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ELECTION 2022 Here's what Alaska's gubernatorial candidates say they'll do about the state housing shortage

An early-October forum in Anchorage addressed the issue and the topic of homelessness, but not everyone was there

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Across Alaska, there's a major housing shortage. In Dillingham, teachers slept in their school earlier this year. In Southeast Alaska, businesses have lost workers because those workers can't find housing. In Seward, the high school principal had to sleep in an RV by the ocean when he didn't commute from Anchorage. In Girdwood, Alyeska Resort is building employee housing while in Ketchikan, a former state ferry serves the same purpose. Last year, housing prices in Alaska hit a record high, with the average sale price of a single-family house topping \$388,000. The average cost of a rental rose 8% this spring, to \$1,276 per month, and rental prices in Anchorage rose 14%. These increases aren't isolated to Alaska but have been exacerbated here by a decline in new-home construction. Since 2014, the number of home construction permits for three or more units has fallen from more than 600 per year to less than 200.

Here's what Alaska's governor candidates say they would do, if elected, to deal with the state housing shortage:

Les Gara
Democratic candidate Les Gara and independent candidate Bill Walker were the only two candidates to attend an Oct. 8 forum hosted by the Alaska Coalition on Housing and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness.

The housing shortage "is one of those sort of subsurface crises that's building in Alaska," Gara said during the 80-minute event. He noted that the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, a state-owned agency, pays a dividend to the state treasury each year. He suggested the corporation keep that money and invest it back into housing, coordinating with tribal, nonprofit and private housing groups.

"I think we're going to have to start sacrificing some of that dividend to get people housing so that a family can start a home, so somebody can afford an apartment. Because right now, it's a crisis," he said.

Gara suggested the creation of a task force to coordinate housing efforts among various groups in order to better obtain federal funding for projects.

"If everybody's doing it on their own, maybe they don't realize that there's one solution, and all three of them don't have to do it. And maybe one of them can leverage federal funding that another one can't," he said.

Bill Walker
Walker, who served as governor from 2014 through 2018, noted that he created a housing summit in 2015 that did much of what Gara hopes to accomplish, "but we found ourselves, shortly thereafter, with a \$4 billion hole in our budget" that made addressing the issue impossible.

Still, he said it's a worthwhile idea and "would do the same again" as part of an approach to "be a little more aggressive and a little bit hungrier in going after federal funds."

Walker, who worked as a carpenter in Valdez when younger, said he has "been involved in house building pretty much all my life."

He said that in many cases, he believes that a lack of buildable land, not just funding, is hampering home construction. To that end, he believes the state should create a land trust, similar to one already in action in Sitka.



There, the trust builds affordable houses and sells them but keeps ownership of the land and three quarters of any increase in the home's appraised value. For example, if someone buys a house at \$200,000 and its value rises to \$300,000, the homeowner would get \$225,000 when they sell it back to the trust. The trust can then sell the house to a new buyer at less than its appraised value, keeping costs low.

Walker said there's also a role for the state to play in helping make locally cut lumber more available for local construction.

That idea, announced in September by the Department of Natural Resources, would allow the state to change lumber-grading practices to ease local sales for Alaska sawmills.

He said that while he believes that local solutions tend to be better than top-down approaches, there is a need for a coordinated approach.

"All communities want to solve this problem," Walker said of the housing shortage. "I haven't seen a single one that said, 'We don't want to solve our housing problem.' They're just limited on what they can do as a community."

Mike Dunleavy
Incumbent Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy did not attend the housing forum, but his campaign spokesman, Andrew Jensen, outlined the governor's position by email.

In office, Dunleavy has repeatedly proposed legislation to increase the amount and pace of state land sales, which would make more property available for private development.

Over the past four years, according to legislative records, the Legislature has not passed any of the land-related bills proposed by the governor.

Jensen said Dunleavy "has and will continue to press for legislation" to get more state land in Alaskans' hands.

Another tool, Jensen said, is the Alaska Housing Finance Corp., which received \$21 million — a record amount — to build housing for teachers, health care workers and law enforcement employees.

"AHFC can also work with local partners to address housing needs, but the best solutions for jurisdictions like Anchorage will have to come from local governments who have the most control over their permitting systems and the creation of incentive programs to spur development for affordable housing," Jensen said. "Where the state of Alaska can be of assistance, the Dunleavy administration is always willing to work with local governments to address issues such as housing availability and affordability."

Charlie Pierce
Republican challenger Charlie Pierce also did not attend the housing and homelessness forum. Pierce did not return a message seeking comment on his housing plan, a former campaign official said he was unaware of any remarks Pierce has made on the subject, and Pierce does not address the issue on his campaign website, social media or advertising.

Speaking about budget issues in general, Pierce has advocated a position of austerity, saying he is unwilling to raise taxes or new revenue and that additional funding for a new priority must come at the expense of cuts elsewhere.



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Tshibaka and Begich can't keep their stories straight on federal infrastructure law

BY DERMOT COLE

The \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure law that Sens. Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and the late Rep. Don Young crossed party lines to support a year ago has already brought nearly \$3 billion to Alaska, but Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka said she would have opposed the bill because there's not enough money in it for Alaska.

"But this so-called infrastructure bill, it just gives Alaska crumbs. It's really more like the anti-Alaska bill," Tshibaka said on Nov. 8, 2021. "It's the Green New Deal masquerading as infrastructure."

A year later and Tshibaka is still on the crumb campaign, saying "Alaska is 18% of the nation's landmass, but only 0.6% of the infrastructure funding is even 'available' to Alaska, if we survive Biden's regulatory barriers. That means we lost a proportional 17.4% of funds when language was drafted."

Republican House candidate Nick Begich the Third is also borrowing from the Political Math For Dummies handbook in claiming a per-acre basis is the way to decide what is fair.

They are claiming that because Alaska has nearly one-fifth of the land mass of the U.S., it should get nearly one-fifth of federal spending.

"Alaska got less than 1% of the bill," Begich the Third told the Juneau Empire. "Alaska got shortchanged in the bill."

"On a per-acre basis we got the least of anyone," Begich III said.

(GOP House candidate Sarah Palin claims she would have opposed the measure because of "crony capitalism," one of her favorite ambiguous catch-all phrases. What that means is anyone's guess.)

Tshibaka and Begich the Third know their per-acre posturing is goofball material.

They would never mention it to the elected officials who represent about 331 million other Americans who don't live in Alaska—a state with less than 0.2 percent of the nation's population that will receive more than its fair share.

In large part that's because Murkowski has proven herself to be the second most effective elected official in Alaska history, surpassed by Sen. Ted Stevens and no one else. I've disagreed with her on many things over the years, but no one works harder for Alaska and she is intelligent, capable and courageous.

If Tshibaka's claim is right that "0.6 percent" might come to Alaska, that translates into something like \$7 billion in crumbs.

While complaining that Alaska doesn't get enough money from the infrastructure law, Tshibaka and Begich also qualified for the Hall of Hypocrites by claiming the law is creating inflation and should have been defeated for that reason.

They want to reduce federal spending, they say. But not in Alaska. They want it both ways. And after they are done preaching, make sure to check that your wallet hasn't been lifted.

Earlier this year, Begich the Third was telling Alaskans the infrastructure law "cost \$10,000 per U.S. household"



and he asked people to raise their hands if they were willing to write a check for \$10,000 for what they will get out of the law.

"I haven't seen a hand yet statewide, not one. But this is what's so strange to me as someone who doesn't come from government. I've never held a government job and I've never been in political office," he told supporters in Kenai last spring.

Begich says "we're told by the people that represent us, 'Hey not only was this good, but you should thank me for it.' That's wrong. And it's emblematic of everything that is wrong with the government right now."

I don't know everything that is wrong with the government right now, but the carnival barker act from Begich the Third about why no one is willing to write a \$10,000 check is part of it.

Instead of boasting about his lack of experience in government, he should educate himself about what this law means to Alaska and why Murkowski, Sullivan and Young supported it.

A year ago Young said the bill would authorize \$3.5 billion in roads for Alaska over five years and there are needs across the state.

"I truly believe that this bipartisan infrastructure legislation may be our last best chance to make the federal investments necessary to modernize and strengthen America's infrastructure needs for the next century and beyond," Young said.

Young was one of only 13 Republicans in the House to support the biggest federal infrastructure measure in U.S. history, signed by President Biden Nov. 15.

On Feb. 4, Young testified to the Alaska Legislature that Alaska will get more than \$6,000 per resident for transportation support, more than any other state. "I'm proud of that fact," Young said.

He said he wanted money to go to the Port of Alaska, despite opposition by some in Mat-Su, saying the port is

crucial for the Alaska economy.

He said it was "nonsense" that Republicans would get more federal money for Alaska if they controlled Congress and the White House, saying the state can't afford to wait for a new political order.

"I don't want to see any bickering," said Young.

But all we've gotten from Tshibaka, Begich the Third and Palin is bickering.

Tshibaka, by the way, claims every Alaska family is "on the hook for over \$2,000," because of the federal infrastructure law.

The GOP candidates make up these numbers as they go along.

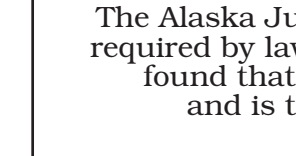
On Wednesday, Murkowski and Sullivan's offices announced that the Port of Alaska would get \$68.7 million from the infrastructure law that Tshibaka, Begich and Palin oppose.

Federal, continued on page A18

www.anchoragepress.com



Les Gara
GOVERNOR



Jessica Cook
LT. GOVERNOR

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A last look at where the candidates stand

The general election day is November 8

UNITED STATES SENATOR CANDIDATES



Pat Chesbro, Democrat
Where she stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Pro gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Alaska needs a fiscal plan with a view toward the future with shrinking oil revenues. We must diversify our economy and find ways to prevent the boom and bust scenario in the future.



Kelly Tshibaka, Republican
Where she stands on key issues:
Pro life
Anti gun control
Pro development of natural resources

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
I will capitalize on the strategic value Alaska holds geographically to drive new investments, to realize our unparalleled economic potential, and to develop new industries that will generate jobs and careers for us and for future generations of Alaskans



Lisa Murkowski, Republican
Where she stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Anti gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
We face many challenges as a state – access to our lands and waters, limited infrastructure, food insecurity, public safety, workforce, housing, climate, and high cost of living. But for every challenge, we have opportunity because we have resilient people and resources. I have spent my legislative career

educating others about the uniqueness of Alaska and working to build partnerships to deliver results for our state. I'm now better positioned than ever to help ensure Alaska has a seat at the table when decisions are made.

GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES



Mike Dunleavy, Republican
Where he stands on key issues:
Pro life
Anti gun control
Pro development of natural resourcess

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Public safety is my top priority. I repealed Alaska's disastrous catch-and-release program, SB91, driving crime down 18% in the first year. We're hiring troopers at historic rates, restoring positions eliminated by the previous administration and restoring confidence in Alaska's public safety.



Les Gara, Democratic
Where he stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Anti gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
As someone who grew up in foster care, I know people deserve a fair and equal opportunity to succeed in life. Most Alaskans have battled some form of harm, but all of us deserve the right to a good education, opportunity, and an economy with good paying jobs, whether they are born rich or poor. The biggest

need is to have a state with a bright future again, and that means good schools and good jobs.



Charlie Pierce, Republican
Where he stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Anti gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Alaska is faced with a number of significant needs. To single any one out would not do justice to the residents of our state. Managing our budget, the PFD allocation, our education system, senior citizen, military and veteran affairs are just a

few requiring attention and leadership. Regarding the natural gas pipeline: Any state involvement on the funding for a natural gas pipeline would be dependent on the participation agreement with industry partners and the projected return on investment to the state of Alaska.

GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES - CONTINUED



Bill Walker, Nonpartisan
Where he stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Anti gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Alaska's biggest need is leadership with a vision for its economy and its future – and that takes real leadership. Right now, Alaska is like a rudderless ship bouncing off the rocks with no captain taking the helm. We need to rebuild trust, enact a fiscal plan, resolve the PFD formula and grow the Permanent Fund. A stable, balanced budget, with reasonable PFDs, affordable housing, childcare and low cost energy sets the stage for economic development. Too many Alaskans are leaving the state because they can't see an economic future for themselves or their families. This must be corrected, and we've got to get our economy growing again. Too many businesses are leaving the state, or deciding not to invest here, because the economy is weak and energy prices are too high.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES



Chris Bye, Libertarian
Where he stands on key issues:
De-regulate birth control
Anti gun control
Pro bycatch restrictions

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Opportunity. Currently professional and skilled trade jobs meet immediate needs but the next graduating class from UAF or from trade schools have limited options within the state. Upward momentum is stifled. Energy costs are crushing the families and businesses. The trickling effect is that everything

goes up in cost due to transportation costs again crushing families.



Mary Peltola, Democratic
Where she stands on key issues:
Pro abortion rights
Pro gun control
Pro environmental protections

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
There is a major supply demand in Alaska that has exacerbated the already skyrocketing worldwide inflation. We need to strengthen our logistic supply chains for the entire state. We must also find a way to reduce the cost to power our homes.

In my community of Bethel, the price to heat my home in the winter often equals or surpasses my mortgage payment. This is not sustainable and is a tremendous burden to working families. The government already subsidizes corporations with tax cuts, it's time for every day hard working Americans to get our money's worth.



Sarah Palin, Republican
Where she stands on key issues:
Pro life
Anti gun control
Pro development of natural resources

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Alaska needs the freedom to develop our God-given natural resources ethically and responsibly. Developing our oil and natural gas resources is paramount, because it not only helps to grow our state's economy and create high-quality jobs, but would also allow America to regain the energy dominance we experienced before Joe Biden took office and went to war against domestic energy.

It's also important to develop our other resources without interference from the federal government, as well, including salmon, gold, and rare earth materials that are critically necessary for a high-tech economy.



Nick Begich, Republican
Where he stands on key issues:
Pro life
Anti gun control
Pro development of natural resources

What's Alaska's biggest need, and how would you address it?
Alaska's resources are critical to America's energy security, mineral security, and national security. Failing to develop these resources leaves the nation's future to the whims of rivals and adversaries who do not have America's best interests in mind.

We must pursue an all-of-the-above development strategy for Alaskan resources as a basis for restoring domestic, vertically integrated supply chains that will drive U.S. manufacturing, enhance job creation, and deliver generational prosperity. To do this, we must make an articulate and persuasive case for Alaska both within Congress.

Ballot Measure No. 1 – Constitutional Convention Question

Shall there be a constitutional convention?

The Alaska State Constitution states that during any ten-year period, if a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question:

Ballot Language

Ballot Measure No. 1
Constitutional Convention Question

Shall there be a constitutional convention?

☐ Yes ☐ No

This question relates to a call for a constitutional convention. At the convention the state constitution may be amended or revised, subject to approval by the voters. Under the state constitution, the voters must have the chance to vote on the question of whether there should be a constitutional convention if there has not been a convention during the last ten years. There has not been a convention in the last ten years. This question asks voters to say whether there should be a constitutional convention.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT



Yes! Our beloved state has been captured by massive political corruption. The amendments that might have been proposed for simpler solutions to a convention have been rejected for years by the legislature, while the judiciary has invented new unconstitutional powers for themselves.

1. The Alaska PFD must be constitutionalized.
2. The Judicial Council, which appoints judges and is rigged in favor of lawyers, needs to be discarded.
3. We must reject the violations of the federal constitution that were imposed upon us at statehood. While we must continue to guarantee native lands, Alaska was forced to include in our constitution Article 12, Section 12. This gave the federal government property that has no basis in the U.S. Constitution, which violates Article I, Section 8, clause 17, plus the 10th Amendment. Having the federal government own 65% of our state completely suffocates Alaska's ability to become economically prosperous and self-supporting.
4. Over the years a power grab by the judiciary has actually overthrown our state constitution. They have seized the power of the purse, the governor's line-item veto and the legislature's ability to override it. They invented the "duty" to amend the constitution through case law opinions. The courts have seized the definition of privacy, which is specifically reserved to the legislature in Article 1, Section 22.

Both the executive and legislative branches have had the power to halt this, but it is merely implied.

