

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, October 21, 2025, the 21st day of the federal government shutdown.

The Washington State *Standard* reports that as the shutdown enters its third week, state officials are beginning to become concerned about potential cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if the government isn't reopened. More than 42 million Americans rely on the SNAP program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The federal government funds nearly all the program benefits, with states administering the program.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins warned Thursday that SNAP will run out of funds in two weeks if Congress fails to strike a deal and end the government shutdown. USDA has directed regional SNAP directors to stop working on benefits for November, according to an October 10 letter written by the program's acting associate administrator, Ronald Ward.

Washington's Department of Social and Health Services has announced that if federal funding is not restored, they will be unable to issue food benefits after October 31. Cash benefits for November 2025 will still be distributed as usual. Benefits from Washington's Food Assistance Program, which is open to legal immigrants who are not eligible for the SNAP program because of their immigration status, would also lapse, as the program must mirror SNAP.

In September, more than 540,000 households in Washington, representing nearly 930,000 people, received around \$173 million in food benefits, according to the Department of Social and Health Services. Of the 15% of the state's population that receives the benefits each year, about 35% are children.

DSHS employees who support the SNAP program may also be impacted through temporary layoffs which will begin November 4. Also starting November 4, DSHS Tribal outstations and mobile office teams will not be staffed until the federal government reopens.

Saturday's No Kings protest is reported to have been attended by over 7 million people nationwide. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, over 3,000 protestors – roughly a quarter of Port Townsend's residents – attended the No Kings rally, protest, and march that started in Kai Tai Lagoon park on Saturday afternoon. Over 300 of Port Ludlow's 2900 residents attended the rally there, and about 3200 people participated in Sequim. Another 3000 protestors rallied in Sequim, over a thousand rallied in Port Angeles, and over 300 of Port Ludlow's 2900 residents attended the rally there.

While on patrol in Port Ludlow late Sunday morning, a Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Sergeant located a vehicle traveling more than the posted speed limit. A traffic stop was attempted, but the driver sped away until he reached his driveway. Though commands were given to the driver, he did not cooperate and resisted arrest. Pepper spray was released in an attempt to subdue the driver, but he escaped into his house.

Shortly thereafter, neighbors called 9-1-1 and advised that the suspect was walking through their back yard with a shotgun. Containment was established with the assistance of the Port Townsend Police Department and Washington State Patrol. The suspect then called 9-1-1, hoping to discourage the searchers, but with their technology and the use of drones, the driver was located in a heavily wooded area. The Peninsula Crisis

Response team, along with K-9s from the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and the Port Angeles Police Department, converged on the driver and were able to safely take him into custody and he has been booked in the Jefferson County Jail. The shotgun was recovered.

Jefferson County Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour has been appointed to the Washington State Forest Practices Board. Elected to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners in 2020 to represent District 2, Commissioner Eisenhour has been a longtime advocate of responsible land use practices, and she is excited for the opportunity to help steer the state's natural resource policy.

And finally, the Jefferson County Commissioners and the City of Port Townsend have declared the last Saturday in October "Food for All Day." The Jefferson County Food Banks, which serve 3300 households every month, are hoping to raise \$40,000 for this, the 40th year of the WAVE food drive. For more information about the food drive, visit the food bank's website: <https://jcfba.org/wavefooddrive>.

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.