

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

\*\*\*

The Jefferson County Children's Advocacy Center is scheduled to open in the middle of 2025, saving victims of child abuse from the added indignity of having to drive to Sequim for needed services. The center, which will open in the space formerly occupied by KPTZ FM on the Mountain View Campus, will include four discrete spaces, including an interview room and an observation room, where the interviews can be witnessed by the investigative team and a prosecuting attorney. There will also be a confidential meeting space. The space will be arranged to be more comforting, with the installation of sophisticated recording equipment.

Center director Jennifer Lowe said there are currently about two abuse cases each month in Jefferson County, necessitating a drive to Sequim. She acknowledges that this isn't a lot but said that once the service is locally available more people will come forward for its use. She told KPTZ that once the community finds out there is an empathetic and child-centered process, people will make use of the service.

The center is a few months away from opening, but the staff of three will assemble after the first of the year. It will also put out a call for qualified volunteers to donate time and materials. The center will open during business hours, 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday, but the services will be provided around the clock as needed. For more information go to <https://www.olympicpeninsulaymca.org/> or call 360-385-5822.

\*\*\*

The Port Townsend City Government has called on the public to help plan the future of local shorelines, in preparation for the completion of the Shoreline Master Plan due by June 30, 2025. According to the monthly city newsletter distributed with utility bills, a review of shoreline management will occur. This includes our local beaches as well as the Chinese Gardens and Kah Tai Lagoons. The review will update the permit processes and incorporate planning around sea level rises and king tide adaptation measures.

Sea level rises and flood events are causing substantial damage to public and private shorelines across the state, with two of the highest tides ever recorded locally taking place in 2022. Expectations are that the impacts will worsen.

Public participation events will be both in-person and virtual. To connect, visit the project website on the city's web page. Hunt for it on your own or follow the link in today's news transcript (<https://engage.ahbl.com/port-townsend-smp-update>).

\*\*\*

Also in the city newsletter, the Lawrence Street Pedestrian Improvement is almost complete. The project, which has uprooted Uptown, will finish up in mid-December, adding new sidewalks, ramps, and other improvements to pedestrian accessibility. This was only the first phase, as the city is pursuing additional grant funding to reconstruct pavement and infrastructure on Lawrence Street.

\*\*\*

While most of the Washington State Legislators will be sworn in after the first of the year, our local representatives got a head start on everyone else. District 24 Representative Mike Chapman, newly elected as a state senator, resigned his position late last week and was immediately sworn in for his new job. This cleared

the way for Adam Bernbaum, who won Chapman's old seat, to immediately take office. The advantage is debatable. There is a slight seniority, but nothing is going to occur until January 13, when the full legislature opens its 2025 session.

\*\*\*

KPTZ broadcasts local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.