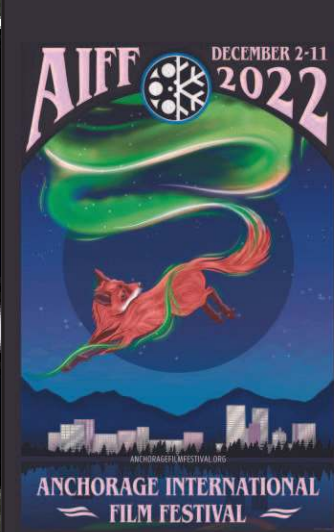
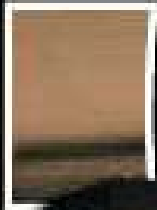


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Dunleavy 'fights' Alaska crime with PR, platitudes and unwarranted conclusions

BY DERMOT COLE

For reasons he has never explained to the public, Gov. Mike Dunleavy continues to pay a Washington, D.C. publicist \$4,000 or more a month to generate national publicity to promote Dunleavy.

He did this under a no-bid contract to begin with and has extended it time and again, which is contrary to state contracting regulations.

Just a reminder that the Anchorage Daily News last wrote about this contract on Sept. 23, when a Dunleavy spokesman "declined to answer" a question about what services Mary Vought is providing the state. The newspaper shouldn't leave it at that.

So far, Vought has collected more than \$100,000 from the state. From July 29 to Oct. 31, she received more than \$20,000, according to the state online checkbook. I suspect she is either writing columns under his name and pitching them to national publications or trying to get columns created by the Dunleavy PR machine in print.

Vought promoted the latest Dunleavy piece on Twitter, claiming "Once again, Alaska leads the way!"

Whoever actually wrote the grandstanding treatise that appeared online in the Wall Street Journal under Dunleavy's name, rest assured it was not Dunleavy.

Dunleavy misrepresents a lot about the crime situation in Alaska and his involvement. He voted for SB 91 on April 9, 2016. He voted against the bill the following month. The bill had changed, but not by that much. He was for it before he was against it.

It's absurd to link the recent experience regarding Alaska crime rates to "defund the police" and try to warp the record to fit a set of right-wing talking points.

The pandemic has had a big impact on Alaska society, including crime rates. An honest analysis would include that reality, along with an admission that this is a complicated topic and that year-to-year statistics may not show a real trend.

The 2021 state crime report, published just before the election, which Dunleavy uses to draw his conclusions, includes this warning: "Caution should be exercised when comparing data from year to year and making conclusions." The report doesn't mention the pandemic.

From the Wall Street Journal, allegedly by Dunleavy:

Since the beginning of civilization, the primary purpose of government has been to protect public safety. The Founders acknowledged this in the opening lines of the Declaration of Independence, when they wrote of the God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. "To secure these rights," they wrote, "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the con-



Mary Vought @MaryVought · 15h

Once again, Alaska leads the way!

"(Law enforcement) deserve our thanks and support. We won't demonize or defund them. We will defend our people, and we will defeat those who victimize others."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Opinion | Alaska Re-Funded the Police

wsj.com



sent of the governed."

Tragically, far too many Americans are living under governments that are failing to secure life and liberty. In many cases, prosecutors, mayors and city councils have abdicated this responsibility entirely. The "defund" movement and reforms that put criminals ahead of victims have caused a predictable rise in violent crime. Murder and car theft are skyrocketing, with no end in sight.

We've taken the opposite approach in Alaska, with far different outcomes.

The latest Crime in Alaska Report, based on data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, showed that crime rates fell here for the third year in a row and are now at a 41-year low. As recently as 2017, Alaska's crime rates were the highest in two decades. The steep decline hasn't been an accident.

Violent crime dropped 9.7% in Alaska in 2021; property crime declined 17.3%. Crime fell in every category except arson, and that was attributable to one suspect linked to seven incidents.

Our report also reveals that Alaska's rates of violent crime and rape remain unacceptably high and greater than national averages. We aren't spiking the football, and we will continue working to drive down these crimes by placing more resources into our departments of public safety, law and corrections.

Alaska tried cutting its public-safety budget in the middle of the last decade. The objective of legislation known as Senate Bill 91 was

similar to what we've heard from reform advocates in the lower 48 states: to reduce the prison population by essentially decriminalizing "petty" offenses and eliminating bail requirements. The number of state troopers was cut, posts were closed, and the ranks of village public-safety officers who work in remote Alaska communities fell by more than half.

More than property crimes like shoplifting and car theft soared as a result. The violent-crime rate reached a five-year high in 2018. In Anchorage, the state's largest city, 2017 and 2019 ranked first and second all-time for homicides. As a state senator, I voted against S.B. 91, which was signed into law by my predecessor as governor in 2016. Seven months after taking office in 2019, I signed the repeal of that law.

While many police jurisdictions across the country are struggling to retain and recruit officers, Alaska has graduated two full classes from its two law enforcement academies this year. Our state troopers, village public-safety officers, local law-enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers and many others have contributed to the declining crime rate. They deserve our thanks and support. We won't demonize or defund them. We will defend our people, and we will defeat those who victimize others.

There's no greater responsibility of a government or an elected official, and here in Alaska we're proving we take that job seriously.

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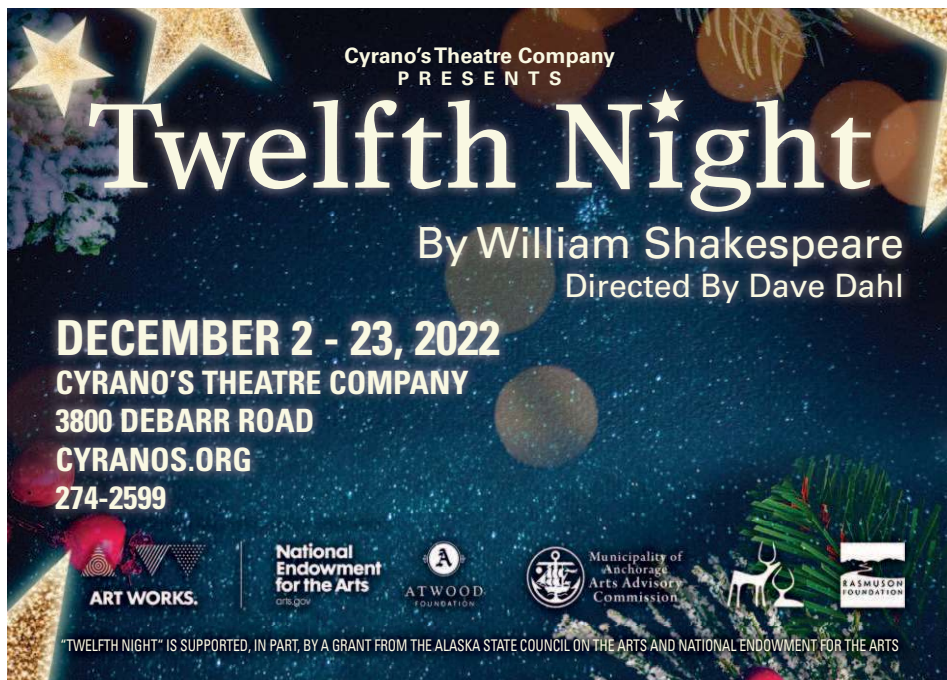
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THEATRE GUIDE



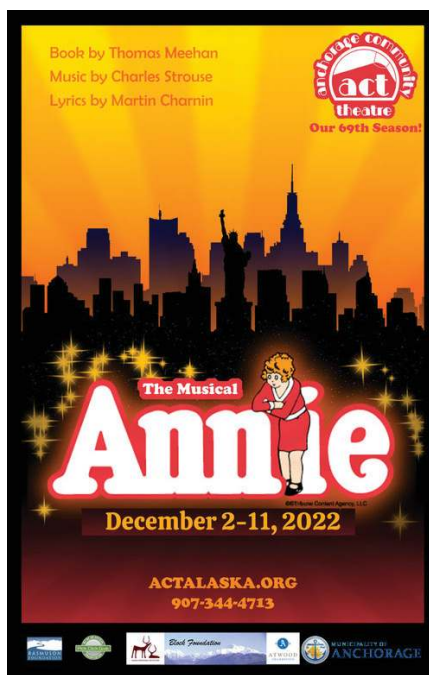
Cyrano's Presents Twelfth Night
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Dave Dahl

Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written around 1601–1602 as a Twelfth Night's entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with the Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man.
The production runs from December 2 - 23, 2022 with performances starting at 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 3pm on Sundays. Tickets start at \$27 at CenterTix.com.



Perserverance Theatre Presents Twelfth Night
By Kate Hamill
Directed by Cara Hinh
Based on the novel by Lousa May Alcott

Little Women by Kate Hamill based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott Directed by Cara Hinh This is a Pay-As-You-Can preview performance presented at the UAA Fine Arts Building Mainstage, 3700 Alumni Dr, Anchorage. A Co-Production of Perseverance Theatre and UAA Department of Theatre and Dance. Jo longs to be a writer and travel the world. Meg hopes to marry a respectable man and start a family. Amy wishes she could hurry and grow up already. And Beth just wants everyone to be happy. In this fresh take on a classic coming of age story, the beloved March sisters grow up against the backdrop of the Civil War. Accompanied by the rich boy next door, the temperamental aunt, the stuffy tutor, the devoted mother, and a surprising amount of fake mustaches, Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth navigate their way through poverty, loss, and society's expectations. Named Playwright of the Year by the Wall Street Journal in 2017, Kate Hamill expertly adapts a heartwarming and empowering tale of young women finding their way in the world.
The production runs from December 2 - 18, 2022 with performances starting at 7:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 4pm on Sundays. Tickets start at \$15 at ptalaska.org/ticketing.



ACT Presents The Musical Annie
Book by Thomas Meehan
Directed by Warren Weinstein

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the Orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations... and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.
The production runs from December 2 - 11, 2022 with performances starting at 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 3pm on Sundays. Tickets start at \$35 at CenterTix.com.



VPA Presents Babes in Toyland

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the Orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations... and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.
The production runs from November 25 - December 18, 2022 with performances starting at 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm on Sundays. Tickets start at \$35 at valleyperformingarts.org.



VPA Presents The Lifespan of a Fact
January 13 - 29, 2023

Jim Fingal is a fresh-out-of-Harvard fact checker for a prominent but sinking New York magazine. John D'Agata is a talented writer with a transcendent essay about the suicide of a teenage boy—an essay that could save the magazine from collapse. When Jim is assigned to fact check D'Agata's essay, the two come head to head in a comedic yet gripping battle over facts versus truth.

Cyrano's Presents First Date, The Musical
February 10 - March 5, 2023

When blind date newbie, Aaron, is set up with serial dater Casey, a casual drink at a busy New York restaurant turns into a hilarious high stakes dinner. This musical captures the funny adventures of being single and ready to mingle. "This is one first date you don't want to end!"

ACT Presents They Promised Her the Moon
March 3 - 26, 2023

The first American woman to test for space flight, Jerrie Cobb steps into an isolation tank for a record-breaking nine hours as her memories unfold before her, from learning to fly a plane as a child in Oklahoma to testifying in Congressional hearings about the under-the-radar all-female Mercury 13 space program. They Promised Her the Moon is a compelling drama about the challenges of sisterhood and fighting for the greater good, based on a true story.

Perserverance Theatre Presents The Great Leap
March 17 - 26, 2023

Loads of laughter and literature collide in this smart hit comedy about books and the people who love them. Ana lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job and her greatest passion: Book Club. But when her cherished group becomes the focus of a documentary film, their intimate discussions about life and literature take a turn for the hilarious in front of the inescapable camera lens.

Cyrano's Presents The Book Club Play
March 31 - April 23, 2023

Loads of laughter and literature collide in this smart hit comedy about books and the people who love them. Ana lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job and her greatest passion: Book Club. But when her cherished group becomes the focus of a documentary film, their intimate discussions about life and literature take a turn for the hilarious in front of the inescapable camera lens.

First Friday at 2 Friends



Lillith Moon



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@ 4pm

Come discover some incredible locally made treasures at our December Trunk Show! Silversmithing, bead work, gold nuggets, scarves and sweater dresses to start your holiday shopping! 2 Friends Gallery, 341 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage. 2friendsgallery@gmail.com, 907-277-0404

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ART FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION: UAA Art Department Faculty artworks

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OF THE FINE ARTS BUILDING

Image "Porch" Gary Meador, Transparent
Watercolor, 2022

Art First Friday Opening Reception Faculty Art

@ 5pm

The Opening Reception will be Friday, December 2, 5-7 pm outside of the Kimura Gallery on the 2nd Floor of the Fine Arts Building. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Email Editor@AnchoragePress.com with your January 2023 First Friday information by December 30th!

