

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 16, 2025, the 16th day of the federal government shutdown.

The Washington State *Standard* reports that the U.S. Senate returned to Capitol Hill on Tuesday following a four-day weekend, but that neither Republicans nor Democrats appeared ready to work toward ending the government shutdown.

Apparently disinclined to compromise, President Trump has announced his administration will release a list of projects it plans to cancel or eliminate this Friday, adding that, "We are closing up programs that are Democratic programs that we wanted to close up or that we never wanted to and we're not going to let them come back," Trump said. "We're not closing up Republican programs because we think they work."

Meanwhile, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order yesterday to block the Trump administration from moving forward with the thousands of layoffs it initiated after the government shutdown began.

Due to the funding cuts delivered by the Trump administration to a variety of social services, United Good Neighbors (UGN) launched a new and more ambitious Give Jefferson campaign this week. The group hopes to raise \$450,000 by December 31, giving residents of Jefferson County the opportunity to fill the gap and ensuring that everyone has access to services and support to meet their basic needs. UGN has supported neighbors in need for more than 70 years, rallying the community to raise funds to support essential nonprofits that provide food, housing, health care, education, and advocacy. UGN ensures that every dollar donated to the Give Jefferson campaign will stay local.

Local organizers are planning a second No Kings rally in response to a variety of this administration's actions for this Saturday, October 18. According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, the first rally drew over 2,000 Port Townsend attendees in June and inspired more than 1,700 similar events across the country. This weekend over 2,400 events have already been registered, with a number of new group rallies created, including one in Port Ludlow and one in Quilcene.

The Port Townsend rally will kick off shortly before 1pm at the Kah Tai Lagoon Park meadow with performances by the Unexpected Brass Band, the Democracy Bucket Brigade drum corps, and bagpiper Nancy Fredrick. After speeches and information from Port Townsend Indivisible, the Jefferson County Democrats, and the Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates, there will be sign-waving along East Sims Way and a community walk down to the Pope Marine Park.

Port Townsend High School has been named one of the Top 20 high schools in Washington State by *U.S. News & World Report*. This recognition places PTHS among the state's best and reflects the hard work of our local students, staff, and families. Rankings were based on graduation rates, proficiency in reading, math, and science, and the number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement courses.

Quimper Mercantile, Port Townsend's community-owned general store, has announced the purchase of a one-acre parcel of land near the city's planned Evans Vista neighborhood. According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, the property is located near the intersection of Sims Way and Evans Vista Road, and a second public stock offering is planned for 2026 to help finance construction. While the new parcel is separate from the potential Evans Vista development, its location positions the store close to future housing and transportation improvements planned for that area.

Quimper Mercantile, whose current lease on Water Street in downtown Port Townsend will end in 2032, was designed and launched in 2012 following the closure of several longtime retailers, to preserve a local shopping experience for everyday goods. The community stock drive raised \$743,000 from more than 800 local shareholders. Since that time, the store has operated profitably, with annual sales topping \$3.5 million, while employing 17 staff.

And finally, good news: the Jefferson County Fire Marshall has officially downgraded area fire danger to low. For those of you who picked up No Fireworks signs at Preparedness Day, it's time to return them to the Department of Community Development at 621 Sheridan Street in Port Townsend.

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.