

At 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Friday, May 26, 2023.

In the ongoing effort to build a childcare and family support center in Port Townsend, the Jefferson County commissioners unanimously approved moving ahead with a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant application. The *Peninsula Daily News* reports this money from State Department of Commerce would go toward the childcare center to be constructed by the Olympic Peninsula YMCA on the Port Townsend High School campus. The county, the YMCA, the Port Townsend School District, and Jefferson Healthcare are funding partners in the \$2.9 million project. It would have a commercial kitchen in addition to the daycare center and family support services.

Wendy Bart, the YMCA executive director, told the county commissioners that the need for childcare is escalating here in Jefferson County. She said, "We have 645 children that are eligible, but only 130 are being served." This shortage hurts workers who leave their jobs early or even quit because they cannot find childcare. "There has been a child-care desert in Jefferson County for many years," Bart has said, adding that "We cannot have an economic recovery when people don't have a place for their children." The new center would be a single-story, 4,000-square-foot building. Its anticipated completion would be in mid-2024. StudioSTL of Port Townsend has the contract to design the childcare center.

All weekend long, there's a music and arts celebration going on in Port Angeles. It's the Juan de Fuca Festival and its marking its 30th anniversary this year. This evening all the way through Sunday night, more than 60 acts will leap onto five stages. Artists will teach workshops. These include Jesse Watson of Port Townsend doing a paint and sip workshop. And Monica Quarto of Port Angeles doing a book-making workshop. There's also a street fair with scores of art and food vendors. It all spills out of the Vern Burton Community Center and grounds, as well as the Masonic Temple nearby, and the Elks Lodge ballroom which is also a few blocks away in downtown Port Angeles. The bands include Abakis from Port Townsend doing a special 90s set, Lee Oskar and Friends, Rose's Pawn Shop, Tony Furtado, Joy in Mudville, Deadwood Revival, the Sam Chase and the Untraditional, and Dirty Cello. Ballet Victoria and the Seattle Shakespeare Company will also perform. The Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle is presenting four acts from its *Sound Off!* Music Showcase. Wyatt Silva, Sadie Hale, lavenderhayez, and MidPak – all youthful performers from the Puget Sound metro area – will perform at the Juan de Fuca Festival in Port Angeles. The schedule and the lineup for activities today, Saturday and Sunday can be found on the Juan de Fuca Festival mobile app as well as on the website, which is <https://JFFA.org>.

And speaking of children, as we were earlier, a report has come out about the trendiest baby names of 2022. The names that had the largest gains in popularity last year were Atlas, Walker, Theo, Oakley, and Luka. The Axios news service reports this, along with a marked trend away from naming girls Alexa. Then there are the baby names that are uniquely Washington, as in far more popular in our state than in the rest of the country. These names include Avyaan, Felix, Bodie, Miram, and Juniper. Which are the most popular names of all, you ask? Olivia and Oliver are way out in front for babies born in Washington last year.

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 Diane Urbani de la Paz. Thanks for listening.