

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Port Townsend City Council will discuss its response to the Growth Management Hearing Board's decision when it meets at 6pm this evening. To learn whether the city will attempt to compromise with Affordable Housing Port Townsend or pursue litigation, you can attend the meeting live or join the meeting online – see links below:

- To view the meeting live, visit <https://cityofpt.us/citycouncil/page/agendasminutesvideos>
- To join the meeting online, visit <https://zoom.us/j/98187633367>.
- To submit written comments, visit <https://publiccomment.fillout.com/cityofpt>.

Though the weather has begun to cool and we're starting to see brief scatterings of rain, fire danger continues to be high in Jefferson County and elsewhere in the state. Brinnon firefighters are still assisting with the Sinlahekin Fire near Tonasket, and Quilcene firefighters have replaced Brinnon crew at the Backbone Fire near Packwood.

While a little rain can wet the surface of things, the fuels beneath the surface of grasses, brush, branches and other vegetation will remain dry until we get more sustained rainfall. Local fire officials are meeting regularly to evaluate current conditions, but until a change is announced, please continue to follow the restrictions associated with high fire danger.

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding has received a \$1.3 million gift from the Camila Chandler foundation. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, the school plans to use the gift to pay off debts incurred by recent updates to its campus, enabling the school to focus on its mission and its students, and to invest in their education. The retired debt was accrued from a variety of recent upgrades to the school's Port Hadlock campus, including the addition of solar panels to all buildings and a new building dedicated to the school's Marine Systems program, which includes instruction related to electronics, plumbing, engines and steering, along with a host of other topics. The School offers a full-time, 12-month associate program in Wooden Boatbuilding, a nine-month diploma in marine systems, and several other five-day intensive courses with specific focuses, all of which come in handy given the increasing nationwide need for maritime workers.

The wooden fire tower located at the corner of Jefferson and Tyler Streets in Port Townsend is the last remaining wooden fire bell tower in the United States. Although no longer in service, it is nonetheless functional and still keeps watch over the city. The bell will be rung by East Jefferson Fire Rescue and the Jefferson County Historical Society at noon this coming Friday, September 11, to commemorate not only the loss of firefighters in the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York, and also in memory of all firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Senator Maria Cantwell and Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs have announced new data showing that as a result of new Trump Administration postal service policies, late-postmark rejection rates for mail-in ballots have more than doubled in 19 Washington State counties when compared with the 2024 primaries.

In response to a lawsuit filed by 24 states, Massachusetts federal judge Indira Talwani has placed a freeze on an additional US Postal Service policy just published last month, stating that it would disenfranchise voters who depend on mail voting, rush states into overhauling their election systems in time for the coming election, and is unconstitutional.

The Trump administration has already asked the Supreme Court to overturn her verdict, but in the meantime, it might be wise, when next you vote, to drop completed ballots at the Courthouse or in an official ballot box rather than mailing them in.

And finally, hazardous waste will be collected this coming Saturday, September 12, at Chimacum High School. This is your opportunity to dispose of aerosols, automotive products, household cleaners, gasoline and fuels, mercury thermostats and thermometers, pesticides, herbicides, pool and spa chemicals, marine and road flares, oil paints, stains, and solvents. Please note that antifreeze, motor oil, fluorescent lights, and lithium, button, and rechargeable batteries will not be accepted, and there is a 25-gallon limit on house paint.

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.