

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, October 30, 2025, the 30th day of the federal government shutdown.

Traffic on Route 20, Route 19, Discovery Road and Four Corners Road was backed up for several hours yesterday morning after a head-on hit-and-run collision occurred on Highway 20 just north of its intersection with 19. The driver of a Chevy Suburban heading eastbound on 20 lost control of his vehicle, crossed the center line, and hit a Ford Escape traveling westbound, then he fled on foot from the scene. Both cars were totaled, the driver of the Escape was injured and transported to Jefferson Healthcare, and traffic was halted while police attempted to track down the runaway driver.

With SNAP benefits nearing expiration for over 905,000 Washingtonians, Washington's Governor Ferguson has directed the Department of Social and Health Services to transfer \$2.2 million each week to the state's Department of Agriculture for distribution to food banks around the state. The first infusion of cash will come Monday, November 3. Ferguson's move comes as Democratic attorneys general and governors across the country are suing the Trump administration over its refusal to provide SNAP benefits. Meanwhile Senate Democrats have introduced new legislation to prevent the Trump administration from illegally withholding SNAP funds.

The Port Townsend Food Co-op has announced that nearly \$84,000 has been raised for their 2026 Farmer Fund, a grant program that supports Jefferson County farmers and food producers. Ranging from \$1,500 to \$15,000, Farmer Fund grants may be used for equipment, infrastructure, construction, services, or materials that build farm capacity.

Port Townsend's Port Commission has elected to reject a proposal from American Cruise Lines to help fund improvements to Union Wharf in exchange for a 20-year, preferential docking deal at the Wharf. Though a formal proposal was never submitted, the idea got significant pushback from the community, and the Commissioners will be asking Port staff to go back to the drawing board to find other funding sources for needed repairs to the wharf. The port is also considering increasing docking fees for American Cruise Lines in its 2026 budget, according to the Port Townsend *Leader*.

WSDOT has announced the speed limit will be changed from 40 to 35 miles per hour on the portion of State Route 116 on Marrowstone Island between milepost 6.95 and milepost 7.56 north of the Griffith Point Road sometime next week.

And, speaking of WSDOT, travelers heading for the mountains should note that WSDOT will start enforcing chain requirements as of November 1. All vehicles traveling through mountain passes or higher elevations must carry tire chains and must install them when signs indicate that chains are required. For more information about winter driving requirements, visit the WSDOT link at <https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/mountainpasses/tiresandchains>

Halloween trick or treaters will be welcome tomorrow at the County Courthouse from 8:30 to 4:30, and the **29th Costume Parade and Downtown Trick or Treat** will be hosted by the Port Townsend Main Street Program tomorrow afternoon. Children in preschool through sixth grade are invited to assemble in costume at 3:45pm on the plaza at Adams and Water Streets. Parental supervision is requested.

The Main Street witches will lead off the parade at 4pm along Water Street to Polk Street. Following the parade, participating downtown businesses will host trick or treat.

Water Street and some side streets will be closed to traffic from 3:30pm to 5:30pm to ensure the safety of the 1,500 to 2,000 people who typically attend this annual event.

Also on tap this weekend, the Haunted Jail will be open Friday from 3:45 to 5:45 at the Jefferson County Historical Society's Museum of Art + History; the Art Walk is Saturday from 5 to 8pm; the Port Townsend Woodworkers Show will be at the American Legion Hall Saturday from 11 to 7 and Sunday from 11 to 3; and the Functional Art of Quimper show will be held at the Cotton Building, Saturday from 11 to 7 and Sunday from 11 to 4.

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.