

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, August 13, 2026.

That overturned semi we reported on Tuesday tied up traffic on Highway 101 from 6am until after 10pm Tuesday. The difficult and complicated recovery required many hours of coordinated work by Washington State Police, WSDOT, multiple towing and recovery crews, Brinnon Fire Department, Quilcene Fire Rescue, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the resulting closures and delays caused extensive backups and significant challenges for those traveling through the area. Some individuals were even posting requests for possible places to spend the night in Sequim. But by 10:35 that evening the semi had safely been removed and towed away, and traffic began to move again.

Thanks to an anonymous \$22,000 donation inspired by a recent life saved during the Rhody Run, every Jefferson County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle will soon carry an AED (automated external defibrillator). A portable device that analyzes a person's heart rhythm, AEDs can deliver an electric shock to help restore a normal heartbeat during sudden cardiac arrest. East Jefferson Fire Rescue will be training the sheriff's department on how to use the new equipment.

After months of debate, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has decided against sending a letter to Rep. Emily Randall to support the proposed transfer of Protection Island and the Dungeness Spit to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Between concerns raised by local citizens and federal funding vacillations, Commissioner Eisenhower told the *Leader* "It felt premature to weigh in on this matter."

Jefferson County Public Health has lifted its closure for shellfish harvesting from beaches in Port Townsend Bay, Admiralty Inlet, Marrowstone Island, Kilisut Harbor, and Mystery Bay. Recent testing by the state Department of Health has revealed the harmful biotoxin levels have dropped for all species of clams, oysters and mussels. Beaches in Discovery and Sequim bays as well as the Hood Canal remain closed. For a map of safe shellfish harvest areas, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfish_safety.htm."](http://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfish_safety.htm)

All campfires are now prohibited in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park,

but gas or propane stoves, lanterns, or heating devices are permitted in campgrounds and wilderness areas if there is no flammable material within three feet of the devices. Stoves must be equipped with an on-off switch or valve that can immediately extinguish the flame.

For those planning to head to Anacortes or the San Juan Islands via the Port Townsend/Coupeville ferry, be advised that WSDOT is beginning construction on a new roundabout between RT20 and Campbell Lake Road. Beginning at 6am Monday, August 17, State Route 20 will be reduced to a single lane near Campbell Lake Road, and a temporary signal will alternate traffic through the three-way intersection until 6pm Friday, September 4. Assume progress through that intersection will be slower, and plan your ferry departures accordingly.

This coming Saturday marks the 35th year of the Uptown Street Fair, which is set to run from 9am to 4pm at the intersection of Lawrence and Tyler streets. Kids' art projects will be on the grass and sidewalks, while the Port Townsend Arts Guild will showcase artists and craftspeople who will be offering dyed dresses and shirts, porcelain and high-fire pottery, worked and cast sterling jewelry, woven rugs, spun wool, knitted items, hand-sewn bags, restructured furniture, leatherwork, felted items, glass switch plates and beads, wall hangings, watercolors, paintings, handblown glass and more.

And finally, the Jefferson County Fair is this weekend. Jefferson County Public Health has some reminders for County Fair visitors to help prevent the spread of disease: If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home to avoid spreading your illness to other people or animals.

Wash your hands often with soap and running water after touching animals, and/or equipment.

Don't take toys, pacifiers, cups, bottles, strollers, or similar items into the animal areas. Don't eat, drink, or touch, or put anything in your mouth or touch your eyes while in animal areas.

Also note that between now and Sunday, no dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at HYPERLINK "mailto:news@kptz.org"news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker; thank you for listening.

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