

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, March 31, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

The Port Townsend Farmer's Market begins its 2023 season tomorrow with the usual festivities and even a goat parade. Eighty-plus farm, food, and art vendors are set to return with seven new vendors in the mix: Sasquatch Botanicals, Holm Ceramics, Sol Smoothies, Madrone Creations, Alpenfire Cider, Westwind Botanicals, and Sun Colour. But an important change is noted: Finnriver Farm, a perennial vendor, is coming back this year as Stellar J Farm. Stellar J will offer what customers have come to expect in annual vegetables, blueberries, strawberries, apples, and chicken eggs, but this year they'll add products from the Chimacum Valley Grainery (formerly the Finnriver Grainery). The farm and grainery carried the Finnriver name for a number of years, but as each business has evolved into its own distinct offerings, they have taken on new names to reflect this distinction.

Marking a record in real estate sales in Western Washington, a house and substantial property on San Juan Island, 90 acres, is on market for a whopping \$75 million, matching the kind of offerings we see in Manhattan and Malibu real estate. This at a time when the average home price in Jefferson County is \$554,000 and in San Juan County at \$960,000, the highest of the Western Washington counties. The property comprises four parcels and consists of three homes, each with a guesthouse, plus a gamehouse, bunk house, caretaker house, two pools, putting green and tennis and pickleball courts. The current owners are the Ackerley family. The late Ginger and Barry Ackerley owned the Seattle Sonics for 18 years and Ginger Ackerley founded the Seattle Storm.

Numerous news outlets report that a massive multi-state drug bust last week that centered on a white nationalist prison gang, the "Aryan Family," includes among its two dozen arrests a Quilcene woman, Anna Sarnes, 37. Three people are still at large. The operation involved ten SWAT teams, part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces investigation led by the FBI, and assisted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Washington State Department of Corrections. The arrests continued over a period of five days. Deputies from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest of Sarnes on March 22. Federal authorities said officers seized more than 1.9 million doses of fentanyl, 230 pounds of methamphetamine; and 225-plus firearms.

In a DOJ press release, Jacob D. Galvan, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Seattle office said, "The fentanyl seized in this operation contained enough lethal doses to kill everyone who lives in Tacoma and Seattle, with enough lethal doses left over to poison another half a million people." Sarnes, who is charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, was released Monday to a third party with a court date on May 22 in Tacoma. Conditions of release include an ankle bracelet.

An "aggressive and territorial owl" prompted a warning to park-goers in Langley this week. The South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District posted on Facebook that some people had reported "interactions" with the owl in two specific areas of the park. The district said they assume the owls are ranging outside of those areas as well. Park-goers are asked to either avoid those areas of the park or walk with umbrellas, wear protective

eyewear and protect their pets, especially small ones. The district also asked people not to come to the park in an attempt to see the owl or owls and allow their nesting season to progress peacefully.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.