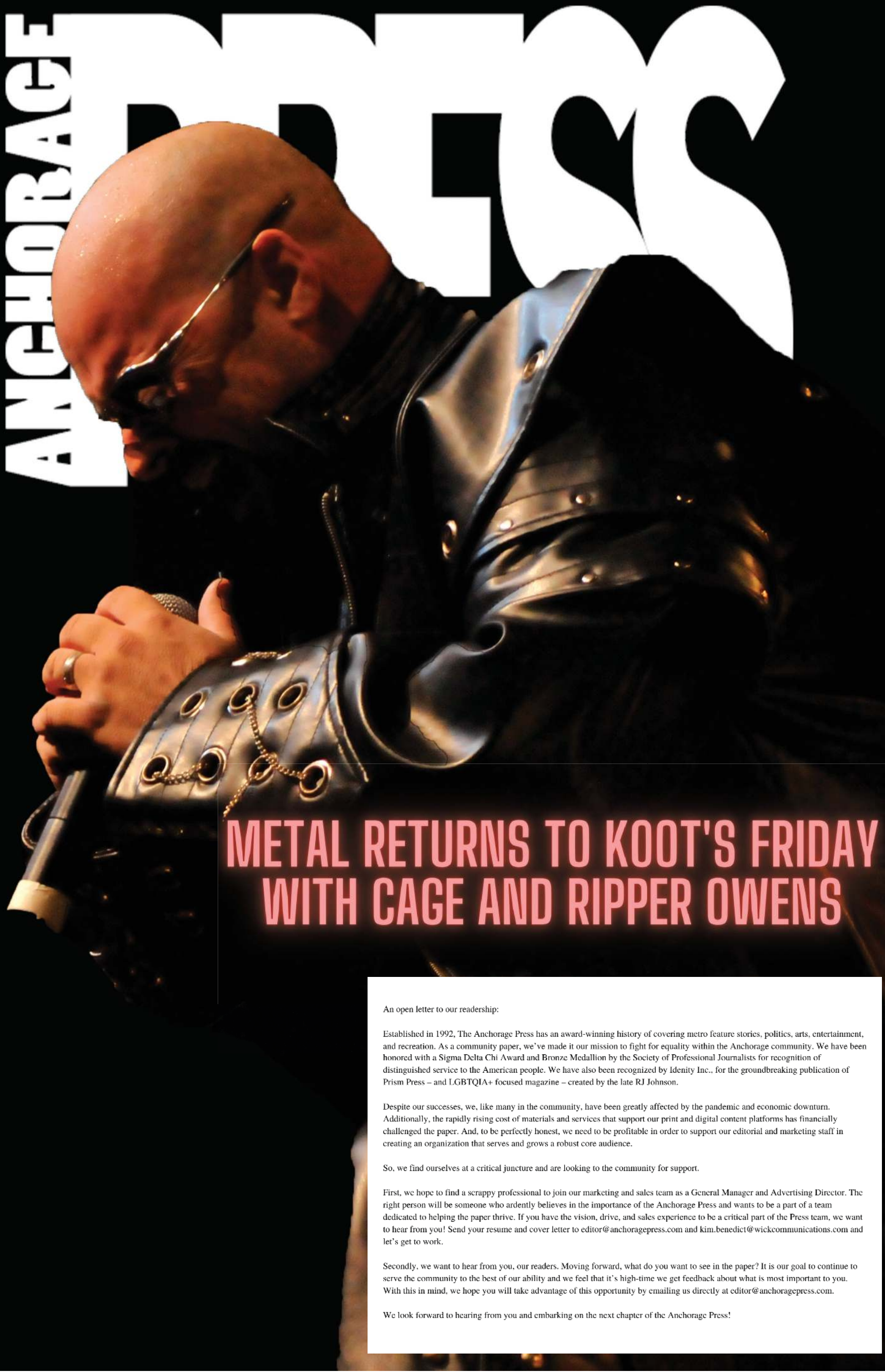




METAL RETURNS TO KOOT'S FRIDAY WITH CAGE AND RIPPER OWENS

An open letter to our readership:

Established in 1992, The Anchorage Press has an award-winning history of covering metro feature stories, politics, arts, entertainment, and recreation. As a community paper, we’ve made it our mission to fight for equality within the Anchorage community. We have been honored with a Sigma Delta Chi Award and Bronze Medallion by the Society of Professional Journalists for recognition of distinguished service to the American people. We have also been recognized by Identity Inc., for the groundbreaking publication of Prism Press – and LGBTQIA+ focused magazine – created by the late RJ Johnson.

Despite our successes, we, like many in the community, have been greatly affected by the pandemic and economic downturn. Additionally, the rapidly rising cost of materials and services that support our print and digital content platforms has financially challenged the paper. And, to be perfectly honest, we need to be profitable in order to support our editorial and marketing staff in creating an organization that serves and grows a robust core audience.

So, we find ourselves at a critical juncture and are looking to the community for support.

First, we hope to find a scrappy professional to join our marketing and sales team as a General Manager and Advertising Director. The right person will be someone who ardently believes in the importance of the Anchorage Press and wants to be a part of a team dedicated to helping the paper thrive. If you have the vision, drive, and sales experience to be a critical part of the Press team, we want to hear from you! Send your resume and cover letter to editor@anchoragepress.com and kim.benedict@wickcommunications.com and let’s get to work.

Secondly, we want to hear from you, our readers. Moving forward, what do you want to see in the paper? It is our goal to continue to serve the community to the best of our ability and we feel that it’s high-time we get feedback about what is most important to you. With this in mind, we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity by emailing us directly at editor@anchoragepress.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and embarking on the next chapter of the Anchorage Press!

ANCHORAGE PRESS

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In closely watched Alaska U.S. Senate and House races, outcomes will take 2 weeks to be determined

For Lisa Murkowski and Mary Peltola, high-profile Alaska women in Congress, reelection hinges on ranked choice calculations

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

The nation's eyes are on the U.S. Senate and House races in Alaska, but anyone wanting to know the outcome will have to be patient.

Defending their seats are two high-profile women. In the Senate is Lisa Murkowski, a Republican who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump. She has since become the target of ire from Trump and hard-line conservatives. She trailed Republican challenger Kelly Tshibaka by a small margin, 42.7% to 44.4% of the first 216,000 votes counted. But Murkowski was narrowing that gap and was in position to surpass Tshibaka later in November, when the ranked-choice tabulation is expected to transfer most of Democrat Pat Chesbro's votes to Murkowski. Chesbro had 9.5% of the votes through early Wednesday.

In the House is Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola, who won an August special election to fill out the remainder of the late Don Young's term, becoming the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress. She led Republican opponents Sarah Palin and Nick Begich in the vote count early Wednesday, with 47.1% to 26.6% for Palin, 24.3% for Begich, and 1.7% for Libertarian Chris Bye.

As is common in Alaska elections, results from rural Alaska regions – strongholds for both Murkowski and Peltola – will be slow to arrive. And under the state's new ranked-choice voting system, full results will not be tabulated by the Alaska Division of Elections until Nov. 23.

Despite the necessary wait, Murkowski said before the results were announced that she felt good about her reelection prospects.

"I am extraordinarily confident with our campaign and where we are, in a winning position, and I fully expect that Alaskans will speak loudly; they will speak clearly about the values that they endorse. And I'm feeling extraordinarily optimistic about Alaskans returning me to the United States Senate," she said at a news conference held at her Anchorage campaign headquarters.

She was also optimistic about what she said is a positive example that Alaska, with its new ranked-choice voting system and its history of cross-party coalitions, is setting for the nation.

"I hope that others are looking at what Alaska has just gone through, what we're finishing up now, with a recognition that things do not have to be so polarized," said the senator, who is supporting Democrat Peltola, a longtime friend and ally. "I'm hoping that Alaska once again opens the eyes of people around the country about, perhaps, a better process."

Murkowski said Alaska taught the nation a similar election in 2010 when she won as a write-in candidate.

Tshibaka, Murkowski's Trump-endorsed Republican challenger, said she also feels "excited and confident" about the race outcome, even though it will not be known for weeks.

"I'm excited because a couple of nights ago a guy told me he's voting for me because he doesn't want to be a pawn in the D.C. game anymore," said Tshibaka, who was with supporters waving signs Tuesday



Republican U.S. House candidate Nick Begich, with sign-holding supporters, waves to Midtown Anchorage motorists on Election Day. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

afternoon at the busy Midtown Anchorage intersection of the Seward Highway and Northern Lights Boulevard.

"I think we're going to get the ultimate checkmate this election and it'll be the first time in a while that the pawns, if you will, the regular people, actually get to decide for themselves, despite all the influences and all the dark money and all the power that came in to try and buy our Senate seat, I think we the people still run our country. And that's what's going to happen in this election," she said.

Chesbro, the Democrat in the race, spent much of Tuesday doing last-minute campaigning in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where she lives.

She said she knows that the race is largely between Murkowski and Tshibaka.

"I am kind of a realist,

and I understand. I've looked at the polls. I don't expect that tonight I will get 51% of the vote," she said with a laugh.

Still, the campaign experience was worthwhile, and she was gratified to focus on issues that are important to her. "I've had a lot of people who said to me that they're glad that I ran," she said in a telephone interview. "I think it's important to have someone to stand up for the values. ... We need someone to stand up and say the kinds of things I was saying."

Peltola, the incumbent in the House race, said she expected to do "a lot of pacing" as results trickled in later in the day.

She voted Friday in Bethel, she said as she stood with supporters waving signs at an East Anchorage intersection early Tuesday morning.

Still on her to-do list, she said, was ensuring that her three stepchildren living in Anchorage made it to the polling station to cast their votes.

Republican candidate Nick Begich, speaking while waving sign-waving by the same Seward-Northern Lights intersection that is popular with candidates, said he believes he has the momentum to win but that he did not want to make any predictions.

"I think we're going to wait for every vote to be counted. I think that's what every candidate should always do," he said. "We'll see what the voters think. I know there's a big red wave sweeping across the country, and hopefully, it makes it all the way up here to Alaska's coastline."

The ranked-choice voting system has made it an unusual race, he said. "This is the wildest election in Alaska state history. If anyone says they expected this election to go as it went, they'd be lying to you," he said.

Former Gov. and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who lost to Peltola in the special election, continued her criticism of the ranked-choice system. It is "convoluted and complicated," she said, adding that it leads to voter suppression.

"You will talk to people who say, 'Screw this system. I'm not going to comply. I'm not going to participate,'" she said, standing with sign-waving supporters at the same Midtown Anchorage intersection.

Outcomes, continued on page A20



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In Alaska, voters reject once-in-a-decade constitutional convention question

BY LISA PHU
ALASKA BEACON

Alaskans went to the polls Tuesday to answer a once-in-a-decade ballot measure question: Shall there be a constitutional convention? Their answer was a resounding “No.”

With 96% of precincts reporting, only 30.2% of Alaskans had voted yes, while 69.8% voted against the measure.

At a convention, the state constitution may be amended or revised, subject to approval by the voters.

Alaska hadn’t held a constitutional convention since the mid-1950s when the state constitution was first written. The authors said they wanted to give Alaskans a chance to rewrite it in the future. Voters have consistently rejected the question ever since. But, in this election, groups on both sides of the question made the ballot measure a top concern.

Bruce Botelho, co-chair of the Defend Our Constitution group, felt good about the Ballot Measure question Tuesday morning.

“I’m feeling confident that a majority of Alaska voters will reject the idea of a convention in 2022,” he said on the phone.

Defend Our Constitution, whose executive committee is made up of Alaskans often on different sides of the aisle, garnered support from several large organizations around the state who oppose the convention and have encouraged their memberships to vote no. Close to four dozen are listed on the Defend Our Constitution website, including Alaska Municipal League, Doyon Limited and Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT.

Botelho said, “people are justly proud of what they see as a state that values individual rights, and that’s reflected in our first article of the constitution.”

He also said the amendment process – as opposed to holding a convention – is a good way to change the constitution, and that message has resonated with voters.

“We’ve had the legislature propose 40 changes since the constitution took effect in 1959. And of those, 28 have been approved by the voters. So there is a process; it’s a rigorous process, but one that I think has served us very well,” Botelho said.

He said the vote no campaign has included television and radio ads, social media, mailers, yard signs and fliers, op-eds in newspapers and online news sites, and several volunteers who’ve spoken to community groups and at debates for the past several months.

At the polls

Voter Jillian Buker didn’t see or hear any of that. She didn’t know the question would be on the ballot and said she voted no.

“I’m careful to say yes to things that I don’t know what they’re for or what they stand for, so I thought it was just easier to say no,” the 20-year-old Juneau resident said.

“I’ve seen the ads on Hulu about Lisa Murkowski and Bill Walker and Kelly Tshibakka,” but didn’t see anything on Ballot Measure 1, Buker said.

Stash Ginger, a painting contractor in the capital city, was in a similar boat. He also voted no on the constitutional convention question at the Shepherd of the Valley Church polling place in Juneau.

“No is the safest way I can go with because I really don’t know anything about it,” he said.

The most he heard or saw about it was a few vote no yards signs.

“One or two here and there, but I’ve never heard anyone talk about it, and I haven’t seen any commercials. But I’ve seen all the, you know, Murkowski doing her thing, Tshibakka doing her thing, Walker and all that stuff,” Ginger said.

Juneau voter Jay Feliciano said, “Politics is not really my thing, so I don’t really pay attention to much of it.”

Still, the 29-year-old lifelong Alaskan saw enough campaign ads “pop up whenever I watched, like, YouTube and stuff like that,” and voted no. Feliciano said he doesn’t want to lose any rights.

Adam Underwood, voting in Lemon Creek in Juneau, was clear about wanting to “open that thing up.”

He voted yes on having a constitutional convention.

“If politicians don’t want to do it, I want to do it. That’s pretty much it,” Underwood said. “If politicians don’t like it, there’s a reason to open it up.”

When asked what issues he’d want to see addressed if a convention was held, Underwood said, “corruption. It’s all corrupt.”

For Anchorage resident Theresa Obermeyer, who voted yes on the ballot measure at Rogers Park Elementary, there are two specific issues she wants to see addressed during a constitutional convention.

One is the confirmation of the Alaska Permanent Fund Board by the Alaska Legislature; currently, board members are appointed by the governor. “I think a lot could go better if there were more checks and balances,” she said on the phone Tuesday.

Obermeyer also wants Alaska to have an elected official who’s required to be a member of the Alaska Bar Association. For example, she wants the attorney general position or an inspector general position, which Alaska doesn’t currently have, to be elected by voters.

“If only that would be something that the constitutional convention would address and decide – whether it would be an inspector general or whether it would actually be an elected attorney general. It would be up to the delegates to put that on a list of issues that the voters would have to approve,” Obermeyer said.

Obermeyer put her name as a supporter of the constitutional convention on the Convention Yes website.

Craig Campbell, chair of the Convention Yes group, did not reply to requests for an



Voters in Juneau come out of the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall voting location on Nov. 8. (Photo by Lisa Phu/Alaska Beacon)

interview. On its website, the group has named “the never-ending theft of our permanent fund dividend” and “judicial overreach” as reasons to vote yes on the ballot measure.