First Friday with KN Goodrich

@ 5pm

Cyrano's Art Gallery presents Dancing in the Night, new Pastel Paintings by K N Goodrich, December 2, 2022 thru December 30, 2022. The First Friday Reception will be held December 2 from 5-7pm. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

KillBill Sax: Private Event

@ 6pm

Private Event, Anchorage

First Friday Featuring Kim Mincer

@ 6pm

December First Friday at Clay Art Space. Featuring Kim Mincer, Artist and Alchemist, with a menagerie of artful notecards, prints, stickers, and healing balms. Clay Art Space, 5861 Arctic Boulevard, Anchorage. Sales@ClayArtSpace.com, 907-563-2529

Reverend Horton Heat

@ 7pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage

Twelfth Night

@ 7pm / \$30

Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy takes on a decidedly festive twist! Ring in your holiday season this year with romantic love, mistaken identities, comical clowns, holiday carols, and more. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org



December

First Friday



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1. Anchorage Museum - 625 C St. (10am-9pm)
2. Second Run Consignment - 720 D St., Suite A (11am-5:30pm)
3. Blush Boutique - 720 D St., Suite C (11am-6:30pm)
4. Weather Boutique - 720 D St., Suite B (11am-6:30pm)
5. Skinny Raven Sports - 800 H St. (5-7pm)
6. Tundra Herb Company - 520 W 6th Ave., Suite A (10am-11:55pm)
7. The Kobuk - 504 W 5th Ave. (10am-5pm)
8. Bottoms Up Boutique - 320 W 5th Ave., Suite 124 (11am-6:30pm)
9. IGCA - 427 D St. (5-8pm)
10. Sara's Gift Cache - 408 W 4th Ave. (10am-8pm)
11. Kaffee Klatsch - 508 W 2nd Ave. (5-8pm)
12. Seigny Studio - 312 G St. (10am-9pm)
13. Tiny Gallery - 706 W 4th Ave. (11am-8pm)
14. Rhonda Scott Art in the Whale's Tail @ Hotel Captain Cook - 939 W 5th Ave. (1-9pm)
15. Stephan Fine Arts - 939 W 5th Ave. (6-8:30pm)
16. The Cubby @ Hotel Captain Cook - 939 W 5th Ave. (6-8:30pm)
17. Snow City Cafe - 1034 W 4th Ave. (5-7pm)



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A basket star is seen on the Alaska seafloor. If ocean warming continues on its current trajectory, marine life at the bottom of the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea will look a lot different in the coming decades, according to a new study. The seafloor environment will be too warm for the snails, worms, clams and mussels that make up the diets of walruses and some seabirds and fish species. But basket stars like this one and related brittle stars — species that do not currently play much of a role in the food web — are expected to thrive in the warmer temperatures. (Photo by John Rix)

The bottom of the Bering and Chukchi seas could become too warm for some important species

BY YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA BEACON

There is danger lurking on the floor of the Bering and Chukchi seas for mussels, snails, clams, worms, and other cold-water invertebrates, according to a new study led by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists.

If climate change continues its current trajectory, the Bering and Chukchi seafloor areas will be too warm for those creatures by the end of the century.

In turn, that means trouble for walruses and other marine species. Snails and mussels are particularly important to commercially harvested fish like halibut and yellowfin sole, along with being prey for the Pacific walrus that gather in the summer in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi seas. The Bering Sea is part of the North Pacific Ocean south of the Bering Strait that separates Alaska from Russia, while the Chukchi Sea is part of the Arctic Ocean just north of the strait.

The results warn that those seafloor-dwelling populations of invertebrates that support the Bering Sea and the Chukchi Sea marine mammals “may be seriously impacted by future ocean warming,” the study said. That also affects coastal residents who depend on traditional harvests of walruses and seabirds for food and cultural connections, the study said.

Under the current climate trajectory, key cold-water bottom-dwelling prey species are on track to lose half of their suitable habitat by mid-century, the study said. By the end of the century, almost the entire Bering and Chukchi sea region would be too warm for them to live on the seafloor there, the study found.

The resulting seafloor habitat would be taken over by a few species that can tolerate a wide range of temperatures — creatures like brittle stars and basket stars, relatives of sea stars. But those marine species are minor players in the food web.

The study is a cooperative effort of scientists from NOAA’s Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, the University of Washington, and the Institute of Marine Research in Norway. It uses a decade’s worth of data to calculate the preferred temperatures for a variety of species that dwell on the bottom of the sea in areas of the Bering and Chukchi that normally have seasonal ice coverage.

In the past, that data has been used to understand fish and crab populations that are important to the commercial seafood industry. The new study, however, used the data to examine the prospects for sometimes overshadowed bottom-dwelling species. That makes it the first examination of climate change impacts on the entire suite of invertebrates living on the seafloor environment there, said lead author Libby Logerwell of NOAA’s Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

The prospects appear grim for most of them – and for the species that need them for food.

“The climate models under this ‘business-as-usual’ climate change scenario project that the thermal habitat for all but the few most heat-tolerant arctic invertebrates will shrink dramatically northward by the end of the century,” Logerwell said by email.

The species that would benefit account for only about 8% of the animal groups currently in the environment, the study said.

Because the study projects into the future, its findings do not explain the recent crash in Bering Sea crab stocks, Logerwell said. The “thermal habitat” for crabs still exists through much of the Bering, she said. However, long-term prospects appear to be poor if climate change continues on its current trajectory. Habitat with suitable temperatures for crab species is likely to move farther north, she said.

The study was published in the journal Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography.



IEYMI!

Ed Washington played an encore performance at Arciniega Street Productions' Lights Down Low concert series on Saturday. (Top)

The Queens Guard provided Cafecito Bonito patrons hot drinks and more importantly, safety at Sunday's Drag Loteria. In the wake of Colorado's deadly shooting, Loteria host Kendra Arciniega reiterated the importance of LGBTQIA+ events and support from the Anchorage community. (Bottom)

All photos by @SmokeyTheBruin





The Eugene Ballet returned to Anchorage after a three year COVID hiatus. Local dancers rounded out The Nutcracker cast and provided invaluable experience for Anchorage's young dance students.

All photos by @ShipeShots





Alaska resident Mike Gordon shares his stories of ‘learning the ropes’ in Alaska

BOOK REVIEW
BY DAVID A. JAMES

Near the end of his 2019 memoir “Learning the Ropes,” Mike Gordon writes, “moderation has never been my strong suit.” Those seven words pretty well summarize a life spent doing just about everything imaginable except perhaps sitting still.

Gordon is best known for founding Chilkoot Charlie’s the sprawling, nationally-renowned Spenard nightclub that has been an Anchorage landmark for over half a century. He also made news for several years as he sought to become the first Alaskan to scale the Seven Summits, the highest peaks on each of the planet’s seven continents. He’s left his mark on Alaska in countless other ways as well since arriving as a child, before the Last Frontier became a state. And at an age when most people are content to relax and (hopefully) enjoy the fruits of their life’s labors, Gordon has added full-time writer to his list of careers.

“It all began on my first trip to Everest,” Gordon said of his writing in a recent phone interview. During his 1990 attempt at reaching the earth’s highest point, he was weathered in at Advanced Base Camp, whiling away the hours in a tent with the highly accomplished climber Vern Tejas and a few others. In an effort at passing the time, he told his fellow climbers a story about a moose hunting trip from his childhood. His captive audience was clearly entertained, Gordon told me, and he thought to himself, “maybe I should write that down. So I did.”

Gordon kept writing. Not just on that climb, but after he got home as well. “I brought those stories back to Anchorage with me and refined them,” he said. “They’re all parts of either ‘Learning the Ropes’ or ‘Dagnabit!’”

“Learning the Ropes” is a memoir of a life lived large. Gordon moved to Alaska in the 1950s when his parents left the Deep South for the Far North. The early pages follow him through high school, and on to the University of San Francisco, which he left in the early sixties, just shy of graduating, when marriage and children ended his college days and Alaska pulled him back.

After a few false starts and a brief career in insurance, Gordon’s trajectory was set in 1970 when he purchased the Alibi Club, a small lounge in Spenard. Even then, he was thinking on a grand scale. First he renamed it Chilkoot Charlie’s, after a beloved character created by his close friend and mentor, legendary Alaskan radio host, poet, artist, and all-around raconteur Ruben Gaines. Gaines’ permission to use Charlie’s image for the club’s name and logo was key to its success, and Gordon remains indebted to Gaines for both this and the close friendship they enjoyed.

Gordon opened Chilkoot Charlie’s, or Koot’s as it’s popularly known, at one of the most opportune times in Alaskan history. Within a few years, construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline commenced, and Alaska entered a period as wild and transformative as the Gold Rush nearly eight decades earlier. “I kind of refer to the early seventies as the Wild West Days,” he says of the period, which features prominently in the book. “It was pretty wild and crazy.” Anchorage, he added, was “fairly lawless.”

Gordon’s life, like Alaska itself, was subject to extreme highs and brutal lows. With Alaskans swimming in disposable income, Koot’s was wildly successful and grew in size from a small club into the city’s premier attraction. Gordon’s personal life was often in shambles, however. His first marriage fell apart and he unwisely rebounded into a second that ended quickly. In this period, though, he met his third wife, Shelli. The story of overcoming some rocky periods and making the marriage work lies at the heart of the first memoir, “At it’s core, that book is a love story,” Gordon told me. “At least, I think it is.”

He didn’t make it easy on Shelli, and one of the characteristics of Gordon’s writing is a blunt honesty about his own mistakes. He doesn’t make excuses, and neither does he ask for forgiveness. He simply lays them out and lets readers judge for themselves.

As part of an effort at redirecting his life in the eighties, Gordon decided to scale Denali despite having no significant climbing experience. Success at this quickly prompted his efforts at reaching the highest summit on each continent. He was successful on six, and the stories he tells from the mountains are captivating, especially his attempts at Everest, which detail how difficult climbing can be. On his third and final try, equipment malfunctions, exhaustion, and thin air brought him to a halt 1500 vertical feet shy of his goal. He knew he could reach the top, but he doubted he could survive the descent, that tricky period when so many climbs turn fatal.

“At least I had the wherewithal to recognize that I was at my limits,” Gordon told me. “Not everyone recognizes that point. And even if they do, some of them are so driven that they keep going anyway. The summit’s only halfway in my mind. It doesn’t count if you don’t make it back. Of course, it was still a very difficult decision.”

Gordon returned and patched up his relationship with Shelli, to who he remains happily married to today. He quit climbing, but in keeping with his inability to sit still, he next decided to finish his degree through the University of San Francisco, which he obtained in 2011 as the school’s oldest-ever graduate.

“Learning the Ropes” ends on that triumph, but Gordon kept going. By this point, the short stories he had begun writing on Everest had been published in various outlets, including the Anchorage Press, where they continue to be found. “I’ve never written specifically for the Press,” he explained, “the Press has just published my stories. And I owe them a great debt of gratitude. Because that’s how I got to be known as a writer.”

Seeking to better his writing, Gordon entered the master’s program at Alaska Pacific University, which he completed in 2014. He planned on getting his master’s in history or philosophy, he said, but Tim Rawson, his first faculty advisor, told him he could either publish a book in one of those areas and not sell many copies, “or you could write a book that nobody else could write.”

“That was the beginning of the memoir,” Gordon said. The master’s program “was exactly what I needed. I was floundering. I couldn’t have finished the book without it.”

The book tightened up, with the flow alternating between stories of Gordon’s colorful life and accounts of his climbs. He had far more material than the book could contain, though, which is what led to its follow-up, “Dagnabit!” in 2021 (a third memoir, “Naked Alaska,” is in the works). The second book is a grab bag of stories, and if the first was a love letter to Shelli, the second honors Gaines, who Gordon views as not just central to his life, but as a foundational Alaskan. “I feel so fortunate that I was able to know Rueben as well as I did,” he said. “I owe him a lot. The inspiration for writing. He drew my logo.”

“Rueben was an enormously talented human being,” Gordon continued. “At the time that he was broadcasting in Alaska, he was arguably the best in the business. Not just in Alaska. We had something there that was profoundly unique and special. A man who understood and loved and projected Alaskan. Its essence. Back in the day, everybody knew who he was. Everybody knew who Chilkoot Charlie was. Not just the bar.” He added, with audible regret, “I never would have dreamt that the bar’s notoriety would ever eclipse the originator of Chilkoot Charlie, or the character.”

I could hear the emotion in his voice as Gordon said of Gaines, “He was like a father to me. When I write, I can frequently hear his voice in my head. He was an inspiration. He was in large part responsible for that uniqueness that we call Alaskan. And I think it’s a shame that today hardly anybody knows who he is. So I was not only trying to pay tribute to the man, but I was also trying to resurrect him in my own small way.”

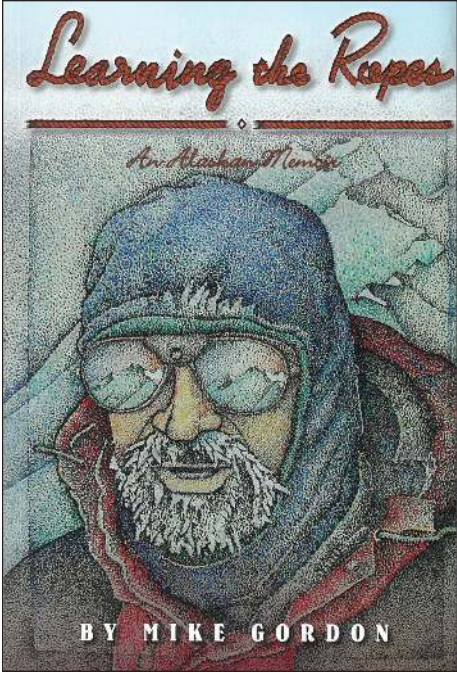
Gordon does this through stories about Gaines, as well as by including some of Gaines’ writings in Dagnabit!, which offer readers a sense of Gaines’ personality and deep love for Alaska. “During his day, he was the king of the roost,” Gordon recalled. “Everybody appreciated him. When he came on the radio for his Conversation Unlimited, everybody set aside what they were doing and listened to Rueben.”

Listening to Gordon is one way of hearing echoes of Gaines, and of learning about a time in Alaska’s history that we don’t have enough memoirs from. His life parallels the state’s arc from quiet backwater in the sixties to manic uncontrolled party in the seventies, followed by the bust of the eighties, and the slow rebuild in the nineties. The two books are wild rides through wild times by someone who was at the center of it all and lived to tell the tale. The stories are sometimes rugged, sometimes sweet, occasionally profane, and always deeply human. They provide a window into an era that is fading into the past, and that we need a better understanding of to truly know who we are today.

