser Health News on Oct. 12, 2022. KHN (Kaiser Health News) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, KHN is one of the three major operating programs at KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation). KFF is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on health issues to the nation.

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A4 PRESS

October 20-October 26, 2022

Backstories: Kendra Arciniega

BY O'HARA SHIPE

Despite her calm demeanor, Kendra Arciniega is not the kind of person who likes riding in the passenger seat of life. Instead, she prefers to floor the car, expertly dodging a slew of obstacles that try their best to slow her down. Arciniega is on a mission to bring Latin X and queer artists to the forefront of Anchorage's sometimes clique-ridden art scene, and with her wife Mercedes at her side, nothing can stop her.

"I grew up never feeling connected to Anchorage," Arciniega explained over a horchata at Cafecito Bonito. "Honestly, I hated it here. So, I moved away, went to college, lived in LA for a bit, and then decided it was time to reclaim Anchorage."

But Arciniega didn't return home to Alaska without leaving an indelible mark on L.A. She has produced content for 20th Century Fox Television, Dodo Productions, and most recently worked on the 2015 romantic comedy, *The Wedding Invitation*, starring Eoin Macken (NBC's *The Night Shift*) and Camille Guaty (MTV's *Happyland*, CBS' *Scorpion*). In addition, she's worked with several industry talents, such as cinematographer Alicia Robbins and actors Aasha Davis, Adam Sinclair, Maria Russell, and Johnathan Lipnicki. Arciniega was also named one of *Fullscreen's* Top 10 Filmmakers to Watch in 2014 and won Web Fest awards for her original web series, *CTRL.ALT.DEL*, which garnered international popularity.

When reminded of her accomplishments in a highly competitive TV and film industry, Arciniega nonchalantly shrugs.

"Yeah, I guess I did a lot," she explained flatly.

Arciniega is proud of what she has done in the past, but she's also not one to look in the rearview mirror and rest on her laurels. So, when she received a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award in 2021, she pushed the gas pedal to the floorboard and hasn't slowed down since.

"I formed Arciniega Street Productions with my wife to help support the artist grant. It's kind of developed into a much larger project than I thought it would, but [my wife] Mercedes and I got sick of trying to find the community we wanted to be a part of and decided we should just create it," said Arciniega.

The foundation of Arciniega's community – Drag Loteria – was crafted with coffee beans, drag queens, and a whole lot of Mexican candy.

"Loteria, or Bingo, is a really big part of Latin X culture, and I am very connected to my San Antonio roots. So, what better way to combine my heritage and my queerness than with Drag Loteria," said Arciniega.

Featuring a revolving cast of Latin X and BIPOC performers, Drag Loteria has become one of the hottest tickets in town.

"Really, I didn't expect Drag Loteria to be selling out every show. It started so humbly as an impromptu Pride party for friends, and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger," said Arciniega.

The success of Loteria has ignited another fire in Arciniega. This time, she's focused on spotlighting the oft-overlooked R&B music scene.

"Several years ago, we worked with a local R&B artist and managed her for a summer. It was really frustrating to see how it was like pulling teeth to get local venues to give a shit about her when she's easily one of the best vocalists in town in the state," explained an impassioned Arciniega. "A lot of the venues just weren't willing to pay what these artists are worth, and that was really disheartening. They were like, 'We can give you \$200 for a three-piece band.' Like, that's crazy!"

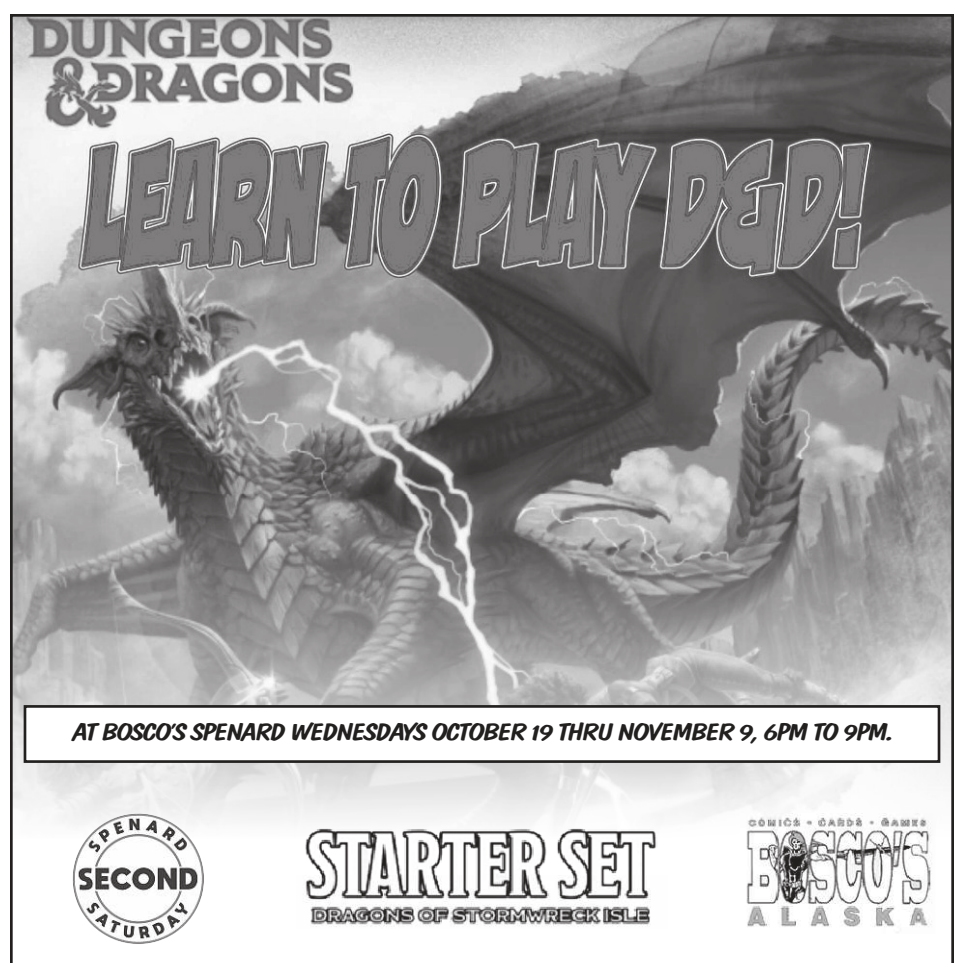
Tired of trying to bang down locked doors, Arciniega decided to build her master key – Lights Down Low. An intimate listening-room concert series, Lights Down Low has introduced Anchorage to rising R&B stars Chris Hawk and Denali. The series has also spotlighted Anchorage's queen of soul, Dawn McClain.

“By basically are envisioning the Anchorage that we needed when we were younger by creating the community that we needed when we were younger growing up,” explained Arciniega before taking a final sip of her horchata.

Placing her empty cup on the table, Arciniega deeply sighs before saying, "It feels good to be producing shows that we would want to go to – we are reclaiming our space one event at a time."

Support Arciniega Street Productions by following them on social media @ArciniegaStreet.

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



Dagnabit!

It's pronounced AN-TEE-GA

DAGNABIT!
BY MIKE GORDON

Michael and Anne weren't the only beautiful people who have walked into my life, offered their hand in friendship, and freely shared their bounties. Another such was Nick Fuller.

Nick drank Heineken for breakfast—every day—at least when he was at his Callaloo Beach Resort on the Caribbean island of Antigua in the West Indies. It's pronounced AN-TEE-GA, as if someone stole the “u” and tried to hide it by heavily accenting the sharp “i”.

He sent me a post card from down there that showed a beautiful beach with bungalows. On it he had written, “I've got a little resort smack on a white sandy beach with gin-clear water. I'll trade you straight across for free drinks at Chilkoot Charlie's. Stay as long as you want.” Now that was an offer that got my immediate attention, though I had never met the guy and it took me a couple of years to act upon it.

The namesake of the resort—callaloo—is a popular dish that originated in West Africa and is served across the Caribbean, although its definition varies. In some countries, callaloo is a type of soup. In others, it is a sort of vegetable stew. Different countries, depending on their culture and available ingredients, favor their own national recipes. Some even make a callaloo juice.

In any case, the main ingredient is a leafy vegetable, generally either amaranth or taro or xanthosoma, and variously referred to as callaloo, coco, tannia, dasheen bush, or bhaaji. Callaloo is also the name used to describe spinach, sometimes called bhajgee (bah-gee).

Antigua is hot pretty much the year around. Essentially there is only one season: summer. So when Nick took a vacation he liked to head north, especially in the winter to escape the heat, and it so happened he had a West Point pal, retired Brigadier General Bruce Ingle “Rock” Staser (1919—2010) who lived just up the street from Chilkoot Charlie's.

Rock was born in Anchorage to Harry I. and Barbara (De Pencier) Staser and graduated from Anchorage High School in 1936. He attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and took his nickname while attending West Point, when he won the East Coast heavyweight boxing title. He served in the US Army's 13th and 82nd Airborne Divisions during World War II and is interred at the US Military Academy Cemetery at West Point. He served as chief of staff for the Alaskan Command and under Governor Bill Egan as commander of the Alaska National Guard in the early 70s. He also served as Anchorage's civil defense director under Mayor George Sullivan.

During one of Nick's visits to Alaska to visit Rock, the two walked to Chilkoot Charlie's for a beer. Nick was a natural-born Spenardian. It was love at first sight. He was so delighted with my slogan, “We cheat the Other guy and pass the savings on to You!” he had a photo of himself standing under the sign tacked to his office wall in Antigua.

Nicholas A. “Nick” Fuller (1919-1998), was born in Toledo, Ohio, and graduated from West Point in 1944. But he was not commissioned with his 1944 classmates because of poor eyesight. Nick sat for the

Foreign Service exams instead, and the State Department first placed him in charge of the American Consulate in Antigua. After an assignment in war-torn Columbia, Nick moved his family to New York and joined an advertising firm, but he wasn't able to get the sand out of his shoes. He returned to Antigua where he opened a small hotel named The Lord Nelson, the first commercial lodging on the island. Nick operated the Lord Nelson until 1980, when he moved across the island to build Callaloo Beach Resort, a low-profile operation next to Curtain Bluff, the most expensive resort on the island, which was fondly referred to by him and his guests as “Cretin Bluff.”

Nick's wife, Adele, took over management of the Lord Nelson, which Nick referred to as a “real business.” Nick's Callaloo Beach Resort was run for the camaraderie of his friends, who were legion, from all over the world and all walks of life.

There was only one paying couple during our entire stay at Callaloo. It was a young couple. She was gorgeous and exotic looking, from Namibia. He was a talent manager. One of his clients was Chris de Burgh, the singer of “Lady in Red,” as well as other great songs. Non-paying friends of Nick's did take on responsibilities and assist with chores, generally between a leisurely breakfast and the 1 p.m. onset of the extended cocktail hour.

Nick knew everybody who was anybody, and anybody who was nobody, in the Caribbean. During the war years if you needed a passport, a visa or anything of that nature, you needed to see Nick. He was a legendary character. He traveled light without suitcase or wallet, with only an open canvas shopping bag containing underwear, Glenlivet Scotch, and Cuban cigars. He did not own a credit card. His only card was an Antigua driver's license with a photo of him holding a glass of Scotch. In his pocket he carried a wad of \$100 bills.

When I finally found the time to take Nick up on his offer to stay at Callaloo, I arranged for Shelli and me to stay for a week, returning right after Christmas. We were having so much fun we extended our stay until well after the New Year; we were lodged in a little tin-roofed bungalow a leisurely stroll from the main building, kitchen, office, sundeck and clubhouse with an open-air bar. Across the dirt road behind us was a pasture with donkeys. We didn't need an alarm because early each morning the donkeys would wander over behind our building and serenade us with a chorus of, “Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!”

One of Nick's more memorable guests at Callaloo during our stay was the Honorable Gerald David Lascelles (1924-1998), who was accompanied by his second wife, former actress Elizabeth Collingwood. Gerald was the younger son of Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood, and Mary, the Princess Royal, and only daughter of King George V.

Gerald had attended Eton College and served as a captain in the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own), an infantry regiment of the British Army. Gerald was a jazz enthusiast, and in the '50s he collaborated with jazz critic Sinclair Traill on a compilation of jazz yearbooks. He was also a race car driver, served as president of the British Racing Drivers' Club, and was a director of the Silverstone Circuit race car track in Northamptonshire, England.

