

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 24th, 2017

As usual we offer brief headlines, followed by more detail about each topic. BRIEFLY:

good news: -- Sobering Center Dedication and Open House

-- growth is not necessary for prosperity & well-being - [Costa Rica](#) demonstrates

-- Muslim world doing more to counter violent extremism

-- *World Peace Cookies*

A few highlights of other KWRK-LP programming

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th: -- 12:30-1pm - Invitation to join a rally

-- [Drones quilt project](#)

-- Alaska Peace Center potluck & movie "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song"

-- Hey Fairbanks...WHERE'S MY INTERNET?

-- From Northern Alaska Environmental Center: -- [sign petition to get the Stand for Salmon initiative on the 2018 ballot](#)

--: [Proposed Ambler Access Project: Potential Effects on Caribou and People.](#)

-- **Stage 1 & Stage 2 air alerts**

-- public mtg discussing groundwater contamination

-- judge says groups can sue EPA over drinking water fluoridation

-- Alaska Legislative session starts Jan. 16, 2018

--from FDNM :

-- Yukon & Vuntut Gwich'in tribes in Canada condemn the opening of the Coastal Plain for development

-- Alaska lawmakers & staff required to take training to prevent sexual & other workplace harassment

-- The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions against North Korea

-- **Governors pressure Congress to protect Dreamers:** AK Gov. Bill Walker joined

-- **International Dark Sky Reserve...vs. light pollution blots out the night sky"**

-- "Freedom from IS in Mosul costs lives of 9,000-plus civilians"

--homelessness problem

-- from Edward Snowden **It's critical that every one of us calls our House representatives to stop a dangerous expansion of warrantless government surveillance.**

-- From Veterans For Peace: "Remembering the Christmas Truce -

-- Letter from Bassam Tamimi [They must stop their persecution of my family.](#)

-- **The United Nations has asked its member states to observe an Olympic truce**

... **Nonviolence: A more successful approach**

Community News and Opportunities for Action IN MORE DETAIL:

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

--from Tanana Chiefs Conference The Council Newsletter: "**Sobering Center Dedication and Open House**...This shelter is modeled after the sobering center in Bethel...[and] has the ability to hold 12 clients at any given time...accommodate varying numbers of male and female guests [who] can shower and do laundry as needed. Guests are admitted to the Sobering Center for a 12-hr sleep off in a warm and safe environment...[S]creenings can lead to resources that may help break the cycle [of addiction]. Guests will be referred to appropriate services to address their substance use disorder...TCC, DHHS, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Fbks Memorial Hospital, City of Fbks, Fbks Police Dept, Fbks Native Association, and numerous other supporting partners made this program possible."

--from <https://popularresistance.org/averting-the-apocalypse-lessons-from-costa-rica/>:

"Contrary to what is normally taught, growth is not necessary for prosperity and well-being.

[Costa Rica](#) demonstrates that prosperity can exist with a low per capita income through investments in social necessities such as education and health care... Every few years the New Economics Foundation publishes the [Happy Planet Index](#) – a measure of progress that looks at life expectancy, wellbeing and equality rather than the narrow metric of GDP, and plots these measures against ecological impact. Costa Rica tops the list of countries every time. With a life expectancy of 79.1 years and levels of wellbeing in the top 7% of the world, Costa Rica matches many Scandinavian nations in these areas and neatly outperforms the United States. And it manages all of this with a GDP per capita of only \$10,000, less than one-fifth that of the US. In this sense, Costa Rica is the most efficient economy on earth: it produces

high standards of living with low GDP and minimal pressure on the environment. How do they do it? ... universalism: the principle that everyone – regardless of income – should have equal access to generous, high-quality social services as a basic right... healthcare, education and social security ...to the whole population ... after abolishing the military and freeing up more resources for social spending.”

