

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

The Bear Gulch and Tunnel Creek fires have slowed but continue to grow despite recent rains. Apparently branches and small logs (1–3 inches thick) need several days of steady wet weather to soak up moisture. Bigger logs and stumps (3+ inches thick) can take weeks of cool, wet weather to stop burning easily.

And finally, roots and duff – that organic layer just below the surface – stay dry even longer. If that ignites, it can smolder underground for days or weeks, then flare up later when conditions change, so land clearing and debris piles remain off-limits until at least October 15.

This week is Fire Prevention Week, and East Jefferson Fire Rescue is focusing on how to safely buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries. If you use Lithium-ion batteries, they recommend the following:

- Buy only batteries that show a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA.
- Always use the cords that came with the product to charge, follow the instructions from the manufacturer, charge your device on a hard surface, and don't overcharge. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.
- And always recycle batteries at a safe battery recycling location. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Visit <https://www.call2recycle.org/> to find a recycling spot near you.

The state Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Partnership have awarded more than \$61 million in grants to 155 projects across the state which aim to restore salmon habitat and ensure salmon remain a vital part of our environment, culture and economy. Grants awarded to Jefferson County include:

- \$86,060 to the 10,000 Years Institute to control non-native plants along the banks of the Snahapish River.
- \$139,991 to the Hoh Indian Tribe to remove a fish-blocking culvert in Ruby Creek.
- \$223,450 to Jefferson County to restore part of the Powerlines Reach in the lower Dosewallips River.
- \$376,916 to Jefferson Land Trust to buy 6.7 acres in the Snow Creek watershed.
- \$127,897 to the Quinault Indian Nation to fix road failures in the upper Quinault River floodplain.
- \$350,104 to Wild Salmon Center to place logjams in about 1.5 miles of Goodman Creek.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has awarded over 3 and a half million dollars for Farm to School grants for the 2025-2027 biennium. The 103 individual school districts and childcare providers that received the grants will use the funding to source and serve delicious and nutritious foods grown, raised, caught or foraged by farmers, ranchers, and producers in Washington state. Grant awards range from \$800 to \$287,000.

Grantees in Jefferson County include \$14,000 to the Brinnon School District, \$10,000 to the Chimacum School District, and \$13,000 to the Port Townsend School District.

The Keep Washington Working Act, passed in 2019, limits state and local law enforcement from participating in enforcing federal immigration law. But should an immigration enforcement officer approach you, you should know your rights:

- You have the right to be silent.
- You can ask if you are free to leave.
- You can ask them to leave.
- You can ask to see their court order or a signed warrant.
- You can ask for their information.
- You do not have to sign anything.
- And you can request a document be translated.

And if you ARE arrested, detained, or taken into custody,

- You have the right to speak to a lawyer.
- You have the right to contact your consulate.
- Speak up if you are afraid to return to your country of origin.
- You can ask to call a family member or friend.
- Report your health conditions and medication needs, and
- You can request a bond hearing.

And finally, the Port Townsend ferry no longer runs with two boats on the weekends, so you'll need to get those ferry reservations in a little sooner if you're hoping to head to Whidbey.

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.