The Honorable Gerald could be seen mid-morning in his XXXL swimsuit, on hands and knees making his contribution to the chores of the day, scrubbing tiles around the clubhouse with a bucket of bleach water. Following



that chore, he would assist me in the opening of the bar for the day. We became pals and enjoyed sparring with one another. One day I got him good.

I had made a comment about our schedule, pronouncing it the way we Americans do and Gerald corrected me by pronouncing it the way the Brits do, to which I replied, “Gerald, if you say ‘shedule’ instead of ‘skedule,’ why don’t you say ‘shool’ instead of ‘skool’?” He was stumped. It was the one and only time he failed to retort.

About halfway through our stay, a lady named Doone Beal from the prestigious Conde Nast Gourmet magazine stopped by Callaloo, ostensibly we thought to write a story about the food at the resort. The food there was good, but really didn’t seem to inspire an article in a food magazine. Doone and her husband, Pelham, also known as Lord and Lady Marley, were very old friends of Nick’s. She insisted that she be referred to as Lady Marley and we thought it was amusing, especially Gerald, who was actually, factually, royalty.

Once, when Shelli and I were lounging by the clubhouse visiting with Gerald and Elizabeth, the subject of Lady Marley came up. Gerald, stretched out like a beached beluga whale on his lounge chair, his usual Dewar’s Scotch and water in hand, dramatically announced, “I don’t care what anyone thinks. I’m not speaking to someone who hasn’t a first name!” Heavy emphasis on the words anyone, first and name, with no “r” in first, the word name followed by one of those loud British sniffs up both nostrils. Shelli and I laughed so hard we practically fell off our lounges.

One day while walking along the beach, Shelli and I turned a corner and there was an expanse of white sand covered with a huge mound of conch shells that had, apparently, been harvested for serving in the restaurant. It was literally a conch graveyard, beautiful in a bizarre sort of way, and mildly upsetting. We nicknamed it Conchwich.

Hugh Stancliffe was a regular guest of Nick’s who produced brochures for the resort. Shelli and I were having some personal issues at the time, which were not aided any by the fact that she was more strikingly beautiful than usual walking around the resort in the pink jumpsuit I had bought her in Honolulu. Hugh was divorced from his first wife and he and Shelli became quite friendly. I’m afraid, in my insecure frame of mind, I took it the wrong way and became jealous. I didn’t say anything to Shelli or Hugh at the time but expressed my feelings in a previous rendition of this story printed in the Anchorage Press. A friend of Hugh’s in Antigua forwarded the article to him in the U.K. and in subsequent communications he explained that he was only being a friend, which Shelli sorely needed. He also kindly pointed out some other inaccuracies in my original story.

As if the diversity of guests needed pollinating, there was “Fat Jack,” visiting with his wife, Hillary. Fat Jack was a West Point classmate of Nick’s whose claim to fame was that he had piloted one of the P-51 fighters that escorted the B-29 Superfortress,

Bockscar on its mission to and from Nagasaki to drop off the atom bomb, “Fat Man.”

There was also a guy I will simply describe as “The Walker.” He was some sort of big-shot construction guy who was really into walking long distances. He and whoever he could recruit would walk 20 to 25 miles a day. I was running marathons at the time and would put in my 5-to 10-mile run each morning, which I deemed more time-efficient, but then I didn’t see as much of the island as “The Walker” and his entourage did.

Another West Pointer was Renee Lopez-Duprey, who was accompanied by his wife, Ada. They were an aristocratic couple from Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ada wore a lot of expensive jewelry and kept her hair coiffed up in a bee hive. Delightful and genteel, they owned a rattan furniture factory in Puerto Rico with a branch in the Philippines, and we enjoyed a visit with them in Old San Juan on our way back to Alaska.

Finally, there was Ray Dunster aka “Rotten Ray” and his wife, Isabel, who hailed from Ontario, Canada. According to Hugh Stancliffe, they were lifelong friends of fellow Canadians, George and Joan Ledingham, friends and supporters of Nick from the early days of his Bucket of Blood nightclub over by the Lord Nelson.

One day Shelli and I drove into town to watch the horse races at the Cassada Gardens Race Track, a feature of the Antigua Turf Club. It was the second day of what was billed the Christmas Meeting. The date was January 3, 1988. It was a colorful affair that boasted enthusiastic spectators seated on rickety bleachers, one of which collapsed under the weight of the crowd. Fortunately it was not our bleacher and no one was injured, but the red, volcanic earth was wet and muddy from recent rain, so you can imagine the effect on one’s attire.

The race track brochure advertised “BREED YOURSELF A TRACK RECORD BREAKER! IF YOU HAVE THE MARE WE HAVE THE STALLION, CALIBI. BREED FOR SPEED AND BREED FOR STAMINA TOO.”

It was while attending the races that I discovered they sold a marvelous bottle of Guinness beer with lemon juice in it. It was packaged as a throwback to the British navy days when they provided grog and lemon juice to prevent scurvy, and there was a nifty British navy pattern on the label. Unfortunately, I have never seen it served anywhere else. Chilkoot Charlie’s was the first bar in Alaska to serve Guinness on tap but, though I did inquire, I could never locate the bottled stuff with lemon juice in it.

On the way to and from the races we spotted the town’s “RUDE BOY STAND” and stopped to take a photo of four local boys clowning around on what is the local version of the dunce hat. It is a simple concrete roadside platform used for publicly humiliating young miscreants who are required to stand on it for all to see for prescribed periods of time.

Our extended vacation time finally came to an end. Shelli and I returned to Anchorage and never revisited Antigua, though I was able to arrange for a one-week honeymoon at Callaloo for my daughter Michele and her husband Jerry. The last time I saw Nick was when he was once again visiting Rock in Anchorage.

I was counting the bar banks one afternoon in the office at Chilkoot Charlie’s when the bartender rang me and said, “Mike, there are two old geezers out here who say they drink at Koot’s for free.”

Knowing exactly of whom he spoke, I said, “Yep. Set ‘em up.”

“I’ll be right out.”

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

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October 20-October 26, 2022

PRESS

A7

A brother seeks answers over Alaska

State cites privacy laws in what it can share with public

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

Ever since his brother, 31-year-old James Rider, became the 12th person to die while in Alaska Department of Corrections custody, Mike Cox has been trying to get the department to answer his questions.

“I want to know what their procedures are and how they intend on fixing them, so this doesn’t keep happening,” Cox said.

Alaska State Troopers arrested Rider in Wasilla on Aug. 30 and brought him to Mat-Su Pretrial, a Department of Corrections facility. Six days later, on Sept. 5, he was found in his cell having attempted suicide, according to details in an Alaska State Medical Examiner’s Office report. The medical examiner’s office determines the cause of in-custody deaths. The report, which Rider’s family requested, said Rider was transported to Mat-Su Regional Medical Center where he showed “no signs of recovery” and was pronounced dead on Sept. 9.

Of the 15 people to die in Corrections custody so far this year, at least two have died by suicide – 20-year-old Kitty Douglas, as reported by Alaska Public Media, and Rider. The Alaska Civil Liberties Union of Alaska has identified through its research a third death by suicide, and suspects more, according to an ACLU of Alaska spokesperson. Cox wants to know how Corrections handles people who are suicidal and what’s being done to prevent these deaths from occurring.

“I don’t want it to happen to anybody else’s brother or father or sister or mother or cousin or anybody else. I want policy changes. I want people held accountable for mistakes being made. These are people’s lives. They’re not just criminals sitting in a warehouse. These are people’s family members,” Cox said.

In response to questions from the Alaska Beacon, state officials cited privacy laws in saying they are limited in what they can say publicly about individuals.

When asked how many of the 15 in-custody deaths this year were due to apparent suicide or are being investigated as suicides, Corrections did not directly answer the question. Instead, Corrections public information officer Betsy Holley said in an email, “in accordance with state statute, the State Medical Examiner releases cause of death.”

When posed with the same question, a spokesperson for the Department of Health – which the State Medical Examiner’s Office is part of – said in an email, the office “does not release death investigation reports, the identity of deceased individuals, or any combination of this information to the public.” This information can only be released to family and law enforcement, he said.

A brother’s questions

Cox said he has called the Department of Corrections and Mat-Su Pretrial trying to get a hold of facility superintendent Sheri Olsen, or anyone else who might be able to answer his questions.

“We’ve called the various numbers for anybody in the administrative part of the DOC who can maybe answer some questions. I have left messages with everybody from the administration to the guards, and the only person that keeps reaching out and contacting me is the chaplain, who doesn’t have answers,” Cox said. “I would like to talk to the superintendent and know what she’s doing.”

According to Holley, Corrections can “discuss matters with the personal representative determined by the Court. If Mr. Cox is that individual, he needs to share the paperwork with the facility.”

Corrections evaluated Rider when he was booked into prison on Aug. 30. He was “placed on a suicide precaution watch” and “remained under precaution for one day,” according to the State Medical Examiner’s Office report. Cox said he already knew this from having talked to Rider a day before he took his life.

The report said Corrections moved Rider to a different cell with two other inmates. Then, on Sept. 5, Corrections transferred Rider to another cell “where he was the sole individual in the cell.” That evening, he was found in a manner that was deemed “an apparent suicide attempt.” Two suicide notes were in the cell and “there was no suspicion of foul play.”

“We want to know who signed off on his suicide watch. Who was in the position to put him in there in the first place? Is that an actual doctor who’s doing that? And then, who made the call to move him to a cell by himself within five days of him saying he was suicidal? I think there was a breakdown in procedure,” Cox said. “Somebody dropped the ball. This should have never gotten this far and it should have never happened.”

Their last conversation

When Cox talked to his brother on the phone a day before he took his own life, Cox said Rider described how Corrections conducted suicide precaution watch. Cox said Rider was “stripped naked,” put in a “turtle coat” – also called a suicide smock – to prevent him from hurting himself and thrown in a padded room alone.

“That’s degrading to do that to somebody who already doesn’t want to live,” Cox said. “When they tell you that they’re suicidal, that is a cry for help; not a cry for torture.”

Due to that experience, Rider said he would never tell Corrections staff he was suicidal ever again, Cox said.

Corrections public information officer Holley did not answer specific questions about what happens to a person in prison when they’re placed on suicide watch, but pointed to its policies and procedures on suicide prevention and intervention.

According to the procedures, all people in custody are screened for potential suicide risk by health care or security staff soon after arrival or booking. “When a prisoner is identified as being at risk for suicide, the prisoner shall be placed on suicide prevention status,” the procedures state. “Suicide prevention status may be ordered by mental health staff, or if mental health staff are unavailable, by the Superintendent or designee.”

When someone is placed on suicide prevention status, that means “staff shall not leave the prisoner unattended,” and staff shall “remove any items that may be used to inflict harm” and “ensure the prisoner is housed in a suicide prevention cell on the appropriate suicide prevention status.” The procedures state that a suicide prevention cell is “as suicide resistant as reasonably possible, free of obvious protrusions and that provides full visibility.”

Suicide prevention status “shall be removed as soon as the prisoner no longer presents at risk of self-injury or suicide,” according to the procedures. The order for removal should be documented on a form, which is completed by the mental health staff. When a mental health staff is unavailable, a member of the nursing staff, in consultation with the psychiatric provider, can also discontinue suicide prevention status.

Holley noted, which the Beacon has reported before, “DOC takes every death seriously. DOC remands nearly 30,000 individuals a year. Unfortunately inmates are (an) exceptionally ill and complex patient population. The Department takes a multidisciplinary approach to ensure the safety of individuals within our custody that includes security, medical, treatment and support staff.”

“It cannot be stressed enough that DOC recognizes that every prisoner is someone’s mother, father, brother, sister, daughter, son,” Holley added. “Whether it be a medical emergency, a mental health crisis or potential death, staff members know each inmate and respond to each trauma with respect and professionalism.”

A request for preserving evidence

Cox and his family are working with the ACLU of Alaska to ensure that all records and other types of evidence regarding Rider’s death are preserved. He wants the phone call he had with his brother to be saved.

“I don’t want them destroying any records of what happened,” Cox said.

That includes any videos relevant to his brother’s death. “I want to see these videos. I want other people to see these videos to know that this is how they treat people. Or don’t treat them. They neglect them,” Cox said. “They throw them in a cell alone, which is crazy to me.”

