

## **Alaska Peace Center Community News and Opportunities for Action,**

reporting on events and issues of peace, justice, and sustainability affecting us and future generations in Alaska, now broadcasting on **Sundays, 8am & 6pm** on KWRK-LP 90.9 FM Radio in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Be ready for opportunities to participate!

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

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### **BRIEFLY:**

**Starting with a few pleasant reflections and pieces of good news:**

-- **The Ester Republic** resumed publication

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - about issues of peace, justice, and sustainability - IN THE NEAR FUTURE:**

**Drones quilt project** exhibit Dec. 1-31

**SUNDAY, DEC 3<sup>rd</sup>:** --4pm **Fairbanks Open Radio KWRK-LP 90.9FM - Potluck & Auction**

**MONDAY, DEC 4<sup>th</sup>:** -- 7-8pm Fairbanks City Council Mtg.

**TUESDAY, DEC 5<sup>th</sup>:** -

--5:30pm Gwich'in Steering Committee Rally for the Refuge at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall by Wendell St bridge

--12 noon- No War Machine Webinar -

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 6<sup>th</sup>:** -- 8am-5pm Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness

**THURSDAY, DEC 7<sup>th</sup>:**--6- FNSB) Assembly regular mtg

**SATURDAY, DEC 9<sup>th</sup>:**-- 6:45pm - Fairbanks Peace Choir opens for Sweet Honey In The Rock concert

**SUNDAY, DEC 10<sup>th</sup>:** -- Human Rights Day vigils

--Tues, Dec.12 - Monthly IWW Fairbanks Mtg,

--Th, Dec 14 in **Anchorage: Arctic Jingle & Mingle: Celebrate the Arctic Refuge!**

-- Co-operative Extension Service Office [moving, and thus will be] closed

-- tax reform -- Wildlife Refuge, health insurance nts to a bill that no one had the time to read. It's not over yet

-- Call these U.S. Representatives to say "Remove the Arctic Refuge from the tax bill!"

--Alaska's Congressional delegation contacts

-- Eielson Regional Growth Plan >> Review new project information and submit your comments

-- PDF-Powerpoint on ground water contamination plumes available

-- new group WATER: WAke up to the Toxic Environmental Reality.

-- action to update Alaska's habitat protection and permitting law

-- ACTIVIST JOB OPENING - The Alaska Center is hiring an Interior Organizer to be based out of Fairbanks.

-- ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE, -POSITION OPENING -Staff Attorney

-- **Building Better Broadband**

**OUTSIDE ALASKA EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - on issues of peace, justice, and sustainability :**

-- Call: FCC trying to kill net neutrality; set to vote on December 14.

-- AK calls needed to stop this bad EPA nominee. Call Your Senator Today

-- **Stop VA Privatization, Fix, Fund & Fully Staff the VA**

    -- The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

-- **House debates U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen**

-- **A precedent-setting legal battle next week**

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**Community News and Opportunities for Action IN MORE DETAIL:**

**Starting with a few pleasant reflections and pieces of good news:**

-- The **Ester Republic** "where progress is our least important product" has **resumed publication** after a 5-yr hiatus, "a few more issues as a last hurrah...about 2 months apart...the role of the Fool in keeping kings & tyrants responsive to the people...role of journalism, and whistleblowing, and the dire trend in our nation in recent decades toward restricting our rights, particularly habeas corpus\*, free speech, freedom of assembly, and the freedom of the press." wrote [estereditor@gmail.com](mailto:estereditor@gmail.com). esterpublic.blogspot.com/ has numerous good e-links. \*\*"one of the most **important** defenses available against tyranny. ... By issuing a **writ of habeas corpus**, a judge or court may compel those holding a prisoner to produce the prisoner and prove that they have legally incarcerated the individual." per [trace.tennessee.edu](http://trace.tennessee.edu)

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - about issues of peace, justice, and sustainability - IN THE NEAR FUTURE:**

**Drones quilt project** exhibit Dec. 1-31, at Noel Wien Library 1215 Cowles st. The Drones Quilt Project ([dronesquiltproject.wordpress.com/](http://dronesquiltproject.wordpress.com/)) was created as a way to remember the thousands of people who have been murdered by missiles launched from American combat drones. Each square of the quilts honors a person killed in a drone strike. Two of the quilts will be displayed in the lobby of the Library throughout the month of December; others are displayed Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks and Chena Ridge Friends Meetinghouse.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

--4pm **Fairbanks Open Radio KWRK-LP 90.9FM - Potluck & Auction** at the Dome Home, 159 Kniffen Rd on Birch Hill; Bring a dish to share and/or an auction item, and help support this all-volunteer, non-corporate radio station. For more info, visit us on facebook or [kwrk.org](http://kwrk.org). Or call 455-7882. Fairbanks Open Radio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to bringing independent radio to Interior Alaska.