5. Therefore, the constitution needs to be more strongly worded so that citizens, governors and legislators will understand that the judiciary's power to interpret the constitution must be shared. As it was said in Federalist #78:
"The judiciary has no influence over either the enforcement or the purse; no direction either of the strength or of the wealth of the society. It may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for enforcement of its judgments."
6. In addition, election integrity must be addressed so that machines and computers can never again be used, and that chain-of-custody is protected by citizen poll-watchers.

A constitutional convention is a risk, but Alaskans are risk-takers and we cannot allow contrived fears to rule us. If this ballot measure should pass, we must insist the following: That the delegates not be sitting members of the legislature. They must be Alaskans of at least 5 years or more continuous residency, and they must be chosen by "town hall" type meetings through each precinct and district, not by expensive campaigns and electioneering.

Our current constitution reads that all political power is inherent in the people, government originates from the people, is instituted for the good of the people as a whole, and is founded on their will only.

This may be our last chance to do that.

In the name of liberty for ourselves and our future generations, please vote "Yes".

Bob Bird
Retired public school teacher
MS degree in History 45-year Alaskan
Radio talk-show host
Chairman, Alaskan Independence Party

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Every 10 years, Alaskans are asked whether we should hold a constitutional convention. Each time, Alaskans have strongly rejected that question. This year Alaskans should join a growing coalition from across the political spectrum in once again voting "No" on a constitutional convention.

A constitutional convention is unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous. Not only would it open up our entire founding document to wholesale rewrite, it would create years of economic and regulatory uncertainty in our state. Opening up Alaska's entire Constitution could lead to unpredictable changes and open a Pandora's box of hot-button issues like access to natural resource, taxes, abortion, guns rights, gender and sexual orientation, the Permanent Fund, land and wildlife management and so much more.

Because no state in the nation has held a state constitutional convention in over 36 years, special interests from outside of Alaska would seize this opportunity to make Alaska the testing ground for their political and partisan agendas. Exposing our founding document to years of political infighting, particularly in the face of growing divide in our nation, is the last thing hardworking Alaska families, businesses and communities need.

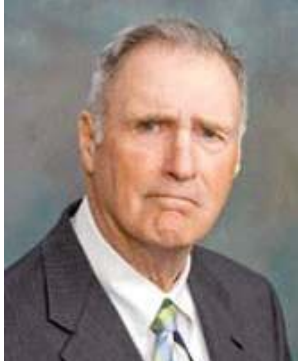
Alaska's Constitution has served our state well for over 60 years. Our state's founders included a separate, well-devised, and transparent amendment process to make targeted changes to our Constitution; a process that has worked well for Alaskans on 40 separate occasions.

However, a convention would open up the entire Constitution for unlimited revision. Even more concerning: convention delegates would be selected via a special election with zero restrictions on campaign contributions. And because sitting legislators in Juneau would be eligible to run, there is little assurance that a convention would result in meaningful changes. A constitutional convention would ultimately lead to a multi-year, costly and contentious process that would distract from the real work of addressing our state's shared challenges.

Hundreds of individuals representing Alaska's geographic and political diversity have formed to formally oppose a convention. This coalition represents a broad group of Alaskans who often disagree on issues facing our state: business and labor leaders, resource development champions and conservationists, Republicans and Democrats. But we all agree: a constitutional convention would be unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous for Alaska.

Holding a constitutional convention carries great risk, with little or no potential reward. Alaskans should work to protect our founding document and oppose the constitutional convention this November by voting no on Ballot Measure 1.

John Coghill: Fairbanks, AK
Joelle Hall: Anchorage, AK
William Corbus: Juneau, AK



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Rep. Harriet Drummond



Rep. Zack Fields

Progressive Democratic candidates in House fight adverse redistricting by Republicans

BY TIM BRADNER

Thanks to the Republican-led legislative redistricting board, two Anchorage Democrats, both progressive, are shoved into a new downtown midtown district and running against each other.

Harriet Drummond and Zack Fields, both incumbents, are competing for the seat in a new district where the boundary lines were redrawn. One of the two will not return to Juneau.

Is this a strategy by the Republican board to remove influential Democrats from the state House? It seems that way.

Having one less Democrat, depending on how other close races play out, increases the odds of a Republican state House Majority. The result will likely be a House that hard-right legislators from the Mat-Su Valley dominate.

The current state House is almost evenly split but led, by a hair-thin margin, by a coalition of moderate Republicans and Democrats. That coalition kept at bay a far-right conservative Republican agenda led by right-wing lawmakers from the Mat-Su, which due to their numbers, dominated the Republican caucus.

A closely-split House is expected again after the November election. But who will be in charge? Either another moderate coalition or the far-right, but it all depends on the outcome of a few races.

One is incumbent Rep. Andy Josephson’s close race in Anchorage District 13. Josephson, a Democrat, was one vote down from Katherine Henslee, the Republican, in the August primary election.

Drummond is well known

Drummond is well known after serving in elected office on the local or state level for years and representing essentially the same neighborhoods of Anchorage.

She is originally from New York City and has a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell circa 1974. She arrived in Anchorage in 1976, coming north with a boyfriend to work on the pipeline — the classic Alaska story.

She married, had a family, and became interested in local schools as her children began their education.

Drummond was elected to Anchorage’s school board in 1994, where she served until “terming out” in 2003. She was also elected to Anchorage’s municipal assembly in 2002, representing west Anchorage. In 2012, she was elected to the Legislature to represent the Spenard and Midtown districts.

She is now completing her fourth term in the state House after ten years of serving on the House Education Committee. She was either chair or vice chair of the committee for the last six years and has become the de facto education expert in the state House.

Legislators are tasked to serve on other committees dealing with other subjects, and Drummond serves on four other House committees as well as seven agency budget subcommittees.

Fields: Special interest in workforce legislation

Fields, originally from Virginia, has spent ten years in Anchorage. He says he was drawn to Alaska because of its outdoors and loves skiing, biking, camping, and fishing.

On arriving in the state, Fields began work for Democratic legislative candidates and the Democratic Party and also worked in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development on workforce and apprenticeship development.

One key accomplishment was an apprenticeship program for the Alaska Primary Care Association that is now being expanded to other healthcare fields.

Fields has served two terms in the Legislature representing Downtown Anchorage and has gained a reputation in the state House for aggressive promotion of worker health and safety as well as training. In the House, he was most recently co-chair of the House Labor and Commerce Committee. He is best known for advancing a committee bill that would have expanded apprenticeship programs for young people, including establishing dual-credit Career and Technical programs in high school so students can move into accelerated technical apprenticeships when they graduate high school.

“High school students also should have opportunities to pursue and receive credit for career and technical education courses that prepare them for living wage careers in growth industries, ranging from mining to health care,” Fields said.

By strengthening apprenticeship, school to apprenticeship, and other career and technical education programs, HB 132 would have also ensured employers access to highly skilled workers and ensure graduating seniors can earn a living wage while working toward a college degree, he explained.

The bill passed the House but was stopped in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, which is chaired by Republican Sen. Mia Costello, also of Anchorage.

Fields also sponsored bills that would allow tax credits for child care and allow charitable gambling on the internet. HB 128 also passed the House but was stopped in Costello’s Senate Labor and Commerce Committee.

Republican redistricting jumbled Anchorage districts

House District 17, where Drummond and Fields are squaring off, begins on Fireweed Lane at the Seward and takes in all of the North Star Community Council area including Valley of the Moon.

From Fireweed Lane at Arctic Blvd, the boundary goes south one block and then west along 25th Avenue to Spenard Road, then south on Spenard a block, then west on 26th to Minnesota Drive.

It goes south on Minnesota to Northern Lights Boulevard, then north along the Alaska Railroad tracks to Second Avenue to downtown. It crosses Chester Creek and Westchester Lagoon and to Bootleggers Cove, Inlet View, and South Addition to Huntington Park and Forest Park on the west.

The boundary zig-zags slightly south to Fourth Avenue downtown, then east to Juneau Street, south one block to Fifth, east to Airport Heights Drive, then south to DeBarr Road, and west to Lake Otis Boulevards.

The boundary then goes south on Lake Otis to East 20th, then west on 20th to divide Eastridge, and adds the northern part to downtown and Fairview. It proceeds east on 20th through Eastchester Park then follows Chester Creek for a short way and emerges at the Seward Highway again, turning south to the starting point at Fireweed Lane.

“These boundaries follow almost no geographic features,” Drummond said.

Democratic, continued on page A15

What a constitutional convention has to do with abortion rights in Alaska

Voters have consistently rejected the convention question, but this time could be different

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

In the general election next week, Alaska voters will answer a yes-no question: “Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?” While the pro-Convention side has emphasized putting the Permanent Fund Dividend in the Constitution as the top motivation, those opposed to the convention also see abortion rights as an issue at stake.

The right to abortion in Alaska is protected under the Alaska Constitution’s privacy provision. This protection was underpinned by the U.S. Constitution’s protection of abortion rights. That is, until *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, when the U.S. Supreme Court ended the federal constitutional right to abortion, overturning *Roe*. For some conservative states – like Alabama and Kentucky – that June 24 decision meant an end to abortion rights and access. For Alaska, though, it didn’t.

Susan Orlansky, an attorney in Alaska since 1980, explained from her point of view why that is.

“When the recent *Dobbs* case was decided, what the U.S. Supreme Court said is, ‘we no longer believe that the U.S. Constitution provides any constitutional protection for abortion.’ But that doesn’t undermine any state court decision that said, ‘Hey, our constitution does provide a constitutional right for abortion,’” Orlansky, who has represented abortion rights advocates in Alaska lawsuit, said.

“So there’s nothing about the *Dobbs* decision that undermines the protection of abortion rights in Alaska right now. But it sets the stage for efforts that are possible now that would not have been possible while *Roe v. Wade* was alive and well, for people to try to change the Alaska Constitution. And if people were successful in changing the Alaska Constitution, so that it didn’t recognize a right to abortion anymore, then everything about abortion rights in Alaska could change,” she said.

Holding a convention would set the stage for making that kind of change,” she added.

The argument in favor

Those who want to see changes to the Constitution aren’t talking primarily about abortion. Instead, they are primarily pointing to putting the Permanent Fund dividend in the Constitution. After decades of being paid out under a formula in state law, in recent years, lawmakers have negotiated the amount. And some Alaskans aren’t happy about it.

ConventionYes, a group of conservative Alaskans, organized Stop the Steal rallies around the state on September 20 – the day the state started distributing the dividend.

“On September 20, PFD day, state legislators put on cloaks, snuck into your bank account, and stole almost \$1,000 from you and every member of your family,” said Jake Libbey in a narration for a video made by the group. Libbey is a publisher of the conservative Christian news site, the Alaska Watchman, and a member of the ConventionYes steering committee.

“We’ve had enough of this government theft and spending spree,” he said in the video.

Another committee member is Jim Minnery, president of the Christian public policy organization Alaska Family Action.

“I think the number one thing that has animated the most number of Alaskans and the reason why we are pushing so hard is the PFD,” Minnery said in an October 6 Must Read Alaska podcast.

Days after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Minnery noted issues other than dividends that he wanted to see taken up during the convention. They included school choice, the judicial selection process, and “protecting pre-born lives.”

“It’s not at all about making abortion illegal as now ... it is in some states; it’s simply clarifying the neutrality of the state constitution,” he said.

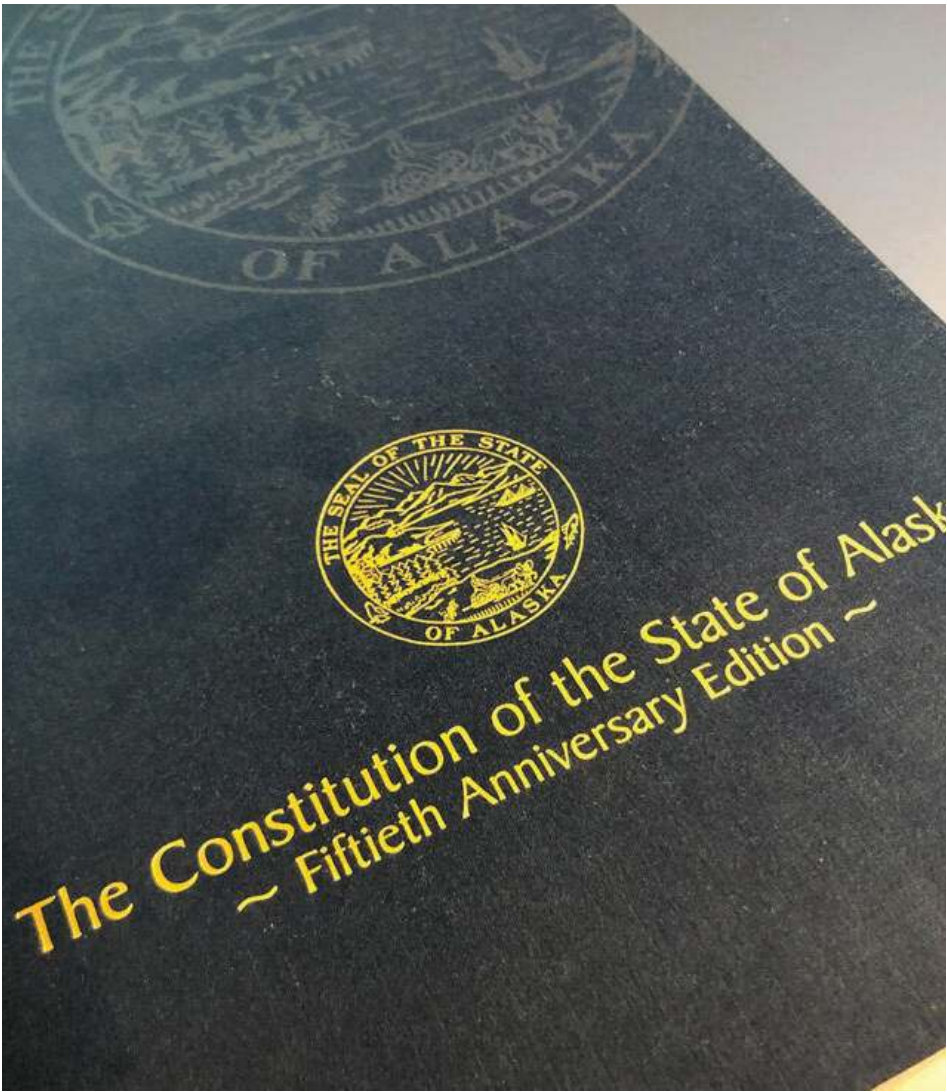
In 2021, Palmer Sen. Shelley Hughes, a Republican, proposed an amendment to the Alaska Constitution. The resolution would have added a new section that said, “To protect human life, nothing in this constitution may be construed to secure or protect a right to an abortion or require the State to fund an abortion.”

It passed out of two committees but didn’t go any further. This is the language that Jim Minnery wants to see taken up during a convention.

He said the court’s interpretation of the Constitution that recognizes abortion as a fundamental reproductive right was “made up out of whole cloth.”

“We believe that the court has manufactured a right to abortion because there’s just simply no language whatsoever in the Constitution to the privacy clause that obtains a right to abortion. And so we would just want that to be clarified so that then the people can make that decision as a state rather than unelected judges,” he said.

Other anti-abortion activists, including Bob Bird, have said the Constitution should go beyond neutrality on abortion. Bird is a vocal spokesperson for having a convention.



A copy of the Alaska Constitution is seen on Thursday, July 28, 2022. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

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To apply, email a letter of application, resume, letters of recommendation and samples of your work to managing editor **Jeremiah Bartz** at editor@frontiersman.com.

Abortion, continued on page A19

Dagnabit!

“Polka Dan” Zantek

DAGNABIT
BY MIKE GORDON

Dan Zantek (1935-2019), aka “Polka Dan,” aka “Poke Her Dan,” was my pal. To him I was “Mountain Man.” We had a brotherly relationship that was intimate but respectful. It was fun but serious, but not too much of either; and it was seasoned with years of growth rings like a couple of old-growth spruce trees from Girdwood. At a certain point our trunks joined. It was Dan’s initiative. He sort of adopted me, and I enjoyed his company.

Dan was the genuine article--24 karat. He was no “fair weather” friend. If Dan was your friend you could count on him. That big heart of his was pure gold. He truly cared about people and had little patience for those who did not. He was worldly and could spot a phony or a con man from a mile off. He could smell bullshit before it hit the ground.

