

PTHS takes home title in district mock trials

ALLI PATTON
APATTON@PTLEADER.COM

Port Townsend High School's varsity mock trial team secured the victory last week as repeating district champions, earning a trip to the state championships.

With the mentorship of local attorneys, student teams participated in telling the story of a trial from beginning to end — preparing a pre-trial, arguing a case, gathering witnesses, and conducting cross-examinations. The varsity team won all four of their trials at the competition, held online Thursday, Feb. 4 through Saturday, Feb. 6. The Redhawks took home the premiere spot over Archbishop Murphy and Tacoma School of the Arts, who placed second and third.

Chief Sealth and North Creek high schools were among the competition. Port Townsend's junior varsity team

won two of their trials and still hold on to the chance of going to the state competitions, as well.

The trials took place via Zoom, however, that didn't take away from the fun, high-tension atmosphere that normally comes along with these events.

"I'm really proud of the students and all the hard work they've done," said mock trial coach Chris Pierson.

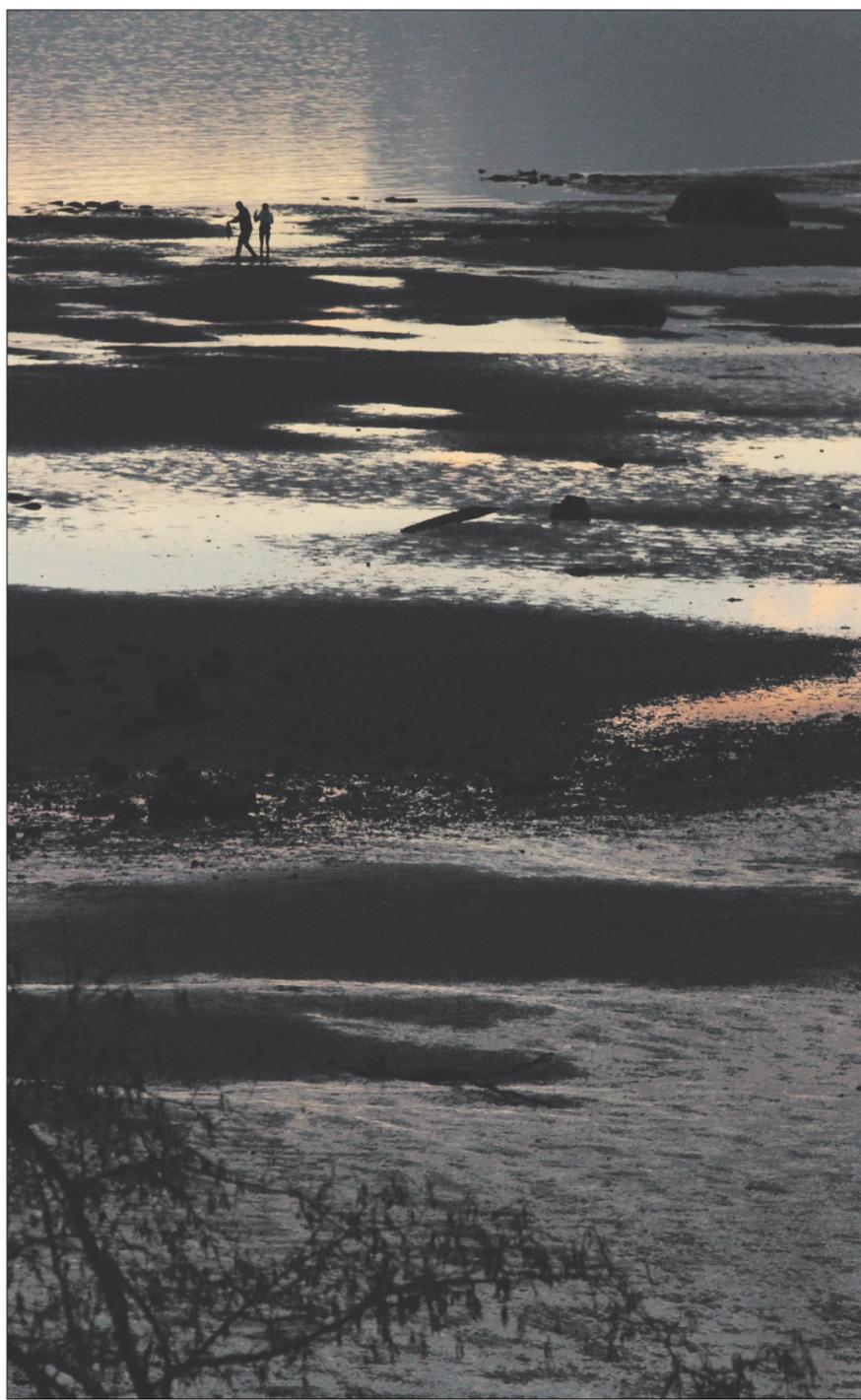
"This is such a valuable activity," Pierson added.

In conducting the mock trials, students learn to practice democracy and advocate for government while honing their writing and public speaking skills.

