ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

ACCOUNT #: 101523 CAMPAIGN #: 42593 COST: $605

STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Lisi Misa
being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is a representative of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved by the Third Judicial Court, Anchorage, Alaska, and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on

March 3, 10, 17/2024

and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed Lisi Misa

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 19th day of March

2024 Jada L. Nowling

Notary Public in and for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
7/14/2024

Jada L. Nowling
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF ALASKA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 07/14/2024

AMCO RCVD 4/26/2024

Anchorage Daily News - 03/03/2024

BOOK REVIEW

Tommy Orange returns to the Red Feather boys

Nancy Lord
For the Daily News

"Wandering Stars"
By Tommy Orange; Alfred A. Knopf; 2024; 336 pages; $29.

Tommy Orange's first novel, "There There," was both critically acclaimed and a best seller when it appeared in 2018. That story of urban Native Americans tracked 12 characters to the Big Oakland Powwow, along the way encompassing a family and community history of loss and renewal and ending in violence. Second novels rarely match those that burst forth so radiantly, but "Wandering Stars" accomplishes exactly that.

Orange, who brought readers to a new understanding of Native American identity and American life, has delivered what might be considered both a prequel and sequel to "There There," with all the intelligence, pathos, humor, and love of the first book. The difference here is that, instead of the sprawl of characters in the first book, "Wandering Stars" zeros in

on one family and follows it for seven generations. (A family tree at the start provides a handy reference.)

In a prologue, Orange presents a straightforward historical narrative of some of the last "Indian wars" that cleared the southern plains of both Indians and buffalo and opened them to white settlement. He follows that with a brief history of Indian boarding schools and American assimilation policy.

In the following Part I, we meet a young Cheyenne, taken in chains to a Florida prison in 1875. Near his death 50 years later he recounts his experience of being made to "renounce our blanket ways" and become Christian. With his new name, Jude Star (a name he'd taken from the Bible's Book of Jude and a dark reference there to wandering stars), he'd returned to Oklahoma, married a white woman, and had a son he sent to boarding school.

A new chapter shifts to the perspective of the historical Richard Henry Pratt, who supervised the Florida prisoners and later founded the infamous Carlisle Indian Industrial School based on the prison program of regimentation and "civilizing" Indians. Here, Orange does an impressive job of creating a complex character both true to what we know from history and fully imagined as an old man examining his memories and earlier attitudes. Chapters then alternate between Pratt and Jude Star's son Charles, who'd been traumatized by his time at Carlisle and struggles to find his way in life. His daughter, subsequently, is adopted by a white family and until later in life learns nothing of her Indian identity.

Part II of the book, titled "Aftermath," begins in 2018 and picks up after the powwow in "There, There" with Orvil, one of the three Red Feather boys. Orvil is recovering from the bullet that struck him at the powwow and is hooked on pain meds. Alternating chapters belong to Orvil's younger brothers, his grandmother, his grandmother's half-sister, and a friend. Each character is drawn with compassion and humor, even as each struggles with contemporary life and generational trauma.

In addition to telling a revelatory, all-engrossing story, Orange shows again why he's an exceptional prose writer. Each character speaks with a unique and compelling voice, both colloquial and poetic in language. Long-linked sentences flow like wind across a landscape and beat like drums. Precise and startling imagery enlivens nearly every line. When the youngest brother, Lony, dreams that he's a domino tile, "In the dream he didn't know when the line would come that would knock him over and end his life. He knew that being knocked over meant that, and that the line was his family line, that something had begun long before he was born that was coming to knock him down, but that this was true of everyone, each family line falling on top of the living when they die, all that they couldn't carry, couldn't resolve, couldn't figure out, with all their weight."

What about those "wandering stars?" On the most basic level, the characters here fill a constellation. Jude Star is first kept in a star-shaped prison, then chooses his biblical name. (One generation later, that "star" has gone out, the name eclipsed into history while the lineage carries on.) A doctor tells Orvid that the bullet in him is shaped like a star and can't be safely removed — but warns him that it may wander within his body. Stars enter dreams. Young Lony learns that the sun is a star and that some Native Americans had worshiped it, which makes more sense to him than worshipping "a dead guy on a cross who rose from a grave like a zombie."