According to its death of prisoner policies and procedures, Corrections does certain things “following the unexpected death of a prisoner.” This includes photographing the death scene “from as many angles and perspectives as possible” and photographing all property removed by the Alaska State Troopers, which investigates every in-custody death, including any documents such as suicide notes; identifying and securing docu-

mentation of any suicide precautions; ensuring that all staff involved with the death or death scene, including medical staff, complete a special incident report; and securing all medical records at the institution and a number of other institutional logs.

An interim policy and procedures memo from 2017 clarifies how video evidence is treated. It says the superintendent “shall immediately preserve all video recordings of the prisoner’s death scene including all video evidence leading up to the death.” At a minimum, video of the 24 hours preceding the death until the death scene is released by the troopers must be preserved. It also says that any evidence or video identified as relevant to the death or investigation “is preserved indefinitely,” or as directed by the troop-

ers.

An offer to other families

Cox lives with a lot more than grief for his brother’s death.

“The more I find out, my anger takes over my sorrow and my grief that I have for losing my little brother. I’m mad this happened. It should have never come to this,” he said.

Cox’s anger isn’t just for his brother’s death, but for other in-custody deaths that he believes could have been avoided. Rider was Corrections’ 12th in-custody death of the year through early September. Two more individuals died after a short time in Corrections custody later that month. Corrections reported its 15th death on Oct. 3. Of these deaths, several individuals have been in their 20s or 30s and died after only a short time in state care. Two deaths in August occurred after less than 24 hours.

“Unless it was an actual, like, heart attack or something that is totally unavoidable, then maybe I could understand. But I think all these deaths are neglect,” Cox said.

Cox is determined to learn more about how and why his brother died, but he also wants to offer anything he’s learned about this process to other families going through the same thing.

“Anything that’s going to help other families or other people. James was a giver, like, gave everything. He may not have had much but he would have given you the shirt off his back, and I think we’re going to carry that on in his name.”

If you or someone you know is in emotional distress or considering self-harm or suicide, you can call or text 988 to access a trained crisis counselor.

Administration says Corrections deaths not ‘unusual,’ ACLU says it’s deflecting responsibility

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

None of the 15 people to die in Alaska Department of Corrections custody in 2022 so far “died as a result of others,” according to Gov. Mike Dunleavy. Acting Corrections Commissioner Jen Winkelman also said the deaths were not “unusual.”

“The investigations of deaths indicate that none of these inmates at this time have died as a result of others; in other words, murders or otherwise inappropriate dealings with the individuals in prison,” Dunleavy said at the beginning of a press conference Monday.

The Alaska State Troopers division investigates every in-custody death. John Skidmore, deputy attorney general for the Alaska Department of Law in the Criminal Division, said those deaths are investigated in the same way that officer-involved shootings are investigated.

“And all of those investigations then are referred over to the Office of Special Prosecutions when there’s ever any concern that it may rise to the level of any sort of criminal conduct. And what I can tell you is that today, we do not have any cases at this time that have presented themselves as rising to the level of criminal conduct,” Skidmore said.

Megan Edge said the governor and his administration are downplaying the severity of the deaths and are deflecting responsibility. Edge is communications director for the ACLU of Alaska and director of the ACLU of Alaska’s Prison Project.

“Just because somebody’s life wasn’t taken at the hands of another individual does not mean their life wasn’t taken because of failures in the system. That doesn’t address concerns about the medical screening process, the system being overburdened, mental health; it doesn’t address any of those issues. All that tells me is that somebody else’s hands did not cause that person’s death. It does not mean the system is not responsible for their dying,” Edge said.

Edge said it was disappointing that the governor and his staff didn’t offer solutions or proactive plans of what they’ll do to keep people safe and prevent further deaths.

The ACLU of Alaska on Friday formally requested that Dunleavy initiate an independent review of the deaths of Alaskans while in Corrections custody. Dunleavy did not address the request at the press conference Monday. Governor spokesperson Jeff Turner said in an email afterward, “The ACLU request was received, and it will be responded to in due time.”

Edge said the ACLU of Alaska is working with other members of the legal community to figure out a litigation strategy.

Fifteen people have died while in Corrections custody so far this year, which is the highest number of deaths in custody since 2015. Nine of these 15 people have died since Aug. 4. Of these deaths, several individuals have been in their 20s or 30s and died after only a short time in state care. Two deaths in August occurred after less than 24 hours. At least two have died by suicide — 20-year-old Kitty Douglas, as reported by Alaska Public Media, and 31-year-old James Rider. The ACLU of Alaska has identified through its research a third death by suicide, and suspects more. Several who died this year had not been sentenced.

Acting Corrections Commissioner Winkelman said the deaths are not unusual.

“While it’s unfortunate to have any death, it is not unusual and it is not a reflection on our staff’s ability to care. We have over 30,000 people that enter and leave

our facilities every year, and it’s often a very sick population. Eighty percent have not had medical care within the prior year. The average number of deaths over the last 10 years is nearly 12 deaths per year,” Winkelman said.

Deputy Attorney General Skidmore also said federal law prohibits the state from giving details of why a person died “because that gets into their personal medical histories.”

“Under federal law, it prohibits any provider of medical services, which includes the Department of Corrections, from disclosing information about people’s health records. And so we’re not allowed to go into the details of what sort of ailment or illness someone may have had,” he said.

Dunleavy emphasizes that the issue of deaths in Corrections custody “is taken very seriously by this administration, by the individuals that work for this administration.”

“All of these investigations will be thorough. And, again, we will follow all applicable law and we will make sure that we don’t violate anyone’s privacy rights,” Dunleavy said.

Edge said protecting privacy is important and critical, “but also when people are dying pretrial, they’re denied their right to due process, they’re denied their right to equal protection, they’re denied their right to rehabilitation. So there’s other rights here that people don’t have once they’ve died.”

“Just because somebody’s life wasn’t taken at the hands of another individual does not mean their life wasn’t taken because of failures in the system...”

- Megan Edge

Director of the ACLU of Alaska’s Prison Project



Alaska State Troopers arrested James Rider in Wasilla on Aug. 30 and brought him to Mat-Su Pretrial, a Department of Corrections facility. Six days later, on Sept. 5, he was found in his cell having attempted suicide, according to details in an Alaska State Medical Examiner’s Office report. The medical examiner’s office determines the cause of in-custody deaths.

ICYMI!



The Bad Bad Hats played Williwaw with help from local rockers SunDog on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Anchorage donned cat ears and little more at Showdown Alaska's Animal Masquerade. Walker & Royce, VNSSA and Astronomar provided the music.

All photos by @TrueNorthPhotoAk





The cast of Mad Myrna's annual "Rocky Horror Show" did the Time Warp again last weekend. A cult classic and Anchorage staple, all performances are currently sold out.

All photos by @TrueNorthPhotoAk



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Thu 10/20

Featured

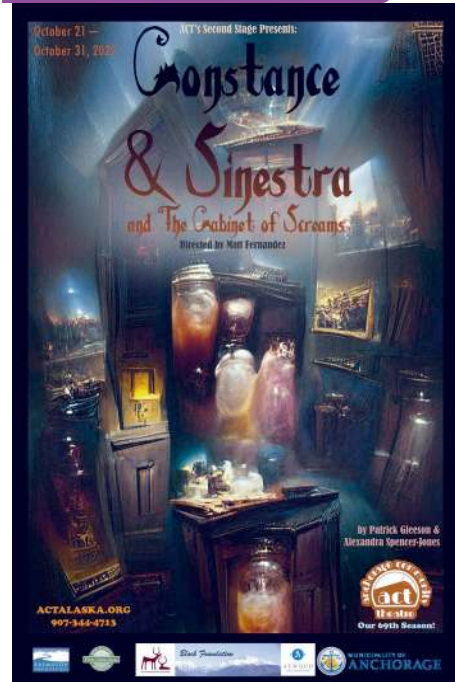


With
@ 7pm / \$30
Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org



Fri 10/21

Featured



Constance & Sinestra and the Cabinet of Screams
@ 7pm / \$25
OCTOBER 21-30 THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM Anchorage Community Theatre, 1133 East 70th Avenue, Anchorage. matt@actalaska.org, 907-344-4713



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



Sat 10/22

Frightening 4k
@ 12am / \$35-\$35
Oct 22nd - Oct 29th
Hotel Captain Cook, 939 W 5th Ave, Anchorage

Fall Vendor Marketplace
@ 10am
Get an early start on your Christmas shopping! Featuring local small businesses and crafters. Find something truly unique for your loved ones (or yourself!). Midtown Mall, 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. amber@midtownmall.com, 907-602-6225

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. sparkletube1@gmail.com

Featured



Fundraiser for Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska
King Street Brewing Co.
9050 King Street, Anchorage
October 22nd 5:30 - 8:30
\$25 includes beer, wine and food

Beer, Wine and Bid for AWG Team Alaska
@ 5:30pm / \$25
Beer, Wine and BID on Silent and Live Auction Items. Artwork, Team Alaska and Olympic Apparel, jewelry, and more. Something for everyone. 9050 King St, 9050 King Street, Anchorage. amyfitz33@gmail.com, 907-440-7676



Featured



Pumpkin Carving Contest @ Bernie's
@ 6pm / \$15
Join us for our annual pumpkin carving contest! Win prizes, play games, & watch halloween movies while sipping on hot cocktails on our patio! Grand prize is a solo stove! Bernie's Bungalow Lounge, 626 D Street, Anchorage. events@bernieslounge.com, 907-276-8808



Featured



Brad Upton: In Concert with TG Sheppard
@ 8:15pm
If the Pacific Northwest had a Mt. Rushmore of Comedy, this man's head would be on it. William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center, 555 W 5th Ave, Anchorage



Sun 10/23

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

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



Fri 10/28

Supernova Alaska: Supernova Live At Humpy's
@ 9:30pm
Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse, 610 W 6th Ave, Anchorage

Sat 10/29

Ballet Master Class by Michelangelo
@ 9am
Classical Ballet Class by Michelangelo Artistry, Power, Fitness! Join internationally renowned Maestro Michelangelo Canale for this unique Master Class experience in classical ballet. Dimond Center Dance Studio YMCA, Dimond Center Dr Dimond Center Drive, Anchorage

Featured



Ghoul Out the Vote
@ 12pm
Put on your best contest and join us at this fun, family event. Costume Contest, FREE food, music, games, prizes and a Parade to the Polls. Midtown Mall, 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. erin@standupalaska.org, 907-317-5668



Sun 10/30

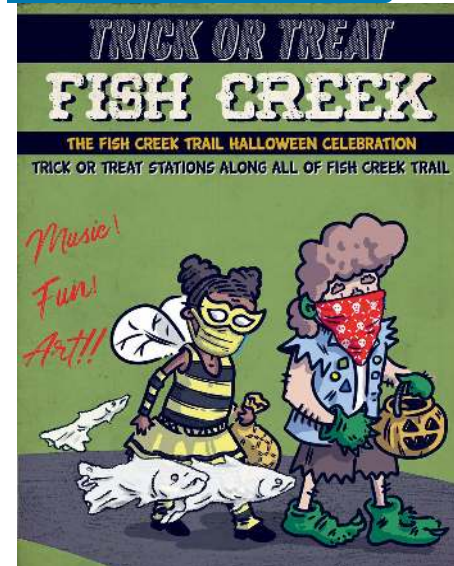


Zoo Boo Halloween Event
@ 10am / \$17
Bring your goblins and ghouls, your zombies and ghosts...come one, come all in costume for Zoo Boo - one of Anchorage's longest running premiere Halloween events in a new two day format this year! Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. aom@alaska-zoo.org, 907-346-2133



Mon 10/31

Featured



Trick or Treat Fish Creek
@ 4pm
Family-friendly event for Halloween: trick-or-treating along the Fish Creek Trail! Woodland Park, 3508 Iowa Street, Anchorage. spenardcc@gmail.com



Zoo Boo Halloween Event

@ 5pm / \$17
Bring your goblins and ghouls, your zombies and ghosts...come one, come all in costume for Zoo Boo - one of Anchorage's longest running premiere Halloween events in a new two day format this year! Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. aom@alaskazoo.org, 907-346-2133

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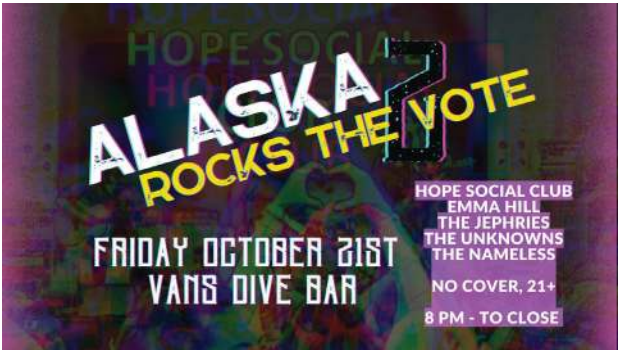
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Get direct links to the event details at AKconcerts.com
Or read below if you just want to know the time & place.

