

## **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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **BRIEFLY - Headlines (to be followed by more detail):**

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**good news:** -- *how to stop terror and violence*

-- Working together, we've made a real difference.

### **ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - THIS WEEK:**

**SUN, DEC 17:** -- Arctic refuge?...we're not done yet!

sign the petition to get the Stand for Salmon ballot initiative on the 2018 ballot

--: Proposed Ambler Access Project: Potential Effects on Caribou and People.

**MON, DEC 18:** The tax bill would mean serious cuts to disability funding Call Congress:

- FbksClimateActionCoalition Renewable Energy Working Group mtg

Public mtg on airport contamination

**WED, DEC 20:** --Special Presentation: Mike Spindler

-- Silent Night Vespers quiet reflection and meditation

**THURS DEC 21** -- Northern Voices Series Kickoff: The Anthropocene: Our Conservation Paradigm

-- 7-9pm Gender Pioneers Ally Training:

**SAT DEC 23:**-- 12-4pm Drop in Holiday Ornament Making.

**SUN, DEC 24:** -- Dec WWI Christmas Truce (1914)

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS AFTER THIS WEEK:** Drones quilt project exhibit

--Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

--Alaska's Congressional delegation contacts

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC NEWS FROM THE RECENT PAST:**-- Climate Lawsuit Heard Dec.11 w Nathan Baring of Fbks.

-- Alaska Peace Center endorsed the Unity Statement of the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases

-- Stage 2 air alert

-- :: Governor Walker Appoints Climate Leadership Team Members.

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

-- net neutrality taking the fight to Congress

--Veterans For Peace to Okinawa -Two new U.S. military bases are being constructed

--Conference on U.S. Foreign Military Bases

-- Weapons stocks have risen 40% since Trump took office just one year ago. -No War Machine webinar

**OUTSIDE ALASKA - IN THE RECENT PAST:**-- *Congress funds the government... for two weeks*

-- World Peace Game

-- administration not to reduce women's access to free birth control."

-- Alaska jails want flexibility on furloughs

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

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

-- From the Alaska Action Network: a short illustration of *how to stop terror and violence* see the under-5-min Terror and Nonviolence:

Animation at <http://akactionnet.org/resources/websites/> , then check out <https://mettacenter.org/roadmap/what-is-roadmap/> for a colorful mandala that illustrates how to implement the principles described.

-- From Center for Science in the Public Interest\*: "Thank you! **Working together, we've made a real difference.** The nomination of Michael Dourson to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's chemical safety office is OVER! ...Dourson ... sought to weaken safety standards for diacetyl—a chemical once used to simulate the flavor of butter in microwave popcorn. (Diacetyl causes fatal lung disease in workers who handle it.) And he downplayed the safety concerns surrounding acrylamide—a naturally occurring contaminant in many fried & other processed foods... Earlier this fall, we mobilized opposition to Sam Clovis's nomination to be the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientist. (He wasn't a scientist—even though the law required a "distinguished scientist" for the position.) The take-home message: even though the odds often look long, we can WIN..."

\* Alaska Community Action on Toxics also thanks everyone who helped through contacting their Senators about this nomination.

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - about issues of peace, justice, and sustainability -**

**IN THE NEAR FUTURE:**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>:**

-- from Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC): "[As Robert Thompson writes in Anchorage Daily News](#), "42 Interior Alaska villages are in support of the Gwich'in resolutions, as are 14 Bristol Bay tribes and many more across Alaska & the nation. There has been little mention of these interests in the brief debate around this bill. How can Congress overlook our subsistence priority in the **Arctic refuge?**... **we're not done yet!** As of Thursday afternoon, the conference committee has yet to vote on a finalized tax bill, and the process has hit repeated stumbling blocks, [Keep calling](#); keep up the pressure: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Alaskan-voices-needed-.html?oid=1103685264472&aid=0w556zRGmYw>  
--::Alaskans, if you haven't had a chance to **sign the petition to get the Stand for Salmon ballot initiative on the 2018 ballot**, there's still time! In Fairbanks, drop by our office during business hours, or contact conservation organizations elsewhere in the state to find a petition near you.... to vote on this effort to update the state's laws to better reflect the realities of our rich salmon habitat.  
--:: [Proposed Ambler Access Project: Potential Effects on Caribou and People](#). We're excited to launch our Medium.com presence with this thoughtful analysis from longtime wildlife biologist Jim Dau on the costs and benefits of the proposed Ambler Road: "Alaska residents and politicians still have the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding short- and long-term effects of the proposed AAP. Take time to understand the complexities of road-wildlife-people issues as well as the many potential benefits and costs of this project. But don't stop there. Express your desires to your political representatives. They need (and may even appreciate) your help."

