

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Friday, September 29, 2023.

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Starting to see some improvements to life here on the Peninsula. The recent rain means we can burn again, with some exceptions. The level of Fire danger in Jefferson County has officially been lowered to BLUE/MODERATE. Land Clearing and Yard Debris Fires and weed torches or weed burners are still DISALLOWED.

The list of what is now allowed includes:

- Gas and Propane appliances
- Recreational Wood Fires
- Wood or Charcoal Cooking Fires
- Tiki Torches
- Liquid Fuel Candles or Lanterns
- Gas or Propane Weed torches or Burners
- Discharge of Fireworks of Any Type
- Discharge of Firearms on Open Lands

(Those last two things might not be a good idea for other reasons. Please exercise caution, and consider the well-being of your neighbors and their pets.) More information is at <https://www.ejfr.org/>.

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In early 2022, Habitat East Jefferson County shared the news that they had bought land at Landes and 18th Streets in Port Townsend and would be developing six permanently affordable homes. Permanent affordability means that even if the original homeowner sells the home, a new income-qualified buyer will be able to buy the home at an affordable price – a new strategy being implemented to help Habitat meet their goals and mission to increase affordable housing in the community. With early design blueprints of Habitat EJC's first permanently affordable, multi-family development, they asked the community to step up to support "Landes North," a unique, cost-effective, and energy-efficient development of six paired houses. Habitat successfully raised the funds needed to start the project and exactly a year ago in September 2022, they gathered as a team with the community to break ground on the Landes North project. In the Spring, there was the Landes North Open House of the new two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes. Visitors enjoyed a first-hand look at the innovative architectural designs and learned that while paired homes appear to touch, like duplexes, each home has separate walls and lots. It's the Advanced Framing, use of single-pitched roofs and added insulation between the two homes that make them more cost-effective, faster to build, and better insulated. By summer of 2023, families began to take occupancy.

And now, the last two home dedication ceremonies were held this past week. Habitat of East Jefferson County wrote in their newsletter this week, that the six Landes North homes stand for the generosity of our community through volunteer hours and in-kind donations, contributed cash, and donated talent. Each home was sponsored by an individual, group, or organization. Habitat expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Dream Weaver Foundation, the Habitat Board & Board Alumni, the "Truck Guys" and their spouses, the Estate of Ted Rogers (and his family), and the Cross Charitable Foundation. When combined with the permanent-affordability policy that Habitat EJC has instituted, and the affordable mortgage taken on by their partners – it is their volunteers, donors, and sponsors who stand out – as the key to the six new homes at Landes North.

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As reported by National Public Radio, the looming US Government Shutdown has some wondering how it will affect them. Washington DC residents and visitors could feel the impact quickly. Smithsonian facilities will remain open until money runs out. Then they will close, which could dampen the celebrations to say goodbye to the giant pandas in the National Zoo. Wildlife lovers outside of DC could see the National Park Service's highly anticipated "Fat Bear Week" interrupted as well. Elsewhere, the impacts of a shutdown are likely to snowball as employees go without pay and programs run out of funding to operate. Still, many services will still be available. The Food and Drug Administration will continue "All vital FDA activities related to imminent threats to the safety of human life," Social Security checks will still be issued, Veterans Affairs facilities will remain open. Air traffic and airport personnel will still be on the job, even without pay, unless employees begin to call in sick to work as they did during the last shutdown.

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And, a programming note: Monday's Jim B. Show will have within it the now monthly Public Health Report to the Board of County Commissioners from Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Clallam and Jefferson Counties, and Director of Emergency Management Willie Bence. Listeners who submitted questions for them by noon today will have them answered on the air Monday between 9:45 and 10:30am. Of course, there will be musical "refreshments" served up before and after that meeting starting at 9:30 on the Jim B. Show with your host, Jim B.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.