

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Friday, February 17, 2023.

A community-wide challenge is starting now: a “contest” to create a dozen wooden benches that will be permanently placed along Point Hudson. Participants may build and embellish as individuals or teams, pick a category, and use their creative imagination to carve, inlay, paint, burn, stain, or add separate characters to enhance the design. The organizer of this event, Lisa Witt Widner, has dimensional lumber, slabs and whole trees available for the taking, as well as custom milling services, discounts on exotic woods, and some bench “kits” available for purchase, for those who would rather decorate than build. She says she has an outstanding offer of wood-working shop space for those who need it. Lisa says she is happy to see all of this come to fruition and has garnered support from both the Port and the Northwest Maritime Center.

The finished benches will be on display in all their glory at the Production Alliance’s Field Day at Fort Worden on June 24 and will receive their final votes from the public. Winners will be announced on site with plenty of hoopla, some cash and prizes, and general fun for all! Bench Build Challenge has received excited responses and pledges of support from a number of businesses in town, and the schools, galleries, etc. will have the opportunity to get on board as well, according to the organizer of the event. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1406292193238699>.

If you know any 12- to 19-year-olds who impress you with their leadership skills and commitment to the environment, The Jefferson Land Trust encourages you to nominate them for the newly created Fairbank Award for Youth Environmental Action. The \$500 award, provided by an anonymous community member, will be given to a young person who has, in the last year, shown commitment to build a community that’s healthy, happy, sustainable, and deeply connected to nature. Some examples of the actions that eligible nominees may be taking to demonstrate their commitment to environmental action in our community include:

- Working on environmental protection and/or restoration.
- Influencing people’s behavior toward sustainable living.
- Building environmental and climate change awareness within our community.
- Engaging collaboratively and bringing about positive change.

Nominees must be between 12-19 years old as of March 16, 2023 and they must live in Jefferson County. Jefferson Land Trust current or former staff members, board members, or their immediate family members are not eligible to win the award or to nominate anyone for the award. Nominations are quick and easy, and may be submitted using a form on the Jefferson Land Trust website (<https://saveland.org/call-for-nominations-fairbank-award-for-youth-environmental-action/>) by midnight, March 6 or by emailing info@saveland.org with the subject line: Fairbank Youth Award Nominee. The winner’s guardian will be notified by email on March 15, and the winner announced publicly at Jefferson Land Trust’s Conservation Breakfast, to be held online on Thursday, March 16 from 9 to 10:30 am.

It was a first for the Jefferson Healthcare Medical Center and it was a first for Center Valley Animal Rescue’s founder and director Sara Penhallegon. Penhallegon said in the *PT Leader* Wednesday, of the four-legged creature’s recent encounter at the healthcare center on Sheridan Street, “That was a new one and my first coyote in the hospital. She was a 25-pound adult coyote and had a wound on her head and nose.” The coyote darted through the express clinic’s automatic doors on February 7, running wild through a hallway and smashing through a glass panel before cornering itself in an outdoor courtyard. The animal was transported to Center

Valley Animal Rescue to be tended for its injuries. Believe it or not, coyotes tend to be easier to operate on than the average pet dog or cat, Penhallegon said. She's quoted in the *Leader*, "Coyotes are one of my easiest patients, actually. They get a bad rap. Some of my dog patients are not as good." After a terrible Tuesday, the coyote received multiple sutures for her snout and spent the night at the animal rescue to recover. Injury-wise, Penhallegon said the animal sustained "nothing lasting, nothing to stop her from being a coyote. Her fear factor was way worse than the injuries. The best thing was to get her back to the wild as quickly as we could." She was set free to return to the woods last Wednesday evening, February 8.

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. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.