Alaska Peace Center Community News and Opportunities for Action
on KWRK-LP 90.9 FM Radio in Fairbanks, Alaska (on Mondays, 10am)

Week of May 15th, 2017

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Briefly:

In the recent past:
1. new twice-monthly publication
2. new weekly electronic newsletter
3. Defend the Sacred rally
4. Organizer training
5. Farmers’ Market
6. Town Hall meeting with U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan
7. legislature is heading to a 10-day special session.
8. plans to add more renewable energy
9. Simple cabins to house the homeless
10. Republican health insurance bill passed US House

Ongoing: "An Injury to One" commentary regarding proposed changes to workers' compensation; at the end.
11. News Miner public positions on their Editorial Board
12. legislation that would roll back overtime rules
13. restrictions on density, safety, and height on civilians
14. Legislature "24-hr rule"

15. ‘alarming’ U.S. trend against free speech
16. Fox Spring/

In the near future:
Monday, May 15th:
17. Arbor Day.
18. Safe City Planning Mtg

Tuesday, May 16th:
20. first nation to abolish slave trading.

Wednesday, May 17th:
21. Chelsea Manning Will Be Free
22. Brown v Board of Education

Thursday, May 18th:
23. FNSB Regular Assembly Mtg
24. Gender Pioneers Ally Training
25. philosopher and pacifist Bertram Russell.

Friday, May 19th:
26. (NAEC) Annual Meeting
27. New Economy Working Group Mtg
28. original peace symbol

Saturday, May 20th:
29. Stone Soup Kids Cafe
30. East Timor independence

Sunday, May 21st:
31. U.S. aerial-detoned hydrogen bomb

After this week:
Community Led Resiliency Panel.
National Mobilization of Veterans Memorial Day Weekend Stop Endless War • Build for Peace!
future of Gilmore dome
5th Annual Peace Feast
Emma's Revolution concert
Alternatives to Violence Project Advanced workshop

Outside Alaska
Resources for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability:

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In more detail:

In the recent past:

1. There is a new twice-monthly publication in town: "Free The People". See http://freethepeopleak.com/.

2. Fairbanks Activist Forum has started a new weekly electronic newsletter of action-oriented events in Fbks. Contact fairbanksactivistsforum@gmail.com

3. Wednesday, the Defend the Sacred rally speaking when the Arctic Council was visited by Secretary of State and former Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson, was well-attended.

4. Organizer training was delayed. If interested, contact girard@northern.org

5. The Fairbanks Farmers' Market opened for the season this past Saturday. In addition to the market on College Rd, Southside Community Farmers' Market will be open every Tuesday 4-7pm at 24th & Rickert St, June-Sept. WIC, Senior Coupons, and Food stamps are accepted. Starting in late June, there will be weekly farms stands at school gardens.

6. Town Hall meeting with U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan held in a church in North Pole was well attended.

7. Alaska Senate President Pete Kelly warns the only way forward is to cut spending more, so the legislature is heading to a 10-day special session.

8. Golden Valley Electric Association, formed in 1946 & numbering 34,000+ members from Fbks to Delta & south to Cantwell, "plans to add more renewable energy," per FDNM 5-14-17, potentially adding Craft's 13.5 megawatt wind farm and Fire Island 2 to GVEA's 4 turbines at Eva Creek wind farm, and constructing a half megawatt solar array near Fbks. Currently there are "165 solar producers on the grid."

9. Also from FDNM 5-14-17: "Simple cabins to be built to house the homeless...Fairbanks Rescue Mission...has partnered with the Greater Fairbanks Area Habitat for Humanity to create the Joshua Community Projects, inexpensive...cabin in small clusters for people willing to work and contribute to the communities...'The people who live in this community are going to be a part of building it,'... 'a much better opportunity to move forward in their lives'...The Rescue Mission is accepting donations of time, money and building materials to advance the project.

