

Alaska Peace Center *Community News and Opportunities for Action*

on KWRK-LP 90.9 FM radio (or via kwrk.org livestream) in Fairbanks, Alaska, Sundays, 8am & 6pm, reporting on events of **Peace**, **Justice**, and **Sustainability** that affect us and future generations in Alaska.

Week of April 19th, 2020 Be ready for opportunities to participate!

For the latest information on Alaska's response to COVID-19, please visit <http://coronavirus.alaska.gov>.

New in this past week:

4-13-20: Health Mandate 014 – Non-Congregate Sheltering Order - to implement a temporary quarantine and isolation program [using] hotels, ... dormitories, and properly modified [places, for]

1. First responders and healthcare workers who need to quarantine safely without exposing their families.
2. Homeless families, with at least one member who tested positive for COVID-19...
3. Homeless individuals who require quarantine or isolation.

This mandate will remain **in effect until rescinded**.

4-15-20: Health Mandate 015 – Services by Health Care Providers [supersedes Mandate 005 and 006 and affects the health care providers directly addressed in Mandate 009; supercedes any & all local government mandates or orders] effective April 20... * State of Alaska reserves the right to change this mandate at any time *... [Has numerous provisions, including conditional Provision for Resuming Non-Urgent/Non-Emergent Elective Services starting May 4

4-9-20: Health Mandate 011: Social Distancing "will be reevaluated by April 21, 2020.**"**

"Do you need more time to pay your rent because of COVID-19? Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) partnering with AKPIRG has created an informational guide and request template for individuals who wish to defer rent payments or modify their rental agreements. [Click Here for more resources at AKPIRG.org](#)"

Link provided by Alaska Community Action on Toxics: [Alaska COVID-19 Community Response](#) is an extensive resource list in outline form with hyperlinks for detailed useful information in dealing with the pandemic [and beyond!] compiled by Veri at Alaska Public Interest Research Group, AKPIRG.

NOTE: The date for shelter-in-place order was out of date on 4-18-20, but will likely be updated by Monday.

from Chena Tool Library: "Good news! We have put procedures into place that we feel will allow us to maintain all social distancing best practices while still making our tool inventory available to you. We want to support staying at home by helping you work on your projects at home. Starting this Saturday (tomorrow, 4/18), the tool library will [be open Saturdays 11am-1pm] for by-appointment-only curbside pickup and return of tools. Please only come during your time slot as we are scheduling to accommodate appropriate social distancing .

New Members - We are going paper free and request that you fill out a membership form online at our website prior to making a reservation.

Reservations - • View our inventory at <https://chenatoollibrary.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse>

Contact the CTL via email [chenatoollibrary@gmail.com] , facebook, or phone (907-251-6306) and state which items you would like to borrow and if you have any time constraints for an appointment..."

*from AK Sen. Click Bishop: "There's talk of slowly relaxing restrictions that have been in place since March 11, 2020, and for implementing a return-to-work protocol. Starting Monday, many elective health procedures will be allowed to resume. Even so, doctors and other experts urge us to go slow. Be slow, be safe, they say. Go step by step, stage by stage. And **only start to relax restrictions if four things occur:** [emphasis added]*

1. A decrease in the number of coronavirus cases over 14 days
2. Increased hospital capacity or a return to pre-coronavirus crisis conditions in hospitals
3. Ample and aggressive testing
4. Robust contact tracing to track down and isolate those with COVID-19

*"The Internal Revenue Service last Wednesday started sending **\$1,200 economic impact payments** ...*

*Social Security recipients will automatically get checks later this month. Paper checks are expected to go out soon – if not already. .. There have been **reports of glitches**. To check on whether yours has hit a snag, track the status of your payment, provide Uncle Sam with direct-deposit information, or answer any questions you may have, go to the IRS website, [Get My Payment](#).*

"Unemployment insurance benefits - ... The [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development] last Monday started issuing the new, \$600 federal pandemic unemployment compensation to workers affected by

impacts of the coronavirus. The first \$12.8 million disbursement went out to 16,183 Alaskans currently covered by unemployment insurance. Apply as soon as possible, if you haven't done so already, to get the maximum amount of unemployment benefits. Payments are retroactive to the week ending April 4, 2020 and are in addition to state unemployment benefits. Those who got a check for the week ending April 4, will receive a separate disbursement with the \$600 federal payment. The federal pandemic unemployment payment will be available for each week of eligibility under a state or federal unemployment insurance program for roughly four months – through July 25, 2020. If, for example, you get \$200 a week in traditional unemployment benefits, you now will get \$800 a week – \$200 plus \$600 – for roughly four months.

