

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

This is from The Castle Restaurant in PT website (<https://www.thecastleinpt.com/new-page-2>): "It is with the heaviest of hearts that I write to you today, to share some sad news. The Castle, a place that has been more than just a business to all of us, will be closing its doors on August 20. Over the years, The Castle has not just been a building, but a vibrant hub of community, creativity, and collaboration. From the smiles that greeted us every day to the countless memories forged within these walls, it has been a place of joy and connection. We are eternally grateful. Your support, your laughter, your stories, and your warmth have made The Castle what it is. This place thrived because of you, and words can't express how thankful we are to have had the chance to be part of this wonderful community.

"Unfortunately, we have faced an insurmountable obstacle that makes continuing our operations impossible for now. Our insurance policy was canceled and, simply put, we were not informed. The insurance was canceled because of the events we put on. Things like standup comedy, drag queen bingo, burlesque are 'no longer insurable' with them. We didn't know this, so we continued to do business none the wiser. Until, about a month ago, we tried to get a copy of our policy and found out the news. We then scrambled to look for new insurance and found out that due to the fact we have not had insurance for 7 months no one will insure us. We were talking with lawyers and with the Washington Insurance Commission. Trying out different avenues of getting re-insured. However, both those avenues are uncertain and take time, and our landlord wants a new tenant as soon as possible. It is a complex situation, and one that we never expected, but it is one that we must face with heavy hearts.

"We invite you to join us in the days leading up to August 20, to share stories, reminisce, and say our goodbyes. Let's celebrate what The Castle has been and honor the connections we've made here. We have one last concert on Friday, Fortress of The Bear and Uncle Funk & The Dope 6. And our last Comedy show is on Saturday. We would love to see you this last week! We also ask to please be respectful of all the emotions involved. It still feels a little raw for everyone here and talking about it with every table that comes to say goodbye might take a lot of emotional energy. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for making The Castle a place we could all call home. It's the end of this chapter but not the end of the book. We hope to do something again for all of you in the near future. Stay tuned and until then, see you at the hot dog stand! With deepest gratitude, Cameron & Plai & The Castle Team."

A note of clarification: The hotel is not closing but all the food and bar venues, night club venues at The Castle will be closing on August 20.

The Port Townsend Yacht Club hosted a small gathering last Friday August 11 and welcomed US Representative Derek Kilmer, Ports Director Eron Berg, and others to talk about federal grants that are going to make it possible to replace the outer part of the breakwater at the Port Townsend Boat Haven. This will help the Boat Haven to better resist future extreme weather events and widen the channel a bit to make things safer for boats going in and out, especially Coast Guard cutters. The US Army Corps of engineers will take over maintenance of the entire breakwater upon completion of the project.

Eron Berg also spoke with KPTZ news about the North and South jetty replacements at the Point Hudson marina and had this to say about marine invertebrates that are being relocated below the water there. They are thriving in their new underwater "digs."

[recorded audio of Eron Berg and Jim Burke]

- Eron Berg: "It's already got three giant pacific octopus dens; it's got a wolf eel that's made it home, four species of rockfish, there's been ling cod spotted, and as part of the relocation effort the volunteer divers found four sunflower sea stars, which is pretty impressive. They're on the list for consideration as a listed species"
- Jim Burke: "Oh wow! Sunflower sea stars?"
- Eron Berg: "Sunflower sea stars, with a fancy scientific name that I can't imagine how to pronounce."
- Jim Burke: "Well. even its regular name sounds fanciful!"
- Eron Berg: "Well, they're a little bit bigger and they've got just a ton of arms. They're pretty cool looking creatures."
- Jim Burke: "So they have more than the standard five arms of a sea star?"
- Eron Berg: "So, the whole project, trying to get these marine invertebrates off the breakwater before demolition has been very, very successful so far."

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening and please be careful out there.