Abortion rights

Other voters on Election Day had abortion rights on their minds when voting against the constitutional convention.

Sommers Cole – who had his family with him at the Auke Bay Ferry Terminal polling place, including an 8-week-old and a 2-year-old – said holding a convention would be too risky.

“The right to choose just got lost federally, and so I think those folks who are interested in removing women’s right to choose are now going to focus on state-by-state tactics,” Cole said. “There will definitely be an ongoing effort to make that the case here.”

Tim Fullam, a 50-year Alaska resident, said he’s always opposed the constitutional convention when it’s been on the ballot in the past, and this time was no different.

“All the conservatives up north are going to want to put some sort of an abortion thing on there. There’s going to be messing around with voting rules. And so I just think, keep hands off. It’s a good constitution already. It’s been recognized as a classy constitution throughout the country, and I think it should be left alone,” he said.

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Hawaii’s “Grateful Dead” to play Anchorage on Friday

ALEJANDRO BOUZAS

Hawaiian ukulele-powered jam-rockers Kanekoa are bringing their unique brand of Aloha to Alaska on Friday. The band, which has been nicknamed “The Hawaiian Grateful Dead” by Grateful Dead’s Bill Kreutzman, has spent decades crafting their signature sound. Their fluid, liquid-smooth runs flow like waterfalls, recalling Jerry Garcia’s tonal lyricism, while their lyrics are a sultry mix of R&B and reggae.

Their last album, “Songs from the Great Disruption,” is an appealing example of the quartet’s commitment to the electric ukulele and Kanekoa’s 25 years of redefining the sound of the most popular instrument in the world. The album has received critical acclaim and saw the band featured on the front cover of Ukulele Magazine’s August 2022 edition for the first time.

“We are so honored to be on the cover of Ukulele Magazine. This was something we have always hoped for, and we couldn’t be happier with the article that was written. It is our mission to change the perception of this instrument and remove the boundaries of what you can accomplish playing the ukulele,” the band wrote on its website.

Although the electric ukelele is at the heart of every Kanekoa song, they are not afraid to push the limits of the instrument. Guided by the culture and land of Hawai’i, Kanekoa is right at home playing any genre, from traditional Hawaiian to 80’s Pop to Jamband Blues. A testament to the band’s diversity, “Songs from the Great Disruption” features several Grammy™ winning and Grammy™ nominated musicians, and friends, including Jake Shimabukuro, Steve Berlin, G Love, Amy Hanaiali’i, John Cruz, Uncle George Kahumoku Jr., Tavana, Kumu Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Uncle Geri Valdriz, and Eric Gilliom.



Aloha Growers

But producing world-class music isn’t Kanekoa’s only mission. The band is also focused on teaching the ukulele to the next generation. Alaskan ukulele enthusiasts have the opportunity to learn from the on Thursday, November 10. The workshop begins at 3pm and will be

held at the Mountain View Library. Shake off the winter cold and journey to the islands with Kanekoa on Friday, November 11 at 7:30pm. The concert will take place at the Discovery Theatre, and tickets start at \$32.25 at AnchorageConcerts.org.



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No GOP ‘wave,’ but Republicans could still gain control of U.S. House

BY JACOB FISCHLER, ARIANA FIGUEROA AND JENNIFER SHUTT
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — Republicans fell short of their greatest ambitions for major gains in the U.S. House, with control of the chamber still in doubt early Wednesday.

Republicans are still likely to narrowly win control of the U.S. House, based on expert projections. But of 20 races rated by elections forecaster Inside Elections as true toss-ups, Democrats had won seven and none had been called for Republicans as of about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday. Republicans only needed to win two toss-ups to likely have a majority in the House.

If projections stand and Republicans take over, they would end two years of unified control of Washington by Democrats. The divided government would be unlikely to pursue the ambitious bills on climate, taxes, health care and other issues that Democrats passed in the first two years of President Joe Biden’s administration, and may see fights over usually noncontroversial bills like those to raise the country’s debt limit or keep the government open.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, said around 2 a.m. from a ballroom in a Washington, D.C. hotel that he was confident the GOP would control the U.S. House during the next Congress.

“Now let me tell you, you’re out late, but when you wake up tomorrow, we will be in the majority and Nancy Pelosi will be in the minority,” McCarthy said during the three-and-a-half minute speech.

McCarthy said a Republican U.S. House majority would “offer a new direction” though he added that “Republicans will work with anyone who’s willing to join us to deliver this new direction that Americans have demanded.”

Early results are in line with historical trends for midterm elections, when the party opposite the president typically gains seats. This election was not likely to be one of the exceptions, with Biden carrying low approval ratings.

Still, Democrats outperformed expectations. Republicans did not inspire a wave election that would have given them a more comfortable margin in the House.

Of three vulnerable House Democrats in Virginia, for example, Republicans defeated only one, Elaine Luria. Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton held on in districts considered slightly more favorable to Democrats.

In another sign of how far Republicans were from the decisive takeover they sought, Colorado U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert, a far-right member expected to cruise to reelection, had a surprisingly close race and actually trailed Democratic challenger Adam Frisch by 3 percentage points with almost 80% counted at about 11 p.m. Mountain time.

- Democrats are projected to hang onto competitive seats, including in:
- Virginia’s 7th District (incumbent Spanberger won reelection).
 - Kansas’ 3rd District (incumbent Sharice Davids won reelection).
 - New Hampshire’s 1st District (incumbent Democrat Chris Pappas won reelection).
 - North Carolina’s 13th District (state Sen. Wiley Nickel defeated Bo Hines, a former North Carolina State University football player who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.)
 - Ohio’s 9th District, a redrawn district that put 40-year incumbent Marcy Kaptur’s reelection in serious jeopardy. Kaptur turned back Trump-aligned GOP challenger J.R. Majewski.

- Races still too early or close to call early Wednesday included:
- Nevada’s 1st District (incumbent Democrat Dina Titus led by about 11 points with 50% of the vote counted).
 - Pennsylvania’s 17th District (Democrat Chris Deluzio led by 4.6 percentage points with more than 90% of votes counted).
 - Iowa’s 3rd District (incumbent Democrat Cindy Axne trailed by less than a percentage point with more than 95% counted).

Rodell Mollineau, a Democratic strategist and co-founder and partner of the bipartisan public policy firm Rokk Solutions, said around 10:30 Eastern Time Tuesday that Democratic losses appeared “manageable.”

Facing headwinds as the party in power during a midterm election, Democrats wanted to keep their losses to a minimum.

“We were in a position where it was going to be damn near impossible for us to keep the House, and it was just a matter of how many it was going to be by,” he said. “Losing the House is bad. Losing the House by 30 is horrible.”

Key races like Spanberger’s and Seth Magaziner’s in Rhode Island that were potential Republican pickups showed there was “reason to be optimistic that this is not a wave,” he added.

Still counting votes

The exact size of the Republican majority won’t be known until more races are called.

Some results may not be known for days. Others may see legal challenges, especially from Republican candidates who have repeated — without evidence — Trump’s false claims that the 2020 election was illegitimate.

In a closely watched Iowa race, Republican challenger Nunn declared victory in his race against Axne.

“This race changes the course of America,” Nunn said in a speech Tuesday night. As of midnight Central Time, Nunn led with 50.3% of the vote to Axne’s 49.7%, with 94% of precincts reporting. The Associated Press had not called the race. The state senator declared victory alongside fellow Republicans, including U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley and U.S. Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Randy Feenstra.

Axne had not conceded.

As of midway through the last day of voting, Tuesday, the election had generally gone smoothly. Administrators across the country reported only minor issues, typical of any Election Day.

Republicans in Maricopa County, the most populous in Arizona, where several key races were contested, asked a judge to extend voting hours. Problems with tabulating machines caused delays in about one-third of the county’s voting centers.

The margin of victory will be important for the prospects of the likely incoming GOP

speaker, McCarthy, in succeeding with his agenda.

No matter how many House seats Republicans pick up, though, much of the GOP framework will still be unlikely to become law. Control of the U.S. Senate was unclear early Wednesday and could remain in Democratic hands, and Republicans will certainly be short of the 60-vote threshold needed to pass most measures in the chamber.

Even if both chambers flip to Republicans, Biden will have veto power.

Biden’s low approval ratings

Polls for months have shown more voters disapprove of Biden’s performance than approve. An NBC News survey early this month showed a majority, 53%, disapproved of Biden, with 44% approving.

With his poll numbers dragging, the president kept a relatively low profile in swing states over the campaign’s final weeks. He stumped for Democrats in his native Pennsylvania, a key battleground for the U.S. Senate, but otherwise generally stuck to blue areas.

In times of economic hardship, voters generally blame the party in power, and Democrats — despite passing laws to provide COVID-19 relief, spend \$1.2 billion on infrastructure improvement, boost microchips manufacturing and curb climate change and lower prescription drug prices — couldn’t escape that this year, Mollineau said.

“It’s really hard to tell people about how well things are coming through and all the things that you’ve done when they honestly feel that things aren’t going well,” Mollineau said. “Right now, what people are thinking about is high energy prices and high food prices.”

Biden held no public events Tuesday, but spoke by phone with Democratic political leaders. U.S. Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan, who leads Senate Democrats’ campaign arm, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, the chairman of the Democratic governors’ campaign group, and Democratic National Committee senior adviser Cedric Richmond, a former House member from Louisiana, were among those who talked to Biden.

First Gen Z member

In Florida, voters sent the first Gen Z candidate to Congress, 25-year-old Democrat Maxwell Alejandro Frost, who won with about 59% of the vote. The minimum age requirement to serve in the House of Representatives is 25.

“History was made tonight,” he wrote on Twitter Tuesday night. “We made history for Floridians, for Gen Z, and for everyone who believes we deserve a better future.”

Frost ran in Florida’s 10th Congressional District — a solid Democratic seat — after Rep. Val Demings left her district to run as the Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Sen. Marco Rubio.

Rubio won his reelection Tuesday night with about 56% of Florida votes, along with Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who won about 58% of Florida votes.

Another Gen Z candidate, Karoline Leavitt, a Republican, did not win her race against Democratic incumbent Rep. Chris Pappas for New Hampshire’s 1st Congressional District. Pappas kept his seat with 54% of the votes.

Leavitt, who is a former Trump press staffer, challenged Pappas in a toss up race.

Virginia battles

In the several closely watched Virginia elections, Democrats kept six out of seven seats up for reelection, losing only one. Republicans held on to four of their seats and picked up a seat.

Spanberger, who flipped Virginia’s 7th Congressional District in 2018, kept her seat in a tight reelection campaign against GOP candidate Yesli Vega. With 95% of the vote counted around midnight Eastern, Spanberger had received nearly 52%.

In Virginia’s 10th Congressional District, Wexton kept her seat against GOP challenger Hung Cao, a retired Navy captain. She won 53% of the vote.

Kiggans defeated Luria with about 52% of the vote.

Luria, a member of the House Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6, 2021, Attack on the U.S. Capitol, made a point of clearly conceding the race early in the night.

After she told supporters during her concession speech that she’d called Kiggans to offer a concession and supporters booed, Luria chastised them.

“Please don’t boo,” she said. “Because the success of this district depends on her success. And this was a hard-fought race. She won this election.”

Luria said she called Kiggans to congratulate her on her win and that her office would help her with the transition process.

The district was made more Republican during redistricting following the 2020 census.

Republican plans

What exactly Republicans will do with the U.S. House under their control remain murky, though they did release a one-page outline of their goals in September.

While it’s unclear what, if any, measures would get the bipartisan backing needed to clear the U.S. Senate and garner Biden’s signature, the plan was seen as House leaders’ promise to GOP voters.

The first item on the plan says Republicans want to reduce government spending. House leaders, including McCarthy, have indicated the party may be willing to shut down the federal government or possibly push the country into a first ever default on its debt in order to win concessions from Democrats and the Biden administration.

Other goals include addressing gun rights, overhauling Social Security and Medicare, and increasing funding on border security.

Lawmakers would also have to pass the farm bill next year, which every five years sets policy and funding for agriculture. Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee signaled their opposition to making climate change and conservation programs a priority for farmers and ranchers.

Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan during the proposal’s rollout at an HVAC factory in Monongahela, Pennsylvania said a GOP House would hold hearings on the U.S. military’s withdrawal from Afghanistan, the origins of COVID-19 and various actions by the U.S. Department of Justice.

“We are committed to doing the investigations that need to be done,” Jordan said at the time. “After all, that is part of our constitutional duty, to do the oversight and make sure you, the country, we, the people, have the facts and the truth.”

House Republicans have also threatened to impeach U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas over the U.S.-Mexico border.

IEYMI!





8 bands came together for the Sarah P Cancer Benefit Show at Koot's last Friday. The music started at 8pm and didn't finish until closing time. All photos by @ShipeShots



Dagnabit!

Wicked Wands and the “hormone of wolverine”

DAGNABIT!
BY MIKE GORDON

Of all the characters over the decades that have bartended at Chilkoot Charlie’s, Wanda Prince is certainly one of them. She, along with her partner in crime, Anne, held down the day shift in the Bird House Bar until the new management of the place closed down daytime operations.

The original Bird House burned to the ground in 1996, but I repurchased the “Bird House Bar” name and replicated it in precise detail as part of Chilkoot Charlie’s. Wanda, aka “Wicked Wanda,” is also nominally the mayor of Spenard. Orion, a local musician who competed with Wanda for the dubious title, recently said to me, “She runs a wicked campaign!”

Dynamite comes in small packages. Wanda was the bouncer at Blues Central before becoming the lead day bartender at the Bird House Bar. Short of stature but tall in the saddle, Wanda’s charming southern accent and wry, in-your-face humor made her far better at defusing barroom altercations than any guy could have been. Even so, she can out-party seasoned Spenard imbibers half her age and at present shows no signs of slowing down, much less the need to.

When Girls Gone Wild visited Anchorage and filmed partying ladies in the Bird House Bar, Wanda—then in her eighties—showed off what spunky ladies do in those circumstances. The response was a universal, “Wow! Not bad!”

Wanda is a charter member of the Red Hat Society, Spenard Chapter. I have witnessed her and her red-hatted, purple-dressed friends gallivanting around town on more than one occasion. The society, formed in 1998 and headquartered in Fullerton, California, with the motto “Red Hatters Matter,” is an international organization. Its original membership was of women fifty years and over but it now allows younger women who wear pink and lavender.

There are purportedly 70,000-plus members in 20,000 chapters in over 30 different countries. I suspect someday soon Wanda will be selected as the international “Top Hat,” or at least “Red Hatter of the Year,” a position held by Floretta Gaines in 2015.

Red Hat Society activities focus on gathering in large or small groups to have fun and support one another. Events vary depending upon the proclivities of individual chapters, but common activities are hosting tea parties, going to movies or to the theater, playing games, and going on excursions to RHS conventions.

The society is dedicated to encouraging a positive outlook on life through the sisterhood of local chapters. Offhand, I cannot think of anyone with a more positive outlook on life than Wanda. Her portrait should be plastered on one end of the batteries in place of the plus sign. No one who knows Wanda would be confused.