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>:**

-- 7-8pm **Fairbanks City Council Mtg**, at City Hall, 800 Cushman st.

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>:** -

--12 noon- **No War Machine Webinar** -Did you know \$1.4 trillion in weapons are sold each year and that over 50% of your tax dollars fund war, violence and oppression globally? Your university, alma mater, church, work, pension plan, city and state could be investing in this war machine. So here is something you can do locally to stop the out of control war spending and weapons manufacturing. You can gather friends and make them stop. Register for the webinar at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PtJ-nqP\\_QA2AQv10Dz1mZQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PtJ-nqP_QA2AQv10Dz1mZQ), from [info@codepink.org](mailto:info@codepink.org).

-- --5:30pm **Gwich'in Steering Committee Rally** for the Refuge at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall by Wendell St bridge

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>:**

-- 8am-5pm **Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness** at Westmark Hotel & Conference Ctr, 813 Noble St: The Fbks Housing & Homeless Coalition (FHHC) in affiliation with the North Star Community Foundation (NSCF) will be hosting this Symposium. The theme: *This is What Success Looks Like* and focus on implementing the two most successful housing programs available, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid ReHousing (RRH) programs. Fbks has a few PSH programs and a RRH program, but the need for these programs is much greater than the current capacity. This symposium will not only highlight individual successes from local programs, but will also bring in leading experts, funders, government officials, service providers, and property owners to begin to implement the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan. This plan is the result of an enormous amount of research in 2015, but has yet to be implemented fully at the local level. The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) was heavily involved in the plan and will be providing the authors of the plan to help facilitate the symposium. Everything will be in place at the Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness to initiate additional local PSH &/or RRH programs. For more info + a complete schedule of events please visit <http://www.fairbankshomeless.org/upcoming-events.html> or contact Scott Wiser: [swiser@fairbanks.us](mailto:swiser@fairbanks.us) or Mike Sanders: [msanders@fairbanks.us](mailto:msanders@fairbanks.us) [www.facebook.com/events/465679847123342/?ti=icl](http://www.facebook.com/events/465679847123342/?ti=icl)

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>:**

--6-9pm - Fairbanks North Star Borough (**FNSB**) **Assembly regular mtg** in Assembly Chambers, 907 Terminal Street. Regular mtgs are on alternate Thursdays unless the presiding officer schedules otherwise. All regular & special mtgs, committee mtgs, & gatherings of more than 3 assembly members are public mtgs and are streamed live via the borough website; Regular Assembly mtgs are aired live on Public Radio (KUAF-FM 89.9). Agenda & more information: [www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/Pages/Assembly-Meeting-Documents.aspx](http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/Pages/Assembly-Meeting-Documents.aspx)

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>:** *No local events of peace, justice, and sustainability are known for this date.*

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>:**

-- 6:45pm - Fairbanks Peace Choir opens for Sweet Honey In The Rock concert at Hering Auditorium, Lathrop High School. Tickets to the concert are available from Fairbanks Concert Association: [fairbanksconcert.org](http://fairbanksconcert.org).

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>:**

-- **Human Rights Day** Alaska Institute for Justice sponsoring **human rights vigils** in Town Squares at 2 pm. [www.akijp.org](http://www.akijp.org).

## **ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS AFTER THIS WEEK:**

--Tues, Dec.12 - Monthly IWW Fairbanks Mtg, 6pm 507 Gaffney Rd: Fellow Workers - please join us for the monthly Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Fbks meeting at the Bread Line Inc.'s Stone Soup Cafe at 6pm on the second Tuesday of each month. All Wobblies (and recruit prospects) are welcome and encouraged to come. (*FAF calendar*)

--Th, Dec 14 in **Anchorage: Arctic Jingle & Mingle: Celebrate the Arctic Refuge!** 6:30-9:30pm, Church of Love Spenard. Join us for a warm, cozy evening of entertainment & advocacy! We'll be showcasing films, art, and performances that celebrate the beauty & importance of the Arctic Refuge and highlighting the work that's being done in Alaska and across the nation to protect it. Learn about how fellow Alaskans are making their voices heard as they stand up for this wild place—and how you can too! This is a free, family-friendly event. Cookies, hot cocoa, and other wintery snacks & warm beverages will be provided. Hosted by Alaska Wilderness League, Trustees for Alaska, & Defenders of Wildlife.

