

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Thursday, May 16, 2024.

According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, Jefferson County deputies were called last Friday evening to a disturbance in the vicinity of Beckett Point Road in Cape George. The suspect, Arnor Steven Aurdal, 66, allegedly brandished a handgun at his neighbor and fired twice into the ground before the victim struck Aurdal in the jaw, dropped him to the ground, and took possession of the firearm. According to the neighbor who made the report, Aurdal then left in a vehicle and threatened to return with a shotgun. Deputies stopped the vehicle, which was driven by Aurdal's wife, but despite repeated commands, Aurdal failed to comply and asked the deputies to use lethal force on him. Following three separate stun gun applications Aurdal was taken to the Jefferson County jail.

Deputies were able to review the confrontation between Aurdal and the victim, as it had been recorded on a private security camera, and arrested Aurdal for two counts of reckless endangerment, one count of felony harassment, and one count of first-degree assault. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Holly McKeen said the dispute between Aurdal and his neighbor was over a boundary line between two properties. The sheriff's office statement said the conflict between the neighbors has been going on for about six years. Aurdal appeared in Jefferson County Superior Court on Monday and his bail was set at \$500,000. In addition, he was served with a no-contact order for the victim and his wife, restrictions on possessing deadly weapons including firearms, and he was ordered not to consume any non-prescription drugs or alcohol. Aurdal's arraignment will be at 9am tomorrow morning.

The *Port Townsend Leader* reports that the Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) is one of 10 communities recently approved by the Washington State Public Works Board (PWB) for a total of \$21 million in critical infrastructure projects for broadband construction, pre-construction, and emergency funding. The approved broadband projects will expand service in Jefferson, Island, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Spokane counties, to an estimated 6,000 unserved end-user locations, such as homes, businesses, farms, and "community anchor" institutions.

Jefferson PUD is slated to receive \$4 million in broadband construction match funding, between a \$2.8 million loan and \$1.2 million in grant funds, for the Northeast Olympic FTTP (fiber to the premises) project. When complete, the Jefferson PUD projects are expected to provide approximately 377 miles of fiber for 3,222 end users, located in areas of Port Townsend, Chimacum, Nordland, Port Hadlock, Quilcene, and even Sequim. According to Public Works Board Executive Director Maria Jawad, this investment is intended to assist with construction cost increases associated with prior awards by the Washington State Broadband Office. Jameson Hawn, digital communications specialist for Jefferson PUD, explained that the PUD applied for match funding to help with anticipated overages for its Olympic Fiber Corridor and Jefferson North projects. The overages apparently stem from pre-COVID construction estimates for the fiber buildout, as construction costs have escalated in recent years. Hawn stressed that the PWB's decision was just a preliminary announcement, as the PUD board must ultimately review the contract documents and approve their amounts.

And finally, as everyone knows, it's Rhody Festival week. The Pet Parade begins this evening at 5:30 on Lawrence Street; and the Kiddie Parade will be held tomorrow starting at 4pm on Lawrence Street and will go from Fillmore to Chetzemoka. The Rhody Fest Grand parade starts downtown at 1pm on Saturday, and the

Rhody Run starts at 9am on Sunday at the Fairgrounds, so park and drive with care and remember: there will be no transit service on Sunday.

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.