As Gordon puts it so well at the outset of his second memoir, “In this rapidly changing sound bite world and our cancel culture, the disposable society we Alaskans need to cling tightly to our past—our uniqueness—those many small things that differentiate us from the rest of the world, and much of it a gift from one man. Alaska can ill afford to forget Ruben Gaines, dagnabit!”

Gordon is passing it forward.

Mike Gordon can be found online at mikegordonauthor.com where copies of his books can be ordered.



Alaska-sized Tex Mex

Benny's, may ye remain constant and your glory never fade.

RESTAURANT REVIEW
BY JIN CHONG

Food trucks may be all the rage these days, but one institution has endured as an icon of Anchorage dining for decades and long before this concept went mainstream. At first, the tarnished orange and mint green façade of Benny's Food Wagon could be mistaken as nothing but a hotbed of health code violations, but the truth is that this cherished business carries far more meaning as thousands have frequented to enjoy abundant platters of Mexican American food since 1969. With one passing glance, it's easy to see that little has changed over the wagon's storied history but ultimately works in its favor as a significant part of its lasting appeal.

Mexican cuisine in general has seen quite the evolution since its integrated introduction to the States, but Benny's menu resembles what may have been the original lineup back in its inception. It's no surprise, given what's served here are essentially crowd-pleasing hits with legions of ardent fans around the world. It's the kind of food that continues to capture and clog the hearts of millions for delivering bold, fragrant spices and magnificent amounts of melted cheese.

Food trucks by nature have little choice but to actively seek out customers per their business model, but Benny's has almost always remained stationary, leaving me to wonder when this blocky vehicle last went mobile. Maybe it's the inescapable allure of deep-fried burritos and gigantic portions that keeps people coming back year after year. For me, I realized it's been way too long since I last paid my dues at this long-running Anchorage landmark. And with talk of inflation running as rampant as ever these days, I thought to examine whether this 50-plus-year-old business still has what it takes to offer up a delicious meal at an affordable price.

Pulling into their lot on a lunch break last week felt like being transported back to my college years as I became awash with a sense of comfort and familiarity from those halcyon days. Anyone who's dined at Benny's is likely to recall being welcomed into the cramped corners of the worn-out bus to see where all the magic happens. This level of intimacy would afford the opportunity to see how this business has managed to operate for longer than many of us have been alive, but on this chilly day, I was instead greeted at the door by a friendly woman who proceeded to take my order.

The food selection at Benny's is as simple as can be. The focus here is on the classics, which comprise a few variations of ingredients in tortillas that are served individually or alongside the ubiquitous rice and beans. Tamales and taco salads are the only two items available outside the scope of tacos and burritos, so in order to incorporate a little variety, I went with a combo plate comprised of a tamale, fried bean burrito, and plenty of the aforementioned sides.

My order total came out to a meager \$9, and after handing over some cash (which is accepted as the sole method of payment to this day), I was told they'd bring the food



over to my car in about five minutes. They happened to be right on the dot as my giddy heart went aflutter upon receiving a weighty oval paper platter with a foil cover. From there, the clock immediately started ticking as I rushed back to the office to begin eating before everything devolved into a steaming pile of mush.

I went straight for the rice—each grain slicked red and saturated with zesty tomato and a distinct peppery kick. The grains had a sturdy chew which made them feel a little more substantial. This side underwent somewhat of an upgrade in the form of Benny's in-house salsa; with a deep chipotle smokiness that lingered in the back of my throat. The only appropriate response to rice this good was to just eat and eat until realizing I had much more to tackle, including the mass of beans which were studded with clusters of whole, starchy pintos. These were imbued with a meaty essence that kept me coming back for more unlike the loose, insipid soup you might be unfortunate to find elsewhere.

After having my fill of sides, I sank my fork into the tamale which tasted like everything I wanted it to be: a soft-textured masa base formed around chunks of well-seasoned chicken. One nitpick was that the meat was slightly dry but not quite chalky or offensive. In any case, some additional hot salsa helped moisten things up and tie everything together into a flavorful package that proved to be a robust alternative compared to a standard taco or burrito.

Speaking of which, my burrito was a beautiful golden marvel, having been transformed by way of deep frying into a flaky pocket filled with refried beans and split down the middle to accommodate a handful of shredded cheese. The transmogrified shell was crisp and crackly with a translucent, doughy interior and a trove of warm, hearty beans beneath.

This sort of deep-fried indulgence would not be out of place in a fair food stall—in fact, I can imagine some crazed carny being credited for inventing such an unbridled manifestation of overindulgence. This product of mystical, alchemic forces makes a strong case for the idea that the best way to prepare any kind of food is to throw it in a deep fryer. In other words, these are a must-try.

Hoping to mitigate the impending post-lunch food coma to whatever extent possible, I decided not to finish my entire meal in one go. But since one greasy smorgasbord of epic proportions wasn't enough to render me incapacitated, I returned to Benny's a few days later to order yet another tamale along with one of their hard tacos.

The rice and beans were just as good as before, if not somehow better. The same goes for the tamale, which at this point I'm wholly convinced I'll be having much more of going forward. I did have one small hangup with the taco, however—the shell had softened to a state where it was barely functional by the time I got home which resulted in a gloppy mess. Still, the flavors were able to hit all the right notes and offer a very homey presentation. Inside the taco was beef seasoned with an adequate amount of spices, though I could tell the meat was on the leaner side from the texture. If anything, the lesson I came away with is that the sooner you dive into your Tex-Mex bounty, the better.

My evaluation of Benny's Food Wagon can be boiled down to a single question—where else in town can you find a buffet platter's worth of food for less than \$10? Even fast-food restaurants these days can't afford to match this supreme value, which is likely the biggest reason why Benny's has survived for as long as it has. This prominent fixture of midtown—while perfectly embodying the phrase “if it ain't broke...” —distillates the essence of what makes Mexican American cuisine so timeless and endearing in perpetuity. Unlike so many restaurants that have come and gone, Benny's is an irrevocable part of Anchorage history to the extent that I would assert you're not a local unless you've eaten here. As seasons change and men grow old and perish, Benny's—may ye remain constant and your glory never fade.

Benny's Food Wagon is open Monday — Friday from 10:30am — 7pm and Saturdays from 11am — 6pm. Visit them at 600 E Benson Blvd.





Tuesday Night Trivia!

Live Music Lineup!

Thursday December 1
7:30 *Nothin But Karma*

Friday December 2
8:30 *Unknowns*

Saturday December 3
8:30 *Parton My French*

@Humpy's



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every **SUNDAY**

Big Screen TV's at Flattop!

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

PRESSING EVENTS

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powered by *event*

Thu 12/01

Thursday Night Fights:Boxing

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

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

Fri 12/02

Featured



ART FIRST FRIDAY

OPENING RECEPTION:
UAA Art Department Faculty artworks

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND
THE ONGOING LEGACY OF THE
KIMURA GALLERY.

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 2
5:00-7:00 PM

OUTSIDE OF THE KIMURA
GALLERY ON THE 2ND FLOOR
OF THE FINE ARTS BUILDING



Image "Pipit" - Caryn Kessler, Transparent Watercolor, 2022

Art First Friday Opening Reception Faculty Art

@ 5pm

The Opening Reception will be Friday, December 2, 5-7 pm outside of the Kimura Gallery on the 2nd Floor of the Fine Arts Building. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Astoria State presents Countdown To Christmas with Special Guests

@ 6:30pm / \$20-\$60

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Reverend Horton Heat

@ 7pm

Williwaw Social, 609 F Street, Anchorage

Twelfth Night

@ 7pm / \$30

Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy takes on a decidedly festive twist! Ring in your holiday season this year with romantic love, mistaken identities, comical clowns, holiday carols, and more. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Featured



Little Women

ANCHORAGE • DECEMBER 2ND-18TH

JUNEAU • APRIL 7TH-23RD

Perseverance Theatre and University of Alaska: Anchorage's Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Dec 2nd - Dec 18th

Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Produced by Perseverance Theatre and University of Alaska: Anchorage. Dec.2nd-Dec.18th. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. info@perseverancetheatre.org, 907-364-2421

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Sat 12/03

Holiday Makers Market

@ 12pm

Holiday Makers Market - Shop small and Local! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Suite A3 front of building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Grand Opening of The Rug Gallery by Elaine Baker

@ 5pm

Grand Opening for The Rug Gallery by Elaine Baker and Associates. Hotel Captain Cook, 939 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage. elaine@finefurnishings.net, 907-903-5400

Twelfth Night

@ 7pm / \$30

Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy takes on a decidedly festive twist! Ring in your holiday season this year with romantic love, mistaken identities, comical clowns, holiday carols, and more. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration

@ 8pm / \$20

Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Sun 12/04

Featured



ARTISAN'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR

December 4th



Alaska Zoo Artisan's Bazaar

@ 10am

Shop for the perfect locally made holiday gifts at the Alaska Zoo's 2nd Annual Artisan's Bazaar being held on December 4th in the Zoo Gateway Hall during the Christmas for the Animals event. 4731 O'Malley Rd, 4731 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. web@alaskazoo.org, 907-346-2133



Featured



Christmas for the Animals

Sunday, December 4th, 2022



Christmas for the Animals at the Alaska Zoo

@ 10am

Join us on December 4th for our annual Christmas for the Animals event. Bring food donations for zoo animals and the Food Bank of Alaska. This event is sponsored by the Alaska Community Foundation. 4731 O'Malley Rd, 4731 O'Malley Road, Anchorage. web@alaskazoo.org, 907-346-2133



Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Toasty TaTas Burlesque Brunch

@ 11:30am / \$20

Toasty TaTas Burlesque Brunch The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Reverence: A Winter Concert

@ 4pm / Free

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage

Early Music Ensemble Concert

@ 4pm / \$20

The UAA Department of Music will have an Early Music Ensemble performance, Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 PM at the UAA Fine Arts Building. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Intro to Pickleball Dec. 4th

@ 9pm

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

Tue 12/06

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

@ 7pm / \$50

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

Blue Man Group

@ 7:30pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Wed 12/07

Blue Man Group

@ 7:30pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Thu 12/08

Best Workplaces Alaska 2022

@ 11:30am / \$70-\$500

O'Malley's On the Green, 3651 O'Malley Road, Anchorage

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Blue Man Group

@ 7:30pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Fri 12/09

Habitat Earth

@ 6:30pm / \$10

The UAA Planetarium & Visualization Theater will be showing Habitat Earth on Friday December 9 at 6:30-7:30 PM located in the UAA - ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building - Room 220! UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, 3101 Science Circle, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Steve Gillespie

@ 7pm

HOOKED ENTERTAINMENT, 1200 E 76th Ave SUITE 1222, Anchorage

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Sat 12/10

Featured



WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Holiday Bazaar

December 10, 2022

9:30 to 4:00

West High School
1700 Hillcrest Dr.

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS & CRAFTERS

2022 West High School Holiday Bazaar

@ 9:30am

2022 West High School Holiday Bazaar West High School, 1700 Hillcrest Drive, Anchorage. south_alynson@asdk12.org, 907-742-2500

Alaska Christkindlmarkt

@ 10am

A traditional German Christmas market hosted at the local ASD German School of Arts and Sciences, Rilke Schule. Local vendors, live music, food trucks, and reindeer photo ops! Rilke Schule German School of Arts and Sciences, 1846 East 64th Avenue, Anchorage. rsvchristkindlmarkt@rilkeschuleverein.org

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

Snow Globe Run

@ 11am / \$30

Peanut Farm, 5227 Old Seward Hwy, Anchorage

Holiday Market Run

@ 11:30am / Free

800 H St., Anchorage

Blue Man Group

@ 2pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Comedian Steve Gillespie

@ 7pm / \$20-\$25

Koot's, 2435 Spenard Rd, Anchorage

Twelfth Night

@ 7pm / \$30

Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy takes on a decidedly festive twist! Ring in your holiday season this year with romantic love, mistaken identities, comical clowns, holiday carols, and more. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

University Guitar Ensemble Show

@ 7:30pm / \$10

The UAA University Guitar Ensemble will be performing on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 PM in the UAA Recital Hall (3700 Alumni Dr)! Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Sweet Cheeks Cabaret: Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration

@ 8pm / \$20

Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration The Broken Blender, 535 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. sweetcheekscabaret@gmail.com

Sun 12/11

Blue Man Group

@ 2pm

Atwood Concert Hall, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Twelfth Night

@ 3pm / \$30

Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy takes on a decidedly festive twist! Ring in your holiday season this year with romantic love, mistaken identities, comical clowns, holiday carols, and more. Cyrano's Theatre Company, 3800 Debarr Road, Anchorage. alexis@cyranos.org

Little Women

@ 7:30pm / \$50

Perseverance Theater and the UAA Department of Theater and Dance present Little Women by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Fine Arts Building, 3700 Alumni Drive, Anchorage. 907-786-6358

Tue 12/13

Art Class-Christmas Tree W/Resin, Glass, Shells & More!