10. U.S. House Republicans' health insurance bill passed. Among other provisions, it would make it easier for employers to drop coverage of contraceptives while halting most funding to Planned Parenthood clinics and expanding restrictions on private insurance coverage of abortion. (FSNM 5-10-17, p.A9)

Ongoing:

11. from FAF: Fairbanks Daily News Miner has two public positions on their Editorial Board which are about to open up. The Editorial Board decides on editorial stances taken and articles written. For more information on how to apply contact Tom Hewitt, Opinion Editor, by email at thewitt@newsminer.com or phone (907) 459-7574.

12. "Recently, the U.S.House passed legislation that would roll back overtime rules." It is headed to the Senate

13. "JLUS restrictions on density, safety, and height on civilians around military bases are supposed to be discussed at community meetings in May; Per the borough planner on 5/8/17: " We do have some tentative meeting dates in the third and fourth weeks of May but will know more later this week. When these meetings are finalized, I’ll send a message to the mailing list, send mailers to potentially affected property owners, and reach out through traditional and social media. Kind regards, Melissa Kellner, Long-Range Planner, Community Planning Dept., Fairbanks North Star Borough, (907) 459-1252, mkellner@fnsb.us"

14. The Alaska Legislature is now operating under "the 24-hr rule," allowing scheduling with little prior notice. Call the Legislative Information Office at 452-4448 (Fbks) or go to www.akleg.gov for the most current schedules. Live stream of committee meetings: Alaskal.legislature.tv.

15. UN warns of ‘alarming’ U.S. trend against free speech "Nineteen [now 20 per FDMN] U.S. states have introduced bills that would curb freedom of expression and the right to protest since Donald Trump’s election as president, an “alarming and undemocratic” trend, U.N. human rights investigators said on Thursday. Concerns for free speech in the United States have risen in part because of the Republican Trump’s antagonistic relations with prominent U.S. media, which he has branded “the enemy of the American people” as it has reported on policy missteps and dysfunction in his administration." from theglobeandmail.com. Openstates.org tracks legislation in all states.

16. For question about the situation at Fox Spring/Well and about the organization, Friends of Fox Spring, call 378-6744. For online donations <nscfundalaska.org> The water site will close July 1. Strong community financial support is being made to keep the water flowing; with plans for an information session at the library, a movie showing, and other events.
In the near future:

Monday, May 15th: Legislative committee hearings and public input: Call ahead 452-4448 for status of legislation.
17. Monday, May 15th, will be Arbor Day. The local Arbor Day Committee will plant some trees earlier as well as on Arbor Day. Schoolchildren will help with many of the plantings.

18. 6:30p – 8:30p: Safe City Planning Mtg at Native Movement Rm., 1327 Hayes Ave. The Safe City Fairbanks group is working to engage in a dialogue with community leaders regarding underrepresented members in our community who are feeling disconnected and afraid due to the current national rhetoric and incendiary political climate. (from FAF)


Tuesday, May 16th:
20. On May 16th, 1792, Denmark was the first nation to abolish slave trading.

Wednesday, May 17th:
21. from Veterans For Peace: "Chelsea Manning Will Be Free this coming Wednesday, May 17. Veterans For Peace is celebrating her freedom. We are so grateful to Chelsea for her courage in releasing U.S. Army documents that allowed the public to know the truth about the U.S. wars and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. She did not deserve the torture, solitary confinement, abuse and imprisonment these last 7 years, which was a longer sentence than any U.S. whistleblower has had to endure. The 35-year prison sentence given to Chelsea by a politically motivated Army court martial was an obscenity. Fortunately, a broad-based support movement of peace, civil liberties and LGBT rights groups was able to convince President Obama to commute her sentence. Read the whole piece by VFP Board Member Gerry Condon"


Thursday, May 18th:
23. 6- 9pm: FNSB Regular Assembly Mtg Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, 907 Terminal Street.
24. 7-9pm: Gender Pioneers Ally Training For location details please email genderpioneers@gmail.com. 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. (from FAF)