Fiction brings readers into the felt lives of characters, eliciting emotional responses and empathy. In "Wandering Star," Orange's characters, with all their troubles, transgressions, and layered stories, become beloved if often infuriating family members. Readers who get to know them open themselves to understanding something about how the generational trauma and resilience of Native Americans, including Alaska Natives, have influenced lives and cultures. Orange has again brilliantly succeeded in enlarging and complicating what it means to be American.

Nancy Lord is a Homer-based writer and former Alaska writer laureate. Her books include "Fishcamp," "Beluga Days," and "Early Warming." Her latest book is "pH: A Novel."

I don't understand 'save the date' invites for kids' birthday parties

JUDITH MARTIN
MISS MANNERS

Q. Dear Miss Manners: I'm used to fielding "save the dates" for weddings. In those cases, they are a courtesy, allowing guests to plan for travel and time away from home.

However, I have a relative who has adopted the "save the date" practice for their young children's birthdays, asking our availability four to six months in advance! There is no travel to plan, as all of our family members live within an hour of their home. I can't help but be resentful of the advance claims on my time. I may not currently have firm plans for that date, but I expect to have other demands on my time as it gets closer! How can I best respond to inquiries about my availability so far in advance, especially when I don't even think the child will note my presence or absence? Is there an outer limit on expecting others to hold dates for children's parties?

A. Gentle reader: Your relative would have been cleverer to have issued invitations, thereby requiring a commitment on your part if you were unable to devise an excuse. A request to save the date does not require a response. When the actual invitation eventually arrives, you are free to say, in a tone of regret, that you have accepted an alternate invitation. Miss Manners realizes this may subject you to unfair accusations that you were warned. But at least you will not have to attend the party.

Q. Dear Miss Manners: Following a snowstorm, I went to clean off my car in its space in a reserved lot. An older woman who parks in the adjacent space was doing the same. As I was shoveling out my space, she was knocking snow off her car and letting it pile on the ground. I understand that older people face physical challenges, as I am in my mid-70s and heavy lifting is increasingly hard on my back. As a favor to her, I not only shoveled my space, but also cleared the piled snow from hers. After that, she did another round of wiping snow off her car, knocking it into the area I had just cleared for her. So I reshoveled that snow. She finished sooner than I did, and departed without either acknowledging my help or thanking me for it. I felt a bit of a fool for doing a favor for someone who didn't care. What do I do the next time it snows? Will I deserve the glare I'll get if I fail to clear her space? I don't wish to create an adversary, but neither do I wish to be made a fool again. Either way, I won't expect a "thank you" in the future.

A. Gentle reader: Why would you not expect a thank you, now or in the future? Miss Manners would, but she would also assume, provisionally, that your neighbor's omission was an oversight rather than an intentional slight. If you neglect to volunteer next time and do get an undeserved glare, Miss Manners will have been proven wrong — and you may thereafter keep to your own space.

Miss Manners, written by Judith Martin and her two perfect children, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Marin, has chronicled the continuous rise and fall of American manners since 1978. Send your questions to dearmissmanners@gmail.com.

Mom debates snitching on teens

AMY DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Q. Dear Amy: I'm a mom of a young teenager. I've worked hard to foster a sense of trust and accountability.

I've asked my teen to be open with me about the actions of friends and acquaintances, good and bad, and have promised that in return for their honesty, I will not "snitch" unless a friend is in a serious situation, e.g. threats of suicide, hard drugs, weapons, pregnancy, etc.

Recently my teen shared with me that some friends are starting to vape, experiment with pot, and sometimes receive sexually explicit material from other teens — or people pretending to be teens, I suspect.

I am grateful that my teen is open with me.

However, I never expected that my request for honesty would open up so many credible examples of "good" kids doing bad things, including possibly being victims of sextortion.

I want to run to these parents and tell them what's happening, but I don't want to break trust with my child and make that child a "snitch" in the mind of the local youth.

Can you help me navigate a path that allows me to share what I've learned with parents while not making my child the bad guy — and not breaking the trust I have with my child?

— Torn in CA

A. Dear Torn: So far, the things your child is telling you about are within the norm for many teens, who do experiment, push boundaries, and definitely try things that they know they're not supposed to do. They are surrounded by messages that they should not vape, smoke, drink alcohol, or use pot. And yet — "good kids" do these things.

So far, you have not received any reports of "threats of suicide, hard drugs, weapons, pregnancy, etc.," and so I don't see any need for you to freak out and alert other parents.

If your teen is extremely worried about a specific person going far down an extremely risky path, you should reach out to that child's parents. You're the adult. This is a judgment call you should make.

