

Briefly:

In the recent past:

- Senator Lisa Murkowski cosponsor of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act
- U.S. Rep. threatened with lynching
- Alaskans removed 2.1 tons of prescription drugs
- “non-compete agreements” forbid working for competitors after being laid off or fired without cause

Ongoing:

Legislature is now in special session LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE: 452-4448

court order to force the use of toxic herbicides

Permanent Supportive Housing

looking for munitions and explosives...left behind in the water

In the near future:

Monday, May 22:

6:30pm Friends of Fox Spring meets

7pm Fairbanks City Council mtg

Tuesday, May 23:

7-8:30pm FairbanksClimateActionCoalition Policy & Politics Working Group mtg

6:30-7:45pm Fairbanks Activists Forum Facilitators’ (FAF) mtg

Wednesday, May 24:

(CBO) to release its estimate of House health insurance bill’s cost and how it would affect coverage.

Thursday, May 25:

10-11am Community Led Resiliency Panel

Sunday, May 28:

1-2pm Kids for Environmental Action mtg

After this week:

Saturday, June 3rd, 12-2 Peace Feast and

8pm Emma’s Revolution concert

Stand for Salmon ballot initiative filed with the Division of Elections

Outside Alaska

-- \$100 billion Saudi weapons sale

--Mysterious fern die-off

-- (from Veterans For Peace:) National Mobilization of Veterans Memorial Day Weekend-Stop Endless War • Build for Peace

Aug 9-13 - [VFP Annual Convention-"Education Not Militarization"](#),

Resources for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability:

In more detail:

In the recent past:

- Last Wednesday, Senator Lisa Murkowski signed on as an original cosponsor of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.
- From the Associated Press (AP) via Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (DNM): U.S. Rep. Al Green from Texas has been repeatedly **threatened with lynching** for seeking impeachment of President Trump for obstruction of justice.
- From Ketchikan Daily News via DNM: **Alaskans removed 2.1 tons of prescription** drugs from circulation during the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, setting a 12-year record. Next national Rx take-back day will be Oct. 28. Excessive pain medications are an enormous cause of addictions and subsequent problems for individuals and society.
- Many people are unaware when they take a job that it might have “**non-compete agreements**” **forbidding** them from **working for competitors** for a year or two **after being laid off or fired without cause**, even in low-wage jobs at fast-food restaurants, warehouses, and hair salons, per a New York Times article in the FDNM. “Nearly 1/5 of American workers, or about 28 million people are now subject to such agreements.” There is a move to combat this in state legislatures and Congress.

Ongoing:

The Alaska **Legislature is now in special session** (beyond the Alaska Constitutional 121-day limit) so meetings and hearings do not require advance notice: Call or visit your **LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE [LIO]: 452-4448**, in AlaskaUSA bldg. on Sadler Way just south of HomeDepot, to hear what is happening and to send messages to your legislators. Interior Alaska Legislative **contacts are listed near the end of this newsletter**. 8 items are to be done during this Special Session: 3 mandatory budget bills: operating, capital, mental health; motor fuel tax; HB 159 Governor's Opioid Bill, continuing ed for prescribers in pain management & substance abuse; SB 26 Permanent Fund restructure; HB 111 Oil tax & credits; broad-based tax to be determined. *"On the Senate floor, Co-Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Anna MacKinnon mentioned they happened to find \$288 MILLION in our Statutory Budget Reserve! Guess where they chose to use it? Not to fund education, the university, seniors, or the neediest all of whom have already suffered cuts under the [current] plan. It went to the oil industry to pay discretionary tax subsidies. All of it, even though \$74 million had already been budgeted to oil companies...proposed amendments to use this found money to fund our constitutional obligations and essential services like education, and the Pioneer Homes ...all failed" per Sen. Berta Gardner, May 17, 2017.*

From NP: [Dear Friends, do you] have relatives and friends in Oregon?

...In regarding the organic Azure Farms and give the Sherman County court a call at the number or email at the given email address.

I called the court # below [today], because a **court order to force the use of toxic herbicides** to 'eradicate' rather than 'control' weeds would set a precedent to doing the same thing to organic produce farms all over the nation, including Alaska.

A 2,000 acre, Azure Farms, is on the verge of being court ordered to spray herbicides on their fields due to political maneuvering...It is the largest independent supplier of non-GMO, organic foods in the entire US, and one of the world's largest on-line grocery stores...I have friends who belong to food clubs here in FBX, who order all kinds of foods from them.