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>:**

-- from *Ady Barkan*: I was diagnosed last year with ALS—also called Lou Gehrig's disease. It's a rapidly-progressing, deadly ailment, with no cure. Now, I don't even have the strength to lift my 18-month-old son into my lap. The tax bill would mean serious cuts to disability funding that I will need before too long to pay for a ventilator and other crucial medical care. [On Monday—my birthday—can you drop by your senator's or representative's local office and deliver a photo of your family, with a note about how the GOP tax scam would affect you?](#)  
Call Congress: <http://a.cpdaction.org/page/s/listentoady-and-vote-no-on-the-goptaxscam>.

-- 10:30-11:45am - **FbksClimateActionCoalition Renewable Energy Working Group mtg** at Raven Landing, 1222 Cowles St:  
**Some of the items imagined for 2018 include:**

1. Working to get SOLAR on at least one Non-Profit building in Fairbanks in 2018.
2. Work to continue to support/encourage/ advocate a GVEA move toward ambitious new renewable energy goals.
3. Continue appropriate support for the Solar in your Community Challenge grant in 2018;
4. What other Renewable Energy objectives would we like to focus upon this next year?

We need your energy, expertise, wisdom, your vision to help move our community forward towards more renewable energy options! Please come and help create a more sustainable/ renewable community in Fairbanks! info: [fairbanksclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:fairbanksclimateaction@gmail.com).

--4-7pm **Public mtg on airport contamination** at La Quinta Inn & Suites, 4920 Dale Rd: "By [SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM](mailto:SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM).

Fairbanks International Airport [FAI] will host a mtg Monday night to discuss recent testing of residential wells for contamination from firefighting foam chemicals. In Oct, FAI became the 3<sup>rd</sup> institution in the borough to report groundwater contamination from a product called Aqueous Film Forming Foam. Water contamination from the same product was previously reported in the groundwater at Moose Creek near Eielson Air Force Base and the Fairbanks Regional Fire Trng Ctr in the South Fbks industrial area. The airport has had 97 wells tested for contamination from the chemicals, which are known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The airport is paying to connect some homes to the College Utilities water system if their wells are contaminated above the government's lifetime health advisory levels for PFAS...The groundwater flows north near the airport, and so far most of the contaminated wells have been around Dale Rd...The meeting can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2zg4DyU> or listened to at 1-571-312-3122, with access code 267-646-677. The presentations will be available online before the meeting at [dot.alaska.gov/faigroundwater](http://dot.alaska.gov/faigroundwater)."

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>:** - *No local events of peace, justice, and sustainability are known for this date.*

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>:**

--12-1pm (from NAEC):: **Special Presentation: Mike Spindler.** at Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center Theater, 101 Dunkel St. Raise your spirits - experience an inspiring story that spans over 4 decades of conservation in Alaska. Mike Spindler, manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and conservation advocate, has dedicated his life and career to Alaska's wild places. From working in remote field camps to caring for 6 of Alaska's national wildlife refuges through some of Alaska's most important historical conservation moments. Mike has worked for over 40 yrs with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Question & answer session immediately following the talk... Mike is an engaging, thoughtful speaker whose life & work exemplify what it means to live for and love this great land.

--6-8pm **Silent Night Vespers** at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fbks, 4448 Pikes Landing Rd: Rev. Leslie will open the sanctuary for those who would like to enjoy some **quiet reflection and meditation** in the midst of the hectic holiday season. Drop in during that time, light a candle, and take a few moments to center your heart and mind. 451-8838 (from mr)

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>:**

-- 7pm **Northern Voices Series Kickoff: The Anthropocene: Our Conservation Paradigm for the Future? at the Noel Wien Library** auditorium. The Anthropocene is the name for the emerging era of Earth's history wherein human activities are becoming a dominant and disturbing force upon the entire Earth system. It is also a framework for understanding, communicating, and addressing the profound global change we face. This program describes the Anthropocene and explores what it may mean to us. And keep an eye out for the next events in this annual series! (NAEC)

-- 7-9pm **Gender Pioneers Ally Training:** Gender Pioneers is a peer-to-peer support group for all transgender, genderqueer, genderquestioning or otherwise gender-bending folks in Alaska's interior. In addition to monthly support group meetings we meet the third Thursday of each month to train allies and discuss outreach and activism. For location details please email [genderpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:genderpioneers@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>:** *No local events of peace, justice, and sustainability are known for this date.*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

-- 12-4pm :: **Drop in Holiday Ornament Making.** Join Friends of Creamer's Field for our annual holiday ornament making using natural materials. \$5 suggested donation.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>:** No local events known.

