

Hello there! Thanks for tuning in to 91.9 FM KPTZ. I'm Simon Jaynes. Here is the local news for Port Townsend on this Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Tomorrow evening at 7pm the SEVENTY48 race kicks off in Tacoma at the head of the Thea Foss Waterway near the Museum of Glass, and it will conclude with participants arriving in Port Townsend by Sunday evening at that same time. The goal of racers is to cover 70 miles of water in 48 hours or less. There are no motors, no support and no wind power allowed. It is human power only for these crafts – the most common formats being kayak, paddle board, canoe. Participants must ring the bell at City Dock in Port Townsend within 48 hours of leaving Tacoma, paddling their boats past the most populated cities in Washington.

The Northwest Maritime Center plans an awards ceremony at Sunday's Ruckus, which precedes the start of the Race to Alaska (R2AK) on Monday. Some 130 teams were signed up for the SEVENTY48 as of Wednesday. Joining me in the studio today with insightful commentary on this subject I have two human-powered-boat experts, my 5 and 9 year old sons Ivan and Syd.

U.S. Navy installations in the Northwest region will conduct an earthquake and multi-hazard response exercise June 13-17. The participating installations include Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval Base Kitsap, and Naval Magazine Indian Island. The annual exercise will test Navy installations' capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a natural disaster. In this case, simulated major earthquakes will trigger other simulated hazardous events. People near a Navy installation may see or hear activities related to the multi-day exercise, but this activity is not expected to majorly impact the public outside of Navy property. Exercise activity that might be observed include messages played over the Navy's emergency notification loudspeaker system and increased emergency response vehicle and personnel activity. Again, this will be next week – Monday through Friday – so if anyone in the community appears concerned about signs of an emergency in and around the Naval Base on Indian Island, feel free to inform them that it is only a simulation.

The Jefferson County Board of Health is restructuring and needs new members. In 2021, in an effort to address disparities in health outcomes, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1152. This bill requires local Boards of Health to include more non-elected members and those with diverse lived experiences. There are four new positions to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. These include: appointment of a tribal representative, selected by the American Indian Health Commission and a representative of health care facilities, a role very similar to an existing position filled by Hospital Commissioner Dr. Kees Kolff. The third new member will represent "Consumers of Public Health" – defined as someone who has faced significant health inequities. And the last member will be a "Community Stakeholder" position, to be filled by someone representing an organization that works with populations experiencing health inequities. Applicants will be interviewed by the Board and finalists will be selected based on interest in public health, diversity of lived experience, and passion for public service. Professional experience in public health or boards is not a requirement. "We are eager to comply with the intent of the new law," said County Commissioner Kate Dean. "It is very important that the work we do in public health is supported and influenced by the communities that are served and most impacted by it."

Jefferson Healthcare recently hosted a series of virtual meetings to share ideas about the new hospital modernization project and service expansion. The community is encouraged to watch and listen to a recording on the Jefferson Healthcare website as well as provide comments and feedback via online form submission (<https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/expansion-project/>).

The initiatives of this project are to replace and/or retrofit the buildings constructed in 1965 and 1988. These buildings were determined to be seismically unsound in a Tier 2 structural and seismic evaluation. The second initiative is to relocate and potentially expand critical infrastructure, including the OB/GYN clinic, Express Clinic, MRI Services, administration, and the Cafe.

Another key initiative could be to introduce new services which now are most frequently accessed outside of the county, such as Ear, Nose and Throat, Neurology, Pulmonology, and Radiation Oncology. In the presentations, CEO Mike Glenn explained the impact a project of this magnitude would have on operations while highlighting the projected health needs of the community over the next decade.

The meetings did not address cost or final building plans. Mike Glenn explained that the project team would relay feedback to the design-build team who will then provide initial renderings and costs with proposed services to share by mid -July.

Jefferson County Public Health reported 39 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 2 days bringing our total case count to 4,250. There are 143 active cases in isolation and no one is currently hospitalized. The case rate in Jefferson County is 836/100,000.

That's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday, and at 5pm Monday through Friday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Simon Jaynes, thanks for listening and have a great day.