Volunteers save thousands of books from total destruction

By Gig Grant

Editor's note: This article is about the ongoing Bright Lights Book Project happening at Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS). Volunteers are working to rescue reusable books that make their way into the recycling bin.

This is not one of your normal book stores. It didn’t take long to see that the volunteers are true book lovers. There was a lot of activity. People were carrying boxes in both directions at the same time. These volunteers are work tirelessly to find good homes for thousands of books that are in “like new” condition, hopefully before they are shredded.

![Sharon Aubrey and Bill Schmidt kunz work diligently at Valley Community for Recycling Solutions to repurpose recycled books.](image)

Help the Math Club help homeless teens!

For the sixth consecutive year the math department and math club are leading a donation drive for My House, a local charity that helps homeless teens get back on their feet. Visit the donation barrel near the FSM entrance and donate any of the following:

- New items
  - Cap of Noodles
  - Apple Sauce pouches
  - Protein granola bars
  - 100% juice boxes
  - Pack of nuts and trail mix
  - Fruit leacher
  - Fruit cups
  - Chop sticks
  - Cough drops
  - Shaving cream
  - Gas cards or hair cut gift cards (please give these to student services)
  - Underwear

- Gently used items
  - Clean shoes
  - Men’s clothing
  - Professional clothing for men or women
  - Home decor
  - XS and XL clothing

Thank you!

Discovering Atomic Shrimp

By Shane O’Quinn

YouTube is a vast place. There are over 2 billion users worldwide. Every day, people collectively watch 1 billion hours of YouTube content. Naturally, since there are so many people watching on the platform, there will be content creators that will fill the niche that these viewers are looking for; or show them something they weren’t seeking, but ended up enjoying anyway.

Personally, I subscribed to over 300 different channels. They are for comic relief, information, firearms, politics, culinary customs, travel, etc. That is the beauty of YouTube. You can find people from all walks of life with perspectives on the world that may differ from your own. It serves as the ultimate way to exchange information about what it’s like to be in certain places and do certain things. It facilitates communication on an unprecedented level since before

Upcoming events:

- **February 17**: Elizabeth Peratrovich Day events.
- **February 18**: Resume Writing Workshop. 12:00-1:00 PM. FSM 201.
- **February 19**: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.
- **February 19**: Resume Writing Workshop. 2:30-3:30 PM. FSM 201.
- **February 20**: Good Nutrition V. Dieting (Journey event). 4:00-5:15 PM. FSM 204.
- **February 22**: Resume Writing Workshop. 12:00-1:00 PM. FSM 201.
- **February 25**: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.
- **February 27**: Resume Writing Workshop. 2:30-3:30 PM. FSM 201.
- **February 29**: Math Cram Jam. 10:30 AM-2:00 PM. SNOD 104.
- **March 2**: Climate Change is Here: What can you do? (Journey event). 4:00-5:30 PM. FSM 204.
- **March 6**: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.
- **March 8**: Resume and Cover Letter Open Writing Lab. 9 AM-12 PM. FSM 104.
- **March 11**: Mat-Su Employer Expo 2020. 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. All campus.
- **March 20**: NCBI Social Inclusion & Equity Workshop. 1:00-5:00 PM. FSM 206.

Club meeting times:

- Student clubs are always open to new members, so don’t be shy!
- Alaska Native Cultures Club: Monday, 10:30 AM in FSM 201.
- All Who Code: TBA
- LGBT+ Club: Monday, 12:00 PM in Library 214.

See YOUTUBE page 7
Employer Expo

The Mat-Su Job Center is hosting their annual Employer Expo, also known as a job or career fair, on March 11, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Mat-Su College (MSC). The event is designed to connect local and statewide employers with the talented employment pool of students from Mat-Su College and throughout the valley.

Who should attend? There is a misconception that only students who are about to graduate should attend. All students despite their educational level can benefit and learn about employment opportunities, internships and begin networking with employers in their field of interest. Moreover, students can learn about the education and desired skills employers are looking for, to adequately prepare and be successful. Follow the guidelines below and utilize your free resources on campus, including the campus library and your Career Development Office.