Thursday, October 20th

Flattop Pizza & Pool – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Garcia's Cantina & Cafe (Eagle River) – Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Humpys - Lisa Lisa & That Guy 7:30p-12:30a
Koot's – The Ken Peltier Band 7p-10p
Koot's – Grace C Elliot 8p-12a
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 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
UAA Fine Arts Building – Alaska Electric Orchestra 7:30p-9p
Van's Dive Bar – The 7 Duo & Rage City Roller Derby 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Chantil Dukart Album Realease w/ Kat Moore 7p-10p



Friday, October 21st

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Puget Sound Piano Trio 7p-8p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Gary V Reenergized US Tour Live! 7p-10p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Pirates of Penzance 8p-10:30p
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 Gary Stedman! 6p-8p
The Broken Blender – House of 1,000 Pasties: A Halloween Cabaret 8p-9:30p
The Crowbar – DJ Manny's El Chupacabra LATIN NIGHT 10p-3a
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 7p-8:20p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Standup Comedy w/ Ahmed Ahmed 7p-8:15p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
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
Government Hill (Anchorage) – Garage Comedy Open Mic 7:30p-10p
Humpy's – Cold Fusion 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike's and The Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – GALACTICA: A Space Cabaret 8p-9:45a
Koot's – Velvet La La 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-11p
O'Malley's on the Green – Jerry's Situation 6:30p-10p
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p

Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – An Acoustic Evening w Ken Peltier 7p-10p
Pyrarh's Pioneer Peak Farm (Palmer) – Fright Nights (Haunted House) 6p-10p
Sullivan's Steakhouse – Live Music from Tom Bargelski 5:30p-8:30p
Van's Dive Bar – Emma Hill, Hope Social Club, UnKnowns, Nameless, & The Jephries 9p-1a
Wasilla Area Seniors Inc (Wasilla) – Fall Festival w/ The Feral Kats Band 4p-6:30p
Williwaw Social – I Like Robots 80s Dance Party 8p-11p
Williwaw Social – Taylor Swift Night: Midnights Dance Party 11p-2



Saturday, October 22nd

49th State Brewing (Anchorage) – All Ageges Halloween Party 1p-5p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Pirates of Penzance 8p-10:30p
American Legion Post 15 (Palmer) – 100 Proof Karaoke 7p-10p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser w/ RNR Music 7p-11p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Woodrow Live 8p-12a
Arctic Harvest Deliveries – Body Glow Rave: A Camp Unicorn Reunion 9p-2a
Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Noche Urbana 10p-2a
The Broken Blender – House of 1,000 Pasties: A Halloween Cabaret 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – Unknowns Live 10p-2a
Curtis D Menard Memorial Sports Complex (Wasilla) – Halloween Carnival & Fundraiser 12p-6p
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 7p-8:20p
Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Everett's (Wasilla) – Valley Comic Con 2022 9a-6p
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4174 (Chugiak) – Karaoke 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Glenn Massay Theater (Palmer) – Little Shop of Horrors 2p-4p & 7p-9p
Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – Tamara Ashburn 4p-7p
Humpy's – Jerry's Situation 9:30p-1:30a
Klondike Mike's and The Main Street Grill (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
Koot's – Comedian Ahmed Ahmed 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot's – GALACTICA: A Space Cabaret 8p-9:45a
Koot's – Velvet La La 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



Sunday, October 23rd

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Pirates of Penzance 4p-2:30p
Anchorage Lutheran - ALC Concert Series: John Zimmerman, Organist 4:30p-6p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
The Crowbar – Open Mic 6p-10p
Cyrano's Theatre Company – With 3p-4:20p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Valley Comic Con 2022 9a-6p
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot's – It's A Broadway Birthday Bash 10p-2a
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
The Nave – Spenard Song Circle w/ Michael Patrick, Emma Hill & Nikki Jensen 5:30p-8p
Pioneer Bar – Industry Night w/ Joe Brady 10p-2a
Van's Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a

Monday, October 24th

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

Tuesday, October 25th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Arctic Entries: Episode 1: Like a Phoenix 7:30p-9:30p
American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Open Band Jam Night 6:30p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Klondike Mike's & the Main Street Grill (Palmer) – The Open Stage 7p-10p
Koot's – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
Organic Oasis – Williwaw Blue 5:30p-7:30p
Trophy Lounge – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-1a
Van's Dive Bar – OPEN JAM w/ Daylight Mike 9p-12a

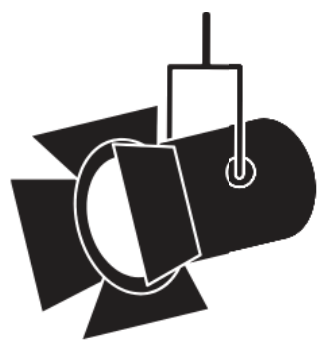
Wednesday, October 26th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Brown Bear Saloon (Indian) – Hwy9 6:30p-9p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
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) – The Balcao Co 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
Yukon Bar (Seward) – Karaoke 9p-2a



YOUR
WEEKEND

THEATRE GUIDE

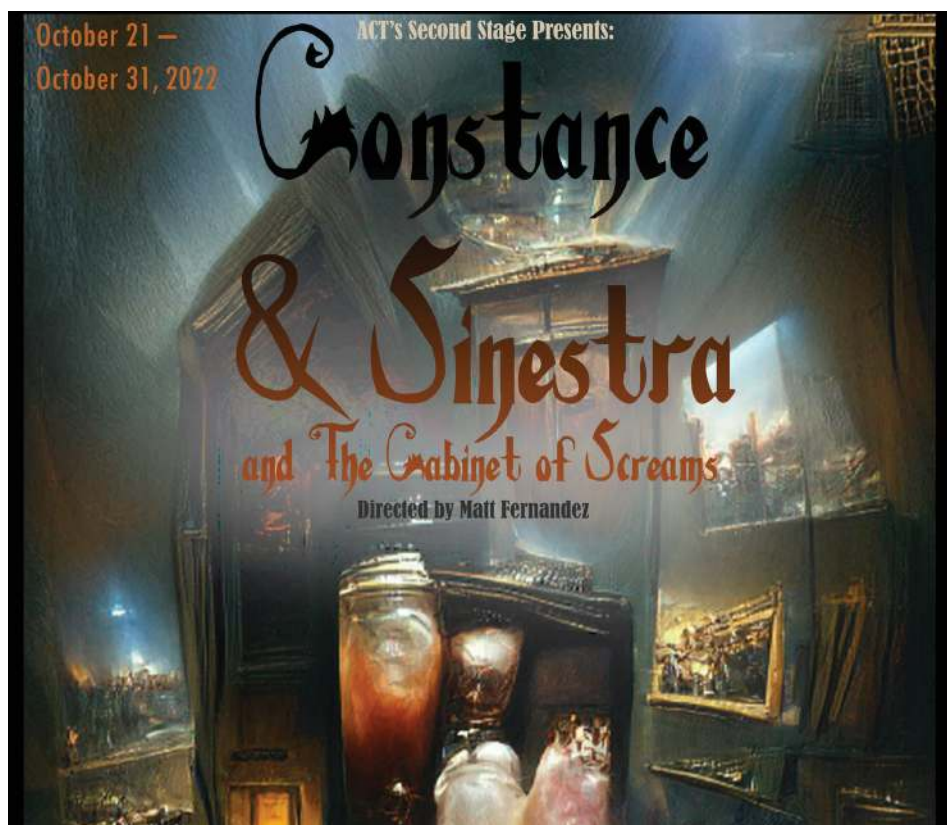


Constance & Sinestra and the Cabinet of Screams

By Alexandra-Spencer Jones and Patrick Gleeson
October 21 - 31, 2022

Constance and Sinestra live on the edge of a cliff with their mad taxidermist father who never comes upstairs. A heartbreaking and twisted tale of love, loss and baking perfect for lost children of all ages.

Purchase tickets or donate to ACT by visiting actalaska.org.



Coming Soon

Misery - October 14 - 30, 2022 presented by VPA

Dracula! The Radio Play - October 31, 2022 presented by ACT

Babes in Toyland - November 25 - December 18, 2022 presented by VPA

Annie - December 2 - 18, 2022 presented by ACT

Missing - March 10, 11 & 12, 2023 presented by Anchorage Opera

Carmen - May 5, 6 & 7, 2023 presented by Anchorage Opera

WITH

By Carter Lewis
Directed by Teresa Pond
October 7 - October 23, 2022

Married for 60 years, Clifford and Minnie have reached the end of their days. But how will they find the time to make an exit when there are sheets to be folded, screws to be sorted, and a rat terrorizing the kitchen? Full of heartwarming eccentricities, WITH is a love story, a poignant comedy about trying to face the inevitable on your own terms.

Purchase tickets or donate to Cyrano's by visiting cyranos.org.



The Pirates of Penzance

By Gilbert & Sullivan
Directed by Allison Grant
October 22 - October 23, 2022

Toss your worries overboard and set sail for swashbuckling adventure with softhearted buccaneers, dewy-eyed damsels, bumbling British bobbies and "the very model of a modern Major General". Gilbert and Sullivan's hilarious, hopeful farce is an action-packed musical romp, overflowing with memorable tunes, tongue-twisting texts and jaunty dances. Chart a course for this fun-filled voyage perfect for the whole family. The Pirates of Penzance - they'll steal your heart away!

Purchase tickets or donate to the Anchorage Opera by visiting AnchorageOpera.org.



Tuesday Night Trivia!

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday October 20
7:30 Lisa, Lisa & That Guy
Friday October 21
8:30 Cold Fusion
Saturday October 22
8:30 Jerry's Situation
Wednesday October 26
7:30 Jason Roach

@Humpy's



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Q&A with Anchorage Opera Company’s Judy Berry

BY ANCHORAGE PRESS STAFF

Press: Pirates of Penzance has been around since 1879. What has made this opera such an enduring classic?

Berry: The quality of the script & music. The tunes are ones that you’ll recognize even if you’ve never been to the opera because they’ve been used in ads and pop culture. Also, through the ages, don’t we all need good, silly fun sometimes? Especially as we emerge from the pandemic!

Press: Pirates of Penzance has been translated into cinema but I am curious, what is lost when opera is converted to film?

Berry: Opera singers’ training allows them to fill the theater without amplification. There’s something about experiencing their un-mic’ed voices that goes straight to your emotions.

Press: Opera has been called an “acquired taste.” Why should someone who has never gone to the opera buy a ticket?

Berry: Gilbert & Sullivan is a great entrée to opera because it’s in English & it’s an ‘operetta’ which means it has spoken script & musical numbers. It sort of bridges the gap between Broadway and grand opera

Press: Is the cast of Pirates of Penzance predominantly Alaskan or are certain roles filled by visiting performers?

Berry: Anchorage Opera is committed to casting our fantastic local talent alongside internationally acclaimed artists. It’s a win-win for the artists as they learn and grow from our guest artists and our patrons really appreciate that Anchorage Opera is “made in Alaska” and that we take pride in local artists.

Press: In total, how many cast and crew are involved in putting on Pirates of Penzance?

Berry: Opera has a lot of moving parts because it combines all the art forms! Between singers, musicians in the orchestra, artistic team of Stage Director, choreographer, set designer, lighting designer, hair, makeup and costumes, technical crew backstage, Scene & costume construction, and production staff who bring the opera to the stage, it totals about 95 for this show. Some of the more grand productions take even more, as will be the case with our season finale, Carmen, which adds a Children’s Chorus, a larger orchestra & cast!



Perseverance Theatre and UAA Department of Theatre and Dance to Co-Produce Little Women and The Great Leap in UAA Fine Arts Building

BY RIO ALBERTO

For our 44th season, Perseverance Theatre is excited to partner with the University of Alaska: Anchorage Department of Theatre and Dance to bring professional theatre by and for Alaskans to the UAA Fine Arts Building Mainstage. Together, Perseverance Theatre and UAA will co-produce Kate Hamill’s Little Women, directed by Cara Hinh, and Lauren Yee’s The Great Leap directed by Leslie Ishii, Artistic Director of Perseverance Theatre.

