

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, January 29, 2026.

The Humane Society of Jefferson County's lead veterinarian, Dr. Deanna Kraft, has filed a complaint against the organization's board and its executive director. According to *The Leader*, Kraft's complaint cites concerns about animal welfare, standards of care, and management conflicts with Executive Director Jen Dupree. Dupree, who came on board in 2024, has called the allegations related to animal care "demonstrably false." Despite the current situation, the shelter's hours of operation remain the same their adoption, licensing, rehoming, and pet food pantry programs and services are fully operational, though there may be longer wait times due to current staffing shortages. Kraft has taken an indefinite leave of absence and Dr. Ginny Johnson is currently serving as the interim veterinarian.

A number of grants have come through locally to improve housing prospects for prospective homeowners:

- A nearly \$1 million grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce will allow Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County to move forward with its Mason Street affordable housing neighborhood, a project that is slated to bring 138 homes to Port Hadlock by the end of 2030.
- Habitat has also received \$2.3 million for the Landes Terrace Project in Port Hadlock, which will support 14 affordable homeownership units, and \$495,000 for its Rosalyn Court and scattered-site project, which will support three units.
- In addition, Olympic Housing Trust has received \$189,000 for its Dundee Hill project, which will support five affordable homeownership units.

Thanks to a donation from the estate of Jim Todd, the city's community services department has announced it will build a shelter at the Mountain View Commons dog park. Todd's estate has pledged to cover up to \$12,000 in shelter expenses. Todd, a longtime member of the city's Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Trees Advisory Board, was one of the ribbon-holders who first welcomed dogs and their owners to the park in 2019. Debbie Jahnke, chair of the parks advisory board, reports that a minimum of 392 humans use the park in a single week, resulting in approximately 20,000 visits per year to a park of a single acre in size. The department hopes to complete the project by the end of 2026.

The Port of Port Townsend has secured a \$1 million grant from the Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board for its Boat Haven Breakwater Project. The \$2.8 million project – originally scheduled for 2025 – was delayed due to funding and staffing constraints, but is now expected to begin after the Wooden Boat Festival this year. Once underway, the work, in which crews will reinforce the eastern 600 feet of the breakwater to reduce the force of incoming waves on the marina, will take less than a month.

For those concerned about the possibility of ICE raids in Jefferson County, there are fact sheets available for both immigrants and observers on both the Jefferson County Immigration Rights Advocates webpage (JCIRA.org) and the Washington Immigration Solidarity Network webpage. The resources are available in

multiple languages and include a know-your-rights fact sheet for immigrants at risk (tinyurl.com/2dzjc2wr), According to that fact sheet, people have the right not to open their doors, and agents cannot legally enter a home without consent or a court-ordered, judge-signed warrant. Individuals also have the right to remain silent, to decline to sign documents, and to request an attorney. People may also document interactions through photos, video or notes, so long as those actions do not interfere with agents' duties or public safety. Another fact sheet available for bystanders and observers (tinyurl.com/97247a2n) recommends standing at a safe distance and password protecting your phone to protect your videos.

And finally, after two chimney fires last week – one at the American Legion Hall in Port Townsend, and another at a private residence on Rhody Drive in Chimacum – East Jefferson Fire Rescue officials are reminding residents who heat with wood to have your chimneys and fireplaces checked and cleaned regularly, and burn only seasoned, dry firewood.

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.