If you are drawn to do so, can you call or email the Sherman County Office at the information provided to protest and demand protection of the right to Organic Produce? Sherman county, Oregon, has threatened these organic farmers that Round up or other toxic chemicals will be used on their Organic farm to eradicate weeds. The farmer will be charged for the cost. Obviously then they would no longer have organic food, we would lose a great producer of these products, they would lose their life work and it would set a horrible policy that could effect all of OR and everywhere. Phone # Sherman County- Lauren- 541 565 3416 or email lhernandez@co.sherman.or.us

From DNM: Fairbanks is estimated to have about 13% of the state's homeless population. Prosperity House is the most recent addition of **Permanent Supportive Housing**, with more being worked on, to provide housing and services to people who may need 2 or more years of support to get on their feet, such as homeless people with mental illnesses or addictions.

From the Kodiak Daily Mirror via the AP & DNM: "The Navy will be **looking for any munitions and explosives...left behind in the water** surrounding Kodiak Island [in June]...an Alaska survey has discovered munitions or explosives...surrounding Dutch Harbor...findings will be made into a public site inspection report."

In the near future:

Monday, May 22:

6:30pm Fox Spring Task Force/**Friends of Fox Spring meets** at 590 University Ave, ste 2 (basement; use east door)

All are welcome. For information call Amber: 479-1213, ext 107.

7pm Fairbanks City Council mtg at city hall

Tuesday, May 23:

7-8:30pm **FCAC Policy & Politics Working Group mtg** call or email for more info: Allison Woodward: allison.in.ak@gmail.com or

Enei Begaye: 907-374-5950. (from FAF calendar)

6:30-7:45pm **Fairbanks Activists Forum Facilitators' (FAF) mtg** at the Jane's. More information: fairbanksactivistsforum@gmail.com

(From War Resisters League calendar:) **May 23, 1838**, was the final deadline for **forced removal of Cherokee people** from southeastern U.S. to Oklahoma territory; 4,000 died along the way **in the Trail of Tears**.

Wednesday, May 24:

from DNM: The Congressional Budget Office (**CBO**) plans **to release its estimate of** the hurriedly-already-voted

House health insurance bill's cost and how it would affect coverage...[It] reduces taxes - largely on higher "earners" and health industry sectors - by around \$1 trillion....Insurance companies grow increasingly spooked by the uncertainty and make "health care markets" even worse by raising premiums or pulling out.

6:30-8:30pm - **Safe City Planning mtg.** at Sesame Place, 3535 College Rd: 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. For more information email safecityFBX@gmail.com.

On May 24, 1961, 27 Freedom Riders were arrested in Jackson, MS; 301 more were arrested over the next 113 days;

they contributed to the end to bus and train segregation.

Thursday, May 25:

10-11am **Community Led Resiliency Panel** at Golden Heart Plaza between the Chena River and 1st ave, near Cushman St. bridge: Join us 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.

On **May 25, 1932, the Bonus Army**, thousands of WWI veterans who had not been provided benefits promised to them, marched on D.C. and **were evicted with some deaths** by General MacArthur.

Friday, May 26:

On **May 26, 1972, Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) 1** nuclear weapons treaty between the U.S. and USoviet Union froze ballistic missile launchers and created formulae for reducing submarine-launched missiles.

Saturday, May 27: There may be legislative action on Saturday & Sunday: schedule updates at akleg.gov

On **May 27, 1967, Australian Aborigines were finally granted citizenship.**

Sunday, May 28:

1-2pm **Kids for Environmental Action mtg** at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4448 Pike's Landing Rd.

After this week:

Saturday, June 3rd, 12-2 Peace Feast at Pioneer Park (free & public); **8pm Emma's Revolution concert** at UUFF. Tickets available at Gulliver's Books, Grassroots Guitar, from Heather at 687-8821 or Susan at 479-0780, or info@alaskapeace.org

The **Stand for Salmon ballot initiative** application signed by over 350 Alaskans from across the state **was filed with the Division of Elections**, to update the 61 yr old fish habitat law.

Outside Alaska

-- from CodePink: Trump **\$100 billion Saudi weapons sale**: go to codepink.org.

--**Mysterious fern die-off** in Seattle parks: See <https://seattlenaturealliance.org>.

-- (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

Aug 9-13 - [VFP Annual Convention-"Education Not Militarization"](#), Chicago

[Resources for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability](https://alaskapeace.wordpress.com/links/resources/); [Legislative, congressional, and other contacts are listed at https://alaskapeace.wordpress.com/links/resources/](https://alaskapeace.wordpress.com/links/resources/)

Alaska Peace Center Winter Open Hours Fridays 5-7pm: 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. ***We have many local, state, national, and international events and resources listed and available***

Email Alaska Peace Center at info@alaskapeace.org. The website is www.alaskapeace.org; and on Facebook.

for more information and details, or to get on our email list, to which the expanded news brief is sent.

Submissions to Alaska community news and opportunities for action for inclusion in this weekly news brief are welcome. Please include "for news week of x-xx-xx" in the subject line.

May Peace be with you! Have a good week!