Create your Résumé
Before the event, create or update your résumé and have your MSC Career Development Advisor proofread and check for errors. Have copies of your résumé available with an electronic version to print additional pages if necessary. Mat-Su College will offer multiple, résumé-writing workshops in February and an Open Writing Lab to assist students in preparing for this event. Contact the Career Development Office at 907-746-9319 to learn available dates and times.

Dress Professionally
It is important to dress professionally for a job fair, as it is with an interview. This is an opportunity to make a good first impression, so make sure everything fits properly (nothing tight or revealing); clothing is wrinkle free and limited jewelry. Wear comfortable dressy shoes as you might be on your feet for several hours.

Prepare your Introduction
Prepare and practice your introduction, which includes your full name, career goals, strengths, and relevant experiences. Approach the recruiter with confidence, a firm handshake, and smile. If you are typically shy or easily get nervous, schedule an appointment with the MSC Career Development Advisor to practice and get comfortable.

Questions for employers
Be prepared with some thoughtful questions for the employers. Again, this is a learning and networking opportunity. The more time you spend with an employer is a chance to leave an impression and any future employment contacts, when you are ready to apply. If you need assistance in preparing some questions, schedule an appointment with you Career Development office.

Maximize your employment opportunities by attending the Mat-Su Job Center Employer Expo. Also, be sure to take advantage of the free resources provided by your Career Development Office.

Handshake
Mat-Su College/UA students and Alumni can access thousands of internships and jobs, discover career and networking events and more, all through Handshake.

alaska.joinhandshake.com

For more information contact:
Mat-Su College Student Services
907.46.9746

UA is an AVEO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual.
Hey guys! It's me again!

Dragons,

On behalf of the Student Government Council here at Mat-Su, welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday season and are excited to get back to doing homework! Haha! If you are a new student, welcome home! My Name is Angeli Kristovich and I am currently your Student Government President. I am so glad you chose Mat-Su college; I hope you will love and enjoy this campus as much as I do.

Last semester was the first half of my term and, oh my goodness, I learned so much. Student Government has given me a lot of great, and often hilarious memories of trying to figure out what exactly I should be doing as the President. Whether it was hosting campus events, putting on a stellar Halloween dance, collaborating with clubs, or working alongside the Journey and Student Services teams, all of it was super exciting! As I continue to learn more and move forward, I wanted to remind you all that if you have any suggestions of what you would like to see happen on campus, to please email me or stop by my office (JKB114). So far, students have said that they want a student recreation room, a mid-term snack week, and a finals snack week/pizza day – Student Government is going to work on making this happen.

In case you didn’t know, or you forgot, the student government meetings are held upstairs in the library on Wednesdays at noon. Please feel free to come check out a meeting and see if you like it. Remember, you do not need to join SG to attend meetings. If you don’t like it, don’t trip-it’s all good! College is a time to try new things, meet new people, and become the person you truly want to be academically and personally. So, put yourself out there! You can also have a really good time by going to the tutor, too! I can’t think of a better way to meet a friend than when you are both confused over math ... good times.

Anyways, all I'm trying to say is don't be too shy to share your ideas about what you want to see happen on campus. It is up to us to create the atmosphere and memories that will stay with you for the rest of our lives. We shouldn't let this time pass without giving it our all to create a history that we can look back on and laugh about, be proud of, and realize now that we are spending our time with the coolest people ever, and at the greatest college campus ever! Have a great semester and I hope the best for you all.

Warmly,

Angeli Kristovich
Mat-Su College Student Government President
amkristovich@alaska.edu

Scan the QR code for info on the Alaska Native Cultures Club

LGBT+ Club
Mondays 12 - 1 in Library 214

Math Club
“We may not be private eyes but we can find your X”

MEETINGS:
MONDAYS 2:30-3:30
SGH 124 & via Zoom!

Looking For
Photographers
Writers
Reporters
Marketing Reps
Cartoonists
Artists

Now taking submissions

The main goal of Arroba is to provide a fun opportunity for students to practice the Spanish language, as well as the cultures of Spanish speaking countries around the world. Criteria of Membership: All UAA students. Participants: dates: 2/20, 3/26, 4/14

Looking for back issues?
https://archive.org/details/matsu_monitor

Over 100 searchable back issues from 1978 to now, with more added regularly!
FROM THE STUDIO

WHAT'S NEXT?
CONSIDER A CAREER AT MEA

- Great job opportunities and employee benefits
- Internships and full-time positions available

MEA is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

For job openings and available internships visit: www.mea.coop

Congratulations! You earned an A!