When Charlie McAlpine had his real estate brokerage operation in Anchorage on Fireweed Lane Dan hung his license there. He and Charlie were friends also, but they were too much alike to be close friends. Charlie thought Dan didn’t work hard enough, that he spent all of his time doing things for no money. As the broker, I guess Charlie might be forgiven to have felt that way. On the other hand, Dan didn’t need to make a lot of money, having earned multiple pensions. He enjoyed his lifestyle, and thought Charlie was a sometimes annoying, but useful, putz.

I have a foggy remembrance of the real old days in Girdwood—the mid to late ‘60s and early ‘70s. Being an owner of the Bird House Bar I spent most of my time sloshing cocktails over the slanted bar, placing them gently on slightly wetted “skid-proof” toilet paper napkins in Bird Creek.

But I did find time to party at the Double Musky Inn in the early days when Julian Maule operated it and he and Dan played concertinas together. Julian, the original owner of the Double Musky, was a big, fun man like Dan. Another friend and character from those early days, John Trautner, was on the scene to accompany Dan with his one-string gutbucket.

Dan had graduated from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. He majored in social studies and minored in piano. He traveled north to Alaska after the 1964 Great Alaskan Earthquake in search of job opportunities, soon settled in Girdwood and began regularly playing his concertina at the Double Musky Inn. Dan had lived in Girdwood for fifteen years when he at last moved to Anchorage.

The man was a master at the concertina and never went anywhere without one. He had played from the age of seven. When his older brother, Louie, left for military service he told Dan, “Don’t touch my concertina!” Of course Dan immediately picked it up, started playing and never stopped. On September 16, 2017, Dan was inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame.

“For me, it’s quite an honor,” he said. Dan was fluent in Russian and Polish and honked “kor-deen” all over the world, mostly in Russia and Europe. We enjoyed talking about our travels; Russia travels in particular.

You have to envy the way Dan died. He went to sleep at age 83 and never woke up. His friend Joyce (Lu) Haugstead found him the next day. He always said the way he wanted to go was “in the saddle.” Though he wasn’t that lucky, he took the next best thing.

Not long before Dan died he showed up at a book signing for my memoir, Learning the Ropes, at Writer’s Block Café on Spenard Road. Dan was part of a small group that had read my working manuscript. He played for the little crowd that had formed while a trio from Nashville, fronted by Tim Easton, was setting up.

Dan had also brought a couple of new friends with him, Ralph Chancy and Barry Haught that were visiting from Tampa, Florida. I am still in contact with Ralph. I’m not sure how they all met, but the two men had been to Denali and elsewhere, and Dan had taken it upon himself to be their guide while they were in Anchorage. The trio from Nashville, that had come up to play the Salmonfest Alaska Music Festival in Ninilchik, was fantastic. We all stayed for their entire performance that night.

After the book signing and entertainment I followed Dan and his two new friends to the Imperial Palace Restaurant, across the street from the small plane airport of Merrill Field. I hadn’t even known the place was

there, but Dan knew the proprietress and had been a patron since they had moved from a downtown location. The restaurant has since permanently closed its doors. Probably nobody but Dan could find it.

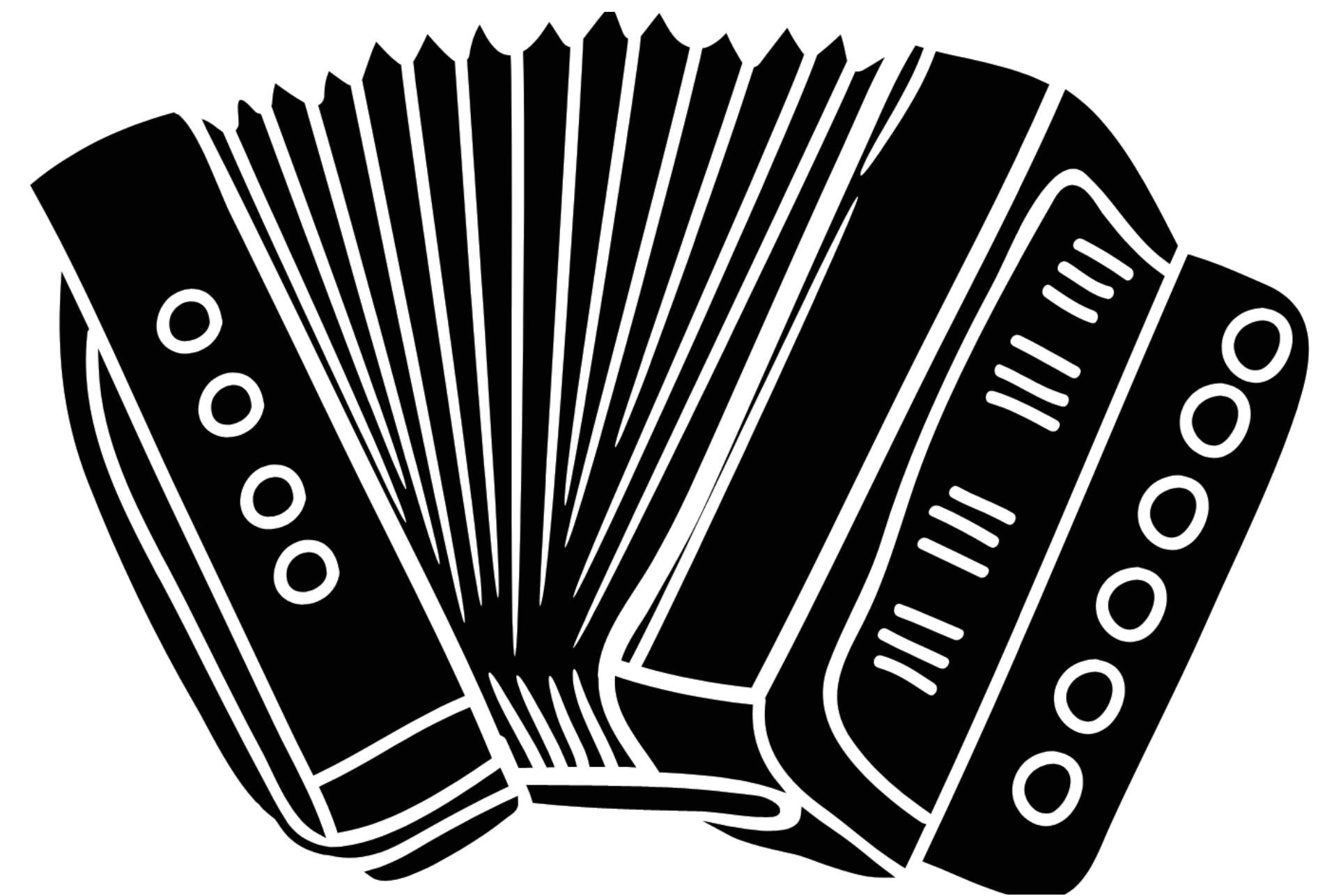
Dan loved to entertain at “Koot’s,” always placing a heavy nasal emphasis on those two “o”s. He even held his 70th and 80th birthday celebrations there. He would pack the South Side bar on an off night with elderly patrons that still liked to party and dance the polka. His memorial at the Moose Club on Arctic Boulevard was packed as well and provided a polka band in which his girlfriend, Lu, played concertina and ukulele. Shelli and I attended, and I saw people there I hadn’t seen in many years.

Though best known for playing his concertina, Dan had held a variety of jobs during his long life. He boasted he had never held a job for more than five years. He worked as a welder, a lineman, an electrician, a teacher, a bricklayer, a counselor, and a car salesman. He also worked as a real estate salesman during my last years running Chilkoot Charlie’s.

Dan knew I was struggling with the business and wanted to sell, so he worked at putting together a deal with Carlos’n Charlie’s, a big restaurant chain out of Cancun, Mexico that owns and operates casual restaurants mostly in Mexico and the Caribbean. They typically have rustic atmospheres and fun environments, so it seemed like it might be a good fit. Unfortunately, nothing came of it.

When I still operated Chilkoot Charlie’s, Dan and Lu used to come in pretty regularly for a beer in the afternoon. Dan would sometimes bring an old friend with him. Dan and Lu were always a very close couple and fun to be around. I didn’t get to see them as much, of course, after I sold the place and moved full-time to Halibut Cove.

When I did see them we talked about the two of them visiting Shelli and me in the Cove and Dan playing his concertina at The Saltry Restaurant. I pestered them to do it while Dan could still manage the 105 steps from the dock up to the house. In retrospect, I should have been more insistent. Dan would have been a big hit at The Saltry or the Halibut Cove Experience Gallery, and he would have loved the Cove and the people who inhabit it.



Remembering “Alaska’s Moose Man,” Vic Van Ballenberghe

CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

I met Vic Van Ballenberghe in the mid-1980s, not long after I’d become the Anchorage Times’ outdoors writer. Part of my new “beat” was covering the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). This was my first venture into wildlife politics and I had few, if any, preconceptions about the board, its members, and its inclinations.

One of the first things that struck me was the BOG’s diversity. Its seven members represented a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives and expertise. In retrospect, the board of the mid-to late 1980s was far more balanced than any of the past twenty years.

In one sense, Vic too was new to the board; he’d been appointed in 1985, the same year I began covering its meetings. But unlike me, he was already well versed in Alaska’s wildlife politics, having worked here as a wildlife scientist since the mid-1970s, first for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and later the U.S. Forest Service.

Vic was among the first board members to gain my attention because he didn’t hesitate to question, and sometimes challenge, what state biologists and wildlife managers were telling the board. He presented an independent scientific voice, one that was well-informed by both his own research and knowledge of other wildlife studies being done. (Vic would later play the same role while serving partial terms on the BOG during Gov. Tony Knowles’ administration, the last time the board had any kind of balance.)

In my experience, Vic generally spoke in a calm and measured way. He chose his words carefully, and thoughtfully, which lent him a certain kind of gravitas. But he also had a wry sense of humor and to me he seemed a rather humble guy. In social situations, he struck me as reserved, even shy.

Vic became one of my primary “go-to” people when I had questions about wildlife management, the BOG process, and more technical aspects of board discussions. Over time that reporter-source relationship evolved into a friendship, one based on our shared passion for wildlife and dedication to wildlife conservation.

Over the years, we had many conversations, all of them centered on wildlife in one way or another. In our last extended conversation, which was also something of an interview, Vic talked at length about his life’s path, his wildlife research, and especially his long-term study of moose in Denali National Park, the work for which he’s best known and which led to his reputation as “Alaska’s Moose Man.” Here I’ll share some of what I learned.

Vic’s journey to Alaska began in our country’s Northeast region. He spent much of his childhood and adolescence as a “farm kid” in upper New York state. His family’s dairy farm proved to be a great place to meet the local wildlife, from white-tailed deer to foxes and turkeys, but Vic also spent much of his free time roaming the neighboring woods and streams. All of this would feed his passion for wild nature and curiosity to learn more about wild creatures.

“Early on,” he told me, “I became interested in the behavior of animals.”

Vic would go on to get a Ph.D. in wildlife management at the University of Minnesota, where he studied both moose and wolves. He recalled that he began grad school “at a time when telemetry was revolutionizing wildlife research” through the use of “radio collars” that allow scientists to track animals from afar. “In 1968,” Vic noted, “I put the first functional radio collars on moose in North America.” Later, as part of his doctoral work, he would radio-collar wolves.

Importantly, while in grad school Vic read Adolph Murie’s highly acclaimed book “The Wolves of Mount McKinley.” Murie’s writings inspired him to consider “what a wonderful opportunity it would be, to become a field biologist” in the way that Murie had been decades earlier.

Vic came to Alaska in 1974, hired by the Department of Fish and Game to study the impact of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline on moose. For that, he helped to collar more than 200 moose. In 1975, he joined a wolf study that entailed more telemetry work, the wolves tracked from aircraft.

“I think those might have been the first wolves ever collared in Alaska,” Vic told me. “I flew over 1,000 hours tracking wolves and saw some neat stuff,” which included two instances of wolves chasing down and killing moose, something rarely observed from start to finish as he was able to do.

The aerial studies of both moose and wolves gave biologists only brief glimpses into their lives. Vic wanted more, something closer to what Murie had accomplished: “I remember thinking, wouldn’t it be productive to spend many hours observing moose” while more intimately connected to their world, their lives.

He got that chance after being hired in 1980 by the Forest Service’s research branch.

Vic had started visiting then-Mount McKinley National Park (renamed Denali in 1980) in 1976 and quickly recognized the opportunity it presented to study a healthy, unhunted population of moose. He approached the National Park Service and proposed



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

a long-term moose study that consisted of three components: the animals’ behaviors, their habitat use, and population dynamics.

Both the Park Service and Forest Service approved Vic’s plan. So that same year, using a mix of radio telemetry and personal observations, he began to follow Denali’s moose “through the course of their lives.”

While wildlife research generally was moving toward “computer modeling” as the primary way to study animals, Vic got to follow his dream of becoming a field biologist in the manner of Adolph Murie.

“Nowadays,” he explained, “being ‘in the field’ too often means being in an aircraft. Something is lost when you’re not spending time in the company of the animals you’re studying. Misinterpretations are made because of this failure to be in the field and directly observe their lives.”

Vic retired from the Forest Service in 2000, after two decades of studying Denali’s moose. Even a 20-year study was rare, he told me, at a time when most last only three to five years. But with the Park Service’s permission, Vic went on to study Denali’s moose for another dozen or more years, more than three decades in all.

His studies weren’t without some controversy. Wildlife photographers—and eventually Denali National Park’s managers—opposed his use of radio collars. Vic stopped collaring bulls around 1990, partly because he wanted to focus more on cows, but also because of photographers’ complaints. And in the final years of his study, park management required that he stop collaring any moose.

Though BOG members sometimes dismissed or denigrated wildlife studies done in Denali, Vic pointed out the importance of studying moose and other wildlife in places where they weren’t hunted, places where “predator-prey relations are naturally regulated,” largely free of human influence. “As a biologist, the first thing you need to know is how things work in the absence of humans.”

His studies also showed that, contrary to popular belief, moose exhibit a wide range of “personalities,” something that became “crystal clear” to him the longer he spent in their company.

And though some biologists might be critical of him for this, Vic admitted he felt an emotional attachment to some of the moose that he studied. “It’s only an issue if it finds its way into your collection of data or conclusions,” he said, “and I don’t think I let that happen. When you spend thousands and thousands of hours with any animal, how can you not develop a strong bond? I think you’d have to be heartless for that not to happen.”

Besides continuing to conduct research during his “retirement years,” Vic often worked as a consultant with film crews and others drawn to Denali by its moose and other wildlife. He also authored a book, “In the Company of Moose,” which featured more than 100 of his photographs, accompanied by text that described his experiences with moose. One chapter, in particular, garnered special attention when excerpted as an essay. “Death of a Warrior” described the life and death of a dominant bull moose that Vic had come to know well, one that stirred him emotionally.

Moose Man, continued on page A19



Tuesday Night Trivia!