New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for those who are self-employed and out of work

The state labor department will get cracking Monday, April 20, to process applications for self-employed, independent contractors, and gig-economy workers. Payments are expected about two weeks later and will be retroactive to the week ending April 4. If you're self-employed and out of work, start applying now for regular benefits even though you likely will be denied. This may sound nuts, but federal rules require independent contractors and gig-economy workers be denied traditional benefits in order to qualify for new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. The state will send you a notice by mail that says you're not eligible for regular benefits. Keep all documentation and keep filing weekly. Get ready to provide wage or self-employment earnings documentation – ... anything that shows employment or earnings prior to unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To file online: Go to my.Alaska.gov. Click on the **Unemployment Insurance Benefits** link

For help over the phone, call ... • **Fairbanks – (907) 451-2871**

Payment Protection Program The popular program, administered by banks, offers low-interest, federally backed loans for up to eight weeks. If an employer uses the money to keep employees, cover paychecks, or pay rent, mortgage, and other obligations to keep the business running, much of the loan will be forgiven. The program is now out of cash but is waiting for an expected infusion from Congress. For more on it and economic injury disaster loans and grants, go [here](#) – and be ready to act fast as soon as more federal funds are approved by Congress and the president.

"Moratorium on utility disconnections - The legislature last month approved a moratorium during the coronavirus crisis on utility disconnections. Although the Regulatory Commission of Alaska is not responsible for implementing it, the agency has developed a 3-page document – [here](#) – that spells out obligations for utilities and customers, based on [the bill](#) passed by lawmakers, and an affidavit for customers to use with their utility to avoid disconnections.

Senate Bill 241, the measure establishing this COVID-19 disconnection moratorium, provided the following **requirements**:

-- Utilities – be they electric, gas, trash, or water – can't disconnect service for nonpayment if a customer has:

1. Supplied a sworn statement that non-payment is due to a COVID-19-related hardship
2. Negotiated a payment plan with the utility

-- If a disconnection has occurred, the utility must reconnect

-- Repayment plans can't be shorter than the length of the disaster

-- If customers comply with repayment plans, utilities can't charge late fees or interest

Because SB 241 has the term 'natural person' and not 'person,' the disconnection moratorium will not apply to a business that owns a building. It applies to a person who is a residential utility customer.

"Legislative Update - The legislature is now in recess, but **lawmakers can reconvene** soon, if necessary. The [Alaska Constitution](#) allows a legislative session to last 121 days... Wednesday, May 20, 2020. ... lawmakers may need to meet in the near future to approve the \$1.25 billion that the federal government is expected to send Alaska on or by April 24... [H]ere is an [Alaska Division of Legislative Finance spreadsheet](#) that breaks down the \$107.6 million the legislature and the governor have provided so far for coronavirus relief..."

IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

The [Fireweed Collective Society](#) advises that, **"April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.** This is a time of crisis for everyone. In particular, women who are isolated within domestic violence are often already used to being isolated, alone and scared. The pandemic makes the threat to her safety and well-being even worse. When women are isolated in an abusive situation, their abuser will often limit her chance to connect with the outside world. Her access to a phone could mean life or death, it could mean getting kids out of that situation and it could mean YOU had a chance to make a difference. If you can support women by donating your old cell phones, you could be saving a life! Thank-you!"

Sunday, April 19

50th Earth Day week of celebration of the Earth! "Green Star of Interior Alaska, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska Peace Center, and a group of community volunteers [have planned] a week of activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 19-25, 2020. Earth Day reminds us that we are all stewards and protectors of the environment, and we all have the opportunity to make a difference. [Facebook page for how you can participate](#) [web page: https://sites.google.com/igreenstar.org/fairbanksearthweek/home?authuser=0](#)

Self-Guided Poetry and Art Walk through Creamer's Field during the week of April 19-26 for everyone to enjoy while practicing social distancing and staying six feet apart. poems will be posted along the trail, and artwork will be displayed around the barns and farmhouse outside so you and your family can celebrate spring, the return of birds, and enjoy a walk at Creamer's Field! [\[All day, all week\]](#)

Green Star's **"Earth Day Every Day" curriculum** has lots of activities for middle school students that can be completed at home! Our curriculum is available to download for FREE on our website:

[www.igreenstar.org/curriculum](#). Now is a great time to have your kids explore how much waste your family generates, and how you can take steps to reduce your waste! Please feel free to send us a message or comment here with questions about using our curriculum - we're happy to help! info@igreenstar.org.

