

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

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From *Peninsula Daily News*: The Port Angeles School District and the union representing paraeducators reached a tentative contract agreement on Sunday, so all schools opened yesterday at their usual time. Port Angeles Paraeducator Association (PAPEA) members voted 96% in favor of the contract when they met Sunday night. PAPEA President Rebecca Winters said in a press release, “We’re thrilled to be heading back to school. We’ve missed our students so much and we’re so thankful for the support of our community, especially our P.A.E.A. colleagues.” (PAEA is the Port Angeles Education Association).

The 130 members of the PAPEA walked off the job on April 8 on what would have been the return from spring break, beginning a five-day strike to protest for better pay. Paraeducators and their supporters picketed every day during bargaining sessions at schools and the administration building. A rally at Shane Park on Thursday drew more than 130 people and the participation of Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO President April Sims and State Senator Emily Randall of Bremerton, who is running for Congress in the 6th District, which includes the North Olympic Peninsula.

On Friday, a group representing Port Angeles Parents for Education assembled in the foyer of the administration building and demanded to speak with Superintendent Marty Brewer, pressing him for explanations on district claims it could not afford wage increases to paraeducators. The school district and PAPEA began bargaining on September 19. Since February, the two sides have met 13 times in sessions mediated by the Washington State Public Employment Relations Commission.

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From *The PT Leader*: The Port Townsend Film Festival’s ongoing “Focus Film” series is partnering with Dove House Advocacy Services in April to present the 2020 film “Promising Young Woman” as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Yolanda Wilde, development director for Dove House, noted that “Promising Young Woman” will be its fourth film shown with PTFE for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event also serves as an annual community fundraiser for Dove House’s nonprofit services.

Said Wilde, “We chose ‘Promising Young Woman’ this year, to create a discussion around the trauma of sexual assault, what consent is, the responsibility of bystanders, and how healing happens, since grief is not always linear.” The conversation following the film would also seek to address some of the myths surrounding sexual assault. “Promising Young Woman,” will be screened at 6:30pm tomorrow, Wednesday, April 17 at the Balcony Theatre on Taylor Street. It is sold out. But listeners can watch the 2020 film starring Carey Mulligan and Bo Burnham on the streaming service Peacock or rent it on Amazon Prime. Dove House’s “Respect Week” runs from Monday through Friday, April 19 at the Recovery Cafe, with a “Show Respect” workshop on Friday, April 19 at 2pm.

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Also in the *Peninsula Daily News* this weekend: Money from Port Townsend’s newly formed Transportation Benefits District will be put to use repaving city streets this summer. The Transportation Benefits District (TBD) was approved by Port Townsend voters last fall and is expected to generate between \$400,000 and \$600,000 in the first year, according to the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Steve King. The district enacted a 0.3% sales tax beginning April 1, and because of the delay, King said only about \$400,000 would be available this year. The tax is set to be in place for the next 10 years.

King said at the Port Townsend City Council meeting Monday, April 8 that the DPW is proposing three priority spot treatments for this year's TBD money. The three areas to be repaved are Jefferson Street between Penny Saver Mart and the Food Co-op, the bottom of Cook Avenue near the intersection with Hastings Way, and Mill Road on the downhill approach to state Highway 20.

The TBD, approved by 78% of Port Townsend voters, is projected to raise about \$800,000 annually, still not enough to tackle the city's \$980,000 in annual street costs. The city hopes to conduct a series of public meetings this summer to discuss options for the 2025 transportation budget, King said. On the ballot proposition for the TBD, the city said that, of the money raised, about \$250,000 would be put toward matching funds for grants, \$400,000 to \$500,000 for street preservation and repair, \$25,000 for traffic calming, and \$50,000 to \$100,000 for sidewalks.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can reach out to us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.