25. May 18th, 1872, was the birthdate of British philosopher and pacifist Bertram Russell.

Friday, May 19th:
26. 5:30 - Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) Annual Meeting! 830 College Rd, Fairbanks.
This evening is an opportunity for our members to get together, share a meal, and learn about the last year's work at the Northern Center. We'll provide a main dish, beer, and good company; please bring a side dish or dessert. And do you have a friend or relative who's new to Fairbanks and/or would like to learn more about how to get involved and stay informed? Bring them too!
27. 11 – 12:30p: New Economy Working Group Mtg at Native Movement Conference Rm. 1327 Hayes Ave.
28. "The original peace symbol was designed by Gerald Horton...preparing a march from London, England, to protest nuclear weapons in 1958...[It] was originally known as the nuclear disarmament symbol. Bayard Rustin...of War Resisters League brought the symbol back to the U.S...The Committee for Nonviolent Action ...was one of the first to use it."

Saturday, May 20th:
29. 11am – 1pm: Stone Soup Kids Cafe, 507 Gaffney Rd, Fairbanks: Kids Cafe is a monthly gathering of families and Stone Soup volunteers, staff, and Board members to make meals for the guests for the following week. Kids Cafe happens every third Saturday of every month at Stone Soup Cafe at 507 Gaffney Road from 11am to 1pm.

Sunday, May 21st:
31. On May 21st, 1956, the Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific was devastatingly polluted by the first U.S. aerial-detonated hydrogen bomb test.
**After this week:**

**Thursday, May 25, from NAEC: Community Led Resiliency Panel.** Join us from 12-2pm in an interactive panel with leaders who are making our communities more resilient. We will be meeting at the Golden Heart Plaza (by the statue of the First Family) to hear from leaders developing solutions in small business, rural development, local agriculture and more.

From Veterans For Peace: **National Mobilization of Veterans Memorial Day Weekend**

**Stop Endless War • Build for Peace!** May 29 and 30, 2017 Washington DC

In response to President Trump’s outrageous budget proposal, including a $54 billion increase for the Pentagon, VFP and other veterans groups will not be silent. Planning for this was started in response to VFP’s galvanizing statement about Trump’s Military Budget and our desire and responsibility as veterans, citizens and human beings to express our strong resistance to his policies and our commitment to find a better way to peace. Find out Details about the National Mobilization. RSVP Now for the event!

For more information contact Tarak Kauff, VFP National Board Member, takauff@gmail.com, 845 679-6189 or 845 706-0187
For more information on the Letters to the Wall project contact Doug Rawlings, rawlings@maine.edu, 207 500-0193

By June 1, from NAEC: **What's your vision for the future of Gilmore dome?** What effects would there be if Gilmore Dome was transferred to the state? Gilmore Dome is currently part of a large land withdrawal set aside for NOAA's use. NOAA has offered to relinquish 709 acres of their withdrawal, and BLM will need to analyze the impacts of returning the area to the state. Public comments are due June 1, and an informational meeting will be held Thursday, May 18, from 6 to 8pm at Steese Fire Department Station 62, 585 Steele Creek Road in Fairbanks. Feel free to contact Julia Mickley for more information.

--Saturday June 3rd: **5th Annual Peace Feast** at Pioneer Park 12-2, featuring folks and groups who have been enhancing peace, justice, and sustainability. info@alaskapeace.org

- Saturday June 3  **Emma's Revolution concert** 8pm at UUFF Keep the Resistance going with an inspiring concert from "activist power duo" Emma's Revolution. Here's an unsolicited endorsement from Fairbanksan DG: "I just got a note from one of my friends at San Dieguito UU Church in Solana Beach, Ca. that this was happening up here in Fairbanks UU. Emma's Revolution is two women who travel all over the country and the world singing songs of peace, sanity, funny songs; heartfelt songs. You don't want to miss these ladies; they are electric performers. I hope you will come check them out. A great way to begin our beautiful summer!"

*Listen & read why you will want to be there, at: [https://madmimi.com/s/48f80a](https://madmimi.com/s/48f80a). Also check out their song "Who Lies, Who Dies, Who Pays, Who Profits?"

Ticket available at Gulliver's Books and Grassroots Guitar, or via info@alaskapeace.org or 687-8821.

--conflict resolution/ **Alternatives to Violence Project Advanced workshop** this June 9-11 in Fairbanks
Contact Carrie 750-1049.