The primary focus of this collaboration is to foster a sense of community and engagement through the arts. Opportunities will be offered for the UAA students and faculty to engage with Perseverance Theatre’s artistic and production models that lead with justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access values. Ishii expressed, “We are very excited to advance our learnings together through this artistic exchange.” Physical production has begun and the Perseverance and UAA teams have launched scenery and costume construction with lighting design/installation and sound design/engineering to follow very soon. Rehearsals will also launch later this month.

Frank Delaney, Managing Director of Perseverance Theatre says: “Engaging with community is a core value we have at Perseverance. Working with UAA and the Department of Theatre & Dance is a key step in deepening our connections all across Anchorage. We couldn’t be more optimistic about our collaboration with the staff and faculty at UAA.”

Little Women and The Great Leap will be presented later this season on the Mainstage of the UAA Fine Arts building. For more information about the 2022-2023 season titles, tickets, and scheduling, visit Perseverance Theatre’s website at PTALASKA.ORG.

The Anchorage Opera recently celebrating the start of their 60th season with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Cathy Rasmuson was AO’s guest of honor & did the honors of cutting the ribbon and the event featured a behind-the-scenes look at AO’s season opener The Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert & Sullivan (October 21, 22 & 23). Festivities in the Discovery Theatre lobby included our PHOTO OP-era Booth for attendees to step into and channel their “inner pirate” and a 60th Anniversary cake and champagne catered by Crush. The Ribbon Cutting was at 5 PM & then the doors to the theater opened for guests to enjoy a sneak peek at the set in all its piratical glory!



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ANCHORAGE CONCERT ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Former Suicide Peaks are now officially named Yuyanq’ Ch’ex, or “Heaven’s Breath”

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

Though I backed William Pagan’s two-year mission to rename Chugach State Park’s North and South Suicide Peaks, I considered his effort something of a Quixotic quest, with little to no chance for success given the obstacles he had to surmount. But it turns out that his persistence—and heart-felt motivation—has been rewarded.

This month the U.S. Board on Geographic Names—which has the last word in geographic naming within our country—unanimously voted to replace the “Suicides” with North and South Yuyanq’ Ch’ex (pronounced You-yonk chech), a Dena’ina Athabascan name that translates into English as “Breath from Above” or “Heaven’s Breath.”

Given all he’d been through, Pagan was understandably ecstatic. “I about jumped out of my skin when I first heard that it was passed,” he told a reporter. “I shouted. I cried. I went on a nice hike.”

I especially love that last part. It’s something I might do in the same circumstances.

As I recounted in my April City Wilds column, “Supporting an effort to rename the Suicide Peaks,” Pagan—who is part Tlingit and lives in Palmer—began his crusade in 2020, part of his larger effort (through a nonprofit group, “Carry the Cure”) to curtail suicides in Alaska, particularly within our state’s indigenous communities, where suicide’s toll is especially heavy.

His first step was to find a more life-affirming and healing name, one with indigenous roots. To do that, Pagan consulted with members of the Native group that has the closest ties to the local landscape, the Dena’ina Athabascan tribe.

Pagan and others did an exhaustive search to find out what, if any, Dena’ina name had ever been given to the pair of mountains. None could be found, so their effort shifted, to create a new—and appropriate—name for the peaks. In the end, an elder named Helen Dick, who speaks the Dena’ina language fluently, suggested the name Yuyanq’ Ch’ex.

Next began the long process of getting the name changed.

In 2021, Pagan’s initial proposal to change the Suicides’ names to North and South Yuyanq’ Ch’ex was denied by the Alaska Historical Commission, primarily because he’d failed to demonstrate widespread local support for the change.

Pagan refused to concede defeat. This past spring he submitted a new and more substantial application. With clear evidence of much greater community support for the change, the commission’s nine-member Geographic Names board approved his request.

One crucial step remained, however: Pagan had to convince the U.S. Board on Geographic Names his proposed name change was worthy and appropriate. The criteria for name changes present significant hurdles, including local usage, descriptive name, historical name, Alaska Native name (however suitable it might be, Yuyanq’ Ch’ex has no documented historic use), and rationale for the name change.

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) has continued to oppose the adoption of Yuyanq’ Ch’ex for a long list of reasons, including the ones given above, and its Geographic Names Committee voted unanimously to oppose Pagan’s initial proposal. When contacted in April, Steve Gruhn, chair of that committee, informed me, “I haven’t yet seen any new information since we submitted our comments [in 2021],” nor has the club “received a request for comment on any revised proposal.” In the absence of any new information, the MCA



North and South Suicide Peaks, seen from McHugh Peak. (Photo by Bill Sherwonit)

continued to stand behind the comments made in 2021, Gruhn added.

In the end, the MCA stood virtually alone in its opposition.

Following the historical commission’s initial rejection, Pagan did “an immense amount of work” to demonstrate why Yuyanq’ Ch’ex is a relevant and appropriate name that “can make a powerful statement,” one that honors “the First Alaskans of this region, the Dena’ina” while at the same time removing a name “that is derogatory, painful and inappropriate and doesn’t agree with the First Alaskans’ view of (these) beautiful mountains.”

Along the way, Pagan lined up a wide spectrum of local supporters, among them Mayor Dave Bronson; the Anchorage Assembly; several of Anchorage’s community councils (especially those that represent neighborhoods closest to the Chugach Front Range); all the Native tribes that live in the area and a variety of other Alaska Native groups; the Boy Scouts of Anchorage; Alaska State Parks Director Ricky Gease; and a group to which I belong, Friends of Chugach State Park.

It also helped greatly that one influential group initially opposed to the name change reversed its stance: Chugach State Park’s Citizens’ Advisory Board.

Ultimately, even the Alaska Legislature got involved and sent a letter of support.

Two other factors almost certainly came into play when the U.S. Board on Geographic Names took its vote: first, there is a current movement across the nation, supported and even pushed by President Joe Biden’s administration, to remove offensive place names and, where possible, replace them with more traditional indigenous ones. Second, the original name of Suicides has no real connection to the twin peaks that were given the name.

In researching my earlier column, I learned that the history of the Suicides’ original naming is vague at best. The most widely accepted explanation is that they were

named by local railroad workers, who, the story goes, considered them so intimidating that a person would have to be suicidal to attempt climbing them.

From what I’ve read, four peaks were originally included in the “Suicides” group. But in 1951 the U.S. Geological Survey applied the name to only the North and South Suicide Peaks, which form a recognizable pair even from a distance, and those had been considered the two mountains’ officially recognized names since then.

All that I’ve been able to learn makes it clear that North and South Suicide Peaks were arbitrarily and, it can be argued, even flippantly named, for reasons that have nothing to do with the mountains and their features or their connection to the local landscape or its human residents. Besides that, two of the peaks originally included in the Suicides group have already been renamed (apparently to Avalanche Peak and the even more strangely named Homicide Peak).

As I noted in my original column, given our increased recognition of the dark and painful place that suicide has in Alaska’s culture, the time seems right to give these mountains new names. And what could be more appropriate than poetic names that speak of high places, chosen by a Dena’ina Athabascan elder, someone representing people who lived here long before railroad crews offered their opinions of the mountains.

I’m happy for William Pagan and impressed by the groundswell of support he stirred. And, as one who loves that area of the park, I’m delighted that a portion of the Chugach Front Range is now blessed by Heaven’s Breath, both North and South.

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

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October 20-October 26, 2022

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Super Crossword

AWOL

- ACROSS
- 1 Lag

10 Hailed ride

13 Nightwear

20 Rust, essentially

21 Corrida cheer

22 Topped with ice cream

23 Katie Couric or Diane Sawyer

24 Spell-casting cartoon infant?

26 Commotion

27 Per unit

28 Brewskis

29 Chimed unstoppably?

36 Unit of force

37 Turns inside out

38 Outback bird

39 Sarandon of "Alfie"

41 Put forward

42 Able to speak easily

45 Cheeky kid

50 Depose

51 Alice, for the Bradys

52 Where old Venetian magistrates dropped off their tots to be watched?

56 — -fi flick

57 One trying for strikes

59 Lawn tool

60 He has a famous lap

61 Stiller and Affleck co-hosting a New Year's Eve special?

65 Really smell

66 Chaney of horror

67 Grazing field

68 Oolong, e.g.

70 Preminger of film

73 2 and 8, in Morse code?

83 Writer Kafka

85 Sources of 1-Down and 84-Down

86 Eye-irritating bulbs

87 "Kaboom!"

88 Boxer Spinks, to non-Americans?

91 Slimy garden crawler

92 With 94-Across, old hack paperbacks

93 Big name in canned heat

94 See 92-Across

96 Was sick

97 Hot winter quaff

101 Salty water

102 Snub

103 Move, to Realtors

107 Song about a fire breather who uses Apple computers?

111 Put on — (pretend)

113 One or the other

114 Child's amuser

115 People who relax by listening to singer Johnny?

117 Calculated the total of

123 Honored academic retirees

124 Antique car

125 Medications taken by mouth

126 One backing up a soloist

127 Mem. of Congress

128 AWOL soldier ... or a feature of eight answers in this puzzle

DOWN

1 Element in bronze

2 Mad feeling

3 Groom grass

4 Nav. officer

5 The "D" of DJIA

6 Mass emigration

7 Highest or lowest point

8 "A Bell for —"

9 Hankering

10 Having two or more parts

11 "Mr. Klein" star Delon

12 Gives rise to

13 Toyotas of the 1990s

14 Boxing's "Greatest"

15 Doorframe part

16 Fired (up)

17 Saunter

18 Ornament

19 Smell or taste

25 Tan shade

27 Highest point

29 Put on a blog again, e.g.

30 Affirm

31 Loch monster moniker

32 Bits of sand

33 Ex-Giant Mel

34 Quarreled bitterly

35 Tomb-raiding Croft

40 Antis' votes

42 Doe's baby

43 Cheery tune

44 Twister

46 Jewelry beetle

47 Rattan

48 Comedian Johnson

49 Pipe problem

51 Pitcher's spot

53 Chatter idly

54 Squeak (out)

55 Bear's retreat

57 Spooky cry

58 Applies, as some deodorant

62 One making an exact copy

63 Really small

64 Smarted

69 Gp. mobilized by a 911 call

70 Rip- — (flimflams)

71 Jogging pace

72 Weight deduction

74 Ending for buff or bass

75 Address for a techie

76 Apiary buzzer

77 Pant-length measurement

78 Money tray

79 Entre —

80 Literary last words

81 "Batman" actor Cesar

82 Ikea's home

84 Element in bronze

89 Hair gel, e.g.

90 Eats as a snack

92 Actress Merrill or Spybey

95 Swerve

96 The "A" of USDA

98 Brings up to speed

99 "Don't believe a word —!"

