

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, July 31, 2025.

The Jefferson County Library District Bookmobile is off the road and out of service following a crash last Thursday that scattered books over the roadway and left the vehicle a total loss. According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, the driver fell asleep and went off the roadway while traveling down Center Road. No other vehicles were involved and the van's occupants were uninjured.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, the majority of the materials from the vehicle have been retrieved and are now being sorted out. Fortunately, the library does possess another vehicle, so interlibrary holds can still be delivered, but that second vehicle cannot be boarded by patrons, so Library District Director Annie Scott is currently reaching out to other libraries to see if there may be a vehicle available that could function as a temporary walk-on Bookmobile. In the meantime the library will be exploring options for vehicle replacement.

City staff estimate Port Townsend currently has 126 people living without housing. With federal funding faltering and a development proposal that may not be possible without massive subsidies, it remains unclear when and if those living in tents will soon have a roof over their heads. This week's issues of the *Leader* reports that the proposed development of affordable housing options at Caswell Brown may now be at risk due to recent changes in federal funding. Steve King, the city's public works director, told reporters that when city staff met with OlyCAP last week to learn about changes to the Caswell Brown project, they learned OlyCAP had changed the project to eliminate permanent supportive housing. That change may make Caswell Brown ineligible for the grant it needs for completion. King said city staff plan to meet with Department of Commerce staff next week to discuss whether the grant might still be available for the revised OlyCAP project.

But there's still hope for the tent-dwellers currently camped on the outskirts of the Evans Vista parcel; that project is still moving forward. City staff are preparing now for the design and construction of the Mill Road lift station, a crucial component of the sewer infrastructure required to support the Evans Vista Neighborhood development. The first phase of the Evans Vista Community Project will comprise an overall count of 150 mixed housing units, including walk-ups, townhomes and apartments.

The Washington State *Standard* reports that Federal immigration arrests across Washington rose sharply in June as the Trump administration continues its aggressive nationwide push for deportations. According to new data, arrests in June – more than 275 – were at least double any month since President Trump reclaimed the presidency in January. At the same time, the share of arrestees in Washington state with criminal records dropped sharply, to less than one-third.

Congresswoman Emily Randall will be conducting a congressional oversight visit tomorrow afternoon, August 1, to the Northwest Detention Center on J Street in Tacoma to assess facility conditions, detention practices, and speak with detained individuals. As part of her congressional oversight responsibilities, Congresswoman Randall is examining immigration detention facilities to ensure detainees are treated humanely, facilities meet federal standards, and taxpayer resources are being used effectively. She may not be granted entrance, however, as a dozen Democratic members of Congress filed a lawsuit yesterday charging that the Trump administration is blocking lawmakers from conducting congressional oversight of federal immigration detention centers.

And finally, the Washington State Department of Health has launched a new Naloxone Finder (<https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/drug-user-health/naloxone-finder>), an online tool to help residents quickly locate free naloxone. Naloxone, also known by the brand name NARCAN®, is a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, even fentanyl, within minutes. Naloxone is available as an injection or nasal spray and is easy to use. Anyone can give naloxone; no special training is needed, and it's safe to use, even for children or pets.

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.