-- Historical note: **Dec 24** is the Anniversary of the **WWI Christmas Truce (1914)** For a Christmas truce letter, a script that turns the above letter into a play that can be performed on Christmas by anyone who like, accounts from folks who were there, *Christmas in the Trenches* [lyrics](#) by John McCutcheon, videos, and more, go to <http://worldbeyondwar.org/christmastruce>. <https://youtu.be/QTXhZ4uR6rs>

**ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS AFTER THIS WEEK:** **Drones quilt project exhibit** Dec. 1-31, at Noel Wien Library

-- Friday, Dec. 29: Alaska Peace Center potluck & movie "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song" *Rated 4 stars by film critic Roger Ebert, who wrote, "I don't know if Pete Seeger believes in saints, but I believe he is one. He's the one in the front as they go marching in. "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song" is a tribute to the legendary singer and composer who thought music could be a force for good, and proved it by writing songs that have actually helped shape our times ("If I Had a Hammer" and "Turn, Turn, Turn") and popularizing "We Shall Overcome" and Woody Guthrie's unofficial national anthem, "This Land Is Your Land."."*

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

-- From Northern Alaska Environmental Center:

**:: AK Div of Forestry seeks applications for 4 seats on Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee**  
...This 12-person committee advises the Division on plans & proposals for managing the 1.8 million acre Tanana Valley State Forest & other forested lands managed by the Alaska Dept of Natural Resources in the Tanana Valley. The committee is also a forum for gathering public opinion on management of state forests and helps build a regional consensus about forestry. These are unpaid, volunteer positions. Mtgs are about 4 times/yr... Available seats are: **Forest Industry; Environmental Interests; Native Community; Fish & Wildlife Interests.** If you are interested in one of these positions mail a letter explaining your interests and your qualifications to: Jim Schwarber, Alaska Div of Forestry, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699; fax it to (907) 451-2690; or e-mail to [james.schwarber@alaska.gov](mailto:james.schwarber@alaska.gov), so that it is received no later than **5pm, Friday, January 5, 2018**. For more information, call a Division of Forestry Office at Fbks: (907) 451-2704 or Tok: (907) 883-5134.

--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.**

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

- **Groundbreaking Constitutional Climate Lawsuit Heard Dec.11** by 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, included testimony by 17-y-o **Nathan Baring of Fairbanks.** See how it went at <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/press-releases/> and <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit>.
- Alaska Peace Center endorsed the Unity Statement of the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases. See maps of where our soldiers are sent, maps of U.S. bases, learn more, and sign the Unity Statement at <http://noforeignbases.org/>.
- Thurs 12/14, despite the warm weather, "North Pole [had a] **Stage 2 air alert** through 5pm 12/15. No burning w/o a NOASH\*. For more info call 459-1234 or visit [AQFairbanks.com](http://AQFairbanks.com)." \* No Other Adequate Source of Heat (NOASH) Waiver.
- **:: Governor Walker Appoints Climate Leadership Team Members.** Governor Bill Walker today appointed the 15 public members and five ex-officio members of the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team, established in October by Administrative Order 289. Governor Walker announced the team following an extensive internal review of nearly 100 applications. The team will focus on mitigation, adaptation, research, and response for Alaska. *Alaska State Government/NAEC.*

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

-- from *ACLU 12/14*: The Federal Communications Commission... just voted [3:2] to dismantle ... net neutrality protections. But **net neutrality** isn't dead yet. Now we're **taking the fight to Congress**... press to use the Congressional Review Act to reverse this hasty & misguided FCC action. We have 60 legislative days (i.e. days when Congress is in session) to pressure Congress to act. You can sign the petition at <https://www.aclu.org/action>.