-- Dec. 18 - Jan.5: The Tanana District **Co-operative Extension Service Office** will be [moving, and thus will be] closed Monday, Dec. 18, through Friday, Jan. 5, while we are settling into our new office space. Please come visit us at our new location when we reopen for business Monday, Jan. 8, at the UAF University Park Building, 1000 University Ave., Room 109. Thank you for your patience while we are in transition. Information: 474-1530 or 474-5211; [E-mail: rlboswell@alaska.edu](mailto:rlboswell@alaska.edu), [Website: www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces)

## **ALASKA-SPECIFIC ONGOING ISSUES:** *Community News and Opportunities for Action:*

-- Early Saturday morning, the Senate passed its version of **tax reform** -- complete with [opening the Arctic National **Wildlife Refuge**], a repeal of the individual **health insurance** mandate, **giveaways to corporations, millionaires** [&billionaires], changes that

would hurt low- & moderate-income families, and handwritten amendments to a bill that no one had the time to read. [Sens. Murkowski and Sullivan were two of 51 senators who voted in favor of this disastrous bill. Right now, your members of Congress need to hear that you're paying attention.](#)

**It's not over yet**, but it'll be tough to stop this bill. Here's what's **next**:

The House and Senate have to pass an identical bill for it to go to the president's desk. Either the House and Senate each have to pass a compromise, or every representative has to go on the record on the Senate's version of the bill. **Either way, we have another shot to block this legislation before it becomes law.** Some members of Congress are waiting to see whether there's a huge outcry around this bill. Together, we need to show Congress that harmful policies are bad politics. [Respond to how your members of Congress voted.](#) [https://cqrccengage.com/fcnl/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=420034&utm\\_campaign=lam&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ak](https://cqrccengage.com/fcnl/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=420034&utm_campaign=lam&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak) from fcnl & other sources.

From FCAC: Call these U.S. Representatives to say "Remove teh Arctic Refuge from the tax bill!"

Fitzpatrick (PA) - 215-579-8102	Stefanik (NY) - 202-225-4611	Katko (NY) - 202-225-3701
Meehan (PA) - 202-225-2011	Zeldin (NY) - 202-225-3826	Smith (NJ) - 202-225-3765
MacArthur (NJ) - 202-225-4765	LoBiondo (NJ) - 202-225-6572	Lance (NJ) - 202-225-5361

You can also use these sites for easy links to your politicians: Democracy.io Resistbot.io 5calls.org

--Alaska's Congressional delegation contacts (more contacts at the end of this news brief):

**Rep. Don Young in Fbks 456-0210, in D.C. 202-225-5765;**

**Sen. Lisa Murkowski 456-0233, in D.C. 202-224-6665;**

Fbks: Courthouse Square, 250 Cushman Ave., Suite 2D; Phone: (907) 456-0233, Fax: (907) 451-7146

**Sen. Dan Sullivan 456-0261, in D.C. 202-224-3004.**

-- Eielson Regional Growth Plan PROJECT UPDATE #2, 11-29-17. "HOW CAN YOU LEARN MORE AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS?

[">>> Review new project information and submit your comments \[www.EAFRegionalgrowth.com\]\(http://www.EAFRegionalgrowth.com\)](#)

The Draft Regional Growth Plan is slated for a February 2018 release for community review and comment.

-- Quite inclusive and highly informative up to the minute **PDF-Powerpoint copies of the Nov. 27 presentation** given at the Public Presentation & Community Gathering **on ground water contamination plumes** in several areas of our Borough by Pam Miller, of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, summarizing factual health effects of PFOA/PFOS toxics and potential for a global ban - are **available upon request** from [nanajp@mosquitonet.com](mailto:nanajp@mosquitonet.com), who is assuming some of the administrative duties for the **new group WATER: WAKE up to the Toxic Environmental Reality:** e-mail address [wakeupalaskawater@gmail.com](mailto:wakeupalaskawater@gmail.com); local co-organizer, David Berrey: #480-395-6548.

