

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, April 26, 2024.

The Washington State Patrol reports that a fatal traffic collision happened yesterday evening on Route 3 just south of the Hood Canal Bridge. A red Honda traveling northbound on Route 3 at Bridgeway Lane attempted to pass on a blind corner and struck a white Ford head on in the southbound lane. Both cars were totaled. The driver of the Honda, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver and one of the passengers in the Ford were injured and transported to St. Michaels Hospital; the other passenger was uninjured and all three were wearing seatbelts.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, after the firing of Tri-Area Food Bank managers John and Sue Laird, the Board of the Jefferson County Food Bank Association (JCFBA) announced plans to conduct an independent review of all operations and policies. This week the *Leader* tells us that Stephen Mader, a former volunteer with the Tri-Area Food Bank, has filed a complaint with the IRS in an effort to trigger an audit of the non-profit. Dated April 20, the Tax-Exempt Organization Complaint takes aim at the new leadership of the Jefferson County Food Bank Association. The complaint cites lack of transparency, organizational upheaval, violations of bylaws, operational ineptitude, and wasteful spending of donations and federal assistance, and attributes the issues to director Patricia Hennessy and acting president Craig Ushida.

The complaint contends that Hennessy, initially hired to write grant applications, rose to oversee the organization and then began denying requests from managers and volunteers for meeting minutes and financial statements. And five former board members, managers, or volunteers were threatened with legal action if they did not "cease all communication with the food bank, its volunteers, and its premises," according to the complaint.

Additional sources indicate that food hasn't been delivered, and that food bank staff is buying food at retail prices instead of relying on existing relationships with food suppliers. Hennessy denied there were any problems with deliveries.

Though the bylaws of JCFBA specifically state that whistleblowers are not to be retaliated against, Mader is concerned that he might face retaliation or retribution: part of his IRS complaint states that the bylaws have been removed from the website. Hennessy claims the bylaws are being updated to allow for an executive director, but failed to provide a copy of the proposed revisions, and the bylaws are still not on the website.

The *Peninsula Daily News* this morning covered Wednesday's opening celebration for the new Point Hudson Breakwater. Commissioner and former sailmaker Carol Hasse wielded the oversized scissors for the ribbon cutting, which was attended by US Representative Derek Kilmer, one state senator, and two state representatives, as well as Port Townsend city officials and Jefferson County Commissioners. "This is a great way to celebrate how important the maritime sector is to our region," said Representative Kilmer. The two-year, \$12.14 million project was completed on time and under budget.

KPTZ's Jim Burke was present at the celebration and recorded some audio. He will share some of that with you on Tuesday.

And finally, on Sunday this weekend, The Raw Art Collective suggests you head down to the Point Wilson Lighthouse and check out their celebration of Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day and Port Townsend's first traveling Camera Obscura. Created from a converted trailer by Raw Art founder and pinhole photographer Jen Cohen, the mobile Camera Obscura creates a sort of traveling darkroom, and uses a small pinhole to project an image of the outside world onto a screen inside the trailer. Proceeds from the day's fundraising events will go toward the installation of a new roof on the lighthouse.

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. Thank you for listening.