

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

There were four "Levy Lid Lifts" here in Jefferson County yesterday: Two for the Brannon Fire Department and two for East Jefferson Fire Rescue: District 1. There are 24,530 registered voters in Jefferson County. The Ballots cast yesterday were 10,251, just under 42%.

Jefferson County Fire Protection District #1, (EJFR) Proposition #1 – that's the fire levy – unofficially looks to pass with 69%, to just over 30% against.

Jefferson County Fire Protection District #1, (EJFR) Proposition #2 – the EMS levy – looks to pass at 73.81%, almost 74%, to 26%, roughly.

The Brannon Proposition #1: Jefferson County Fire Protection District #4: Their fire levy looks like it's going to pass, barely, well, it's going to pass, probably: 53.28%, just over 53%, to just over 46% – 46 and a half percent against.

And their EMS levy: 62.23% in favor, and 37.34% against. So, just over 62% approve, just over 37% disapprove of the Jefferson County Fire Protection District #4, Brannon Proposition #2.

Those are your unofficial results. They will be made official in the coming weeks, and we will report on that as well.

Fort Worden's Battery Putnam aids local Styrofoam recycling efforts. This is in from Jeannie McMacken, Director of Communications for the Fort Worden PDA. Since October of 2021, East Jefferson residents have been bringing clean, used Styrofoam™ pieces to the Fort Worden campus to be recycled by the local group, StyroCylers. On the first Tuesday and third Saturday of each month, from 10am to noon, vehicles line up and drop off clean rigid, white Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS), Styrofoam #6 pieces, and bagged packing peanuts at Battery Putnam on the upper campus near Alexander's Castle. It's estimated over 10,000 pounds or 5 tons of Styrofoam has been kept out of local landfills and the water because of this program. That volume would fill a 3,000-square-foot house from floor to ceiling or would fill up a Boeing 747.

From Battery Putnam, the collected items are trucked to the local OlyCAP warehouse and then make their way to Kent via Northwest Harvest's tractor trailer. The material is then delivered to Styro Recycle in Kent. At that facility, a densifier machine uses heat to convert the Styrofoam into a toothpaste-like consistency of polystyrene that cools into heavy blocks. Those are then sold to manufacturers of molded products such as picture frames, construction details, and surfboard blanks. This densified product is in high demand because it is less expensive than virgin plastic. The Fort's Battery Putnam plays a key role in this important endeavor.

Polly Lyle of StyroCylers said, "Thanks to Fort Worden PDA we make use of three rooms in the battery. We do intake and packing, and use a second room for storage. The third room is used for sorting packing peanuts. We have 26 volunteers to do this work" Lyle emphasized that the StyroCylers are committed to keeping their footprint invisible at the Fort. The group does not post signs. She said, "We don't want to change the Fort visitor's experience. We want to be good stewards of Fort Worden." Fort Worden PDA Executive Director David Timmons is happy to work with the StyroCylers to help them achieve their mission and said, "This is yet another example of one of the many ways Fort Worden serves the community."

The most recent collection on Tuesday, February 7 yielded 420 pounds of Styrofoam product. The next collection will take place this Saturday, February 18 at Battery Putnam, 229 Alexander's Loop. For more

information about the volunteer effort write to: PTStyroCyclers@gmail.com or go to their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PortTownsendStyrofoam/.

City of Port Townsend's meeting Calendar has been updated: Today, Wednesday, February 15, The 3pm Council Finance and Budget Committee has been canceled.

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.