This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, November 5, 2026.

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Democrats took control of both the House and the Senate at the federal level in Tuesday's election, and early returns here in Washington indicate that two of the three statewide initiatives were rejected. Both the proposed repeal of the so-called millionaire's tax and the initiative regarding parental rights of public school children were shot down, but the measure prohibiting trans students from competing in girls' sports events passed, 56.74% to 43.26%.

In statewide contests, Emily Randall keeps her District 6 seat while Adam Bernbaum and Kaylee Kuehn will represent Legislative District 24. Jefferson County voters elected Democrat Anji Scalf as District 3 county commissioner and voted in Keith Kisler as commissioner for Jeffco PUD.

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The Port Townsend City Council has selected Related Northwest to develop the Evans Vista neighborhood, a mixed-income community slated to include hundreds of homes. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, plans for the 14-acre property – purchased by the city in 2021 – include gathering spaces, shared gardens, and connections to transit and the nearby Larry Scott trail. About a third of the property is set to remain forested.

Related Northwest's proposal included developing between 295 and 388 homes – both apartments and townhomes. At least 70 percent of those homes would be suitable for families earning below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and would remain affordable for at least 50 years.

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Port Townsend city staff presented the first draft of a balanced budget to City Council this week. In order to reconcile the over 2 million dollar gap in general fund expenses, staff postponed the originally proposed replacement of the city's Mountain View Commons facility, though they will still fund small repairs as needed. Other savings come from cuts to departmental budgets for staff training, conference attendance, overtime, and some updates to city parks and facilities.

The budget does include provisions for hiring an assistant city attorney and several positions related to the Olympic Gravity Water System, and money for a housing funding study, community engagement efforts, and legal costs for impending comprehensive plan litigation. Still at issue is the $320,00 Jefferson County has requested for criminal legal services it provides for the city. The money has not been included in the draft budget, but the county still lists it as revenue in their own equally struggling budget. Negotiations with the county are ongoing.

Council also considered a draft letter to the Department of Ecology raising concerns about the Port Townsend Paper Mill.

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Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) has announced $30,000 in mini-grants awarded to nine local organizations and programs that support youth and young adults throughout Jefferson County. The funding, provided through the Olympic Region's Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, will

support projects and activities that strengthen protective factors, build positive connections, and help prevent or reduce cannabis, nicotine, and other substance use among young people.

By investing in local programs, JCPH aims to expand opportunities for young people to develop meaningful relationships, build skills, and participate in positive activities that support their overall well-being. To read the full press release, visit https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/m/NewsFlash/Home/Detail/1788.

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The Humane Society has paused its search for a permanent executive director and has appointed Jen Walker as its interim executive director for a one-year term. Walker, who recently joined the shelter as an animal trainer, has more than two decades of experience managing animal shelters, conducting humane education and behavior programs, and engaging in public outreach and community services.

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And finally, you may have noticed the clock tower on the Jefferson County Courthouse is glowing green this week; that's because the County Commissioners signed a proclamation for Operation Green Light, which recognizes our nation's veterans, to be celebrated November 4-11, 2026. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let Veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported. To learn more about the county's services for veterans, visit https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/1808.

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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. I'm Diane Walker; thank you for listening and have a great weekend.