Enter your “A” work in the 2020 Student Showcase to be eligible to win great prizes! Applications will be accepted during spring semester 2020. Watch for the application deadline date coming in January.

For more information contact: mrsagal@alaska.edu

Photo by Brooke Corpus

Photo by Brooke Corpus
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Congratulations to our recent Chancellor’s and Dean’s List students!

Sierra Houton
Tricia Howell-West
John Hubbard
Nikki Hunter
Edward Huseman
Katie Jackson
Ruthmarie Jacob Hardage
Jacklyn Jaronik
Anastasia Jasper
Kadi Judd
Barbara Kahula
Kassidy Kaiser
Libbeann Killar
Madelaine Kelly
Alexis Kent
Merry Kincaid
Zackery Kirsch
Claire Kudrya
Brenna Larimer
Alexander Litvinchuk
Julia Litvinchuk
John Losier
Vanessa Madruga
Kaylee Mahler
Emily Manheyt
Katherine Massong
Ariane Moe Mac
Connor McIntire
Elizabeth Miller
Carin Mongeau
Kendra Mons-Verley
Abner Montez Jr.
Axyl Nardini
Robert Nath
Katherine Nelson
Cassidy O’Brien
Ryan O’Mara
Samuel Ouellette
Anna Panfil
Carrie Parmenter
Susan Paul
Jordan Peace
Daniel Pempel
Nicholas Pienaar
Veronica Podunovich
Shannon Powers
Caitlin Pritchett
Veronica Renduli
Noah Richards
Autumn Richardson
Andrew Rondeau
Shannon Ross
Rebecca Rosling
Christopher Ruge
Charlotte Rupright
Emily Sager
Dulce Sanchez-Pulido
Brenna Sand
Jeorge Sawyer
Mykhailo Sazhniev
Tetiana Sazhnieva
Kenneth Scheuner
Sara Schindler
Teka Shaw
Savanna Simmerman
Charity Sisco
James Smith
Lydia Smith
Chelsea Spaulding
Anna Sout
Hunter Sullivan
Rilee Sullivan
Summer Sweet
Natasha Talvi
Nicole Teichida
Jade Turner
Ashley Turner
Paul Vaona
Anastasia Vdovichenko
Caleb Wagle
Hannah Weber
Dennis Welburn
Kristin Wengen
Nigel West
Lynn Whitcomb
Michael Willis
Kurtis Witt
Jarred Yanez
Shea Yankus
Yumeko Ziegler

Alyssa Bushey
Jordan Campbell
Jaime Catle
Sarah Carlson
Rachel Carpenter
Tina Carrier
Misty Caulkins
Makai Chapman
Angelina Coleman
Daniel Coombs Jr.
Willie Copeland III
Veronica Couch
Alla Dayman
Sean Deal
Brenna Denton
McKenna Dinkel
Casey Dochak
Rein Elste
Cy Eller
Isabella Fajardo
Logan Farrar
Vincent Feulles
Kara Fleckenstein
Sommer Florian
Renea Foisy
Derek French
Dawn Gonzalez
Kennedie Goulding
Naomi Gourdin
Colleen Haan
David Haines
Timothy Hayes
Krissey Heckel
Caitlin Hill
Nathaniel Henney
David Hicks
Dominique Hinds
Hannah Holtz
Donald Ingram
Allie Jarvis
Carrie Jelle
Payton Johnson
Jared Kemp
Janice Kim
Paige Kindhart
Clinton Kirkman
Inna Kolomeychuk
Angeli Kristovich
Miles Laughlin
Isabel Leath
Jamison Lednum
Angel Libby
Brendy Liss
Michele Lott
Lauren Luchsinger
Marcus Lupie
Gregory Lytle
Richard Martin
Shalep Mathew
Molly Mayer
Emma Meaders
Autumn Mertill
Nicole Merrill
Kinsey Miller
Dawson Miller
Daniel Miller
Cody Milner
Nathan Mitchell
Brooke Moore
Jasmine Moyer
Hannah Murka
Gregory Naetz
Andrew Natekin
David Northcut
Presleigh Olsen
Gunter Pancake
Chelsy Passmore
Rio Morgan Patrimonio Raval
Jordan Perrego
Alexis Peterson
Mazie Purduce
Ryan Raben
Victoria Rahm
Makenna Rahm
Yekaterina Rakamanova
Mitchell Roberts
Renee Romer
Carrie Root
Jody Rossing
Kendall Ruble
Tana Russell
Daniel Ryan
Taylor Ryan
Hannah Schaefer
Vienna Schmitter-Schrier
Marina Scholl
Steven Schuler
Haya Samangoutuk
Ronald Shelder
Anastasia Shuguk
Mykel Siegrist
Whitney Simpson
Kimberly Sliwa
Timothy Smith
Sean Smith
Sierra Smith-Sandland
Kirstie Starr-Watson
Landyn Steele
Codi Stephenson
Tessa Sterner
Joshua Taylor
James Teat
Kylie Thornow
Ellis Tomagnan
Jared Travis
Serita Unin
Taya VanBlaricum
Eric Waite
Allen Wake
Halen Wells
Alana Wheaton
Alexander Wheeler
Trent White
Scott Wolf
Grace Wyatt
McKenna Young
Catherine Zagysya
Josz Zach
WRITING TUTORS
Monday & Wednesday: 8:30 - 5:00
Tuesday: 8:30 - 2:30
Thursday: 1:00 - 2:30

