

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, December 18, 2025.

Tuesday's windstorm toppled numerous trees in the area, causing power outages across the county and blocking several streets. In addition, the Jefferson County transfer station had to close temporarily due to an internet outage. Today the winds are back and have done the same: JeffCom has reported a tree on the lines on Chimacum Road, and currently 2,224 PUD customers are without power. According to Facebook, Marrowstone and part of Oak Bay are without power as well. Praise goes out to the Jeffco PUD crew, who continue working through these high winds to remove downed trees and restore power to the citizens of Jefferson County.

Despite public calls to pause the process, the Port Townsend City Council has voted 6 to 1 to pass the proposed comprehensive plan update. According to Emma Bolin, the city's director of planning and community development, there were several changes to state law which would preempt the city's codes if the plan were not adopted by the end of this year, and Public Works Director Steve King added that if the city fell out of compliance with the state Growth Management Act by failing to pass the plan, it would not be eligible for Department of Commerce grants.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that Council member Ben Thomas was the lone vote against adoption, stating that he wanted to see more community buy-in and to see the possibility of unintended consequences analyzed in greater depth. Thomas also introduced a failed motion to retain the daylight-plane standard. Though the document plans for a range of core services provided by the city, public objections have focused on changes to R-II residential zones around allowable density and height.

Though numerous public meetings since June have solicited input on the plan, many residents said they did not feel adequately informed about crucial details relating to zoning changes until several weeks ago, and multiple commenters felt affordable housing units ought to be considered when addressing larger developments.

But according to the Port Townsend *Leader*, City officials say the adoption of the comprehensive plan does not close the door on Port Townsend's housing debate. They said the plan can be amended through the city's annual update process, including several housing-related concerns. Affordability tools, design standards and infrastructure impacts are expected to return to the council docket in 2026.

In a more popular vote, the Council this week authorized the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the state to secure funding for chip seal work for Monroe and Sheridan Streets. Once complete, the chip seal will run from Sims Way to Hastings Avenue on Sheridan Street and on Monroe Street between Water and Jackson Streets. The city expects to go out to bid on the project in the spring and start construction in the summer.

On Tuesday of this week a landslide occurred on Highway 101 just north of downtown Hoodsport, and the highway had to be closed in both directions, according to the Brinnon fire department. A detour was provided, though the department warned to watch for potholes. Luckily the landslide was cleared by noon yesterday, and

101 is now open in both directions, but drivers are advised to continue cautiously as conditions may remain unstable in the area.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has confirmed that two backyard flocks in east Jefferson County have now tested positive for avian flu. According to the *Port Townsend Leader*, Jefferson County health officer Allison Berry has stated that both affected flocks have been euthanized, and risk to the general public remains low. But if you do have a flock, wear protective gear and report any unexplained illness or death to the WSDA Sick Bird Hotline at 800-606-3056.

And finally, this Saturday, to mark the final Farmers Market for the year, the Tyler Street market will expand into the Port Townsend Community Center for the Holiday Winter Market from 10am to 2pm. Attendees will be treated to live music and can expect to find fresh produce, bread, pastries, cider, coffee, and a variety of handcrafted goods.

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 and have a great weekend.