@ 5:30pm / \$50

Advanced Reservations Required * Art Class-Christmas Tree W/Resin, Glass, Shells & More! Turnagain Arts Building, 4105 East Turnagain Boulevard, Suite A3 front of building facing the street, Anchorage. sparkletribe1@gmail.com

Wed 12/14

Bert Kreischer

@ 6pm

Alaska Airlines Center, 3550 Providence Drive, Anchorage

Bert Kreischer: Alaska Airlines Center

@ 7pm

Alaska Airlines Center, 3550 Providence Dr, Anchorage

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AK CONCERTS

akconcerts.com

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

Thursday, December 1st

Bear Paw Bar & Grill - Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Humpy's – Nothin' But Karma 8:30p-12:30a
Koot's – Grace C Elliot 9p-12a
Tailgater's Sport's Bar & Grill (Wasilla) - The AKoustic Project 7p-10p
Van's Dive Bar – Hwy9 & Friends 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Local Showcase feat: Drew Erickson & The Nameless 9p-12a



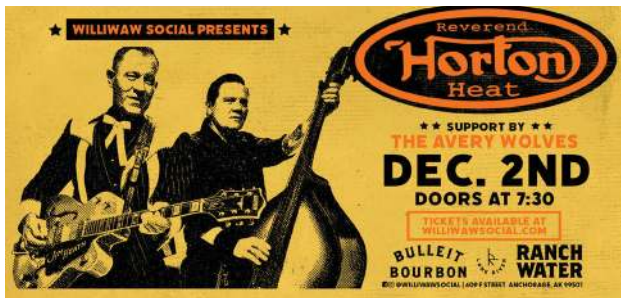
Friday, December 2nd

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – ACT Presents: Annie 7p-10p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Portland Cello Project Holiday Show 7:30p-9:20p
Bear Paw Bar & Grill - Comedy with the Sklar Brothers 7p-9p & 9:30p-11:30p
The Broken Blender – Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration 8p-9:30p
The Carousel Lounge – First Friday Reggae with DJ Prince Albert 8p-2a
East Anchorage High School – Dance Contempo Fall Dance Concert 2022: DANCE IS 6p-7p
Everett's (Wasilla) – Comedy Show w/ April Macie 7p-10p
Floaters (Big Lake) – Open Mic Night 7p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Humpy's – Unknowns 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Caribbean Night w/ DJ Millitant 9:30p-2a
Koot's – Astoria State w/ The Jephries & Alaska Thunder Funk 7p-2:45
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Nave Spenard – Athabaskan Fiddlers Dance 7p-11p
The Sitzmark (Girdwood) – Loaded Karma Live 9p-12a
UAA Fine Arts Building - Glee Club Fall Concert 7:30p-9p
Van's Dive Bar – Happy Hoe-lidays! w/ Jamie Whiteman, Fiona Rose w/ Logan Bean, & Brainhole 9p-12a
Williwaw Social – Reverend Horton Heat w/ Avery Wolves 7:30p-10p
Williwaw Social – Disco Cowgirl: A Mash Up Dance Party w/ DJ GRE 10:30p-2a
The Workshop – All Ages Open Mic 5p-7p



Saturday, December 3rd

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – TUBACHRISTMAS 2022 12p-1:15p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – ACT Presents: Annie 7p-10p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Portland Cello Project Holiday Show 7:30p-9:20p
Anchorage Moose Lodge – Danger Money Live at the Moose 8p-12a
Anchorage Social Dance Club – Urban Cowboy 2.0 / Hustle Lesson 7p-11p
The Broken Blender – Twisted Wonderland: A Burlesque Holiday Celebration 8p-9:30p
Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-12a
The Gaslight Bar – The Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 8p-11p
Hatcher Pass Lodge (Palmer) – Flat Light Fest w/ Lodge Mom & Wiley Post Band 3p-7p
Humpy's – Parton My French 9:30p-1:30a
Koot's – Comedian April Macie 7p-8:30p & 9p-10:30p
Koot's – The Avery Wolves & Eternal Cowboys 10p-2:45
Loussac Library – Mark Manners Sextet Change in Time CD release concert 7:30p-9:30p
Lucy Cuddy Hall - PACIFIC ISLAND Dancing with the Stars Gala 6p-10:30p
Mad Myrna's – Mad Myrna's Diva Variety Show 9p-11:30p
The Nave Spenard – Anchorage Bowl Chamber Orchestra Winter Concert 7:30p-9p
The Sitzmark (Girdwood) – Loaded Karma Live 9p-12a
UAA Fine Arts Building - Glee Club Fall Concert 7:30p-9p
Van's Dive Bar – Strawberry Friend & Friends & Friend's Friends 8p-1a
Williwaw Social – 5th Annual Prohibition Repeal Party w/ Clint Samples 8p-2a
Williwaw Social – 6th Annual Ugly Sweater Party w/ DJ Cross 9p-2a



SEASON 24

GLEE CLUB

FALL CONCERT 2022

ENTRY BY DONATION

02-03 DOORS OPEN
DECEMBER AT 7PM
FRIDAY SHOW STARTS
& SATURDAY AT 7:30PM

UAA FINE ARTS
RECITAL HALL
ROOM 150
3700 ALUMNI DR,
ANCHORAGE

UAA is an AAEO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual.

Come perform music, vocals, poetry, share wisdom, or just come support your friends and enjoy the show!



Sunday, December 4th

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – ACT Presents: Annie 3p-6p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Community Concert Band: Reverence 4p-6p
The Broken Blender – Toasty TaTas Burlesque Brunch 11:30p-1p
The Carousel Lounge – AK Rockstar Karaoke 8p-2a
Humpys - Open Mic Jam 8p-11p
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Koot's – Sparkles Karaoke 10p-2a
Mad Myrna's – Anchorage Cabaret: The Golden Age of Broadway 7p-9p
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
West High School – Anchorage Concert Chorus: 74th Community Messiah 2p-4p

Monday, December 5th

Koot's – The Monday Mic at Koots 9p-12a
Van's Dive Bar – Jay Straw's Bass to Mouth Mondays! 9p-12a

Tuesday, December 6th

American Legion Spenard Post 28 – Taco Tuesday Open Mic w/Uncle Jim! 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, December 7th

907 Alehouse – Tyrone Palmer & Friends 7p-10p
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Blue Man Group 7:30p-8:40p
Eddie's Sports Bar – Jukebox Karaoke Roadshow 9p-12a
Humpy's – Becky Kotter 8:30p-12:30a
Koot's – Country Night with DJ Lefty 8p-12a
Koot's – Comedy Open Mic 8:30p-10p
Mad Myrna's – Karaoke 9p-12a
Palmer Alehouse (Palmer) – Regina & Will live 6p-9p
Pioneer Bar – The Eternal Cowboys 10p-12a
PubHouse – Witty Youngman 7p-10p
Schwabenhof (Wasilla) - Open Mic 7p-12a



2022 SCHEDULE

ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FRI 12/2	7:00 PM	BT	OPENING NIGHT! (DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM) THE LAST BIRDS OF PASSAGE
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SAT 12/3	10 AM	AM	SHORTS: KIDZ-A-BONANZA
	12 PM	AM	BIG CROW
	2 PM	AM	SHORTS: MADE IN ALASKA 1 
	4 PM	AM	CROWS ARE WHITE
	6 PM	AM	SHORTS: DIFFERENT KIND OF LOVE STORIES
	8 PM	AM	YOU RESEMBLE ME

SUN 12/4	10 AM	AM	SHORTS: MADE IN ALASKA 2 
	12 PM	AM	SHORTS: YOLO
	2 PM	AM	DEALING WITH DAD
	4 PM	AM	SHORTS: UNEXPECTED FRIENDSHIPS
	6 PM	AM	BERING, FAMILY REUNION 

MON 12/5	5 PM	BT	SHORTS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH 
	8 PM	BT	EXPOSURE

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No Screenings

Tuesday, December 6 & Wednesday, December 7

THU 12/8	5 PM	AM	Shorts: Taking Chances	
	7 PM	AM	Where Life Begins	PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTON WITH 
	7 PM	ES	Pleistocene Park	
	9 PM	AM	Bad Bones	
	9 PM	ES	Shorts: Parallel Universes	

FRI 12/9	3 PM	AM	Alaska Teen Media Institute "After School Special"	
	5 PM	AM	The Wind & The Reckoning	
	7 PM	AM	King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones	
	7 PM	ES	Shorts: Family Bonds	
	9 PM	AM	Quantum Cowboys	
	9 PM	ES	Anonymous Sister	

SAT 12/10	12 PM	BT	Shorts: Made in Alaska 3	
	3 PM	BT	Believe: The True Story of Real Bearded Santas	
	6-9 PM	BP	2022 AIFF Awards Ceremony & Closing Celebration	

SUN 12/11	12 PM	AM	Award Winner: Made in Alaska		ENCORE SCREENINGS OF SOME OF THE 2022 AWARD-WINNING FILMS!
	2 PM	AM	Award Winners: Short Films		
	4 PM	AM	Award Winner: Narrative Feature		
	6 PM	AM	Award Winner: Documentary Feature		

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE BEFORE YOUR SCREENING TO CONFIRM SHOW, VENUE, AND TIME. CHECK WEBSITEAFTER THE AWARDS CELEBRATION FOR TITLES OF ENCORE SCREENINGS AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS

KEY

BT

Bear Tooth TheatrePub

ES

E Street Theater

AM

Anchorage Museum

BP

Bear Paw Bar & Grill

Narrative Feature

Documentary Feature

Shorts Program

Party/Special Event



Made in Alaska

Alan Alda and the Alaska messengers

BY NED ROZELL

Alan Alda, the actor and host of PBS television’s *Scientific American Frontiers*, recently traveled to Alaska on a mission to interview scientists about the changing North. Alda and the show’s crew gathered footage and scientist’s opinions for “Hot Times in Alaska,” a program scheduled to air on PBS in 2004. Along the way, they asked good questions, heard frank and scary answers, and carried the message of Alaska scientists to a broader audience.

One of Alda’s first stops was the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. There, Alda visited Gunter Weller, a northern meteorologist and the director of the Center for Global Change and Arctic System Research. Weller often talks to reporters, and the staff of *Scientific American Frontiers* impressed him. John Angier, the show’s executive producer, traveled to Alaska one month before Alda or the camera crew in order to line up relevant interviews. Weller said he told Alda the following:

“Climate change in the Arctic and Alaska is substantial; we can see signals it has arrived, and we are seeing its impacts on the environment, peoples’ lives, and the Alaska economy,” Weller said. “Unless the political system takes this seriously, it’s going to be too late to do anything about it.”

Weller said Alda wondered how we could pin the blame on humans for the 4-to-5-degree Fahrenheit increase in Alaska air temperatures in the past 40 years, especially since temperatures have jumped all over the place in recorded history, even before the Industrial Revolution.

“Natural variability has a lot to do with climate,” Weller said. “The scientific opinion now is that anthropogenic (manmade) influences are significant, though you can’t put hard numbers on it . . . Every academy of science in every developed nation on Earth has said we need to take this seriously.”

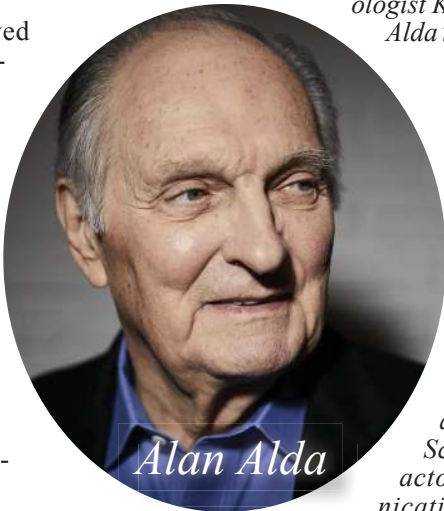
While on the west ridge of the UAF campus, Alda also visited the glaciology lab at the Geophysical Institute. There, he met Keith Echelmeyer, the leader of a team that determined Alaska’s melting glaciers have added an enormous amount of fresh water to the world’s oceans in the last 60 years.

By Valentine, a glaciologist whom Alda interviewed with Echelmeyer, told Alda that the amount of melt-water from Alaska’s glaciers since the 1950s is enough to cover the state with 7 feet of water, or put Texas 15 feet under. Alaska’s former glacial ice has added to the level of global seas by more than one-quarter of an inch since the 1950s. That’s a lot of water from one small patch of the globe.

Alda also visited John Walsh, the UA President’s Professor of Global Climate Change. Walsh specializes in supercomputer models that are science’s best attempt at predicting what will happen in the future. Those who work with models try to compute present and future climate using variables, such as temperature, cloud cover, and historic precipitation.



Alan Alda, center, was host of PBS’s “*Scientific American Frontiers*” when he visited Alaska in 2004. To his right is By Valentine, who worked in the glaciers lab at the Geophysical Institute with glaciologist Keith Echelmeyer (on Alda’s left). Echelmeyer died of brain cancer six years after Alda’s visit. Photo by Ned Rozell, enhanced 18 years later by JR Ancheta.



“In a nutshell, the models predict warming over the Arctic Ocean of 5 to 7 degrees C (about 8-12 degrees F) in the next 100 years,” Walsh said. “Precipitation goes up, especially over Alaska in that time, and by 2100, arctic sea ice nearly disappears in summer.” Walsh said he appreciated Alda’s questions, even the tough ones, such as “What should we do about this warming?” “We could respond individually, but the bigger issue is the national scale,” Walsh said. “The job for scientists is to convince policymakers that there is a need for action because changes are already occurring here.”

Ned’s note: Here’s a short-work-week Thanksgiving story from the archives. I chose it because Roger Torda from the New York Academy of Sciences emailed me a month ago. He said his organization was honoring actor and journalist Alan Alda with a lifetime achievement award for communicating science.

Roger wanted a 2004 photo of Alda I had taken on his visit to Alaska to record a show about warming here. I took that shot in the building adjacent to where I now sit with my first-generation digital camera. My colleague JR Ancheta was able to somehow boost its resolution so it could appear in a video biography of Alda on Nov. 12, 2022 in New York.

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. This column appeared in 2004.

