

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 3, 2024.

Senator Maria Cantwell has announced that several state and municipal law enforcement agencies; the Quileute, Lummi, and Kalispel, and Colville tribal justice departments and programs; and medical examiner offices around the state will receive a total of almost \$7 million from the Department of Justice to help address some of the State of Washington's most pressing public safety challenges. The money will be used, among other things, to process DNA evidence faster; to help support the tribes in prosecuting domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, stalking, and violence against children, violation of protection orders, and assault of tribal officers; and to help identify fatal overdoses, ease inmates' transitions upon release, and mitigate the impact of juvenile gun violence.

The *Peninsula Daily News* tells us that on Tuesday of this week, Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County held a groundbreaking ceremony for a six-house project on Cliff Street, bringing the total number of homes under construction in the community to 10, all of which are set up to be kept permanently affordable. 50 to 60 people were there to witness the groundbreaking ceremony, including Habitat staff, volunteers, the project architect, members of the public and three families likely to live on the property. These homes are the first of a new design, which allows for footprints of 800 square feet. Historically, the organization hadn't gone less than 900 square feet. In addition, the builds will utilize advanced framing, which reduces lumber usage, allowing for more insulation.

Port Townsend's architecture firm, studioSTL, helped improve efficiency in the homes, with the loss of footprint in mind. The homes, which have metal roofs, have also incorporated 9-foot ceilings into their design, expanding on the sense of space. Habitat also worked with an arborist, the city, and the architect to maintain the forested section at the back of the property, and care will be paid to protecting the trees and their roots throughout the construction process.

Of the six homes, two will have three bedrooms and the remaining four will have two bedrooms. Construction should start next month, according to Bob Collins, director of construction, and the homes should be ready for occupancy within six to nine months after that. The actual speed of the build will partially be dependent on volunteer help, he added. To volunteer, visit <https://www.habitatjec.org/construction-volunteers/>. No experience is required.

This coming Monday, October 7, is the Public Health Report to the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County from Dr. Allison Berry and Director of Emergency Management, Willie Bence. Last call to submit questions to Dr. Berry or Willie Bence by sending email to contactus@kptz.org by tomorrow at noon.

This fall, Friends of Fort Worden will make their biggest habitat restoration planting ever, putting over 2,000 native trees and plants and shrubs in the ground. Due to clear-cutting when the fort was built, and decades of mixed use, Fort Worden has long been vulnerable to invasive plants: Friends of Fort Worden has been battling scotch broom, ivy, poison hemlock, and other invasive plants for years.

But removal of the invasives is just the first step. To keep the invaders at bay, the ground must be replanted with local native flora. To accomplish that, six different types of trees and 14 species of shrubs have been selected for planting, all of which are species currently growing inside the park. To tackle this huge job, the Friends hired Sound Native Plants, a company with a proven record of habitat restoration in many Washington state parks. A complete list of new plant types and planting locations can be found on the Friends of Fort Worden website: <https://www.fwfriends.org/>.

And finally, travelers who use the Shine Road and Paradise Bay Road intersection of State Route 104 should take note of upcoming changes. Shine Road will reopen to travelers this morning, but access from State Route 104 will be open for right turns only. Paradise Bay Road at State Route 104 will also open this morning, but for right turns only. The temporary turn restrictions will continue for approximately three weeks.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact to us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.