

This is KPTZ 91.9 on your FM dial in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Port Townsend's Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization, better known as ECHHO, has moved from its long-standing uptown location to a new facility near the water. The new location, at 2326 Washington Street, across the street from the Pourhouse and Pan D'Amore Bakery, will be more accessible to customers than the previous location at the Presbyterian Church, according to a spokesperson. The church location that housed ECCHO for 20 years had a large, steep access ramp that was difficult to navigate. The new facility is at ground level and has double the floor space as the old location.

ECHHO is essentially a lending library for medical equipment. Its mission is to supply local patients with items needed for a short-term treatment. Such equipment can be expensive, so this free alternative can ease the financial burden of being sick. Those who purchase equipment such as a walker or a bath seat and recover from their illness have the option to donate items so they don't end up in the landfill. The goal is to get the donated items back into the community as fast as possible. Other desired items are lift chairs and transfer benches.

ECHHO is moderately picky about donations: all equipment must be clean and in good to excellent condition. The organization is now recruiting volunteer drivers, to pick up and deliver medical equipment. For more information go to <https://www.echhojc.org/> or call 360-379-3246.

In concert with a nationwide network of demonstrations, the Jefferson County Democrats are participating in No Kings Day, a counter protest to President Donald Trump's 45 million dollar military parade intended to celebrate the army's 250th anniversary and Trump's own 79th birthday. Organizers feel the money for the parade would be better spent on Medicaid support and feeding children and families.

The demonstration takes place from 1 pm to 3 pm this Saturday, June 14 on Sims Way between Safeway and the Kearny Street roundabout. It begins with sign waving, followed by a 2pm rally with chants and speakers in Kah Tai Lagoon Park.

Here at KPTZ we realize that our news coverage may favor the Democratic Party. With this in mind, we encourage anyone with an alternate message to contact the station.

All three candidates for the Port Townsend City Council's Position 1 seat feel that local government will be affected by today's volatile national politics. Fred Obee, Mikki Porter, and Dylan Quarles are all running to succeed Ben Thomas, who declined to seek a second term. Quarles has said that the national political situation directly contributed to his decision to run because he saw a need to contribute where he could. There's not a lot he can do about national politics, but getting involved locally gives him a chance to strengthen policies that may be under assault.

Porter characterized the national political situation, as "terrifying," with all the infighting between political factions. He said that younger people need to step up and realize that they can't just sit in the back and watch

from the sidelines; they need to get out there and make a change. “We need to have our voice heard and be out there protesting, running for office, going out, talking, and getting other people involved,” he said.

Obee said that potential cuts in Federal and State money will have the biggest initial impact. We’re not going to have the kinds of funds that we have had in the past, like the large grant that funded the Discovery Road rehabilitation that opened last year. He said hard part of local governance is choosing and prioritizing and deciding what gets to the top of the list and what your governing priorities are and how much bubbles up from the people and how much is top down from the Feds and the State.

The three candidates appeared on KPTZ’s *Attention Please!* broadcast yesterday. To listen to the entire interview go to <https://kptz.org/2025/06/09/city-council-candidates/>. The top two vote getters in the August 5 Primary will advance to the November 4 Election.

KPTZ brings you local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. To contact us, write news@kptz.org. This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.