

Brews 'n' Reviews

THE VINYL REVIEW

People have started to mention to me that leaves are changing.

I at first ignored the comments. But when they started to fall in my backyard I could no longer deny the evidence.

Fall is close.

All of the staples are in play: Changing leaves, chilly evenings and football. Fall isn't so bad — it's what's to follow that stinks. I have a song that I listen to this time of year. Unfortunately I don't have it on vinyl. Maybe you do.

It's "Summer's Almost Gone" by The Doors. I would say it's a sad song.

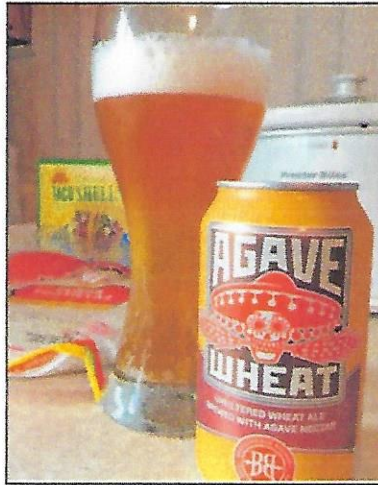
"Where will we be, when the summer's gone?"

In the Laurel Highlands, we will be standing ready with salt and shovel.

We still have several good weeks left. Let's enjoy it.

-@DARickKazmerCE

AGAVE WHEAT



Some marriages aren't meant to be.

Agave Wheat from Breckenridge Brewery in Colorado brings weds wheat-style beer with flavorings from the agave plant. There are times when Midwest meets South America can make sense — but this is not one of those times.

This beer is dirty-blond and has an inch-thick head. The flavor, however, is cereal grain meets nectar. It's an unpleasant clash.

You can't argue with the ambition or idea here. But consider this a failed experiment.

As many beers have proven, agave belongs in the tequila bottle.

-@BruceJSiwy

'MURPHY'S LAW AND THE OUTDOORSMAN'

BY ALEX DANCHANKO JR.
87 PAGES, SELF-PUBLISHED (2017)

Every sportsman has a story or two to tell about their adventures in the great outdoors, but Alex Danchanko Jr. has had enough close encounters and amusing anecdotes with nature to literally fill a book.

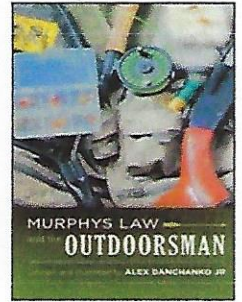
"Murphy's Law and the Outdoorsman" is the 70-year-old Richland Township resident's first self-published book, released June 30 by BookBaby publishing.

The 94-page nonfiction book is a collection of 29 separate short stories, in chronological order, of Danchanko's encounters with nature in Pennsylvania. It is easy to read, fast-paced and entertaining, whether you're an outdoorsman or not. I read a good portion of the book in one afternoon, and could've easily finished the rest, but I wanted to save some of it to read again later.

Danchanko gives the reader enough background information in each story to set the scene for the adventure to come, without weighing down the action by using too many technical details. He also includes a few lines of retrospect to each story, thinking about how that adventure shaped future events or sharing additional information he learned after the fact.

The book is illustrated with photographs from Danchanko's personal collection and from online sources. It is available in paperback and e-book formats on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and other online booksellers.

-bamiller@ourtownjohnstown.com



Submitted photo

Danchanko's book is a collection of 29 short stories about his amusing and sometimes perilous encounters in the Pennsylvania woods in more than 60 years as a fisherman, hunter and outdoorsman.

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