

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Thursday, February 29, 2024.

A \$3 million federal appropriation for Habitat for Humanity's Mason Street affordable housing development in Port Hadlock has received the unanimous support of the Jefferson County commissioners. Quoting the letter of approval by the commissioners, the *Peninsula Daily News* writes, "On behalf of Jefferson County, we urge our congressman and senators to consider the long-term benefits that Habitat's Mason St. Neighborhood will bring to Jefferson County and allocate the necessary federal appropriations to support its successful completion. Their commitment to this project will not only address our community's housing challenges but will also stand as a testament to their dedication to creating sustainable, equitable, and thriving neighborhoods and communities."

Jamie Maciejewski, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County, said Monday that if the funding is received, it will help put in a sewer system at the 150-home affordable housing development slated for 17.2 acres on an old airfield in Port Hadlock.

In a press release, State Senator Curtis King, the Republican leader on the Senate Transportation Committee, reports that the supplemental state transportation budget passed the Senate two days ago by a vote 48 to 1. It prioritizes public safety and the maintenance and preservation of roads and highways. King wrote, "This transportation budget will help make our roads and highways safer to drive because it makes public safety a priority. Our supplemental budget, along with the 2023-2025 state transportation budget enacted last year, provides enough funding to add 194 Washington State Patrol officers over the course of this two-year period. This year's budget has funding to combat impaired driving, and it provides an additional \$150 million for highway-preservation projects across Washington."

The House of Representatives approved its version of the state supplemental transportation budget this past Saturday. Transportation leaders in the Senate and House will meet to resolve differences and reach agreement on a compromise version of the budget. The 2024 legislative session is scheduled to end March 7.

Dr. Alison Berry, Health Officer for Clallam and Jefferson Counties, will be giving her health update to the Board of County Commissioners on this coming Monday, March 4 at 9:45am. If you have health-related questions, the deadline is noon on Friday, March 1. Listeners can send their questions for Dr Berry to contactus@kptz.org.

We have some immediate deadlines to mention:

- The Jefferson Land Trust Fairbank Award for Youth Environmental Action remains open for nominations now through midnight tomorrow, March 1. The award recognizes 12- to 19-year-olds who show strong leadership skills and a demonstrated commitment to the environment. The Fairbank Award includes a cash prize of \$500, given to a young person who has, during the prior year, shown leadership, commitment, and innovation toward building a community that is healthy, sustainable, and deeply connected to nature. This might include showing initiative in environmental restoration, influencing behaviors toward sustainable living, or building climate change awareness within the community. Nominees must be between 12 and 19 years old as of March 14, 2024, and must live within Jefferson

County. The winner's guardian will be notified by email on March 8, and the winner will be announced publicly at Jefferson Land Trust's 2024 Conservation Breakfast virtual event, held via Zoom on March 14 from 9 to 10:30am. Nominations can be made by email or mail. More information is available at www.saveland.org/youth-award.

- Chimacum Farmers Market vendor applications are open for one more day as well! Applications are due by tomorrow, March 1. Business owners offering specialty products such as meat, dairy, flour, and dried grains and beans are especially encouraged to apply at <https://jcfmarkets.org/apply-jcfm>.

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. I'm Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.