

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Friday, November 3, 2023.

This was announced by Jefferson County Public Health on October 28: Ongoing testing of shellfish in Quilcene Bay has shown that biotoxins have declined. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has removed health advisories for all species of shellfish in Quilcene Bay. Jefferson County Public Health has removed danger signs posted at public access points in the area. High levels of the toxin that produces Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning led to a closure in Quilcene on October 3.

Other shellfish closures in Jefferson County continue: Discovery Bay, Fort Flagler, Kilisut Harbor, Mystery Bay, Oak Bay, Mats Mats Bay, and Port Ludlow are closed to the recreational harvest of molluscan shellfish. The DOH Shellfish Safety Map shows up-to-date information for recreational shellfish harvesting at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html> and closure zones are shown in red. Recreational harvesters should also check Fish and Wildlife regulations and seasons at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations> or the Shellfish Rule Change Hotline at 1-866-880-5431.

The next story is from this week's *PT Leader*. Port Townsend Public Library is providing local musicians with the opportunity to preserve their music for posterity as part of a new collection. The local music section was jointly conceived by library assistant Anthony Baruch-Comstock who is creating the display along with library manager Keith Darrock. The library's new section will include famous and obscure regional acts while providing special attention to sounds originating in Port Townsend and Jefferson County.

Baruch-Comstock said, "We hope this will be a comprehensive collection of the regional music made here in Port Townsend and the broader Pacific Northwest." Baruch-Comstock is a 2003 Port Townsend High School graduate who spent much of his youth performing at the Boiler Room. The Boiler Room, located in the space that is now Tommyknockers, provided a youth-safe space for 25 years before closing in 2018. It didn't serve alcohol but was the epicenter of musical creativity. Music made during that time represents the project's Holy Grail.

Darrock said, "This came out of discussions about when the Boiler Room first started and that local music scene. We talked about the local music scene and how cool it would be to get music from that era. That led to a discussion about how to create archives of local musicians." Currently, the local music collection has about 100 CDs, although this doesn't necessarily include regional favorites (like *Heart* and *Jimi Hendrix*) which are situated in the regular section. There are two cataloging tracks – CDs are designated as either regional or local. The discs are housed in an end-cap display that can accommodate about 500 items, so there is room to grow.

Releasing music was once a complicated, competitive process involving record labels, publicists, and sales figures. It wasn't long ago when a musician unable to sell a certain amount of copies would be dropped by their label and lose the ability to connect with the public. These days, many musicians do it themselves, recording at home or at one of the professional studios in the region. They commission their own artwork and print the discs for a few dollars each. They sell them at their performances, either at a venue or on the street. They need to finance the process, but all the profits are theirs alone. Darrock hopes that the library can harness these efforts and they have issued an open call for local musicians who have published a CD. Donations are accepted at the library or through direct contact with Darrock or Baruch-Comstock.

Baruch-Comstock said there is no singular characterization of local music, although the collection's sweet spot will be acoustic-based originals. There are some exceptions, such as the innovative guitarist Usana Luoma and Dr. Light, a punk rock band that includes Port Townsend Mayor David Faber. The Mayor said, "There is no singular Port Townsend sound. We've had some great bands, everything from folk, to hip-hop, punk and metal. We've had pretty much everything."

While the staff may listen to contributions they will not be evaluated for content or standards. In that way, Darrock said, it's the same as a book. Many musicians will eagerly participate, as they have a stack of unsold CDs in their closet. Others may feel the need to be paid for their work, which Darrock can accommodate as long as the musician has the ability to take a credit card. Those with extra discs can drop them off at the library. Musicians wishing payment should contact Darrock with website purchase information. Darrock can be reached at (360) 385-3181 or kdarrock@cityofpt.us.

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.