100 Dessert, to Brits

102 Rustic poems

103 Goes fast

104 As a friend, in French

105 Zapped with light

106 Earthy tone, to Brits

108 One more than a pair

109 Old game console

110 Soft drinks

112 Light haircut

116 Guess at Sea-Tac

117 Male turkey

118 Exiled Amin

119 Suffix with northeast

120 Used a spade

121 Fleece-lined boot brand

122 Chi follower
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 126 | | | | | | | | | 127 | | | | 128 | | | | | | | |
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- 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 Olc 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@jdwcounsel.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
- Host Chen ANC FB, LLC dba Sleeping Lady Airport Lounge located at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, 500 W. International Airport Road, Ste. C3119, Anchorage, AK 99502 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary Tourism AS 04.11.400 (d) liquor license to Delta Sky Club Alaska, LLC dba Delta Sky Club. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, The Law Offices of Ernouf & Coffey, P.C. At P.O. Box 212314, Anchorage, Alaska 99521 and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov
Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/03/22
- October 20-October 26, 2022
- PRESS A17

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the Estate of, FLOYD MACK a/k/a LLOYD MACK, Deceased.
Case No. 3AN-21-02913PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JEANETTE BOSHEARS has been appointed personal representative of the estate of FLOYD MACK a/k/a LLOYD MACK. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to Jeanette Boshears, c/o Jones Bedinger, LLC, at PO Box 241546, Anchorage, AK 99524, or filed with the court. DATED this 20th day of October, 2022 at Anchorage, Alaska. JONES BEDINGER LLC Attorneys for personal representative By: Michael Bedinger Alaska Bar #1411084 Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/03/22

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

R.A. Levinsohn LLC dba Kincaid Grill located at 6700 Jewel Lake Road Suite 16 Anchorage Alaska is applying for transfer of Restaurant or Eating Place AS. 04.11.100 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Alan Levinsohn, 84.03% interest to Christopher Johnson, 100%. 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 10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/03/22

New restaurant or eating license Palmeira tropical fusion LLC is making application for a new AS 0.44. Liquor license doing business as Palmeira Tropical Fusion located at 323 barrow street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

Interested person should submit written comment to their local governing body, the application, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suit 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 Or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov AP#276. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/03/22

Find me a hobby

BY ASK OSKAR
OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Oskar,
I hate my job. I am ready to quit, but I'm a single mom, and I don't see any options other than staying where I am. Beyond hating my job, I don't even have a hobby. It seems like everyone has one but me. I'm finding life so unfulfilling. What can I do?
—Find me a Hobby

Dear Find Me A Hobby,
Wouldn't it be so easy if life were a one-size-fits-all?!? I think not. Each person is so special and has so much to offer the world, and so do you!
So you don't have a hobby. It's not a requirement for a full life. You should only take on a hobby if it calls to you. Hobbies aren't something you need, they are an expression of joy in an area outside our main areas of work. But any creative expression can only flourish when we are relaxed and that part of our brains is working. When people are stressed—as you seem to be—your body goes into flight, fight, or freeze mode. A hobby couldn't even find its way to you if it tried right now.
The first thing I would suggest is to be gentle with yourself. Love yourself as you are right now, hobby or no hobby, great job or job that you hate, single or with someone. All this outside stuff is never the solution. But loving ourselves as we are IS!
Take one week to just focus on being loving to yourself and praising yourself every day. At the end of the day, write or say ten things that you did to care for yourself, such as: drank water, walked, peed, and so on. Make yourself the love of your life. And then . . . watch for the magic.

What will happen? I couldn't tell you for certain, but what I do know is that it will be amazing. Maybe you'll start standing up for yourself, maybe an idea for a hobby will come to you — or a job, a date, a new friend, or some other wonderful thing. Maybe you'll just learn how nice it feels to be kind to yourself and want to continue this practice.
A friend of mine recently tried to get a job. He sent his resume everywhere for eight months. He pushed and tried, but nothing happened. I suggested he find his favorite coffee shop, buy a coffee, and find a park he loved. I told him to go to the park and turn his phone off for 30 minutes. His only job was to enjoy the coffee, the park, and everything around him. He told me I was crazy. But a week later, he called me. "Oskar, OMG!" he began. "I did what you said, and 30 minutes after I left the park, I got a job!" It wasn't the going to the park that got him the job, but the letting go of trying to make something happen. When we push too hard, we push away the things we desire. Life is a balance between taking action, allowing that action to flourish on its own and listening to our inner guidance as to what we should do next (if anything).
I will just remind you that each of us has a fingerprint that is unique to us, and every individual makes such a big difference in this world. Stay positive (even if it's hard) and be open to possibilities. Your right thing is waiting for you. We're waiting for you! I can't wait to hear about your magic! I wish you the best.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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ARIES: “We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” Aries mythologist Joseph Campbell said that, and now I’m passing it on to you just in time for the Sacred Surrender Phase of your astrological cycle. Make sage use of Campbell’s wisdom, Aries! You will generate good fortune for yourself as you work to release expectations that may be interfering with the arrival of new stories and adventures. Be brave, my dear, as you relinquish outdated attachments and shed defunct hopes.

TAURUS: Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes before being discarded. Then they languish in our soil or oceans, degrading slowly as they cause mayhem for animals and ecosystems. In alignment with current cosmic rhythms, I’m encouraging you to be extra discerning in your relationship with plastic bags—as well as with all other unproductive, impractical, wasteful things and people. In the coming weeks, you will thrive by focusing on what will serve you with high integrity for a long time.

GEMINI: Achilleas Frangakis is a professor of electron microscopy. He studies the biochemistry of cells. In one of his research projects, he investigated how cells interact with the outside world. He didn’t learn much about that question, but as he experimented, he inadvertently uncovered fascinating new information about another subject: how cells interact with each other when they heal a wound. His “successful failure” was an example of what scientists sometimes do: They miss what they looked for, but find unexpected data and make serendipitous discoveries. I suspect you will experience comparable luck sometime soon, Gemini. Be alert for goodies you weren’t in quest of.

CANCERIAN: “I will now live my life with the inventiveness of an engineer who drives his locomotive off the tracks. No more beaten paths: improvisation is the rule.” In the coming weeks, I am all in favor of you, my fellow Cancerian, being an inventive adventurer who improvises liberally and departs from well-worn routes. However, I don’t recommend you do the equivalent of running your train off the tracks. Let’s instead imagine you as piloting a four-wheel-drive, all-terrain vehicle. Go off-road to explore. Improvise enthusiastically as you reconnoiter the unknown. But do so with scrupulous attention to what’s healthy and inspiring.

LEO: In recent years, art historians have recovered numerous masterpieces that had been missing for years. They include a sculpture by Bernini, a sketch by Picasso, a drawing by Albrecht Dürer, and a painting by Titian. I’m a big fan of efforts like these: searching for and finding lost treasures. And I think you should make that a fun project in the coming weeks. Are there any beautiful creations that have been lost or forgotten? Useful resources that have been neglected? Wild truths that have been buried or underestimated? In accordance with astrological potentials, I hope you will explore such possibilities.

VIRGO: The most important experience for you to seek in the coming months is to be seen and respected for who you really are. Who are the allies best able to give you that blessing? Make vigorous efforts to keep them close and treat them well. To inspire your mission, I offer you three quotes. 1. Franz Kafka said, “All the love in the world is useless if there is a total lack of understanding.” 2. Anais Nin wrote, “I don’t want worship. I want understanding.” 3. George Orwell: “Perhaps one did not want to be loved so much as to be understood.”

LIBRA: Libra poet Wallace Stevens said that the great poems of heaven and hell have already been written, and now it is time to generate the great poems of earth. I’d love to invite all Libras, including non-writers, to apply that perspective in their own sphere. Just forget about heaven and hell for now. Turn your attention away from perfection and fantasylands and lofty heights. Disregard pathologies and muck and misery. Instead, explore and celebrate the precious mysteries of the world as it is. Be a connoisseur of the beauty and small miracles embedded in life’s little details. Find glory in the routine.

SCORPIO: Here are two top Scorpio pastimes: 1. exploring and deploying your intense, fertile creativity; 2. spiraling gleefully down into deep dark voids in pursuit of deep dark riches. Sometimes those two hobbies dovetail quite well; you can satisfy both pursuits simultaneously. One of my favorite variations on this scenario is when the deep dark void you leap into turns out to actually be a lush wonderland that stimulates your intense, fertile creativity. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, that’s likely to happen soon.

SAGITTARIUS: “I don’t want to be made pacified or made comfortable. I like stuff that gets your adrenaline going.” Sagittarian filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow said that. With the help of this attitude, she became the first woman ever to win an Academy Award for Best Director. Her film was The Hurt Locker, about American soldiers in Iraq who dispose of unexploded bombs while being harassed by enemies. Anyway, Bigelow’s approach is usually too hard-ass for me. I’m a sensitive Cancer the Crab, not a bold Sagittarius the Centaur like Bigelow and you. But I don’t want to assume you’re in the mood for her approach. If you are, though, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to deploy it. Some marvelous epiphanies and healing changes will be available if you forswear stuff that makes you pacified or comfortable.

CAPRICORN: Author Jan Richardson tells us we can’t return home by taking the same route we used when we departed. This will be wise advice for you to keep in mind during the next nine months. I expect you will be attempting at least two kinds of homecomings. For best results, plan to travel by different routes than those that might seem natural and obvious. The most direct path—the successful passage—may be circuitous.

AQUARIUS: Be ultra-discerning as you decide which influences you will allow to affect you and which you won’t. And rather than getting sour and tense as you do this, I recommend you proceed with wicked humor and sly irony. Here are three saucy self-protective statements you can use to ward off threats and remain inviolable. 1. “The current ambience does not align sweetly with my vital soul energy; I must go track down some more harmonious karma.” 2. “This atmosphere is out of sync with my deep precious selfness; I am compelled to take my deep precious selfness elsewhere.” 3. “The undertones here are agitating my undercurrents; it behooves me to track down groovier overtones.”

PISCES: While asleep, have you ever dreamt of discovering new rooms in a house or other building you know well? I bet you will have at least one such dream soon. What does it mean? It suggests you want and need to get in touch with parts of yourself that have been dormant or unavailable. You may uncover evocative secrets about your past and present that had been unknown to you. You will learn about new resources you can access and provocative possibilities you had never imagined.



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 71-year-old gay man married to a much younger man. That’s all fine, not relevant so much as just info. 15 years ago, I briefly took Prozac. While it dulled my sex drive, the orgasms I did manage to have while taking Prozac were off the charts. I even talked to my doctor about it at the time and he just sort of shrugged and said enjoy it. Okay, fine. But a little more than 15 years later—off Prozac for most of that time (I didn’t stay on it long)—my orgasms are still off the charts. My husband’s last a kind of normal-ish five-to-eight seconds but mine continue for a good 30 seconds and leave me unable to function after. Possibly related, from time to time I get a short but slamming headache. I also very rarely experience unpleasant orgasm-related disorientation, like a sense of “déjà vu” that lasts for hours. I have been to a neurologist about this but was offered no explanation. I worry these orgasms might be permanently debilitating to me. Do you think I could be harming myself with these massive mind-blowing events? I am having sex about twice a week and they are always like that.

- Massive Orgasms And Neurological Symptoms

Some people get intense headaches immediately before or after climaxing, and while “sex headaches,” as their doctors call them, can be extremely annoying, they’re not life-threatening. If you’re using Viagra or poppers (which should never be used together), that could be causing or worsening your sex headaches.

As for your other symptoms, a recent study written up in The Times of London could offer some guidance. The study, published in a peer-reviewed medical journal, focused on post orgasmic illness syndrome (POIS), a rare sexual dysfunction that afflicts a tiny percentage of men. Basically, men can become allergic to their own sperm cells, and their own immune systems mount a response to those “left behind” sperm cells that exit the balls but not the body.

“Many health providers do not know about it, let alone the public,” the study’s lead author, Andrew Shanholtzer, a medical student at Oakland University, told The Times of London. “It is more than likely that it is underdiagnosed, with many sufferers out there.”

Seeing as symptoms include feelings of fatigue, disorientation, and headaches, along with an assortment of flu-like symptoms, MOANS, it’s possible that you’re one of those undiagnosed sufferers.

The study details how Shanholtzer treated a younger POIS sufferer whose symptoms sounded a lot worse (and a lot less fun) than yours: a cough, swollen lymph nodes, hives. The use of an antihistamine reduced the severity of this man’s symptoms by more than 90%. The study will be published in the November 2022 issue of Urology Case Reports (“Post orgasmic illness syndrome successfully treated with antihistamine: A case report,” Shanholtzer, et al), if you want to print it out, show it to your doctor, and give the recommended antihistamine—fexofenadine—a try. Or, hey, maybe it was the Prozac you briefly took 15 years ago and an antihistamine won’t help.

All that said, MOANS, we all gotta go sometime... and I can think of much worse ways than being taken out by a massive orgasm in my eighth decade of life.

I’m a 41-year-old dude who has been monogamously married for 22 years. I know you’re doing the math and, no, it wasn’t a shotgun wedding. We were high school love-lies who went to college, got our degrees, got married, and established our careers before having two kids. Both our kids, who are still young, have been diagnosed autistic. Needless to say, our lives have become more challenging. About two years ago, my partner fell in love with another woman (X) and asked if we could try polyamory. She asserts that her love for X does not diminish her feelings for me, and that, in part, X represents an escape from life’s challenges. I believe her, but that hasn’t made it easier for me. I’ve tried to be as supportive as possible, which has included developing a meaningful, loving, and sexually active relationship with X myself. However, the process of settling into polyamory has created more distance between us (me and my wife) than I would like. Further complicating matters, I’ve developed a strong connection with another woman (Y), and even though Y has strongly suggested the feelings are mutual, she’s in a long-term relationship that appears happy and monogamous. I want to tell Y I love her, but I haven’t out of respect for Y, her partner, and their young kids. I am also nervous about losing Y as a friend. Can telling someone you love them ever go wrong?