Live Music Lineup!
Thursday November 3
7:30 Jason Roach
Friday November 4
8:30 Unknowns
Saturday November 5
8:30 Velvet LaLa
Wednesday November 9
7:30 Will Balcao

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Fri 11/04

Holiday Open House at 2 Friends Gallery @ 11am

Come by and enjoy the magic, glitter and fantastic holiday season. We have selected the most amazing gifts and décor for you! 2 Friends Gallery, 341 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage. 2friendsgallery@gmail.com, 907-277-0404

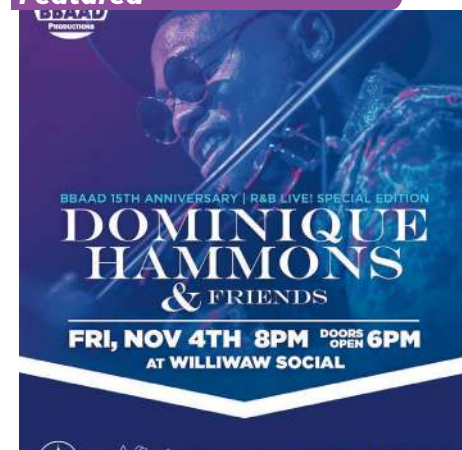
Sierra's Designs @ 5pm

Sierra's Designs: A pop up art show to honor the memory and showcase the work of Sierra Rae Parker and benefit a program she loved volunteering for: Alaska Seeds of Change 2601 Arctic Blvd, 2601 Arctic Boulevard, Anchorage. jcochrane@akbh.org, 907-261-5330

Pepper Kit: First Friday @ Seigny Studios @ 6pm

Seigny Studio, 314 G St, Anchorage

Featured



R&B Live! Special Edition with International Recording Violinist Dominique Hammons
@ 6:30pm / \$25
BBAAD Productions 15th Anniversary featuring international recording artist DOMINIQUE HAMMONS Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage. BBAADPRODUCTIONS@YAHOO.COM, 907-229-3178



Featured



Making Movies @ 7:30pm / \$32.25

Making Movies is a band that makes American music with an asterisk: because Making Movies' sound encompasses the entirety of the Americas. Discovery Theatre, 621 W 6th Ave, Anchorage



Sat 11/05

Art Class-Mosaic Christmas Tree *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 11:30am / \$50
In this workshop, you will learn how to nip glass out of stained & painted glass and then glue them to a laser-cut wood base. Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Suite A3 front of building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Comedian JJ Walker @ 7pm / \$30-\$35

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Featured



The Suffers @ 7:30pm / \$26.25

"This band is on fire," asserts NPR's Bob Boilen, giving you "soul, straight from horn to heart." Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage



Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Sassy Saturday Slightly off Broadway Show @ 8pm / \$20

It's Broadway, but better! Join us while we light up the town with our favorite Broadway burlesque numbers! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

The Elovaters @ 8pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage

Featured



Comedian JJ Walker @ 9:30pm / \$30-\$35

Whether it's his first love of performing stand-up or captivating millions with his Emmy-winning role as "J.J. Evans" in the iconic television series "Good Times," Jimmie Walker has now been entertaining audiences around the world for over four decades. Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Tue 11/08

Achievement in Business Leadership @ 7:30am / \$50-\$475

Anchorage Museum, 625 C St, Anchorage

Thu 11/10

Everything Everyone Needs to Know to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse @ 6pm / Free

Registration is required for this compensated opportunity Every Alaskan CAN make a difference in preventing child sexual abuse. Learn how with us at this in-person, paid training. Anchorage Public Library (Z. J. Loussac Library), 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage. kidsfirst@alaskachildrenstrust.org, 907-248-7676

Fri 11/11

Kanekoa return to Anchorage @ 7:30pm

Discovery Theatre, 621 W 6th Ave, Anchorage

Tim Ripper Owens Live at Koot's @ 9pm / \$20

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sat 11/12

Featured



Skinny Raven Fashion Show @ 6pm

Skinny Raven Downtown, 800 H ST., Anchorage



Featured



Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Pepper Kit & TBA @ 6:30pm

The Nave, 3502 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Featured



Anchorage Symphony presents Bach & Beyond @ 7:30pm / \$27.50-\$52.50

An evening of Baroque and Baroque-inspired music. Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue Suite ACPA, Anchorage. aso@youraso.org, 907-274-8668



Archery @ 7:30pm

Kincaid Wax Bunker, 9301 W Raspberry Rd, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Sassy Saturdays @ 8pm / \$20

It's the best show in town! Our weekly cabaret and burlesque variety show features different performances each week, complete with live singing, burlesque, dance, aerial, and more! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Comedian Casey Balsham @ 9pm / \$20-\$25

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Santoro...for when the blues has gotcha @ 9pm

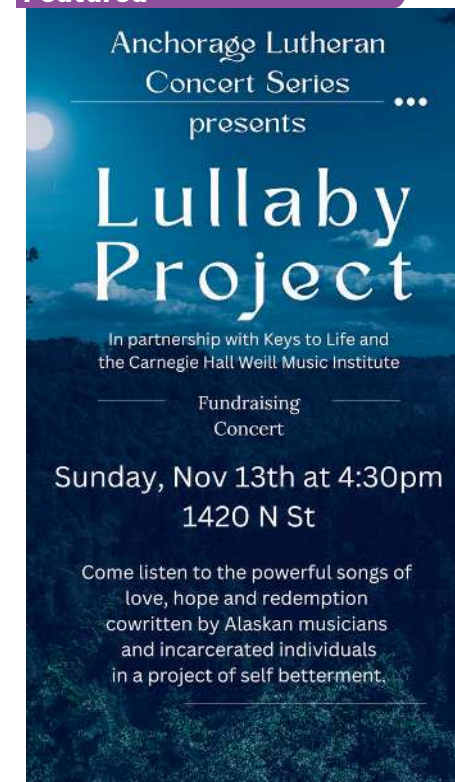
Blues for the souls, and a little Rock n Roll Van's Dive Bar, 1027 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage. haleyahak@gmail.com, 907-929-5464

Sun 11/13

Holiday Vendor Marketplace & Craft Show @ 12pm

Find one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted gifts for everyone on your shopping list! Jewelry, clothing, art, soaps, candles, baked goods and so much more. 600 E Northern Lights Blvd, 600 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. amberdmusso@gmail.com, 907-602-6225

Featured



ALC Concert Series: Lullaby Project @ 4:30pm

Come listen to the powerful songs of love, hope and redemption cowritten by Alaskan musicians and incarcerated individuals in a project of self betterment. Anchorage Lutheran Church, 1420 N Street, Anchorage. tamarialice@gmail.com, 907-982-9777



Wed 11/16

Art Class-Painted Drink Tumbler *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 5:30pm / \$55
We will be painting a double-insulated stainless steel tumbler with vibrant alcohol inks to create a beautiful abstract functional piece of art! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Suite A3 front of building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

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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.

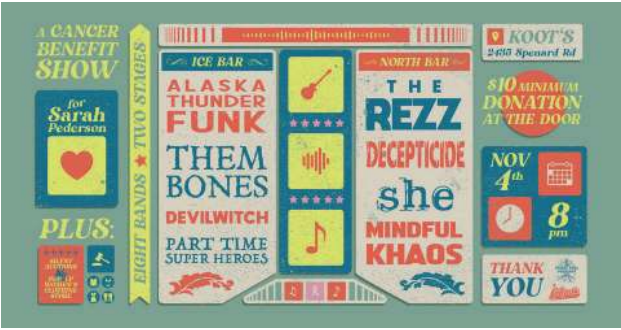
Thursday, November 3rd

Bear Paw Bar & Grill - Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Garcia’s Cantina & Cafe (Eagle River) – Glacier Hoppers 8p-11p
Humpys – Nothin But Karma 7:30p-11:30p
Koot’s – The Ken Peltier Band 7p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Sullivan’s Steakhouse – Live Music from Karl Wilhelm 5:30p-8:30p
Tailgater’s Sport’s Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Williwaw Social – Local Showcase feat: Lizzie G & Lilac 9p-12a



Friday, November 4th

907 Alehouse – I Like Robots 8:45p-12a
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Making Movies 7:30p-9:30p
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 – Hwy9 Acoustic 6p-8p
Bear Paw Bar & Grill - Zen Trembles 8p-11p
The Broken Blender – Sassy Saturday Slightly off Broadway Show! 8p-9:30p
The Broken Blender – First Friday ‘90s Night w/ Memory Bliss 8p-12a
Cafecito Bonito – Día De Los Muertos First Friday 4p-7p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
Four Corners Lounge (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Glenn Massay Theater (Palmer) – Little Shop of Horrors 7p-9p
Humpy’s – The Unknowns Live 9:30p-1:30a
Koot’s – Caribbean Night w/ Total Rebel Sound 8p-2:45a
Koot’s – Cancer Benefit for Sarah P w/ 8 Bands! 8p-2:45a
Mad Myrna’s – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Danger Money Live 10p-2:30a
Organic Oasis – John Damberg Jazz Piano Fridays 5:30p -7:30p
Out North Theatre – Death & Culture: Inheriting Richness 7p-9p
Sullivan’s Steakhouse – Live Music from Blaze Bell 5:30p-8:30p
Van’s Dive Bar – Alaska Rocks the Vote 3! 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – R&B Live! Special Edition BBAAD Anniversary 8p-10p
Williwaw Social – First Friday Girls Night Out Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 10:30p-2a



Saturday, November 5th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – The Suffers 7p-9:20p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Anchorage Civic Orchestra: Fall Concert 7:30p-9p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Glacier Blues Band Live! 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club - East Coast Swing Lesson and Social Dance 7p-11p
Arctic Rec Center – Island Jewels Luau 2p-5p
Bear Paw Bar & Grill – JimFest w/the Hall Monitors 8p-11p
Don Jose’s Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Four Corners Lounge (Palmer) – Glacier Hoppers 10p-2a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Glenn Massay Theater (Palmer) – Little Shop of Horrors 2p-4p & 7p-9p
Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – K-Rae and The Meat Rockets 4p-7p
Humpy’s – Velvet La La 9:30p-1:30a
Koot’s – Comedian JJ Walker 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot’s – Viva Spenard 11 7:30p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna’s – Mad Myrna’s Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Mug-Shot Saloon (Wasilla) – Danger Money Live 10p-2:30a
The Nave – Fall Dance Series: Brian DeMarcus with Birb & Borb 7:30p-10:30p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) – Loaded Karma Live 8p-12a
Sitka Performing Arts Center (Sitka) – Sitka Studio of Dance 7p-8p
South Anchorage High School – Christmas Towne Bazaar & Concerts 12p-4p
Williwaw Social – The Elovaters live in Alaska with H3! 7p-11p
Williwaw Social – Daylight Saving Dance Party w/ DJ Lloyds Noize 11:30-3a



Sunday, November 6th

The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke Sunday 8p-2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot’s – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna’s – Karaoke 9p-12a
Pioneer Bar – Industry Night w/ Joe Brady 10p-2a
Van’s Dive Bar – Open Mic! Overlorded by Wash Your Hands 8p-12a
Writer’s Block Bookstore & Café – Brunch Concert Birb & Borb 11a-3p

Monday, November 7th

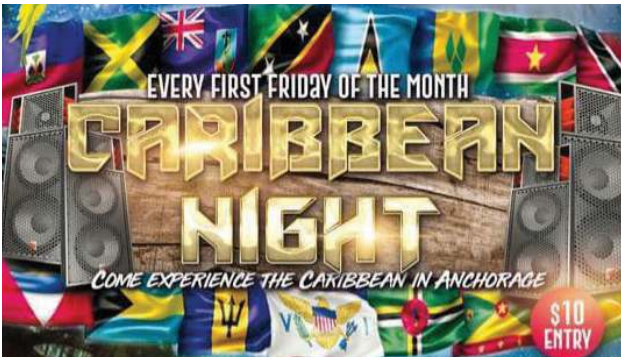
Koot’s – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van’s Dive Bar – Mellow Mondays w/ Nikki Now 9:30p-12a

Tuesday, November 8th

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

Wednesday, November 10th

907 Alehouse –Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-11p
Eddie’s Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpys – Will Balcao 7:30p-11:30p
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) – Pipeline Vocal Project & Kayti Heller live 6p-9p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
Tequila 61° - After Hours By Design 5:30p-7p
Van’s Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a



8 bands to play benefit show for the “Queen of Metal” Friday

BY ALEJANDRO BOUZAS

“Well friends, here we go again. That creepy friend, cancer, is back for round 2 after 5 years of remission,” Sarah Pederson posted on Instagram on June 15. Since then, Pederson’s life has pivoted from her passion, promoting Alaskan bands, to fighting cancer for the second time. While Pederson is currently down, she’s not alone in her fight.

This Friday, the music scene she was instrumental in creating will come together to play a benefit concert of epic proportions.

“Sarah is the reigning Queen of metal [music] in Anchorage. So there was no way the community wasn’t going to step in to help her beat this,” said Koot’s co-owner Bart Boggan. “We’ll be using the whole bar and have a who’s who list of local bands playing on both of the big stages.”

For a minimum donation of \$10 at the door, metal heads will be treated to live music by Alaska Thunder Funk, Them Bones, Devilwitch, Part Time Super Heroes, The Rezz, Decepticide, Mindful Khaos, and the band that prompted the festival, SHE.

“It’s really humbling, and one does never expect it when something like that happens, and the pouring of love and support has been amazing,” said Pederson. “I am super grateful for all the love and support, and for everyone who helped put this event together and everyone who will attend on Friday.”

Although Pederson has been humbled by the outpouring of support, lending their musical talents to help one of the biggest hearts in the scene was a no-brainer.

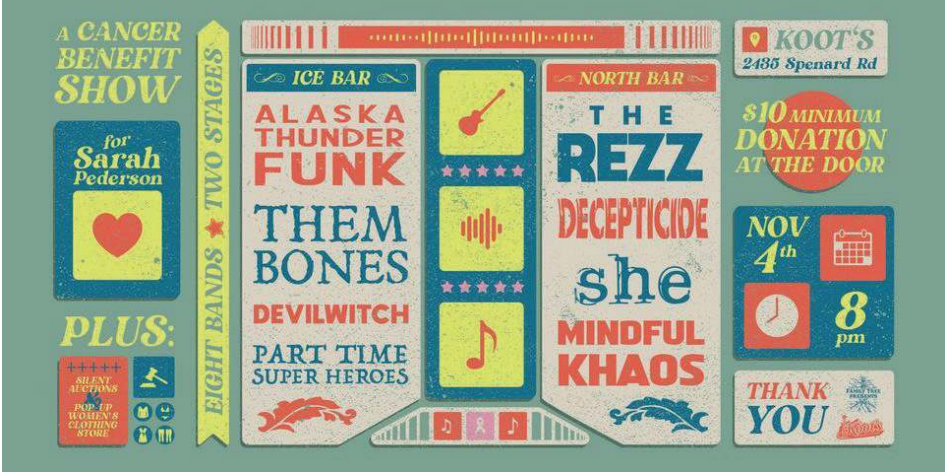
“We have all ended up at Sarah’s house at one point in our lives. We lived with Sarah because she took us in. Things happened; I could not go back to my house, and I was homeless, but Sarah took me in. My drummer, the same thing. Our former bass player did the same thing, too. We all lived with Sarah at some point, and not just us. Many guys in the music scene have had the same experience, and that’s how the music community became more like a family. That’s thanks to her,” said Decepticide guitarist Enzo Montana.

Through the creation of her promotion company, Family Tree Presents, Pederson has helped develop and maintain a scene that is often overlooked.

“There were other promoters before her, but to me, she was the most important for metal because she would bring up the bands that we really liked — like the really heavy bands that were not on the radio and sometimes not even on MTV,” said Montana. “It really motivated a lot of people to go to shows, to start bands, and to one day hopefully open for a Family Tree show.”



Sarah Pederson is currently undergoing treatment for Metastatic Breast Cancer. The Cancer Benefit Show will help raise funds for Pederson’s medical expenses.



Through her tenure as a promoter, Pederson has helped countless bands, including the prodigal 36 Crazyfists, who remain Alaskan metal legends.

“It is not easy for bands to exist in Alaska because they have to travel so far to play bigger shows,” Pederson said of her motivation to open a promotions company. “I would go to shows with my dad and brother when I was younger, so metal was already in my blood.”

As anyone in a band she has touched can attest to, kindness also flows through her veins.

“Sarah’s done so much for the music scene and for the people in the music scene at the most personal level,” explained Montana.

Sarah Pederson’s Cancer Benefit Show will be hosted at Koot’s (2435 Spenard Road) on Friday, November 4. The music starts at 8pm and continues all night. In addition to the music, there will also be a silent auction with coveted items like signed memorabilia from Portugal. the Man, and a pop-up clothing store. If you’re unable to attend but would like to donate to Pederson’s medical bills, you can do so by visiting her GoFund-Me page at gofund.me/ffc4c992.



Decepticide will be joined by Alaska Thunder Funk, Them Bones, Devilwitch, Part Time Super Heroes, The Rezz, She and Mindful Khaos.



ARIES: In the coming weeks, I encourage you to work as hard as you have ever worked. Work smart, too. Work with flair and aplomb and relish. You now have a surprisingly fertile opportunity to reinvent how you do your work and how you feel about your work. To take maximum advantage of this potential breakthrough, you should inspire yourself to give more of your heart and soul to your work than you have previously imagined possible. (PS: By “work,” I mean your job and any crucial activity that is both challenging and rewarding.)

TAURUS: Here’s my weird suggestion, Taurus. Just for now, only for a week or two, experiment with dreaming about what you want but can’t have. And just for now, only for a week or two, go in pursuit of what you want but can’t have. I predict that these exercises in quixotic futility will generate an unexpected benefit. They will motivate you to dream true and strong and deep about what you do want and can have. They will intensify and focus you to pursue what you do want and can have.