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ANCHORAGE
PRESS

In praise of two impressive hill-climbing companions



CITY WILDS
BY BILL SHERWONIT

One dog is 10½ years old, clearly past her athletic prime and prone to stiff joints and occasional muscle strains when she forgets her age and behaves like the frolicking, high-energy puppy she was when we first started roaming the hills east of Anchorage. The other is a small, late middle-aged dog who's more rotund than svelte, and gets around on stubby legs.

Yet for all of their limitations, both Denali and Guido remain impressive hill-climbing canines who seem to love getting high into the mountains whatever the season, whatever the weather.

I should know. We three—often accompanied by Guido's "mom" and my sweetheart, Jan—continue to regularly explore high ridges in the Chugach Front Range throughout the year.

I was reminded yet again of the two dogs' enthusiasm, toughness, and just plain grit on a recent November ascent of 4,308-foot McHugh Peak, a prominent Front Range mountain.

The three of us started at the ridiculously tiny parking lot that's a designated Chugach State Park access point in the upper reaches of Bear Valley (that minuscule parking area a story in itself) and gradually worked our way uphill to the roughly north-south spine (what some call McHugh's northwest shoulder) that's my favorite route to reach the peak's summit ridge.

Though it offers dramatic, sweeping views along the entirety of its length, the undulating spine is frequently blasted by winds.

On that particular day, we were greeted by a gentle breeze while ascending the initial thousand-foot-high slope that leads to the N-S ridge, with some parts of the hillside scoured to bare ground by recent winds, other areas deeply drifted with soft, sugary snow, a post-holing challenge for both human and dogs, especially Guido with his little legs.

In the distance, however, I saw what looked to be faint sunlit clouds around the tops of North and South Yuyanq' Ch'ex (or "Heaven's Breath"), possibly—likely—plumes of snow being blown off the peaks by high winds.

Upon topping out on the spine, we got the first hints of the fierce winds that would accompany us for most of our remaining stay on McHugh. Buffeted by those initial gusts, I wasn't sure how far we'd go, but decided to give it a try. The one thing in our favor was that the air was warm, with temperatures in the low 30s to start and later rising into the mid- or even upper 30s.

The dogs too initially looked unsure. But once I shouted, "Okay, let's go!" Denali surged ahead.

Guido meanwhile was content to stay beside me, as he usually does, in the hope that by staying close he's more likely to get tossed an occasional biscuit treat. I've come to believe that snacks are one of Guido's primary hill-climbing motivations. Walking beside me, he may also use my body as something of a windshield.

We slowly worked our way along the ridge, which we had all to ourselves except for a few rock ptarmigans, occasional ravens who'd fly in to check us out, and, remarkably, a spider crawling slowly across the snow.

In places the terrain largely blocked the southwest winds, elsewhere we walked straight into the windstorm, the gusts increasing in their intensity as we moved higher.

Now and then when the wind eased, Guido would run ahead and join Denali, the two of them romping together. At times they chased each other with such enthusiasm I shouted, "Slow down, take it easy," worried Denali would push herself too hard.

The last mile was the hardest. Besides the roaring winds, the soft snow had grown moist with the warming temperatures. Besides being punchy, it was now sticking to the dog's fur, especially Denali's fine outer hair, and forming "snowballs," some of them reaching baseball size along her back legs and underbelly. Every so often we'd stop and I'd remove the snowballs. She didn't like me pulling on her fur—I tried to be gentle—but eventually decided that my removal of the balls was better than lugging them around.

We made our way up the final rubbly slope, trying to stay on the wind-scoured ground but inevitably having to cross soft, wet, snow-drifted areas. A workout, for sure. We reached the summit ridge—some three miles and more than 2,000 feet elevation gain from the trailhead—in about 2½ hours, a pretty darn good time considering the conditions.

We didn't stay on top for long, given the winds, but found a largely protected spot for a brief "picnic" (hot tea and chocolate croissant for me, chew sticks for the dogs, and a shared peanut butter and huckleberry jam sandwich for us all), then headed down.

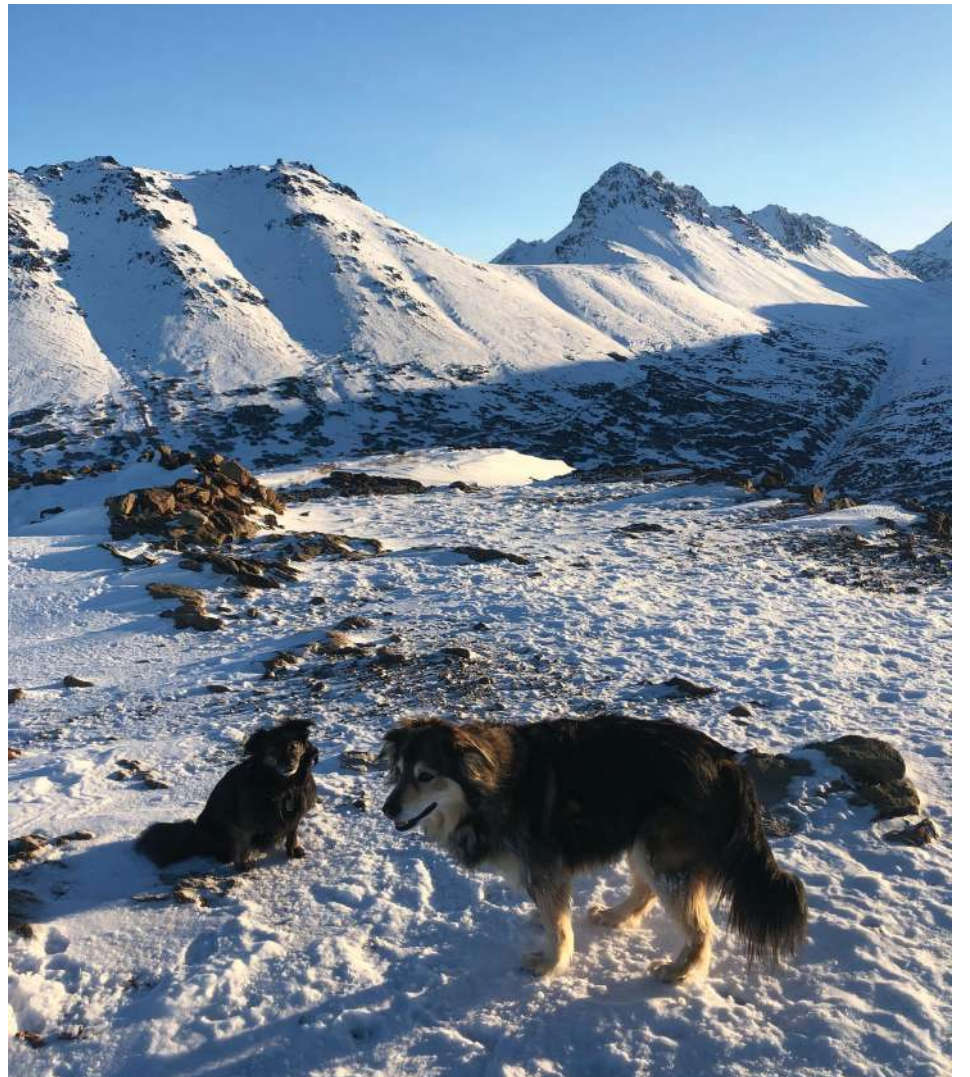
The wind was now largely at our backs, but the snow continued to soften and ball up on the dogs' long outer hairs, requiring periodic "repairs." The wind gradually eased during our descent and there were times when the air was calm and warm enough that I simply stood and soaked in the beauty of the bright, blue-sky day and glorious surroundings. For much of the descent I removed outer layers, wool hat, and mittens, it was that pleasant.

The dogs waited patiently during my celebratory stops, which usually meant another treat.

About halfway down the mountain we finally spotted some other people, still a considerable distance down the spine, the first we'd seen in 3½ hours on McHugh. To have the mountain to ourselves for so much of the climb was another of the day's delights for me and deepened my appreciation of Denali and Guido's good and faithful company.

Though I've encountered harsher conditions on McHugh, I don't believe I've ever reached the summit ridge in such challenging circumstances. Both dogs easily kept pace with me the entire way; in fact (as suggested above), they frequently outpaced me and had to wait for their 70-something human companion to catch up. Denali in particular roamed the flanks of the mountain, but never strayed too far and always returned to check on my progress. And each dog reached the summit ridge far ahead of me, even Guido with his tiny steps.

There's no question we were all "pooped out" by the time we reached the car. But it



Denali and Guido take a rest break after reaching the N-S spine leading to McHugh Peak's summit ridge.

was the sort of exhaustion that's accompanied by the contentment of completing a difficult yet satisfying challenge. And, for the dogs, the knowledge that dinner was now only a short drive away.

One dog is 10½ years old, clearly past her athletic prime and prone to stiff joints and occasional muscle strains when she forgets her age and behaves like the frolicking, high-energy puppy she was when we first started roaming the hills east of Anchorage. The other is a small, late middle-aged dog who's more rotund than svelte, and gets around on stubby legs. Yet for all of their limitations, both Denali and Guido remain impressive hill-climbing canines who seem to love getting high into the mountains whatever the season, whatever the weather. I should know. We three—often accompanied by Guido's "mom" and my sweetheart, Jan—continue to regularly explore high ridges in the Chugach Front Range throughout the year. I was reminded yet again of the two dogs' enthusiasm, toughness, and just plain grit on a recent November ascent of 4,308-foot McHugh Peak, a prominent Front Range mountain. The three of us started at the ridiculously tiny parking lot that's a designated Chugach State Park access point in the upper reaches of Bear Valley (that minuscule parking area a story in itself) and gradually worked our way uphill to the roughly north-south spine (what some call McHugh's northwest shoulder) that's my favorite route to reach the peak's summit ridge. Though it offers dramatic, sweeping views along the entirety of its length, the undulating spine is frequently blasted by winds. On that particular day we were greeted by a gentle breeze while ascending the initial thousand-foot-high slope that leads to the N-S ridge, with some parts of the hillside scoured to bare ground by recent winds, other areas deeply drifted with soft, sugary snow, a post-holing challenge for both human and dogs, especially Guido with his little legs. In the distance, however, I saw what looked to be faint sunlit clouds around the tops of North and South Yuyanq' Ch'ex (or "Heaven's Breath"), possibly—likely—plumes of snow being blown off the peaks by high winds. Upon topping out on the spine, we got the first hints of the fierce winds that would accompany us for most of our remaining stay on McHugh. Buffeted by those initial gusts, I wasn't sure how far we'd go, but decided to give it a try. The one thing in our favor was that the air was warm, with temperatures in the low 30s to start and later rising into the mid- or even upper 30s. The dogs too initially looked unsure. But once I shouted, "Okay, let's go!" Denali surged ahead. Guido meanwhile was content to stay beside me, as he usually does, in the hope that staying close he's more likely to get tossed an occasional biscuit treat. I've come to believe that snacks are one of Guido's primary hill-climbing motivations. Walking beside me, he may also use my body as something of a windshield. We slowly worked our way along the ridge, which we had all to ourselves except for a few rock ptarmigan, occasional ravens who'd fly in to check us out and, remarkably, a spider crawling slowly across the snow. In places the terrain largely blocked the southwest winds, elsewhere we walked straight into the windstorm, the gusts increasing in their intensity as we moved higher. Now and then when the wind eased, Guido would run ahead and join Denali, the two of them romping together. At times they chased each other with such enthusiasm I shouted, "Slow down, take it easy," worried Denali would push herself too hard.

Companions, continued on page A20

The boys are back in town!

Astoria State, Alaska Thunder Funk and The Jephries play Koot's on Friday

BY O'HARA SHIPE
PHOTOS BY EMMA JAYE

This fall, Alaskan metal bands reasserted themselves into the Alaska music scene. Not since the glory days of 36 Crazyfists have hard-hitting bands been able to pack Koot's, but on November 2, that's exactly what they did. For over eight hours, Anchorage metalheads bopped, stomped, and moshed throughout the bar to help raise money for the queen of the scene, Sarah Pederson. Exactly one month later, another band, Astoria State, hopes to keep the party going.

"Last time we played [in April], we had such a great time! Alaska is home for us, even if we don't live there full time anymore," said lead singer and Alaskan-born Danny Resnick.

Joined by another local boy, bassist Cameron Horst, Resnick's Astoria State is returning to Anchorage to give fans one hell of a show.

"Growing up here there were these epic concerts where a bunch of bands like the Crazyfists and Delmag would team up and just blow the roof off of Koot's all night long. So, when we were planning our second Alaskan concert, we knew we wanted to bring in some local bands and really celebrate the music coming out of here," said Resnick.

With Alaska Thunder Funk and The Jephries opening the show, there is little doubt that Friday's show will be one for the record books.

"I know technically, Danny and I are expats now, but no matter what, we will always be local boys – you can take the boy out of Alaska, but you can't take Alaska out of the boy," said Horst.

Horst and Resnick might still be boys at heart, but Astoria State has turned into a full-fledged adult in the last eight months. In July, they hooked up with Attack Attack!, Capital Vices, Kingdom Collapse, and Knockout Kid to play the When We Were Emo Tour in Chicago – not to be confused with the When We Were Young Festival. They spent the rest of the summer and fall crisscrossing the US with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. The rigorous playing schedule helped sharpen the band's stage presence and catapulted them into a new stratosphere.

"Playing every night and being on the road in different cities and states has made

performing feel like second nature, and our stage presence is so much better for it," explained Horst. "There were a lot of nights where Danny's on top of the bar belting, and none of us in the band even know where he's at in the room. An Astoria State show is a real show now!"

Although losing the lead singer in a bar doesn't come to top of mind when thinking about a kick-ass concert, it exemplifies the ways in which Astoria State has upped their performance game to match their music.

