

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

On Sunday morning, March 1, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) deputies arrested a 68-year-old man wanted by the Bellevue Police Department who was believed to have killed a woman in a hit-and-run in Bellevue the day before. The victim, described by Bellevue police as an elderly woman, had been struck and killed around 8am Saturday in a parking lot on Bel-Red Road by a man driving a late '90s white Toyota Camry. Bellevue Police Department notified JCSO Saturday that the suspect was believed to be hiding out in Port Townsend. Patrol units from JCSO and the Port Townsend Police Department were unable to locate the individual at that time, but on Sunday at about 8am., a JCSO deputy located the suspect's vehicle at a residence in the 800 block of McPherson Street.

Officers established a perimeter around the residence, evacuating nearby neighbors and temporarily closing McPherson Street while trying to contact the man inside with a public address system, flashing lights, and audible sirens. After an hour and a half, the suspect exited the residence and was taken into custody without incident. The suspect and related evidence have been turned over to the Bellevue Police Department for further investigation and processing.

On Saturday morning, while docked at the Edmonds ferry terminal, the deck crew of the ferry Puyallup spotted two divers in the water near the Edmonds terminal who were struggling in strong winds and rough water. The crew launched a rescue boat and were able to bring the two exhausted divers safely to shore, then monitored them until emergency medical services arrived and pronounced the divers unharmed.

Clallam County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched at 8:38am Friday to a hit-and-run collision in the 9500 block of Old Olympic Highway. The victim reported being rear-ended while stopped at the four-way stop sign at Old Olympic Highway and Evans Road. When a Sequim Police officer attempted a traffic stop of the suspect vehicle – a blue Jeep Cherokee driven by a male wearing headphones – the suspect sped away, driving recklessly, entering oncoming lanes, and passing vehicles on the shoulder.

Deputy Torri Middlekauff assumed primary pursuit responsibilities with lights and siren activated. A pursuit intervention technique (PIT) maneuver was performed on Towne Road, and the vehicle was brought to a stop in a farm field, according to the Sheriff's Office. The pursuit lasted about 12 minutes and covered about 5.9 miles. The suspect, Sequim resident Derek Morgan, 33, was arrested and remanded to the Clallam County Jail on suspicion of hit and run-attended property damage and eluding a police vehicle.

Because water distribution lines need to be flushed periodically to prevent water quality problems, the City of Port Townsend Water Division will be conducting annual water system flushing from now through April. Flushing traces of minerals and sediment from the pipelines can cause short-term but harmless changes to the appearance of the water. If your water has a brownish color, it can usually be eliminated by running taps for a few minutes, but if discolored water persists for more than two hours, please call 360-385-3000.

On the national front, now that the Supreme Court has declared President Trump's tariffs to be illegal, Washington State Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray have joined 20 of their colleagues in introducing legislation that would require full refunds of President Donald Trump's illegal tariffs. To date, the Trump administration has collected an estimated \$175 billion in illegal tariff revenue, costing Washington state businesses alone an estimated \$2.5 billion last year. The Tariff Refund Act of 2026 requires the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to complete the payment of refunds quickly, in a transparent and accessible process.

And finally, Port Townsend Mayor Amy Howard and City Manager John Mauro will present the annual State of the City address to the people of Port Townsend tomorrow, March 4, at 5:30pm. Citizens can listen in person at the Port Pavilion, 355 Hudson Street, online via Zoom, or on KPTZ radio at KPTZ.org or 91.9 FM.

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.