--from [info@standforsalmon.net](mailto:info@standforsalmon.net): "Alaska's salmon habitat protection and permitting law needs updates. If the law isn't fixed, salmon spawning and rearing habitat across the state of Alaska will remain unprotected in the face of mega projects the scale of which our state has never seen. The law meant to protect Alaska's salmon is only one sentence long, and hasn't been updated since statehood. Alaska has a mandate from our constitution to protect salmon watersheds for the public good, but we don't have the laws to make this happen... Please join me in taking **action to update Alaska's habitat protection and permitting law by signing onto this letter to the House Fisheries committee**" [[action.standforsalmon.org/page/s/hb199signon](http://action.standforsalmon.org/page/s/hb199signon)]. Also sign petitions at Northern Alaska Environmental Center and carried by volunteers.

--from FAF: **ACTIVIST JOB OPENING** - The Alaska Center is hiring an Interior Organizer to be based out of Fairbanks. The Alaska Center engages, empowers, and elects Alaskans to stand up for our clean air and water, healthy communities, and a strong democracy.

Do you get excited about local issues and advocacy in the interior of Alaska? Are you passionate about raising local voices? Are you interested in educating and engaging people to take action on important issues facing our communities today? If so, this may be the perfect job!...If interested, email your resume and cover letter to [jobs@akcenter.org](mailto:jobs@akcenter.org). <http://akcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Interior-Organizer-JD-2.pdf>

-- ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE, Protecting the human rights of all Alaskans -**POSITION OPENING -Staff Attorney**

Please click on any of the following links to see details <https://employers.indeed.com/j#jobs/view?id=2ac7e780df99>

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/AKIMMIGRATION/jobs/1970872449824125/?source=post\\_homepage\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/pg/AKIMMIGRATION/jobs/1970872449824125/?source=post_homepage_stream)

#### **ALASKA-SPECIFIC NEWS FROM THE RECENT PAST:**

-- [Building Better Broadband](#) Rep. David Guttenberg [on Dec. 2 hosted] a working group to bring faster/stronger internet to Fbks... in response to language Rep Guttenberg put in the budget directing them to start formulating a picture of the coverage and gaps across the state.... Comment can also be emailed to [rca.mail@alaska.gov](mailto:rca.mail@alaska.gov), make sure that the subject clearly references Docket I-17-004. *from FAF*

#### **OUTSIDE ALASKA EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - on [issues of peace, justice, and sustainability](#) :**

--from FAF: **(Call)** Lisa Murkowski Fairbanks Office: (907) 456-0233; Anchorage Office: (907) 271-3735  
Dan Sullivan Fairbanks Office: (907) 456-0261 Anchorage Office: (907) 271-5915 D.C. Office: (202) 224-3004  
..... Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from Fairbanks at [street address].

I'm calling Senator [Lisa Murkowski/Dan Sullivan] to tell her how thankful I am that she listens to Alaskans and hope that she will listen to my current concerns about the state of our nation and Alaska: . I disapprove of the **FCC trying to kill net neutrality**.

1. Preserving an open internet is crucial for fair and equal access to the resources and information available on it.

Thank you for your hard work answering the phones. [REMEMBER leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied]

-- from [PopularResistance.org](http://PopularResistance.org): **Net neutrality** protects the Internet as a tool for Free Speech without discrimination. Losing net neutrality means that in addition to making greater profits by charging more for access to content (like cable tv does), telecom giants such as Verizon, Comcast and AT&T can suppress access to alternative news sites such as ours. Google is already doing that. CEO [Eric Schmidt recently admitted](#) that Google “is, in close coordination with the state, manipulating search results to censor sites critical of the US government. please urge Congress to stop the FCC from dismantling net neutrality. We urge you to contact your members of Congress (202-224-3121) or using the tool at [BattlefortheNet.com](http://BattlefortheNet.com). The **FCC is set to vote on December 14.**

--From: "Union of Concerned Scientists" <[action@ucsusa.org](mailto:action@ucsusa.org)> & np: **AK calls needed to stop this bad EPA nominee. Call Your Senator Today.** Call today and urge your senator to oppose this toxic nomination—dial **833-513-5863**. President Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention has built a career on attacking science and manufacturing misinformation to block chemical industries from being held accountable for harming public health.