The only issue you bring up that has an alarming and long-lasting downside is exchanging, receiving, or providing sexual photos. These photos truly do live forever. It is the "forever" concept that stretches a typical teen's cognitive capacity. They think that they will live forever, but they can't imagine that their *** pics will, even if they are delivered and received on apps that promise a quick deletion.

I suggest taking your valid concerns about this issue to the school counselor, without the need to supply specifics.

The school must take on the task of educating their students about the risks and negative consequences of ever sending or sharing explicit photos — even between friends or romantic partners. This is a re-emphasis of the lessons and concerns you will discuss honestly with your own teen at home.

Q. Dear Amy: "Wondering" reported that relatives made off with some of grandma's stuff, before the estate was settled.

Years ago, my mom handed her kids and grandkids a package of sticky notes.

We put sticky notes on items we would like after she was gone. She settled any disputes.

There are sticky notes all over the place but hopefully there will be no arguing afterward.

— No Sticky Fingers

A. Dear No Fingers: Mom's a smart one.

You can email Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com or send a letter to Ask Amy, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, NY 13068. You can also follow her on Twitter @askingamy or Facebook.

I'm dating a great guy, but my history is making me insecure

Dear Wayne and Wanda,

WAYNE & WANDA
LOVE TRACK

I'm in my mid-30s and have had a few long, serious relationships but have never married. I've also never had kids, and I've maintained a busy and active social life. I guess my love of fine dining, live music, and a stint working at a bar in my early 20s is to credit for the fact that the majority of my friends work in the service industry.

This is a fun friend group for sure, though admittedly, I don't socially surround myself with "adulting" types. That's probably why my three previous serious relationships bordered on dramatic, maybe even a little dysfunctional. There was a lot of drama, bad communication, fighting, lies, etc. Two of them were unfaithful to me (which ended those relationships). In all three relationships, I felt like the responsible one — and I use that word lightly, meaning I was kind of delivering the bare minimum, like the fact that I had health insurance, a steady paycheck, and a dog.

Now I find myself in a whole new place, dating a new guy. He is the most mature adult I've ever dated. He owns a house and has an incredible job that required years of school. He volunteers for several nonprofits, sits on a board of directors, and regularly goes to church. He knows how to cook and he's always coming up with creative date ideas — all my past boyfriends wanted to do was go to the bar and maybe split a basket of tater tots.

I'm freaking out because frankly I just feel unworthy of him. I worry he'll realize he's picked someone who can't match his emotional maturity and drop me. I worry I can't keep up — he feels too good to be true. I'm afraid his friends (all equally mature and impressive) will think my friends are losers and lushes. And I really, really like him, so all these fears are compounded by that. I know I need to relax or I'm going to self-sabotage this but I can't seem to just relax and enjoy this. Advice?

Wanda says:

First thing first: Congratulations on finally breaking out of the dysfunction cycle that characterized your previous dating history. You describe stressful and unhealthy relationships that perhaps in the moment were misunderstood as passionate, intense or exciting, but were actually really, really bad for you. No one needs to be lied to, cheated on or otherwise mistreated, and it's all too easy to connect emotionally to someone who needs help, and feel self-worth in being the one who can support and fix them.

Unfortunately, your time with these past paramours has seriously screwed with your self-esteem and sense of worth. Rather than focusing on what you bring to the table, you're framing your value as a partner by homing in on unfortunately negative previous patterns that left you feeling less than fabulous. And this is messing with your mind at a time when you should be kicking back and basking in the honeymoon phase of your new relationship.

You've now picked this guy and are falling hard for him; well, good news, he has picked you too! And that's surely because of the wonderful traits he sees in you — not because of what you perceive yourself to be lacking. Can you be happy in a relationship where there's honesty, open communication, kept commitments and actual date nights? I promise you, you can.

Wayne says:

Those aren't fears — they're insecurities, likely mixed with a dose of early-dating anxiety. I think you're underselling and underminding yourself. So allow me to flip this scenario and then tell us how you feel …

What if your new guy is freaking out, fearing his routine is so boring and he's waiting for this exciting social butterfly he's lucky enough to be dating to finally see that? What if he watches you in your element, as the center of attention for so many fun friends, and is worried he won't fit in with the cool kids?

What if your life and relationship experiences have given you a sense of emotional maturity that he admires? And what if his friends see you as bold and impressive, and they know that their friend is the one who scored big time?