Wanda traveled a lot when I was running Chilkoot Charlie’s and still holds court in the Bird House Bar, though I have heard present management is not as lenient as I was. Her soul mate and fellow traveler was Sandy Barker, who held down the day shift on the South Long Bar. When they took off, which was frequently, and usually for a week or two weeks at a time, I had to scramble to cover their shifts with back-up bartenders who were not usually as good behind their bars or as popular with our clientele. This was not an insignificant management challenge.

But, one might ask, “What is management for?” I used to complain that Wanda and Sandy traveled more than I did; that I had the wrong job. They would travel to Las Vegas, Nashville, or some other fun destination, their notoriety no doubt preceding them, and noticeably enliven the nightlife thereabouts.

Fun begets fun and craziness begets craziness. Wanda is the one who recruited Anne as the other day shift bartender for the Bird House Bar. If any one female in the world is as suited for the craziness of that particular bar as Wanda, it is Anne, Annie Git Yer Gun, Anne Fannie, Zany Anne, you name it. She is a hoot. Both are dedicated employees who absolutely loved working in the Bird House Bar. I am certain they were devastated when the day shift came to an end. Closing the bar during the day was discussed during my reign, but I could never bring myself to do it.

Now I have to tell you a story on Wanda. She is unquestionably a wonderful bartender and draws people to the bar like salmon to their spawning grounds, but she cannot make a drinkable margarita. I make a very good margarita and was determined, since I liked to drink one once in a while, to teach Wanda how to do it right. It was a dedicated effort, but after laboring at it patiently I decided to throw in the tequila, the limes, and the towel. It would have been a lot easier to put up a sign that announced, “This is not a Mexican Restaurant, so don’t order margaritas here!”

As previously noted, I am a Rotarian and my wife, Shelli, and I have hosted many Rotarians at our home across Kachemak Bay in Halibut Cove over the years. We’ve donated the place for up to eight Rotarians and their spouses for a weekend, food and wine included, to raise money for the Rotary Foundation annual gala. For twenty years we have also held a Labor Day barbecue for the Homer/Kachemak Bay Rotary Club.

One year, a fellow member of Anchorage Rotary and past District Governor, Lloyd Morris, bought two nights at our place during an auction but wasn’t able to make the trip. Three years later he asked if he could use his purchase by bringing a group of six visiting Russian Rotarians over for a couple of nights. Calling in your purchase three years late is not supposed to happen, but what are you going to say to a friend and fellow Rotarian who had donated serious money for the experience?

We had a ball with Lloyd, his wife Joan, and the Russians, during which time they heard all about the Russian memorabilia collection at Chilkoot Charlie’s and the Bird House Bar, so they insisted that I meet them there following their visit to the Cove.

The tour was well-received. Our Russian guests were impressed with the collection, though there was one awkward moment.

Among the collection in the Soviet Walk is a large Pillars of America poster announcing a presentation to Anchorage middle and high school students by Viktor Belenko, who had absconded with his Mig-25 “Foxbat” jet fighter in 1976, landing in Japan and offering the West what George H. W. Bush, then Director of the CIA, called, “an intelligence bonanza.”

One of our guests pointed at the poster and said forcefully, “This is bad man!”

After touring the Russian Rooms and the Soviet Walk we all settled into the Bird House Bar, with Wanda Prince bartending. She was in rare form.

Wanda pulled out every trick in the Bird House book of tricks. She fulfilled their selections of draft beers from the one and only keg by simply changing the pour handle to the beer they had requested. She proffered eye-watering Bird House pickles I had made myself, soaked in “hormone of wolverine” that even a seasoned Siberian flinched at the smell of. She had one of the guys call the ptarmigan with the ptarmigan whistle and sign—with the exploding pen—the book of previous ptarmigan callers, his face covered with flour from the ptarmigan whistle.

Wanda also walked them through the bumper stickers behind the bar beginning with WYOOSYOOB, “When you’re out of Schlitz you’re out of beer.” She hoodwinked one into pushing the AOOOGA! “timber bell” button and buying a round for the house. She told stories about both the bar and me, some true and some fanciful.

Wanda even demonstrated, then sold to the Russians, several of the world-famous Bird House aprons which sport a huge, undercover male appendage that pops out when the apron is lifted up. I hear Siberian barbecues are now livelier events than ever before.

I sat across the bar from my new Russian friends and laughed until my sides ached and tears were running down my cheeks. If Shelli and I ever make it to Eastern Russia, we’ll be well taken care of. That visit to Chilkoot Charlie’s was the highlight of their trip to Alaska.

After Lloyd and Joan ushered the Russians, who are no doubt still talking about their two hours in Chilkoot Charlie’s and the Bird House Bar, into a couple of cars to return them to the airport, Wanda turned to me, put her hands on her hips, and said loudly in her southern twang, “Now, Mr. Gordon, do you think it really matters whether I can make a margarita or not?”

I said, “No, Wanda, it certainly does not.” When my mother died, she bequeathed her gold Chilkoot Charlie ring to my wife, Shelli, who already owned one—the first ever made for a woman. Since Shelli did not need two rings, and the one from my mother was special, Shelli decided to give it to Wanda, who wears it proudly to this day.

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



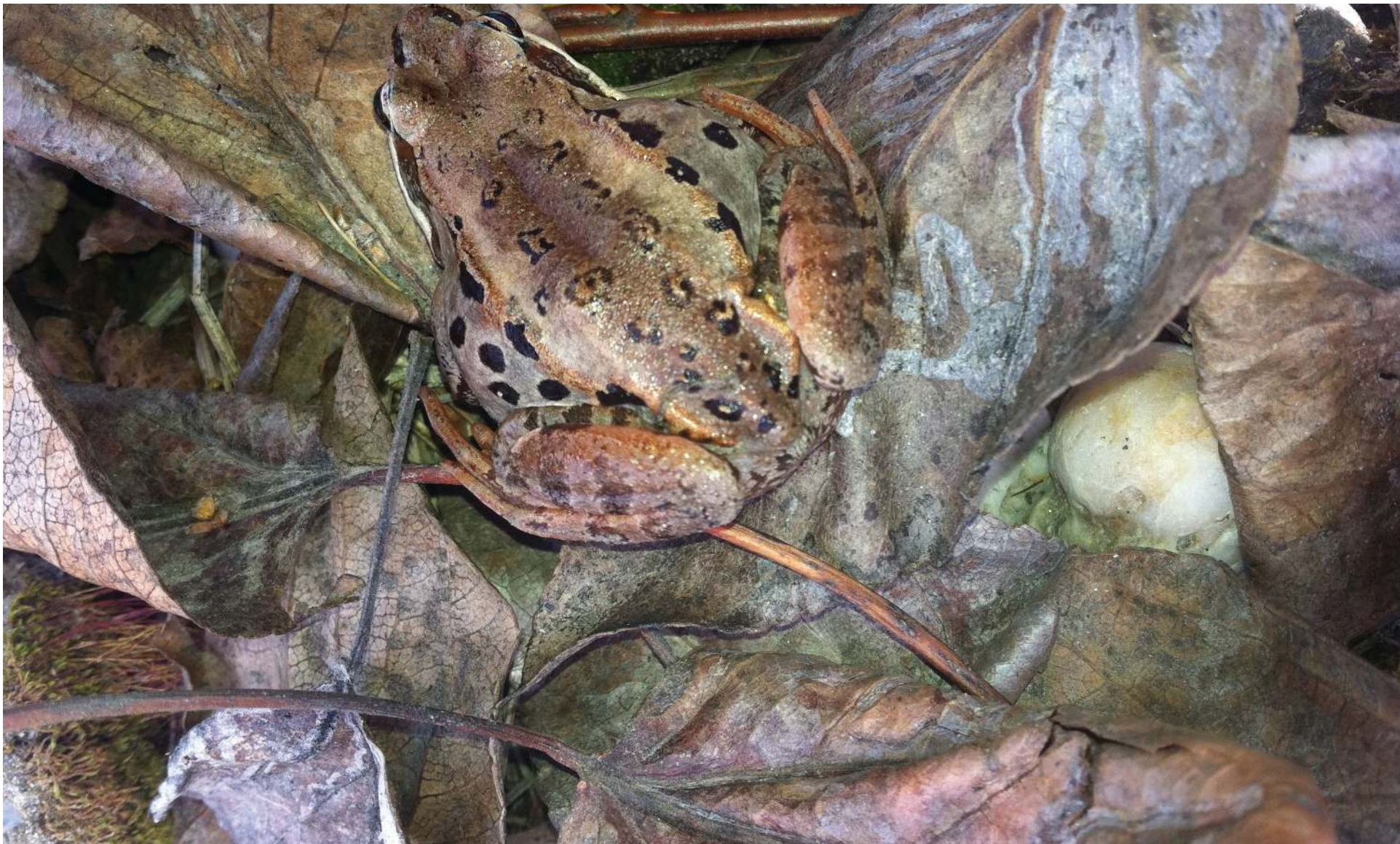


Photo courtesy of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Wood Frogs Sweeten Up to Survive Alaska’s Winters



CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

With snow now covering the Anchorage landscape, temperatures dipping into single digits earlier this month, and daylight dropping below eight hours, my thoughts have turned toward the wild creatures who have evolved an assortment of ways to survive Alaska’s longest and harshest season. Among the most amazing adaptations are those utilized by *Rana sylvatica*—the wood frog.

The only North American amphibian to inhabit the Arctic, the wood frog is a true marvel. Yet from Angoon to Anaktuvuk Pass—and yes, here in Anchorage, too—the critter is virtually unnoticed as it hops, swims and mates among us humans. Partly that’s because wood frogs spend most of their lives on land, showing a preference (as their name suggests) for wooded areas, where they can easily hide. And except for a short period in spring, when males engage in grand singing competitions, they don’t make much of

a commotion or otherwise draw attention to themselves. Adult frogs leave ponds and lakes and other pools of water soon after mating and go their own separate ways, followed later in summer by their young, after the offspring have shifted shape and physiology from tadpole to frog (these “metamorphs” being yet another small wonder).

Their hunt for insects and other small invertebrates may take adult frogs several miles from where they bred. But as the air begins to cool, daylight hours shorten, and meals diminish, they retrace their hopping steps and find a convenient hiding place close to water (though whether they return to their breeding pond or the nearest available pool remains a mystery). There the frogs burrow beneath moss or decaying leaves or dig their way into sandier soils.

And this is how they’ll spend their winters: huddled alone in shallow, earth- and snow-covered shelters, somehow surviving even if the ground around them drops to 0° Fahrenheit or below. Which brings us to another impressive fact about Alaska’s wood frogs: they not only survive colder temperatures than their Lower 48 counterparts, but do so for much longer periods—up to seven or eight months in some locales.

As air and ground temperatures drop toward freezing and below, the frogs’ still and slowly hardening bodies internally remain hard at work for a while, with one organ kicking into overdrive.

While their eyes freeze into a whitened stare and ice crystals form in their abdominal cavity, the liver of hibernating wood frogs produces unusual amounts of glucose, a syrupy, sugar-rich solution. Entering the bloodstream, the glucose is flushed into all of the body’s cells, which keeps them from icing up and also prevents dehydration or other damage. So freezing occurs only in spaces outside the cells.

Put another way, wood frogs “effectively become super sweet” as they freeze, says Brian Barnes, a researcher (and former director of UAF’s Institute of Arctic Biology) who has long studied the hibernating strategies and mechanisms of Alaska’s animals. And that super sweetness is what keeps them alive. But neither kicking nor breathing.

Barnes is largely responsible for what’s known about the wintering adaptations of far north frogs. Years ago he and some graduate students decided to follow the movements of wood frogs by attaching tiny radio transmitters to their bodies. Besides hopping up to a quarter mile or more from breeding waters, all six radio-tagged frogs survived a Fairbanks winter while huddled beneath snow and soil.

“All of them dug into the soil, but not deeply,” Barnes later reported. “They were about one inch deep in leaf litter, three to four inches deep in sphagnum moss, or just barely buried in sand.” The insulating abilities of snow kept ground temperatures at 20 to 23 degrees even as air temperatures sank to minus 40 or 50 below 0 (Fahrenheit).

In an experiment he didn’t intend, Barnes left several other frogs in an uninsulated crate outside his home and then forgot about his subjects. Temperatures fell to minus 10 degrees, freezing them solid. Barnes naturally figured the frogs were dead meat. But when moved inside his heated garage, the frozen bodies gradually thawed. As they defrosted, the frogs began to twitch, then hop around.

Once he got over his amazement, Barnes decided to investigate the mechanisms that enable wood frogs to survive being frozen, which led to the discovery of their “super sweet” survival strategy.

Winters, continued on page A18

Tuesday Night Trivia!

Live Music Lineup!
Thursday November 10
Alaska Geographic Concert
Featuring Black Water Railroad
Friday November 11
8:30 Zen Trembles
Saturday November 12
8:30 Will Balco
Wednesday November 6
7:30 Jason Roach

@Humpy's

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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@alaskachildrentrust.org, 907-248-7676

Fri 11/11

Featured



Earthquake

@ 6:30pm / \$10
The UAA Planetarium & Visualization Theater will be showing Earthquake on Friday, November 11 at 6:30-7:30 PM in the UAA - ConocoPhilips Integrated Science Building - Room 220! UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle, Anchorage. 907-786-6358



Featured



Kanekoa return to Anchorage

@ 7:30pm / \$35.25
Kanekoa is one of Hawaii's premier live music experiences, consistently selling out shows wherever they perform. Discovery Theatre, 621 W 6th Ave, Anchorage



Dynamic Earth

@ 8pm / \$10
The UAA Planetarium & Visualization Theater will be showing Dynamic Earth on Friday, November 11 at 8:00-9:00 PM in the UAA - ConocoPhilips Integrated Science Building - Room 220! UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Sat 11/12

Winterberry Charter School Beautiful Bazaar

@ 10am
Winterberry Charter School's Beautiful Bazaar is free and open to the public! Come browse finely crafted jewelry, toys, clothing, home goods, and more! Winterberry Charter School, 4802 Bryn Mawr Court, Anchorage. wpgfundraisingchair@gmail.com

Farm Stock - Jenny Tolman + The Ken Peltier Band

@ 6pm
555 W 5th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA, Anchorage

Featured



Holiday Vendor Marketplace & Craft Show

@ 10am
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



INNATE Show

Reception @ 5pm
The InNATE Show is an all Native Artist group exhibit that will be displayed at the Middle Way Cafe from October 1st through December 3rd, 2022 Middle Way Cafe, 1200 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite G, Anchorage. middlewayart@gmail.com, 907-272-6433



Spenard Song Circle w/ Emma Hill, Pepper Kit & TBA

@ 6:30pm
The Nave, 3502 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Comedian Casey Balsham

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Featured

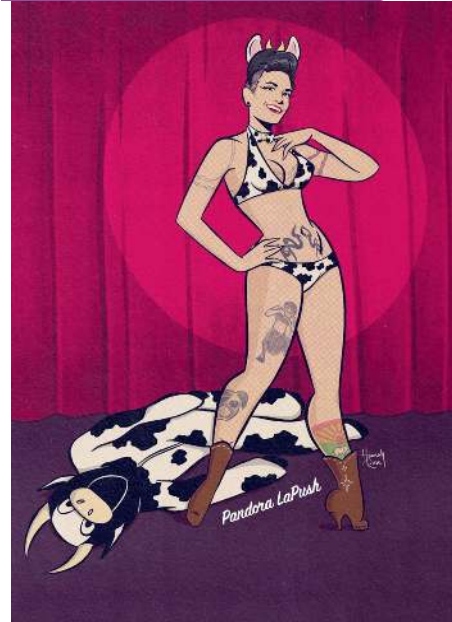


Comedian Casey Balsham

@ 9pm / \$20-\$25
You've seen her at various club all over the country and as a regular at New York Comedy Club and Gotham. You've heard her as the host of the Shady Shit Podcast on Dear Media. Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage



Featured



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

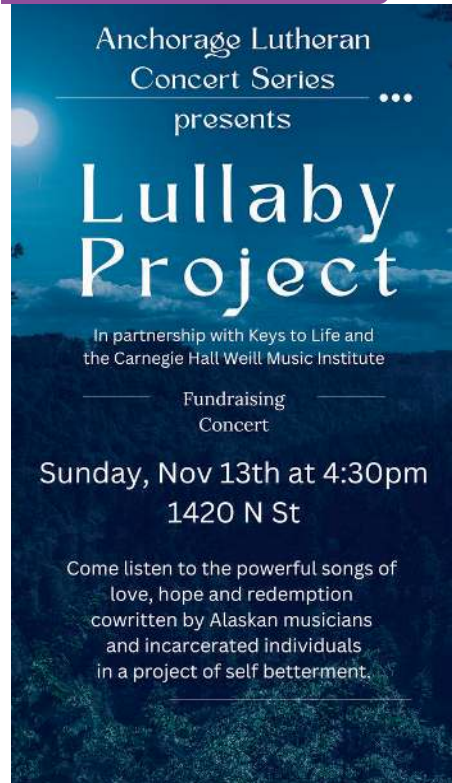


Santoro...for when the blues has gotcha

@ 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

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



For event details and even more listings visit us online!

