

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, November 2, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

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The Cotton Building in downtown Port Townsend is no longer available for public rental through the end of the year. The closure is due to an interior remodel currently underway on the upper floors of City Hall. During this time the Cotton building will be utilized as temporary staff offices for the Planning and Community Development office until the end of construction which is scheduled for January 4. The City of Port Townsend also announced a number of closures for the Planning and Community Development office between November 8 and 9 and January 3 and 4. The Planning and Community Development permit portal will remain open for online submission.

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Another remodel of local history is happening at the Louella Cabin in the northeast portion of Olympic National Forest. With funding from the Great American Outdoors Act, construction has started adjacent to the cabin to establish water and install septic. The cabin was built in 1912 by Forest Service employee E. M. Cheney, who dedicated the structure to his wife, Louella. Today, the site offers guests year-round recreation and relaxation in Olympic National Forest. There will be no work on the exterior or interior of the cabin. Construction is scheduled to last for the next 90 days and may include a fair amount of loud construction noise for those staying at the cabin. Anyone with reservations who would like to cancel due to construction can do so via <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233726>. Refunds will be applied.

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Of course, the government isn't the only entity experiencing closures these days. The Water Street Shuffle has continued this year, already shuttering long-time Water Street staple Mad Hatter and Company, and soon the doors will close on the Secret Gardens Nursery Gift Shop. While Secret Gardens survived the economic turmoil of our tourist town for around two years, Mad Hatter and Company fought the brave fight for well over a decade. Their eclectic collection of quality felt hats, handmade hats, and a variety of handmade jewelry and other fantastical accessories – mostly locally and all ethically made - can still be found online at <https://www.madhatterandcompany.com/>. Secret Gardens is hoping you'll help clear their shelves and find yourself holiday gifts at a discount as they are offering a store-wide sale. You can find them at 821 Water Street. And don't worry, you can still find plenty of plants at their nursery located at 13570 Airport Cutoff Road in Port Townsend.

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While you're downtown getting those close-out deals, you might be curious to know what events are happening in the area and, if you're like me, you'd head over to Better Living Through Coffee to try and bushwack through their wall of flyers. Machetes, however, are no longer necessary to sort through the layers of paper, as their staff dedicated around three hours to decluttering. I had no idea there were actual cork boards behind all that, and now there's even slices of plaster to be seen. And they want to keep it that way. To that end, there is now a freshly laminated list of guidelines for posting, starting with not tacking or taping onto wall or wood. They also now ask that all signage be dated when posted, that only one ad go up per post, and that people place their flyers under appropriate sections which are now clearly delineated without all the chaos.

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And how about a final fact to take you away for the day. The *Washington Post* reports that we've all been wrong about how many arms a starfish has. It's not five. It's zero. Thanks to advances in genetic research, scientists are now coming to the conclusion that starfish are not only not fish, they're just heads. As Thurston Lacalli from the University of Victoria in Canada put it in an accompanying perspective piece in *Nature*, the sea star is like a "disembodied head walking about the sea floor on its lips."

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.