7-8pm "After Auschwitz" on "World" TV ch. 9.2
9-10:30pm "Defenders of Life" on UATV ch. 9.4

Monday, April 20

Deadline to [Comment on peer-reviewed polar bear study...](#)...by email fw7_ak_marine_mammals@fws.gov.

1-2:30pm - **Growing & Enjoying Herbs** FREE online classes to get you geared up for gardening this spring! Join Julie Riley, horticulture agent, via Zoom using your computer, smartphone, iPad or tablet;... dial in by telephone, but you will only be able to hear the presentations, not see them. The focus ... will be Interior Alaska. Each online class includes a PowerPoint presentation and time to ask questions. Preregister at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gearupgarden>. On the day of your class, watch your email for the Zoom link and any class handouts.

- Container Vegetable Gardening — Thursday, April 23 — 7-8:30 p.m.
- Growing Potatoes in Interior Alaska — Monday, April 27 — 1-2:30 p.m.
- Cool Season Crops — Thursday, April 30 — 7-9:00 p.m.
- Intensive, Small Space Vegetable Gardening — Thursday, May 7 — 7- 8:30 p.m.
- Earthworms in Alaska — Monday, May 11 —1- 2:30 p.m.
- Fruit Crops for Interior Alaska — Thursday, May 14 — 7-8:30 p.m.
- Planting Trees & Shrubs — Monday, May 18 — 7-8:30 p.m. Celebrate Alaska Arbor Day! Brian Atkinson of Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District will join us online.
- To find out more about what your Tanana District Extension Office has to offer, please visit our web page at <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/tanana/> and check back often for updates. Thank you!

2-4pm Earth Day in a Time of Crisis & Rising Fascism: Alaska Voices on Environmental Justice

Join a conversation that unpacks the legacy of the Earth Day in a shifting landscape of Environmental Justice Movements and builds towards our collective response to crisis.

"This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and we want to hear from the leaders of frontline Alaska Mother Earth protection. What does "earth day" mean to Indigenous Peoples and what are the updates on Mother Earth protection in Alaska. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/432323787>"

4pm **Virtual Town Hall—Protect Our Vote: Defending Democracy During COVID-19** - launching grass-roots actions, and educating voters about their voting options this November. [RSVP today](#) from Center for Science and Democracy Union of Concerned Scientists

5-6pm Earth Week webinar on electronics recycling in Fairbanks! Free. Electronic waste is a growing issue as more and more of us rely on technology for our everyday needs. Globally, over 4,000 pounds of electronic waste is produced every hour! What happens to a computer at the end of its life? Join us for a virtual tour of Green Star's electronics recycling workshop to learn the hows and whys of electronics recycling in Alaska. REGISTER HERE: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register>

8-8:30 & 8:30-9pm - Inca Nation "Revolution is brewing in Peru..."; **Paradise Lost...** on UATV ch. 9.4
8-9pm "The Reluctant Radical" - KUAC TV ch.9 - "Activist Ken Ward puts himself in the path of the

fossil fuel industry to combat climate change"

10-11pm "The Hottest August" on [Independent Lens](#), KUAC TV ch. 9.

Tuesday, April 21

10am **Webinar: Coastal Resilience in Alaska.** The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing on scientific developments and policy initiatives that are helping protect Alaskan ecosystems and communities from erosion, sea level rise, and other coastal hazards.

time TBA: "Fireweed Collective presents BIPOC Organizers Environmental Fishbowl."

12-1pm Tuesdays, April 21 - May 26 **New Gardener Q&A** - Sign on at: alaska.zoom.us/j/798249718
Or dial: 1-669-900-6833 or if busy, 1-346-248-7799. Meeting ID: 798 249 718 Host Julie Riley.

4pm **Standing on Sacred Ground...** on UATV ch.9.4 - "Fire & Ice - Indigenous customs protecting biodiversity on sacred lands from Ethiopia to Peru..."

