

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, June 5, 2025.

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Four local heritage and historic preservation initiatives have been awarded grants totaling \$1.9 million by the state historical society's Heritage Capital Project Fund.

- The Port of Port Townsend will receive \$1 million to continue rehabilitating the historic Point Hudson campus and re-roofing nine port buildings, part of the Port's multi-phase plan to restore and rehabilitate Point Hudson. The plan, which started with the new breakwater, includes significant work on the historic buildings and also includes in-ground infrastructure and roadways.
- The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding will receive \$498,000, which will be used to rehab seven historical cottages used for student housing and to improve the rest of the Port Hadlock campus with signage, paths, and lighting.
- The Jefferson County Historical Society will receive \$269,000 to continue its efforts in reimagining the Jefferson Museum of Art and History in Port Townsend's city hall building by investing in the production, fabrication, and installation of new exhibit infrastructure, including display cases, reader rails, and audiovisual components.
- Stewards of the Schooner *Martha*, a 1907 sailing vessel, will receive \$142,000 to rebuild the boat's cabin and house top in order to ensure the schooner will be able to continue sailing. The *Martha's* restoration efforts will take place in Port Townsend's Boat Haven.

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Yesterday morning U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell joined meteorologists from across the country, calling on the Trump Administration, as the United States heads into peak hurricane and wildfire season, to restore the National Weather Service (NWS) agency to full capacity following recent and devastating cuts to agency staffing. Over the past several months, the NWS has lost over 560 employees due to layoffs and retirements spurred by the Trump Administration. Although the agency announced yesterday that they would re-hire 126 personnel, Senator Cantwell referred to that as a "flimsy bandaid."

The decision to leave critical jobs unfilled comes as the National Interagency Fire Center, a partnership which includes NWS, released its Fire Maps ([https://www.nifc.gov/nicc-files/predictive/outlooks/monthly\\_seasonal\\_outlook.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc-files/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf)) for the next four months, predicting above-normal significant fire potential across the West, in Hawaii, on the coasts of North and South Carolina, and in parts of Texas and Florida. In addition, the National Weather Service predicts an above-normal hurricane season (<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-above-normal-2025-atlantic-hurricane-season>), which began June 1.

"For at least a half a century, the National Weather Service has provided forecasts for 24 hours a day, seven days a week – until now," Senator Cantwell said. "At least eight weather forecasting offices no longer have a meteorologist to cover overnight shifts. The Department of Commerce needs to be clear to the American people that the staffing shortages will impact our ability to compute that science [and] get those wildfire crews and emergency response teams where they need to go." Last year, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information, there were 27 weather disaster events that cost over \$1 billion each and resulted in 568 deaths.

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On a more festive note, this Saturday offers two gala events here in Port Townsend. From noon to 4, the Point Wilson Lighthouse and the United States Lighthouse Society will be throwing a celebration in honor of the restoration and relighting of the original 1894 Fresnel lens. There will be live music, food and drinks available for purchase, raffles and games for all ages, guided tours of the lighthouse, and educational displays sharing the history of maritime navigation and lighthouse technology.

And from 11 to 4, the annual Port Townsend Pride Festival will be held at the Pope Marine Park. More than 50 vendors will be on site for the event, which also features live performances, a kids zone, yoga, and a one-of-a-kind boat parade. Last year's pride festival attracted over 2000 attendees, so you may wish to plan your downtown visits and parking on Saturday accordingly.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.