

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

The Washington State Board of Natural Resources has announced in a press release that they have approved a 443-acre expansion of the Devils Lake Natural Resources Conservation Area in Jefferson County from its original 80 acres through a Trust Land Transfer at its monthly meeting yesterday. The original Natural Resources Conservation Area contains a 22-acre lake, wetland, and peat bog, including 12 acres of open water, 6 acres of marsh and swamp, and 4 acres of quaking sphagnum bog – a thick mass of floating vegetation. The area of expansion is a forested area surrounding the lake that has survived fires and developed old growth characteristics, with a diversity of age, classes, and species, a layered canopy, and abundant standing dead and dying trees and large downed logs. This transfer will permanently protect one mile of scenic forested shoreline and steep slopes along Hood Canal, along with many protected biological and ecological species. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources previously managed the property for the Common School Trust, which helps fund K-12 education statewide. However, it was inefficient to manage for timber harvest income due to steep, potentially unstable slopes. Proceeds garnered from the transfer of the parcel will be used to purchase replacement lands for future trust management. Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz says, “This innovative Trust Land Transfer and expansion of the Devils Lake NRCA is just one example of how my agency is looking ahead to not only support kids by creating sustainable revenue sources for our schools, but also protecting and conserving vital ecosystems and critical habitats.”

The following story contains disturbing information and listeners are cautioned. The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that Elijah J. Tabor, 21, of Forks has been arrested on investigation of second-degree assault that sent a 4-month-old to a Seattle hospital. Tabor was booked Monday night into the Clallam County jail after sheriff's detectives determined he caused the child's injuries, which included a brain bleed, a fractured femur, and a fractured rib. As of yesterday, the child is in intensive care at Seattle Children's Hospital after having been initially taken to Forks Community Hospital on March 23 and flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle where emergency room doctors determined the child's injuries were caused by non-accidental trauma. Child Protective Services contacted the Clallam County Sheriff's Office on March 26 to investigate the suspected child abuse and, at the request of Forks Police Department, sheriff's detectives investigated and developed probable cause that they allege) that Tabor had caused the child's injuries.

Yesterday, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer announced that the Makah Indian Tribe will receive over \$288,000 in federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support its ocean data mapping capabilities. This funding is made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and supports mapping work by the Tribe, while also focusing on priorities identified by the Tribe and the West Coast Ocean Alliance, including tribal data sovereignty and student engagement. This new funding builds upon previous federal investment aimed at enabling the Makah Tribe to continue to enhance its ability to execute regional ocean planning initiatives by increasing mapping capabilities and allowing the ocean mapping specialist to continue providing data and mapping support to tribal staff and leadership. It also focuses on priority topics identified by the alliance, the West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus, and the Makah Tribe, which include tribal data sovereignty, outreach for the next generation of Makah resource managers, and a focus on ocean climate change and ocean energy data and research needs. NOAA announced a total of nearly \$800,000 in this round of funding to support three federally recognized tribes' participation in regional ocean partnerships as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda.

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.