

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

\*\*\*

The Port Townsend Creative District has won a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) to create a site-specific mural at the Seamus Sims Skatepark. The project, the first public art to be commissioned by the City since 2014, will include not only the creation of a mural, but also a public engagement component with the park's constituents. A Request for Proposals is expected to be released in early April.

Located at the corner of Jefferson and Monroe, the Skatepark is part of the City of Port Townsend's park system and is maintained by City staff. Murals created at this site will be seen by locals and visitors, becoming a central visual landmark for the Creative District and the community at large. The City will match ArtsWA's investment of \$30,000 with funds from the Municipal Arts Fund, support from staff in Parks and Facilities, and private contributions. Proposals will be reviewed by a selection panel made up of members of the Port Townsend Arts Commission's Public Art Committee, members of other relevant City Advisory Boards, community members, a local artist, and City staff. Finalists will present their proposals to the public for feedback as part of the process. The project is expected to begin in late summer 2026 and be completed by early 2027.

\*\*\*

Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies responded to the Quilcene area on Saturday and learned a woman had attempted to stab her father with a knife. Apparently the knife broke during the struggle, but the man told deputies he was also struck with two different frying pans. While the man was treated for minor injuries, deputies searched the area with a drone, but the woman was not located until Sunday morning, at which time the woman, 33-year-old Samantha Marie Mardock, was found and booked into Jefferson County jail on \$250,000 bond. During the investigation, deputies learned the woman had made earlier statements to a Port Townsend police officer that she might kill her parents if she didn't receive help.

\*\*\*

A power outage that began early yesterday morning in Brinnon and Lilliwaup apparently originated with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission line, which affected multiple substations including Hoodspport, Duckabush, and the Jefferson County PUD substation in Quilcene. The Jeffco PUD team were able to complete field switching operations to restore a little over half of the Quilcene customers right away, and all other customers impacted by the BPA outage were restored by mid-morning with the assistance of power crews from Mason county and the Shelton area.

\*\*\*

The Washington State Department of Health has declared this week to be Long Covid Awareness week. Also known as post-COVID syndrome, long COVID is a serious public health concern that has affected millions of US adults and children. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and last for three months or longer. Anyone who had COVID-19 can develop Long COVID, even if they did not have symptoms when they had COVID-19. According to a survey conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of the National Center for Health Statistics, as of September 2024, approximately 6.2% of Washington adults were experiencing Long COVID. Additionally, 1 out of every 6 of these individuals reported significant activity limitations.

The most common symptom is fatigue, but other symptoms include brain fog, coughing, headaches, sleep issues, change in smell and/or taste, dizziness, joint or muscle pain, and more. The CDC states that Long

COVID is more likely to occur in women, older adults, people with underlying health conditions, Hispanic and Latino people, people who were hospitalized with COVID, and people who were not vaccinated. To learn more about Long COVID, visit <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/long-covid>.

\*\*\*

And finally, the City of Port Townsend has announced that the sidewalk on Washington and Walker has been completed and the uptown construction rerouting and barriers are now down. Pedestrians can walk up and down Washington without having to step off the road into a deer path on the side; the Old Consulate Inn and the driveway into the Port Townsend Inn at the bottom of Washington are now fully accessible; and there's a marked public trail from there up over the top to Scott.

\*\*\*

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening and Happy St. Paddy's Day.