The varsity team will go on to participate in the state competitions, planned for March 17 to March 21.

When asked about preparation for state, coach Pierson said they will continue to "meet" via Zoom to practice their presentation along with their application of rules of evidence.

Shine on you crazy clammers



A couple enjoys clamming as twilight arrives on Hood Canal south of Shine Tidelands State Park last Friday. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

Port Townsend council unanimously approves update to street art rules

NICK TWIETMEYER
NTWIETMEYER@PTLEADER.COM

A formal process has been established for groups that would like to add a little color to Port Townsend's streets.

City councilmembers voted unanimously at their last business meeting to approve an ordinance, which allows for street art to be painted on the streets. The Feb. 1 decision followed the council's approval of a "Black Lives Matter" street mural on Water Street last year as part of a Juneteenth celebration.

But the BLM mural left other people clamoring for the chance to adorn city streets with other messages.

Some critics accused

the city of allowing the BLM mural as political speech, while preventing others from creating street murals that were pro-police or had other messages. Some wanted street messages that said "Back the Blue Law Enforcement" and "Make America Great Again."

The council's recent review of street art regulations, however, drew no public comment.

The ordinance includes several criteria for the OK of any street art or street decoration, but also states that the city doesn't intend for street paintings to serve as a public forum and "therefore reserves the right to control the art displayed on all city property."

Prohibited content includes violent images;

sexually graphic images; religious symbols or desecration of them; art depicting hatred of persons or groups of people; anything in support for or opposition to a candidate or initiative on the ballot; advertisement for a good or service; and imagery that may be inappropriate because it is objectionable under community standards.

According to the ordinance, the public works director will establish a permitting process for street art, with consultation from the Arts Commission.

Once installed, the street art will become the property of the city, which maintains the right to remove it without notice.



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"San Juan Villa is wonderful. They are amazing out there. My mom has been out there for about two years now and they are so good with her and they take very good care of her. The facility is always very clean and very nice. The staff is wonderful. I have not had anyone that I haven't liked. I've had nothing but good and positive experiences with them. They are all really, really wonderful. I have recommended them to several other people." -Roberta

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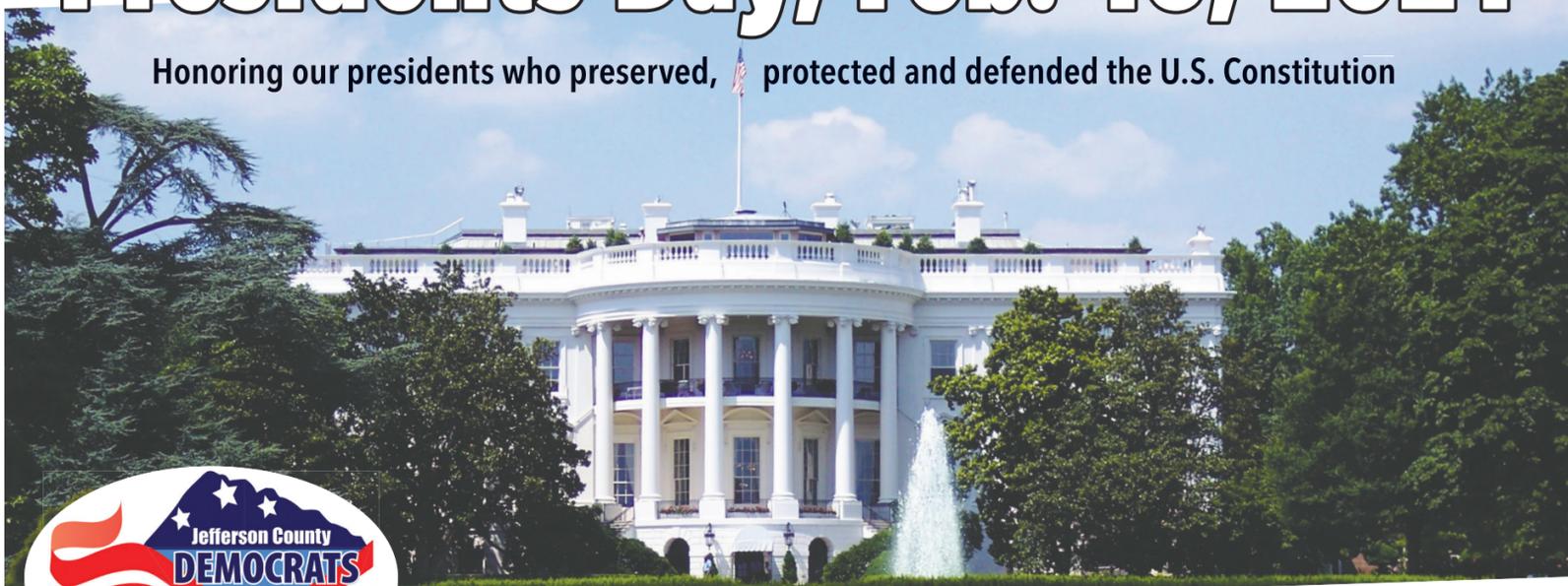
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