- Paralyzed Over Love’s Yearning

Can telling someone you love them ever go wrong? Let me count the ways...

You tell Y you love her... and the feelings are mutual, as suggested by her behavior (it wasn’t just dickful thinking on your part), but she loves her spouse, their marriage is closed, and now—with everything out in the open—she feels like she has to keep her distance from you to avoid the temptation you represent. Your friendship ends.

You tell Y you love her... and the feelings aren’t mutual. Dickful thinking led you to misinterpret friendly gestures or simple workplace courtesies as “strong suggestions” Y was attracted to you. (We men must always be on our guard against dickful thinking.) Now Y worries that even small talk will be misinterpreted as “interest” and starts avoiding you. Your friendship, such as it was, ends.

You tell Y you love her... and the feelings are mutual (it’s not always dickful thinking), and her marriage is open and she’s free to pursue relationships with other people and despite having small children at home she has the bandwidth to date you... and this new relationship, like most new relationships, quickly runs its course and you wind up, well, not quite alone—you’ve still got your wife and your girlfriend—but left feeling worse about your situation (and polyamory) than you did before.

Maybe I’m just feeling risk averse today, but it seems to me that there’s a lot that could go wrong here. If I were in your shoes, and if I had the parenting responsibilities you do, I would focus on the two plates I’m already spinning and not add a third.

The Adventures of Cinderella

The Cyclist

BY TINDERELLA

On Wednesday night, I found myself in a dark room surrounded by sweaty people all gyrating to Nelly’s “Ride Wit Me.” I know what you’re thinking. Is Cinderella giving up her search for love and turning to group sex instead? I wish I could say that my sex life has magically turned from nonexistent to hedonistic. Sadly, the dark room and gyrating were part of a spin class, not an orgy. But while I breathlessly attempted to get my watts up to 50, I was reminded of my date with Phil.

Although I have a penchant for jailbird Joeys, I thought I would take a chance on something different – someone with employment. Phil worked as a metallurgical engineer, was athletic, energetic, and seemed to have a great sense of humor. Of course, it didn’t hurt that he was handsome and had a sexy accent. But when we matched, he was still on a job site, and I would have to wait an entire month before finally taking things offline.

The delay gave us plenty of time to exchange pictures and texts, and by the time we made plans to meet for drinks, I felt I had a good sense for him. Still, there were nerves on the day of the big date, so I opted to wear my favorite red pumps and a pinup-esque dress. I figured that if we ran out of things to talk about, at least I could distract him with cleavage and legs.

We had decided to grab drinks on the rooftop of 49th State Brewing Company and I was feeling myself as I sashayed up the first flight of stairs. Then disaster in the form of a steel grate struck. In my attempt to fulfill my Naomi Campbell runway fantasy, I had failed to account for the grate, and before I knew it, my spiked heel was stuck, and I was faceplanted on the floor.

The loud thud that was my ego hitting the ground grabbed the attention of Phil, who came running over. Like a modern-day knight in shining armor, he freed my shoe and helped me to my feet. We both laughed – well, externally anyways, internally, I was crying – and headed to his table.

When I sat down, I noticed that there were already four empty beer glasses on the table.

“Oh, yeah, it was a nice day, so I got here early,” said Phil in response to my thinly veiled side-eye.

“Yeah, it is a beautiful day,” I responded.

Admittedly, knowing that my date had to down four beers before meeting me was another hit to my already bruised ego. However, my less-than-graceful entrance prevented me from dwelling on it.

Phil ended up ordering three more beers in the hour we spent on the rooftop. I suspected that he was reaching the point of intoxication, but he kept insisting that American beers were like water, and he felt fine. What happened next should have been a good indicator that it was time to count my losses. Still, I wouldn’t be me if I didn’t entertain a glimmer of unfounded optimism.

“I can take you somewhere the drinks are stronger if you want,” I said.

“Yeah, I’d like to see you try,” he replied with another swig of beer. “Seriously, if you want a strong drink, you need to get a Long Island from Van’s.”

“OK, fine. Let’s try this Long Island.”

Phil paid the bill and I managed to dodge a repeat of my entrance. Things were looking up. Or, so I thought.

“Let’s just ride our bicycles to the bar,” Phil suggested.

“Well, my car is right there. I can drive us,” I pleaded.

“No, no, no. Let’s ride our bikes,” he insisted.

Five minutes later, there we were, riding bikes down 5th Avenue. This would have been a somewhat innocuous scene if my bike wasn’t a road bike with low handlebars and clip-in pedals. I struggled to prevent my breasts from escaping my push-up bra as I leaned all the way forward to reach my handlebars. Amid trying to avoid an indecent exposure charge, my heels slipped off of the pedals, and my dress got caught in my back wheel. How I stayed on the bike is still a mystery, but I am thinking that the only explanation was that even God wanted to see how this one turned out.

We made it to the bar, and I immediately ordered two Long Islands. I treated the drink with the respect it’s owed and slowly sipped – Phil did not. After guzzling his first cocktail, he immediately ordered a second.

He was in the middle of bragging about his alcohol tolerance when I physically saw the drunkenness hit his brain. Within minutes, Phil was speaking fluent drunkenese and I was wondering how I was getting home.

Then without warning, Phil jumped up from the table, grabbed his bike, and took off. The only problem was, he had put my keys and wallet in his bike bag because I had nowhere to put them on my bike.

“Wait! You have my keys,” I screamed, running after him.

It took about a block for the words to sink in.

“Oh! Sorry,” Phil said as he turned his bike around and headed back to the bar.

When he got to the front door, he missed his dismount and fell over.

“Hey, how about you let me drive you home,” I offered, mostly because I didn’t want to ride back to my car by myself at 1 a.m.

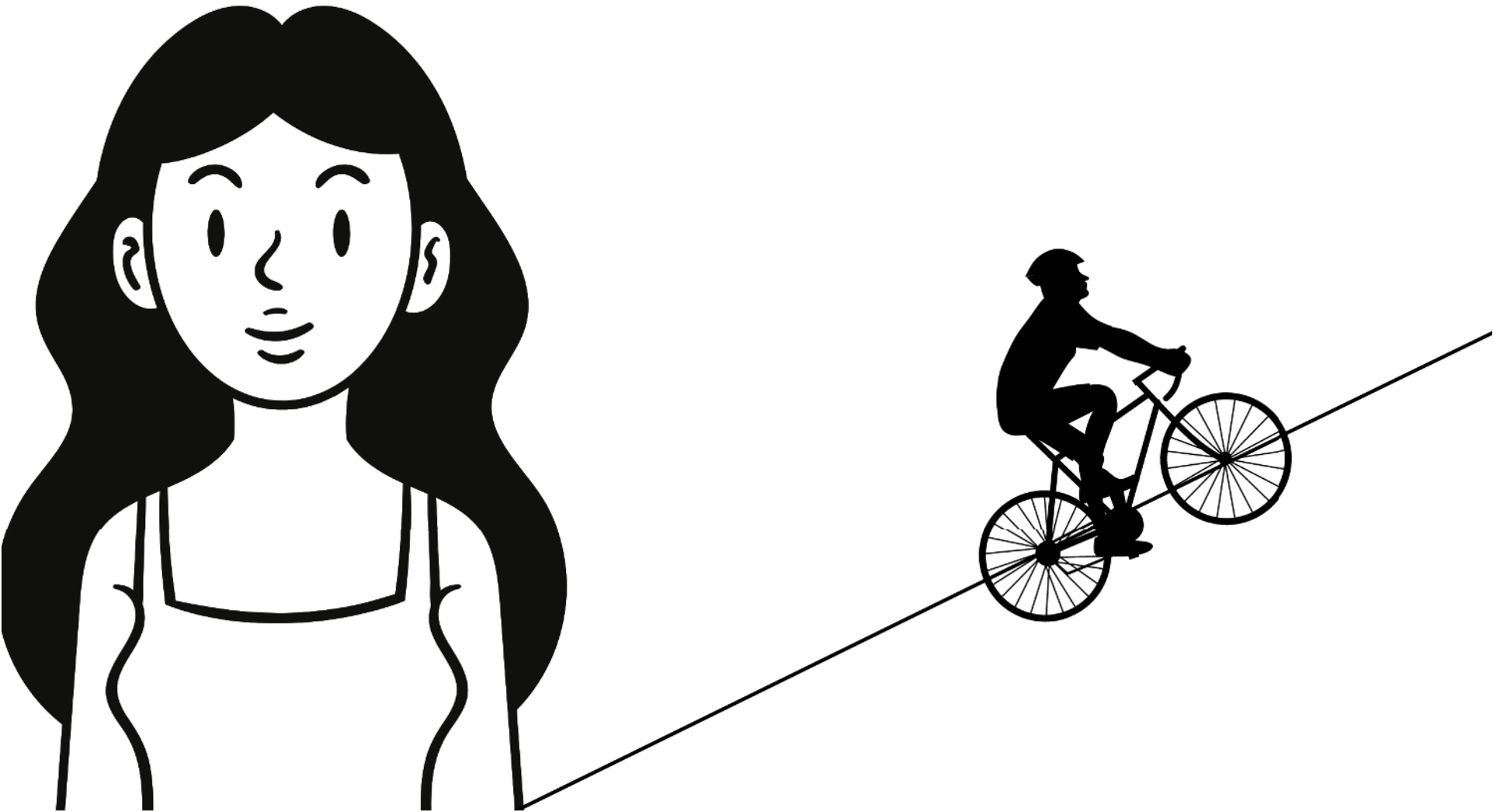
“No, no, no! I like biking,” he responded as he clamored back on his bike and took off again.

Standing in the parking lot with my keys and oversized wallet in my hands, I did what any woman would do, I tucked them into my cleavage. My heart pounded as I rode as fast as my pumps would take me. I was going so fast that the cat calls from drunk men leaving the bars barely registered. I got back to my car safely and headed home.

I heard from Phil the next day, and we laughed about the calamity of our first meeting. Then, that damn glimmer of optimism cropped up as he asked me on a second date.

“Sure! But this time, I am wearing sweatpants and sneakers,” I told him.

“Great! Because I wanted to see if you wanted to go for a bike ride,” he replied with no hint of irony.





Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy is seen in a screenshot of a news conference on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022, in Anchorage. Dunleavy said that if re-elected, he will seek to raise the prison sentence for dealing illegal drugs that result in a death. (Screenshot)

Dunleavy plans longer prison terms for drug dealers linked to overdose deaths

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Gov. Mike Dunleavy said Monday that if re-elected, he intends to propose legislation increasing the prison sentence for drug dealers who sell products that kill someone. The as-yet-unreleased legislation would also make convicted dealers ineligible for a particular type of parole and would create a vehicular homicide statute.

The proposal would still have to pass muster with the Alaska Legislature, and its prospects were impossible to determine Monday, one month before a general election that will significantly change the Legislature's roster.

The governor's proposal was announced at a conference with reporters and comes after Alaska had the largest increase in overdose deaths among U.S. states between 2020 and 2021.

It also arrives during the governor's re-election campaign, with Dunleavy attempting to fend off challenges from Republican, independent and Democratic candidates.

Asked why the proposal is coming up now, instead of earlier in his term, Dunleavy said, "You continually address issues as they arise."

The governor said state law enforcement officials intend to keep working with federal law enforcement to reduce the supply of drugs entering Alaska and said that education campaigns are key to reducing demand for illegal drugs.

Dunleavy made criminal justice issues a priority of his 2018 campaign for governor, and some pro-Dunleavy campaign ads have focused on a notable decrease in violent crime from 2019 through 2021. National comparisons are difficult because of incomplete reporting by some police departments, but Alaska's violent-crime rate remains one of the highest among American states.

Legislative candidates in some districts say that as they go door to door, they've heard from voters who say crime is a top issue on their minds.

In August, two of Dunleavy's three challengers answered an Anchorage Daily News questionnaire asking about the issue of drug addiction and overdoses.

Democratic governor candidate Les Gara has said he supports oil tax changes in part to fund additional police, troopers, prosecutors and drug-treatment programs for mid-and-low-level prisoners.

Independent candidate Bill Walker said that if elected, his administration would "fully fund public safety divisions that will address the crisis of opioid deaths."

Republican candidate Charlie Pierce did not answer the questionnaire.