"You know, we've been on tour a lot, and the one thing people always tell us is that the ep is great, but we sound way better live. Now, not only do we sound good live, but we also have a show element. We're in sync with each other, channeling our energy together and all doing our jobs to entertain our fans," added Resnick.

But Astoria State isn't just packing their suitcases with bar tricks, they are also bringing up new music that has a decidedly heavy edge.

"I think we've always had heavy in us and while the EP was a good introduction to our music, the new songs we'll be playing Friday are head and shoulders above it. I think we have finally hit on the sound and brand that will just slam people in the face as say, 'yes, this is Astoria State,'" said Resnick.

While Astoria State is working its way to harder breakdowns and punchier lyrics, they aren't going full metal any time soon.

"We have a lot of songs that reach climactic moments emotionally and lyrically, and now, we have partnered them with matching breakdowns. I wouldn't say we're going full metal by any means, but we are pushing ourselves toward active rock," explained Horst.

Don't miss Astoria State as they take on Koot's on Friday, December 2, alongside Alaska Thunder Funk and The Jephries. The music starts at 8pm and tickets are \$20 in advance or \$60 for VIP at MyAlaskaTix.com. If you're feeling festive, wear your best ugly Christmas sweater for a chance to win door prizes – if you have an extra warm one, bring it for drummer Jon Longley or guitarist Jesse Carroll who will be freezing after flying in from Florida.



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Super Crossword

WAX SHADES

- ACROSS**

1 Played golf on the green

7 Baseball card company

12 Indy sponsor

15 Andy's pal

19 Ryan and Tatum

20 Little Mermaid's name

21 Superman's love interest

23 Kitschy lawn adornment (1997)

25 Rotating part in a water pump

26 Chicago-to-Atlanta dir.

27 Fraternal org. with lodges

28 Canine with gray brindled fur (1993)

30 Carnival treat on a stick (1998)

35 Loch monster, informally

36 Shoe parts

37 Piccolo's kin

39 Skin art

43 Retail store's beginning?

44 Rice- (food brand)

46 Iowa college

48 Woman on "Frasier"

49 Plant also called bachelor's button (1958)

53 Glitzy display (1993)

57 Verse tribute

58 Counterpart of masc.

59 Test versions

60 Old- (quaint)

61 Sky, to the U.S. Air Force (2003)

66 Tax-deferred svgs. plan

67 Nestlé movie theater treats

68 Zadora of "Butterfly"

69 "That's a big yes from me!"

73 "Criminal Minds" airer

74 Grassland on the slope of a peak (1998)

78 Pond growth

81 Curt

82 P.O. arrival

83 Hip-hop "Dr."

84 Plant rolled about by the wind (1993)

86 Makeup of many dunes (1998)

90 Deg. for a future exec

91 Large tank

92 Novelist Jong

94 Often-refined resource

95 Capitol group

98 Life story: Abbr.

99 Gets by

103 Lose all feeling

106 Both pleasant and sad (1958)

109 "The final frontier"

113 See 54-Down

114 Caustic alkali

115 Muscle rotating the forearm to a palm-down position

116 What each of this puzzle's featured answers is (with the year it was introduced)

121 Lily Tomlin's little girl persona

122 Confine

123 Spelunking chamber

124 Pecans, e.g.

125 "Norma —"

126 Hops-drying ovens

127 Sports deals
- DOWN**

1 "Nova" genre, for short

2 Togetherness

3 Doctrines

4 "... we'll — a cup o' kindness ..."

5 Pixieish sort

6 WWW access inits.

7 Florida port

8 Sky hunter

9 Missed badly

10 Wooden pin

11 Vegas fixture

12 Gloppy stuff

13 Burial places

14 Calumet part

15 100% wrong

16 St. — (French resort)

17 Like Nash's "lama"

18 Feudal slave

22 Opera — (many a Handel work)

24 Basic skills

29 Suffix with hero

31 Smallish city

32 Royal Norse name

33 Little — (Dickens girl)

34 Yang go-with

38 Tried to hit, as a clay target

40 British trolley

41 Leak slowly

42 Rocker Osbourne

44 — bit (just slightly)

45 — Martin (cognac)

46 Energy mogul

47 Pound divs.

49 Dairy animals

50 Norse god

51 Move, in Realtor lingo

52 "Just the Two —" (1981 hit)

54 With 113-Across, had some humble pie

55 Based on — story

56 Fancy crown

59 Square in the first bingo-card column

62 Mr. T movie

63 Biblical tower setting

64 Old hi-fi buys

65 "The Da Vinci Code" group

66 Suffix with hero

69 Apropos of

70 Old Icelandic saga

71 Michael who played Worf

72 Had liabilities

74 Confront

75 Often-refined resource

76 Sir Guinness

77 "— boy!"

78 S&L devices

79 Garage job

80 Certain Fed

81 Pan Am rival

85 Planet seen at sunset, old-style

86 Canon or Sony products, for short

87 Wave sound

88 Baking pans

89 Deli dish

93 Steal from

96 Go-betweens

97 Yeshiva text

98 Telly network

99 Cry feebly

100 Solidified

101 Pal of Pooh

102 Ships' backs

104 "Once — midnight dreary ..."

105 Seine feeder

107 "Taste this"

108 Cel figures

109 Not closed

110 Language of Pakistan

111 "Snap —!"

112 Canyon effect

117 Actor Stephen

118 Be a thespian

119 Road vehicle

120 Eggs

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LEGALS

Denali Fire Black LLC, doing business as Denali Fire located at 6209 Mike St, Suite 2C, Anchorage, AK 99518 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306.400 (a)(1)), license #14073. The transfer involves a change in ownership within Denali Fire LLC from Maverick Ventures, LLC 30%, Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%, and One Denali, LLC 40% to Maverick Ventures, LLC 70%, and Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%.

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 a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco> . Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At 901 Photo Ave. Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or jana@jdwccounsel.com Anchorage Press Publish Dates 11/17/22, 11/24/22, 12/01/22

Denali Fire Brown LLC, doing business as Denali Fire Extracts located at 6209 Mike St, Suite 2B, Anchorage, AK 99518 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of

controlling interest in a Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility (3 AAC 306.500 (a)(1)), license #14619. The transfer involves a change in ownership within Denali Fire LLC from Maverick Ventures, LLC 30%, Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%, and One Denali, LLC 40% to Maverick Ventures, LLC 70%, and Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%. 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 a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco> . Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At 901 Photo Ave. Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or jana@jdwcounsel.com Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 11/17/22, 11/24/22, 12/01/22

Denali Fire Green LLC, doing business as Alaska Weeds located at 6209 Mike St. Suite 2A, Anchorage, AK 99518 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306.300), license #14083. The transfer involves a change in ownership within Denali Fire LLC from Maverick Ventures, LLC 30%, Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%, and One Denali, LLC 40% to Maverick Ventures, LLC 70%, and Silver Fox Solutions, LLC 30%. 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 a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco> . Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. At 901 Photo Ave. Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or at jana@jdwcounsel.com Anchorage Press
Publish Dates 11/17/22, 11/24/22, 12/01/22

Critical Hell

ASK OSKAR
BY OSKAR SAVILLE

Dear Oskar,
This Thanksgiving was one of the worst with my mother. I could barely get through a moment without her criticizing me, from the way my hair was, to how I peeled the potatoes, to whether I was eating too much or not enough. I can't take it anymore; it's so draining. Is there anything I can do besides cutting her out of my life?
—Critical Hell

Dear Critical,
First, let me address the part of you that was attacked. I'm sorry, you didn't deserve that—none of us do. And I say "none of us" because much of what you experienced with your mother is what happens to so many people every day in the world, and the criticism doesn't just come from other people. Unfortunately, most of us are also being hard on ourselves in our own minds. If we're not picking apart things we don't like on our own, we often echo what other people are telling us . . . and even start to believe it. If you asked your mom about her parents and the things they said to her, she probably would tell you they were hard on her. The truth is we can only do what we know. But fear not; there is a solution: the gentleness of self-love.

Before you decide to cut your mother out of your life, Let's start off with a little research. For this, I ask you to become aware of your own thoughts. (It would be helpful to have a little notebook and pen.) For three days, I want you to take note of everything that pops into your head or that you say out loud that is critical of yourself or someone else. I think you'll find that by the end of the three days, there will be many moments of criticism. I'm not suggesting you do this to judge or shame you. What I want you to become aware of is the harmful effects of criticism being passed down from generation to generation. The need to find fault with yourself or others is something you've been taught, whether you realize it or not. But the time has come to bring more kindness into the world (and your own head). You have the power to change things.

As I said, you're not alone. I, too, once had a critical voice in my head that commented on everything all the time. That voice had been there for so long that I thought it was who I was. I mean, everyone around me was harsh, so it seemed normal. Wasn't that love? Didn't people tell you what was wrong with you to help you get better? I'd tell myself I wasn't enough, thinking it would make me try harder. Or I'd tell myself how horrible I was because I didn't get something right. Wouldn't that make me get it right the next time? Wouldn't calling myself stupid for forgetting something make me remember things better the next time? It turns out, none of those strategies helped me get any better. In fact, they brought me further down into the pit of low self-esteem.

Then one day, I began to learn that being kind and gentle to myself were the keys to getting better. If I dropped something, I told myself, "It's okay." If I forgot something, I told myself, "It'll be alright. You'll get it next time." If I didn't get something right, I told myself, "Great job for trying! Keep going." I started to feel better about myself, and soon I BECAME that kindness, and I shined it onto others. At first, the people I encountered resisted, thinking only a liar would be so complimentary and encouraging. I would suggest they be "soft on themselves," which they initially assumed would make them lazy. Still, person after person came back to me to share how gentleness had helped their lives become better.

Let's get back to your mother. Instead of cutting her off, maybe each time you speak to her, say some encouraging words. Treat her the way you would like to be treated. As your relationship (hopefully) shifts to one filled with more kindness and love, things can only change for the better. And maybe one day, you'll hear her say, "Thanks for helping me with the potatoes. It's hard for me to ask for help, so I really appreciate you."

Until then, I send you love and will remind you that you are perfect as you are! Be gentle and love yourself, and as you do, the world around you will change, too.



Super Crossword

Answers

P	U	T	T	E	D		T	O	P	P	S		S	T	P		A	M	O	S	
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ARIES: Journalist Hadley Freeman interviewed Aries actor William Shatner when he was 90. She was surprised to find that the man who played Star Trek’s Captain Kirk looked 30 years younger than his actual age. “How do you account for your robustness?” she asked him. “I ride a lot of horses, and I’m into the bewilderment of the world,” said Shatner. “I open my heart and head into the curiosity of how things work.” I suggest you adopt Shatner’s approach in the coming weeks, Aries. Be intoxicated with the emotional richness of mysteries and perplexities.

TAURUS: Of all the objects on earth, which is most likely to be carelessly cast away and turned into litter? Cigarette butts, of course. That’s why an Indian entrepreneur named Naman Guota is such a revolutionary. Thus far, he has recycled and transformed over 300 million butts into mosquito repellent, toys, keyrings, and compost, which he and his company have sold for over a million dollars. I predict that in the coming weeks, you will have a comparable genius for converting debris and scraps into useful, valuable stuff. You will be skilled at recycling dross. Meditate on how you might accomplish this metaphorically and psychologically.

GEMINI: Tips on how to be the best Gemini you can be in the coming weeks: 1. Think laterally or in spirals rather than straight lines. 2. Gleefully solve problems in your daydreams. 3. Try not to hurt anyone accidentally. Maybe go overboard in being sensitive and kind. 4. Cultivate even more variety than usual in the influences you surround yourself with. 5. Speak the diplomatic truth to people who truly need to hear it. 6. Make creative use of your mostly hidden side. 7. Never let people figure you out completely.

CANCERIAN: In my dream, I gathered with my five favorite astrologers to ruminate on your immediate future. After much discussion, we decided the following advice would be helpful for you in December. 1. Make the most useful and inspirational errors you’ve dared in a long time. 2. Try experiments that teach you interesting lessons even if they aren’t completely successful. 3. Identify and honor the blessings in every mess.

LEO: “All possible feelings do not yet exist,” writes Leo novelist Nicole Krauss in her book *The History of Love*. “There are still those that lie beyond our capacity and our imagination. From time to time, when a piece of music no one has ever written, or something else impossible to predict, fathom, or yet describe takes place, a new feeling enters the world. And then, for the millionth time in the history of feeling, the heart surges and absorbs the impact.” I suspect that some of these novel moods will soon be welling up in you, Leo. I’m confident your heart will absorb the influx with intelligence and fascination.

VIRGO: Virgo author Jeanette Winterson writes, “I have always tried to make a home for myself, but I have not felt at home in myself. I have worked hard at being the hero of my own life, but every time I checked the register of displaced persons, I was still on it. I didn’t know how to belong. Longing? Yes. Belonging? No.” Let’s unpack Winterson’s complex testimony as it relates to you right now. I think you are closer than ever before to feeling at home in yourself—maybe not perfectly so, but more than in the past. I also suspect you have a greater-than-usual capacity for belonging. That’s why I invite you to be clear about what or whom you want to belong to and what your belonging will feel like.

LIBRA: It’s tempting for you to entertain balanced views about every subject. You might prefer to never come to definitive conclusions about anything, because it’s so much fun basking in the pretty glow of prismatic ambiguity. You LOVE there being five sides to every story. I’m not here to scold you about this predilection. As a person with three Libran planets in my chart, I understand the appeal of considering all options. But I will advise you to take a brief break from this tendency. If you avoid making decisions in the coming weeks, they will be made for you by others. I don’t recommend that. Be proactive.

