

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

The SEVENTY 48, a race from Tacoma to Port Townsend by human-powered watercraft took place last Friday and Saturday.

- **First Overall** was Team Beasts from the East, who made the journey in 10 hours and 27 minutes.
- **By Yourself**: Team Gorge Downwind Champs – Paddlepaluza made it in 10 hours and 48 minutes.
- **Facing Backwards**: Team 2 Bro Row, in 11 hours, 54 minutes.
- **Standing Up**: Team Seychelle, in 15 hours and 28 minutes.

There was a **Random Hero Award** won by **Team Rodster**: One-eighth of the purse and a full Gore Tex Dry Suit. They took all the names of the teams that finished and threw them in a hat and drew one lucky winner.

And the **R2AK Race to Alaska** is a 750-mile race for non-motorized vessels and includes 1 catamaran, 6 kayaks, 12 monohull sailboats, 3 row boats, 1 stand-up paddleboard (SUP), and 8 trimarans.

On the “testing ground” of the route to Ketchikan AK (from PT to Victoria), there were seven other teams or individuals joining in the fun (two cats, 3 monohulls, one outrigger canoe, and one SUP wingfoil (which is a board sailing arrangement with a hydrofoil wing on the bottom). Looking at the progress tracker for the race online, it seems that vessel only made it as far as North Beach. 5 vessels were authorized to take a route on the west side of Vancouver Island, as opposed to the inside passage.

In between these two race events on Sunday, June 4th was the RUCKUS, an all-day block party on Water Street downtown and Pope Marine Park and the Point Hudson Marina. People from all over the community and race participants were able to look at the water craft on display on Water Street and at the Point Hudson Marina, the smallest being a SUP and ocean-going kayaks and the largest and fanciest at the marina was “We Brake for Whales,” a 40-foot Custom Lyman Morse from Bainbridge Island which appeared to be sponsored by ATOMO coffee company.

The R2AK has become a more popular and well-known race everywhere, so this year along with the greater variety of watercraft, teams and individuals have come from places as far away as Ohio, Michigan and Maine. At 5am Monday, the Unexpected Brass Band played to send all the sailors on their journey. You can track the progress of the various teams on <https://r2ak.com/>.

Dr. Allison Berry spoke to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners yesterday, June 5 and answered questions from them and from you, our listeners. On the COVID-19 front, Dr. Berry said there is less and less data available to track the extent to which COVID-19 is still present across the country, in Washington State, and in Jefferson County. She said that hospitalizations are down across the US by 8%, but oddly deaths are up by 7%. In Washington all indicators are trending downward. There were 3 hospitalizations in Jefferson County over the last month and two new deaths to report: One patient was in their 90s and the other in their 50s, but both had underlying health conditions and were unvaccinated.

She stressed that the outbreaks which are still occurring are among children, who are the least vaccinated group now, and also have many more opportunities for exposure to COVID-19. She recommends getting kids up to date on the vaccinations and, if your child is sick, to test them for COVID-19 and of course, keep them home. Previous infections are waning as protection from future illness, so she recommends everyone get up to date on

vaccinations. In Clallam County there were no new deaths in May and just 2 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. You can hear her full remarks and listen to questions and answers on our website, KPTZ.org. Here is the link to the Washington Department of Health COVID-19 data dashboard: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19>

Health Reports to the BOCC will continue once a month, so listeners can send in questions to contactus@kptz.org by noon on the last Friday of the month, June 30. It's also possible, as July 3 is a Monday, there might not be a County Commissioners meeting then.

One more note: there is a Jefferson County Commissioners Community Conversation at Point Hudson Pavilion this Thursday, June 8 at 6pm.

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!