"We're going to continue to address crime," Dunleavy said on Monday. "We're going to continue to address domestic assault, sexual violence, thefts, murders, drug dealing, because those are issues that anyone and everyone should be confronting and dealing with."

GOVERNOR

Walker

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Drygas

REBUILD ALASKA

Bill Walker & Heidi Drygas

are on track to rebuild Alaska!

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

Paid for by Walker Drygas P.O. Box 92051 Anchorage, AK 99509

A photograph of Bill Walker and Heidi Drygas, the gubernatorial candidates, waving and holding an Alaska state flag. They are standing in front of a scenic Alaskan coastline with mountains in the background.

CANNAGUIDE

YOUR MAP TO ANCHORAGE'S DANK SIDE



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Catalyst Cannabis Co. Muldoon
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Cloudberry Cannabis
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Voted Best of Weed Maps

7 cannabis strains that pair perfectly with your fall festivities

RAE LLAND
FOR LEAFLY

Autumn is one of the best times of the year. The colors, the scents, the flavors, and the cool air after the oppressive heat of summer—all help create the perfect season to get outside and enjoy the world. Fall also gives us the opportunity to try a bevy of strains to pair with our favorite fall activities.

Pick pumpkins while puffing on Zookies
When we think of quintessential Autumn activities, our minds immediately go to pumpkins! Carving, cooking, displaying—they're the perfect autumnal gourd. And half the fun comes from finding your perfect pumpkin at the pumpkin patch.

Zookies and its zingy energized high make a perfect partner for this activity. The hybrid's nutty flavor suits chilly, sunny days strolling through the pumpkin patch for the perfect specimen.

Visit an orchard or corn maze with Banana Kush
What beats a chance to support your local farmers even if you aren't into pumpkins? Nothing! Go online and research nearby corn mazes or apple orchards. Bring a thermos with your favorite warm drink to unwind and make an afternoon or night out of it.

While you're at it, smoke some Banana Kush. This strain is a fruit-forward, mellow hybrid that will give you the giggles. It is perfect for making the most of experiences with friends or that special someone.

Bake some pie and get baked on Monkey Bread #1
The flavors of autumn have no competition in their abundance of distinct aromatics and palates, and, man, are they ever delightful. Take advantage of the harvest season with some communal cooking or baking. Pecan pie, butternut squash soup, apple cider donuts, spicy chili...I'm just listing what I want you to cook for me.

Whatever you make this fall, Monkey Bread #1 will make it better. This indica strain amps up the munchies so you can fully enjoy the fruits (or pies or roasts) of your culinary labors.

Peep some leaves and pack your pipe with Superglue
Those who get it, get it. Those who don't... should! Checking out fall foliage encourages you to go outside and view or photograph nature's gorgeous shades of yellow, orange, and red.

Whether hiking, camping, or visiting a local park, you have endless settings in which to make the most of the magical time of year.

Superglue takes leaf peepin' to the next level. This indica-dominant hybrid produces euphoric effects that amplify the simple wonders of the world.

Read a book with some Rainmaker
Reading is a great year-round activity, but the lower temperatures and shortened days of autumn can turn a cozy night with a new book into an entire Friday night event.

A thick-knit blanket, a crackling fire, and a good book make the perfect mix for a fun and relaxing night at home. Allow yourself to get lost in a fantasy, romance, or even history if it floats your boat.

Add a strain like the cerebral Rainmaker to the mix for a focused high that will let you get lost in the twists and turns until your fire burns out, and it's time for bed.

Take a rip at the bonfire with Runtz
Speaking of fire, if you can, consider throwing a bonfire for you and your friends. You can spend the whole night smoking outside in the crisp fall air and catching up with one another. Watch the warm flames dance in the dark, and pass a blunt while trading stories and laughs.

The award-winning hybrid and 2020 Leafly Strain of the Year, Runtz, speaks for itself. Its tangy terpenes and uplifting effects will have your bonfire guests chatting and enjoying the vibes all night long.

Attend a seasonal fair with Sugar Pine
Autumn provides a natural ending to festival season, giving us our last hoorah before the cold winter months. Make the most of it by attending fairs, markets and craft stalls, rides, live music, and more. After all, community events are harder to come by once there are freezing temps and icy weather to contend with.

While you're at it, enjoy Sugar Pine, an uplifting hybrid that will have you feeling warm and fuzzy even while the chilly wind tickles your cheeks.



Alaskan flower to try this October

Georgia Pie by Enlighten
The Georgia Pie high settles in a few minutes after your final toke, slowly working its way through your mind into a lifted state of pure happiness and euphoria that's lightly tingly and hazy in nature.

Chemdawg by Aurora Blaze
The Chem Dawg high very calming and euphoric in nature with well-balanced head and body effects. It starts with an uplifted effect that boosts your mood and replaces any negative or racing thoughts with blissful happiness.

Gas Cake by Guest Services
Wedding Cake, also known as Pink Cookies, is a rare phenotype created by Seed Junky Genetics when the breeder crossed a mother Triangle Kush with Animal Mints pollen. The L.A. based Jungle Boys named Wedding Cake because of its sparkling resin and vanilla cake frosting aroma.

Blackberry Kush by ATC
Blackberry Kush produces relaxing effects, and is often recommended for pain management thanks to its strong body high.

Purple Punch by Alaska Cannabis Exchange
A cross between Granddaddy Purple and Larry OG, the original Purple Punch strain was claimed to be bred by the Hawaiian breeders at Supernova Gardens.

Pineapple Express
According to actor and comedian Seth Rogen, the Pineapple Express cultivar didn't exist until after the 2008 movie of the same name brought the name into the spotlight. Inspired by the film, growers took it upon themselves to create a potent cultivar that the film described as “the dopest dope.”

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The late Vic Van Ballenberghe, who studied moose for decades, drives the Denali Park road in late September 2011. Photo by Ned Rozell.



Vic Van Ballenberghe at Denali National Park in September 2011. Photo by Ned Rozell.

The man who knew moose like no other

BY NED ROZELL

Vic Van Ballenberghe died on Sept. 22, 2022, at the age of 78. The man who knew moose better than perhaps anyone else on Earth had stood amid their knobby legs for many springs and falls in Interior Alaska. I got to join him in the field once, 11 years ago. Here is my story from that day:

DENALI NATIONAL PARK — On a late autumn day, as naked stems of dwarf birch nod away from a warm breeze, a distant flash of antler reveals the object of our search.

“The hunters would love to see him,” Vic Van Ballenberghe says as he pulls his pickup to the side of the park road and grabs his binoculars. “He’s a trophy bull.”

The giant moose strolls over a brownish slope that waits for snow. The creature pauses at times, steering with massive antlers one of the cows that orbit him.

“He’s got seven with him,” Van Ballenberghe says of a group of blondish female moose.

The sight of eight moose at once is a treat for me, Van Ballenberghe’s guest for the day, but the 67-year-old biologist has stood close enough to smell the musk of these moose every spring and fall since 1980. That’s the year he first visited the park and knew he had found the perfect place to study the behavior of this iconic large mammal.

He noted how the Denali Park road cuts right through great moose habitat, meaning he could drive to where he began hiking to observe them. He saw plenty of moose along the road in 1980, animals that weren’t spooked by people. The bulls were large there, too, in part because of the park’s ban on hunting.

In 1980, Van Ballenberghe was a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Fairbanks. After visiting Denali Park, he wrote a proposal to see if he could make his dream study happen. The staff at Denali National Park thought it was a great idea, and the U.S. Forest Service funded the study. Since 1980, Van Ballenberghe has

spent many moments in the close proximity of moose. “It’s totaled up to thousands and thousands of hours,” Van Ballenberghe says.

Like one of the sandhill cranes croaking overhead on this fall day, Van Ballenberghe has migrated from his home in Anchorage to Denali Park both in spring — when cow moose give birth — and during fall mating season — when dominant bulls gather harems of cows and defend them from other bulls.

He retired in 2000, but has continued his study with support from the National Park Service, which provides him an apartment near its headquarters and gives him access to the moose in areas where others are not allowed.

During the last three decades, Van Ballenberghe and those who have worked with him have cranked out a library of published information about the Denali Park moose, including a nonfiction book, *In the Company of Moose*. Van Ballenberghe and others found that, in some years, eight out of 10 moose calves don’t make it to adulthood, with grizzlies eating half of them and wolves accounting for just 6 percent of calf loss.

Van Ballenberghe knows that Denali Park cow moose can live to be 20 (“it’s like a 100-year-old person”) and most of its bulls are gone by the age of 13. He once observed a cow that gave birth in almost the exact same spot for 12 consecutive years.

He knows moose prefer diamondleaf willow in summer and the frozen buds of feltleaf willow in winter, and they will gorge on mushrooms when they are available. He’s noticed that moose almost never sleep for more than five minutes at a time. He has seen a fall gathering of 22 cows and 12 bulls, and he knows that those bulls did not eat for more than two weeks until the rut ended in early October.

Van Ballenberghe has seen a 3-foot September snowfall in 1992 that jumpstarted a winter in which one third of his collared moose died from starvation. He also remembers 1981, when so little snow fell that he could have driven to Wonder Lake though no one was plowing the road. He has watched spruce trees invade a section of open tundra, and noted the crashes and booms of snowshoe hare and lynx (the latter of which now are more numerous than at any time he can remember).

Mostly, he sees and studies moose, sometimes approaching them so close he can hear them breathe. In this era of satellite tracking and circling animals with aircraft, he has kept alive what he described in his book as an “old-fashioned, naturalistic approach of directly observing wild animals at close range.”

He is critical of Alaska’s predator-control program, claiming that too much emphasis is put on killing wolves and that decision-makers don’t listen enough to scientists. “It took decades to establish science-based wildlife management in Alaska,” he says. “Now all that effort has been lost as politics primarily drives predator control.”

While most studies are considered long-term if a scientist keeps at it for four years, Van Ballenberghe’s work, at 32 years and counting, is a true outlier. This year, he will keep walking off the park road to observe his radio-collared moose up close until the beginning of October. One of the moose mysteries he still hopes to solve is whether a cow moose has an active choice in which bull fathers her calves. (Cows emit a “protest groan” that might be their way of rejecting a suitor by calling in a larger bull.)

On the Denali Park road, after a morning and early afternoon of driving in search of moose, Van Ballenberghe watches the big bull through trusted binoculars that have focused on more moose than probably any other pair in existence.

“He’s at least 8 (years old), maybe 11 or 12,” he says. “They don’t get that big until fully mature.”

Making a mental note of the bull’s location and the number of cows in its harem, Van Ballenberghe sets down his binoculars. The dominant bull, whose genes will live on long after Van Ballenberghe’s time here is done, melts into the brush. One by one, its cows follow, until it seems there are no more moose in the world.

The late Alaska writer Sherry Simpson, one of the best of her craft, spent much more time than me with Van Ballenberghe. She used her experiences in writing her essay “Strange Grace.”

She wrote of Van Ballenberghe:

“He thinks they are clever and resourceful and really quite gorgeous in the way they fit within the boreal landscape. Maybe all wildlife biologists become enamored of their subjects, but I liked Vic for seeing moose as admirable and lovely, and for wanting me to see it, too.

“The more wildlife biologists I meet, the more I believe they tend to resemble their chosen subjects, and it’s true that Vic is a tall and rangy fellow, with a longish, melancholy face.

“He is a disciple of the old school of wildlife science, which prefers to learn about an animal by following it around, watching what it does, and trying to figure out why.

“Some biologists say they’d rather face an irritated bear than a moose with a calf, but I came to see that Vic’s quiet confidence soothes moose. When he comes upon them, he stands still, hands in pocket, and just looks.”

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



A bull moose looks at a photographer near Whitehorse, Yukon, in summer 2022. Photo by Ned Rozell.

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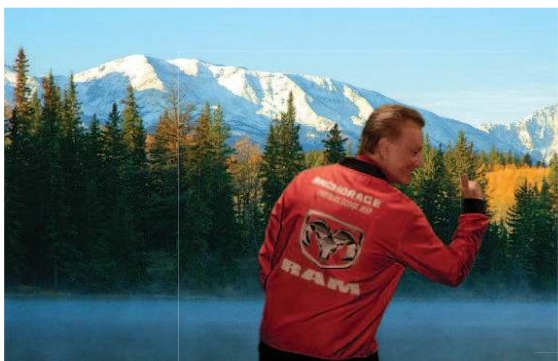
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