--"In the West we wonder why the Muslim world is not doing more to counter violent extremism done in the name of Islam. But, in fact, Islamic communities around the world are doing just that, though seldom reported in the Western media.” Read the article by Col. Ann Wright (ret.) of Veterans For Peace and CodePink, and who spoke in Fbks, at <https://www.opednews.com/articles/Countering-Islamic-Extremism-by-Ann-Wright-Inequality-Islam-Islamic-State-Muslim-Advocates-171126-346.html>.

--**World Peace Cookies...** “if everyone in the world could have these cookies, there would be planetary peace..” <https://www.splendidtable.org/recipes/world-peace-cookies>. from np

A few highlights of other KWRK-LP programming: --But first: *What are your favorite programs, and why?*

I’ll start: One of my favorite KWRK programs is Encounters, with Richard Nelson, where we sometimes hear a flock of honking, babbling, munching, flapping swans, hear the story of the life cycle and habitat of wildlife, and find out why wild Alaska salmon are important. Writer, naturalist, and Encounters Radio host Richard Nelson shares his enthusiasm for the natural world we live and rejoice in, in a way that makes us hear, see, and feel his encounters with wildlife as if we were there too. He is also partially responsible for the creation of KWRK-LP radio, as Encounters was one of several prime-time programs cut by our local PBS station a bit over a decade ago, inspiring his enthusiastic listeners to make a station whose programming would be responsive to those whose valued programs were cut...and he came up to Fbks to help get us started.

ALASKA-SPECIFIC EVENTS & CALLS TO ACTION - about issues of peace, justice, & sustainability -THIS WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

-- **12:30-1pm** -from ak: **Invitation to join a rally** at the corner of University Ave & Airport Way - Folks who are disturbed by being dominated by a man who bragged about sexually assaulting, uses bullying in place of diplomacy, acts unilaterally, and has led the race to opening ANWR and a tax bill to greatly increase inequality - join the call for **IMPEACHment**; also contact our congressional delegation every week calling on them to enact this call.

MON-THURSDAY, DEC. 25-28th: **Drones quilt project exhibit** Dec. 1-31, at Noel Wien Public Library.

-- **May Peace increase.**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th:

-- 6pm **Alaska Peace Center potluck & 7pm 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 & 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’ & ‘Turn, Turn, Turn’) and popularizing ‘We Shall Overcome’ & Woody Guthrie’s unofficial national anthem, ‘This Land Is Your Land.’” Join us at 2.2 mile (710) Chena Ridge Rd. There will be a peace flag out at the road. For more info call 479-0981.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 30-31st: Last day of **Drones quilt project exhibit** at Noel Wien Public Library

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

--from www.heyfairbanks.net: “**Hey Fairbanks...WHERE’S MY INTERNET?** If ... you’re like me, you have problems with Internet. If YOU don’t then I can tell you that your neighbor and many others in our community do. This web site offers a solution.

Many communities across the United States have broadband problems and they are repurposing an old tool to solve a new problem. We can do that too.

In the 1930’s electrical utilities were not extending power out to rural America. President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act, enabling the creation of rural electric cooperatives, and we extended power across the country. Imagine if we had never electrified rural America, who would have been feeding the nation?

We discovered that today, there are some 53 electric coops across the US deploying fiber optic broadband to their members. I spoke to a number of them and they all told the same story of member driven success.

These communities decided they would do for themselves what others wouldn’t do for them. They got their member owned electric coops to string fiber optic cable on the power lines. It’s time to show our grit and determination. It’s time to demand a solution.

As you’ll see on this site, this isn’t the only solution, and I’m not saying just go ahead and build a network. I’m saying let’s get our electric coop to find out if this model is feasible in Fairbanks, Alaska.

In short...Here’s what we have to do. We have to convince Golden Valley to investigate the idea of deploying fiber optic cable to its members. Don’t let them give you excuses. Don’t take no for an answer. Call the Board of Directors (their names and phone numbers and maps of their areas are on this web site) and tell them you’re a member and that you want them to follow up on this. It’s just that simple, but it’s going to take all of us.” The [Office of Representative](#)

David Guttenberg created www.heyfairbanks.net to inform his constituents of what many communities across America are doing to connect and improve their broadband coverage.

