

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

The Jefferson County Fire Marshal, the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs, and the Brinnon Fire Department have officially declared a HIGH FIRE HAZARD starting tomorrow for all of unincorporated Jefferson County due to dangerous atmospheric and field conditions. In order to protect lives and property and to preserve resources for our firefighters and emergency responders, the following restrictions are now in place:

- Absolutely NO fireworks: This includes discharge, sale, storage, and transport.
- All recreational burning is banned: No charcoal or wood BBQs in parks, on beaches, or in campgrounds.
- Charcoal briquette use is allowed only in commercially made, listed, and labeled BBQ devices at a residence.
- Target shooting outside of gun ranges is prohibited as is the use of exploding targets or incendiary ammunition, and no discharge of firearms on undeveloped lands of Jefferson County is allowed.

These restrictions will remain in effect until conditions improve significantly and the fire risk subsides. In the meantime, stay fire smart and report any signs of fire or unsafe activity immediately.

Northwest Maritime (NWM) has entered into an agreement with the City of Port Townsend to serve as a welcome center for curious travelers and local enthusiasts. As part of the City's collaborative hub and spoke model for visitor information services, the Welcome Center will serve as Port Townsend's go-to destination for learning about the rich maritime heritage, arts and culture that define our area, and how to get involved in activities and programs across the region.

The hub and spoke model also includes the Port Townsend Main Street Program's seasonal mobile greeter and the Highway 20 event readerboard operated by Key City Public Theatre. These three non-profit partners come together with the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and City staff support to provide different types of information services to visitors, residents, and business operators across the city.

The Northwest Maritime Welcome Center, located at 431 Water Street, near the S'Klallam Welcome Pole is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm and offers public restrooms as part of its broader campus facilities. Welcome Center staff and volunteers will serve visitors and residents over the phone, via email, and in-person.

In-person visitors can learn from the Welcome Center's maritime exhibits, pick up printed resources like maps and local business brochures, ask questions about what is happening around town now or at a future travel date, and shop for gear and other goods.

The Port Townsend Main Street Program will help serve visitors May through September using an innovative mobile greeter program that started in 2024 utilizing a bike cart and friendly staff to answer questions. Visitors can also find information online at enjoyPT.com and learn about local events on the readerboard coming into and leaving town along Highway 20. Organizations are able to reserve space on the readerboard year-round at \jeffcopromo.org.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed this week to be Amateur Radio Week, with Amateur Radio Field Days to be held this coming Saturday and Sunday. Jefferson County has more than 650 licensed Amateur Radio Operators, many of whom help to provide emergency radio communications free of

charge to the County. Amateur Radio Operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and will be practicing their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League, Inc.' s Field Days exercises this weekend.

And finally, just a reminder: Elevated levels of the potent nerve toxin anatoxin-a are still being detected in water samples taken from Anderson Lake. The toxin level at the lake, which has been closed every year since 2007, is more than 1,000 times higher than the Washington State recreational criteria. Exposure to anatoxin-a can result in illness and death in people and animals when ingested, even in tiny amounts. All water-based recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming are prohibited until the bloom dissipates and the toxin levels decline.

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.