Tue 11/15

Paint Class-Personalized Dog Leash Holder *Advanced Reservation Required*

@ 5:30pm / \$45
Join us as we paint & assemble these personalized dog leash holders! Choose from one or two pups! 40 breeds to choose from! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Suite A3 front of building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Thu 11/17

Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

@ 7:30pm / \$12.50-\$60
William A Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Fri 11/18

IM Not So Great Alaska Shootout

@ 4am
Seawolf Sports Complex, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Amateur Night

@ 8pm / \$18
We're back with another amateur night to remember! The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Sat 11/19

Turdinken Pickleball Tournament

@ 3am
Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage. 907-343-4355

IM&B Glow N Dark Flag Football

@ 3am
UAA Recreational Sports - Online, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

Holiday Vendor Marketplace & Craft Show

@ 10am
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

Comedian Robby Slowik

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

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 Robby Slowik

@ 9pm / \$20-\$25
Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Sun 11/20

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

Wed 11/23

IM 4 on 4 Volleyball Tournament

@ 4am
Seawolf Sports Complex, 2801 Spirit Way, Anchorage. 907-786-1231

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Or read below if you just want to know the time & place.

Thursday, November 10th

Bear Paw Bar & Grill - Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Broken Blender – Cellar Dweller Comedy Showcase 7:30p-11p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Koot's – The Ken Peltier Band 7p-10p
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Sullivan's Steakhouse – Live Music from Melissa "Jazzmom" Fischer 5:30p-8:30p
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Williwaw – Northern Aspects Film Festival 5p-10p
Van's Dive Bar – Queer As Hell 9p-12a

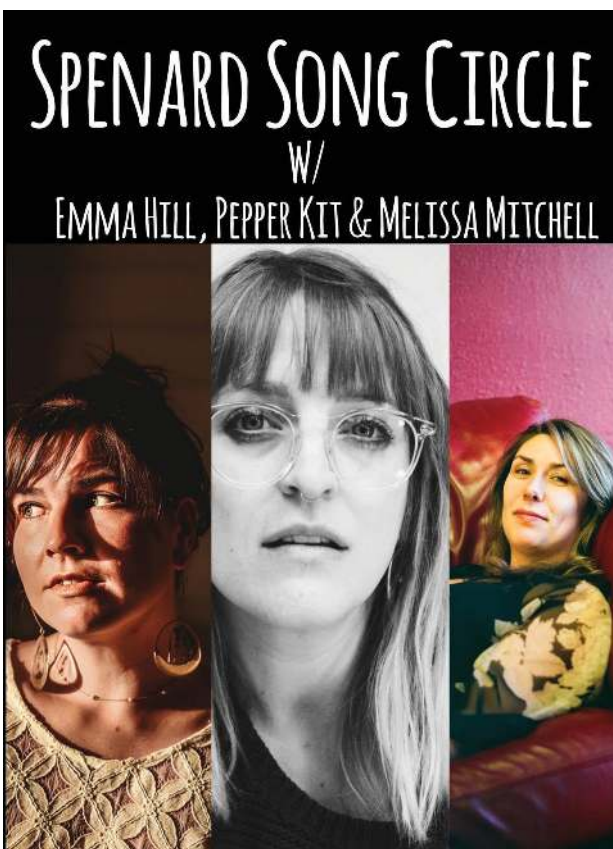
Friday, November 11th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Kanekoa 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 – Veterans Day Acoustic Performance w/ Stephen Hendricks! 6p-8p
American Legion Post 33 (Chugiak) – Danger Money Live 10p-2:30a
Anchorage Brewing Company – Odd Union 7p-10p
The Carousel Lounge – Matt & Co. 9p-2a
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4207 – Karaoke Friday at the Eagles! 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – Zen Trembles 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Tim Ripper Owens Live w/ Cage & Decepticide 9-2:45a
Koot's – The Stack 10p-2:45
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
O'Malley's on the Green – Melissa "Jazzmom" Fischer 6:30p-9:30p
Sullivan's Steakhouse – Live Music from Tom Bargelski 5:30p-8:30p
Van's Dive Bar – Roused By Bulls & Evolution Of A Thursday 9p-1a
Williwaw Social – Arctic Valley's Winter Kickoff & Membership Party 8p-10p
Williwaw Social – Drake Night w/ DJ GRE & DJ Joe Brady 9p-2a



Saturday, November 12th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Anchorage Symphony's "Bach & Beyond" 7:30p-9:20p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Celebrate the Music Veteran's Day Tribute 7:30p-9p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Cold Fusion 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club - Blues Lesson and Social Dance 7p-11p
Bear Paw Bar & Grill – Comedy w/ Todd Andrews 8p-11p
The Broken Blender – Sassy Saturday Slightly off Broadway Show! 8p-9:30p
The Broken Blender – Matt & Co. 8p-12a
The Carousel Lounge – HarpDaddy Unraveled 10p-2a
Corks & Hops (Eagle River) – Jared Woods Live 6:30p-10p
Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
Egan Center – Farm Stock Benefit Concert Ft: Jenny Tolman & The Ken Peltier Band 6p-10p
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – The Vintage Retro 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Comedian Casey Balsham 7p-9p & 9:30p-11p
Koot's – The Stack 10p-2:45
Mad Myrna's – The Rocky Horror Show 6p-9p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Nave – Spenard Song Circle w/Emma Hill, Pepper Kit and Melissa Mitchell 6:30p-9p
Van's Dive Bar – Santoro: Blues for the Soul 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Total Request Live: A 2000s Dance Party w/ DJ Lloyds Noize 9:30p-2a
Writer's Block Bookstore & Café – Edutainment Nite \$100 Cash Prize Poetry Slam 6:40p-10p



Sunday, November 13th

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



Monday, November 14th

Auxiliary VFW 1685 – Open Mic Night 6:30p-8:30p
Koot's – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Mellow Mondays w/ Nikki Now 9:30p-12a

Tuesday, November 15th

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

Wednesday, November 16th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpys – Jason Roach 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) – Jared Woods live 6p-9p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Karaoke w/ The Milkman and/or The Dairy Queen! 9p-12a



The Adventures of Cinderella

The Brit

BY TINDERELLA

In my early 20s, I spent a semester studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland. And as most college students do, I spent many weekends drinking and approximating dancing in the local pubs. So naturally, there are many scandalous memories from those months abroad – the vampire cosplayer who bit me on the dance floor, receiving my first (and last) hickey, and the time I met Rod Stewart’s long-lost brother. OK, he wasn’t actually related to the singer, but his tight black jeans, perfectly spikey blonde hair, and insistence on dancing to Stewart’s “Da Ya Think I’m Sexy?” all warranted the comparison. A fact that I was eager to point out to him as he swung me around the dance floor.

When we were finished dancing, we got a beer, and he gave me the advice that I am still clinging to nearly twenty years later. “If you ever find yourself single at 40, you should move to the UK. With your cheeky personality, you’d make a killing.”

Fast forward 16 years later, and I am still single and further away from moving to the UK than I have ever been. Perhaps his note about my perpetual singledom was more of a prognostication than advice? Either way, when I swiped right on James, I figured I had finally outsmarted fate.

In full disclosure, the only reason I swiped on James was because his profile said he was looking for someone who could understand his British accent. Aside from the accent, we had nothing in common. He was an avid outdoorsman and I get lost in the parking lot. He loved craft cocktails, and my version of a fancy drink is a Shirley Temple with extra cherries. He was a movie buff, and I can barely sit through an episode of Game of Thrones. Still, the words of Rod Stewart’s doppelganger gave me faith that this match was meant to be.

Our first date over cheap beers was fairly average and ended in a side hug and non-committal “see you later.” He was leaving on a sports trip and wouldn’t be back for a month, so we mutually ignored each other until he returned to Anchorage. As neither of us had made any progress in finding “the one,” we decided to give it another go.

This time, we decided to indulge with overpriced and unnecessarily fancy cocktails – or at least he did. I stuck to what I knew and got an Angry Orchard. While I watched the flame die on his smoked rosemary and orange old-fashioned, the conversation between us began to heat up.

“Did you ever see the porn where they’re having an orgy in mid-air while parachuting,” he asked without warning.

“Can’t say that I have, but I feel like that would be kind of impressive. I mean, I can barely get my house key in the correct slot while standing still,” I replied with a smirk.

“Yeah, it was crazy. Here, let me try to find it,” he quipped back while grabbing for his cell phone.

“Maybe show me later,” I said, panicking that he may actually show me porn at a classy establishment like Sullivan’s.

I breathed a sigh of relief when his Google search returned no results, and our conversation drifted back to wholesome topics like gnarly wipeouts at the X-Games.

Two drinks later, we were both tipsy when we decided to make our way to the Pioneer Bar to catch the tail end of an Eternal Cowboys set. At this point, the prudent thing would have been to watch the set and say our goodbyes. Instead, we ordered two more rounds before he asked me if I had ever gone to the Bush Co.

Inebriation has blurred the details of how going to the Bush Co. made its way into our conversation, but I am fairly confident it went something like this.

“This guy can do crazy stuff on rollerblades which is crazy because he’s so big,” James explained as he showed me yet another skate video.

“Wow, that’s super impressive,” I responded with faked enthusiasm.

“So, have you ever been to the Bush Co.? I go all the time because I live right there,” he said.

“I’ve never been, but I’ve heard a lot about it. Honestly, I am way too broke to ever

set foot into a place that requires large tips,” I said with a laugh.

“Well, I can give you some money,” he replied.

Since I hadn’t immediately dismissed the idea of the Bush Co., I was left with little recourse when he said he’d pay for me.

“OK, yeah, let’s go,” I said sheepishly as I downed my remaining cider.

A 15-minute Uber drive later, and we were standing outside of the infamous strip club. To give you a better visual, I was wearing a cocktail dress, high heels, and a full face of makeup, including red lipstick. Although I didn’t know it at the time, this was not your typical strip club apparel – a fact I became painfully aware of as he swung the front door open. Of course, it wasn’t the heels and lipstick that left me out of place, but more the fact that I was still dressed.

If you’ve been to the Bush Co., you already know about the fully nude dancers. But, as I had never been, I was taken aback by the sheer amount of vaginas happily on display.

“So, this is hot,” I asked James.

“Well, yeah,” he replied without taking his eyes off the dancer gyrating on the stage.

“But, don’t feel kind of bad just throwing money at them,” I asked.

“No, not at all,” he said as he threw a bundle of wadded-up dollar bills at the stage.

“Here, come sit closer. I’ll show you what to do.”

He placed 20 singles in my hand and instructed me to “make it rain” over the dancer. Instead, I handed the money to the dancer with a polite, “here you go, miss.”

Thankfully out of ones to throw, we relocated to the back of the club to talk. We were in mid-conversation about what makes strip clubs appealing when one of the dancers approached us. She was so stunning that I found myself blushing as she swirled her fingertips around my exposed collarbone.

“Doesn’t she just have the most beautiful collarbone,” she asked James.

It was a weird compliment, but who was I to turn it down?

“Thanks,” I replied as James nodded.

“You know what would look really great on it,” she asked.

We both stared in nervous anticipation for her answer.

“My tits,” she exclaimed. “I just love dancing for straight girls.”

This should have been my cue to thank the nice lady and head home but the liquid courage coursing through my veins told me otherwise.

“You want me to dance on her,” she asked James as she continued to stroke my shoulder.