**Outside Alaska**

**Send Friendship to Russia - send the petition at WorldBeyondWar.org.**

*from VFP: Wage Peace, Not War in Korea!* We have advocated that the real solution to the continuing military tension in Korea is to end the Korean War officially with a peace treaty, not just focusing on denuclearization in N. Korea. But it is unclear at this time when Trump will pivot from military pressure to direct talks with North Korea. Thus, it is critical for our VFP members and supporters to engage in sustained public advocacy for permanent peace in Korea. Read the Full Report from VFP's Korea Peace Campaign

**Take Action Today:**

- Write an Op-Ed to your Local Paper. (See Ann Wright's excellent Op-Ed “A Path Forward on N. Korea” for an example)
- Hold a peace vigil for Korea
- Promote the Korea Peace Campaign Video on the Korean War
- Urge the White House and Congress to end the Korean War now with a peace treaty.
  - White House 202-456-1111
  - Congress 202-224-3121 (Find your representative)

Stop threatening N. Korea, Start talking! Wage Peace, not War in Korea!

**Legislative Action**

[https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/legislative-action/](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/legislative-action/)

**Trainings, Speakers, other activities:**

---From Veterans For Peace: ... Aug 9-13 - VFP Annual Convention "Education Not Militarization", Chicago

**Resources for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability:**

**Alaska Peace Center Open Hours** Fridays 5-7pm through May: Come browse our library of literature & media relevant to peace, justice, and sustainability, have a cup of tea or coffee; discuss what’s going on, or watch a movie. Email Alaska Peace Center at info@alaskapeace.org. The website is updated: www.alaskapeace.org; also Facebook.

**We have many local, state, national, and international events and resources listed and available: please contact us at info@alaskapeace.org for more information and details, or to get on our email list, to which the expanded news brief is sent.**

Northern Alaska Environmental Center  [http://northern.org/](http://northern.org/)
Fairbanks Activist Forum calendar: tinyurl.com/FBXcalendar
MarchonFBX: **Rapid Response Alerts** Hashtag #FBXaction for spur of the moment actions.

**Fairbanks North Star Borough assembly** meets alternate Thursday evenings:
[http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/cp/Documents/FNSB%20MEETING%20DATES%20AND%20DEADLINES.pdf](http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/cp/Documents/FNSB%20MEETING%20DATES%20AND%20DEADLINES.pdf)

**2017 Alaska State Legislature**... [http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp)

**Legislative information office [LIO]**: 452-4448, in AlaskaUSA bldg: on Sadler Way just south of HomeDepot

**Alaska’s Congressional delegation**:

  Email via web site: donyoung.house.gov; AK offices in Fbs 100 Cushman St ste 307; Anch: 4241 B st, ste 203

  Email via: murkowski.senate.gov;  
  AK offices in Fbs-Federal Bldg101- 12th Ave, ste 329; in Anch-510 L St, ste 600; JNU-800 Glacier Ave, ste 101; Kenai-805 Frontage Rd ste 105;  
  Ketchikan-1500 Ave,ste 225.

  Wasilla-357-9956/f.283-4000;  
  Email via: sullivan.senate.gov;  
  AK offices in Fbs-Fed Bldg 101 12th Ave,ste 328; in Anch-510 L St ste 750; JNU-800 Glacier ave ste 101; Wasilla-851 E.Westpt Dr.ste309; Kenai-805 Frontage Rd ste 101; Ketchikan-1900 1st ave ste 225.

**Northern Alaska Environmental Center** [http://northern.org/](http://northern.org/)

**Rapid Response Alerts** Hashtag #FBXaction for spur of the moment actions.

**A reminder! Today and every day: visit, call, email, write your legislators, congresspersons and city and borough assemblies and write letters to the editor about issues being acted on and affecting peace, justice, and sustainability.**

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

"An Injury to One" commentary by Rob Mulford:

An Injury to One – 15 May 2017

The April 28th Fairbanks Daily Miner’s Opinion section contained Community Perspective editorial, titled “Time to re-examine workers’ compensation”.