-- From Northern Alaska Environmental Center: ---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."

--Alaska's Congressional delegation contacts

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:

-- North Pole had a **Stage 1 air alert 12/21-22 & Stage 2 air alert** through 5pm 12/23, despite warm weather. "No burning w/o a "No Other Adequate Source of Heat" (NOASH) waiver. For more info call 459-1234 or visit AQFairbanks.com"

--Mon, Dec. 18: A **public mtg discussing groundwater contamination 'C8'**, was hosted by the Dept of Environmental Conservation [and attended by 150 concerned folks]: dy had sent this information: "Press accounts: <https://www.sott.net/article/310633-The-lawyer-who-became-DuPonts-worst-nightmare> <https://www.adn.com/environment/article/alaska-among-few-states-tracking-chemicals-firefighting-foam/2016/04/29/> C8, the industrial fluoride-based chemicals, are in Fairbanks area groundwater. While not manufactured here, they were used in fire-fighting training, as required by the federal government. Wells have been destroyed; rendered useless.

It behooves everyone who drinks water, bathes, swims, cooks, raises animals, gardens or children, to LISTEN UP. It's poison. It will kill you...but before that it will make life miserable and your doctors wealthy.

New Jersey and Vermont have taken the lead in protecting citizens. Regulations in these states ought to be the template for setting standards in Alaska. Currently, C8 is UNREGULATED IN ALASKA and unregulated by the federal EPA. Alaskans will be engaged in implementing national safety regulations and mitigation requirements."

-- from dy 12-22-17: Fluoride Action Network | U.S. **judge says groups can sue EPA over drinking water fluoridation** <http://fluoridealert.org/news/u-s-judge-says-groups-can-sue-epa-over-drinking-water-fluoridation/> <http://fluoridealert.org/news/?country=united-states&sub=tsca-lawsuit>

-- Thinking ahead to the **Alaska Legislative session that starts Jan. 16, 2018**, from Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov: "***Dear Friends and Neighbors,*** I hope this finds you all happy and healthy during the holiday season and able to celebrate with family, friends & loved ones. This is also a season when legislators prepare for the upcoming session, considering new legislation to offer or existing proposals to pursue. While the budget remains the critical issue, I want to take a minute to share how some of your ideas become potential legislation, and how we look into issues and concerns for resolution or solution.

"Constituents contact me using every option available: phone, email, paper mail, and social media. I frequently run into people at the grocery store, community council meetings, the dog park, etc. They ask questions and raise issues... Some examples of the kinds of things we look into: We received an email about a Board of Game proposal to remove goats & sheep from ...a certain distance of Dall sheep populations...Fish and Game ...ultimately determined that they lacked jurisdiction over domestic animals. ... a Facebook message asking about Alaska's policy on marriage following national reports on child marriage, including the fact that in Alaska children as young as 14 are permitted to marry with the permission of a superior court judge. We used the services of legislative research staff and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to research and decided to propose legislation setting the minimum age for marriage at 18, or approval of legal emancipation for those over 16. Emancipation requires a demonstration that the person can be self-supporting and approval by a judge...

I hope this gives you some idea of our process, and as always, invite you to share your concerns, ideas, and to let us try to help solve a problem with a government agency."

--from FDNM in the past week, on issues of peace, justice, & sustainability:

12/23/17: "The governments of the Yukon and Vuntut Gwich'in tribes in Canada released a statement Friday condemning the tax vote and the opening of the Coastal Plain for development... This goes against the spirit of the Canada-U.S. Agreement on Porcupine Caribou Herd conservation..."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) **JUNEAU** — Alaska lawmakers and staff will be required to take training to prevent sexual and other workplace harassment... Last week, Democratic state Rep. Dean Westlake said he will resign after he was accused of inappropriate behavior toward aides in the Legislature. Westlake apologized "for the pain I have caused."

