

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

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As reported yesterday in the *Peninsula Daily News*: to help rejuvenate Olympia oyster populations depleted by the “heat dome” in September of last year, the Marine Resource Committees for Clallam and Jefferson counties will use federal funding to replenish strata in Sequim Bay and Discovery Bay. The oyster shells will be placed on tidelands located at Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Tidelands on about two acres of current restoration area and one acre of new restoration area to expand the Olympia oyster population in Sequim Bay.

At their January 9 work session, Clallam County Habitat Biologist Rebecca Mahan told Clallam County commissioners, “We figured this was a great project that we could get done in one year. So we are going to be bringing in some substrate to add to the Sequim Bay area in hopes that we get more improvement on the Olympia oysters. They did take a big hit during that heat dome.”

Clallam County will receive \$96,650 in Congressionally-directed spending, through the Northwest Straits Commission via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Jefferson County will receive \$118,000 for its oyster restoration project that started in 2013 with one-half acre in Discovery Bay near a stable but small population of Olympia oysters and now consists of three parcels.

As stated on the Jefferson County Marine Resource Committee website: “Olympia oysters (*Ostrea lurida*) are ecosystem engineers, forming complex carpets of overlapping shells that provide hiding places and feeding opportunities for a diverse community of nearshore species.” Larvae released from the nearby population settled on those shells in 2015 and 2016. Mahan said any oyster shells can be used, but these will be Olympia oyster shells harvested from along Hood Canal and baby oysters need someplace to adhere in order to grow, and oyster shells are the best substrate. The Olympia oyster is the only native oyster from British Columbia to Baja California. Due to habitat loss and overharvesting, their populations are a fraction of what they once were prior to the arrival of settlers in the mid-1800s.

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An upcoming local theatre production has earned national support. As reported recently in the *PT Leader*, Key City Public Theatre (KCPT) has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000. The money will go to support the production of *REDD* by Kat Agudo. Denise Winter, executive artistic director for the Key City Public Theatre, said, “*REDD* is a unique opportunity for KCPT’s regional BIPOC Ensemble Actors to explore roles that resonate with their cultural backgrounds; characters that are tailor-made for them in a collaboration with an up and coming playwright.” *REDD* was commissioned in June 2022 by Winter with the aim of re-inventing Little Red Riding Hood’s euro-centric lens to invite a diverse Asian cast and audience. Before the famous Brothers Grimm iteration, the spiritual intricacies of Little Red were embedded in the mystical lore of the Asian tradition featuring a hungry wolf longing to feast upon young prey. The play is intended to be mature, terrifying, and a startling examination of feminine livelihood through the eyes of a young person. Agudo seeks to translate poetic narratives about mental health, Asian-American experiences, LGBTQ representation, and social media culture to the stage by confronting horrific trauma with comedy. The play will premiere at Key City Public Theatre in April.

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Next week, *Attention Please!* here on KPTZ, will feature interviews and a scene from *The People Downstairs*, which will open at the Key City Public Theatre on February 1. A father's fierce determination not to accept his

daughter's fate ignites an endearing human comedy about love, loss, loneliness, and the healing power of laughter.

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Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Nichols will present a global and local overview of human trafficking during Peninsula College's Studium Generale this Thursday – that's tomorrow. The lecture will be at 12:35pm in the Little Theater on the Port Angeles campus. Nichols is expected to speak about the impact human trafficking has on individual lives and communities. It can also be viewed via Zoom at <https://pencol-edu.zoom.us/j/89779530051>. The meeting ID is 897 7953 0051.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!