SCORPIO: Scorpio poet David Whyte makes the surprising statement that “anger is the deepest form of compassion.” What does he mean? As long as it doesn’t result in violence, he says, “anger is the purest form of care. The internal living flame of anger always illuminates what we belong to, what we wish to protect, and what we are willing to hazard ourselves for.” Invoking Whyte’s definition, I will urge you to savor your anger in the coming days. I will invite you to honor and celebrate your anger, and use it to guide your constructive efforts to fix some problem or ease some hurt.

SAGITTARIUS: Sagittarian comedian Margaret Cho dealt with floods of ignorant criticism while growing up. She testifies, “Being called ugly and fat and disgusting from the time I could barely understand what the words meant has scarred me so deep inside that I have learned to hunt, stalk, claim, own, and defend my own loveliness.” You may not have ever experienced such extreme forms of disapproval, Sagittarius, but—like all of us—you have on some occasions been berated or undervalued simply for being who you are. The good news is that the coming months will be a favorable time to do what Cho has done: hunt, stalk, claim, own, and defend your own loveliness. It’s time to intensify your efforts in this noble project.

CAPRICORN: The bad news: In 1998, Shon Hopwood was sentenced to 12 years in prison for committing bank robberies. The good news: While incarcerated, he studied law and helped a number of his fellow prisoners win their legal cases—including one heard by the US Supreme Court. After his release, he became a full-fledged lawyer, and is now a professor of law at Georgetown University. Your current trouble isn’t anywhere as severe as Hopwood’s was, Capricorn, but I expect your current kerfuffle could motivate you to accomplish a very fine redemption.

AQUARIUS: “I stopped going to therapy because I knew my therapist was right, and I wanted to keep being wrong,” writes poet Clementine von Radics. “I wanted to keep my bad habits like charms on a bracelet. I did not want to be brave.” Dear Aquarius, I hope you will do the opposite of her in the coming weeks. You are, I suspect, very near to a major healing. You’re on the verge of at least partially fixing a problem that has plagued you for a while. So please keep calling on whatever help you’ve been receiving.

PISCES : As you have roused your personal power to defeat your fears in the past, what methods and approaches have worked best for you? Are there brave people who have inspired you? Are there stories and symbols that have taught you useful tricks? I urge you to survey all you have learned about the art of summoning extra courage. In the coming weeks, you will be glad you have this information to draw on. I don’t mean to imply that your challenges will be scarier or more daunting than usual. My point is that you will have unprecedented opportunities to create vigorous new trends in your life if you are as bold and audacious as you can be.



DAN SAVAGE’S SAVAGE LOVE

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

I’m a 29-year-old cis straight male. What are the ethics of having a minor cum/ breeding kink? Thanks, Dan!

No one chooses their kinks—our kinks choose us—so having a kink doesn’t raise ethical issues. Acting on our kinks... making choices that impact others... that’s where ethical concerns kick in. So, if it turns you on to “breed” someone, as the gay boys (very problematically!) like to say, and you never act on it, if you just sit in your apartment wanking about it, there are no ethical issues. But if you act on this kink with another person—if you want to have unprotected sex with a woman—you need to make sure she’s aware of the risks going in and that birth control is her responsibility. And you should be fully aware—going in and out and in and out—that child support could be your responsibility. (Also, you should read *Ejaculate Responsibly: A Whole New Way to Think About Abortion* by Gabrielle Blair.)

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I have misophonia. Blowjob noises make me sick. Is it possible to give a quiet blowjob?

Misophonia is a sensory disorder that makes certain sounds extremely unpleasant; eating sounds—mouth noises—can be particularly triggering for sufferers. Noise-cancelling headphones seem like an obvious solution, but they won’t work, as noises made in your own mouth have a very different path to your eardrums. So, what you need are noise-generating headphones, i.e., regular ol’ headphones blasting music cranked up so loud you literally can’t hear anything else—not even those plunger-being-used-in-desperation-as-the-water-rises-to-the-top-of-the-toilet-bowl sounds someone giving a blowjob makes when their work is almost done.

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Beginning to think I’m bad at sex. I try to be GGG. Any tips?

Sex isn’t just about giving pleasure; it’s not just about being GGG for your partner. It’s also about taking pleasure and giving your partner the opportunity to be GGG for you. So, figure out what it is you like and what you want—sex acts or scenarios or dirty talk or materials that turn you on—and find someone who wants to give you those things, and take them.

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I’m a mid bi woman in her mid-30s a few years into an open/poly marriage to a man. I’ve fallen pretty hard for my girlfriend of six months. I’ve had relationships with women before getting married, but this one has me questioning if I’d be happier as a fully-fledged lesbian. How do I work out if this is just NRE (new relationship energy), a specific connection with her, or actually a waning interest in men altogether?

Wanting to be with your new girlfriend all the time—that’s NRE for you—doesn’t mean you’d be happier as a lesbian, fully-fledged or otherwise. But it doesn’t not mean that either. You won’t know how you’re going to feel until the NRE wears off, which it should soon.

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My boyfriend doesn’t want an open relationship and won’t have sex with me. But he looks at Grindr and watches a lot of porn. What do I do?

“I love you, honey, and I can do a sexless relationship—I mean, that’s what we’ve been doing for a while, so I can obviously do it—but I’m not going to lead a sexless existence. So, we’re either opening our relationship or we’re ending it. One or the other, your choice.” (My hunch is that your boyfriend has already opened things on his end, literally and figuratively. Guys don’t get on Grindr for the recipes. So, it’s ultimatum time.)

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Best advice for keeping sex hot in your late 40s, when you’re tired, you hurt, you’re crabby, and you’re bitter?

Realistic expectations, scheduled sex, pot edibles, E.D. meds, and erotic adventures planned months in advance (anticipation is a turn-on).

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I have a vanilla boyfriend (of three years) and a Master (of three years). My boyfriend knows. My Master wants my boyfriend to start asking Him—to call and ask Him—for His permission whenever my boyfriend wants to have sex with me, since I’m His “property,” but I know my boyfriend won’t want to do this and will be angry that I asked. I love both, in very different ways, and I don’t know what to do. (My Master uses He/Him pronouns, always uppercased. If you respond, please use uppercase He/Him in reference to my Master.)

Like your boyfriend, I am not your master’s slave. So, you can upcase his pronouns on his orders—his, his, his—all you like, but you can’t order me to upcase his pronouns. Which I probably would’ve done if you hadn’t told me I must. (I usually capitalize “Master” and “Mistress” and “Dom,” too, but I’m making an exception for your master, as I’m kind of annoyed.) Now, your boyfriend having to call and beg him (your master) when he (your boyfriend) wants to have sex with you (the person who annoyed me just now), that would be hot... if your boyfriend was into it... which he’s not. So, tell your master involving your boyfriend is a hard limit. And if your master can’t respect that limit, end things with him. If you can’t bear the thought and you’re willing to deceive both men in your life, well, you could buy a burner phone, impersonate your boyfriend’s voice, and pray you don’t get caught.



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)

Stieren, Jensen see pay boost from Dunleavy

BY DERMOT COLE

Gov. Mike Dunleavy used state employees to promote his reelection, obliterating the line between governing and campaigning.

This was a clear misuse of state resources. State law prohibits the use of “state funds, facilities, equipment, services or another government asset or resource for partisan political purposes.” The state ethics act is useless, however. It is overseen by three people appointed by the governor.

The personnel board, which is supposed to enforce the state ethics act, includes former GOP Rep. Craig Johnson, who was just elected to the House again and has to be replaced; Keith Hamilton, president of Alaska Christian College, (the state website says his term expired in March, but he remains a member); and Alfred Tagmani Sr., a former state employee and member of the board since 2006.

At least two of the state employees who promoted Dunleavy during the campaign as part of their state employment collected raises during the campaign year, according to state employment figures as of the end of October.

Right-wing PR man Dave Stieren received a raise to \$156,000 during the past year. He now makes more than the governor. He also makes more than state commissioners with actual responsibilities. In most cases, commissioners are paid \$141,000.

Stieren, the poster boy for bloated bureaucracy, doesn’t do anything that benefits the public, as his entire job is to serve as a Dunleavy cheerleader. He is now one of about 15 people in the governor’s office who earns more than the governor. Dunleavy earns \$145,000. The lieutenant governor earns about \$115,000.

Dunleavy hired Stieren four years ago at \$135,000 a year to lead the cheerleading squad. Last December the state listed his salary at \$139,000.

Last fall, Dunleavy hired Stieren’s friend, right winger Andrew Jensen, as a PR man in the governor’s office at \$90,000 a year. This was about the time the Dunleavy reelection campaign needed a PR man.

Jensen claimed his campaign work had no relation to his state job and was perfectly legal because it was a “volunteer” position.

But his state job and his campaign job were the same—praising all things Dunleavy and attacking Dunleavy enemies.

Jensen was listed as Range 22, Step XX last year. Now he is Range 23, Step XX. Stieren remains at Range 25, Step XX, as he was last year.

Jensen has already received a raise and now earns \$97,578, according to the state file of executive branch salaries as of Oct. 31. Here is the complete 2022 list.

Other PR people on the governor’s staff include: deputy communications director Jeff Turner, \$138,000; deputy press secretary Shannon Mason, \$89,000; digital media specialist Jeremy Cubas, \$40 an hour; and community outreach manager Kollette Schroeder, \$92,000.

Murkowski and Sullivan vote to advance same-sex marriage bill to U.S. House

BY JAMES BROOKS
ALASKA BEACON

Alaska’s two U.S. senators joined 10 other Republicans on Tuesday in voting to advance legal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages.

The Respect for Marriage Act, which passed the Senate in a 61-36 vote, now goes to the House, which passed a different version of the bill earlier this year.

The votes of both senators were expected; each senator had voted in favor of a procedural motion to advance the bill toward final passage two weeks ago.

In a prepared statement, Alaska’s senior senator, Lisa Murkowski, said she was proud to vote in favor of the bill. Murkowski has been a longtime supporter of same-sex marriage rights and had signaled support for the bill earlier this year.

Dan Sullivan, Alaska’s junior senator, said earlier this month that he does not believe the bill is necessary but because it expands legal protections for churches that decline to support same-sex weddings, he was willing to vote for it.

Speaking Tuesday on the floor of the Senate, Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah said he was grateful for Sullivan, who worked behind the scenes to allow Republican-proposed amendments to come to a vote. Those amendments failed to pass, and the House is expected to approve the Senate’s bill, allowing President Joe Biden to sign it into law.

The bill was inspired by a comment from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who said the court should re-examine its 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide. A similar legal rationale was part of a 1967 decision striking down laws barring interracial marriages.

If the court overturns the 2015 same-sex marriage decision, the new bill would require all states to recognize pre-existing same-sex marriages, and if states then choose to ban same-sex marriages, they would be required to recognize same-sex marriages conducted in other states.

Alaska still has a state constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage, and the new Senate-passed bill does not affect that amendment. If the Supreme Court overturns its 2015 decision, that amendment would again become binding law, and Alaska would again prohibit same-sex marriage.



Pool (Photo by Anna Moneymaker-Pool/Getty Images)

Companions, from page A15

The last mile was the hardest. Besides the roaring winds, the soft snow had grown moist with the warming temperatures. Besides being punchy, it was now sticking to the dog’s fur, especially Denali’s fine outer hair, and forming “snowballs,” some of them reaching baseball size along her back legs and underbelly. Every so often we’d stop and I’d remove the snowballs. She didn’t like me pulling on her fur—I tried to be gentle—but eventually decided that my removal of the balls was better than lugging them around. We made our way up the final rubbly slope, trying to stay on wind-scoured ground but inevitably having to cross soft, wet, snow-drifted areas. A workout, for sure. We reached the summit ridge—some three miles and more than 2,000 feet elevation gain from the trailhead—in about 2½ hours, a pretty darn good time considering the conditions. We didn’t stay on top for long, given the winds, but found a largely protected spot for a brief “picnic” (hot tea and chocolate croissant for me, chew sticks for the dogs, and a shared peanut butter and huckleberry jam sandwich for us all), then headed down. The wind was now largely at our backs, but the snow continued to soften and ball up on the dogs’ long outer hairs, requiring periodic “repairs.” The wind gradually eased during our descent and there were times when the air was calm and warm enough that I simply stood and soaked in the beauty of the bright, blue-sky day and glorious surroundings. For much of the descent I removed outer layers, wool hat, and mittens, it was that pleasant. The dogs waited patiently during my celebratory stops, which usually meant another treat. About halfway down the mountain we finally spotted some other people, still a considerable distance down the spine, the first we’d seen in 3½ hours on McHugh. To have the mountain to ourselves for so much of the climb was another of the day’s delights for me and deepened my appreciation of Denali and Guido’s good and faithful company. Though I’ve encountered harsher conditions on McHugh, I don’t believe I’ve ever reached the summit ridge in such challenging circumstances. Both dogs easily kept pace with me the entire way; in fact (as suggested above), they frequently outpaced me and had to wait for their 70-something human companion to catch up. Denali in particular roamed the flanks of the mountain, but never strayed too far and always returned to check on my progress. And each dog reached the summit ridge far ahead of me, even Guido with his tiny steps. There’s no question we were all “pooped out” by the time we reached the car. But it was the sort of exhaustion that’s accompanied by the contentment of completing a difficult yet satisfying challenge. And, for the dogs, the knowledge that dinner was now only a short drive away.

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



The Portland Cello Project teams up with Alaskan musicians

Kat Moore, Aspenyarrow, Chris Hawk and Shaun Pacarro guest star

BY ALEJANDRO BOUZAS

The Portland Cello Project, or PCP as some of their fans like to call them, are far from strangers to Alaska. With a career spanning over a decade and a half, the genre-bending string collective has become not only a regular, but a favorite for the Anchorage crowd. Their creative repertoire and lively shows deliver a wide range of musical styles that go from Bach to Beck.

