

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, September 28, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

The youngest among us are looking for a JUMP start. Jefferson Universal Movement Playground – or JUMP – at HJ Carroll Park, opened in November of last year with equipment designed for children of all abilities, with a focus on the ages of 5 to 12 years olds. The hope for the park, however, is that children of all ages can play safely together. To that end, the group who brought our county this gift is looking for help with a Phase 2 of the project to bring a focus on fun for the under-five crowd.

Back in 2016, Sarah Grossman, a local Physical Therapist working in the Chimacum School district, had 3 preschool students on her caseload that couldn't walk. The school playground was not accessible for their wheelchairs and walkers. With no money in the school budget to modify the playground and encouraged to apply for grants, she decided to look into getting a community-wide accessible playground built, enlisting the help of her colleagues, parents of special needs students, and friends. Thus formed JUMP! – a group of pediatric occupational and physical therapists, parents of children with special needs, and other interested community members.

The next phase of their project is planned to be lower to the ground and geared toward play for the under-5 crowd. The platform will be ramped, making it accessible and there is an accessible and inclusive rocking boat glider at the end of the ramp with various sensory panels and slides coming off the sides. Next to this structure, they hope to add either some stepping stones to a toddler climber OR a set of toddler monkey bars. The group has just launched a poll to take feedback from the community on whether you would like the climber or monkey bars. That poll can be found by searching for JUMP! Phase 2 on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335580009041240>).

Of course, they need more than feedback. JUMP is looking to raise \$150,000 to meet the matching funds required for the state Recreation Conservation Office grant that the County will be applying for in the Spring of 2024. So far, they have nearly \$20,000 toward that, so there is still a ways to go. If you want to help, you can reach out at jumpplayground@gmail.com.

The Jefferson Land Trust sent out a warm welcome to our local salmon who have recently begun returning home. Hood Canal summer chum are now returning from the ocean to spawn in Snow and Salmon Creeks, the Duckabush River, and Chimacum Creek. As of Tuesday, the Land Trust noted that the best place to see the salmon at its preserves right now is Duckabush Oxbow and Wetlands. They have not, however, seen salmon at the Illahee Preserve just yet.

The Land Trust also added that when viewing the salmon, it's important to be kind to the fish and other wildlife by remaining on designated trails and off of live or dead streamside vegetation, keeping voices and loud noises to a minimum, and leaving your pets at home. Luckily, there's still plenty of time to catch a glimpse as salmon-viewing season usually lasts through mid-November.

Of course, no one knows salmon better than our Indigenous neighbors. That knowledge is often translated into art, some of which will be on display at the Jefferson Museum of Art and History next month. Opening on October 5 at the museum is We Are One, an art exhibition curated by Brian Perry of the Port Gamble S'Klallam

featuring the work of four Indigenous artists. Using both traditional materials and mediums more recently associated with Indigenous art, these artists carry ancient culture, images, and stories into the present. The artists featured as part of We Are One include Perry with his carvings and prints, glass sculptures from Dan Friday of the Lummi Tribe, glass and cedar sculptures from Raya Friday also of the Lummi, and weavings by Kelly Sullivan of the Port Gamble S'Klallam. An opening celebration for the exhibit is scheduled for Saturday, October 7 from 5 to 7pm where they'll be celebrating with music, refreshments, and demonstrations – and museum admission is free all day starting at 11am.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.