This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

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Due to high winds last weekend, WSDOT closed the Hood Canal Bridge and curtailed several runs of the Port Townsend ferry. Two small sailboats tossed anchor and beached near the Pourhouse; some sections of Route 101 were closed in both directions due to fallen trees, and Jefferson PUD had its hands full with outages on Marrowstone and in Gardiner, Discovery Bay, Hidden Trails, Center Road, Four Corners Road, Snow Creek and Payne Roads, all on November 6. Additional outages were added Saturday, including Cape George, Dabob Post Office Road, Egg and I Road, West Valley Road, Adelma Beach Road, and more. Thanks to the PUD line crews, dispatch, and warehouse team, all customers were restored to power by 3am Sunday morning.

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The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that Thurston County Superior Court has denied Port Townsend's request for a stay of the Growth Management Hearings Board's August decision. In a ruling on Friday morning, Judge Anne Egeler called the city's briefing "scant in terms of legal analysis," arguing that Port Townsend had not shown that it was likely to win an appeal of the Growth Board's decision.

Egeler further questioned the city's arguments that a stay was necessary to preserve grant funding and that the board's decision posed a substantial financial burden. To be granted a stay, the city needed to prove that the issues in its appeal were "debatable" and that it could wind up doing work to meet the Growth Board's decision that would later become moot if the city won its appeal.

In Friday's hearing, the city's attorney, Clara Park, argued that due to the Growth Board's decision, Port Townsend's citizens are experiencing "present and concrete harms" including "permitting uncertainties, delayed, or potentially lost housing projects, and the potential to lose substantial grant funding." Egeler agreed that issues presented in the city's appeal were debatable but called the city's argument about grants "questionable."

Interim City Manager Steve King listed grants for which the city could be ineligible due to its noncompliant status with the Growth Management Act. But many of those grants allow for exceptions when the money is necessary to address a public health need or environmental degradation.

Further, Egeler argued that finding the city's appeal "debatable" wasn't a high enough standard to issue a stay. The city argued that it didn't have to meet that standard because the Growth Board's decision was largely "procedural." But Egeler disagreed, citing the board's concerns that the city's comprehensive plan didn't adequately address the housing needs of residents at specific income levels or issues of racial disparities and displacement. Applying that higher standard, Egeler said the city's argument fell short of convincing her that it was likely to win an appeal. That appeal is still pending.

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Construction is now underway on Lawrence Street between Harrison and Walker, with completion anticipated next spring, weather and schedule permitting. You can expect detours and closures of one to two blocks at a time as work progresses, so be sure to watch out for workers and pedestrians as you drive through the affected area.

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Jefferson County Commissioners have budgeted $1.7 million for various services related to affordable housing and homelessness. Recommendations to the commissioners came from the Housing Fund Board, which reviewed a total of 22 proposals requesting more than $3.8 million. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, priority was given to serving people in the most need, preserving existing services, and prioritizing projects that serve populations who don't receive the same services elsewhere. Of the projects that received funding, including OlyCAP's Caswell Brown Village, Habitat for Humanity, the Mason Street Project, and the Recovery Cafe, most were allocated well below their requested amount. Other projects, such as OlyCAP's Dignity Bus Project, a proposed housing project in Discovery Bay, and Victory Villa, couldn't be funded at all.

And finally, tomorrow is Veterans Day. Port Townsend City Hall, Port Townsend Library, the Jefferson County Courthouse, and Jefferson County Public Health will all be closed in observance. There will be a Veteran's Day parade starting at 1pm at the American Legion Hall and proceeding to the park-and-ride.

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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.