

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

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Our first story today is from KPTZ news director Jim Burke: Last night the Healthier Together Task Force presented their findings at a joint meeting of the Port Townsend City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. The task force outlined new and exciting options for a county aquatic center, including a new pool that will cost far less, and could potentially be more efficiently built and run than previously discussed options.

*On County Connections* here on KPTZ last Friday (<https://kptz.org/2024/09/13/county-connections-52/>), co-hosts Commissioner Greg Brotherton and Jim Burke spoke with Healthier Together Task Force member Jim Scarantino about the findings to be presented at last night's meeting. Scarantino has 20 years of construction litigation experience and felt that the previous ideas for replacing the Mountain View Pool were very flawed. Both he and Brotherton were on the Healthier Together Task Force and said Friday that they and others in the group were coming from vastly different perspectives. But through the process over the past year the task force has come to a consensus on a path forward toward the goal of a County Aquatic Center; a consensus that they believe both meets the needs of the community of east Jefferson County for far less money and uses construction techniques that are more efficient and sustainable.

The two major components of this new design idea are the pool itself and the building around it, and they have found two possible solutions. The pool solution is from a company called Myrtha Pools (<https://www.myrthapools.com/en/>). This from their website: "All Myrtha Pools are engineered in stainless steel, PVC and the highest quality finishes. Myrtha Pool reduces Green House Gas emissions by as much as 45%." Scarantino said Friday that the entire pool, which is design-assisted by A.I., arrives on a flatbed truck and then is assembled onsite. The home page of Myrtha Pools has a time lapse video of the pool for the Paris 2024 Olympics as it was assembled earlier this year inside the arena there.

The other efficient technology for constructing a new pool in Jefferson County is from Sprung Structures (<https://www.sprung.com/>). Quoting from their website: "Backed by nearly 140 years of experience, Sprung has a long-standing history of excellence when it comes to crafting custom tensioned fabric structures that stand the test of time. Consisting of an architectural membrane and a corrosion-resistant substructure, our relocatable, clear-span fabric buildings are designed for adaptability, rapid construction, cost efficiency and durability. We're known around the world for producing versatile, tensioned-fabric buildings that can readily meet the evolving demands of companies and organizations across a wide variety of industries." Sprung's substructure is made of aluminum spars and an outer fabric shell is placed over it. They have built over 12,000 of these buildings around the world and their clients include NASA, Apple Computer, FedEx, and Blue Origin.

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First Step Family Support Center will be offering Winter Coats for Kids this coming Thursday, September 19, from 2 to 4:30 at the Jefferson County Public Health office on Sheridan Street in Port Townsend. You can choose a new, free coat for your child – any size from infant to Youth 14/16 – available while supplies last. For more information or to donate new coats, call 360-457-8355 or send an email to [info@FirstStepFamilySupport.Org](mailto:info@FirstStepFamilySupport.Org).

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And finally, this week is Smart Septic Week. Jefferson County Public Health and the Environmental Protection Agency are taking this opportunity to remind us that what goes down your drain has a big impact on your septic system, so avoid harsh chemicals, fats, oils, grease and food waste, and use cleaners and detergents in moderation. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/septic>.

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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 Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.