AP **UNITED NATIONS** — The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions against North Korea on Friday in response to its latest launch of a ballistic missile that Pyongyang says is capable of reaching anywhere on the U.S. mainland... President Donald Trump tweeted the 15-0 vote, adding: "The World wants Peace, not Death!" China's deputy U.N. ambassador, Wu Haitao, said it's "imperative" to pursue a peaceful settlement and resume dialogue and negotiations at an early date, warning that resorting to force "will only lead to disastrous consequences."

12/21/17: "**Governors pressure Congress to protect Dreamers**: AK Gov. Bill Walker joined ... 10 other governors from across the country in urging Congress to address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] program and allow the nearly 800,000 young adults known as Dreamers to stay in the U.S... 151 Dreamers call Alaska home."

and: "Ketchum Idaho ... **International Dark Sky Reserve**... only the 16th in the world... Researchers say

80% of North Americans live in areas where light pollution blots out the night sky"

and "**Freedom from IS in Mosul costs lives of 9,000-plus civilians**"

12/17/17: "News-Miner opinion: **Fairbanks** has a **homelessness problem**, and every winter it is compounded when temperatures dip below zero. As Fbks Mayor Jim Matherly has said on multiple occasions, "It's a matter of life and death." Significant progress has been made in the last year or so in combating homelessness... Prosperity House opened with 15 rooms in Sept 2016... 15 more rooms were added, ... providing recently incarcerated people with a place to live. It can be extremely difficult for people who have a criminal record, no credit history, and no rental history, to find housing. Fbks Youth Advocates served 112 teens at its 12-bed shelter, The Door, in the first 11 months of 2017... Mr. Sanders ... Fbks housing and homeless coordinator... brought to Fairbanks through a state grant... organizing and directing all of the community's housing and homeless resources on a full-time basis... said 83 percent of people who go through a rapid rehousing program never go homeless again..."

-----For the full articles mentioned above, see www.newsminer.com.

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

-- from **Edward Snowden**, ACLU Action aclu@aclu.org on 12-20-17: "Eleven days from **now[12-31-17]**, the U.S. government's most powerful mass surveillance law will expire. But instead of seizing the opportunity to rein in some of the government's worst abuses, Congress is poised to make a bad situation even worse."

It's critical that every one of us calls our House representatives to stop a dangerous expansion of warrantless government surveillance. [Rep. Don Young in Fbks 456-0210; in D.C. 202-225-5765]

In 2013, I shared documents with journalists that revealed the breathtaking scope of the United States' mass surveillance programs, sparking global outrage and historic reforms. But Congress has failed to reform Section 702, and some members are working to drastically expand its powers. The government uses that law to collect our emails, text messages, phone calls, and more. It can be used to target journalists, human rights activists, and ordinary citizens who have done nothing wrong, without meaningful oversight.

I've made it clear that I don't think any administration should have this power over its people. But the thought of this kind of unchecked power in the hands of the [current] administration, which has made clear its desire to abuse the government's surveillance systems, is chilling...

The last time a major surveillance law was set to expire, the people organized to demand reform – and they got it. This time, the House is rushing this bad bill through Congress in the hopes no one will notice...

*Thanks for stepping up to act, **Edward Snowden, ACLU client, fighting for surveillance reform**"*

-- From **Veterans For Peace**: "**Remembering the Christmas Truce** -VFP celebrates the anniversary of the Christmas Truce. We urge our leaders to follow the example set by the Christmas Truce soldiers who rejected militarism and the glorification of war. We call on the nation to honor veterans and all those who have died in war by working for peace and the prevention of war. Who better than veterans who work for peace to tell the story of these soldiers' celebration of peace in the midst of war? There is no better way to honor the dead than to protect the living from the fear, terror and morale deprivation of war. Our society needs to hear this story that peace is possible.

Here are ways that you can be involved in the efforts to celebrate the Christmas Truce:

- Check out [our website](#) for some great resources! Check out the [Christmas Truce Podcast](#) Read and share [Christmas in the Trenches](#)
- Check out and share [VFP-UK's amazing song](#) on the Christmas Truce Spread the message on social media!"