GEMINI: Your most successful times in life usually come when all your various selves are involved. During these interludes, none of them is neglected or shunted to the outskirts. In my astrological opinion, you will be wise to ensure this scenario is in full play during the coming weeks. In fact, I recommend you throw a big Unity Party and invite all your various sub-personalities to come as they are. Have outrageous fun acting out the festivities. Set out a placemat and nametag on a table for each participant. Move around from seat to seat and speak from the heart on behalf of each one. Later, discuss a project you could all participate in creating.

CANCERIAN: A Cancerian reader named Joost Joring explained to me how he cultivates the art of being the best Cancerian he can be. He said, “I shape my psyche into a fortress, and I make people feel privileged when they are allowed inside. If I must sometimes instruct my allies to stay outside for a while, to camp out by the drawbridge as I work out my problems, I make sure they know they can still love me—and that I still love them.” I appreciate Joost’s perspective. As a Cancerian myself, I can attest to its value. But I will also note that in the coming weeks, you will reap some nice benefits from having less of a fortress mentality. In my astrological opinion, it’s PARTY TIME!

LEO: Leo poet Antonio Machado wrote, “I thought my fire was out, and I stirred the ashes. I burnt my fingers.” I’m telling you this so you won’t make the same mistake, Leo. Your energy may be a bit less radiant and fervent than usual right now, but that’s only because you’re in a recharging phase. Your deep reserves of fertility and power are regenerating. That’s a good thing! Don’t make the error of thinking it’s a sign of reduced vitality. Don’t overreact with a flurry of worry.

VIRGO: Virgo author Siegfried Sassoon became renowned for the poetry he wrote about being a soldier in World War I. Having witnessed carnage firsthand, he became adept at focusing on what was truly important. “As long as I can go on living a rich inner life,” he wrote, “I have no cause for complaint, and I welcome anything which helps me to simplify my life, which seems to be more and more a process of eliminating inessentials!” I suggest we make Sassoon your inspirational role model for the next three weeks. What inessentials can you eliminate? What could you do to enhance your appreciation for all the everyday miracles that life offers you?

LIBRA: You Libras have a talent that I consider a superpower: You can remove yourself from the heart of the chaos and deliver astute insights about how to tame the chaos. I like that about you. I have personally benefited from it on numerous occasions. But for the next few weeks, I will ask you to try something different. I’ll encourage you to put an emphasis on practical action, however imperfect it might be, more than on in-depth analysis. This moment in the history of your universe requires a commitment to getting things done, even if they’re untidy and incomplete. Here’s your motto: “I improvise compromises in the midst of the interesting mess.”

SCORPIO: “Fear is the raw material from which courage is manufactured,” said author Martha Beck. “Without it, we wouldn’t even know what it means to be brave.” I love that quote—and I especially love it as a guiding meditation for you Scorpios right now. We usually think of fear as an unambiguously bad thing, a drain of our precious life force. But I suspect that for you, it will turn out to be useful in the coming days. You’re going to find a way to transmute fear into boldness, bravery, and even badassery.

SAGITTARIUS: For decades, the Canadian city of Sudbury hosted a robust mining industry. Deposits of nickel sulphide ore spawned a booming business. But these riches also brought terrible pollution. Sudbury’s native vegetation was devastated. The land was stained with foul air produced by the smelting process. An effort to re-green the area began in the 1970s. Today, the air is among the cleanest in the province of Ontario. In the spirit of this transformation, I invite you to embark on a personal reclamation project. Now is a favorable time to detoxify and purify any parts of your life that have been spoiled or sullied.

CAPRICORN: The literal meaning of the ancient Greek word *aigilips* is “devoid of goats.” It refers to a place on the earth that is so high and steep that not even sure-footed goats can climb it. There aren’t many of those places. Similarly, there are very few metaphorical peaks that a determined Capricorn can’t reach. One of your specialties is the power to master seemingly improbable and impassable heights. But here’s an unexpected twist in your destiny: In the coming months, your forte will be a talent for going very far down and in. Your agility at ascending, for a change, will be useful in descending—for exploring the depths. Now is a good time to get started!

AQUARIUS: Evolved Aquarians are often blessed with unprecedented friendships and free-spirited intimacy and innovative alliances. People who align themselves with you may enjoy experimental collaborations they never imagined before engaging with you. They might be surprised at the creative potentials unleashed in them because of their synergy with you. In the coming weeks and months, you will have even more power than usual to generate such liaisons and connections.

PISCES: I surveyed the history of literature to identify authors I consider highly intuitive. Piscean-born Anais Nin was my top choice. She used language with fluidity and lyricism. She lived a colorful, unpredictable life. No one better deserves the title of Intuition Champion. And yet she also had a discerning view of this faculty. She wrote, “I began to understand that there were times when I must question my intuition and separate it from my anxieties or fears. I must think, observe, question, seek facts and not trust blindly to my intuition.” I admire her caution. And I suspect it was one reason her intuition was so potent. Your assignment, Pisces, is to apply her approach to your relationship with your intuition. The coming months will be a time when you can supercharge this key aspect of your intelligence and make it work for you!



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](http://dan.savage.love).

I’m a woman in a hetero marriage. We’ve happily played with others a bit but not recently because we have a small child. We are both bi and in our 40s. We talked about getting the monkeypox vaccine, but I didn’t think it was urgent because we’re not currently having sex with anyone else. Here’s my question: What should I do after learning that my husband got the monkeypox vaccine without telling me? I noticed a red bump on his arm, and he said it was nothing. After I said it looked like the monkeypox vax reaction, he admitted he got the vaccine but didn’t tell me. I was in favor of him getting the vaccine, so I’m totally panicking because he sneaked to get the shot. I think he’s cheating. It’s 2 AM where I am, and I just ordered two at-home HIV/AIDS tests and I’m getting a full STI panel at my OB GYN on Monday. What should I do? I’m a wreck.
- Seriously Panicking Over Unapproved Shot And Lies

By the time you read this, SPOUSAL, those at-home HIV/AIDS tests will have arrived, and you will have your results. You’ll also have seen your OB GYN and most likely gotten the results of your STI tests. Assuming there were no unpleasant surprises—assuming you’re still negative for all the same things you were negative for the last time you tested—what does that mean?

While I don’t wanna cause you another sleepless night, SPOUSAL, your test results can all be negative and your husband could still be cheating on you. But in the absence of other evidence—in the absence of any actual evidence that your husband has cheated on you—I think your husband deserves the benefit of the doubt.

Getting the monkeypox vaccine is the only fact in evidence here, SPOUSAL, and it’s a huge leap from, “My husband got the monkeypox vaccine without telling me,” and, “My husband has been cheating on me with other men during a public health crisis that has primarily impacted gay and bi men and wasn’t using condoms with those other men and knowingly put me at risk of contracting monkeypox and HIV.” If your husband has a history of being reckless about his own sexual health and yours—if he tried to go bare without your consent when you played with other people, for example, and that incident and others like it fueled your freakout—I don’t understand why you’re still married to this man.

Zooming out for a second...

I can think of a few very good reasons why a married bi guy might decide to get the monkeypox vaccine even if his partner wanted him to wait. First, those shots haven’t been easy to get. If the vaccine became available where you live and/or his doctor offered it to him, it was a good idea for him to get his shots even if he’s not currently sleeping with anyone else. And why would his partner—why would you—want him to wait? If you didn’t want him to get those shots as some sort of insurance policy, e.g., if you wanted cheating to be needlessly and avoidably risky as some sort of deterrent, that seems pretty reckless.

Sometimes, SPOUSAL, the likely excuse is the honest answer. I’m guessing your husband got his shots because he hopes you—the both of you—can start playing with others again in the near future and he wants to be ready. Guys have to wait a month after getting their first shot before getting their second shot, and another two weeks after that before they’re fully immune. (Or as immune as they’re going to get.) If your husband has been looking forward to opening your relationship back up—by mutual consent—sometime in the near future, he most likely wanted to be ready to go when you decided, together, to resume playing with others. And he didn’t tell you he was getting the shots because, although he wanted to be ready to go when the time came, he knew you weren’t ready and didn’t want you to feel rushed or pressured.

My analysis of the situation presumes your husband isn’t a lying, cheating, inconsiderate, reckless asshole and deserves the benefit of the doubt here. You know your husband better than I do, SPOUSAL, and it’s entirely possible that your husband has proven himself to be a liar and a cheat and an inconsiderate asshole and a reckless idiot again and again and again.

But if that’s the case—if he’s all of those horrible, no-good, disqualifying things and, therefore, not deserving the benefit of the doubt here—I would ask you again (and again and again): Why are you still married to him then?

I bought some drawings from this woman in Norway. She sent me a photo of her putting the drawings in a tube to be mailed. When I saw her picture, I was immediately attracted to her. That was October 6th and we’ve been texting ever since. I suggested coming to see her, but she doesn’t want me to make a special trip. She suggested I wait until I’m coming to visit family there. (I have family there.) In the meantime, I’m on a dating app here but have little to no interest in meeting someone else. I can only think of her. I typically go to Norway to see family once every few years. If I do go to see her, I would rather not tell my cousins I’m coming, since my family tends to dominate all my time when I visit. What do you suggest?

- Obliging Norwegian Seems Keenly Enticing

You aren’t obligated to notify your cousins that you’re coming to Norway, ONSKE, just as you aren’t obligated to get this woman’s permission to enter Norway. So, book a trip, and let her know you’re going to be in Norway. But I would suggest booking a refundable ticket. Because while you can know for a fact you’re attracted to this woman, ONSKE, you can’t say with absolute certainty that she’s attracted to you. For all you know, ONSKE, this woman was just being polite to a customer on another continent—and maybe hoping to sell some more of her art—and you’ve misread her signals. (I mean, if she was really into you, why would she suggest waiting YEARS—until your next family visit rolls around, to meet in person?) Even if she does want to meet you, ONSKE, there’s always a chance you won’t click. So, book a flight, keep your expectations in check, and have a backup plan, e.g., other people you’d like to see (surprise your cousins?) or other countries you’d like to visit (I hear Austria is lovely this time of year).

PRESS PICKS

2022

**PRESS PICKS VOTING BEGINS
NOV 3 AND ENDS NOV 10**



First NOVEMBER Friday



November 4th





428 G Street
(11am-11pm)

2 Slices & a Brew
\$13.50

2 Slices & a Soda
\$10.50

Single Slices
\$4.75

1. Anchorage Museum - 625 C St. (10am-9pm)
2. Blush Boutique - 720 D St., Suite C (11am-6pm)
3. Weather Boutique - 720 D St., Suite B (11am-6pm)
4. Second Run Consignment - 720 D St. (11am-5:30pm)
5. Tundra Herb Co. - 520 W 6th Ave., Suite A (10am-11:55pm)
6. The Kobuk - 504 W 5th Ave. (10am-7pm)
7. Excalibur Sports - 320 W 5th Ave., Suite 241 (5th Ave. Mall) (10am-8pm)
8. IGCA - 427 D St. (5-8pm)
9. Sara's Gift Cache - 408 W 4th Ave. (10am-8pm)
10. Seigny Studio - 312 G St. (10-9pm)
11. Tiny Gallery - 706 W 4th Ave. (11am-8pm)
12. Stephan Fine Arts - 939 W 5th Ave. (6-8:30pm)
13. The Cubby at Hotel Captain Cook - 939 W 5th Ave. (6-8:30pm)
14. Snow City Cafe - 1034 W 4th Ave. (5-7pm)

Democratic, from page A6

“My old district was defined by Chester Creek on the north and Fish Creek on the west. Many neighborhoods were cut up and separated among different districts. I’ve run across a number of residents who are rather upset about this blatant disregard of traditional neighborhood boundaries.”

“The south part of Eastridge got attached to Rogers Park and new House District 14, which takes in a large part of my old district, HD18, including Midtown, Geneva Woods, and most of Spenard. HD14 also includes College Village, which was part of Andy Josephson’s HD17, jumps the AKRR tracks and Fish Creek to take in eastern Turnagain, which is fondly nicknamed ‘Spenardagain.’”

Alyse Galvin got almost 68-percent of the vote in this district (in August), and I’m confident she’ll be the new HD14 representative. A few blocks off the eastern end of HD 18, a small neighborhood called Anchor Park, bounded on the north by Chester Creek, was sliced off the Rogers Park neighborhood and attached to Airport Heights on the east side of Lake Otis Drive in new HD 19, which I’m also confident will be represented by Genevieve Mina, the Democratic candidate there.

To-do list: Funding for education

What is stop on Drummond’s to-do list if voters return her to Juneau is tackling anew the underfunding of schools and teachers’ pay and benefits. She worries about losing professional talent in Alaska as young people leave. “Business leaders like Bill Popp, president of the Anchorage Economic Development Corp., are saying one in three Alaskans under 26 are leaving. That is compounded by a declining birth rate and less funding for schools and training. Without a workforce, we’re in trouble,” she said.

Drummond is particularly focused on tightening school financing as several years of inflation, falling enrollment, and flat state funding take a toll. Anchorage is looking at a \$68 million deficit next year, she said, with a possible closure of six elementary schools and elimination of programs like language immersion.

Class sizes could rise, too. “I can’t imagine a Kindergarten class with 40 children,” she says, but that’s possible.

Compounding this is that even if class sizes can be held even or reduced, “we’re unable to find teachers,” Drummond said. On a national level, fewer young people are entering the profession, mainly because of social and political pressures on teachers in the classroom. It may not be an attractive profession for young people anymore.

Alaska is no longer to rely on out-of-state recruitment with higher pay because many Lower 48 school districts in the Pacific Northwest, for example, pay on par, or higher than Alaska’s larger districts can offer. Additionally, Alaska’s lack of competitive benefits packages for all public employees, not just teachers, is a red flag in recruiting.

The University of Alaska is not graduating enough teachers to meet the need, so Alaska school districts must recruit 600 to 700 teachers from out of state yearly. That’s tough to achieve mainly because of poor compensation and working conditions, like large classes.

Democrats in the state House made a strong push this year for more state funding through an inflation adjustment to the Base Student Allocation, or BSA, the formula that sets out state support for schools. Unfortunately, the BSA hasn’t been adjusted for inflation since 2017, and funds for schools have lost about 15 percent of their purchasing power.

That effort foundered when the legislation making the adjustment was kept in the House Finance Committee, thanks mainly to two Republicans, Reps. Kelly Merrick, R-Eagle River, and Sarah Rasmuson, R-Anchorage.

Meanwhile, a bill addressing the benefits challenge, and that would have created an option for teachers and other public employees to select a Defined Benefits retirement plan option instead of the current Defined Contribution (basically a 402-k type plan) passed the House but died in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee after being held there by Sen. Mia Costello, R-Anchorage.

Drummond is also unhappy with how Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who is running for reelection, vetoed most state funds appropriated by the Legislature to allow school districts, including Anchorage, to get caught up on a backlog of major maintenance.

The state had a windfall in oil revenue, and the Legislature appropriated \$100 million. For this, the governor vetoed all but \$37 million, leaving about \$60 million in projects still unfunded.

All that leaves a lot of damage for pro-education legislators to undo, but they have to first get to Juneau.

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I BELIEVE WE
ALL NEED TO
WORK TOGETHER
TO REPRESENT
ALL ALASKANS.



I BELIEVE
DIVISIVE
POLITICS IS
DESTROYING
THE COUNTRY.



I BELIEVE
DEMOCRAT
LIZARD PEOPLE
ARE COMING TO
EAT YOUR KIDS!



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RING.



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SIERRA RAE
PARKER

Sierra's Designs:
a pop-up art show to honor Sierra's memory, raise
awareness about the dangers of alcohol and benefit
a program she loved

an artistic whimsical, magical
exploration in pop subculture arts





November 4
5-7 pm
2601 Arctic Boulevard
@ The POWER Center

Hosted by Alaska Behavioral Health and the
Whirling Rainbow Foundation with support from



November 3-November 9, 2022

PRESS | A15

Bach and Beyond featuring Yaniv Attar and guest conductor Dimitri Murrath, viola hits the Atwood on November 12



On November 12th, award-winning guest conductor Yaniv Attar takes the podium and presents a program of Baroque and Baroque-inspired music. ASO Music Director Elizabeth Schulze gives her full endorsement. “I hand over the baton to my respected colleague Yaniv Attar. I know the ASO musicians will be in good hands when he takes the podium and introduces Anchorage to Dimitri Murrath, a violist who has been making a name for himself around the globe.”

