

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Last night President Trump signed into law a spending package officially ending the 43-day federal shutdown. According to the Washington State *Standard*, the package includes funding for SNAP, for military construction, and for veterans' benefits as well as provisions to keep federal government running through January 30; to enhance security and safety for members of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government; to reinstate and give back pay to workers laid off during the shutdown; and to prevent officials from firing those workers, at least through January. This is the first bill to have come before the House of Representatives since mid-September, as Republican leaders have been in recess for the last 54 days waiting for the Senate to approve their stopgap spending measure.

The Port Townsend *Leader* reports that Port Townsend's City budget projects a \$20 million rise in expenditures for next year. Budget documents show the city spending a record \$88.6 million, a near doubling of expenditures since 2023. According to Finance Manager Jodi Adams, the rise is due to a number of factors, including inflation, changes being made to help make the budget easier to understand, and a number of capital projects planned for 2026. The proposed budget includes an \$8 million investment in streets, \$4.4 million for the repair and replacement of the Olympic Gravity Water System Line, \$2.3 million dedicated to parks, \$8.5 million for sewer infrastructure, and \$1.24 million for fleet and facility upgrades.

The Chimacum High School marching band has been selected as the only ensemble from Washington State to perform in the National Independence Day Parade, commemorating the 250th anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence in Washington DC next summer. The national honor will bring the small rural program to Constitution Avenue for the nation's semiquincentennial celebration on July 4, 2026, where the band will represent all of Washington. The challenge now facing the school is fund-raising: the students will need to raise \$98,500 by July of next year in order to attend the event.

Last Thursday, November 6, after two and half years of construction, Jefferson County hosted the Grand Flushing Event, inviting state legislators, funding agencies, community members and partners, contractors and designers who were involved in the project to celebrate the full activation of the Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area Sewer System. The system, which took over 20 years to plan, design, and fund, will unlock new potential for affordable housing, small businesses, and community infrastructure in the area, helping to create opportunities for sustainable growth and development for the future. Residents and businesses will now be able to decommission outdated septic systems: with the sewer services officially active since September 8, 2025, parcels within 200 feet of the collection lines are now zoned within the designated Urban Growth Area. For more information on the Grand Flushing Event and the Port Hadlock Wastewater Treatment system, or to view a map of affected parcels, visit <https://co.jefferson.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1646>.

Jefferson County Public Health warns us that RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), a common virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs, is the leading cause of hospitalization in infants. Each year, RSV causes 50,000 to

80,000 hospitalizations and 100 to 300 deaths in children under 5 years old in the United States. RSV may look like a common cold, but it can lead to severe illness: it's the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children less than a year old. Plus children who contract RSV are more likely to develop asthma and other respiratory issues later in life. Luckily there is a vaccine for RSV. Vaccines reduce RSV-related hospitalizations by 80%. Protecting your child from RSV reduces the likelihood of developing severe illness and helps prevent the long-term impacts of RSV infection.

And finally, PUD contract tree crews have begun their Quilcene-to-Chimacum tree trimming project. Work zones will include Center Road, Dabob Bay Road, and East Quilcene Road. Please be alert to crews on or near roadways.

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.