

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 24, 2024.

The Great Washington Shakeout was one week ago. Go to: <https://www.shakeout.org/washington/> for more information about steps you can take to be ready (for the big one, or even a little one...)

From the *Peninsula Daily News*: Port of Port Townsend staff presented a proposed 2025 consolidated budget, capital budget, rates and fees, and property tax levy increases to commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday. Commissioners will vote to adopt the 2025 budget at a public hearing on November 13. The budget, including project descriptions, updated rate cards and details about funding, can be found on the port's website, <https://portoft.com/wp-content/uploads/2024-10-22-CommMtg-Agenda-Special.pdf>.

The \$8.81 million in operating revenues and \$8.165 million in operating expenditures would create a net operating income of \$644,000. That amount is 2% above the end-of-year forecast for 2024, but it reflects what Connie Anderson, the port's director of finance and administration, said has been a slowing of the port's revenues and rise in costs, particularly insurance and personnel.

More than 50% of the proposed \$16.6 million capital budget would be dedicated to Boat Haven projects. The biggest is the \$5.23 million stormwater improvement project slated to begin next year. Other large line items are \$2 million for the Sims Gateway and Boat Yard expansion project and \$1.7 million for the upgrade of the main breakwater.

Matt Klontz, the port's director of capital projects, updated commissioners Tuesday on discussions with community stakeholders on the kind of fence and landscaping that should be used in the Sims Way and Boat Yard expansion project. The project's design team recommended a 5-foot-tall galvanized chain-link fence covered with foliage along the port's property line and spaced 18 inches from the sidewalk. Joni Blanchard, a member of the stakeholder committee whose business, Leatherwood Finishing Company, is located in the Boat Yard, said boat owners and workers want a fence that is tall enough to keep out would-be thieves and shield activity from pedestrians and drivers. She said, "Five feet is too low; people can just hop over. There are a lot of expensive tools lying around and stuff gets ripped off."

Commissioners preferred a 6-foot-tall galvanized chain-link fence because it would provide the height needed for security but it is a cheaper alternative to other metal fences proposed by the design team. Commissioner Pete Hanke suggested that the savings could be used for putting low-maintenance plants next to the fence to create a more attractive separation between Sims Way and the Boat Yard.

Also in the *Peninsula Daily News* this morning: Individuals can drop off old or unwanted prescription drugs at five locations across Clallam and Jefferson counties on Saturday. Each location will accept expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication, and illegal drugs between 10am and 2pm. Also, the locations will accept vaping pens and cartridges without the batteries. Liquids, needles, sharps and medical waste will not be accepted.

The event is the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) 27th National Prescription Drug Takeback Day. In April, Americans turned in 335 tons of prescription drugs across 4,869 collection sites, according to the DEA.

Clallam County has two locations participating Saturday:

- One is the Clallam County courthouse, on Fourth Street in Port Angeles. The service, which is being provided through the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, the Port Angeles Police Department, the DEA, and the Port Angeles Healthy Youth Coalition, is "free and anonymous, no questions asked," according to a press release.
- The other location is the Sequim Police Department on Cedar Street.

Jefferson County has three locations that will participate Saturday:

- The QFC in Port Townsend, at Sheridan Street and Sims Way.
- In Port Hadlock, the QFC, or in the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office lobby at 79 Elkins Road.

Throughout the rest of the year, individuals can drop off their unwanted drugs and medications at Med-Project kiosks, provided through Med-Project LLC (<https://med-project.org/>), during regular business hours. There are 15 dropboxes spread throughout the two counties. So you don't have to wait for Saturday, and if you miss Saturday, you have options.

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. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.