I don't have to guess on this one. He really, really likes you too, and I bet he finds that you two and your lives complement each other so well. So yes, you do need to relax or stop with the self-sabotage. It's your confidence and personality that likely landed him. Keep rolling with that and have fun with this great new situation.

Send your romance woes and wonderings to Wanda and Wayne at wanda@adn.com.

ADN .com

Denali Dispensaries, LLC doing business as Denali Dispensaries, LLC, located at 225 E 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for the transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306. 300), license #11411 to Red Run Anchorage Holdings LLC, doing business as, Red Run Cannabis Company.

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 jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

Notice of an upcoming election for the
Chugach Electric Association
Board of Directors

Two directors will be elected to the Chugach Board of Directors in the upcoming 2024 election.

Chugach members may petition to have their names on the ballot. A petition candidate needs valid signatures from 50 Chugach members to be approved. The petition deadline is **5 p.m., Friday, March 8, 2024.**

Chugach members who are interested in running by petition as a director candidate can obtain instructions and forms at www.chugachelectric.com. You can also call (907) 762-4489 for more information or to obtain a candidate packet.

CHUGACH

AMCO RCVD 4/26/2024

ANCHORAGE

Pedestrian dies after being struck by SUV on Seward Highway

Anchorage Daily News

A man crossing the Seward Highway late Thursday was struck by an SUV and died, Anchorage police said Friday.

The man was crossing the northbound lanes of the highway near Dowling Road around 8:20 p.m. when he was struck by a Kia Sorento, police said.

Anchorage Fire Department medics responded and attempted lifesaving measures but the man died at the scene, police said. The driver remained on scene and cooperated with police, they said.

Charges had not been filed as of Friday morning, according to police.

It was the third pedestrian death in the past week in Anchorage.

On Wednesday, a woman lying down in the South Anchorage Walmart parking lot was struck and killed by a minivan, police said. Police on Friday morning identified her as 52-year-old Mary Rickteroff-Andrew.

Brian Pederson, 30, died early Sunday morning on the Old Seward Highway in South Anchorage when he was hit by a Ford Explorer that left the area without stopping, police said. The driver, 29-year-old Marsean Hadley, was later charged with manslaughter and driving under the influence after police tracked him to his home using a license plate found near Pederson's body, according to criminal charges filed in the case.

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Dunleavy seeks to remove decades-old boards overseeing Alaska parks

Iris Samuels
Anchorage Daily News

Wood-Tikchik State Park, at more than 1.5 million acres, is the largest state park in the U.S. Located north of Dillingham in Southwest Alaska, the park — which includes headwaters important to Bristol Bay salmon — is managed by a single full-time employee.

Since the park's creation in 1978, management has been supported by a citizen advisory council representing three village councils, the city of Dillingham, the Bristol Bay Native Association and the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game. But Gov. Mike Dunleavy is seeking to eliminate the board in the "interests of efficient administration."

According to state parks director Ricky Gease, there has never been a problem with the operations of the council. Eliminating the Wood-Tikchik management council is opposed by the Bristol Bay Native Corp., the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust and the Bristol Bay Native Association. Several members of the board testified during a recent Senate Resources Committee meeting about their opposition to the removal of the council.

Dunleavy's executive order on Wood-Tikchik is one of 12 issued this year that lawmakers will consider overturning in a joint session Tuesday. If the order is allowed to go into effect, the council would be eliminated in July, but its members say its removal was done without support from the community.

Robin Samuelsen, a Dillingham resident who serves on the council, said he remembers the day in the late 1970s when then-Gov. Jay Hammond spoke to community members about the formation of the park.

"Hammond convinced us that we should support the park. Most people were against it," said Samuelsen, chief of the Curyung Tribal Council.

Since the formation of the park in 1978, the board has met to address the needs of the communities that rely on the region for subsistence and economic needs. None of the community members who have weighed in on Dunleavy's order said there was any reason to think the board was operating inefficiently, as Dunleavy suggested.

"I read the governor's statement three times and each time it made me madder and madder," Samuelsen said.

Dan Dunaway, a Dillingham resident and the previous area wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said he thought "the council worked quite well."

The order "seems like a solution in search of a problem," he added. "I'm not sure the park would function as well as it does if we didn't have local buy-in and local support."

Some observers have wondered aloud if the elimination of the board is meant to pave the way for resource development, or for corporations to take advantage of the land in other ways. A decade ago, lawmakers allowed for the planning of a hydroelectric dam in the park before nixing the plan amid pressure from local representatives.