8-9pm American Experience - "**The Man Who Tried to Feed the World**" - on KUAC TV ch. 9

9-10pm **Frontline** - Government response to CoViD-19 on KUAC TV ch. 9

10-11pm **Understanding the Opioid Epidemic** on KUAC TV ch. 9

Wednesday, April 22 - **Earth Day 50!**

April 22nd - Friday, April 24th All Day - **Earth Day Live: Strike, Divest, and Vote for Our Future** - activists, performers, thought leaders, and artists will come together for an empowering, inspiring, and communal 3-day livestream mobilization. [More information can be found on the Earth Day Live website](#)

2pm **virtual climate strike** organized by Alaskan youth in numerous communities around the state.
Use the link to see Fairbanks AYEA's 17 demands.

11:30 am - 1pm **Remembering Forward: Alaska's Just Transition webinars** created and co-hosted by Native Movement, Native Peoples Action, Gwich'in Steering Committee, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and The Alaska Center. The first event is entitled "**Reorienting in a Time of Change.**" To participate, please register at this [link >>](#)

12pm **Happy Earth Day Howl and Raise a Ruckus for the Earth** - Get outside and howl, make noise in gratitude for this amazing planet we call home!

4-6pm - "**An Inconvenient Truth**" on TCM TV

5pm - **Earth Day Film Fest: Earth Day 2020 Virtual Screening** - Short films include "Where Life Begins," "America's Shopping Addiction," and four others from around the world.

5:30 pm- **Fairbanks Open Radio KWRK-LP 90.9 FM** meeting via zoom Contact admin@kwrk.org.

6-7:30pm - **Koyaanisqatsi** - on TCM TV. [also known as Koyaanisqatsi: Life out of Balance, is a 1982 film directed by Godfrey Reggio with music composed by Philip Glass and cinematography by Ron Fricke.](#)

7:30-8pm - **Ecosense for Living** on KUAC TV ch. 9 [Thought-provoking series of eco-topics ranging from reconnecting kids to nature, green jobs, and healthy lifestyles limiting the impacts of toxins on our home and bodies](#)

7:30-8:30pm - Plow on TCM TV- **The Plough That Broke the Plains (1936)**- " Unusual short documentary with a unique perspective on the dust bowl. "

8-9pm - Climate Change: The Facts on KUAC TV ch.9
American Outrage on UATV ch. 9.4 - "human rights film...U.S. acquisition of tribal lands..."

8:30-9:15pm - The River on TCM TV

9:15-10:30pm - "The Sea Around Us" on TCM TV, " based on the extraordinary book by Rachel Carson... She did not like the finished product... It won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature."

10-11pm - Nova Research on megafloods on KUAC TV ch. 9

10:30pm-12 - "Wind Across the Everglades" on TCM TV, " loosely based upon the life and death of [Guy Bradley](#), an early game warden who in 1905 was shot and killed by [plume hunters](#) in the Everglades

Thursday, April 23

April 23- May 19: **Divest from the War Machine: 5-Part Webinar Series** - ... how to organize to divest funds from weapons manufacturers, military contractors, and war profiteers. We'll feature activists and organizers who have run successful divestment campaigns, to share strategies and tactics about how to replicate these successes in your community. [RSVP for all 5 Webinars here](#)

2-3pm - **Gardening in the Arctic** Join the Zoom at <https://uaf-iarc.org/event/gardening-in-the-arctic>.

5:30- 6:30pm **Declining Oil and the Future of Alaska's Economy Webinar** - The Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition's Keep it in the Ground working group will host a panel discussion about Alaska's budget today,

the historical context ..., the impact of this crisis ... and what steps we as Alaskan residents can take to help create a more diverse and just economy for our state. Register at this link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register>

Friday, April 24

12-1pm - **More Power than We Know Webinar** - Hosted by [Fairbanks Earth Week 2020](#) and [Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition](#) Citizen ownership is at the core of GVEA, our electric cooperative. In this presentation, we'll explore: What is an electric cooperative? What does it mean to be a member-owner? How can member owners ensure our electric cooperative reflects the needs of the community? We will also be discussing the forthcoming GVEA elections (May 15th- June 9th) and what this election, is so important. Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkc-CurzIsGdDLjGH-WKPqyklxp48qrJPH>

