

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 9, 2025.

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Today marks the ninth day of the federal government shutdown, with the congressional standoff unchanged as the first federal payday looms. A memo circulated from the Office of Management and Budget and confirmed by a White House official indicates that the Trump administration may potentially deny back pay to hundreds of thousands of furloughed federal workers, including the 80,000 federal workers currently employed in Washington State.

In response to this decision, which goes against a bill President Trump signed into law in 2019 guaranteeing back pay for both exempt and furloughed federal workers, Washington Congresswoman Emily Randall has joined Pennsylvania Congressman Brendan Boyle, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, in introducing the Federal Employees Civil Relief Act, legislation to protect federal employees and contractors from financial harm during government shutdowns. The bill suspends certain civil liabilities – such as rent, mortgage payments, student loans, and tax obligations – for federal workers who are furloughed or required to work without pay during a lapse in appropriations. It also safeguards workers from evictions, foreclosures, credit penalties, and loss of insurance coverage while ensuring no lasting impact on their credit or access to financial services.

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Congresswoman Randall will be present this Saturday, October 11 at 10am for the opening ceremonies for the Fourth Annual Fire Rescue Fest at the EJFR Station 1 on Harrison Street in Port Townsend. This family-friendly event offers families the opportunity to see and participate in several demonstrations of former and current firefighting activities, including a bucket brigade, a horse-drawn hand pumper, connecting and using fire hose, and cooking safety. Additionally, many community service partners including Jefferson County PUD, the American Red Cross, Dove House, Airlift NorthWest, JeffCom 911, and more will be on hand to share information on propane safety, emergency evacuation planning, when to call 911, and other emergency topics.

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The US Coast Guard has announced it will be reducing services during the shutdown. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, Lt. Cmdr. Steve Roth, chief of media relations, wrote in an email Thursday that uniformed personnel will continue to maintain essential services to control, secure, and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches, facilitate commerce vital to economic prosperity, and respond to crises or contingencies. Roth added that certain operations and activities might be reduced or curtailed with regard to marine environmental response; marine safety; ports, waterways, and coastal security; living marine resources; aids to navigation; and domestic ice operations. And that's ice, as in frozen water.

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The Washington State Public Works Board (PWB) has awarded \$514,000 to the Jefferson County Public Utility District for the Glen Cove South Project to replace and upsize the Glen Cove South Drinking Water Reservoir and nearly 3,600 feet of water main. In all, the Public Works Board offered over \$137 million to 38 projects across the state, to help 35 communities provide safe drinking water, accommodate growth for housing opportunities, and keep utility rates affordable.

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And finally, the City of Port Townsend has agreed to extend the Port Townsend Golf Park lease for an additional 20 years, stating that the Friends of the Golf Park nonprofit has met or exceeded all performance metrics outlined in the original lease, including producing business plans and timely, thorough reports, and increasing community access with regular events and new trails open to the public. In addition to expanding recreation uses with disc golf and the promise of miniature golf, and making facilities improvements with the club house renovation, the new restaurant, and improvements to the grounds and turf, they have engaged in sustainable practices and are focusing on increasing public access and financial viability, while building community through recreation.

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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.