

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, March 22, 2024.

According to Jefferson County Public Health, this week is National Poison Prevention Week, and a perfect time to consider adding the nasal spray Naloxone to our first aid kits. Naloxone, also known as NARCAN, is an FDA-approved medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. The spray is simple to use – you do not need special training to use or carry it – and when you give it to someone who is overdosing from opioids, it starts helping right away, helping the sufferer to wake up and breathe. It's also safe; you cannot hurt someone by giving them naloxone even if they are not overdosing. Free naloxone is available from Jefferson County Public Health's main office at 615 Sheridan Street in Port Townsend. The office is open Mon-Fri, 9 am to 4:30pm.

Peninsula Daily News reports that the Northwest Maritime Center down at the end of Water Street is undergoing a \$575,000 upgrade as part of an effort to better engage with locals and visitors, many of whom don't realize the Center is responsible for producing Port Townsend's annual Wooden Boat Festival.

The focus of the renovation is the center's Chandlery retail space, which is being renamed The Welcome Center. The Chandlery's main entry on Water Street will remain on the north side of the building, but it has been moved slightly to the east and will have an awning over it. The doors will be ADA-compliant, and new wayfaring signs have been designed to explain the center and more clearly direct visitors to where they want to go. While it will still sell nautically themed clothing and other items, the newly renovated Welcome Center will also function as an information hub to learn about both the Center's activities and Port Townsend's maritime heritage. Featured exhibits in the renovated space will include a topographical map of North Olympic Peninsula waterways and interactive elements like signal flags on a rope pulley. The revised space has been designed to keep the Chandlery's footprint, while at the same time more clearly connecting its feel and design to Port Townsend's history and character.

The Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) has announced it's been awarded \$172,000 in funding from the Washington State Clean Energy Fund. The PUD is among 14 grant awardees selected by the Washington State Department of Commerce. The money is to be used toward a feasibility study for a renewable energy hydro generation project. The study will explore adding three 1-megawatt in-line hydro turbines to the 30-inch water pipelines supplying Port Townsend.

The idea of the study is to look into incorporating the City of Port Townsend's 30-mile-long, gravity-fed water system as a "penstock" generator. Penstock systems channel water to a rotating turbine which spins and generates electricity. The power then generated could supplement the current grid and supply a proposed battery backup system for use during emergencies to energize critical infrastructure such as hospitals, emergency management, and ferry systems. Awarded funding will allow the PUD to work with regional partners to explore development of the generation project.

The Clallam County Sheriff's office is still seeking to apprehend the armed robber who stole almost \$1900 in cash from the Dollar Tree in Port Angeles on the evening of March 18. The white male suspect entered the store

armed with what appeared to be a black semi-automatic handgun. The suspect, who had wrapped a white shirt around his head, covering his face, waved the gun around, then pointed it at two employees and told them he wanted the money or he was going to shoot them. Ordering a clerk to sit down while the night shift manager opened a safe, the suspect took the cash, exited the store, and left in an unknown vehicle with an unknown direction of travel. Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at 360-417-2262.

And finally, as of this reading, volunteers have been scheduled to gather today at the HJ Carrol Park in Chimacum to aid in the search for missing Chimacum resident Aaron Bienkowski. Bienkowski was last seen at approximately 5:30pm last Sunday near Chimacum Schools. He left his home after a disagreement with a family member and failed to show up for work on Monday. Anyone having information about Bienkowski's whereabouts should contact Sgt. Brett Anglin at 360-344-9762.

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 Diane Walker. Thanks for listening.