4-6pm - **Afternoon Snack - Climate in the Legislature Webinar** - "join The Alaska Center staff and invited legislators to hear about critical pieces of legislation that can lead to increases in renewable energy in Alaska. [Learn more >>](#) To participate in this event go to this [link](#) and enter the passcode 964-9738-7250

7-8:30pm Fridays, April 17 – May 22 - **VegHeads Virtual Garden Hour** starts with a 15-20 minute presentation by Extension horticulturist Julie Riley then opens up for Q&A and discussion. No registration required. Sign on at: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/499097562>
Or dial: 1-669-900-6833 or if busy, 1-346-248-7799. Meeting ID: 499 097 562
April 24, Seed starting indoors; May 1, Go, go snow; May 8, Organic nutrients;
May 15, Planting outside now; May 22, Indispensable gardening tools.

Saturday, April 25

11-11:30am - **Virtual March for the Earth.** [Register here](#) Everyone is invited to log into Zoom at 11am to show up for our Earth! Create a sign in support of our Earth to show on your screen. When you log in: --Keep your microphone on mute; --Activate your camera and hold up your sign; --Browse the participants, look for friends, read the signs. At 11:15, we'll unmute the mics and all sing "This Land is My Land"

2-3:30pm - **Starting a Cottage Foods Business in Alaska** class via Zoom. [Register here](#).

NEXT WEEK:

Monday, April 27

":: April 27 to May 1 (ONLINE COURSE) Introduction to the National Environmental Policy Act ENVI F130: Online from UAF Bristol Bay Campus and MatSu Experiment Farm Blackboard/Collaborate;... Course covers the roles and the content of scoping and Environmental Assessments in relation to key natural resource development projects in rural Alaska... For more information, call 907-842-5109 or email taradenbaugh@alaska.edu."

Wednesday, April 29

"Bureau of Land Management 'virtual hearings' on the Willow SEIS" for General Public:
-- 1pm: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_miqzqMJ0QWu3kHa0NzW_kg
-- 6:30pm: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2tBiFdYQ628cd60v6EL1g
" [information on how to register can be found here](#). YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE, and state whether you plan to testify. [Click here for suggested talking points,"](#) from Northern Center.
6pm **Solarize Goldstream, Ester & Eielson Farm Road Webinar.** 6pm. Don't forget, you can stay up to date on Solarize Fairbanks, webinars, and more at our [website](#) and on our [Facebook](#) page.

Thursday, April 30

Deadline to Comment on proposed Red Devil Mine Cleanup. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed a [Proposed Plan](#) for the cleanup of the Red Devil Mine, an abandoned mercury mine on the middle Kuskokwim River.

Friday, May 1

7-8:30pm Fridays, April 17 – May 22 - **VegHeads Virtual Garden Hour** starts with a 15-20 minute presentation by Extension horticulturist Julie Riley then opens up for Q&A and discussion. No registration required. Sign on at: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/499097562> Or dial: 1-669-900-6833 or if busy, 1-346-248-7799. Meeting ID: 499 097 562. May 1, Go, go snow; May 8, Organic nutrients; May 15, Planting outside now; May 22, Indispensable gardening tools.

Saturday, May 2

Online Community Meeting: Climate Action in a Time of Crisis –times & details TBA [fcac]

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OTHER *News and Opportunities for Action:*

from ces@alaska.edu: "Although [UAF Cooperative Extension Service] offices aren't open, hundreds of our publications are free and remain available online. While there is still snow on the ground, many Alaskans are thinking about gardening. Two of our most popular publications are ["16 Easy Steps to Gardening in Alaska"](#) and ["Raised Bed Gardening in Alaska."](#) Want to get started on composting this year? We have three publications, ["Composting with Worms"](#), ["The Compost Heap: Basic Composting in Alaska"](#) and ["Composting in Alaska."](#) Search our [publications database](#) for topics."

"Support Local Journalism. Now, more than ever, the world needs trustworthy reporting—but good journalism isn't free." is the appeal being sent out by Interior Alaska's daily newspaper, soliciting subscribers. "Several newspapers hit by layoffs, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner pursuing non-profit status" reported the [Midnight Sun](#).