MATH TUTORS
Monday & Tuesday: 8:30 - 5:00
Wednesday: 8:30 - 3:00
Thursday: 9:00 - 3:00
Friday: 10:00 - 2:00

ASL TUTOR
Wednesday: 3:00 - 5:00

Tutors available in JKB 107 to April 29. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.

Online tutoring options
- tutor.com/Live Home Work Help: the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help with many subjects. Visit http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework
- Khan Academy: Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. https://www.khanacademy.org/
- Purdue OWL: Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and guides to APA and MLA styles. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/
I thought I was going to write something positive as my opening story for my last semester at the Monitor, but something has really gotten under my skin lately: murder. Fear not, it was not me or even someone that I knew personally. It was a total stranger, someone whose face I was first introduced to by their funeral program. Despite the impersonal greeting I have still felt the ripples.

By happenstance there was a connection to a recent triple homicide in our own backyard. KGB, Knik-Goose Bay Road, a road most agree that deserves an upgrade, has recently seen its fair share of death without even counting traffic accidents. This leaves me wondering why we don’t care about murder anymore? 65 unsolved murders in the fall of 2019 between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. Yet how many do you know about? Probably more than you think.

The effects of violence have far-reaching impacts on how we live and breathe. The out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality is leading to a general apathy and no solutions. Violence of any kind from and against our own community is too much. Unfortunately, it seems to be becoming the norm. It barely needs to be swept under the rug. But those “junkies,” those “drug users,” that is what we all want to know. You don’t have to be a math major to see the writing on the wall. Why is the world so_ceptless? What’s your chance of getting murdered? Why do those that lose murders or fathers, brothers or sisters. The fact that we have over 11 unsolved murders in the Palmer/ Wasilla area might raise concern. Yet it does not, for the most part, which is the same old narrative, “junkies killing junkies,” that it keeps it swept under the rug. The bad news is, though, that every time we hear of a murder, we think of someone’s brother, sister, mother, father, friend, homie, or pal.

Murch's Ballad: A battle for medical care.

Murder has many riddles out of sight and prayers, beyond those that lose mothers or fathers, brothers or sisters. The fact that we have over 11 unsolved murders in the Palmer/ Wasilla area might raise concern. Yet it does not, for the most part, which is the same old narrative, “junkies killing junkies,” that it keeps it swept under the rug. The bad news is, though, that every time we hear of a murder, we think of someone’s brother, sister, mother, father, friend, homie, or pal.

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Murch's Ballad: A battle for medical care.
FEBRUARY IS
FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

You may be able to receive:

* LOANS
* GRANTS
* WORK STUDY
* SCHOLARSHIPS

FINANCIAL AID

Talk with a Financial Aid Advisor in Student Services to find out more!