-- **From Veterans For Peace:**

--Veterans For Peace is going on their 3<sup>rd</sup> delegation to **Okinawa** in Dec 2017. **Two new U.S. military bases are being constructed** and the people of Okinawa have been protesting these base plans for over ten years on a daily basis. VFP stands in solidarity with the indigenous people of Okinawa against U.S. military intervention and Japanese authoritarianism. Adrienne Kinney writes "*VFP Okinawa excursion to sites impacted by the air strip at Futenma, the runway of which has military planes taking off over nursery schools, parks, homes... communities. ...a military plane piece fell from the sky landing in the nursery school. ... In 2004 an aircraft crashed at Okinawa International University. People deserve safe communities and military aircraft - as prone to accidents as they are - do not belong flying over civilian neighborhoods anywhere!" The tiny island already has 32 bases and 20% of the island is already covered by U.S. military territory. Will Griffin, creator of the Peace Report, created a short video of the most recent delegation to Okinawa with other Veterans For Peace members.*

[Watch the video at www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are/member-highlights/2017/12/14/updates-2017-okinawa-delegation](http://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are/member-highlights/2017/12/14/updates-2017-okinawa-delegation).

--**Conference on U.S. Foreign Military Bases** Veterans For Peace has joined with twelve other prominent peace and justice organizations in the U.S. to collectively organize a 3-day national conference on U.S. Foreign Military Bases Jan 12-14, 2018, [in] Maryland. The conference will feature national & international experts. Several expert panels will discuss the economic, political, environmental & health costs and impact of U.S. foreign military bases in various regions of the world, including South America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, \* Europe. The conference will be live streamed for the international audience. [More info & register for the conference!](#)

-- from CodePink: **Weapons stocks have risen 40% since Trump took office just one year ago.** We're offering you tools to take concrete actions to confront the war machine, starting in your own community. You can now access a [No War Machine webinar](#) and a whole series of Campaign Guides to help you launch your own Divest from the War Machine campaign. Watch the replay of the [No War Machine Webinar!](#) Get the scoop on CODEPINK's newest campaign and how you can be a part of it! You can find a recording of the presentation at [www.divestfromwarmachine.org/webinars](http://www.divestfromwarmachine.org/webinars). Share the recording with those in your community, and be sure to use the hashtag #divestfromwar.

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

-- from Friends Committee on National Legislation 12/11: **"Congress funds the government... for two weeks.** President Trump signed a continuing resolution that funds the government until December 22. That sets up year-end budget negotiations that could address funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, disaster relief, and a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers at risk of deportation."

-- from newsminer.com--: "The **World Peace Game** is a hands-on political simulation that gives players the opportunity to explore the interdependence of the global community through the lenses of economic, social, & environmental crises and the imminent threat of war. According to the ...website — [worldpeacegame.org](http://worldpeacegame.org) — the goal is to extricate each country from dangerous circumstances and achieve global prosperity with the least amount of military intervention. As "nation teams," students gain greater understanding of the critical impact of information & how it is used."

(Are "global prosperity" & "least amount of military intervention" your goals? What values are implemented in Costa Rica?)

-- AP: "A federal judge in Philadelphia Friday ordered the Trump **administration not to** enforce new rules that could significantly **reduce women's access to free birth control.**"

--" **Alaska jails want flexibility on furloughs...** The Dept of Corrections has custody of about 4,300 inmates in 13 institutions across the state ...[&] wants more flexibility in deciding whether a prisoner can be released on furlough..." 12/14 --more at newsminer.com

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*This summary of issues of importance to citizens of Interior Alaska, and information on how, when and where to take action on those issues, has been brought to you by the Alaska Peace Center. **The Alaska Peace Center works for peace, justice and sustainability - individually, in our community and globally - with a commitment to nonviolent conflict resolution.** We bring in speakers, sponsor exhibits, and encourage dialogue within our community on these issues. We also maintain an office in conjunction with this radio station, KWRK. **If you would like to support these activities** you can make a donation via PayPal at our website, [www.alaskapeace.org](http://www.alaskapeace.org), or if you would prefer not to subsidize PayPal you can send a check to*

*Alaska Peace Center, 3535 College Road Suite 203, Fairbanks, AK 99709.*

*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 our Facebook page.*

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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 has been Alaska Peace Center Community News and Opportunities for Action for the week of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, on KWRK-LP 90.9 FM Radio in Fairbanks, Alaska, all-volunteer radio.*

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

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