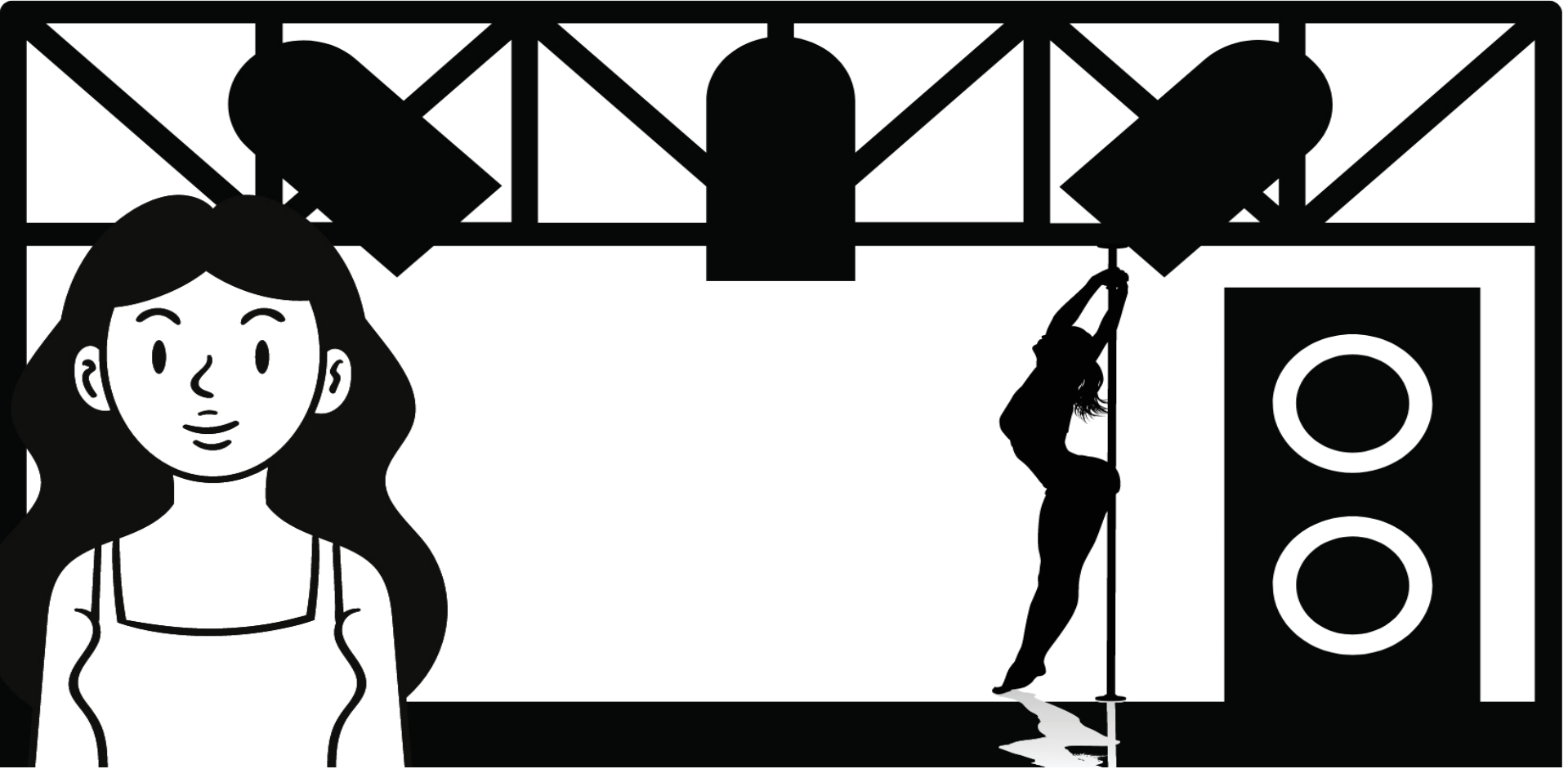
He quietly nodded, and we were taken to a back corner of the bar where multiple customers were enjoying some one-on-one attention. The next three minutes were a blur as I struggled to figure out 1) what the hell was happening, 2) whether or not she was going to expose my granny panties, and 3) what to do with my hands. In my nervousness, I accidentally touched her back and was immediately rebuked.

“I’m sorry. I feel like Ricky Bobby and don’t know what to do with my hands,” I said in hopes of soliciting a laugh.

She didn’t laugh. In fact, in response to my sheepishness, she became more vocal and aggressive. As I don’t do well with being embarrassed or not knowing the rules, it was one of the more mortifying experiences of my life. Still, there was something arousing about being in a place so overtly catered to one’s hedonistic side. So, when the dance was over, I grabbed James and kissed him for the first time. My lipstick left a sloppy trail of red on his lips, but neither of us cared as we proceeded to make out. By the time we were sobered up, it was 2am, and the house lights were coming up.

In the bright white fluorescent lighting, the sexiness of the whole affair disappeared and was replaced by the sobering reality of sloppily making out at a strip club. Even the bouncer commented on the state of our red-stained lips as we left.

The next day, flashes of the night replayed in my head in between bouts of hang-over-induced sickness. I was pretty sure I had blown any chance I had with James after the night of debauchery but when I polled my bro friends, they unanimously said that they would marry a girl that would do that with them. I’m not entirely sure what that says about my friends, but James clearly did not feel the same way. Although we went on a few more scattered dates, we never talked about that night again, nor did we start making wedding plans. Maybe the whole killing at dating thing only applies to Brits currently living in the UK. At least, I hope that’s the case, as I only have four years to go until my obligatory relocation.





ARIES: When you Aries people are at your best, you are driven by impeccable integrity as you translate high ideals into practical action. You push on with tireless force to get what you want, and what you want is often good for others, too. You have a strong sense of what it means to be vividly alive, and you stimulate a similar awareness in the people whose lives you touch. Are you always at your best? Of course not. No one is. But according to my analysis of upcoming astrological omens, you now have extra potential to live up to the elevated standards I described. I hope you will take full advantage.

TAURUS: You underestimate your power to call on support, and as a result, don't call on it enough. It may even be the case that the possible help gets weary of waiting for you to summon it, and basically goes into hiding or fades away. But let's say that you, the lucky person reading this horoscope, get inspired by my words. Maybe you will respond by becoming more forceful about recognizing and claiming your potential blessings. I hope so! In my astrological opinion, now is a favorable time for you to go in quest of all the help you could possibly want.

GEMINI: Sometimes, life compels us to change. It brings us some shock that forces us to adjust. On other occasions, life doesn't pressure us to make any shifts, but we nevertheless feel drawn to initiating a change. My guess is that you are now experiencing the latter. There's no acute discomfort pushing you to revise your rhythm. You could probably continue with the status quo for a while. And yet, you may sense a growing curiosity about how your life could be different. The possibility of instigating a transformation intrigues you. I suggest you trust this intuition. If you do, the coming weeks will bring you greater clarity about how to proceed.

CANCERIAN:"We suffer more often in imagination than in reality," wrote ancient Roman philosopher Seneca. That's certainly true about me. If all the terrible things I have worried about had actually come to pass, I would be unable to function. Luckily, most of my fears have remained mere fantasies. What about you, fellow Cancerian? The good news is that in the coming months, we Crabs will have unprecedented power to tamp down and dissipate the phantasms that rouse anxiety and alarm. I predict that as a result, we will suffer less from imaginary problems than we ever have before. How's that for a spectacular prophecy?

LEO: Poet Matt Michael writes, "Sure, the way trees talk is poetry. The shape of the moon is poetry. But a hot dog is also poetry. LeBron James' tomahawk dunk over Kevin Garnett in the 2008 NBA Playoffs is poetry. That pothole I always fail to miss on Parkman Road is poetry, too." In accordance with current astrological omens, Leo, I'd love for you to adopt Michael's approach. The coming days will be a favorable time to expand your ideas about what's lyrical, beautiful, holy, and meaningful. Be alert for a stream of omens that will offer you help and inspiration. The world has subtle miracles to show you.

VIRGO: Virgo author Michael Ondaatje was born in Sri Lanka, but as a child moved to England and later to Canada. His novel Running in the Family describes his experiences upon returning to his native Sri Lanka as an adult. Among the most delightful: the deluge of novel sensory sensations. On some days, he would spend hours simply smelling things. In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend you treat yourself to comparable experiences, Virgo. Maybe you could devote an hour today to mindfully inhaling various aromas. Tomorrow, meditate on the touch of lush textures. On the next day, bathe yourself in sounds that fill you with rich and interesting feelings. By feeding your senses like this, you will give yourself an extra deep blessing that will literally boost your intelligence.

LIBRA: You evolved Libras understand what's fair and just. That's one of your potencies, and it provides a fine service for you and your allies. You use it to glean objective truths that are often more valuable than everyone's subjective opinions. You can be a stirring mediator as you deploy your knack for impartiality and evenhandedness. I hope these talents of yours will be in vivid action during the coming weeks. We non-Libras need extra-strong doses of this stuff.

SCORPIO: Here are tips on how to get the most out of the next three weeks: 1. Be a master of simmering, ruminating, marinating, steeping, fermenting, and effervescing. 2. Summon intense streams of self-forgiveness for any past event that still haunts you. 3. Tap into your forbidden thoughts so they might heal you. Discover what you're hiding from yourself so it can guide you. Ask yourself prying questions. 4. Make sure your zeal always synergizes your allies' energy, and never steals it. 5. Regularly empty your metaphorical trash so you always have enough room inside you to gleefully breathe the sweet air and exult in the earth's beauty.

SAGITTARIUS:"I straddle reality and the imagination," says Sagittarian singer-songwriter Tom Waits. "My reality needs imagination like a bulb needs a socket. My imagination needs reality like a blind man needs a cane." I think that's great counsel for you to emphasize in the coming weeks. Your reality needs a big influx of energy from your imagination, and your imagination needs to be extra well-grounded in reality. Call on both influences with maximum intensity!

CAPRICORN: Sometimes, Capricorn, you appear to be so calm, secure, and capable that people get a bit awed, even worshipful. They may even get caught up in trying to please you. Is that a bad thing? Not necessarily—as long as you don't exploit and manipulate those people. It might even be a good thing in the coming weeks, since you and your gang have a chance to accomplish big improvements in your shared resources and environment. It would take an extra push from everyone, though. I suspect you're the leader who's best able to incite and orchestrate the extra effort.

AQUARIUS: If you have been posing as a normal person for too long, I hope you will create fresh outlets for your true weird self in the weeks ahead. What might that entail? I'll throw out a couple of ideas. You could welcome back your imaginary friends and give them new names like Raw Goodness and Spiral Trickster. You might wear fake vampire teeth during a committee meeting or pray to the Flying Spaghetti Monster to send you paranormal adventures. What other ideas can you imagine about how to have way too much fun as you draw more intensely on your core eccentricities?

PISCES : I suspect you will have metaphorical resemblances to a duck in the coming weeks: an amazingly adaptable creature equally at home on land, in the water, and in the air. You will feel comfortable anywhere you choose to wander. And I'm guessing you will want to wander farther and wider than you usually do. Here's another quality that you and ducks will share: You'll feel perfectly yourself, relaxed and confident, no matter what the weather is. Whether it's cloudy or shiny, rainy or misty, mild or frigid, you will not only be unflappable—you will thrive on the variety.



DAN SAVAGE'S SAVAGE LOVE

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

I am a 24-year-old straight guy who recently broke up with my girlfriend of more than four years. One of the reasons we broke up was a general lack of sexual compatibility. She had a particular aversion to oral sex—both giving and receiving. I didn't get a blowjob the whole time we were together. Which brings me to why I am writing: One of my closest friends, "Sam," is a gay guy. Shortly after breaking up with my girlfriend, I was discussing my lack of oral sex with Sam, and he said he'd be willing to "help me out." I agreed, and Sam gave me an earth-shattering blowjob. I was glad to get some and had no hang-ups about a guy sucking me. Since then, Sam has blown me three more times. My problem is I am starting to feel guilty and worry I am using Sam. He's a very good buddy, and I'm concerned this lopsided sexual arrangement might be bad for our friendship. Sam knows I am not into guys and I'm never going to reciprocate, and I feel like this is probably not really fair to him. But these are literally the only blowjobs I've received since I was a teenager. What should I do?

- Totally Have Reservations Over Advantage Taking

Only one person knows how Sam feels about this "lopsided sexual arrangement," THROAT, and it isn't me.

Zooming out for a second: People constantly ask me how the person they're fucking or fisting or flogging feels about the fucking or fisting or flogging. Guys write to ask why women ghosted them; women write to ask if their boyfriends are secretly gay. And while I'm happy to speculate, I'm not a mind reader. Which means I have no way of knowing for sure why some woman ghosted you or whether your boyfriend is gay. Or in your case, THROAT, I have no way of knowing how Sam feels about the four nore-cip blowjobs he's given you. Only Sam knows.

And that's why I wrote you back, THROAT, and asked you for Sam's contact information. Since you were clearly too afraid to ask Sam yourself (most likely for fear the blowjobs would stop), I offered to ask Sam on your behalf. I wasn't serious—it was my way of saying, "You should ask Sam." But you sent me Sam's contact info, and a few minutes later I was chatting with Sam.

"Yes, I have been sucking my straight friend's cock," Sam said to me. "And I am flattered he told you I was good at it. That's an ego booster!"

Sam, like THROAT, is 24 years old. He grew up on the East Coast and met THROAT early in his first year at college. Sam came out at the end of his freshman year, to THROAT and his other friends, and he now lives in a big city where he works in marketing when he isn't sucking off THROAT.

My first question for Sam: Are you one of those gay guys who gets off on "servicing" straight guys?

"I've never done anything with a straight guy before this," said Sam. "So, no, I'm not someone who is 'into servicing straight guys.' I have only ever dated and hooked up with gay guys before!"

So, why offer to blow THROAT?

"I didn't know until after he broke up with his girlfriend that he hadn't gotten a blowjob the whole time they were together—four years!" Sam said. "When I told him I'd be happy to help him out, I was joking. I swear I wasn't making a pass at my straight friend! But there was this long pause, and then he got serious and said he'd be into it. I wondered for a minute if it would be weird for me to blow my friend, and there was definitely a bit of convincing each other that we were serious. When he started taking his clothes off, I thought, 'So this is going to happen.' It was not awkward after. We even started joking about it right away. I have sucked him off four more times since then."

For those of you keeping score at home: Either THROAT lost count of the number of times Sam has blown him—THROAT said Sam has blown him three more times after that first blowjob—or THROAT got a fifth blowjob in the time that elapsed between sending me his letter and putting me in touch with Sam

So, does this lopsided sexual arrangement—blowing a straight boy who's never going to blow him back—bother Sam?

"I suppose it is a 'lopsided sexual arrangement,'" said Sam. "But I don't mind. I really like sucking dick and I'm really enjoying sucking his dick. He has a really nice dick! And from my perspective, we're both having fun. And, yes, I've jacked off thinking about it after each time I sucked him. I know—now—that he thinks it is a bit unfair to me. But I don't feel that way at all."

So, there is something in it for Sam, THROAT. You get the blowjobs, Sam gets the memories. (Memories that he jerks off to later.) And Sam assumes that at some point, memories are all he'll have.

"He will eventually get into a relationship with a woman again, and our arrangement will end," said Sam. "I only hope nothing is weird between us in the future because of what has happened in the past few weeks."

I had one last question: Sam is really good at sucking cock—he gives "earth-shattering" blowjobs, according to THROAT—but is THROAT any good at getting his cock sucked? As experienced cocksuckers know, a person can suck at getting their cock sucked: They can just lay/stand/sit there, giving you no feedback, or be too pushy or not pushy enough, etc.

"That's a really good question," Sam said. "I have to say, he is very good at it. He really gets into it, he moans, he talks about how good it feels, and he lasts a long time. That's part of what makes sucking his cock so much fun."



(Photos by Joe Lester)

Alaskan metal legend Sean Peck headlines at Koot's on Friday

BY ALEJANDRO BOUZAS

Looking back, Sean Peck never dreamed he would go from being just another kid at Palmer High to an internationally touring musician. But as all Alaskans know, this is the one state where you can create any future that you can dare to dream of.

When “Hell Destroyer,” as some of his friends call him, moved to Anchorage with his parents in 1975, the

local metal scene was still in a fledgling state. In fact, it would take almost 30 years before a dedicated metal music promotions company, Family Tree Presents, would emerge.

“There weren’t any local metal bands or anything back in the day. And I wasn’t a singer yet. I was just kind of singing in my bedroom, and I was always the class clown in high school, so I was always making funny voices,” said Peck, who has been the lead singer for Cage since 1992.

Dubbed “Judas Priest on steroids,” Cage has ascended

to the upper echelons of metal rockstardom with the help of Peck’s versatile singing style. A credit to his prowess, Cage has released 8 albums and toured the world extensively. Along the way, they have opened for Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Dio, The Scorpions, and King Diamond. The band has also shared the marquee with legends such as Metallica and Peck’s personal favorite, Dokken.

