

This is Casey Dolan with your local news for Thursday, June 16, 2022 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

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On Tuesday, the House of Representatives handily passed the Recovering America's Wildlife Act by a vote of 231 to 190. The legislation will provide new funding for the restoration and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat nationally. \$21 million is to be specifically secured for the state of Washington to help manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need.

In addition, the Act intends to help Washington tribes, along with state and local partners, combat threats to local ecosystems. This includes invasive species like the European Green Crab, an invasive species that is destroying essential marine habitat for Dungeness crab and Pacific salmon and threatens the Washington shellfish industry. More than 102,000 European Green Crabs were caught in Puget Sound and along Washington's coast last year – a 5,500% increase from 2019. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act promises to provide resources to improve detection, increase control efforts, and pursue eradication of the invasive crabs.

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As a trial experiment, the City of Port Townsend intends to restripe Uptown's Blaine Street to include an "edge lane," spanning from the Tyler Street intersection of Blaine street to the Adams Street intersection, as part of their continuing efforts to make local roadways more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. Edge-lane roads are a type of street in which two-way vehicle traffic shares a single, middle lane with wide lanes on both sides of the roadway for bicycles, pedestrians on foot, and other travelers. This style of street is most common in European countries like tThe Netherlands and Denmark, where bicycles feature prominently, and is used to give a safe, reserved travel lane to cyclists. The city's trial edge-lane road will be in place from June through July.

"Edge-lane roads have been successfully tested in communities around the U.S. and show great promise in reducing crashes and enhancing active transportation," said Laura Parsons, civil engineer for the city to the PT *Leader*. "We look forward to the results of our local demonstration project to determine whether a permanent approach is right for our community." Community comments can be emailed to the city via [engagept@cityofpt.us](mailto:engagept@cityofpt.us).

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As part of National Public Health Week, KPTZ-FM is being honored as one of several Public Health Heroes at today's Jefferson County Board of Health Meeting from 2:30 – 4:30pm. The station receives the award in the category of "Community: Collaboration and Resilience." Jefferson County's Board of Health focused on the 2022 theme of Public Health Is Where You Are, by soliciting nominations from the public in April and May across seven categories, each recognizing different ways health, wellbeing, and safety have been promoted by individuals and/or groups across Jefferson County. KPTZ has made consistent efforts to inform the public on the pandemic and preventative measures to ensure the public's safety.

According to the published agenda, the awards will begin sometime during the meeting around 4pm. You can find the link to join the meeting virtually on the KPTZ website here: <https://zoom.us/j/97862703889>. KPTZ Community Affairs Lead Chris Bricker will accept the award on behalf of the station.

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Following upon receiving this award, KPTZ will broadcast tomorrow, Friday, the Blue Heron 8th Grade Celebration from 11am-12:30pm. The celebration became an on-air event due to a recent COVID-19 outbreak at the school. The KPTZ broadcast will feature speeches from Principal Victoria Kalscheuer and from Associated Student Body President Dylin Shockley, along with music selections and recordings of favorite 8th grade memories from the class. KPTZ Community Affairs Lead Chris Bricker will serve as producer and emcee for the special broadcast celebration.

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The Race to Alaska experienced some drama on Monday morning when four boaters were pulled from the Strait of Juan de Fuca while a gale warning and small craft advisory were in effect. Four teams required assistance, according to race organizers. A race safety vessel pulled one person out of the water and a Coast Guard boat pulled out a second. Two more were saved in a Coast Guard helicopter rescue. Some race participants took shelter at Protection Island, just west of Port Townsend, during the rough weather.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Thursday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Casey Dolan, thank you for listening.