"We know that this area is mineral rich and we know what outside corporate entities have in their eyes, and that is dollar signs and development, without any regard for what that development means, which is oftentimes destruction," said Maria Dosal, a Dillingham resident.

LOREN HOLMES / ADN archive July 2022

Lake Nerka is seen beyond Little Togiak Lake in Wood-Tikchik State Park on July 21, 2022. The University of Washington Alaska Salmon Program's Nerka Camp is visible in the upper left of the frame.

The Wood-Tikchik management council is one just two park oversight boards written into state law, with specific direction that their members must be appointed by the governor to represent local stakeholders. The other — for the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve near Haines — is also on Dunleavy's chopping block despite broad support for the council from local governments and groups.

The Chilkat council was created in 1982 after years of contentious debate over resource management in the Chilkat Valley. The elimination of the council is opposed by Sealaska Corp., the Chilkat Indian Village, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, the Haines Borough and the Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute.

"The creation of the preserve and its 12-member advisory council 40 years ago resulted from a hard-fought, multipartnered agreement that struck a balance between traditional uses of this 48,000 acres of eagle habitat and the necessary protection of the world's largest gathering of eagles," said Tom Morphet, Haines Borough mayor, in a letter to lawmakers.

Kimberly Strong, president of the Chilkat Indian Village, said in a letter that the village lobbied against the original designation of the preserve, fearing the loss of traditional lands and waters, but "because all parties involved proceeded with a state preserve guided by an advisory council where we have a seat at the table, we support the current preserve through the advisory council."

Aside from the two councils, most state park advisory boards are not written into statute and their members are selected by the director of state parks.

Gease, the state parks director, said that if the governor's orders are approved, the councils would be replaced by a regional citizen advisory boards that would be appointed by the director. Gease said that the higher the level of the executive who approves the member, the longer it takes to fill seats on a board.

> *"We know that this area is mineral rich and we know what outside corporate entities have in their eyes, and that is dollar signs and development, without any regard for what that development means, which is oftentimes destruction."*
>
> — Maria Dosal, a Dillingham resident

As of this month, there was one vacancy on the Wood-Tikchik council for the seat representing Dillingham, and three vacancies on the Chilkat Bald Eagle council.

Samuelsen said the city of Dillingham has repeatedly submitted names to the governor for filling the seat but the governor has not selected one.

"The people of this region are very comfortable with keeping the park the way it is. We're a little leery of the governor after our dealings with him in Pebble. He's never spoken to us once about Pebble. What's this bill going to do? Open state land in the park for mining development? That would be a disaster," said Samuelsen, referring to the proposed Pebble mine, a halted project in Bristol Bay that had been supported by Dunleavy despite opposition from locals and environmental advocates.

The Dunleavy administration did not point to specific issues with the council. Asked by a lawmaker, Gease said there had been no issues with either the Wood-Tikchik or Chilkat councils during his tenure.

"This is the largest state park in the country and it is managed by one park employee. You currently have a board in statute that provides some meaningful contact for the public on the management of that park. What this proposal does is it essentially takes that public contact away," said state Sen. Matt Claman, an Anchorage Democrat.

"I just find this troubling for a board that, by your own testimony, there has been no problem with this board functioning and doing its work," Claman told Gease during a hearing.

Gease said citizen advisory boards could replace the work of the councils, citing the creation of local fundraising committees for the Kachemak Bay and Chugach state parks as examples of the success of such boards.

"I think if it's less prescriptive, there's more creativity and empowerment at the local level," said Gease.

Gease told House members in a Resources Committee meeting this month that "anytime there's a change, people are resistant to the change because it's something new."

"To the best of my ability I tried to reassure people and the management council," Gease said. "(The division of state) parks doesn't exist without these regional citizen advisory boards, or at least our management isn't very good if we don't have feedback from the public."

Rep. Donna Mears, D-Anchorage, said during a House Resources Committee hearing that she'd be "very happy to support this change in a future bill when there is buy-in from the communities that are affected by these advisory councils and the folks serving on them."

FROM PAGE A1

ORDERS

executive orders individually. It would take a majority of the state's 60 lawmakers to overturn an order.

House Speaker Cathy Tilton, R-Wasilla, has asked Dunleavy to withdraw three of the orders, she said Monday, because they are likely to be opposed by a majority of lawmakers.

