

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant bringing you satirical commentary for Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Telling April Fools' jokes was once a national water cooler pastime, but things have changed. These days people are finding fewer things to laugh about and certain topics are triggering. Additionally, real life is so absurd that it's hard to tell when people are joking. Like when a fake Donald Trump posted last week that he was going to annex Alaska. It wasn't real, but reflected the reality in which we are living.

In that spirit, we provide a few fake news items for your listening pleasure. After several months of tossing once-recycled glass into the landfill, the Jefferson County Department of Public Works announced that it has purchased a high-end glass grinder to deal with empty bottles. The ground glass will be distributed along local beaches. While there can be no accurate cost/benefit impact statement, proponents of the program said that it will increase tourist traffic, which itself benefits the local economy.

Port Townsend City Council Member Stan Tall came up with a solution to Port Townsend's parking problem: building a multi-level parking structure and high-end shopping center on what is now Kah Tai Lagoon. Free shuttles will run to and from downtown. Again, costs will be offset by increased tourist traffic. After making the proposal we learned that Tall's kids changed his bedtime music from Rush and Metallica to Joni Mitchell, and he took the idea to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot" a little too literally.

Here's some more fake news:

- Deer are a protected species in Port Townsend, but that might not always be the case. The Department of Emergency Management is seeking their reclassification, allowing the harvesting of deer should there be a tsunami or earthquake that interrupts food delivery to our local grocery stores. "It's amazing that we have this source of protein in our midst that could keep us from starving," said Emergency Management Director Frank Notion, who asked to not be identified.
- Many people drive to Sequim or Silverdale to shop, purchasing items for less than what is available locally. This may come to an end, as Jefferson County will impose a 25% tariff on all goods purchased in other counties that are brought here. There won't be any county border crossing facilities, rather it will be collected at the point of sale in Kitsap and Clallam Counties – this to prevent people yelling at our local retailers.
- After hearing this news, WalMart announced plans to build a superstore in Port Hadlock, which will stretch the limits of its new sewer system. Reacting to that, the Aquatic Committee said that it will move its proposed facility to Forks. Said spokesperson Freddy Swims, "We wanted to find a balance, and our new location is equally inconvenient for everybody."
- There is a move to rename Jefferson County, as Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner. Many names have been tossed about, with a preference to not completely change the name. As a poke in the eye, a cadre of Trump supporters favor designating Confederacy President Jefferson Davis, whose support for slavery can't be overstated. An opposite number of citizens take a similarly lazy approach, favoring our rechristening to "Jefferson Airplane County."
- After an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the Kearny Street Roundabout, the Washington Department of Transportation announced it will take a more creative strategy for future projects. Said engineer Sandy Rhoades "our plan is to move away from nonlinear geometry and explore shapes with sharp angles, like the rhombus or the heptagon. We may even create a 3-dimensional intersection consisting of 12 regular pentagons and 20 regular hexagons stacked around each other to resemble a spheroid. Port Townsend residents overwhelmingly support the idea, as long as it's in Port Hadlock. Across from the new WalMart.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you actual, factual news at noon and 5pm Tuesday through Thursday. To contact us, send a note to news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant, thanking you for listening to our April Fools musings.