Israel native Attar currently holds the position of Music Director with the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra and Bellingham Symphony Orchestra. He is also an Artistic Partner with the Northwest Sinfonietta. With conducting in his sight from an early age, Attar studied worldwide with accomplished mentors, including Israel Edelson in Jerusalem, Virginia Allen at the Juilliard School, and Neil Thomson at the Royal College of Music in London.

Attar isn’t the only international star to make his Atwood Concert Hall debut on November 12th. Belgian-American violist Dimitri Murrath has performed around the world; now, he is adding Anchorage to his list.

2014 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Murrath has also received first prize at the Primrose International Viola Competition, second prize at the First Tokyo International Viola Competition, a special award for contemporary work at the ARD Munich Competition, and a fellowship from the Belgian American Educational Foundation. In 2012, he was named laureate of the Juventus Festival, an award recognizing young European soloists.

While Murrath performs repertoire extending from Bach to contemporary music, he is also an avid chamber musician and member of the Boston Chamber Music Society and the Mistral Music. He joins Attar and the Anchorage Symphony for the ASO premiere of Dobrinka Tabakova’s Suite in Old Style.

Tabakova’s suite was written as an homage to French composer and music theorist Jean-Philippe Rameau and was inspired by a visit to Versailles. Featuring solo viola, string ensemble, and harpsichord, Suite in Old Style depicts glimpses from the everyday life of an 18th-century aristocratic household: hunting, courting in the gardens, dancing, and entertaining in opulent surroundings.

From the sounds of an 18th-century party to the sounds of...bees? This evening of Baroque-inspired music opens with an interesting idea. Arvo Pärt answers the question, what would Bach’s music have sounded like with bees as the theme? To achieve this effect, Pärt combines a new sound with traditional techniques. The piece builds on the letters B-A-C-H (in German, “H” is b-flat). String tremolos imitate the buzzing of bees, with each string section playing a different chord. What we hear is a buzzing cloud of insects that spell out Bach’s name.

No Baroque concert can leave off the master himself, Johann Sebastian Bach, this concert includes his Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B minor. Bach was a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He is consistently listed as one of the greatest composers of all time, and considered a representation of the best of the Baroque era.

Like many of Bach’s compositions, the original manuscripts for his four suites have disappeared to time and neglect, leaving it unknown exactly when they were composed. Based on what is known, it is believed he wrote them while living in Cothen, Germany and working for Prince Leopold. Under the sponsorship of the appreciative Prince, Bach was the director for an orchestra of 18 musicians while also composing several solo and chamber works. He describes his favorable working conditions as “There I had an amiable prince who knew and loved music and I thought I should end my days with him.” However, that wasn’t to be. The Prince married a young woman who didn’t like music, leaving Bach to move on.

Bach’s Orchestral Suite No. 2 includes a virtuosic flute solo which will be performed by the ASO’s principal flute, Roxann Berry. The ASO will be performing only the first movement, which opens with a hauntingly elegant rhythm, then moves on to brilliantly display the “butterfly lightness” of the flute. This is Bach’s only surviving work for solo flute and orchestra.

Closing out the evening is Franz Schubert’s “Mozartian” Symphony No. 5. The twelfth child of a schoolteacher, Franz Schubert grew up in a house filled with music; family members constantly playing one instrument or another. As a young child, Schubert earned a spot in the prestigious Imperial Chapel Boys’ School and played the viola. He went on to follow in his Dad’s footsteps and became a teacher, a job he hated. Instead of teaching, Schubert spent most days at his desk writing music, completely ignoring his students. After two years of unhappiness he quit teaching and decided to devote his time to composing. Having the time to devote to his passion, Schubert became a prolific composer! Before his 20th birthday, Schubert wrote five symphonies, over one hundred songs, two string quartets, three violin sonatas, and much more!

Even though Mozart had been dead for 25 years, his music was still very popular, and Schubert was obsessed with it. While composing his Symphony No. 5, Schubert wrote, “As from afar the magic notes of Mozart’s music still gently haunts me.” Characterized as “a pearl of a great piece”, Schubert’s fifth symphony is filled with beautiful melodies, emotion, and harmonic surprises.

It is hard to believe that this treasure was almost lost to the world. After the initial read-through in 1816, it vanished for over 50 years until two music scholars traveled from Great Britain to Vienna on a quest to find missing Schubert scores. The fifth symphony received its official premiere in 1873 and was finally published in 1885. We can thank this intrepid musical detective duo for finding Schubert’s masterpieces, allowing audiences to continue to discover and experience them in concert halls around the world.

Anchorage Symphony’s Bach & Beyond, Saturday, November 12, 2022, (7:30pm) in the Atwood Concert Hall, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Infrared headphones for the hearing impaired are available concert night from the House Manager on the Orchestra Level. Tickets: Adult, \$52-\$27; Youth, \$24.75-\$12.50; Senior, \$46.50-\$24.50; Streaming Only \$39 (prices include all surcharges and fees). Military, student and group discounts available. To purchase tickets, go to www.centertix.com or call 263-ARTS (2787), toll free at 1-877-ARTS- TIX.

The soundtrack of modern America LatinX activists bring international rock n’roll to Anchorage on Friday



Making Movies is a band that makes American music with an asterisk: because Making Movies’ sound encompasses the entirety of the Americas. It’s through this broader perspective that Making Movies crunches classic rock into Latin American rhythms – African-derived percussion and styles like rumba, merengue, mambo and cumbia – in a way that feels oddly familiar, yet delivers the invigorating chills of hearing something singularly special.

Over the course of their career, the quartet has turned heads as a Tiny Desk newcomer (with “A La Deriva”), a voice for immigrant rights (with “I Am Another You” which reached #3 on Billboard’s Latin Pop Album chart), and as a co-writer alongside salsa icon Rubén Blades (with Latin GRAMMY nominated song “No Te Calles”).

Making Movies has toured extensively, appearing with the likes of Arcade Fire, Rubén Blades, Los Lobos, Hurray For the Riff Raff, Bomba Estereo, Galactic, Flor De Toloache, and Thievery Corporation. The band’s fourth album XOPA was just released on L.A.-based label Còsmica Artists.

Look out your musical window to the world and gain a new perspective with Making Movies.

- What to expect:**
- A dizzying yet cohesive blend of music and message
 - A musical window to the world

Making Movies will play the Discovery Theatre on Friday, November 5 at 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$35.25 and are available at AnchorageConcerts.org.



The Suffers bring the ‘life and soul of the party’ on Saturday



Don’t be fooled by the name – when Houston band The Suffers step on stage, there’s a combustible force so strong it can cure just about anything. “This band is on fire,” asserts NPR’s Bob Boilen, giving you “soul, straight from horn to heart.”

Their magical Gulf Coast soul simmers with a dash of reggae, a splash of jazz, a pinch of salsa, a hint of rock ‘n’ roll, and a dollop of hip-hop and funk. There’s something undeniable about the eight-piece outfit (whose name is a reference to the ’70s Jamaican film Rockers). From NPR’s Tiny Desk Concert to the Newport Folk Festival, these H-Town heroes make believers of everyone who listens.

The Suffers will leave you walking away feeling empowered, resilient, and inspired to live a better life.

- What to expect:**
- Cool, rarely-calm collective that’s the epitome of “it’s better live”
 - Invigorating musical recipe that has everything you need
 - Driving horns, Caribbean percussion, and stunning vocals that’ll give you goosebumps

The Suffers will play the Atwood Concert Hall on Saturday, November 5 at 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$26.25 and are available at AnchorageConcerts.org.

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Super Crossword

SIGN
LANGUAGE

- ACROSS
- 1 Work force
- 6 Swallowed up
- 14 Beautiful
- 20 Popular type option
- 21 Wedlock
- 22 Idolize
- 23 Organ knob imparting a striking sound
- 25 Napoli's country
- 26 Quarterback Manning
- 27 Boundless
- 28 Suffix with 12-Down
- 30 Jungle lairs
- 31 Age, as cheese
- 33 Hidden way out in a haunted house
- 36 Orlando locale
- 40 Singer Reba
- 42 Ratio of a stock share's return to its price
- 45 Shell games
- 50 Persona
- 51 Studio stand
- 52 Hold in check
- 55 Animation frames
- 56 Neophytes
- 58 Blackish wood
- 60 Pisa's river
- 61 Actor Wilson
- 62 Illinois town west of Chicago
- 64 Worker finishing furniture
- 68 Savage sort
- 70 Deeply felt
- 71 Popularity boost after appearing on satirist Stephen's old show
- 73 Iris' layer
- 74 Is in debt
- 75 Fallback strategy
- 76 Singer Mariah
- 78 UPS deliveries: Abbr.
- 82 Did a 180
- 84 Willy Wonka creator Dahl
- 86 Capital of Egypt
- 87 Kagan of the Supreme Court
- 88 At a snail's pace
- 91 Quark or pion
- 95 "The Newlywed Game" host Bob
- 96 PC program tool for automating batches of invitations, say
- 100 Actress Irene
- 102 Streamlined, in brief
- 103 Africa's Amin
- 104 "Canvas" for a tattoo
- 106 Artificial cave
- 111 Zoned (out)
- 113 Like people heeding seven key words in this puzzle
- 117 Mongol invaders
- 118 Brazilian rain forest region
- 119 Make — for oneself
- 120 Lace-receiving hole
- 121 Crescentlike objects
- 122 Plays spiritedly
- DOWN
- 1 Defensive tackle Warren
- 2 Willow or oak
- 3 Ethereal
- 4 Almanac item
- 5 Drinking water additive
- 6 Long dashes
- 7 Innocent
- 8 Reaction to an awful pun
- 9 Big vases
- 10 Enumerate
- 11 Chubby
- 12 Inflated sense of self
- 13 Portray
- 14 First coat of paint
- 15 Like many a sr. citizen
- 16 Sidestep
- 17 Old-style messenger
- 18 Pop singer Lopez
- 19 Brewer's fungus
- 24 Snarky
- 29 Lanka lead-in
- 32 Lousy review
- 33 Vendors
- 34 Finale
- 35 Final, e.g.
- 36 Savings acct. protector
- 37 Tart pie fruit
- 38 Track shape
- 39 Road semis
- 40 Fail to catch
- 41 Passing mark
- 43 "Wilson" actress Laura
- 44 Basketballer Ming
- 46 Shipping box
- 47 Hitter Hank
- 48 Negative
- 49 Sleep sound
- 52 "Backdraft" director Howard
- 53 Salad green
- 54 Biggest city in Australia
- 56 Nudniks
- 57 Turtle in a Dr. Seuss title
- 59 Belfry dweller
- 61 Small bill
- 62 Hiatus
- 63 Homer's H
- 64 Win a point
- 65 Sauna wrap
- 66 Tylenol rival
- 67 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
- 68 Sloppy Joe holder
- 69 Hug
- 72 Defective
- 73 Pakistani language
- 76 Walking stick
- 77 '80s sitcom
- 78 "Qué —?"
- 79 Brick-baking oven
- 80 Totally understand, informally
- 81 Plants seeds
- 83 Absorbed
- 85 OPEC liquid
- 86 Big hack attack
- 88 Sty dweller
- 89 Mystery writer Deighton
- 90 Sudden forward thrust
- 92 In the thick of
- 93 Cardinal, e.g.
- 94 Clan-related
- 96 Sticky stuff
- 97 Reimburse
- 98 Hopping mad
- 99 Like ultra-lite food
- 100 Failed to
- 101 Remove, as a 105-Down
- 104 Medium, e.g.
- 105 Shoelace problem
- 107 "How awful!"
- 108 Cardinals, e.g.
- 109 Office fill-in
- 110 Corrida calls
- 112 Sooner than
- 114 Big bush bird
- 115 Flying Solo
- 116 — -been

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LEGALS

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

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

LEGALS

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

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

Torn Between Right and Wrong

Dear Oskar,
My daughter is getting married, and she wants to invite
my sister, whom she is very close to. Many years ago, my
sister betrayed me, and I have not spoken with her since.
I really don't want her there. I am torn because I want to
make my daughter happy, but I will be miserable if she is
there. What should I do?

—Torn Between Right and Wrong



BY ASK OSKAR
OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Torn Between
Right and Wrong,

I feel you—I know the
pain of resentment all too
well. It was a deep hurt,
but I believed if I held on
to it, I would be safe from
it. After all, how many
times are we told things
like, “Keep your friends
close but keep your ene-
mies closer”? On the other
hand, when I was growing
up, the model I saw in my
family was to cut someone
off when you’re angry
with them. I figured it was

the right way.

Much of my anger was towards my mother. I was justi-
fied (or so I thought) in holding on to it. She had abused
me physically, emotionally, and verbally. I thought I
should hold onto my anger so the abuse wouldn’t happen
again, but it did. Not only did it not go away, but I was
surrounding myself with people similar to my mother
and re-experiencing the ABUSE. But then, one day, I
heard something that changed my life: “Holding onto
resentment is like drinking poison and hoping the other
person dies.”

I had never thought of it that way. Here I was, killing
myself by holding my anger over my perceived enemies
close to me. I was in a conundrum: If I let go of the anger,
how could I keep myself safe?

As I began to notice the anger inside me, I started to
acknowledge it really was hurting me. It had taken over
me in ways I couldn’t even imagine. It was making my life
smaller and more controlled—I was afraid to let people
into my life out of fear they might hurt me. I let my voice
get smaller so no one would be able to “get me.” The

worst part of all was probably the fact that I felt so scared
of people when what I really wanted was connection.

I began to meditate and ask the universe for guidance.
A few days later, I started to hear, “Forgive them, for
they know not what they have done.” I sat with this for
a long time, and slowly, as I allowed that idea to move
through my anger, I could see it was true: I was human,
and I knew there were times I had hurt people, but not on
purpose. I was being offered the opportunity to see that
my mother and others also did not hurt me on purpose.

I knew that healing and forgiveness must start with me.
I started to take responsibility for the moments when I
hurt others, and I made amends. Sometimes it was with
an apology, and sometimes it was by changing my atti-
tude and behavior toward people and situations.

My life began to grow again, and I was feeling much
better. I was ready to forgive my mother. I re-examined
our relationship and came to realize my mother did not
have any tools to do things differently than she had. It
was really that simple. She was not trying to hurt me.
She just had no idea what she was doing. The beauty of
my experience, it turns out, was that the pain I had felt
in my childhood had given me the awareness that things
had to change when I had my own children. It made me
the gentle, loving mother I am. In feeling my anger and
acknowledging the pain, I was able to heal generational
trauma for my children and the pain in my heart. I now
can love my mother as a fellow human traveling along
these roads and give her the same compassion I give to
others.

To me, there are two parts of forgiving someone: find-
ing the true gift from the negative experience and know-
ing when to continue on with the relationship. I have
found that sometimes forgiveness means ending a rela-
tionship. It doesn’t come from a place of anger, though—
if I need a relationship to be loving and supportive and
it’s not, I am simply setting that person (and myself) free
by no longer asking for something they can’t give.

So as for your sister, I cannot tell you whether to invite
her or not. That answer is only known in your own heart.
But I would suggest you spend a little time writing down
how you feel about her and the betrayal and see if it gives
you any clarity. Maybe you’ll find a way to talk to your
sister about your relationship, or maybe you’ll find a way
to let her go. Either way, I wish you love on this journey
of forgiveness—it is not for the faint of heart. But it is for
YOUR HEART.



Federal, from page A3

The money will be used to “reconfigure
and realign the shoreline within the area
north of the existing general cargo ter-
minals as well as for the demolition of a
sheet pile wall, removal of approximately
1.3 million cubic yards of material, and
construction of a shoreline revetment of
armor rock.”

In addition, the state will get \$10 mil-
lion for the Adak port in the Aleutians,
\$5.3 million for the Sand Point dock and
\$28 million for ferry terminal upgrades at
Cordova, Tatitlek and Chenega.

Because Murkowski helped write the
bill, there is money coming to Alaska for
these ports and others—including the
new deep-water port in Nome, as well
as money for broadband, harbors, roads,
rails, bridges, utilities and ferries.

Last spring Tshibaka posted a picture of
herself on Twitter posing near the Port of
Alaska, claiming to be the champion of
infrastructure.

