

Hello again! This is not Derek Firenze. This is Jim Burke reading Derek Firenze's reportage of local news and commentary for Thursday, June 22, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

This just in: At 10:40am this morning, the Coupeville-Port Townsend ferry run has been suspended due to fog. It may or may not be in service by the time you hear this. Check with the Washington State Department of Transportation ferry blog (<https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/>).

Tonight is one of the last chances to speak your peace on the future of the Port Townsend golf course. The City of Port Townsend will host Public Open House #3 for the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons Concept Planning Effort tonight from 5 until 7 at the Fort Worden Commons. This meeting will summarize public feedback received to date, share the final two design concepts, host a community conversation and discussion about priorities and desired next steps. It will be the final Open House of the concept planning effort. An online version of the Open House will be held Monday, June 26 from 4 to 5:30 pm. The community engagement process will culminate with a Port Townsend City Council vote on a new site plan on Monday, July 17 at p.m.

As reported yesterday in the *PT Leader*, last September the city hired the landscape architecture firm, Groundswell to help explore potential uses for the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. Conceptual plans that have been considered include a restored golf course, a hybrid golf course, a Central-Park-style development, and a "space for nature" approach. More information can be found at <https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/envision-port-townsend-golf-course-and-mountain-view-commons>.

Before there ever was a golf course to argue about, Native People stewarded this land. The Native Connections Action Group met Tuesday, June 13 to bring back a little of their sanity. In conjunction with Green Sanctuary, over the summer Native Connections will be reading *We Are in the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from "Turtle Island on the Changing Earth,"* edited by local author Dahr Jamail and Stan Rushworth, contains indigenous wisdom they compiled by interviewing Native Peoples across the country. The authors will host a book discussion on October 26. It's not clear where, or if it will be online. The book can be purchased at your favorite bookstore and an interview with the editors discussing it can be found at [tinyurl.com/WeAreintheMiddle \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUjr3Vidvok\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUjr3Vidvok). The podcast is called "Storytelling Animals".

Native Connections is also looking for volunteers for the Tribal Canoe Journey which will take place locally July 26. It has been four years since the last Canoe Journey happened in 2019, so they are still in the process of rebuilding a team of volunteers and Volunteer Team Leaders. The landing here will be on July 26 at the Fort Worden beach, and they expect a very large landing with over 1,000 individuals staying overnight at the Fairgrounds. The landing here will now be called the Qatáy Canoe Journey Landing. Qatáy is the S'Klallam name for this place (Port Townsend).

If you are part of an organization or group that could volunteer as a team, Native Connections is looking for you! Another more specific ask is for a person to provide children's activities at the information table. Those who want to volunteer must fill out a form in advance which can be found at [tinyurl.com/CanoeVolunteer \(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG6p6wHSbnP16z07_rKH53UeADTRq7WD15Ycu2MMY99q0kFg/viewform\)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG6p6wHSbnP16z07_rKH53UeADTRq7WD15Ycu2MMY99q0kFg/viewform).

And if you're already over the golf course debate, there's another historic event taking place. The Guardhouse Pub at Fort Worden is finally reopening today! For now, the pub will operate from 3 to 9pm, Thursday through Sunday. The pub was formerly the Fort Worden jail and later a gift shop/visitor info center operated by the Friends of Fort Worden. Besides beer, wine, and cocktails inside the Guardhouse, huge hamburgers prepared by Barbarian Fine Cuisine can be found served on the patio every other Friday beginning next week on June 30.

The Guardhouse will also provide food service. And if the general ambience of the historic Fort Worden grounds weren't enough, the Friends purchased, planted, and have maintained colorful planters and shrubs on that patio. Just try not to drip burger juices on them!

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.