“I didn’t get into heavy metal until my junior year in high school, and the first show that I went to was Dokken in the Sullivan arena,” Peck explained. “They just blew my mind. I was so freaking hooked that it sent me down this life path.”

But Peck wasn’t the only one falling for the raucous, disestablishmentarian genre.

“In 1982, right as I was getting into the scene, there was a legendary Ozzy Osbourne concert in Alaska. I am still pissed I missed that one but I heard it was amazing,” said Peck with a laugh.

Six months later, Osbourne famously bit the head off a bat at a Des Moines, Iowa, show, effectively sending the metal scene into the forefront of the American consciousness.

Although Peck’s love of metal was deepening, he was still the image of a clean cut Valley boy when he entered college.

“I went to San Diego State University, where I played D1 soccer. We had a couple of national team members on the team, like Marcelo Balboa and Eric Wynalda, so we had a really good team. We went through the national championship, but we ended up losing,” recalled Peck. “It ended up being OK, though, because once the tournament was over, there were parties with local bands. And I would come up to the stage and sing a song with them. That’s how I got into my first band in college, called Tax Evasion.”

As it was his first project, Tax Evasion had to weasel its way into parties by playing the tunes people wanted to hear, but it wouldn’t take long until they turned to the metal side.

“At the university, we played parties with thousands of people. To get started, we had to play all the classic col-





lege party music like the Beatles and Louie Louie but then we would break out into an Iron Maiden song like ‘The Trooper’ in the middle of playing something poppy. This usually horrified all the girls, but the drunk guys loved it,” Peck chuckled.

While Peck missed home, the disparate development of the Alaskan and Californian metal scenes meant that the only way to make it big was to stay in the Lower-48.

“I went from Alaska to Southern California in the heyday of heavy metal, so I got to see all the great bands in their glory down here, which I would have never seen in Alaska. After Tax Evasion, I went into a band called Nomad, which was a real serious original heavy metal band, and then from that into Cage,” explained Peck.

However, Peck hasn’t just rested on his laurels when it comes to his music. His prolific career has seen him join forces with mythical bands like Denner Sherman, The Legendary Warrior, and The Three Tremors with Ripper Owens, who recorded two albums with Judas Priest.

Now, with the help of local favorites, Decepticide, Peck is returning home to blow the roof off Koot’s on Friday. But as is the case with Peck, the genesis of the show comes with a funny story that could only happen between Alaskans.

“Cage was on tour on the East Coast and were supposed to play a show in Delaware. When we got there, there were only two people that came to the show — it was horrible! But the small crowd gave us time to talk to the opening band — Decepticide. When we found out they were Alaskan, we started bonding over Alaskan stories. We played the show, we rocked out for each other, and we ended up having a good time. Unfortunately, while we were having a good time, our van was broken into, and all of our clothes were thrown all over the alley. It was the only time we ever got robbed on tour, so we like to blame Decepticide,” laughed Peck.

After their unexpected shenanigans, the two bands kept in touch and Decepticide’s guitarist, Enzo Montana, kept his sights on reuniting the two bands.

Decepticide will be opening on Friday before Cage and Tim Ripper Owens turn the concert into a full-blown metal fest.

“Knowing me, I’ll probably get up and sing a couple of The Three Tremors’ songs together with Ripper,” said Peck who also tours Owens as part of The Three Tremors.

To date, the Tremors have dropped two albums and toured extensively. But nothing hits quite like playing at home, so Peck is thrilled to show his bandmates the place that raised him.

“I’m really excited to be going back to Alaska and all my friends coming out, and hopefully, it sells out. I mean, it’ll be a great show. I hope a lot of people come, we got Decepticide, Cage, and then Ripper and I are going to do one classic song after another. He’s a fantastic singer. I haven’t been back to Alaska since 95. But I still have tons of friends and family up there, so I couldn’t be more stoked,” said Peck.

The event will take place at Koot’s this Friday, November 11. The music starts at 9pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door or through MYALASKATIX.COM.



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

Dunleavy appears headed to re-election, may head off ranked choice count

BY ANDREW KITCHENMAN
ALASKA BEACON

In votes counted through early Wednesday morning, Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy appeared on pace for re-election to a second four-year term.

Dunleavy, a Republican, built a substantial lead over challengers Democrat Les Gara, independent Bill Walker and Republican Charlie Pierce, holding 52% of Tuesday’s 216,364 first-choice votes. If Dunleavy’s vote share stays above 50%, he will win the election outright without going through Alaska’s new ranked choice counting process.

Gara and Walker had less than half as many votes as Dunleavy early Wednesday, with Gara at 23.1%, Walker at 20.1% and Pierce at 4.6%.

The election capped a tumultuous term for Dunleavy, who is seeking to become the first Alaska governor to be re-elected since Democrat Tony Knowles in 1998.

Dunleavy’s campaign has been boosted by the tailwind of high oil prices, which allowed the first state budget surplus in 10 years and a \$3,284 payout to eligible Alaskans. The combined Permanent Fund dividend and energy relief payment was the largest in state history, without adjusting for inflation. With inflation, the PFD was the sixth-highest and the combined payout was the second-highest.

Gara and Walker have argued that similar surpluses in the past have not lasted. In their campaigns, they said that when oil prices fall, Dunleavy will revert to either the deep cuts to state services that he proposed in his first budget or call for unsustainable draws from the Alaska Permanent Fund, the oil wealth fund that lawmakers have hoped would help sustain the state in perpetuity.

Dunleavy’s proposed 2019 budget cuts prompted an unsuccessful campaign to recall him from office, and he has not returned to the proposals.

In the days leading up to the election, the Dunleavy campaign focused on themes he’s highlighted throughout the year, including a drop in reported crimes, the large PFD, and his support for the state’s resource industries.

Speaking on a pre-election show hosted by the Alaska Landmine website, Dunleavy said, “I would like to think we connected with the everyday Alaskan. ... Our values reflected their values when it came to things like crime.”

During his campaign, Gara pledged to balance the state budget and strengthen state services by increasing the amounts oil companies pay in taxes. Walker talked about striking a balance that would avert deep cuts or taxes – he said he wants to finish the deficit-cutting work he started when he served as governor from 2014 to 2018.

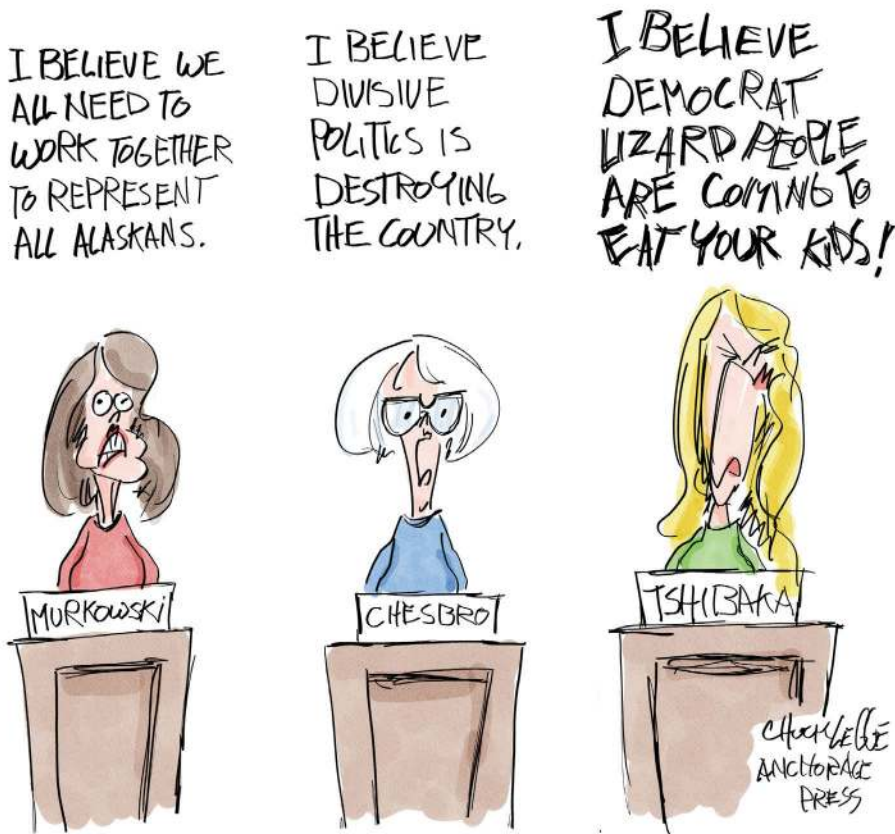
Along with Knowles, the only other Alaska governors to serve two consecutive full terms were Democrat Bill Egan and Republican Jay Hammond. Egan won a nonconsecutive third term, while Republican Walter Hickel won nonconsecutive elections in 1966 and 1990, though he left before the end of his first term to join President Richard Nixon’s cabinet.

Thousands of absentee and early votes remain to be counted, but even if Dunleavy finishes below 50% among first-choice ballots, he remains likely to win outright.

Republican Charlie Pierce is running fourth in the race and would be eliminated first if ranked choice sorting takes place. Many of Pierce’s voters likely picked Dunleavy as a second option.

Pierce ran to Dunleavy’s right, but struggled to gain traction. He is accused of sexually harassing a former executive assistant when he served as Kenai Borough Peninsula mayor.

Gara and Walker sought to finish second in the first round of counting in this year’s election, and each to draw nearly all of the second-preference votes of the other. Winning would require them to make up substantial ground from the ballots that hadn’t been counted by early Wednesday, including 14 precincts in northern and western Alaska and the absentee and early ballots.



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Super Crossword

GOOD THINGS

- ACROSS**

1 "I don't know yet"

8 Order

15 "Amo, amas, I love —"

20 Plane pilot

21 Result of iron deficiency, to a Brit

22 "I Love Lucy" actress Vivian

23 Staying loyal despite adversity

25 Poet Lorde

26 The sun, in Spanish

27 Slimy slow movers

28 Actor Rex or singer James

29 Swing wildly, as one's arms

32 What the Union was for earth, in a Lincoln message

35 "I think," to texters

38 Really bother

40 TV studio alert

41 Gave the Red Cross some funds, e.g.

47 Something to scratch
- 51 Old politico Stevenson

52 Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. —"

53 Coral reef eel

54 Courage

61 Beach grit

63 "The Simpsons" store clerk

64 Bitter-ender

65 Pol with a six-yr. term

66 "A Death in the Family" author James

67 With 9-Down, "Paper Moon" child actress

70 Utah's — Canyon

71 "— girl!"

72 Pro-firearm org.

73 Rules established by legal precedent

75 Long Russian river

76 Fewer

77 The attorney general heads it

82 Glossy proof, for short

83 110-Across' high home

84 Ear-splitting

87 Helper: Abbr.
- 88 19th-century anti-alcohol fraternal society

94 Result in

96 Really bother

97 U.S. Army soldiers

98 Beatles song on the "White Album"

105 Dog restraint

107 Strike caller

108 "Coyote Ugly" actress Piper

110 "Bald" bird

114 Very, in music scores

115 Christian set featured in this puzzle

119 Cerebrum's place

120 Helped criminally

121 Creates

122 Matches up, as sets of files

123 Have

124 Really should
- 6 Centuries on end

7 Bit of work

8 Lyricist Sammy

9 See 67-Across

10 Mob group

11 Restaurant offerings

12 Love-in- — (plant with feathery foliage)

13 Louse-to-be

14 Lah-di- —

15 1972 Jack Lemmon film

16 Sidesplitter

17 Drug banned for Olympians, for short

18 Minor fight

19 Words on an F paper, maybe

24 Opening for a letter-shaped bolt

28 "My, my, old chap!"

30 Suffix with prop-

31 Ky. neighbor

33 Young guy, in hip-hop

34 Doc studying laryngitis

35 Wyo. neighbor

36 Hip '60s teen
- 37 Programs running in web browsers

39 Hanna-Barbera bear

42 "Live PD" network

43 Inmate

44 Two-time Wimbledon winner Lew

45 Improvise

46 Allude (to)

48 Committing to a fiduciary

49 Officers in training

50 Doglike scavengers

53 Prefix with afternoon

55 Really bother

56 Muscle jerk

57 One-on-one student

58 "Stop that, silly goose!"

59 Pool triangles

60 Yummy tidbit

61 Actress Bullock

62 Doesn't differ

68 Wrist-to-elbow bones

69 San —, California

71 Tinfoil giant

73 — -Magnon

74 Klingon officer of TV

78 Reviewer of paintings
- 79 Be suitable

80 Army wheels

81 For later use

85 — -fi film

86 "Of course"

88 "Of course"

89 Coll. in Columbus

90 Neighbor of TV's Homer

91 Brunch fruit

92 — -wee Herman

93 A Gabor

95 Chefs' tie-ons

98 Makes easier, with "down"

99 University in Atlanta

100 "Sounds like —!"

101 Sword types

102 Birds' refuges

103 Isle of Minos

104 Roof edges

106 Detested

109 Cots, e.g.

111 Holster fillers

112 Riga native, old-style

113 Rival of Petro-Canada

115 Spying tool

116 "Westworld" network

117 Actor Diesel

118 Suffix with serpent

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LEGALS

Canna Get Hashy LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.500(a)(1) for a new Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility license, license #34641, doing business as Canna Get Hashy, located at 810 E 6th Ave Unit B, Anchorage, AK, 99501, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco>. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501. Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 11/10/22, 11/17/22, 11/24/22

"Highwater LLC doing business as McGinleys Alaskan Pub located at 645 G Street Anchorage is applying for a transfer of a beverage dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to Highwater LLC doing business as Blarney Stone Pub. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Daniel Sullivan 10%, John Peterson 12%, Paul Nelson 12%, Don Kessler 12%, Matthew Fink 12%, Richard & Andrea Hobbs 12% and Gator Bros LLC 12% to Matthew Fink 44%, Richard Hobbs 44% and Gator Bros LLC 12%. 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 11/10/22, 11/17/22, 11/24/22

Tutti Pazzi, Inc, dba Chair 5 Restaurant located at 171 Linblad Avenue, Girdwood, Alaska is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to Ski Bum Ventures, Inc. dba Chair 5 Restaurant. Under the terms of AS 04.11.360(4)(B), AS 04.11.670, and 3AAC 304.106, the transferor/lessor retains a security interest in the liquor license that is the subject of this conveyance, and may, as a result, be able to obtain a retransfer of the license without satisfaction of other creditors. 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 11/10/22, 11/17/22, 11/24/22

What's more, it appears that Alaska's frogs become even sweeter than those farther south. The increased glucose production helps to explain their greater tolerance to extreme cold—the more sugary a solution, the lower its freezing point—but it raises other questions that for now remain unanswered. For instance: how the heck do they do that?

By the time their winter preparations are complete, wood frogs from the Panhandle to the Brooks Range will have frozen eyes, frozen limbs, frozen lungs, frozen liver, and a frozen brain. In the end, even the heart freezes up.

In all, about two-thirds of a wood frog's body will turn to ice. In essence, it has become something of a frogicle. Barnes says that if you were to drop a frozen frog onto a table, it would sound much like an ice cube. And if bent too far, its limbs will simply snap. And yet the animal is alive, in what is truly a state of suspended animation.

