

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, June 26, 2025.

This coming Saturday will be Jefferson County Preparedness Day. From 9am to 4pm at Finnriver Farm and Cidery in Chimacum, individuals, families and businesses will learn practical emergency preparedness skills, meet and engage with emergency response teams, discover resources to help plan for a variety of disaster scenarios, and have fun while taking steps toward readiness. The day will begin at 9am with coffee and pastries. From 9:30 to 11:30 there will be workshops on emergency readiness, neighborhood preparedness, wildfire preparedness, heat and smoke safety, as well as earthquake safety and gardening for resilience. Also during the morning, Jefferson County Public Health will host a quieter, less-crowded welcoming space for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, offering an opportunity for in-depth conversations with service providers and to pick up a specialized emergency go-bag.

Starting at noon there will be over 30 community booths, including an obstacle course, a bounce zone, and other family fun. At 1pm, Jefferson Healthcare will offer free strawberry shortcake, and starting at 3 there will be resilience games, including tug-of-war, a bucket brigade, and sack races for all ages. It is hoped that the events of the day will inspire Jefferson County residents to prepare themselves for survival in situations where access to food, water, and medical attention is unavailable outside of their immediate neighborhoods.

Yesterday marked the grand re-opening celebration of the newly expanded JUMP! Playground at H J Carroll Park. JUMP – which stands for Jefferson Universal Movement Playground – was organized in 2017 by a group of pediatric occupational and physical therapists, parents of children with special needs, and other interested community members in hopes of creating a safe and fun playground which would provide a variety of experiences that children of differing ages and abilities would be able to play on, as well as accessible surfacing to allow parents, friends, grandparents or other caregivers who use assistive mobility devices a place to roll up or safely walk to and sit on a bench to watch their children play. Nine years later, at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000, the playground is now open from dawn to dusk for children and adults of all ages and abilities, thanks to funding from the Mike Beery Memorial Childrens Fund, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (<https://www.ddc.wa.gov/>), the Dan Thompson Memorial grant, and donations from community members.

According to the Washington State *Standard*, a Republican proposal in the U.S. Senate that would have required the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to sell off 5.4 million acres in Washington hit a roadblock this week when the nonpartisan Senate parliamentarian said the proposal did not comply with congressional rules.

Republican Senator Mike Lee of Utah, who spearheaded the land sale provisions, has since proposed removing all Forest Service land from the proposal and limiting the amount of Bureau of Land Management acreage to parcels within five miles of population centers. This would dramatically reduce how much land could be affected. Of the 5.4 million acres covered in the original proposal, only 344,252 acres are Bureau of Land Management parcels, and limiting the sale to land within five miles of a population center would additionally reduce that amount of acreage.

But even if Lee revises his proposal as described, Washington Senator Maria Cantwell has expressed concerns that recreation sites in the Columbia River Gorge and the Methow River Valley, and sagebrush hunting grounds in the Columbia Basin could be included.

And finally, the Washington State Department of Health has closed Discovery Bay beaches for recreational shellfish harvest for all shellfish species, because recent shellfish samples taken from Discovery Bay contained elevated levels of the marine biotoxin that causes Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning. Danger signs have been posted at public access points warning people not to consume shellfish from this area.

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.