

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Jefferson County Commissioner Greg Brotherton has announced that after 8 years on the commission he will not be seeking a third term, though he'll continue serving as board chair until his term expires on the last day of this year. Brotherton, who was elected to office in 2018 after a career in IT and time spent on the Quilcene School Board, said in an interview with the *Port Townsend Leader* that he viewed his foremost accomplishments on the board as getting through the pandemic, the intergovernmental collaboration on the encampment at the fairgrounds, the development of the Caswell Brown shelter village, the new sewer system in Port Hadlock, and ongoing conversations about economic growth in Glen Cove. Brotherton plans to stay in Quilcene and pursue a career in public administration.

Port Townsend City Council has approved a construction contract for a major rehabilitation project at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The project will repair and reline the plant's influent wetwell, which is the chamber where raw wastewater first enters the facility, and it will replace aging electrical and mechanical components. Staff said that the facility is essential to uninterrupted wastewater service. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.8 million, and includes engineering support, staff administration, and contingency. Construction is scheduled to begin around July 1 of 2026, and is expected to be completed in November of this year.

On Tuesday evening deputies with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon on Center Road near Milepost 3. A 25-year-old male of Jefferson County was seated in his pickup truck with a passenger at a roadside memorial when a 24-year-old Bremerton resident in an unknown vehicle pulled up behind them. Moments later, the driver's side window of the truck was shattered, and a shotgun was forced through the window, striking the victim beneath the chin and causing a laceration.

The suspect pointed the shotgun at the driver and ordered him out of his vehicle, but the victim fled the area and contacted law enforcement. Further investigation revealed a prior dating relationship between the suspect and the passenger, with indications the assault may have been motivated by jealousy. The suspect fled the scene in a blue Fiat, but was tracked to a residence in the Discovery Bay area and was safely taken into custody and transported to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

United Good Neighbors has announced that this year's Give Jefferson Campaign has been the organization's most successful fundraising effort to date, raising over \$500,000 – more than \$50,000 over the stated goal. The campaign, which has served for decades as a united charitable effort, will be supporting 28 area organizations this year, all of which have been impacted by recent state and federal funding cuts.

In another social service effort, the Port Townsend Police Department has partnered with BlueBridge Alliance, a nonprofit that enables officers to provide immediate, on-the-spot assistance to people in crisis. Funded by the community for the community, BlueBridge equips police officers with debit-style scan cards that are connected to a community-supported fund, allowing them to address basic needs such as food, fuel or temporary shelter.

WSDOT has announced that three of its ferries are out of service due to unexpected mechanical issues. The Walla Walla ferry between Seattle and Bremerton, the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route's Kittitas ferry, and the Tacoma ferry between Seattle and Bainbridge are all scheduled for repairs. Riders are encouraged to stay up to date on service changes through the ferry system's rider alerts.

And finally, East Jefferson Fire Rescue will be offering a hands-only CPR course at the Rhody Drive station in Chimacum on Monday evening, January 19. Because 70% of cardiac arrests occur in the home, learning CPR could help save the life of a family member: The survival rate of a cardiac arrest is greatly improved with early CPR. To register for the course, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7q4funb>.

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.