The [April 6, 2020, Project Censored](#) radio show, heard on [KWRK-LP, 90.9FM](#), discussed Victor Pickard's latest book, "Democracy Without Journalism? Confronting the Misinformation Society," describing the dimensions of recent years' precipitous drop in the employment of reporters, and the likely consequences for society, some of which we've seen with the rise of mis- and dis-information in our social media age." [emphasis added] *The podcast of this excellent discussion can be heard at the link above.*

On Native Movement facebook page: "[What Dunleavy's Budget Cuts Mean For Us](#)" recorded, playable.

from CodePINK: "80 million an HOUR for war? ... the coronavirus has revealed what is truly essential in our society. On March 23, the UN Secretary General Guterres called for a worldwide ceasefire during the COVID-19 epidemic, making a strong case for what we already knew: that war is an unnecessary evil that the world cannot afford. Sign on to [Join the UN Secretary General Guterres in their call for a worldwide ceasefire during the COVID-19 epidemic.](#) This is a time for anyone who cares about ending the U.S. war machine to [help us demand that our Congress people #DivestfromWar](#) and joining us at our upcoming [Divest from the War Machine 5-part webinar series](#) "

4-9-20 from Costs of War, Brown University "[New Data on the Number of U.S. Troops from Each State Serving in the Post-9/11 Wars.](#) [ALASKA IS AMONGST] the top five contributors to the U.S. armed forces, [per capita.] Why? ... [according to the research](#): states with a higher number of bases and contractors generally tend to have a higher number of military enlistments, [and] ... likely facilitated by the DoD's [propensity to recruit from economically-disadvantaged populations...](#) the per capita contributions trace the boundaries of the so-called "casualty gap" wherein a handful of communities shoulder the bulk of the human cost of America's wars abroad."

"If you're looking for a bit of inspiration, give a listen to this [week's episode of Northern Soundings](#), which features Dave Norton and Rich Seifert in a compelling [conversation about early Earth Day celebrations in Fairbanks \(starting around minute 27 in the recording\).](#)"

Earth Day stamps - Forever \$0.55 - available from USPS https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/earth-day-S_682604?fbclid=IwAR1nQGv_S0NduW1JkdpWvnFa2m-GBRqycqubsiRA SmWKYFXN9KEorg_7NdA

audio & music played with this week's broadcast:

-- "Hello this is The Asymmetric Moose, Rob Mulford with picks of the week of April 19, 2020.

According to an article written by David Brennan in Newsweek this past Wednesday the 15th of April. Former President Jimmy Carter told the congregation of his church last Sunday that President Trump had called him the previous day seeking President Carter's advice on China.

"China is getting ahead of us," lamented President Trump, "Economic modeling indicates that China will overtake the U.S. as the world's strongest economy by 2030".

Answering President Trump's concerns, President Carter shared the following: "Since 1979, do you know how many times China has been at war with anybody?" Carter asked. "None. And we have stayed at war."

The U.S., he noted, has only enjoyed 16 years of peace in its 242-year history, making the country "the most warlike nation in the history of the world,"

"How many miles of high-speed railroad do we have in this country?" Carter asked. While China has some 18,000 miles of high-speed rail, the U.S. has "wasted, I think, \$3 trillion" on military spending. "It's more than you can imagine. China has not wasted a single penny on war, and that's why they're ahead of us. In almost every way."

"And I think the difference is if you take \$3 trillion and put it in American infrastructure you'd probably have \$2 trillion leftover. We'd have high-speed railroad. We'd have bridges that aren't collapsing, we'd have roads that are maintained properly. Our education system would be as good as that of say South Korea or Hong Kong,"

Thank You, President Carter. Thank you President Trump for seeking such sound advice; I pray you take it to heart.

In light of war being an obscene misplacement of priority, Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro's open letter to the People of the United States of America is insightful.

*"Caracas, April 3, 2020
To the People of the United States of America:*

For weeks now, the world stands still, trying to control a pandemic that, without any doubt, is the greatest challenge we have faced together as a society and as international community. Our priority is confronting it, as is the priority of the people of the United States.

Fortunately, in Venezuela, we have been able to count on some advantages. We took very early measures of social distancing and amplified testing, relying on our free and public healthcare system that counts doctors throughout the country with what we call family. We also rely on the invaluable community-based organizations to help raise social awareness and support the most vulnerable sectors. The solidarity of Cuba, China, and Russia, and the support of the World Health Organization has likewise allowed us to obtain necessary medical supplies despite Donald Trump's illegal sanctions.