If allowed to go into effect, the orders would eliminate the board of direct entry midwives, eliminate the board of massage therapists and separate the board governing the Alaska Energy Authority from the board governing the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

Members of the boards of midwives and massage therapists opposed the orders seeking to eliminate their oversight, arguing the professions benefit from the supervision of peers.

Conflicting legal opinions indicate that the creation of an Alaska Energy Authority board through an executive order, rather than legislation, could be called into question under state law. The Senate Resources Committee has introduced a bill that could achieve the same goal if the executive order is voted down.

Dunleavy, who is in Washington, D.C., this week, has yet to comment on whether he plans to heed lawmakers' request to withdraw three of his orders.

Regardless of Dunleavy's decision, legislators appear poised to attempt to overturn several of the remaining orders. In a draft agenda of the joint session, lawmakers indicated that Senate Majority Leader Cathy Giessel, R-Anchorage, would bring six executive orders up for votes by lawmakers.

Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak, said some would not face opposition from lawmakers — giving Dunleavy "some wins" — but others have been questioned by lawmakers and constituents who would be affected by the orders, making it possible that they will be overturned.

The orders now set for planned votes would:

- Eliminate the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services and transfer its duties to the Department of Health;
- Eliminate the Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board and transfer its duties to the Department of Public Safety;
- Eliminate the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and transfer its duties to the Department of Natural Resources;
- Eliminate the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council and transfer its duties to the Department of Natural Resources;
- Eliminate the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and transfer its duties to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development;
- And make all members of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board — some of whom are currently appointed by the House speaker and Senate president — subject to appointment by the governor.

The elimination of both the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council are unanimously opposed by groups representing the towns and Alaska Native communities that reside near the parks. Unlike most state park citizen advisory boards, the members of these boards are appointed by the governor according to requirements enshrined in state statute more than 40 years ago.

The remaining three orders, which also could be brought up for disapproval votes during the joint session, would:

- Transfer authority over introducing non-native game species from the Board of Game to the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game;
- Transfer the duties of the Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board to the Department of Public Safety;
- And eliminate the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board and transfer its duties to the Department of Natural Resources.

Any lawmaker could bring forward a motion during the joint session to vote down the orders, even if the motion is not scheduled in advance.

In the case of most orders, the Dunleavy administration said the changes would improve government efficiency. But experts said several of the orders could sacrifice important public processes in name of efficiency, including with the change in authority over introducing non-native species.

The current process "has served Alaska well for decades in conserving the state's wildlife and avoiding the introduction of deleterious diseases and parasites," said Doug Larsen, a retired wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "Parting from that proven process for the sake of efficiency seems illogical and ill advised."

"I'd probably rather have a slower process than a quicker process when it comes to invasive animals coming into Alaska," said Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage.

Stevens said he thought "there's nothing wrong with going through all 12 of (the orders) and having a vote up or down."

Denali Dispensaries, LLC doing business as Denali Dispensaries, LLC, located at 225 E 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for the transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306. 300), license #11411 to Red Run Anchorage Holdings LLC, doing business as, Red Run Cannabis Company.

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 Wetzin, Esq at jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

AMCO RCVD 4/26/2024

Anchorage Daily News - 03/17/2024

ANCHORAGE

Hear from the top mayoral candidates in Thursday's debate

Election 2024

Anchorage Daily News

Now that ballots have been mailed out ahead of the April 2 municipal election, Anchorage voters will begin choosing their preferred candidate for mayor and help decide the direction of the city.

On Thursday evening, residents can hear from the top four candidates for Anchorage mayor on issues such as outmigration, homelessness and affordable housing, in a debate co-hosted by Alaska Public Media and the Anchorage Daily News.

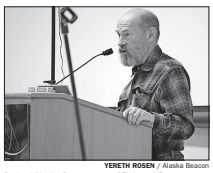
Incumbent Dave Bronson, Suzanne LaFrance, Bill Popp and Chris Tuck will participate in the live broadcast debate moderated by Alaska Public Media News Director Lori Townsend and Anchorage Daily News Opinion Editor Tom Hewitt.

The debate begins at 7 p.m. Thursday and will be broadcast on Alaska Public Media TV, on ADN.com, on YouTube and on Facebook.

WILDLIFE

Caribou declines causing angst for Alaska hunters are part of a wider North American trend

Yereth Rosen
Alaska Beacon



YERETH ROSEN / Alaska Beacon

Retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Jim Dau, who studied the Western Arctic Caribou Herd for decades, speaks on March 7 at a meeting in Anchorage of Alaska's 10 regional subsistence advisory councils.