“I will support critical infrastructure
development, such as the Don Young Port

of Alaska, which is behind me,” she said.

But posing for pictures is all she can do.
If there is an Alaska champion of infra-
structure, it’s Murkowski, who helped
write the law and get it passed. She is not
the type who pats herself on the back or
craves publicity, but her accomplishments
in the infrastructure law will benefit Alas-
ka for decades to come.

“Over the next decade, we will be able
to build and modernize our core basic
infrastructure—more and better roads,
safer bridges, our marine highway sys-
tem, and expanded ports and airports.
We’ll invest in clean drinking water
systems, reliable broadband, new energy
innovation and resilience projects, and
so much more—without raising taxes or
worsening inflation,” Murkowski said.

Tshibaka, who moved to Alaska in 2019
after spending her career in Washington,
D.C., really doesn’t know of what she
speaks. She is pushing a story that Mur-
kowski has lost touch with Alaskans,
doesn’t care about them and is controlled
by people Outside.

This is one of the most serious lies that
Tshibaka is telling in a campaign stained
by repeated lies and half-truths.

Super Crossword

Answers

S	T	A	F	F		E	N	G	U	L	F	E	D		P	R	E	T	T	Y				
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“For me personally, it certainly would be an opportunity to try to convince the delegates that the unborn’s rights are recognized in the current constitution,” Bird said. “I’ll read it here. ‘This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life.’ And then it says ‘liberty and the pursuit of happiness.’ So right there, that’s sufficient for me, if the unborn are seen as persons before the law.”

Bird said personhood, which he views as from conception to natural death, should be defined by elected representatives instead of judges.

Currently, when appointing judges, the governor must choose from a list of two or more nominees compiled by the Alaska Judicial Council. It’s an independent state commission.

“I think the Judicial Council is just now beginning to exceed the PFD as a motive to get people to vote yes because that’s a rigged system. It’s got to go,” Bird said.

A constitutional convention could be a first step to banning or limiting abortion access by changing how judges are chosen.

“I would say that pro-lifers understand very well that the Judicial Council is a tool that can help restore human rights to the preborn,” Bird said.

Bird is also chairman of the Alaskan Independence Party, which is “a pro-gun, pro-family, pro-life, pro-strict-interpretation Constitution party.” The Alaskan Independence Party wants Supreme Court vacancies to be filled by governor appointment and confirmed by the Legislature. There would be no Judicial Council. That’s according to a draft of a new Alaska constitution the party wrote.

The draft also says that the judicial branch would be the least influential of all branches of government, its decisions only as effective as the willingness of the governor to enforce them.

Opposed to both abortion and constitutional convention

Former legislator John Coghill is staunchly anti-abortion rights.

“I’m a pro-life guy. I unashamedly have been a champion of pro-life issues for a good long while,” he said.

Coghill was an Alaska legislator for 22 years. He was behind the 2014 bill that tried to limit Medicaid funding to only cover abortions deemed “medically necessary” by the Alaska Legislature. Agreeing with a lower court, the Alaska Supreme Court struck down the law in 2019, saying it violated the equal protection guarantees of Alaska’s Constitution.

“Every year, I did something to protect the life of the unborn. Every year,” he said.

But Coghill opposes a convention. His father, the late Jack Coghill, was one of the original delegates to sign the Alaska Constitution.

John Coghill, who is on the executive committee of the group Defend Our Constitution, said he doesn’t want to open it up and thinks a change to abortion rights wouldn’t pass. He understands why anti-abortion advocates want a convention, though.

“Most of us who are pro-life. We will fight to the death to save the life of the unborn because they don’t have a voice. And so most of my friends who carry the same position I do, they are willing to fight and lose because, to them, the fight is worth it,” he said.

Not only would they lose the anti-abortion fight, but Alaska could also lose its Constitution, Coghill said. At a convention, delegates have plenary power, or as Coghill put it, “the whole Constitution is on the table and open for discussion.” That means it could be totally rewritten.

“So, to me, I would fight for a right-to-life issue. But do you think I’m willing to change the whole Constitution (or) our whole economic structure to get that? Some people say, ‘I’d be willing to do that.’ But I think there are other days we could fight without changing the structure of Alaska,” he said.

On the same side

Being against having a convention puts Coghill on the same side as lots of people he’s not used to siding with, like Rose O’Hara-Jolley, Alaska state director for Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates.

“We are absolutely encouraging people to vote no on the Constitutional Convention,” O’Hara-Jolley said.

To Planned Parenthood, a convention would mean the end of abortion access. It could also mean the erosion of other rights. So O’Hara-Jolley said they’re worried about the ballot question.

“If I’m being honest, I believe that if everyone truly understands what a constitutional convention would mean for abortion access, for LGBTQ rights, for labor rights, for public education, I think then, it’s very obvious to everyone that causing that instability and so many places and all of our lives is not worth the risk,” O’Hara-Jolley said.

Not in their capacity as state director for Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates but as an individual, O’Hara-Jolley is chair of the group “Protect Our Rights: No on 1,” which has volunteers door-knocking and phone calling “talking directly to voters and explicitly around abortion.”

In their free time, O’Hara-Jolley said they also talk to friends and acquaintances about why people should vote no on the convention. However, not everyone immediately agrees with O’Hara-Jolley.

“Especially my younger friends are like, ‘Well, yeah, our government’s broken. You know, and our Constitution was written, you know, mostly by white people who were actively colonizing a place that was not ours, is not ours,’” they said.

While O’Hara-Jolley agrees that it would be great to have conversations about how Alaska can be a better state, they tell these friends that a lot of how the convention will run will likely be decided by the Legislature.

“And usually immediately when I say that people are like, ‘Wait, what?’ since the same people in a government voters said is broken would be the ones to decide how the convention is structured, O’Hara-Jolley said.

“Yes, we will vote on delegates, but think about who your elected official is right now, right? They’re voted into office. So who’s going to have the resources and the ability to run to be a delegate and then give that time to be a delegate, you know, and that’s going to look like a certain kind of person. And so it’s not some great, like, state-wide shared Google Doc where everyone has equal input,” O’Hara-Jolley said.

Instead, they said, delegates proposing changes to the Constitution will likely be people who are already in positions of power.

The people working to affect the outcome of a convention may include John Coghill. Though he opposes the convention, if the ballot measure passes, he said he would be on the anti-abortion-rights side, back with the people he’s used to siding with.

“If the people of Alaska choose to put the constitution on the table in a convention, I am going to be with Jim Minnery voting for and trying to help us get the best pro-life principle in our constitution that can possibly be had,” Coghill said.

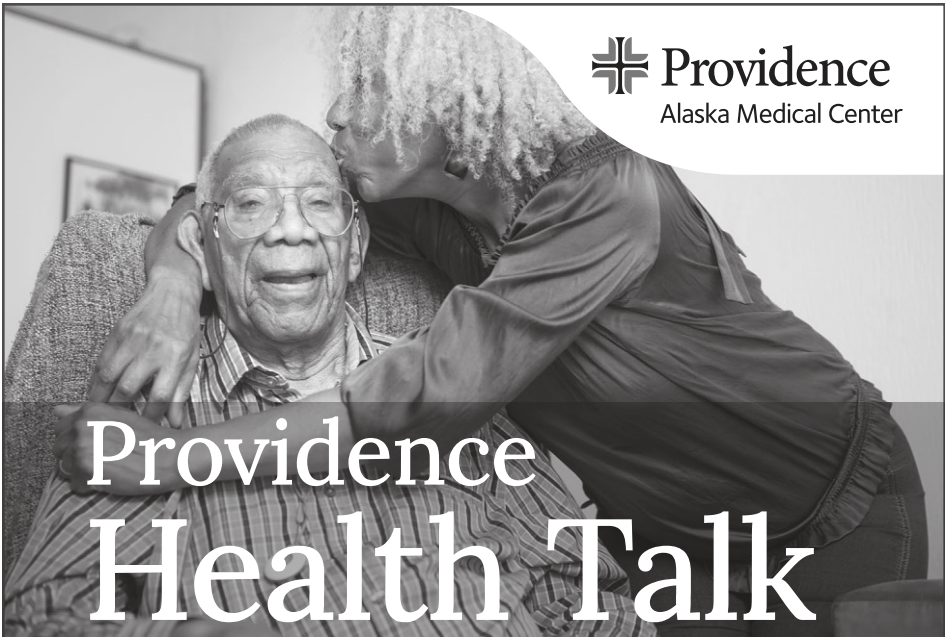
Besides all that, Vic increasingly became an outspoken wildlife advocate and critic of the state’s wildlife-management priorities and methods.

In the final decade of his life, Vic’s work was slowed by age and various ailments, the most serious of them Parkinson’s Disease. We largely fell out of touch during that time, but others who stayed close to Vic say he remained alert, bright, thoughtful, and humorous, “as always.” He also stayed involved in Alaska’s wildlife politics and, if anything, became an even greater wildlife advocate and opponent of the state’s controversial predator-control programs.

Following Vic Van Ballenberghe’s death on Sept. 22, 2022, at age 78, many people in Alaska’s wildlife community (and beyond) have both mourned his passing and applauded the legacy of a wildlife biologist, field scientist, and “genuine wildlife hero” who contributed greatly to our understanding of moose and predator-prey relationships, and who advocated for more balanced and ethical wildlife management by the state. I join them in grieving Vic’s death and celebrating his life and work.

Vic once told me that Jane Goodall was the person he most wanted to emulate, a scientist who “was the epitome of the field biologist and who showed great dedication and attachment” to the chimpanzees who came to be at the center of her life. I’d say he successfully followed in both Murie’s and Goodall’s paths and for that, we can be thankful.

Anchorage nature writer and wildlife/wildlands 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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Presenter

MARK A. MOYAD, M.D., MPH

University of Michigan Medical Center
Jenkins/Pokempner Director of Complementary & Alternative Medicine Education,
Department of Urology

Mark Moyad, M.D., MPH, is a public health educator, clinical researcher, career-long healthy lifestyle advocate and the primary author of more than 150 published medical journal articles and 15 clinical and consumer health books. Dr. Moyad occupies an endowed position to study lifestyle changes, dietary supplements and other over-the-counter options and then educate consumers and health care professionals on the latest clinical research. His position was originally created and funded by the individuals he has helped for more than 25 years.

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University of Alaska administration and faculty union reach tentative contract agreement

While 14-month negotiation has ended, unfair labor practice complaints process still ongoing

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

The University of Alaska’s administration and its faculty union reached a tentative agreement on a new contract Monday, ending 14 months of negotiations. The sometimes contentious process resulted in both parties filing unfair labor practice complaints, which are still ongoing.

Faculty union president Abel Bult-Ito said he’s “relieved” negotiations are over, “but I don’t think anybody’s very happy about the outcome.” Bult-Ito is professor of neurobiology and neurophysiology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

“The raises are not what they should be. We’re looking at 8% cost of living increases and, you know, the best we were able to do was 3% in the first year,” he said.

The contract includes increases of 3%, 2.75% and 2.5% over three years, which are slightly higher than the administration’s original “best and final offer” of 3%, 2.5% and 2%. The contract is retroactive to July 1, 2022. To provide back pay for the salary increase, the university will request as a supplemental budget item in the coming legislative session, according to the university’s press release issued Tuesday. The overall compensation increases will be included on the university’s budget request submitted to the Legislature for funding approval.

“Financially speaking, it’s a minimal package, but it’s the best we could do,” Bult-Ito said. The union, United Academics, conceded to the administration’s salary offer at the end of July.

The union had originally sought salary increases of 5%, between 3% and 7%, and between 3% and 6% over three years, with the latter two years’ increases determined by the consumer price index. Union members have received one 1% increase over the past six years.

Several steps need to occur before the agreement is enacted. For United Academics, the tentatively agreed upon contract needs to go through the union’s executive board and the representative assembly before going to a vote of the membership. For the university administration, next steps include approval by the Board of Regents and the Alaska Department of Administration.

“We are thankful that this process is resolved,” University of Alaska President Pay Pitney said in the release. “We value our faculty and want to ensure a stable working and learning environment.”

Aside from increases to faculty pay, the university said that the tentative agreement includes increases to the pension wage base, expands the use of faculty development funds and provides for changes to the dispute resolution process.

For a few months, both parties’ negotiating teams had been meeting in federal mediation sessions. To get to this tentative agreement, Bult-Ito said the parties were communicating over email.

He said he hopes United Academics’ membership ratifies the tentative contract, which includes this clause: Any future, higher raises given to other employee groups will also be given to United Academics faculty.

“So we have an opportunity to hopefully work with the university and the Legislature to get some more raises for all employees of the university, which is really necessary,” Bult-Ito said. “I’m hoping we can repair our relationship with the administration and move forward together so that we can properly compensate all employees at the university.”

Both the union and the administration filed unfair labor practice complaints with the Alaska Labor Relations Agency – the union in August and the administration in September. The state agency is still collecting briefings for both complaints. Once they’re all in, the hearing officer will be able to complete investigations and issue findings.

“Probable cause that an unfair labor practice occurred will either exist or not. And if she finds that it exists in one or both cases, then she will engage in conciliation with the parties and try to see if they can settle this that way informally,” said Nicole Thibodeau, Alaska Labor Relations Agency administrator and hearing examiner.

If probable cause is found but not reconciled informally, then the Alaska Labor Relations Agency board will conduct a full hearing and issue a decision determining whether an unfair labor practice has occurred and what the remedy is.

Alaska Supreme Court takes another look at security of university investment fund

The Legislature passed a law earlier this year to protect it, but a rehearing could allow future challenges

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

The Alaska Supreme Court is taking a second look at a September decision on a new state law intended to protect the state Higher Education Investment Fund from being automatically drained under a provision of the Alaska Constitution.

On Oct. 7, the Alaska Department of Law asked the court for a rehearing, effectively a do-over, on a single footnoted sentence: “The legislature has since amended the HEIF statute, removing the HEIF from the general fund and thus making it ineligible for the sweep.”

The investment fund is used to pay for college scholarships and the state’s equivalent of medical school.

If the court agrees to the rehearing and subsequently reverses itself on that sentence, it could reopen questions about the fund’s legal status, potentially causing the \$400 million account to be permanently drained.

The Legislature and plaintiffs who originally brought the case oppose the rehearing request.

It’s the latest twist in a three-year-old issue that began when the administration of Gov. Mike Dunleavy re-examined a list of state funds eligible to be swept into the state’s Constitutional Budget Reserve at the end of the fiscal year.

That sweep is required under a constitutional amendment passed by voters in 1990, but until 2019, the Legislature had annually and uncontroversially reversed the sweep with a supermajority vote.

Before 2019, it was believed that the higher education fund and the Power Cost Equalization endowment (used to subsidize rural home electricity prices) were immune from the sweep if the Legislature ever failed to reverse it.

But that year, Dunleavy proposed a budget that called for the sweep to take place, and the Office of Management and Budget concluded that prior analyses were incorrect and both the education and PCE funds were eligible for the sweep.

In 2021, the Legislature failed to reverse the sweep, causing both funds — as well as many other, smaller accounts — to be transferred to the budget reserve.

Supporters of the PCE sued, and a Superior Court judge ruled that the PCE fund should not have been swept.

That act preserved a reliable source of funding for the rural-power program, and several university students also filed suit, hoping to preserve the higher education fund.

That case went the other direction, with a Superior Court judge ruling that because of the way the Legislature wrote the law establishing the higher education fund, it was eligible to be swept. The students appealed, but the Alaska Supreme Court confirmed the ruling earlier this year in a brief order.

Soon after that order, state lawmakers passed a new law, changing the structure of the higher-education fund into one that resembles the PCE fund.

In September, the high court released a longer explanation of its decision, which included a detailed analysis of when a fund is sweepable and when it is not.

In their footnote, they noted that the Legislature’s new law would make the higher education fund unsweepable.

Attorneys for the Alaska Department of Law objected, saying that the Legislature’s new law wasn’t part of the case.

“That sentence is dicta that purports to resolve a question of Alaska constitutional law not before the court,” they wrote in a request for a rehearing.

Dicta is a legal term for a comment in a judicial opinion that isn’t necessary to resolve a case but could be mentioned in future lawsuits.

Requests for a rehearing are rarely granted by the court, but in October, justices asked for more information before making their final decision.

Attorneys representing the Alaska Legislature and the students who brought the original lawsuit have since submitted written arguments against the rehearing.

