

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Over 17,500 customers lost power in Tuesday afternoon's electrical outage. According to the Jefferson County PUD, the outage began around 12:30, and PUD substation and line crews began patrolling transmission corridors shortly thereafter. In addition to working to isolate the cause, they initiated switching operations to re-energize affected customers, enabling all customers to be restored to power by 2:50pm.

The cause of the outage was eventually tracked to some brush clearing work in the transmission corridor near the Jefferson County Airport: apparently workers in the area accidentally severed three of the anchoring – or downguy – cables, which are used to support the utility poles, and the cables recoiled into the transmission lines above, causing the fault. The PUD has not determined who is responsible for the brush clearing at this time, but line crews are currently working to repair the damage.

Four people were transported to hospitals this past Sunday after a motorcycle crashed into a pickup on state Highway 19 near West Valley Road. The motorcycle driver, who was carrying a passenger, attempted to round a curve to the left, but ended up crossing the center line and struck a Ford Maverick traveling northbound on Highway 19. Though wearing helmets, both the motorcyclist and his passenger were flown to Harborview. The driver and passenger of the Ford Maverick were uninjured but were taken to Jefferson Healthcare. No drugs or alcohol were involved in the accident.

On Monday of this week, around 9am, Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies located a male escapee from the Department of Corrections near Mill Road in Port Townsend. Deputies discovered the suspect's vehicle concealed in the woods and called for reinforcements, but before backup could arrive, the suspect, who was also wanted for two separate theft and burglary cases in Jefferson County, spotted the patrol car and fled on foot toward Caswell Brown Village, then proceeded to climb approximately 80 feet up a cedar tree to evade capture.

After nearly eight hours of negotiation with the suspect, who repeatedly threatened suicide and refused to come down, Jeffco Sheriff's Deputy Moore and Port Townsend Police Officer Fudally successfully persuaded him to descend safely. The suspect was evaluated by medics on scene and transported to Jefferson. Agencies assisting in the arrest included the Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Sequim police departments, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Patrol, East Jefferson Fire Rescue, and Believe in Recovery.

The City of Port Townsend has sent out a press release announcing that the lawsuit filed by Julie Jaman against the City of Port Townsend, the Olympic Peninsula YMCA, and a number of additional individuals pertaining to events that occurred in 2022 at Port Townsend's Mountain View Pool has been settled. All parties have agreed to settle all claims with no admission of liability by any of the parties. Jaman will receive \$65,000, paid for fully by the Olympic Peninsula YMCA's (OPYMCA) insurance companies, but she remains banned from all facilities owned or operated by the OPYMCA, and has agreed not to knowingly seek any further membership or entry at any facility owned or operated by the OPYMCA. Additionally, both Jaman and the defendants have

agreed not to harass any member of the public, including members of the public, or to make statements to them that they know to be false.

And finally, though still for sale, Port Townsend's Uptown Theatre is now showing movies again. Designated as a Secondary Historic Structure within the National Historic Landmark District, the Uptown Theatre was built in 1897 and established as a theater in 1947, and was owned and operated by three generations of the Wiley family for over 50 years before being listed for sale in July of 2024. The Wileys also operate the Wheel-in Motor Movie Drive-In, which is not for sale. Rick Wiley, who has managed both theaters for several years, did not return a call for comment about the decision to re-open.

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.