

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that last Monday, county commissioners conducted a hearing to review how pandemic relief dollars were used to help start the Caswell Brown Village in Port Townsend. The review was positive, with the county helping to provide shelter to up to 50 unhoused people. Jefferson County received funding from the state in 2021 to assist low-to-middle-income people who stayed in their homes during the pandemic. \$19,000 was spent on subsistence payments and helping people with things such as rent, bills, and mortgage payments.

In August 2022, Jefferson County reallocated more than \$196,000 to address the need for homeless shelters and helped to fund the construction of more than 40 tiny homes at the Caswell Brown site on Mill Road. Last year, the county received another \$100,000 for ongoing homeless support services. The Caswell Brown Village currently has 50 tiny homes available to unhoused people, and the site's administrator, Olympic Community Action Programs, is working to build an \$8 million permanent homeless shelter at the site. District 3 Commissioner Greg Brotherton said "It was a real lift, and I'm really proud of the work that we did, adding 50 more houses. It was transformational and not enough at the same time." District 1 Commissioner Kate Dean said that the county has received \$5.5 million from the state for the permanent shelter and is seeking additional funding from Congress. Dean said, "This is our No. 1 priority in federal appropriations process."

According to a Facebook post by the Clallam County Sheriffs Office, Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residential burglary in-progress in the early hours of Monday, April 8, on East Ennis Creek Road in Port Angeles. The homeowner told dispatch that he had the burglary suspect at gunpoint inside their home. Deputies arrived two minutes after the call was dispatched and were able to take the burglary suspect, identified as 61-year-old Rocky Sindars of Port Angeles, into custody. Sindars had apparently forced entry through one of the windows at the front of the house, waking the homeowner who armed himself and found Sindars. The homeowner held Sindars at gunpoint and called 911. Sindars was transported to the Clallam County Jail where he was booked into custody for Residential Burglary, Theft 3rd Degree, and Malicious Mischief 3rd Degree. Rocky Sindars has a lengthy criminal history dating back to 1984 with eight Felony convictions including Theft, Assaults, and Manufacture/Deliver/Possession of Drugs. He has 17 Gross Misdemeanor and 7 Misdemeanor convictions.

Starting next Monday, April 15, travelers who use US 101 east of Gardiner will notice orange construction signs. The Department of Transportation has alerted the public that contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation will begin early work for a fish habitat restoration project. The work zone is located at milepost 277.9, near the eastern end of Old Gardiner Road. Crews will begin efforts to build a two-lane bypass road. The bypass road will keep people moving while crews build a new bridge. The new bridge will carry US 101 over Contractors Creek. This work is anticipated to be completed September 2025. The construction is part of an effort to replace six existing culverts between Sequim and Gardiner.

Jefferson Healthcare has announced in a press release the launch of two new specialty services: tele-rheumatology and tele-neurology. These are aimed at enhancing access to high-quality specialty healthcare for

residents of East Jefferson County through video consultations and eliminating the need to travel off the Olympic Peninsula for rheumatology or neurology consultations. CEO Mike Glenn said, “We understand the challenges many residents face when it comes to accessing specialized medical services. Traveling long distances for a ten-minute consultation is not only inconvenient but can delay crucial treatment – or make it impossible to access it at all. These services are designed to make it easier for our patients to access the care they need, when they need it.”

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.