

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, January 30, 2025.

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The *Port Townsend Leader* reports that this week the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners unanimously selected Chimacum School District property in Port Hadlock as the preferred site for the County's new pool. The decision was needed in order to meet site requirements for a Local Community Project funding application due in February. Although the larger and more visible Chimacum Park was also considered, the park's proximity to the septic system would add significant permitting costs and major road improvements, including a roundabout estimated at \$2 million.

Prior to submitting the funding application, the county will need to finalize an agreement with the school district and to form a public facilities district (PFD) to oversee the project. Once the PFD is formed, its board members will have the authority to reconsider the location or even cancel the project altogether, as other steps remain in the process. The Jefferson County Aquatic Coalition will begin surveying the community for input on February 1.

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Also, according to the *Leader*, Centrum executives announced this week that, thanks to successful and ongoing negotiations with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the arts organization will be moving forward with its 2025 programming season. The news comes after the January 16 shutdown of Fort Worden Hospitality jeopardized Centrum's ability to feed and house its guests, and marks a bright spot for the beleaguered park.

As discussions with parks are ongoing, the situation has not been fully resolved however, so, despite their confidence in the end result, Centrum plans to hold its customer's payments in reserve until all of the details are formally ironed out.

Robert Birman, Centrum's executive director, stated that although Centrum will create housekeeping and food solutions for the guests attending their 15 weeks of programs, they would not be widening the service to include all visitors. Hospitality "is not our core business, and we do not have the interest or ability to replace Fort Worden Hospitality," Birman said. Based on input from experts in the community, Centrum plans to offer a limited, six-month contract for a handful of personnel to oversee their food and housekeeping needs in 2025, citing the possibility of cafeteria-style meals during program weeks, with food trucks and beverage carts available to the public for ticketed events.

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The Washington State Department of Health warns that cold weather and dangerous driving conditions have kept many blood donors from making or keeping blood draw appointments, which has led to shortages of available blood for transfusions and treatment, particularly for Type O blood and platelets. Low blood supplies may force some hospitals to delay or cancel procedures. Shortages also limit emergency departments' ability to respond to mass casualties or other health emergencies.

Blood banks in Washington have begun urging residents to donate blood. One pint of donated blood can save up to three lives by providing red blood cells, plasma, or platelets to people in need. It takes 1,000 donors a day to keep up with the state's demand for blood. Appointments can be scheduled at your convenience and take about an hour.

Learn more details, including eligibility requirements, by visiting Northwest Blood Coalition members' websites:

- Vitalant – <https://www.vitalant.org/donate>
- Bloodworks Northwest – <https://bloodworksnw.org/>
- American Red Cross – <https://www.redcross.org/local/washington.html>

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And finally, the \$3.2 million Water Street Sewer Replacement Project started construction this week and will run through mid-May. Work hours will be between 7am and 6pm, with equipment staged along Water Street behind the Lighthouse Center building and adjacent to the work sites. There will be bike lane and single lane closures along the bluff side of Water Street, with open pits for sewer pipe connections. Pits will be closed with steel plating during non-construction hours. One side of the road along Water Street will remain open for narrow two-way vehicle and bicycle traffic. Pedestrians should use caution walking along the sidewalk in this area. For more information and updates, follow the City's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofPT>.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.