With over one thousand pieces composed, the frequently dubbed “cello-wielding maniacs” have been bringing their art to unusual places, from punk rock clubs to symphony halls to street parties, changing people’s perception of the cello along the way.

Their regular attendees surely deserve to be highlighted as their fans are the definition of diversity: boogie-ing grannies, head-nodding hipsters, budding middle-school musicians, and everyone in between. Like their loyal followers, their shows are always different, as each performance is delivered with an almost entirely new set of arrangements.

In 2018 PCP self-released their latest album, “Homage to Radiohead,” where the band flawlessly performs versions of songs from the OK Computer album. Some of them are the iconic “Paranoid Android,” the MTV video hit “No Surprises,” or the mesmerizing “Exit Music (for a film)” live at the Aladdin Theatre in Portland, Oregon. They never fall short when it comes to guest appearances, bringing in quality artists such as Patti King, Nafisaria Scroggins-Thomas, Adam Shearer, Skip vonKuske and Farnell Newton.

OK Computer is a legendary album that has proven over time to yield a vast assortment of artistic inspiration to people from all walks of life. PCP first performed the complete record in 2012 for the 15th anniversary of the album’s release, and ever since then, pieces of it have stayed in the group’s repertoire as constantly evolving musical ruminations.

In lieu of giving an even more unique twist to this traditional holiday concert, PCP will join forces with emerging and ascending local artists such as the Talkeetna grown folk-pop singer-songwriter Kayti Heller (Aspenyarrow), the passionate vocalist and musician Chris Hawk, the prolific multi-instrumentalist, poet, and singer-songwriter Kat Moore (The Forest That Never Sleeps), the Hawaii-born and Alaska-residing musician Shaun Pacarro and the Alaskan based contemporary dance company Momen-tum Dance.

Groove with the band this Friday and Saturday as they perform at the Discovery Theatre (621 West 6th Avenue) at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased through [anchorageconcerts.com](#), and the price starts at \$32.25 for those with subscriptions and at \$44 for those without them.

A double dose of psychobilly

Texan psychobilly rockers The Reverend Horton Heat are bringing their turbo-charged rockabilly show to Williwaw on Friday

BY ALEJANDRO BOUZAS

The Reverend — as both the band and frontman Jim Heath are known — has been making waves in rockabilly and psychobilly since the late ‘80s. The passing years have enabled The Reverend to perfect their revved-up mix of twangy guitars, double bass, and snappy backbeats.

Often labeled as “Kings of hyphenated and mix mash genres,” their 2018 album, “Whole New Life,” has heavy influences of country, blues, jazz, folk, and hard rock. The name of the album references a lineup change that added new drummer RJ Contreras to the roster and a new rhythm element in Matt Jordan on piano and organ.

Known for their big sound, there’s plenty of bombast on the record. But there are tender moments to be found among their rocking beats. A remarkably intimate tune is “Hate to See You Cry,” a song that makes you feel like you’ve been invited to band rehearsal where they are playing one of their favorites just for you.

The key to their ongoing success can be attributed to perseverance, but Heath has a slightly different view in terms of what kept the band alive and playing until today: “Fear is a great motivator. Fear is a much better motivator than confidence. Confidence will lead you down the path of thinking you are so great that you don’t have to practice, or you don’t have to keep going. You can take a year or two off, and it will all be ok (laughs). We never did that. We just kept going and going and going,” said Heath during an interview for Las Vegas magazine.

The opening act will be in the hands of “The Avery Wolves,” an Alaskan high-energy psycho-rock ensemble, with Nathan Harris in the Double bass/Vox, Jeremy Larson on Guitar, and Barbie Keller on Drums.

Come defrost and shake your boots with The Reverend Horton Heat on Friday, December 2nd at 7pm. The concert will take place at Williwaw Social (609 F St). Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased through [eventbrite.com](#).



Fairbanks’ Avery Wolves with Jeremy Larson, Nathan Harris and Barb Keller. (Shipe Shots)

CANNAGUIDE

YOUR MAP TO ANCHORAGE'S DANK SIDE



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6511 Arctic Spur Rd
(907) 561-4372
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Stoners aren't lazy; here's the science to prove it

BY RAE LLAND
FOR LEAFLY

The "lazy stoner" stereotype began in the 1930s with none other than Mr. Harry Anslinger himself. Yes, the first head of the DEA (then known as the FBN for Federal Bureau of Narcotics) brought us a lot of "memorable" things, such as 'reefer madness' and racist propaganda.

But with the age of cannabis legalization dawning upon us, more studies about the plant are being carried out and becoming available to the public. One such study, published late summer 2022, has findings that may debunk the "lazy stoner" stereotype for good.

Titled "Anhedonia, apathy, pleasure, and effort-based decision-making in adult and adolescent cannabis users and controls," the study was published in the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology and led by scientists from the University of Cambridge, King's College London, and University College London.

The study specifically looked at the claims that "cannabis use may be linked with anhedonia and apathy," and investigated "the association between non-acute cannabis use and apathy, anhedonia, pleasure, and effort-based decision-making for reward, and whether these relationships were moderated by age-group."

Anhedonia, for those wondering, is described as the inability to feel pleasure. Think of it as a general listlessness not contributed to an illness such as depression. Apathy is a disinterest in activities, people, and things, as well as a general lack of enthusiasm.

The study began with the hypothesis that cannabis users would show higher levels of anhedonia and apathy compared to controls. The researchers also hypothesized that cannabis users are less likely to expend effort for reward or even subjectively want the reward compared to the controls.

However, the researchers reported that the findings of their study were contrary to their hypotheses.

In fact, researchers found that "cannabis users had lower anhedonia than controls, albeit at a small effect size. These findings are not consistent with the hypothesis that non-acute cannabis use is associated with amotivation."

The study went on to theorize that it is possible cannabis increases reward-seeking behavior, or perhaps that "people who are more prone to seek out pleasure are also more likely to use cannabis."

The August study also suggests that all those years of stereotyping could have led stoners to be acutely aware of how they're perceived as lazy, which may have inspired participants to "appear more motivated in psychological studies, possibly biasing the present results."

But one of the researchers in the study at the University of Cambridge, Martine Skumlien, later said of the research, "We're so used to seeing 'lazy stoners' on our screens that we don't stop to ask whether they're an accurate representation of cannabis users. Our work implies that this is in itself a lazy stereotype and that people who use cannabis are no more likely to lack motivation or be lazier than people who don't."

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Sungrown Cannabis in the Last Frontier

BY O’HARA SHIPE
FOR ALASKA LEAF

On August 19, the rain pounded against the windows of a small regional jet as it readied for takeoff. Under cloud cover, the plane shook relentlessly during the 45-minute flight from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Then, just as Mike Emers had said it would, the clouds rolled away on the airplane’s sharp descent and a lush, green landscape appeared. As the plane followed the elegant curvature of the Tanana River, a small break in the trees revealed an unobstructed aerial view of Emers’ legacy – Rosie Creek Farm.

From New England to the Last Frontier

“Did you remember to look out the window during the descent?” Emers excitedly asked as I swung open the door to his well-worn car. Before a single syllable could be uttered in response, Emers was already on to the next subject. “With only a few hours things are going to be tight, but let’s see what we can cover in the car before we get to the farm,” he added before launching into a story about his favorite teenage pastime – getting stoned in his hometown of Providence, Rhode Island and giving Brown University students wrong directions.

“I can say that I smoked so much weed in high school that I didn’t want to have anything to do with it until I was farming up here, but that’s a long story in and of itself,” explained Emers over the nearly deafening sound of wind rushing past his rolled-down window.

After decades of living in Alaska, Emers’ New England accent has all but left him. However, his innate predilection for efficiency and pragmatism has not. In fairness, it is those qualities that have helped sustain Emers’ family since the 1980s.

“I was looking for adventure and became a park ranger in the Brooks Range right out of college,” explained Emers. “Then, I got interested in resource management and decided to get a master’s degree in botany and plant ecology from the University of Washington.”

His passion for botany led to a job studying rare Alaskan plants and caribou habitats for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. While Emers enjoyed being surrounded by breathtaking, remote Alaskan landscapes in the summer, each fall a return to his Fairbanks home left him dismayed.

“I’d start a garden every year and instruct people how to water and care for the plants. But they wouldn’t do it, so I’d be out in the field all summer and come back in August or September to find nothing alive in the garden. I really longed to be gardening, so after being in the field for over 20 years, I finally quit and started a farm – which probably wasn’t the smartest thing to do,” said Emers.

Rosie Creek Farm was erected on the fertile soil near the banks of the Tanana River. The farm’s proximity to the river and the long, hot summer days made it the ideal place to grow cut flowers and a variety of vegetables.

“I was actually the first person to grow peonies, you know, before the whole peony craze took off,” explained Emers.

With Alaska’s growing season several months behind the Lower-48, Alaskan peony farmers had a unique stranglehold on the market for the most sought-after ornamental flowers in the world. Still, Emers discovered that growing premium cut flowers and vegetables wasn’t paying the dividends that he had anticipated.

“I ran the numbers with my wife and found out that in my most successful year, I grossed a little over \$22,000. To put it another way, when we factored in the amount of time I spent tending the garden, I was averaging just over \$1.73 an hour. So, I was killing myself, but for what?” explained Emers.

A New Kind of Flower

Not wanting to abandon the soil he had spent years tilling, Emers began to look for another way forward. He just didn’t anticipate that the way forward was to actually return to his roots in Providence.

“I look at things in terms of how much money I can make per a row and per foot. Hands down, the biggest crop in the U.S. has been Cannabis and so I thought to myself, ‘I’ll do that,’” said Emers.

When he shared his intentions with his farming friends around the state, he was met with skepticism. Even his attorney advised him against the proposition.

“I didn’t know that most Cannabis was grown under lights in warehouses. Nobody told me that when I was working on my license,” said Emers. “Obviously, I had smoked in high school and had grown plants in my room. I knew how to grow other plants outside, so I figured, ‘How hard could it be?’ I was optimistic about my plan, but my first attorney had told me, ‘OK, you can try that, but just know that it’s never been done,’” said Emers.

Despite the warnings, Emers pressed on with his plans – but he soon found that when it comes to pioneering a new way of growing Cannabis in the Arctic, it helps to have support.

Breaking the Mold

“When I got started, I refused to be a part of ‘pot culture.’ I just didn’t like it and so I didn’t wear my hat the right way or have the right handshake,” recalled Emers. “I didn’t party with other growers. I didn’t surround myself with the people who knew the business. Looking back, I see now how arrogant that was, and frankly, it was the wrong thing to do. I had no idea what I was doing, and it showed.”



Having read that autoflowering Cannabis didn’t require light manipulation, he decided to purchase several seed packs. What he soon discovered was that while autoflowering plants were somewhat developed for outdoor growers, they were more geared to the home grower who wanted to grow in their closet without much hassle.

“Let’s just say this: Autoflowering Cannabis wasn’t developed for agriculture in the far north. It just wasn’t,” said Emers.

As Emers struggled to find consistency in his early crops, he began to suspect that the inconsistent genetics of his seeds were to blame.

“If I planted a hybrid Cannabis seed developed by an autoflowering Cannabis operation that sells their products from a broker on a website, I would get genetic profiles that were all over the map. They weren’t stabilized. So, I learned that just like anything else you grow, you have to find something that looks good from the seed stock we originally ordered and then continue to cull the plants until you get **the absolute best** version of it,” said Emers.

No longer relying on third-party genetics, Emers spent the last seven growing seasons breeding his own plants.

“When you’re growing 400 plants of the same variety, you have a lot of opportunities to pick and choose the best females to breed. When you keep doing that year after year, you can create premium flower,” said Emers.

Now, Rosie Creek is home to seven strains that were genetically developed on the farm.

“I am not planning on selling my genetics because they are what makes our farm unique. But also, I don’t know if the strains would grow as well if planted somewhere else. They have worked for me, but that comes with 30 years of working this land and really understanding the soil. Truthfully, farming is 90% knowing the land,” said Emers.

The Rosie Creek Difference

Although Emers often emphasizes the financial aspects of farming, when he parks his car in front of his makeshift office building and begins walking towards the entrance of Rosie Creek, his demeanor noticeably changes. Suddenly, in his element, Emers is relaxed and it becomes clear that his connection to the land is spiritual.

“I hear all of these people talking about their living soil or putting this or that acid into the soil to increase its yield and that’s great. But what people are trying to do in a warehouse with hydroponics, is just them trying to recreate what we have naturally,” said Emers as he overlooked his 50-acre property.

For Emers, proper stewardship of the land is what separates Rosie Creek from its competition. Not only is the farm USDA-certified organic, but it is also certified by the Real Organic Project. Stricter than the USDA, the Real Organic Project was started by farmers to protect the meaning of organic.

“The whole point of the program is that you feed the soil and the soil will feed the plants. If you treat the soil with respect, it will feed and sustain the plants,” explained Emers.

As part of his certification, Emers takes half an acre out of production each year and plants cover crops to add nitrogen and organic matter back into the soil. The cover crops also provide vital honey bee habitats.

“We’re not required to do many of the things we do to protect and nourish the land but for me, it is one of the most important aspects of farming. Marijuana is a very easy plant to grow – there’s a reason it’s called weed. But it’s very hard to responsibly grow good weed. There are a lot of subtleties, and I am continually learning how to do it better. I think continuing to learn and improve is the mark of success,” explained Emers with a satisfied smile.



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