

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, May 22, 2025.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is investigating a series of several suspicious fires that have occurred in wooded areas along Cape George Road between Pocket Lane and Dennis Boulevard, according to a press release from the Sheriff's office. In an interview with the *Peninsula Daily News*, Patrol Sgt. Brett Anglin said evidence strongly indicates that the fires, which have all occurred since March, were caused by humans. Though the fires have been relatively easy to extinguish to date, Anglin expressed concern that they could become increasingly difficult to manage as the weather becomes dryer.

The fire danger level in the county is currently low, but Fire Marshal Phil Cecere recently announced that the level will be increased to moderate on June 1, a month ahead of schedule, in anticipation of a notably dry season. Sheriff's deputies are increasing patrols in the area and the office is requesting public assistance from those who may have information regarding the identities of those responsible for the fires. Anyone with information may contact Detective Sgt. Derek Allen at dallen@co.jefferson.wa.us, and any suspicious activity should be immediately reported to JeffCom 911 at 360-344-9779.

Residents in Clallam and Jefferson counties can now exchange free hours of skilled labor with each other, thanks to a local time bank created by four Jefferson County residents. A time bank works when a person gives one hour of whatever skill they have. In return, they receive a one-hour credit they can use to acquire someone else's talents, completely free.

The idea for the Olympic Peninsula Time Bank (OPTB) originated with Mark Harris, who first heard of the concept 25 years ago while living in rural California. At that time, the time bank consisted of a file box of 3x5 cards. When Harris moved to Port Townsend about a year ago, he said he "saw how community-minded people were [and thought] this would be a really good place for a time bank." He posted the idea on NextDoor asking for help, and three people jumped on board. Each brought skills to the table that helped to launch the time bank.

A time bank works when a person gives one hour of whatever skill they have, and in return, they receive a one-hour credit they can use to acquire someone else's talents. "An hour is equal to an hour is equal to an hour, so everyone's time is equally valuable," said Cindy Jayne, who provided advice during the creation of the time bank. Once they have been approved, members are automatically granted two "time credits" that can be turned in for an hour of another member's skills. Tradeable skills include almost anything imaginable: gardening, running errands, cooking meals, teaching a new skill, fixing bikes, legal advice, babysitting and more. One of the hopes is that the time bank will help connect neighbors and build relationships that move beyond political ideologies, religion, race or other differences.

Since it launched April 19, the Olympic Peninsula Time Bank has gained 37 members who had exchanged 10 hours of skills as of last week, according to the *Peninsula Daily News*. To join the time bank, interested individuals can visit the Olympic Peninsula Timebank (OPT) website, <https://sites.google.com/view/olympicpeninsulatimebank>.

WSDOT is predicting a busy time for the ferries this coming Memorial Day weekend, which traditionally marks the unofficial start of the busy summer season. They're estimating that more than 300,000 riders will hit the

boats from today through Monday. Though they're adding service to three of their most traveled routes, if you plan to travel by ferry, prepare for long lines and extended wait times, with the busiest sailings likely to be westbound (or onto an island) Thursday through Saturday, and eastbound (or off island) Saturday through Monday.

Just a note: Port Townsend City Hall and the Port Townsend Library will be closed this coming Monday for Memorial Day.

And finally, the Jefferson County PUD wishes to advise travelers that beginning this coming Tuesday and continuing through June, PUD contract crews will begin trenching along Van Trojan Road near Chimacum in order to move distribution lines underground. Crews will be working on or near the roadway, so please drive with caution!

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 and a safe and pleasant Memorial Day weekend.