

This is KPTZ 91.9FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Nigel O'Shea bringing you news and commentary from the Jefferson County *Beacon* for Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

In Port Townsend City Council News, David Ballif, executive director of the Economic Development Council gave a presentation on opportunity zoning 2.0 and explained the rural advantage of the federal tax incentive. The tax incentive will be determined by the Governor of Washington from a pool of project applications from around the state. Projects with high investment readiness are most likely to be selected.

YMCA chief executive officer Wendy Bart gave the YMCA annual report. Since 2022, they have seen service for a broader age demographic, doubled memberships to 1,300 and have 1,600 people a month use their facilities. They had 600 enrollments in swim lessons in 2025 and have started a gym credit incentive program for lifeguard training for high schoolers, and broke even on that program.

Director of Communications & Marketing, Shelly Leavens, gave an update on the city's website remodel. While not ready for a public launch, she shared a preview of the site. With only \$6,000 to spend, the city believes this is a low-budget way to improve accessibility.

Public comment focused on the Winter Welcoming Center, requesting the council to consider extending the lease end date past April 15, hopefully year-round. City analysis on the possibility of extending the lease will be presented on April 13 at the scheduled workshop or at a special meeting after the workshop.

City staff asked the council to authorize applying for a Library Capital Improvement Program Grant for 2027-2029, for the historic Pink House's exterior restoration and improvements. Constructed in 1868 in the late Greek Revival style of architecture, the Pink House provides office space and hosts as a free community meeting space. With good odds of securing the grant, Friends of the Library have already pledged \$100,000, with a potential for another \$50,000 to match the grant. Council approved staff to apply for the grant. The plans are to re-roof the building before adding new siding, regardless of whether they receive the grant or not.

Lowering costs through material changes and simplifying design for the Chetzemoka Kitchen Shelter rebuild brought ten bids for the project. Anderson Homes was selected and is waiting to sign the contract. The council approved the contract, and they will order materials in May, pour concrete in June and July, and by high summer, it should be open for rental. Mayor Howard is looking forward to using the "big scissors".

In one of Lucia Enriquez's deep-blue paintings, a mystical white bird gazes out over a sea. It might be the Pacific Ocean, or a body of water in the artist's mind's eye, or both. The piece, titled "Agila Looking for Land," is an example of the digital drawing and painting process Enriquez will demonstrate this coming Sunday, April 12, in a free event at Northwind Art's Jeanette Best Gallery. The interactive demonstration and talk will start at 3pm in the gallery at 701 Water Street. Enriquez, who builds her artworks using both digital and analog techniques, is showing her paintings in round one of Northwind's juried "Showcase 2026" exhibit, on view through May 11. More information is at <https://northwindart.org/>.

Artist duo LIZN'BOW are creating a video installation as a part of Centrum's In the Making residency. The Video Installation: *Novelas de Niñas* will be on view until April 10, between 12 and 4pm, Monday through Friday in Fort Worden, Building 305 in the North Gallery. *Novelas de Niñas* is a multimedia feminist musical reggaeton soap opera project set in the pop inspired universe Niñalandia, which blends music, performance, and visual storytelling. It is a glorious, pink, sparkly, unicorn with Latino femme music, and something flashy and open, like a little piece of Miami has dropped in with the spring weather. LIZN'BOW's video installation is on view until April 10 but they have a brief, 15-minute performance on Thursday, April 9 at 6pm, also in the North Gallery. Come and prepare to be dazzled. More information at <https://centrum.org/>.

You've checked out the website, now sign up for the newsletter, go to Jeff Co Beacon dot com and sign up with your email address at the bottom of the page. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Tuesday through Thursday partnering on Wednesday to bring you stories from the Jefferson County *Beacon*. This is Nigel O'Shea, thanks for listening.