

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, February 5, 2026.

The partial government shutdown that began last weekend ended this Tuesday when the House approved and President Trump signed the funding package the Senate amended last week. The package only offers 2 weeks of funding for the Department of Homeland Security, while leaders in Congress and the administration seek consensus on changes to how immigration officers should operate following the recent killings in Minneapolis.

According to the Washington State *Standard*, House speaker Mike Johnson wants negotiations to address local and state governments that don't cooperate with federal immigration enforcement activities, while the democrats plan to insist that federal immigration agents:

- Wear body cameras
- Only wear masks to conceal their identities in "extraordinary and unusual circumstances"
- Do not undertake roving patrols
- Do not detain people in certain locations, like houses of worship, schools, or polling places
- Do not engage in racial profiling
- Do not detain or deport American citizens

In addition to providing two more weeks of funding for the Department of Homeland Security, the \$1.2 trillion spending package includes full-year appropriations bills for the departments of Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, State, Transportation, and Treasury. Congress had already approved half of the dozen annual appropriations bills for the fiscal year that began back on October 1.

The aircraft supercarrier USS Theodore Roosevelt sailed into Port Townsend Bay this past Monday on its way to Indian Island. The carrier, which houses 5500 sailors, left San Diego on January 21 and conducted training exercises while at sea, including aviator and small arms qualifications. The ship is the fourth Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the United States Navy.

The Port Townsend City Council has authorized staff to move forward with an application to designate the huge Douglas fir located across the street from the Mountain View Commons on the city-owned golf course as a landmark tree. According to the *Leader*, the tree in question is associated with a documented act of racial violence, in which a Chemakum man named Kia-a-han was lynched by a vigilante mob in the 19th century and hanged from the fir tree's branches for killing a roaming steer who belonged to a non-Native farmer in Chimacum. Concerned that the designation needs to serve as an educational opportunity rather than a celebration, the city has consulted with both the Jamestown SKlallam Tribe and the Chemakum Tribe before proceeding.

The city's landmark tree program was established in 2003 to recognize the significance of certain trees to the community and to ensure they receive special protection and are eligible for city assistance in their stewardship.

Jefferson County YMCA is inviting young adults and families with children to participate in their free February school break meal program. On Wednesday, February 11 (in Brinnon, and then Quilcene) and Thursday,

February 12 (in Port Hadlock, then Port Townsend), they will host food distribution events at which families (with children and youth ages 0-18), and young adults (up to age 24) can fill free food boxes from the Y's selection of nutritious snacks, fresh produce, meal ingredients, and more. Thanks to generous donors, the available selections always include high-quality, fresh, and shelf-stable foods.

Note: Chimacum school district will not have a mid-winter break from school, but everyone is most welcome to participate in the food program. To sign up, visit <https://forms.gle/Ax7AxipratfkdrxD8>.

And finally, for those of you who'd like to get a little exercise in before settling down to watch the Superbowl this weekend, here's a great opportunity: join Cupid's Fourth Annual Beach cleanup from 10 to 12 this coming Sunday morning. Check in at the Haines Place Park-and-Ride between 9:30 and 9:45 to get supplies and cleanup locations, then bring your trash and gear to the Pourhouse at noon when you're done for a free drink and a slice of Pizza Factory pizza.

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 Go Hawks!