

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, April 3, 2025.

The Port Townsend Farmers Market will officially open for its 33rd season this Saturday, starting at 8:45 with a group photo, an opening ceremony, and a ribbon cutting. At 9:05, the traditional dressed-up goats will parade through the market, then spend time on the community center lawn engaging with visitors. The goats will be followed by musicians Kristin and Otto Smith, who will join the opening ceremony crowd and walk through the market playing music. The market, which is welcoming nearly 70 returning vendors and 10 new businesses, will run from 9am to 2pm.

...and just a reminder: Saturday is also the national day of protest against Trump's policies. The Jefferson County Democrats and Port Townsend Indivisible are planning a peaceful sign-waving event from 1 to 2 pm on Sims Way across from the Kai Tai Lagoon.

At the March 26 meeting of the Jefferson Healthcare Hospital Commission, Commissioner Matt Ready announced that Jefferson Healthcare is negotiating with Olympic Medical Center (OMC) to develop a Peninsula Health Alliance, but a Jefferson Healthcare official has assured the Port Townsend *Leader* that the purpose of the alliance would be to streamline and reduce costs; that the two hospitals would remain independent, and that there was no guarantee that Olympic Health would move forward with the proposal, as OMC is exploring strategic partnerships with a variety of other interested parties.

On Monday of this week the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office received a report from a Brinnon man about a burglary in process at his residence. Deputies responded but the caller refused to come out or speak on the phone and claimed to be armed with a handgun. Hearing no one else within the residence at the time, deputies vacated the scene, but about 15 minutes later, the sheriff's office received a report of a man breaking into the Brinnon Fire Department.

Deputies arrived and found the same man had entered the building through a broken window and was breaking out bay windows of the facility from within. Deputies gained entry and successfully took him into custody without incident. The man was medically cleared at Jefferson Healthcare and booked for Malicious Mischief first degree and Residential Burglary, as the station was manned with employees on duty at the time.

The Washington State *Standard* reports that Washington was among 23 states that sued the Trump administration Tuesday over the cancellation of \$12 billion in federal funding to address infectious diseases, substance abuse, and mental illness, including about \$160 million for Washington. The lawsuit comes on the heels of the abrupt termination last week of grants related to disease tracking, vaccination efforts, and other work that officials said could cost thousands of jobs in public health departments nationwide.

Also on Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began its purge of 10,000 federal workers. The department's regional office in Seattle will be shuttered as part of a broader downsizing effort, according to a member of Washington's congressional delegation.

In related news, Washington Senator Maria Cantwell has announced her objections to President Trump's new tariff announcements, pointing out that two out of every five jobs in Washington State are tied to trade and trade-related industries, especially agriculture, manufacturing, and tech. Adding that auto tariffs could increase car prices by up to \$15,000, Cantwell noted that the tariffs could also impact ports that import automobiles, such as the Port of Vancouver WA, which is the largest gateway for Subaru imports in the country. In 2023, 98,000 Subarus came through the Port of Vancouver.

And one last local reminder for those who travel to Kitsap and beyond: starting next Monday, April 7 from 9 to 4:30, Monday through Friday for the next two weeks, the Hood Canal Bridge will be undergoing inspections. The inspections will require multiple intermittent drawspan closures for between 15 minutes to an hour each time. The closures will occur at unscheduled times throughout the day, but every effort will be made to keep closures as short as possible.

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.