

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, July 3, 2025.

Early on Tuesday morning this week the Port Townsend-based sailing team Puget Sound Navigation Company sailed to victory in the WA360 boat race, breaking the previous course record by half a day. Sailing on *Incognito*, a Gougeon 32 catamaran, Molly and Michael Karas and Anthony Boscolo set the new bar with a time of 2 days, 18 hours, and 24 minutes. The previous record was 3 days, 6 hours, and 59 minutes.

This year, 84 teams composed of about 240 people started the race at 11am this past Saturday. Crews range from one to six people per boat, and participants are given two weeks to finish the 360-mile circuit of Puget Sound. Vessels cannot use engines in the race, and there's no food or equipment drops.

Jefferson County Public Works has announced that glass collection will resume on July 15, but only at the two drop-off locations that are staffed: the County transfer station off Jacob Miller Road and the Quilcene Rural Drop Box just south of the US Forest Service Ranger Station on Highway 101. These locations were chosen to reduce the recycling costs, as unstaffed sites are subject to contamination and illegal dumping.

According to Al Cairns, Solid Waste Manager, glass is the most expensive material to recycle because of the high transportation costs due to material weight, and because the commodity value is low. At an average value of \$15 per ton, recycled glass doesn't even cover the transportation costs to get it to the buyer in Seattle, and when the loads are highly contaminated the value drops even more.

For the first time since the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020, the Tri-Area Food Bank in Port Hadlock is now open for walk-ins. The new walk-in format will permit patrons to shop as if in a grocery store. Plans are also underway to expand accessibility to all area food banks through pre-order and pickup services, as the Jefferson County Food Bank Association is increasing its warehousing capacity and taking over distribution from OlyCAP.

The City of Port Townsend has announced that starting this week, all permits will be submitted and reviewed in their new online portal. The city has also launched a series of videos to help people learn about the new system. The change is thanks to the Washington State Department of Commerce, which awarded the City a Paper to Digital grant, which makes the permit review process more efficient, accessible, and user-friendly for the community. Video subjects include:

- Step-by-step instructions for how to submit a permit.
- How to avoid resubmittals that put you to the end of the line.
- How to use our zoning maps to analyze your property.
- Why inspections are necessary, and more!

To view the videos, visit this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2q8hENYaxI&list=PLDawYqbVfnLT1_R_FyPAvYFUhM1L7ddJv.

From July 4 through the weekend, Jefferson County Sheriff's Officers will be participating in Operation Dry Water, a national campaign to educate recreational boaters about the danger of boating under the influence. Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol is illegal everywhere, and alcohol remains the leading contributing factor in recreational boating deaths. As part of Operation Dry Water, officers will be on heightened alert to find impaired boaters and remove them from the water. So if you're planning to go boating this weekend, make sure you have a designated boat operator who remains sober for your time on the water.

And finally, though tomorrow is Independence Day, there will be no fireworks in Jefferson County, due to the high fire danger level. Fires are already happening in Eastern Washington: the Siegel Fire in Spokane County is estimated at 200 acres with level 3 evacuations in effect and the Apple Acres Fire near the city of Chelan is estimated at 2,000 acres with level 2 evacuations in effect.

Just a reminder: our local fire restriction extends to all forms of fireworks, including but not limited to pyrotechnic displays, firecrackers, and even handheld sparklers, and it applies to ALL public and private spaces within Jefferson County. That includes not only parks, recreational areas, and campgrounds, but also residential properties.

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, and have a safe and happy Independence Day weekend.