

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

The future of Fort Worden State Park was threatened both by the collapse of the Public Development Authority last fall and hospitality services two weeks ago. But those involved are collaborating, hoping to create summer programs that aren't that different than what they were before.

Yesterday, State Parks Operations Manager Chris Holm, Centrum Executive Director Rob Birman, and KPTZ General Manager Taylor Clark appeared live on *Attention Please!* to discuss some of the progress. Hospitality provided on-site food, housing management, event booking and general support. This year, partners need to do it for themselves. As for parks, the agency is working through all the challenges and does not rush into developing new programs. Parks administers camping, Discover Passes, and general park maintenance. That will not change. Visitors can still come to the park during daylight hours, walk their dog, and hike the trails, but they won't be able to get a cup of coffee onsite.

Last week Centrum opened up registration for all of their programs for this year. The summer festivals will continue, although with a more rustic flavor. Centrum will manage on-site buildings used for housing and hire a meals provider to keep attendees fed. Birman said these new responsibilities will cost around a quarter of a million dollars, but that money was already in the budget in order to pay for those services. It is likely that a culinary contractor will take up space for the 14-week season, but food trucks are also an option.

All these details are not so important with regard to the Centrum experience, according to Birman. "Our number one priority is learning, not the amenities," he said. "It's kind of a camp, so camp might be a little bit more primitive this year. but I think the artists and attendees that come here are ready for that.

There is a lot more to this story. To listen to the full *Attention Please!* broadcast go to kptz.org.

Now that the site for the Jefferson County Aquatic Center (JAC) has been selected, the sponsoring organization is conducting a poll about what people want to see in such a facility. The Aquatic Center has been a source of controversy over the last 20 years, with various plans and projects coming and going.

Last week the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners committed to a central location. adjacent to Chimacum Creek School, which has addressed the objections of south county residents reluctant to travel to Port Townsend to go swimming. The online poll seeks to find out what people want to see in the facility, how they would use it, and what programs would make it work.

Once collected, the data will be used to shape the project. The Jefferson Aquatic Center will put together a proposal, that would include cost and function. The people will then vote. If the measure fails, the idea is dead. If it passes, than planning and fundraising will commence. At present, there is no cost estimate or construction timeline. The specifics for this will be determined with regard to survey results, according to JAC Board Chair Diane McDade.

The survey began last week and is expected to continue to the end of March. Pollsters won't come anywhere near getting all 33,000 residents to participate, but they won't need that many to acquire a sample. The survey went online over the weekend and there are already more than 600 responses. To participate go to <https://www.jeffcoaquaticcoalition.org/> and click the Take Survey button.

The Jefferson County Democratic Party submitted three candidates for Sheriff to the Board of County Commissioners. Either acting sheriff Andy Persteiner or sheriff's deputies Brett Anglin or Art Frank will be selected for the permanent position. The selected candidate will need to run to fill the expired term this year, and again in 2026 for a full year term if he desires. The person selected by the commissioners will still have to work to keep the job. He will need to run for the remainder of the term this fall, and again in 2026 for a full term, should he desire.

KPTZ 91.9 FM provides local news at noon and 5pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you want to contact us send an email to news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.