

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Jefferson County PUD has announced it is preparing to install additional high-speed fiber internet in the Port Townsend area. This work is scheduled to begin around March 23 and continue through late April. Before construction begins, vegetation management – including tree trimming and some tree removal – will take place to provide safe access for installation crews and to maintain proper clearance around overhead power lines. Please drive safely and be alert to trimming crews on or near the roadway.

If you shop at the Walmart in Sequim you may wish to be aware that the Clallam County Sheriff's Office has received reports that there are two individuals on site who are asking for donations while posing as representatives of the Boys & Girls Club. The two males have been seen at both the Port Angeles Walmart and the Sequim Walmart requesting money from community members. They claim to be musicians who are forming a music group to support kids and they provide a laminated sheet with a QR code directing people to their social media accounts, but the Boys & Girls Clubs in Port Angeles and Sequim have confirmed these individuals are NOT affiliated with their organization.

As the weather improves and visitor traffic increases in our area, our communities may see more individuals attempting to solicit or scam money from residents. Please use caution when approached for donations. Before giving money, verify that the organization and individuals are legitimate, do not feel pressured to give money on the spot, and if you have information about this activity or encounter suspicious fundraising, please contact your local police.

According to Jefferson County officials, the value of recyclables has dropped considerably, while processing costs have continued to rise. In addition, contamination audits done in 2020 at the unstaffed recycling sites in Kala Point, Port Hadlock, and Port Ludlow determined that people were dropping off a high percentage of unrecyclable materials.

Despite repeated efforts to educate citizens about this problem, subsequent audits showed no improvement. As a result, it has been decided that all three sites will be closing in the coming weeks. The Kala Point site will close March 23; the Port Hadlock site will close on the 24th, and the Port Ludlow Site will close on the 25th. After these dates, recycling will be available to county residents through private curbside pickup services with Waste Connections, or for a fee at the Jefferson County Transfer Station or the Quilcene Drop Box. Port Townsend residents won't see a change in fees or services, according to county staff.

Residents who choose to bring recyclables to the county transfer station will pay \$20 for up to 220 pounds of combined solid waste and recycling material. At the Quilcene Drop Box, residents will pay \$20 for up to two 32-gallon cans of waste plus all recycling. Low-income rates are available at both locations.

The recycle bins at the transfer station will move behind the scales and drop fees will now include recycling and solid waste combined loads. Quilcene Drop Box recyclers must stop at the attendant shack before unloading. The county will accept cans, plastic bottles and jugs, paper and cardboard all mixed together in a bin, but glass will continue to be recycled separately.

After funding for the Washington Department of Natural Resources was cut by more than 20% during the 2025 legislative session, several cross-county sites could see full closures, including Jefferson County's Hoh-Oxbow Campground and Clallam County's Bear Creek and Lyre River campgrounds. The state's 2026 budget proposal reportedly includes an additional \$750,000 in annual reductions for the DNR. For more information visit <https://dnr.wa.gov/news/2026/dnr-recreation-sites-may-close-due-state-budget-cuts>.

And finally, the Port Townsend Kiwanis and Friendly Earth International will collect electronics for recycling in the Chimacum Schools parking lot this Saturday from 10 to 2. Bring your used computers, laptops, printers, LCD monitors and TVs, printer ink and toner, hard drives, computer accessories, cable boxes, home electronics, MP3 players, cell phones, iPads and other tablets, video game and stereo equipment and other miscellaneous electronics.

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.