Michael Dourson's suspect industry ties and disturbing track record are so glaring that he has even raised concern among policymakers who have been mostly supportive of President Trump's nominees. And thousands of people have reached out to their senators to demand they oppose this dangerous nominee, putting pressure on key legislators who may be the deciding vote for Dourson's fate—and your senator is one of them. Your senator needs to hear from community members and scientists about why an anti-science EPA leader in charge of protecting the U.S. from toxic pollution poses real danger to Alaska's safety. **TALKING POINTS TO GUIDE YOUR CALL**

- Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_ (city/town).
- I am calling to express my strong opposition to Michael Dourson, the nominee to lead the EPA chemical safety office. Mr. Dourson has a clear conflict of interest, industry ties, and has fought science-based safeguards that keep families safe from toxic chemicals. He is the wrong choice for this job.
- *Optional:* Include one sentence on a local issue of concern for your state.
- Does the senator oppose the confirmation of Mr. Dourson?
- *If yes:* Thank you! I sincerely appreciate the senator's support in opposing this dangerous nominee. I urge the senator to please weigh in with others who may not have made up their minds on Mr. Dourson yet.
- *If no or undecided:* Please express my deep concern about Michael Dourson to the senator and let them know I'm still counting on them to oppose this dangerous nominee.
- Thank you for your time.

## -- From Veterans For Peace:

-- **Legislative Action:** There are 22 million veterans in America. Of these, 9 million are enrolled in VA care, and 7 million get some or all of their care in VA hospitals. In addition, there are 49,000 vacant positions at VA hospitals across America. Most are vacant doctor, nurse & mental health positions. As VA vacancies go up, vet care goes down. Legislative proposals in Congress are threatening to drastically change how veterans receive healthcare. The Veterans Health Administration is under attack by groups who are encouraging the elimination of government programs and pushing the idea that only the private sector ‘works’. In surveys by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) & Disabled Am. Veterans (DAV), a vast majority of vets say they don't want private care – they want their VA doctors & nurses. Veterans For Peace are fighting back to “Stop VA Privatization, Fix, Fund & Fully Staff the VA.” And you can too. [Check out our website to find out how you can help!](#)

-- VFP has joined with the **The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**. Originally led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. until his death in 1968, the campaign was to bring together poor people, no matter their religion, “racial” or ethnic identity to advocate for themselves and change the economic conditions and social fabric of the United States. This new campaign is bringing together people across the country who are organizing to build a broad and deep national moral movement—led by the poor, impacted, clergy and moral agents and reflecting the great moral teachings—to unite our country from the bottom up.

The campaign will address the triple evils identified by Dr. Martin Luther King: systemic racism and other forms of discrimination, poverty, war; as well as ecological devastation...

In the Spring of 2018, the Campaign will launch with 40 days of moral action, from May 13-June 21st, in at least 25 states and Washington D.C. By engaging in coordinated and collective nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action across the nation, we will begin to shift the distorted moral narrative of our nation; advance common demands for transformative change; and build power to continue this struggle long after June 2018. See [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org).

--from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): **House debates U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen:** Led by a bipartisan group of representatives including Ro Khanna (CA) & Thomas Massie (KY), the House debated U.S. support for Saudi Arabia & [admitted that this support is unauthorized](#). It's time for Congress to reclaim its authority by passing legislation to end U.S. involvement. See 65 Groups to Congress: Stop Yemen War, Support HConRes 81 at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/65-groups-to-congress-stop-yemen-war-support-hconres-81-1110> then use this link to help you **take effective action** on this and other issues: <https://www.fcnl.org/action/act-online>

## **OUTSIDE ALASKA - IN THE RECENT PAST:**

-- from [aclu.org](http://aclu.org): A **precedent-setting legal battle next week:** Next week, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Masterpiece Cakeshop* – one of the most important and watched cases of the year. If the justices side with the business that refused to sell a wedding cake to our clients because they are a same-sex couple, it could take our country's civil rights protections backwards by decades. **There's a meaningful way you can help right now.** When deciding cases, Supreme Court justices don't only listen to the attorneys' arguments. They also take statements of support into account. [Add your name to our public statement to make it clear that the vast majority of us stand in solidarity with our clients, Charlie and Dave, and everyone seeking equal treatment under the law.](#)

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality.  
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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***Alaska Peace Center works for peace, justice, and sustainability - individually, in our community, and globally - with a commitment to nonviolent conflict resolution.*** Email us at [info@alaskapeace.org](mailto:info@alaskapeace.org) Visit our website: [www.alaskapeace.org](http://www.alaskapeace.org) for more information and details, or to get on our email list, to which the expanded news brief is sent; also see Facebook.

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*Feedback to, and Submissions for inclusion in, this weekly news brief are welcome. Please include "for news" in the subject line.*

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*This week's broadcast included **commentary** from Veteran For Peace John Sptizberg, speaking about the impending **threat of privatization of Veterans Administration services**; ...and North Star Veteran For Peace Rob Mulford bringing to us the **impact of drone killings** and the relevance and purpose of the Drones Quilt Project.*

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*May Peace be with you! Have a good week!*

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