National Park Service photo February 2012

A caribou skull is seen on Feb. 21, 2012, on the frozen tundra in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. The preserve is part of the range historically used by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. That herd and other major herds across North America are undergoing steep and nearly simultaneous declines.

N. HERBER / National Park Service July 2012

Caribou cross water in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve on July 21, 2012.

Alaska subsistence hunters struggling with caribou declines and lost hunting opportunities got a message at a gathering in Anchorage last week: They are not alone.

Across the circumpolar north, caribou herds in North America and reindeer herds in Eurasia are declining, and in some cases dramatically. In eastern Canada, herds that used to be huge have crashed spectacularly. The George River herd, which numbered over 800,000 and was North America's largest herd in the 1990s, has declined by 99%, down to 7,200 animals and yet to show signs of recovery even though hunting was halted in 2013.

The Bathurst herd of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has declined at a similarly spectacular rate, from 450,000 in 1986 to an estimated 6,240 by 2021; phased hunting restrictions culminated with a total hunting ban in 2016. Other Canadian barren-ground herds have declined by 60% to 80% and are listed by that nation's government as threatened or endangered, as are Canada's boreal and mountain caribou in farther south regions.

That puts into perspective declines in key Alaska herds, said biologist Tim Fullman, one of the experts making presentations at the All-Council meeting of the Federal Subsistence Board and its regional advisory councils. Those Alaska herds include the Western Arctic herd, which has declined by two-thirds since the early 2000s, the Mulchatna herd, which has declined 94% since the 1990s, and the Nelchina herd, which has declined 83% in the same period.

In all, caribou numbers in the seven largest of Alaska's 31 caribou herds have fallen from more than 900,000 to 525,000, the lowest number since 1986, Fullman said.

"When I first came here, I used to say we have more caribou than we have people in the state of Alaska. But that no longer is the case," said Fullman, who is a biologist with the Wilderness Society and is also a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

Along with Fullman, U.S. Geological Survey biologist Heather Johnson and retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Jim Dau described the continent-wide trends in presentations at the meeting.

There are a few notable exceptions in Alaska to the widespread declines, they noted. The Porcupine Caribou Herd that straddles the Alaska-Canada border in the Arctic region reached a historic high in 2017, the last year a census was taken. The Central Arctic and Teshekpuk herds fluctuated but experienced recent increases.

But the decline trend is dominant across North America. Climate change and development, both of which alter habitat, have been cited as likely reasons for widespread declines.

Though predators like wolves and bears have been blamed for some herds' problems, Dau said he was skeptical about that as an explanation.

"I'll tell you, it's hard for me, though, to believe that all of these caribou declines in Alaska are just a coincidence or that they're all just because we have high wolf and brown bear numbers," said Dau, who lives in Kotzebue and worked for decades monitoring the Western Arctic herd. "If it was predators, I could see, you know, one or two herds going down, others coming up, but we're not seeing that."

Among the most worrisome for subsistence harvesters is the trend in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, traditionally among North America's biggest. The herd size now stands at 152,000, according to the most recent count, down from a high of about 490,000 in 2003. That has led to recommendations for much-reduced hunting.

Dau said there is compelling evidence that climate change is at least partly responsible for the declines.

He believes, based on his observations, that the icing events that are becoming more frequent as the climate warms were tipping points for the Western Arctic herd. And he used photographs of dead caribou found in iced-over sites to illustrate his point; ice created by winter rains is known to lock away the food that the animals eat.

In years with a lot of icing events, the caribou "were often skinny by the end of winter," he said. "I think there was plenty of food under the snow for the caribou to eat, because in years when icing didn't seem bad, caribou were in good shape."

Wilbur Howarth of Noorvik, a member of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, backed up Dau's assessment.

"I've seen it. In November. I don't like rain because we're so far out there and it freezes, and the caribou are almost starving," he said. "The climate change is a big factor to not only our caribou in our region, but all the mammals, the fish, what's going on right now."

> "I've seen it. In November. I don't like rain because we're so far out there and it freezes, and the caribou are almost starving. The climate change is a big factor to not only our caribou in our region, but all the mammals, the fish, what's going on right now."
>
> — Wilbur Howarth of Noorvik, a member of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Counci

Winter is not the only season in which warming has created problems for the Western Arctic herd, Dau said. The summer insect season appears to have been extended by two to three weeks, meaning more harassment, more obstacles for the animals as they try to eat and put on fat and more chances that mother-calf pairs get separated, he said.

