

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Yesterday's presidential primary in Washington, Georgia, Mississippi and Hawaii resulted in both parties' major candidates clinching their nominations. As of 8am this morning, Joe Biden received statewide 559,996 votes or 86% in the Democratic primary, thus earning him 92 delegates for Washington State. Donald Trump received 442,048 votes or 74% in the Republican primary, thus earning him 43 delegates. In Jefferson County, 12,517 votes were cast out of 27,532 registered voters, a turnout percentage of 45%. 7,582 or 87% of Democrats voted for Biden in the Democratic primary; 2,460 or 65% of Republicans voted for Trump in the Republican primary.

The Board of Jefferson County Commissioners approved a legal notice seeking applicants for a task force to examine options for building a new, low-cost pool facility at their meeting Monday. Official notices will be posted today. The *Peninsula Daily News* details that the eight-member task force will meet twice a month starting in April with an end date of June 30 to explore possible locations and designs for a pool facility located somewhere in Jefferson County. The task force will have two members from each county commissioner district, chosen by the representing commissioner, and two at-large members who reside in the county but outside Port Townsend, appointed by the Jefferson Aquatics Coalition. Interested parties are asked to submit a one-page letter of interest and fill out a boards and commissioners volunteer application, available at the county's website (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4827/Boards-Commission-Application>). Applications are due by March 27.

According to the legal notice, "Appointments will depend on selected criteria; familiarity with the Steering Committee work, a balance of skill sets; i.e., construction, finance, etc., and have an interest in finding a path to a new public pool in Jefferson County. Additionally, the board seeks representation of geographic, economic, gender, age, and racial/ ethnic diversity." The new task force, known as the Healthier Together Task Force, will "report on the feasibility of building an aquatic center within the Port Hadlock (urban growth area), answering questions about specific available sites, financing costs, public infrastructure, traffic analysis, and market analysis focused on expected usage," as stated in the scope of work document approved by commissioners.

Yesterday, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced in a press release that \$800,000 in new federal funding had been allocated for the Boat Haven Main Breakwater Replacement Project at the Port of Port Townsend. The funding was passed with bipartisan support in the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Biden. The funding is intended to support repair and replacement of a portion of the breakwater – which safeguards the entire Boat Haven Marina, enables access to the Port Townsend Boat Yard, and provides a berth for the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Osprey.

Kilmer said, "Investing in the Boat Haven Main Breakwater Replacement is pivotal not only for safeguarding the marina and supporting the Coast Guard but also for fostering economic vitality and job growth." Peter Langley, owner of the Port Townsend Foundry, said, "The Marine Trades are more than 20 percent of Jefferson County's economy and will continue to grow with the support for the breakwater repair...[which] is vital to all of the marine trades of Jefferson County, not just those behind the rocks."

A press release by the City of Port Townsend announced that the Port Townsend Visitor Information Center, located at 2409 Jefferson Street, will no longer be staffed or managed by the Chamber of Jefferson County as of this past March 4. The Chamber and the City have been in negotiations on a contract for the Visitor Center since late December 2023 and Chamber leadership decided that the Chamber's primary focus is to promote and support business within the County. The operation of the Visitor Center's brick and mortar facility is no longer a sustainable element of the Chamber's business model. It is not clear who will take over the management of the Visitor's Center at this point.

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.