In expressing my solidarity to you in this important historic challenge, as well as our consternation and grief for the consequences of the pandemic in the U.S., I also have the obligation to make you aware that as the world focuses on dealing with the COVID-19 emergency, the Trump Administration, once again instrumentalizing institutions in order to fulfill electoral objectives, and based on infamies under the pretext of the War on Drugs, has ordered the largest U.S. military deployment in our region in the last 30 years, with the purpose of threatening Venezuela and bringing to our region a costly, bloody, military conflict of indefinite duration.

In the runup to this fallacious maneuver, last March 26, William Barr, an Attorney General of questionable independence (who recommended the 1989 invasion of Panama against Noriega and helped cover up the irregularities of the Iran-Contra scandal) filed, without showing any evidence whatsoever, accusations of drug trafficking towards the United States against myself and against senior Venezuelan State officials, even though data from the Department of Defense itself show that, unlike Colombia and Honduras, two of Washington's allied countries, Venezuela is not a primary transit country towards the United States.

It is clear that the Trump Administration is creating a smokescreen to cloud the improvised and erratic handling of the pandemic in the United States. The most optimistic forecast show that close to 240,000 souls will be lost in the United States. From the beginning, Donald Trump downplayed and even denied it, the same way he has done with climate change. Today, the crisis in the United States aggravates simply because, despite having the resources, he

is not willing to transform the healthcare system to prioritize full care for the population instead of profit-based private medicine, insurance companies and pharmaceutical industry.

*We in Venezuela do not want an armed conflict in our region.
We want brotherly relations of cooperation, exchange and respect.*

We cannot accept war threats, nor blockades, nor can we accept the intention of installing an international tutelage that violates our sovereignty and disavows the progress made in the last year in the sincere political dialogue between the government and a large part of the Venezuelan opposition that wants political solutions and not oil wars.

Based on the foregoing, I call upon the people of the United States to stop to this madness, to hold your officials accountable and to force them to focus their attention and their resources on urgently addressing the pandemic. I also ask, together with the end to military threats, the end to the illegal sanctions and blockade that restrict the access of humanitarian goods that are so necessary for the country today. I wholeheartedly ask you not to allow your country to be dragged once again into another unending conflict, another Viet Nam, another Iraq, but this time, closer to home.

The peoples of the United States and Venezuela are not as different as their lies intend us to believe. We are peoples seeking a more just, free, and compassionate society. Let us not let the particular interests of minorities blinded by ambition to set us apart. We, as our leader Hugo Chavez once said, share the same dream. The dream of Martin Luther King is also the dream of Venezuela and its revolutionary government. I invite you to struggle together in order to make that dream come true.

*No to a United States war against Venezuela.
No more criminal sanctions.
We want peace.*

Nicolas Maduro Moros, President, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela"

There are a couple questions that I would like you to ponder, the answers of which may lend a degree of credence point out and add to President Maduro's criticism of U.S. drug-war hypocrisy. In light of the Trump administration's indictment of President Maduro and the \$15,000,000 bounty placed on his head; Why are the Sacklers, the OxyContin pushing owners of Purdue Pharma, and the Contra Terrorist Arming / Cocaine trafficking Oliver North still walking free.

This past Tuesday the world lost one of its greatest troubadours of Peace, Love, and Understanding, when John Prine fell victim to the Corona Virus. His music will forever play in my heart. I'll play the next two John Prine tunes consecutively. They need no explanation. Sing along.

***John Prine - Great Society Conflict Veteran's Blues [ISRC # USA2A1104003]
John Prine - Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore [ISRC # USAT20104801]
Next Joan Baez sings in tribute: Hello In There"***

Alaska Peace Center works for peace, justice, and sustainability - individually, in our community, and globally - with a commitment to nonviolent conflict resolution.

You can contact Alaska Peace Center volunteers via email 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 with active hyperlinks; also see Alaska Peace Center Facebook.

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

May Peace be with you! Have a good week!