Barnes emphasizes that this process is a gradual one. For all of their amazing adaptations, not even wood frogs are able to survive being put into a freezer and left overnight.

Besides learning more about wood frogs themselves, Barnes and other researchers believe that a better understanding of the amphibians' cold-weather strategies could benefit humans. For instance, we might learn how transplanted organs might be frozen and thawed without being damaged. Or perhaps scientists will come to better understand, and manage, diabetes in humans.

Just as remarkable as their winter freeze-up, is the wood frogs' springtime meltdown. The frogs thaw from inside out. First the heart begins to beat (though scientists don't know exactly how it's "jump started"), then the brain and other organs kick into gear, and glucose levels return to normal.

Once completely thawed, the frogs dig their way out of the ground, hop to the nearest pond or lake, and proceed with mating, going about their vernal business as if nothing astonishing had just occurred.

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.

Letting my family down

Dear Oskar,
I wake up every day in a panic about how I am going to take care of my family. I am a father with two amazing kids and a beautiful wife. There was a time when I was able to take care of everyone, but now my job, which was based on sales, has been dwindling, and the bills are piling up. I want the best for my family, and I don't know what to do anymore. I haven't told my wife because I am so ashamed that I have let her down. My kids are 8 and 10, and I promised my wife she could stay home with them. I want to keep that promise to her. I am feeling hopeless. Please advise.
—Letting my family down



BY ASK OSKAR
OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Letting my family down,
As I sit here staring at my keyboard, the words that come to me are: The truth will set you free.

How beautifully you describe your family. I can feel that sense of wanting to protect them and be there for them. It also reminds me of the adage "Teamwork makes the dream work" because as much as you love them, they love you, too. That is something you might need to see in order to help you through this.

We are all afraid to be vulnerable. We believe that we might be unlovable if people were to really find out about things we've done, what we think, or what has happened to us. And the fact is, there are some people who will not want to know about what has happened to you—but they are NOT your people. There are many wonderful people out there that do want to help, and the first one is your wife, so you must tell her.

How will things go? I don't know. But telling the truth lifts off the weight of shame and fear. I stood in your shoes once, so worried about how I would take care of my three children and my husband. I moved one balance of my credit card to another credit card. I felt alone. And then, one day, I could no longer take the pain I felt inside and spoke to someone about it. Just sharing my feelings and what was going on in my life out loud with another loving person brought me relief. The person shared that they, too, had been there. They shined the light for me, and I followed their lead.

They told me to do two things: Get a money app that would help me record everything I spent, and get the book How to Get Out of Debt, Stay Out of Debt, and Live Prosperously: Based on the Proven Principles and Techniques of Debtors Anonymous. I read it like my life depended upon it—because it did. My life began to change instantly: I no longer felt alone; I realized other people had been where I was, and I had a plan that would help me.

I followed the guidance I found in the book and began to find more people who were showing me a way forward. The new journey brought me to the most wonderful—and also the most difficult—places.

I had to look closely at my life and learn to love myself as I was, rather than what I could get from my bank account. I learned that money did not define me, nor did anything else in my life, including my past. As I prospered from the inside, my life fell apart on the outside. I was nervous because it was all new and unknown. But I had faced the truth, and I did not want to go back to living a lie or hiding.

I began waking up with the joy of knowing I was enough, and there was enough. My business started to flourish, and I began making money again, and although not what I had made before, I actually felt richer and more prosperous than before. I took life one day at a time and began to savor each moment I experienced. I let go of the people and things in my life that were no longer working (like my marriage) and allowed new things to come in, like writing—something I never would have dreamed I would be doing.

Today I am just another cog in the wheel, and I feel the joy of that. I am enough, and I no longer have to hide from my mistakes or my past, nor do I have to prove myself. I have enough to pay the bills, take care of my three kids on my own, save for the future, and, most importantly, love and respect myself.

My wish for you is that you will know you are never alone and always loved. Good luck with everything. I will be rooting for you to find out that you are enough!


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Super Crossword

Answers

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Walker to Dunleavy, after listing all the ducked debates and all the cuts and mismanagement: “Why do you want this job?”

What’s at stake?

MATT BUXTON
THE MIDNIGHT SUN

“UAA cutting funding and closing down departments, it’s just closing opportunities for people our age,” Mallari said, referring to the University of Alaska Anchorage. “There’s just better employment opportunities elsewhere. There’s more to do,” Barber said. In Alaska, “What are people going to do? Oil? Fishing?” “No one wants to stay in a school district where we’re underfunded and understaffed. Even as students, we see it every day,” said Maddy Reckmeyer.

That was what young Alaskans had to say when asked about their outlook on the state for an excellent piece by Alaska Beacon reporter Yereth Rosen, which paints one of the best pictures about the political forces shaping the state’s future and what it all means for the next generation. It examines the rhetoric that Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s challengers—independent Bill Walker and Democrat Les Gara—have sought to define the race by in its closing days: That under his four years in office, Alaska has backslid to a place where young Alaskans are looking south to their future.

“We’re building prisons and we’re closing schools. Something’s really wrong with our economy when that’s what we’re doing,” Walker said at the Oct. 17 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce debate (which Dunleavy, of course, did not attend), later adding, “We are circling the drain on education in Alaska right now. When you short-change a system for so long, when you kick the can down there for so long, eventually the can kicks back. We’re seeing it.”

“One-third of our young people are leaving. You have to ask yourselves why,” Gara said at the forum. “We’re losing students, we’re losing young people for the exact policies that this governor has tried to push. They don’t see a future in this state.”

While the trend of outmigration is admittedly more complicated than solely Dunleavy’s occupation of the governor’s mansion, it’s nonetheless an undeniable trend. Per the Alaska Beacon story’s opening line: “For nine straight years, more people have left Alaska than moved to the state, and for eight of those years, Alaska’s total population declined. It is the longest stretch of net outmigration recorded in Alaska since World War II.”

And whoever wins on Tuesday (when the RCV votes are tabulated three weeks from then) will face the tall task of making Alaska into more than just “America’s natural resources warehouse.”

‘Why do you want this job?’

That timeline of outmigration above, of course, puts as many years of outmigration on former Gov. Walker’s tenure as it does Dunleavy’s (and Gara’s time in the Legislature, if we’re keeping track). It’s a point that seemed to be the Dunleavy camp’s lone defense against the criticism, but it’s far from the exoneration they think it is.

We could dissect Walker and Gara’s time in office at length, but they’re not the incumbent who has to answer for the most recent four years.

Dunleavy came into office swinging against a whole lot of what Alaskans would think is precious, letting Outside budget hawk Donna Arduin loose onto the state’s budget with little more guidance than paying out a big PFD. Whenever horrified legislators would attempt to drill down into Dunleavy’s year-one budget—the one that proposed a roughly 25% cut to K-12 funding, sky-high rates on Pioneer Homes, a gutting of the University of Alaska system and an ax for the Alaska Marine Highway System—Arduin would placidly remind them that the entire goal was to pay out the big, full statutory PFD that Dunleavy promised without any new revenues. That was it.

While the governor was cowed by a rightfully enraged public that drove bipartisan energy into the unsuccessful recall effort, that initial budget exercise told us a lot about how the governor would be running for the next four years. We focused on the cruel cynicism of the cuts that heaped the hurt of his budgetary goals on poor Alaskans, elder Alaskans, young Alaskans and Alaska Native communities, but what should have been even more alarming is that it was all a product of a governor seemingly disinterested in the cost of turning his campaign promise into a reality.

As the old Joe Biden line goes: “Show me your budget and I’ll tell you what you value.”

For Dunleavy, we can find his values in headline after headline about cuts to the University of Alaska, school closures, endless questions about the fate of the Alaska

Marine Highway, his dogged boosting of Pebble Mine, the sole-source contracts, the efforts to shield his attorneys general from sexual harassment allegations, his pledge to attack Alaskans’ constitutional right to an abortion if elected and the lawsuits attacking everything from unions to university scholarships.

The only revenue provision that the governor ever seemed particularly interested in was legalized gambling and gaming, but even that petered out with little effort.

At one of the few times that Dunleavy could be bothered to share a debate stage with his opponents, Dunleavy met concerns about school closures by attacking school administrators and suggesting that he could help them balance their budget. On the radio, his surrogates suggested that the Anchorage School District had dug itself into a hole through fraud.

In a time where Alaska needs some serious solutions for the path ahead or at least a modicum of hope, the words of those young Alaskans are understandable.

As Walker, who in his time as governor tried to bring closure to the state’s financial uncertainty with a fiscal plan, revisions to the dividend and some new revenue, put it during the Debate for the State: “Why do you want this job?”

Opportunity cost

Somewhere in the late stages of the 2018 race, Walker told me one of his greatest regrets of his time in office was seeing the state’s considerable savings vanish as everyone battled over a long-term fix for Alaska’s state budget. Alaska spent more than \$13 billion from the Alaska Constitutional Budget Reserve, whose repayment provision still haunts Alaska today through the dreaded sweep.

It’s money that could have gone to a myriad of other uses that may have been able to turn the corner on outmigration: Projects that lowered energy costs, increased the availability of accessible housing or expanded educational opportunities.

As I look now at what Dunleavy’s term has meant for Alaska, it feels mostly like we’ve been spinning our wheels. The Alaska Legislature’s main goal over the last four years has been to stop the very worst impulses of a governor who would sell out the state’s future to fulfill today’s campaign promise. For the most part, the Legislature has succeeded in that mission, but in doing so, has also saved the governor from himself. He never came close to instituting his scorched-earth budget and has yet to get the opportunity to radically rewrite the state’s constitution.

But it has been far from easy. The Legislature’s far-right forces, empowered by the governor, have found new levers to snarl the public process and push us closer to the brink of a shutdown. They’ll be looking to seize complete control after this election but even if things go well for Republicans on Tuesday (and three weeks from Tuesday when the votes are finally tabulated), it still looks like there’s a good shot that the moderate Republicans in the Alaska Senate may go bipartisan.

That’ll be needed because it’s not likely that this year’s “balanced” budget—a product of sky-high investment returns and Putin’s invasion of Ukraine—will stay balanced well into the future.

The whims of the world’s economy

One of the biggest lessons in my decade-plus covering Alaska politics is just how beholden Alaska is to the whims of the global economy. Our budget flourishes when oil prices rise and wilts when they fall. As our budget goes, so does the state’s investment in local communities, schools, parks and all the sorts of things that attract and keep people here for the long haul. Alaska’s continued outmigration has been an issue that has come up throughout the race as economists have continued to raise the alarm that we’re in for a dismal future if things don’t turn around.

It’s easy to get caught up in the trends and the numbers, losing sight on the kinds of messages and impact it has on everyday Alaskans that aren’t reflected in budget reports. That’s why the Rosen’s reporting and the words of young Alaskans—the kind of people whose love and passion for this state will greatly determine its quality in the coming decades—are so critical to consider as we move forward.

Early in the days of the state’s oil collapse, I heard questions about what kind of Alaska we want at the end of the day. How many services do we want and how much are we willing to pay? We are still far from consensus—so often finding ourselves distracted by the fires stoked by Dunleavy and company—but I’d hope that with whatever Alaska we all decide upon, there’s a place and an opportunity for young people looking to make a career, a home and a family in Alaska.

Because, after all, that’s what it has been for me.



Sen. Lisa Murkowski speaks on Election Day at a press conference held at her campaign headquarters in Anchorage. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

Outcomes, from page A2

“Get rid of ranked-choice voting. It should be one man, one vote.”

Palin also criticized the Republican party leaders. She said they made a foolish decision to back Begich, “the guy who’s never gotten the most GOP votes. I have. I’ve thumped him three times. We’ll thump him again tonight. And yet, the GOP chose to endorse the unknown Begich from the Democrat dynasty family. It made no sense.”

And she said the party establishment does not support Trump, which is showing up in party activities in Alaska. “They want to send him a message. They want to thump his two endorsed candidates in Alaska. We’re like symbolic poster children for him. That’s Kelly Tshibaka and me.”

Despite Palin’s criticism, voters who cast their ballots at the Alaska Zoo, the site of two Anchorage Hillside precincts, were comfortable with the ranked-choice system, said David Karalunas, chair of one of those precincts.

“So far, all the voters have been much more positive and happier and less confused than at the primary,” he said, referring to the Aug. 16 election.

Then, voters were juggling the special election to fill Young’s seat, their first experience with ranked-choice voting and the regular primary election, he noted. “It was much more confusing to people,” he said.

Most polling sites in Alaska are set up at schools or community buildings, and some are in churches. But there were some offbeat locations, along with the zoo.

One was Ursa Major Distillery in Ester, a company that sells craft vodka, gin, rum, and akvavit, a Scandinavian distilled spirit that is infused with herbs.

The distillery this year replaced the Ester fire station as the polling place for the quirky Fairbanks-area community. The fire station, it was determined, was too small and cramped to continue in that role, said Brenda Riley, co-owner of the distillery.

“Everybody’s been so positive about the change, and they think it’s the most fun place to have a polling place,” she said.

But voters are not able to sample the products when they cast their ballots; the distillery pauses its business on Election Day, Riley said. “We love democracy,” she said.



Rep. Mary Peltola waves campaign signs at passing motorists in East Anchorage on the morning of Election Day. The sealskin and otter-fur hat she is wearing was a gift from friends in Juneau. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)



Bird researcher Jesse Conklin uses a radio antenna to relocate young bar-tailed godwits in Southwest Alaska on July 15, 2022. One of the birds Conklin and Dan Ruthrauff fitted with a satellite transmitter that day later flew from Alaska to Tasmania in a nonstop 11-day trip. Photo by Dan Ruthrauff.

750 miles per day for 11 days, no rest

BY NED ROZELL

A bird the size of your fist has made humans all over the world marvel at the things we can’t do.

Like fly. For 11 days straight, from Alaska to Tasmania, your toes not touching earth or water. That’s an average of 765 miles each day, enough to tire a long-haul truck driver burning diesel on the interstates rather than body fat gained from tiny clams.

The bird that became a star is a bar-tailed godwit born this summer on the camouflage tundra not far from Nome.

On July 15, 2022, biologists captured and loosely fitted a three-week old chick with a tiny transmitter. They knew the godwit would inflate to three times its size by the time it was ready to leap off the Alaska mud.

Bar-tailed godwits are creatures not thought about by most people. They fly over vast, lonely oceans to nest invisibly within bumps of tundra vegetation.

Months later, after poking their pencil bills into mud to gorge on clams and other small things, they disappear from Alaska during storms that drive us to our tents. The next year, they reappear as a surprise, skittering to a landing on soft tundra in April after traveling from New Zealand to Asia and past Japan, the Kamchatka Peninsula and the sweep of the Aleutian Islands. The birds have done this for thousands of years.

Two biologists cupped this wonder of a bird gently in their hands last July before its first migration into the unknown.

Jesse Conklin and Dan Ruthrauff had a plan to do something different this year in researching a bird whose migration was already the stuff of legend; in fall of 2007, scientists saw that one had flown directly — in eight days — from Alaska to New Zealand. The young bird that just landed in Tasmania went much farther in one go.

To find out exactly what that bird did, Conklin and Ruthrauff in summer 2022 upped the difficulty of already tedious rubber-boot fieldwork. They wanted to find godwits born this year, rather than adult birds that are larger, easier to fit with a transmitter and more likely to survive the monitoring period.