“Appellees’ requested rehearing would introduce unnecessary uncertainty where there was none,” wrote Kevin Cuddy, an attorney representing the Legislative Council, a House-Senate committee that acts on behalf of the Legislature.

Attorney Scott Kendall, a frequent Dunleavy critic who represents the students, said it appears to him that the state is attempting to keep the higher education fund available for sweeping.

Patty Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the Department of Law, said that isn’t the case.

“We are not making any assertions about any particular funds. We are merely requesting that the Alaska Supreme Court remove a footnote in its opinion that addresses an issue that was not before the Court,” she said by email.

“Courts generally prefer to avoid unnecessarily deciding questions, especially questions not presented by the case and without full briefing. Our petition simply points out that the footnote could be read as deciding this question and may therefore lead to uncertainty and confusion,” she said.

With both sides having offered written arguments, the issue is now in the hands of the court’s justices. There is no timeline for a decision.





Josephine Galipon of Keio University in Japan holds a cylinder of frozen soil extracted by her colleague Go Iwahana from the U.S. Army's Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility in Fox, Alaska. She is looking for microorganisms that might still be alive in the ancient soil. Photo by Ned Rozell.

What lives in frozen soil for 25,000 years?

BY NED ROZELL

Standing in the 29-degree air outside a building on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, Josephine Galipon held a pinkie-size vial that may have contained tiny organisms locked in a coma for thousands of years.

Galipon, a researcher with Keio University in Japan, needed to work outside a heated room so as not to disturb molecules that have been motionless in frozen ground for as long as 25,000 years. That was a time when giant sheets of ice pressed down on most of North America.

In October 2022, Galipon visited Alaska to see if she could tease out genetic information from gray cylinders of permafrost — silty soil that has been frozen for at least two years, but in this case thousands.

Using a large drill with a hollow bit, Galipon's colleague Go Iwahana of UAF's International Arctic Research Center pulled the samples from the U.S. Army's Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility in Fox, Alaska, a few hours before.

Galipon planned to examine ancient RNA, molecules living things use to express traits that help them survive, such as producing more heat to withstand the cold.

And what might still be living within plugs of frigid soil?

Scientists have found 1,500-year-old moss in Antarctica permafrost that came back to life when warmed. From permafrost extracted in Siberia, researchers have coaxed back to life bacteria and small worms known as nematodes that wriggled 41,000 years after they were suspended in ice.

Galipon is not expecting such a bounty of creatures in her few samples, but she was excited to look for viable molecules of RNA — ribonucleic acid — that would tell her what creatures were in the soil at the time cold penetrated down from the grasses above.

"RNA tells us how the thing is dealing with the environment," she said. "How do these microbes adapt to cold and warmth? What's the range of temperatures they can withstand and survive, and how do they do it?"

She described a DNA molecule as sort of a dictionary of everything a living thing can do, and an RNA molecule as the few words that express what that creature does to survive.

"Plants and insects express different genes at different times. The RNA can change up to 100-fold in a few minutes."

That is why, for example, some COVID-19 vaccines need to be held at extreme cold temperatures, to keep the messenger RNA true and useful.

And there is a niche Galipon is trying to fill: She is developing a field kit to let researchers examine RNA outside the lab, before conditions change so much that the molecules lose whatever information they have to share.

Galipon — who grew up in rural France and moved to Japan 13 years ago — carried a large suitcase to Fairbanks filled with instruments for looking at soils in the field — in this case the permafrost tunnel dug into a hillside north of Fairbanks.

Inside the black-plastic case were the tools of her trade, including a small centrifuge.

She is tweaking her kit in hopes of taking it to places like the Atacama Desert in Chile and the Gobi Desert in China, as well as Alaska and Siberia and Antarctica and other places where ground frozen long ago persists.

"I would like to merge biology with engineering," she said. "I would like to invent something that makes several scientific discoveries possible."

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



CANNAGUIDE

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How are new weed strains created?

BY PAT GOGGINS
LEAFLY

Every year, dozens of new cannabis strains are created, each one combining the flavors, aromas, and effects of two or more strains into a new one. Weed tastes and trends change all the time, and cannabis breeders continually create new strains to feed the interests of cannabis consumers.

Weed is arguably one of the most cultivated plants (we’ve been growing it for at least 5,000 years), and growers can control the breeding and growing processes to select and refine the plant to suit various wants and needs.

To explain how new weed strains are created, we need to start with plant sex.

Weed breeding 101

The cannabis plant can be either female or male—this trait is called being dioecious and is rare in the plant world. Only female weed plants produce the buds that we all know and love. Whenever you see a field of cannabis plants covered with buds, those are all females.

Female weed plants also grow seeds, while male plants grow pollen sacs. When males grow to maturity, their pollen sacs open up and release pollen into the air, which can fall onto a nearby female plant and pollinate it.

When a pollinated female grows to maturity, it grows seeds with the buds, which carry the genetics of both the female and the pollinating male. When those seeds grow into new plants, they will be a new strain, combining traits of both the male and female.

Out in the wild, cannabis plants breed naturally. A male weed plant may happen to grow near a female plant, and when it releases pollen, the wind will carry the pollen to a female. When a female plant matures and then dies, its seeds will fall to the ground and grow as plants of the new strain the following year.

How to create a hybrid weed strain

Breeding can be done artificially and intentionally in a commercial or homegrowing setting. To start, cannabis breeders will select two strains to combine, based on traits such as taste, aroma, potency, effects, yield, ease of growing, and other factors. They’ll pick a female of one strain and a male of another.

A weed breeder will usually put a male and multiple female plants together in a closed room, called a breeding chamber, to contain the pollen and ensure a successful pollination. Pollination can also happen outdoors by keeping the plants close together, as long as there aren’t multiple strains releasing pollen.

Once a female plant is pollinated and grows to maturity, its seeds will be collected and then those seeds will be grown into plants. These new plants will contain the genes of both the female and male plants and are referred to as a cross (from crossbreeding) or a hybrid of the parent plants.

What is a phenotype?

Simplistically, the new seeds on the female plant are called phenotypes—they’re like the children of the two parent plants, and are like siblings to one another. One pollinated female plant can produce dozens of seeds, or phenotypes.

Two things influence the structural formation of a cannabis plant: genetics and environment. The plant’s genetic makeup—also called its genotype—acts as a blueprint for growth. It allows for a spectrum of physical possibilities. But genes can switch their expression on and off in response to environmental cues.

If a Golden Retriever and a Poodle mate and have a litter of puppies, they will be Golden Doodle puppies, which will have traits from both the mother and father. Some of the puppies will look more like a Poodle (maybe they’ll have more curly hair and be tall and lanky), some more like a Golden Retriever (maybe shaggier hair, and a little shorter), and some will have a mix of traits from both parents.

The same is true when crossbreeding weed strains. For example, crossing Lemon Skunk and Super Silver Haze will give you seeds of Super Lemon Haze. All of the resulting Super Lemon Haze seeds will be different when grown into plants: Some will be stinky, tall, and lanky like Lemon Skunk, some will be shorter and packed with more trichomes like Super Silver Haze, and some will have a mix of traits from both parent strains.

Just as a litter of Golden Doodles will yield puppies that display the different traits of their two parents, cannabis seeds or phenotypes will express the different traits of their parent strains. These traits can include plant size and structure (tall, short, bushy, thin), color (purple, orange, light green, dark green), smell (fruity, skunky, sweet, gassy), effects (energetic, sedating, cerebral, giggly), and more.

All traits will be derived from the parent strains, and each phenotype will be unique in the combination of traits it inherits from the parents.

What is pheno-hunting?

When creating a new weed strain, breeders will often pollinate multiple females, resulting in dozens, if not hundreds, of different seeds or phenotypes. So which phenotype ends up on the dispensary shelf that you buy?

A cannabis breeder’s job now is to grow the seeds of the new strain into plants and select the best one to take to market—this is called pheno-hunting. The breeder is looking for the best version, or best expression, of the new strain.

Some of the phenotypes might smell great but not look great; some may taste and look great but not be very potent; some may be susceptible to bugs or not yield very much; and so on. The breeder wants to find the particular phenotype that combines all of the best traits of the new strain.

Pheno-hunting often takes a few generations to pick the best version of a strain. For example, a breeder might start by growing ten seeds into plants and pick the best five; then those five are grown again and whittled down to three; and then those are grown and whittled down to the final phenotype. Each generation of growing can take months, so pheno-hunting and breeding a new strain in general usually takes several months—or even years.

Once a breeder has selected the phenotype with the best traits, they will mass produce it, and that version of the new strain will go to market and ends up on the dispensary shelf.

Bringing other phenotypes to market

Sometimes a strain becomes so popular that breeders will sell a “spin-off” version to capitalize on that strain’s popularity, and also just to bring a different version of the strain to market.

This explains why you might find two versions of a strain, usually one with a number after it, such as Gelato and Gelato #33, Bruce Banner and Bruce Banner #3, and Northern Lights and Northern Lights #5. The numbered strain is a different phenotype.

Pat Goggins is a senior editor who handles Leafly’s informational content and specializes in cannabis cultivation after working for a commercial grower in Oregon.

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Extractor Profile: Babylon Company

BY O’HARA SHIPE
FOR ALASKA LEAF

In a microscopic 368-square-foot lab flanked by car mechanics on each side is the laboratory of Dave DeLuca. As the CEO of Babylon Company LLC, DeLuca is happy to live in the anonymity of his lab. Even his employees say they only have rare sightings of him, as he prefers to work in the wee hours of the morning.

“I don’t see him much, but we do talk on the phone all the time,” laughs Babylon’s General Manager, Kenzy Ellerbe.

It’s an eccentricity that some might find off-putting. Still, within a few moments of meeting DeLuca, it is clear that he is a brilliant, passionate, and caring person who prefers to let his work speak for him. Although sometimes, you might need an interpreter to fully understand the principles that guide DeLuca’s work

“I’ll answer questions about what I do in quantum superstition,” says DeLuca with a wry smile.

If you’re wondering what the hell “quantum superstition” is, you’re not alone. Much of the work that DeLuca does is beyond the comprehension of the layman. But the process is less critical when it comes to understanding what makes DeLuca tick. At the core of his personality is a passion for humankind.

“I went to school at the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in geology and a minor in chemistry. At that time, I viewed Cannabis from a side point. Then when we started to see the legalizations across the country, that’s when I became more interested in the medical side of it. Firstly, looking at delivery methodologies and questioning how we can deliver THC in a more effective way,” explains DeLuca.

Initially, turning his focus towards finding safer ways to imbibe Cannabis seemed like a departure from his original life plan, which included spending a lot of time with rocks.

“Originally, I wanted to be a mineralogist so I could go out and just pick up rocks and study their molecular chains. As it turns out, the chemistry of Cannabis is very similar to a rock. We actually based a lot of Babylon’s methodologies, mission statement, and philosophy on the hermetic principle, which is to say, everything vibrates. That’s why we do the things that we do. When we do our extractions, we are looking at these things on their molecular level, their atomic level, their subatomic level. That’s how we are able to potentially make it better than what it already is,” says an excited DeLuca.

Without a doubt, making things better is the ethos that drives DeLuca, and that extends to every aspect of production – from the glass used to the heating mechanisms that cure Babylon’s concentrates.

“Where some people in the clandestine or black market might use whatever they can get their hands on, we won’t. We don’t use instrument grade or industrial grade or anything that comes in a small can, and could be mysterious in any way. Babylon’s focus is on purity and driving the science forward,” says DeLuca.

One way that DeLuca is fulfilling his mission for developing cleaner technologies is by quietly conducting research and submitting anonymous studies to dedicated research outlets around the world.

“Putting my name on a paper isn’t important to me. I want to see the industry continue to develop. I want to see other extractors continuously work towards improving their processes. Cannabis has the power to make a major impact on the overall health of its consumers. At the end of the day, that’s what I care about. It’s not about fortune and fame for me. I am very happy just being quietly behind the scenes,” says DeLuca.

While DeLuca is happy living quietly in the shadows, there is one area of Babylon’s business that he is very vocal about.

“I saw huge misrepresentations in the female populations within Cannabis, right from the beginning. Like it started to roll as a boy’s club only from day one. I knew I was not going to start a business that way. I want there to be fair representation. I want the feminine voice to be heard. Because it should be,” explains DeLuca.

True to his word, all of DeLuca’s staff is female.

“We want to be prevalent. We want to be at the forefront of all things that we are doing here. Moving things forward is something I am proud of,” explains DeLuca.

Though DeLuca’s staff is all female, when it comes to the production side, every gram of concentrate with Babylon’s name on the label passes through DeLuca’s capable hands.

“We keep telling him that he needs a female scientist prodigy to add to the team,” says Ellerbe with a laugh.

Until the right prodigal woman appears, Babylon’s loyal customers can be sure that they are helping further DeLuca’s explorations into the untapped potential of Cannabis with every purchase.



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How to make cannabis cooking oil

BY LEAFLY

Cannabis cooking oil is versatile, easy to make, and allows you more control of your cannabis cooking experience. You can infuse any type of oil, including canola, vegetable, olive, peanut, sesame oil, and others—all you need is some weed, a cheesecloth, and a saucepan or slow cooker.

Consuming food made with cannabis cooking oil has a lot in common with consuming edibles or baked goods made with cannabutter—compared to inhalation methods, effects will take longer to kick in, and they tend to last longer and feel stronger.

Materials:

- Baking sheet
 - Parchment paper
 - Oven or toaster oven
 - Mesh strainer or cheesecloth
 - Cannabis grinder (optional, but blenders and coffee grinder pulverize the cannabis, resulting in edibles with bad-tasting plant material)
 - Saucepan, stock pot, double-boiler, or slow cooker
 - Glass container for the infused oil
- When making cannabis cooking oil, we recommend a 1:1 ratio of cannabis to oil. If you want milder effects, use less cannabis.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (7-10 grams) of ground cannabis flower
- 1 cup of cooking oil of your choice

Directions

Decarb the cannabis. We recommend decarboxylating your weed first, and then putting it in oil. Decarbing your weed turns the non-intoxicating THCA in the plant into THC, the psychoactive compound that will get you high.

Set your oven to 245°F and preheat.
Grind or hand-break your buds on the parchment paper on a baking pan. Don’t grind it too finely into a powder, as it will pass through the cheesecloth or strainer and affect the oil.

Heat for 30-40 minutes.

Heat oil and decarbed cannabis. Add oil and decarbed cannabis to a double-boiler, slow cooker, or saucepan, and simmer on low heat for 2-3 hours. Make sure the temperature of the oil stays between 160-200°F.

Strain and store the oil. Put a mesh strainer or cheesecloth over the container for oil and pour the oil/cannabis mixture through it. Do not squeeze it out—this will add more chlorophyll to your oil and make it taste more vegetal. Discard the plant material. The oil will have a shelf life of at least two months and can be extended with refrigeration.

Note: Be cautious when using the oil to prepare dishes that require heating. Do not microwave, and choose low heat whenever possible.

Tips and tricks for the best THC oil

The best THC oil for you will depend on your tastes, preferences, and tolerance. Oils that have a higher fat content, like coconut oil, may bind to your cannabis better than thinner oils.

Adding lecithin when heating and infusing your oil can also increase its potency.

Store your oil in a cool, dark place, ideally in a glass container, to preserve it for as long as you need.

Dosing cannaoil

Dosing homemade edibles gets tricky—there is no way to know the exact potency of your infused oil without lab-testing it. However, you can make estimates based on the flower you use.

For example, if you are using 7 grams of OG Kush that lists 20% THC, that’s a potential potency of 1400 total mg—though it’s likely that not all of the THC will get activated during decarboxylation and won’t all infuse to the base oil.

You can dilute your cannabis oil with other oils to ensure you ingest a low dose, and gradually increase your dose as your tolerance and comfort allow.



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Marijuana has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming and addictive. Marijuana impairs concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under its influence. There are health risks associated with consumption of marijuana. For use only by adults twenty-one or older. Marijuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breast feeding. License #3A-12437



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★ **Respecting Tribal governments** as equals with the state and entering compacts on public safety, education, and other areas

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★ Establishing the **Alaska Office of Outdoor Recreation**, completing the Alaska Long Trail, and building 100 new public use cabins

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★ **Respecting the LGBTQIA+ community** & preventing discrimination

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