To Contact your Elected Public Officials

Fairbanks City Council Mtg (twice per month on Monday evenings*) Agendas and calendar at

<https://www.fairbanksalaska.us/calendar/month/> "This page contains a link to live City Council Mtgs and other City Board and Commission Mtgs, when available. Please click the Listen Live image below to start streaming the audio. Council Mtgs are also aired live on KFBX AM 970 radio. Listen live on your iPhone! Mixlr now has an iPhone/iPad app (<http://bit.ly/163ZvLg>) via the iTunes Store. Once you get the app set up, you search for city_of_fairbanks and you will be able to follow our audio stream http://mixlr.com/city_of_fairbanks/live/!" Location: Fairbanks City Hall, 800 Cushman St.

Email Fairbanks City Council people (keep it polite, positive, and honest, and remember that any information you share about your identity and story is public record).

cityclerk@fairbanks.us dpruhs@fairbanks.us jcleworth@fairbanks.us jmatherly@fairbanks.us
jrogers@fairbanks.us agibson@fairbanks.us
skun@fairbanks.us vtherrien@fairbanks.us

OR call our City Council people (feel free to leave a message after 5PM if that's easier)

Jim Matherly - Mayor: (907) 459-6793 Shoshana Kun - Seat A: (907) 590-8313
June Rogers - Seat B: (907) 451-0122 Valerie Therrin - Seat C: (907) 388-0272
Aaron Gibson - Seat D: (907) 978-3058 Jerry Cleworth - Seat E: (907) 452-6461
David Pruhs - Seat F: (907) 750-2888

OR! leave a comment here: <https://www.fairbanksalaska.us/citycouncil/webform/contact-council>

Fbks Diversity Council (FDC) "...to provide a citizens forum, serve as a diversity advisory board, and recommend adoption of a Diversity Action Plan for the community. The FDC supports many different cultural and social activities in our community..." FDC meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The FDC includes 11 public members (appointed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough and 10 appointed by the City of Fairbanks). The FDC comes together to discuss and work to improve all areas of diversity within our City and community. Contact info: cityclerk@fairbanks.us or 907-479-6702

North Pole City Council - <https://www.northpolealaska.com/citycouncil>

Thomas McGhee - Term: 10/2019 – 10/2022; 1152 North Star Drive, N Pole, AK 99705;

Cell Phone: 455-0010; Email: thomas.mcghee@northpolealaska.org

David Skipps - Term: 10/2018 - 10/2021; 2729 Perimeter Dr; Cell Phone: 750-5106;

email: david.skipps@northpolealaska.org

Santa Claus- Term: 10/2019 - 10/2022; PO Box 55122 (North Pole 99705);

Email: santa.claus@northpolealaska.org

Aino Welch- Term: 10/2017 - 10/2020; 934 Les Rogers Turnaround; Home Phone: 488-5834;

Email: aino.welch@northpolealaska.org

DeJohn Cromer - Term: 10/2018 - 10/2020; 815 Marquette Loop; Cell Phone: 347-2808;

Email: dejohn.cromer@northpolealaska.org

Perry Walley - Term: 10/2018 - 10/2021; 659 W 5th Ave; Cell Phone: 347-0135;

Email: perry.walley@northpolealaska.org

Agendas & Minutes at <https://www.northpolealaska.com/meetings>

Mayor Michael Welch – Term 10/20018-10/2021. 125 Snowman Lane; t. 488-8584; fax 907-488-3002; michael.welch@northpolealaska.org

Fairbanks North Star Borough -

Matt Cooper - Seat I - Presiding Officer; Matthew.Cooper@fnsb.us; (907) 978-7143; Term Expires: 10/22

Mindy O'Neall - Seat C; Mindy.Oneall@fnsb.us; 907-727-3887; term exp. 10/22

Aaron Lojewski - seat H; Aaron.Lojewski@fnsb.us; 907-978-1766; exp 10/20

Liz Lyke - seat F; Liz.Lyke@fnsb.us; 907-378-3727; exp 10/21

Jimi Cash - seat E – Jimi.Cash@fnsb.us; 907-799-2692; exp 10/20

Christopher Quist - seat D - Deputy Presiding Officer; Christopher.Quist@fnsb.us; 907-687-5049; exp 10/20

Marna Sanford - seat A; msanford@fnsb.us ; 907-546-7505; exp 10/21

Frank Tomaszewski - seat B; Frank.Tomaszewski@fnsb.us; 907-347-2968; exp 10/22

Leah R. Williford - seat C; Leah.Williford@fnsb.us; 907-347-1021; exp 10/21