

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Yesterday was a national holiday, Presidents Day, when a series of demonstrations occurred across the country, protesting the actions of President Trump and his minions, alleging that their actions over the past month are unconstitutional. There were perhaps thousands of these gatherings large and small around the country, designated as "Not My President's Day." In Port Townsend about 800 people filled the county courthouse steps, waving signs, chanting and drumming. There were no speeches, only people supporting each other in a common cause.

I chatted with several crowd members during the one-hour event, asking why they attended. Among the answers: We are not seeing brave leadership today because leaders feel threatened and don't want to stick their necks out, so it's the public's responsibility to make their voices heard. With this dearth of leadership, change will occur from the bottom up rather than the top down. People should move in the same direction loud enough and long enough in order to push the current administration out of power. And they don't want their grandchildren to think that they did nothing in the face of constitutional adversity.

Attendees skewed older, like the local demographic, with many of them having protested against the Vietnam War 50 years ago. Those protests moved the needle, but whether history will repeat itself is uncertain. There is the notion that Donald Trump isn't as good a listener as Richard Nixon.

During the Public Development Authority's ten-year supervision of Fort Worden State Park, the park was divided into two parts: The hiking and camping segment which required a Discover Pass, and the campus section where a pass was not required. This will change March 1, when State Parks will start requiring all day-use visitors to display a Discover Pass in their vehicle when parking anywhere within Fort Worden. This is a direct result of the parks department assuming responsibility for the entire Fort Worden facility, bringing it into alignment with the rest of the 124 state parks in Washington.

Daily use and Annual Discover Passes will be available at the Fort Worden State Park office, as well as at a new self-pay station which will be located on the main road into the park. The cost is \$30 per year, with a \$10 day-use fee. The fee increases to \$35 per year for those purchasing online or through the Department of Motor Vehicles. These fees could increase, so it makes sense to get them while you can. Up until now, locals learned to park in the campus portion and walking to the trails or the beach in order to dodge the fee. More to the point, visitors and employees to the various partners – among them Centrum, the Port Townsend School for the Arts, Madrona Mind Body, and of course KPTZ – were spared the requirement of purchasing a Discover Pass, although many of us did so anyway.

This is just the first manifestation of Parks assuming PDA's former responsibilities, which may include hospitality services in the future. Fort Worden will then resemble how it before the PDA took over park management.

The City of Port Townsend is administering a sewer testing project in the uptown neighborhood from today until Friday, with a long-term goal of reducing strain on the sanitary sewer system. As part of the early stages of the project, the city will need to conduct an inspection and assessment of the sewer system which will include

camera inspections and smoke and dye in order to find breaks and defects in the sewer system. Because the plumbing appliances in your house or place of work are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter your home or place of business. You may see or smell smoke exiting from sewer access points, roof vents, manholes, or gutters. This is normal and nothing nefarious.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.