Climate change can feed into other negative forces, Dau, Fuller and Johnson said. Spread of woody shrubs onto tundra terrain not only displaces the lichen, mosses and other tundra plants that caribou eat, it draws moose and other wood-chomping animals, as well as the wolves and bears that prey on them.

Even if the widespread declines are unrelated to climate change or human activity and are instead natural fluctuations from which caribou can recover, the herds will need access to their full habitat and range if they are to do so, Dau said. "I think the critical resource to ensure the long-term sustainability of caribou is space," he said.

The trend in Alaska, however, is in the other direction. Within the space that major caribou herds use, development exists, is spreading or is proposed to spread.

The Porcupine herd famously crowds into the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for calving and for summer insect relief. That area has long been proposed for oil development, and leases were sold there at the end of the Trump administration. However, actual exploration work is on hold.

The Central Arctic herd shares territory with existing oil fields, and that oil development is slated to spread as Santos prepares to build the Pikka project near the Colville River Delta.

The Teshekpuk herd is named for the vast Teshekpuk Lake, the North Slope's largest lake. Along the shores of that lake, which is within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, or NPR-A, those caribou gather to give birth to and nurture their young. But the northeastern section of the NPR-A is increasingly being developed for oil production. ConocoPhillips' huge Willow project, being built in the region, in particular is seen by some as a threat to the Teshekpuk herd. "The Project's impacts to caribou and subsistence harvesting of caribou, particularly associated with roads and pipelines, has been consistently identified as a key concern by the community of Nuiqsut, which relies heavily on caribou for their sustenance and is located closest to the Project," said last year's Bureau of Land Management record of decision giving the Biden administration's go-ahead for Willow development.

For the Western Arctic herd's habitat, the main development that is looming is the proposed 211-mile road that would provide access to the remote Ambler mining district in Arctic Northwest Alaska. The Ambler Access Project would enable commercial mining at multiple sites along its corridor, resulting in more truck traffic and more habitat fragmentation across the Western Arctic herd's range, Dau said.

Roads have been found to affect caribou movement across North America and in Alaska in particular. Recent research by Johnson and her colleagues found negative reactions among the Central Arctic herd to North Slope oilfield traffic, and past research has shown that animals in the Western Arctic herd have trouble crossing the 52-mile road that connects the Red Dog mine to its Chukchi Sea port.

Dau brought up what he said was another development threat to Alaska's caribou: the Bureau of Land Management's possible cancellation of protections for 28 million acres of wildlife habitat.

The proposal is to end what are known as D-1 designations, so named for a provision in the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, that he said were established to prevent development from harming subsistence harvests of wild foods.

The proposal was launched at the end of the Trump administration; that administration had already removed D-1 protections from some other lands in Alaska. Removal of the designation would allow mining and other development to proceed. After President Joe Biden took office, the Department of the Interior paused the process, citing some legal deficiencies.

U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, are strong advocates for removal of D-1 designations from the 28 million acres, as proposed by former Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. Murkowski and Sullivan, in a statement, called the D-1 protections "outdated" barriers to what should be multiple uses of those lands. But numerous tribes and environmental groups are urging the Biden administration's Department of the Interior to keep the protections in place.

Dau urged caution in any future development decisions.

"Regardless of whether these declines are natural or if they're manmade, I can't recall a time when it's been more important to protect caribou and their habitat than right now," he said.

Originally published by the Alaska Beacon, an independent, nonpartisan news organization that covers Alaska state government.

Alaska news, anytime. ADN.com

Denali Dispensaries, LLC doing business as Denali Dispensaries, LLC, located at 225 E 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for the transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306. 300), license #11411 to Red Run Anchorage Holdings LLC, doing business as, Red Run Cannabis Company.

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 jana@jdwcounsel.com or 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

AK, Inc., dba Speedway Express, located at 500 Hollywood Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, is applying for transfer of a Package Store AS 04.09.230 liquor license (License No. 2614) to 6010 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage, Alaska. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

AK, Inc., dba Speedway Express, located at 545 Muldoon Road, Anchorage, Alaska, is applying for transfer of a Package Store AS 04.09.230 liquor license (License No. 1596) to 101 East Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

AMCO RCVD 4/26/2024