

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

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The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has announced awards of more than \$148 million to projects across the state to build and improve parks and trails, conserve irreplaceable wildlife habitat, and maintain land for farming and forestry. Of those awards, Jefferson County has received almost 1.9 million dollars, of which 1.5 million will be used to purchase nearly 19 acres of shoreline and forest in the Dabob Bay Natural Area. The remaining \$345,000 will be used to replace the scoreboard, football goal posts, and fencing in Port Townsend's Memorial Athletic Field.

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We have several local reports of fires this week.

- The first, a vegetation fire reported along Beaver Valley Road in Chimacum last Thursday evening, echoed a previous fire at an adjacent site in 2023. It was under control within 30 minutes of report time, thanks to the efforts of East Jefferson Fire Rescue personnel, though the road had to be closed for a period.
- The second fire, a brush fire, occurred on July 4 near the riverbank in the 500 block of Dosewallips Road as a result of fireworks, and was successfully contained by joint efforts of the Brinnon Fire Department, Quilcene Fire Rescue, and the Department of Natural Resources by the morning of the 5th.
- The third fire is burning off of the US Forest Service 24 road roughly one mile south of the staircase campground. Because the fire is burning on a vertical slope, access is not possible on foot, so the scene has been turned over to the United States Forest Service. The fire is expected to burn through the night until air assets can begin attack in the daylight. At this time the staircase campground is being evacuated as well as residences west of the causeway, and US Forest Service road 24 is closed.

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Now that the school year has ended, families who rely on free or reduced-price meal school programs to offset rising food costs may need to find other sources of assistance. Jefferson Healthcare has partnered with the Jefferson County Farmers Markets since 2018 to offer VegRx vouchers to children who are patients on Apple Health. VegRx vouchers are good for \$20 a month in fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farmers Market. The farmers markets also provide access to fresh, locally-grown food to families who receive benefits from WIC (the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program) and SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that lost nearly 300 billion dollars in that big bill President Trump just signed). Information on these services, how they work and who is eligible, can be found by clicking here: <https://jcfmarkets.org/food-access>

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According to Jefferson County Public Health, tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease are not common in Washington, but they do occur. Lyme disease is a serious bacterial infection spread by tick bites and can be dangerous if left untreated. It's important to stay informed and take steps to protect yourself, especially during the warmer months.

Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. To protect yourself against tick bites, wear light-colored, tightly woven long pants and shirts with long sleeves. Tuck your pant legs into socks or boots, and your shirt into your pants. This helps keep ticks on the outside of your clothing so you can spot them more easily. For more information visit the link found at <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/pests/ticks>.

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Chip sealing begins today on a number of Jefferson County roads. To find out which roads are being sealed and when, visit the Jefferson County FaceBook page or click here: <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/920/Chip-Seal-Program>

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And finally, if you rode a ferry over the fourth of July weekend, you were not alone: the ferries carried more than 406,000 riders over the weekend, up nearly 29,000 from last year. July 3 was the ferries' busiest day, with 88,771 riders systemwide, and the highest single-day ridership on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route in six years.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.