

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 26, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

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Construction is quieting down, while still continuing, at Point Hudson as work on the new south jetty moves from the demolition phase into reconstruction. The first steel pilings have already been installed to replace the previous wooden creosote pilings. Creosote can have adverse effects on marine life, which means not only does the new jetty ensure the safety of the vessels at Point Hudson but also the creatures living below the surface. The previous creosote-soaked timber and riprap jetty was first constructed in 1934, before successive repairs in 1969 and 1996. It lived well past its anticipated design life and was deteriorating at an accelerating rate. The new jetty is projected to last 60 years.

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While that nearly 100 year-old jetty seems rather ancient, it was around for barely a blink of an eye compared to how long human beings have been navigating these waters. Investigating the exact origins and early history of sailing on the oceans, however, is a particularly difficult challenge for archaeologists. Since ancient boats were made of organic materials which are rarely preserved for long periods of time, direct evidence is lacking, and claims require indirect arguments. The view is also limited by our knowledge of past sea levels and how they affected the world's geography.

If you're curious to learn more, a presentation on "The Origins of Marine Sailing" is scheduled to be given by Gary Wessen at the Northwest Maritime Center on Friday, October 27 at 7:00pm. The presentation will consider some anthropological ideas about cultural adaptations to maritime environments, what kinds of indirect arguments can be used to evaluate possible evidence, and a summary of what currently available evidence from around the world suggests about the antiquity of this type of activity. Tickets can be found by going to [jchsmuseum.org and looking for "The Origins of Marine Sailing" \(<https://jchsmuseum.org/event/the-origins-of-marine-sailing-with-gary-wessen/>\).](https://jchsmuseum.org/event/the-origins-of-marine-sailing-with-gary-wessen/)

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If you've visited Gibbs Lake Park in the past 12 months, Jefferson County Parks and Recreation would appreciate feedback on your experience. To that end, they've launched an anonymous survey that only takes around 3 minutes. I've done a lot of these government surveys, and I think this was the most painless one I've ever done. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation is doing its best to make clear a belief in continual improvement. Even small changes can make a difference over time. The department wants you to know that the information you provide will help Jefferson County Parks and Recreation improve Gibbs Lake County Park. The survey can be found at [tinyurl.com/GibbsLake](https://tinyurl.com/GibbsLake) ([https://qualtricsxmbtyv47vqy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2uht9ZQbGDyIalU](https://qualtricsxmbtyv47vqy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uht9ZQbGDyIalU)).

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You may have noticed the flag flying at half-mast at the county courthouse. With a heavy heart, the county government shared the sad news of the passing of a former colleague and friend, Chris Goy. He was a valuable member of the County family and officials noted how deeply saddened they are by his loss. Chris worked for the county for almost a year and during his time made a significant impact on the County and the community. He was beloved by his staff for his ability to bring them together as a team and to support them individually; he truly inspired those around him.

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Let's end with a bit of rebirth. The iconic Halloween party at the Manresa Castle is back this Saturday, October 28. This is not the same annual Halloween party as thrown by the now closed restaurant, but it will feature many of the same elements, performers, and DJs which solidified this event's legendary reputation.

Earlier this year, our community collectively mourned the loss of this beloved venue. To celebrate its transition, event organizers will be donating the profit from the party to employees affected by the abrupt closure of The Castle restaurant. This year the party will be hosted by local event organizers Tiny Haus (that's H-A-U-S) and they're calling it Memento Mori. "Memento Mori" is an ancient Latin phrase which means 'Remember Death' – a helpful reminder to live life to its fullest, and to enjoy things while they last. Tickets sold out last year for this event, so if you want to see me in my sparkling Rhinestone Cowboy attire, you better giddy up! (<https://mycityscene.com/49608-7d0ef461>).

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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](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.