

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, February 16, 2024.

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The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that Jefferson County voters approved levy increases for three public school districts in Tuesday's special election, by wide margins. However, the replacement levy for Quilcene School District continued to fail after a second count of Tuesday's ballots yesterday.

The Quilcene levy would have netted the district a total of \$3.8 million through 2028 and help pay for such programs as athletics, arts education, and the district preschool. It would have been \$904,537 in 2025, increasing incrementally to more than \$1 million in 2028. The Jefferson County Auditor's Office reports a preliminary voter turnout of 38.5%.

In the Brinnon School District, the levy rate will remain the same for 2024 and then increase in 2025 to keep up with inflation. The district works to pursue grants and doesn't request funding from voters for projects district personnel believe can be grant-funded.

In the Chimacum School District, the levy increase will provide the district with more than \$2.3 million annually between 2025 and 2028 – a total of \$9.3 million – and pay for upgrades to the district's HVAC systems, fire suppression, roofs, paint, and carpet needs.

And in the Queets-Clearwater District, a total of 17 voters cast ballots and ultimately approved the education programs and operations levy increase with 12 votes – or 70.6% – in favor and five votes – 29.4% – opposed.

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With snow, you get outages. The Jefferson County PUD #1 Facebook page reports that more than 3,000 customers were without power yesterday morning as heavy snow had brought down several tree branches onto power lines in the early morning hours. That's nearly 15 percent of the PUD's service area. As of yesterday afternoon, the major areas still affected are South Point/Thorndyke, Quilcene/Leland, Beckett Point, Eaglemount/Gibbs Lake and Black Bear Road.

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Emily Randall, a State Senator seeking to succeed Congressman Derek Kilmer in representing the Sixth Congressional District, picked up an endorsement from the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. In a press release from her office, Randall said, "My political career began at Planned Parenthood – and as a legislator I have partnered with Planned Parenthood in my work to strengthen abortion access in Washington state. Planned Parenthood Action Fund knows that we need reproductive champions in Congress to fight for our right to make our own decisions about our bodies, our families, and our futures." If elected, Emily Randall, a third generation Washingtonian and 25-year resident of the district, would be the first LGBTQ+ Latina ever elected to Congress.

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According to a Senate Republican Caucus press release, the state Senate declared Washington to be “The Evergreen State” on Tuesday. It was the second attempt for Senate Bill 5595, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Wilson, Republican from Longview. His bill passed the Senate last year, but did not receive a vote in the state House. The affirmation of Washington state’s long-familiar nickname passed the Senate 47-2 and now goes to the House for a second time.

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If you were wondering why flags were flown yesterday at half-mast, it was upon the order of Governor Inslee to honor of Mary Valentine, a Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) employee who died while on duty in January. Valentine, a Scientific Technician with the WDFW, drowned in the Duckabush River while on duty on January 24.

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Finally, those of us who work here at KPTZ in the cause of community radio mourn the loss of Lisa Lopez-Galvan, a DJ at KKFI in Kansas City, Missouri, who was shot and killed in the mass shooting Wednesday following a Super Bowl parade and celebration there. Lopez-Galvan was the one fatality of 22 people shot. She was in her mid-40s and a “bright, energetic person,” according to Kelly Dougherty, the station’s director of development and communications. Lopez-Galvan began co-hosting *Taste of Tejano*, a music program featuring “the best Tejano music north of Texas” in 2022.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I’m Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.