“We had conducted breeding studies before on the Yukon (River) Delta and it was pretty demoralizing,” said Ruthrauff, who works for the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage. “We expended a huge field effort to find very few nests, all of which were depredated before they hatched.

“But, when godwit nests hatch, the adults very aggressively defend their broods and are quite easy to catch using recorded playbacks of chick calls. We thought that if we just put ourselves in a situation to find just-hatching nests that we might have some luck.”

The men captured three juvenile bar-tailed godwits — balls of fluff not able to fly at such a young age — and fitted each with a backpack transmitter powered by a solar panel the size of a postage stamp.

The transmitters fell off two growing birds in the days following, but the device stayed with one bird. That bird’s transmitter blipped a signal to a satellite every few hours during its fall migration, revealing the nonstop flight from Alaska to Tasmania.

“Based on its size, we estimate that we tagged it at about 3 weeks old, when we deemed that it was big enough to carry the transmitter,” said Conklin, an independent researcher. “So, (the bird) hatched some time in late June, and made the record-breaking flight at about 4 months of age. Pretty good, eh?”

As both researchers refreshed their computers to get the latest on their young bar-tailed godwit, they were surprised by where it went, as most godwits fly direct from Alaska to New Zealand.

“We were on pins and needles for 12 days, watching as the winds pushed (the bird) to and fro . . . and eventually to Tasmania, about as far as a godwit from Alaska can possibly go,” Ruthrauff said.

Conklin was flying from his home in California to New Zealand in a commercial jetliner at the same time his bird was heading southward over the deep blue sea, its organs shrinking as it flapped along without refueling.

Conklin is now in New Zealand to study juvenile godwits. He wants to find out more about how young birds develop their adult skills. And, he hopes he will soon meet the hardy bird he and Ruthrauff held in July — if that godwit flies from Tasmania to New Zealand.

“It was a surprise that our first tracked juvenile went to Tasmania, for sure,” Conklin said. “About 65%-70% of the Alaska-breeding population spends the non-breeding season in New Zealand, and the rest is generally found on the east coast of mainland Australia.”

Ruthrauff has a reverence for these birds that cover so much of the globe silently amid all the changes, such as the human development of crucial oceanfront feeding grounds on the Yellow Sea off Korea and northern China.

“I try to remain boringly objective and detached but, honestly, holding shorebirds is pretty amazing, a real privilege,” Ruthrauff said. “So much wildness contained in one svelte, disinterested little package!”

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.

Back from Italy and still hungry, Chong turns to The K Food

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

I just concluded a two-week vacation in Europe with my wife and as one might think, it was a dreamlike experience packed with exceptionally delicious food. One spot we encountered was a small Korean takeout joint in the heart-achingly beautiful Monti district of Rome. Not only was I shocked to run into an authentic Korean restaurant on the cobblestoned streets of Italy, but I also thought their concept of featuring just a few key dishes was a novel and a welcome change of pace from the banquet-style experience typically associated with Korean dining.

We never got around to trying the food at said establishment, but I remained curious to see how it would've measured up to heightened expectations. It wasn't until shortly after I returned home that I recalled a similar place in town with a quick-service approach to Korean food that I've yet to try, much less know anything about.

I'm talking about The K Food, which emerged about a year ago in a Benson strip mall with no fanfare and zero social media presence to this day. All I could discern through my research is that they primarily focus on banchan, or Korean side dishes along with packaged lunch boxes known as dosirak—they're pretty much like Japanese bento boxes.

If there's one thing I was hungry for after my European sojourn, it was a taste of the bold, spicy, and fermented flavors I've known and loved all my life. So, it didn't take much thought to decide on checking out The K Food this week to see if they could satisfy my yearnings.

I walked in towards the end of their business hours last Thursday to find an empty storefront—minimally decorated, yet bright and cozy. My attention was drawn to a half-stocked fridge along the side wall which contained a modest selection of banchan packed in small containers. Stir-fried anchovies, dried squid, and braised black beans were among the few options left available for purchase, leaving me a bit remorseful thinking I had missed out on the bulk of the day's share. I also noted that each banchan was labeled in Hangul, the Korean alphabet, suggesting a requisite familiarity with the language or to at least have Google Translate handy to fully grasp what's on offer.

In particular, I had my heart set on a collagen-filled treat known as jokbal, which literally translates to pig's feet. They are braised for hours in soy sauce and sliced thin to be served with a spicy dipping sauce. I made use of what little Korean I know to inquire with the owner, Matthew, who kindly explained they only make this once a week and offered to take down my

name and number to let me know the next time it's available.

I certainly appreciated the kind gesture, but I still had the matter of an empty stomach to address. I requested a menu, which prompted Matthew's wife, Stella, to smile and gesture to a few large posters hung on a back wall to show what's available to order besides a host of prepackaged banchan. Three of the four posters featured a variation of dosirak, each with a different choice of protein: beef bulgogi, spicy pork bulgogi, and pork cutlets—all served with rice, a rolled omelet, side salad, and kimchi. The fourth



poster depicted bright illustrations of a few additional options such as bibimbap, fried chicken, and japchae to round things out. With so few choices to pore over, it didn't take very long for me to settle on an order, which came out in its entirety around 15 minutes later.

In that time, I spoke with Matthew as he enthusiastically commented on some shiny new gadgetry in the form of a shaved ice machine and a waffle maker specifically designed for bungeoppang: a fish-shaped dessert pastry typically filled with red bean paste. I could feel a sense of pride and workmanship through our interaction, even as he jokingly divulged how difficult it is to make all of their banchan by hand—no small task, as someone who rarely finds the willpower to make kimchi at home can personally attest.

Eventually, I went back home to unwrap my haul and began taking in the intoxicating aromas. The first thing I was eager to try was some kimbap, which is more or less analogous to sushi rolls. The compact tray contained four plump rolls—each stuffed with rice, egg, imitation crab, carrots, spinach, fish cake, and pickled radish. With this take on one of Korea's most beloved snacks, I appreciated the vegetables for their satisfying crunch. This was especially true of the pickled radish with its highlighter-yellow color and cool, crisp flavor.

The freshness of the ingredients is what stood out the most, as did the slight nuttiness from sesame oil brushed on lightly. For those new to this dish, the addition of imitation crab begs a comparison to the popular California roll, though I believe you get something much more varied and flavorful here.

Another dish I had to sample was teokbokki, or rice cakes simmered in a violently red gochujang sauce. The hearty chew of the rice cakes coupled with the potent, yet addictively savory heat of the sauce is what elevates this simple dish to must-try status in addition to being most suitable for the cold, dark months of winter. My container was loaded with the cylindrical rice cakes and while there were a few bits of cabbage and scallions strewn about, what made up the rest of

the volume were sheets of spongy fish cake and their relatively mild seafood flavor.

This was undeniably a straightforward preparation that leads me to wonder if this could've been perfected with the inclusion of hard-boiled eggs. Otherwise, I had no qualms with this fiery bowl of comfort thanks to the sauce's lingering sweetness that made it all too easy to demolish.

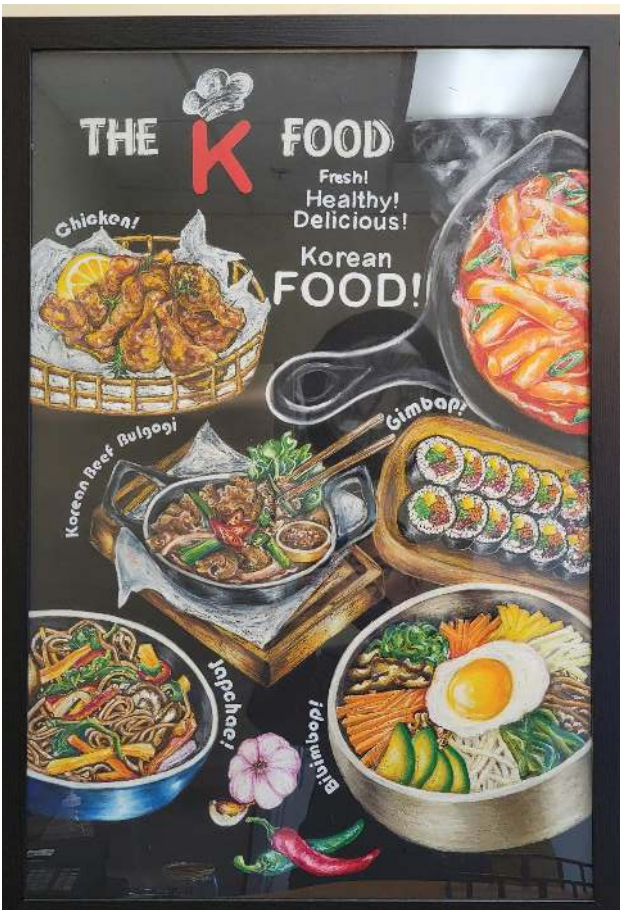
It wasn't until I started digging into the spicy pork dosirak that The K Food's true potential was revealed. The box's simple arrangement belied how great of a success every component was, led by a generous helping of thinly sliced pork with a fragrance marked by an explosive intensity and a promise of deliciousness to come. This was much saucier than one might come to expect in regard to Korean BBQ, but this made for an exceptional pairing with the steamed rice, serving as the perfect backdrop to the rich, nearly glowing sauce.

Though at first, I wasn't too sure about the consistency of the pork, this allowed the sauce to cling all the more to the thin shavings—barely strung together with strands of unctuous fat. As someone who's enjoyed this dish numerous times, I must say, this version was a complete knockout.

As for the accompanying sides, the radish kimchi was a welcome palate cleanser along with the simple salad in a creamy dressing. My first impression with the omelet is that it brought me back to my childhood, in that my mother would often prepare an egg dish nearly identical to this one, except hers would be filled with American cheese. On that note, this dosirak as a whole managed to instill feelings of nostalgia as if it were lovingly crafted by the tired hands of a Korean mother. Here, we find yet another example of how food appeals not just to the stomach, but to the soul as well.

Even now, I find myself glancing over at my phone periodically as I eagerly anticipate a call from The K Food to let me know their jokbal is in. But even if I don't ever hear back or get around to trying their full range of homemade banchan, this initial experience was enough to conclude that this unassuming eatery has the knowledge and skill to dish out some of Korean food's greatest hits. Their menu may not be as exhaustive as other places, but it's clear that the owners understand banchan and its importance as the vibrant heart of Korean cuisine. For a taste of Korea as fresh and invigorating as the service is fast and friendly, look no further than The K Food.

The K Foods is located at 343 W Benson Blvd Ste 3. Call them at (907) 222-2563 for up-to-date hours of operation.



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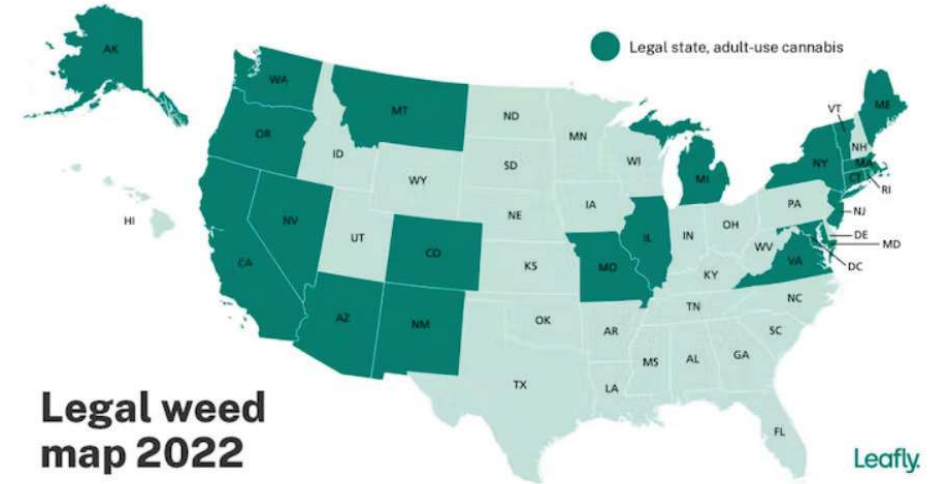


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Voted Best of Weed Maps

America hits 21 legalization states after roaring midterm elections

BY DAVID DOWNS
LEAFLY

America officially reached 21 legalization states Tuesday night, after a thrilling, surprising midterm election that added Maryland and then Missouri to the green team. More than 12 million Americans in those states became equal to their countrymen and women in 19 other states where marijuana freedom rings. That's 6.168 million Missourians and 6.165 million Marylanders out of the disastrous, 85-year-old war on marijuana. Maryland won early Tuesday night with 65% of the vote. Missouri followed later with a strong 53% of the vote after 89% of precincts reporting. Citizens voted by mail and in person. Five states had cannabis initiatives on the ballot, and Colorado voted on psychedelics legalization. Here's the Day 2 breakdown: Arkansas: Amendment 98, marijuana legalization—Failed. Colorado: Proposition 122, medical psychedelics legalization—Undecided. Maryland: Question 4, marijuana legalization—Passed. Missouri: Amendment 3, marijuana legalization—Passed. North Dakota: Measure 2, marijuana legalization—Failed. South Dakota: Initiated Measure 27, marijuana legalization—Failed.



Legal weed map 2022

Weedy victories access the land
A slew of good news greeted America's majority for legalization. Pro-pot Pennsylvania Democrat John Fetterman clinched the win over Dr. Oz for the crucial Senate seat. Meanwhile, more than two dozen California cities and counties voted on implementing legalization, 4 years after sales began. Americans returned staunchly pro-weed governors Gavin Newsom (California) and J.B. Pritzker (Illinois) to their seats. Five cities in Texas also decriminalized weed. The smoke's still clearing on the battle for the US House and Senate. As of press time, the Senate looked almost tied, while Republicans also seemed set to have a near tie in the House. Republican gains proved far narrower than anticipated. The red wave amounted to a red meh.
What does the 2022 midterm elections mean for weed?
Marijuana freedom took another halting step forward Tuesday, but the path ahead requires grit. A legal Missouri and Maryland, a staunchly pro-cannabis Pennsylvania Senator Fetterman adds fuel to the fire of federal reform. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer plans a SAFE Banking Plus bill for the lame duck. Republicans had already signed off on SAFE. The idea of more radical bills seem further off. Congress has an upcoming hearing scheduled on the matter. Reform will accelerate in the states. For example, New York's recreational store roll-out will be the story of the winter break. Meanwhile, California leaders aim to trade with other legalization states in the near-term, not long term. State and local California officials plan to issue more licenses faster, cut red tape and taxes, and crack down on the illicit trade. Tuesday night votes could add 150 new licenses in the coming years, MJBiz Daily estimates. Newly legal Missouri and Maryland harbor a 12.4M-person population. Those two cannabis markets alone consume about 350 metric tons of weed a year, based on survey data. At full legalization, that weight might equal \$770M in crop value for those two states, and retail sales would be quadruple that amount at full legalization—\$2.1B. Weed is usually a top 5 cash crop in legal states. Beyond those states, upcoming legalization measures are expected in Oklahoma, Ohio, Florida, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

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