--From: **Tarak Kauff**, Veterans For Peace National Board of Directors: "Dec 21, 2017 Letter from Bassam Tamimi
'Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Tuesday morning at 3am, Israeli forces invaded my home and **arrested my daughter. They dragged Ahed out of bed, handcuffed her and put her in the back of their military jeep. She is 16 years old.**

The next morning, my wife went to the police station to be with our daughter as she was interrogated. But Israel **took her into custody as well**. The following day, **they arrested my 21-year-old niece Nour**.

This is too much! Israel must immediately release the Tamimi women! They must stop their persecution of my family.

All of this started with last Friday when **soldiers in my village shot 15-year-old Mohammed Tamimi directly in the face with a rubber coated steel bullet**. Following surgery, Mohammad had to be placed in a **medically-induced coma**. Then the soldiers came to our home. Ahed and Nour slapped the soldiers in the face and pushed them back, yelling that they could not enter our home.

The Israeli military is threatened by our regular protests, by our refusal to live with occupation.

Ahed appeared in court yesterday. Her detention was extended because she is refusing to talk. **No cooperation with the occupation!** Nour and my wife, Nariman, appeared in military court today. Their **detention was also extended until at least Monday**. Ahed, Nariman and Nour are **being held Hasharon prison**. Ahed is being held with Israeli prisoners and Nariman and Nour are being held with Palestinian prisoners. Even though Ahed is not in the same section of the prison as her mother and cousin, she is remaining strong and determined.

Tell the Israeli military to release my family and end their 50 year long occupation of our land.

It is our responsibility to resist the soldiers who enter our village and settlers who occupy our land and resources. For our family's work, I have been recognized by the European Union as a Human Rights Defender. **At the age of 13, my daughter won the Handala award for Courage in Turkey**. Amnesty International, during one of my imprisonments, declared me a prisoner of conscience. Each week, my wife helps lead our anti-occupation demonstration. Now her resistance takes place from the inside of an Israeli jail.

Tell the Israeli military to release my family and end their 50 year long occupation of our land.

People and organizations around the world from Youth Against Settlements in Palestine to Jewish Voice for Peace, CODEPINK and others in the US are supporting us. They are writing press releases, making phone calls and standing by our side. **[12/22] at 12pm EST, (7pm Palestine time) there [was] a twitter storm with the hashtag #FreeAhedTamimi**. I thank everyone for their support and hope my family will be free soon. Towards freedom, Bassam Tamimi'

OUTSIDE ALASKA - IN THE RECENT PAST:

-- from worldbeyondwar.org: "**The United Nations has asked its member states to observe an Olympic truce** during the upcoming Feb 9-25 Winter Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, and for one week on either side: Feb 2 to March 4. **South Korea has asked** the United States to delay its war rehearsal flights over South Korea until after the truce. Please sign a petition to all nations, urging their abstention from war and from provocative war "exercises" during this period, and urging them to continue the truce indefinitely thereafter. If the world can prove that it can do so after the competition as well. If the U.S. can also refrain from its war "games," **negotiations** between it and North Korea may be possible. Background:> [UN Resolution](#)" This is a serious opportunity to prevent a catastrophic war. Click here to add your name. **Forward this to everyone you can.** After signing the petition, please ... share it with your friends. -- The World Beyond War Team" ...And: **Nonviolence: A more successful approach** Join World Beyond War in this timely discussion by participating in discussion 5 of our online study guide [STUDY WAR NO MORE](#) - info@worldbeyondwar.org

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, or if you would prefer not to subsidize PayPal you can send a check to the Alaska Peace Center, 3535 College Road Suite 203, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Email us at info@alaskapeace.org Visit our website: 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.

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

This has been Alaska Peace Center Community News and Opportunities for Action for the week of December 24th, 2017, on KWRK-LP 90.9 FM Radio in Fairbanks, Alaska, all-volunteer radio.

May Peace be with you! Have a good week!