The opening paragraph states, “Change is hard, even when everyone agrees it’s necessary. It’s easier to do nothing than it is to effect change. But every once in a while you bump into something that’s just so utterly broken that change is the only option. That’s where we were at with Alaska’s workers compensation system.”

Wow, now that sounds darned near Gandhian, doesn’t it? Be the change you want to see in the world and all. Denizens of fanciful post industrial worlds, as well as those who are uninitiated, or have neither familial nor other intimate connection with anyone who has experienced the hazardous workplace may tend to read this superficially and walk away thinking, “That sounds reasonable”, not detecting the author’s skilled slight of hand.

A lifetime of working in heavy industry – Colorado coalmines, Wyoming gas fields, the North West’s pulp and paper mills, and Alaska’s energy industry has afforded me a modicum of context in which to place the author, president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Curtis W. Thayer’s community of perspective. I see, just breaking the surface a pair of nostrils then a set of sinister eyes awaiting to pounce and exploit. I’m told the crocodile does have feelings, though. It is said that it tears as it devours its prey.
Thayer says in his editorial, “It’s taken a long time to get everyone up to speed on why it’s failing Alaska workers... Progress has been frustratingly slow, particularly if you’re an injured worker floundering in a bungled system or an employer hemorrhaging money.” Thayer goes on to say, “Alaska needs to adopt options for employees to direct their own care.” But, “It’s worse for employers.” What, The injured worker stumbles aimlessly while the employer hemorrhages? Oh my God, where’s that tourniquet. Personally, I believe there is something intrinsically evil about an entity that continuously hemorrhages and doesn’t die. Yes, I’m talking about capitalism.

One afternoon in 2012 I mentioned to my boss, the superintendent of the Aurora Energy Power Plant on First Avenue, that I was getting out of breath just walking up my driveway. He advised that I should be examined by Alaska Occupational Health and made an appointment for me. The air inside the plant for the previous couple of years contained a haze of fine silica and other particles from the plant’s ash system. This concerned me. My boss gave me a form that “Absolutely had to be filled out before AOH would see me.” This form required that I record my work history in detail. I complied, writing down all the mines, mills, and plants that I had ever worked in. After placing the completed form on AOH’s counter the following day, I mentioned to the office manager that I needed a copy of my examination results. She informed me that the information was Usibelli Coal Company’s (owner of the power plant) property not mine and I would have to ask them for it. I reached for the completed form that I had placed on the counter, but was too late. The office manager grabbed it then threw it into one of AOH’s file cabinets.

A few weeks later I complained about the hazardous atmosphere inside the plant, the dangerous levels of production that were being pushed, and the haphazard method they were using to cut down dust by spraying water on the coal conveyors. I was accused of endangering everyone’s job so I went home. About that time Lee Addison, the coal operator, had both of his arms captured and crushed by the conveyor, operating erratically due to those sprays.

The following Monday my boss told me that when the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health inspector arrived to investigate the accident he was headed off at the superintendent’s office where he was greeted and met with the superintendent, Usibelli’s safety man, and a representative of Usibelli’s workers’ compensation insurance company. The inspector left saying, “Sounds good to me, without going to the site of the accident.”

The gist Thayer’s article promoted changes to Alaska’s workers’ compensation statutes as submitted by Senator Cathy Giessel in SB-112. A perusal of SB-112 reveals an attempt to reduce the number of members of the State’s workers’ compensation board by 1/3rd and the transfer of actual case decision making from the board to the State’s office of administrative hearings. Is this an attempt to reduce the potential for actual just compensation for Alaska’s workers? It appears so.

But! Workers’ compensation statutes from their very historical origin in the early 20th century have never been about compensating workers and their families. They are rather attempts to collectivize risk to capital. Compensation is then left to the trickle down effect.

Insurance is not health care. Health care is a human right, so is the right workers and their families to just compensation for injuries inflicted by job hazards. SB-112 is just one more attempt to exploit workers it should be opposed. If your workplace is not organized, organize it. An injury to one is an injury to all.