

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, May 31, 2024.

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The City of Port Townsend has reported that a major waterline break at the Mountain View Campus has caused outages, and that building entry will not be permitted until services are restored and safety inspections completed. Sources on NextDoor indicate that a water line in the tunnel between the pool building and the old school that houses the police department broke, inundating the electrical panels and boilers that heat the pool and the school building. Due to the facility issues at Mountain View, Salish Coast Elementary School will be handling the after-school youth enrichment programs normally held at Mountain View until further notice.

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According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, an arrest warrant has been issued for Tommy Dean Gamboa, a Sequim contractor who failed to respond to a court summons for two counts of second-degree theft and one count of a contractor licensing laws violation, according to a news release from the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The probable cause statement asserts that six complainants have filed reports with the state Department of Labor and Industries alleging Gamboa and/or his company contracted jobs and then failed to complete or even start them after receiving payment.

Filed in November 2022, the statement says a Labor and Industries investigator allegedly found that Gamboa and his company, Beach Brothers Fence LLC, were not a registered contractor nor was the business an LLC company as required by state law. Gamboa was charged April 9 in Clallam County Superior Court, and non-compliance infractions have been issued with fines totaling \$29,000.

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The *Port Townsend Leader* reports that traffic along Chimacum Road is being affected as work continues on the Port Hadlock sewer system. Crews closed the southbound lane on Chimacum Road through the project area – from Elkins Road to just south of Ness' Corner Road on May 28. Two-way traffic is being maintained with a lane shift that uses the center turn lane for southbound traffic. Side streets and driveways remain open.

For Jefferson Transit riders, the Chimacum Road southbound bus stop, just south of Blanche Avenue, will also close. The bus should stop in the lane for pickup. Bus riders can visit the Jefferson Transit rider alert web page (<https://jeffersontransit.com/rider-alerts/> > 6B) for the latest updates. As work progresses on Chimacum Road, sewer lines will also be installed on Elkins Road, Lopeman Road, Church Lane, Faith Way, Morrissey Avenue, and Lawn Street.

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In other news, WASHDOT has informed us there will be longer than normal wait times on ferries servicing the Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton routes over the next month, due to routine maintenance of the 144-car Suquamish. The Suquamish is going offline for four weeks and has been replaced by the 124-vehicle Kitsap on the Edmonds/Kingston route, a 20-car reduction in capacity. Meanwhile, the 90-vehicle Sealth has replaced the Kitsap on the Mukilteo/Clinton route, a 34-car reduction. Maintenance is scheduled and necessary and connected to required U.S. Coast Guard inspections and certifications. WSF spokesperson Bryn Hunter apologized for the inconvenience. On May 7, elected officials from seven area counties and eight cities delivered a letter to federal leadership stating that the ferry system was "in crisis". The letter requested funding for federal ferry grant programs at the highest level in 2025.

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And finally, the intersection of State Route 19 and US 104 will be completely closed for 21 days starting next Wednesday, June 5. WashDOT will be rerouting all Beaver Meadow traffic to Center Road. The good news is, if you do get to the Hood Canal Bridge, those projected nighttime closures have been canceled until Monday, June 10.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening and have a great weekend.