

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news and commentary for today, March 10, 2023.

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Your opinion and ideas can be part of two plans that will have long-lasting effects on the future of our region. Jefferson County is launching a website to gather data for the next Strategic Plan that will lay out goals and objectives for the future. This plan's success depends on input from community members who know and love Jefferson County, and have a vested interest in making it an even better place going forward. The plan will be designed to help guide the county in creating a healthy and vibrant community. To be effective, the Strategic Plan needs lots of community input. If you have ideas or opinions (and most of us do), take time to share them. There are several ways to do this. There is a link to sharing your ideas on the county website under local news (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/civicalerts.aspx?aid=1102>). The resulting plan will be released later in 2023.

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And if you're interested in the possibility of an aquatic center in Port Townsend, the city will host Public Open House #1 to gather community feedback on the Healthier Together Aquatics Center Feasibility Study. That's next Tuesday, March 14 from 6-8pm at Fort Worden Commons. The city's website (<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/press-release-city-hosts-first-open-house-planning-healthier-together-aquatics-center>) explains that there have been many efforts over the past decades to plan for and rebuild the pool and/or a community health and wellness facility to be built in Port Townsend, serving the entire county. In each of these cases, the efforts did not have the full attention or investment needed. The need is still there, and this first meeting will fill in some of the history and current thinking. The project will require input from everyone. The website says, "This is a heavy lift and collaboration is essential."

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Another opportunity for community involvement comes from Northwind Art and the Port Townsend Library who have specially designed postcards for artists to paint or draw their own images of thanks to the land. Drop off your artistic thanks at The Grover Gallery or the library by the end of today. A library exhibit is planned later in the month. The postcard project comes in conjunction with the annual community read. If you haven't already gotten a copy of "Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults", there are some still available at the library.

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According to the *Leader*, Doctor Douwe Reinstra is taking a temporary break from his Port Townsend practice on Kearney Street. Doctor Reinstra has been working with patients locally since 1983 when he opened an independent medical practice at Point Hudson. Then, as now, he has offered the integration of traditional Western medicine with natural patient-centered methods. In my view, Doctor Reinstra has been a mainstay of the town's health care system, a wise and caring physician. He told the *Leader*, "I am indebted to all those people of Jefferson County who put their confidence in us and supported our clinic. They gave me one of the best jobs in town." The clinic will continue to work "full til'" until May 18. There is no stated reopening date.

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A thought-provoking question, "What would your community be like without news?" is the topic of an essay contest for students aged 14-18 sponsored by the League of Women Voters – Jefferson County. Prizes will be awarded to the top three essayists. The deadline is April 21. To find out more go to <https://lwvwa.org/Jefferson/>.

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Daylight savings starts at 2am on Sunday morning. Someday our wise leaders may agree to stop changing the time every spring and fall – they talk about it, but we're still obliged to gain an hour in the fall and lose one in the spring. And along with your clocks and watches, the state Marshall's office strongly recommends that you should take this biannual phenomenon to check your smoke alarms.

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And that's it for today's news. KPTZ, 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. I'm Ann Katzenbach. Thanks for listening, remember to set your clocks ahead.