

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM on your dial in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

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The Jefferson County Humane Society has enjoyed an exciting year of positive change, according to a dispatch from Pam Kolacy, the president of its board of directors. Its appearance has changed, with a new façade and portico replacing the crumbling front wall of the shelter with new windows that can be opened. Now kitty residents and volunteers who spend time with them feeding, watering, cleaning litter boxes, and sitting on the floor to hold them, can all breathe fresh air.

While that helps visitors, the comfort of the animals has also seen an upgrade. Raised beds were added to all indoor dog kennels to keep the dogs off concrete floors for both warmth and sanitation. Enrichment in the form of toys, walks, and human interaction keep animals who must be in kennels cope with confinement until they are adopted. The average time animals are at the shelter is 28 days or longer.

These upgrades enhance the current shelter, but there is some long-range promise. The Humane Society received a gift of nearly five acres of land midway between Port Townsend and Chimacum earmarked for the construction of a new shelter. The land was donated by local veterinarians Dr. Ginny Johnson and Dr. Joyce Murphy. The Board is working with architect Richard Berg and working through the County approval and permitting process. Like many nonprofits, the Humane Society relies on public support. For more information go to <https://hsjcwa.org/>.

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The Hands Off demonstration on April 5, part of a worldwide protest against President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, drew an estimated 1,700 people, representing the largest local protest gathering in recent years. While this seems impressive to some people, protest organizers are calling on the public to do it again on a larger scale.

According to a post from a national advocate, they need every warm body to show up at the next demonstration, occurring from 1 to 2pm this Saturday, April 19, along Sims Way between Safeway and the Kearny Street roundabout. Organizers say the April 5 turnout was great, but when you consider the population of the United States, it was a drop in the bucket. They need ten times more people to show up on Saturday. Locally, 1,700 people represents 5% of Jefferson County's population, or 7% of all votes cast in November. 17,000 people in Jefferson County voted for Kamala Harris. For future demonstrations, organizers are looking to tap into that group. KPTZ will report any demonstrations by the Republican Party. Contact [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org).

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The City of Port Townsend began the Tyler Street Overlay Project yesterday, meant to repair the pavement on Tyler Street between Lawrence Street and Jefferson Street. This upgrade includes the installation of a new sidewalk and wheelchair ramps along the corridor, removing barriers to access businesses, the Community Center, and the Farmers Market in Uptown, according to a press release. The area was initially slated to be repaved in 2024 alongside the now complete project along Lawrence Street. When the project did not receive any bids, the two projects were separated. Similar to Lawrence Street, the pavement on Tyler Street is rapidly deteriorating and this is an opportunity to prevent complete pavement failure, which is more costly to repair at a later time.

The project will implement back-in angled parking, as that system is much safer for bikes and pedestrians. It is scheduled for completion in mid-May. The streets will not be closed, apart from a few paving days, but flaggers may be present. The Farmers Market, which uses this stretch of Tyler Street on Saturdays, will not need to relocate because the work will be done during the week and prior to the opening of the Wednesday market this summer. The project is partially funded by the voter approved Transportation Benefit District.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Charlie Bermant. Thanks for listening.