

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, April 17, 2025.

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Jefferson Healthcare has announced next month it will be acquiring a linear accelerator, capable of delivering high doses of radiation to patients with pinpoint accuracy, destroying cancer cells while sparing nearby healthy tissue. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, the Jefferson Healthcare Foundation raised \$2.5 million to purchase the accelerator, which will be housed in the hospital's new radiation oncology facility, part of the modernization and expansion project scheduled to be completed in July. Oncology patients in Jefferson County will no longer have to travel far from home to receive radiation therapy, significantly reducing the logistical, financial, and emotional burdens that come with spending hours on the road. Senator Maria Cantwell, D-Edmonds, helped secure \$2.5 million in appropriation funding in 2023 for construction of the vault which will house the machine.

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JeffCo Repair, a program developed by the Marine Science Center, has announced that in June, the county's first tool library will open at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, offering residents access to a wide range of shared tools and equipment. The project is spearheaded by Mandi Johnson, the outreach coordinator of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and the face behind the local JeffCo Repair program. Tool libraries operate like regular libraries, but with tools instead of books. Locals will be able to borrow tools for a small fee or on a sliding scale. Inspired by tool libraries across the state and county, the new initiative aims to lower the barriers to tool ownership and operation, especially for those who may not have the money, space, or experience to keep their own.

Housed in a 900-square-foot section of one of the fairground's large warehouse buildings, the tool library will look something like a mini hardware store. Visitors can expect shelves lined with a variety of tools – from power drills and saws to more unique items like canning supplies, upholstery cleaners, folding tables, and even a "party box" with enough dishes and cutlery for 30 people.

To plan the inventory, JeffCo Repair is circulating a community survey. They also plan to host a donation drive in late April or early May, inviting residents to contribute tools and equipment they no longer use. The tool library will initially include around 200 tools already purchased with grant funds over the last two years. Funding for the tool library comes out of JeffCo Repair's two-year public participation grant from the state Department of Ecology.

Hours of operation are still being finalized, as are the cost of borrowing tools. The current plan is to open for a few hours on weekends and weekdays, depending on volunteer availability. Staff will be onsite during open hours to help check out tools. A link to the survey can be found at <https://ptmsc.org/jeffco-repair/>.

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After a strong voter turnout and an impressive field of 11 candidates, four new members – Seth Hunt, Ocean Mason, Thea O'Dell, and Hank Walker – have been elected to the Port Townsend Food Co-op Board. A post-election report will be published in the next board packet, according to the *Port Townsend Leader*, and will include a debrief of the election process and more details on the newly elected members.

The board, whose internal issues have been a major concern in recent months, is tasked with governing the co-op, which includes managing hiring, establishing compensation for the board, and assuring that the co-op's

mission is articulated and carried out according to bylaws. Board members also adopt new policies and make decisions in accordance with those bylaws.

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And finally, plans for PortTownsend's new aquatic facility have hit a snag after a critical design grant application was denied. The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners had planned to address forming a public facilities district to oversee the project and finalize an interlocal agreement with the school district at this week's meeting, but backed off when they learned the city of Port Townsend had been unable to obtain the funding needed to proceed. A public workshop on April 21 will help determine the next steps for the project.

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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.