

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

It is the last day of April and, four full months into 2024, it's clear that time flies when you're having fun! We at KPTZ have been busy making things ready to go LIVE at 305! The new studios at Fort Worden are being tweaked and stress tested. DJs, hosts, calendarios, news people, technicians, and countless volunteers have been working tirelessly for a live launch of broadcasting tomorrow, May 1! Founding Program Director Larry Stein will kick off this new era as the first live DJ on the air from the new studios. Interim General Manager Taylor Clark says on our website: "If you listen carefully to KPTZ we think you will hear the excitement live on the air. This has been a multi-year project and we expect this to be the beginning of a great new chapter for your favorite community radio station."

The next five days will be a real-world test of the new station and next week we will have our spring KPTZ fundraiser from Monday, May 6 through Saturday, May 11. The new studios will be open to our community from 10am to 5pm each day and all 91.9FM listeners should feel free to stop by and see us in action. Come on down!

And, of course, with a new month comes a new Public Health Report from the Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties, Dr. Allison Berry to the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners, which is scheduled for the first Monday in May, May 6 at 9:45am during the Jim B. Show. This reporter knows of three recent Covid-19 cases among friends and acquaintances, and that is merely anecdotal. So, for more solid data and trends in respiratory illness, avian flu, and other public health concerns tune in Monday morning for Dr. Berry's report. Listeners can submit questions for Dr. Berry or Director of Emergency Management Willie Bence by sending email to contactus@kptz.org by this coming Friday, May 3 at noon.

And in other KPTZ news, in case you missed it, *The Jefferson County Beacon* is a new source for news and information here in the county. On Wednesdays, reporters Derek Firenze and Charlie Bermant will be trading off with each other to bring you local news here on KPTZ. At the official launch party at Finnriver on Saturday, April 27, Libby Wennstrom, City Councilperson had this to say about the *Beacon's* mission: "The *Beacon's* Mission is exactly this: to be there to tell our shared stories to put in the time and legwork to really understand an issue and to dig into the "why" as well as the "what." I want to congratulate the *Beacon* and everyone involved in getting to this day, on being willing to jump into the fray and take up the banner of truly local news in Jefferson County."

To read stories from the new *Beacon* go to <https://www.jeffcobeacon.com/>.

And, the Point Hudson Marina and new breakwater was dedicated last Wednesday. One of the people who spoke was Nissa Ruud, one of the "NOAA nymphs" who was working on the section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation to figure out how endangered species would be affected (by the jetty replacement). She had this to say about the environmental impact of removing 500 tons of creosote from Point Hudson:

“The massive amount of creosote piles that were removed from the old breakwaters, an estimated 500 tons, has improved water quality at this site for all the species present [applause] and that’s a benefit that will keep on giving for many, many years to come. So the positive effect from the creosote removal balanced out the negative effects in the conservation calculator, and this project achieved a ‘no net loss’ for habitat impacts. No additional mitigation was asked for under the Endangered Species Act. [applause] So, this is truly a win-win for both humans and aquatic species. So, with that, it’s been a pleasure to see so many folks come together and make this project happen. I am happy that I was able to play a very small part.”

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. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.