

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

In addition to the 8 million participants reported to have attended No Kings rallies nationwide, thousands of demonstrators turned out across the North Olympic Peninsula over the weekend as part of the rallies. Organizers say around 3,000 participants gathered in Port Townsend, marching down Sims Way from Boat Haven to the Pope Marine Park, carrying signs, singing songs, listening to music, and engaging with local action groups.

Reports also say some 3,700 people gathered in Sequim on Saturday, and in Port Angeles, some 600 to 800 people showed up outside the Clallam County Courthouse. Smaller gatherings also occurred in Chimacum and Port Ludlow. Smaller gatherings also occurred in Chimacum and Port Ludlow. All events remained peaceful with no major incidents reported.

After the Jefferson County Commissioners agreed to delay the closing of Port Townsend's recreation center, a release went out from the county stating that immediate public donations of \$85,000 would enable the current services at the rec center – including free youth drop-in, fitness classes, and the cooperative playschool – to continue through the end of 2026. The County added that a larger goal of \$344,000 would completely all countywide services to 2025 levels.

A special meeting has been set for 5pm April 10 at the rec center on 620 Tyler Street. Community members can contribute to the "Support County Parks and Recreation" fund here:
https://jcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=3422.

84-year old Tony Lee Harriman of Port Hadlock will be heading out this week to ride his electric-assisted recumbent tricycle across the US in order to raise awareness and funding for homeless veteran housing. Planned in conjunction with the nation's 250th birthday, the trip is to benefit the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit which began after 9/11.

Harriman, born and raised in New York, wanted to support the foundation which focuses on securing permanent affordable housing for homeless or struggling war vets and first responders by purchasing and renovating old hotels and motels and turning them into apartments. Starting from Leavenworth, Harriman will ride through Spokane and pick up the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes through Idaho before heading into Montana and South Dakota to ride the 103-mile Mickelson Trail through the Badlands. After he visits Mount Rushmore, he will ride through Minnesota and Wisconsin and then decide whether to push for Washington DC or head toward Buffalo to ride the Erie Canal toward his family in New York. Harriman is not optimistic that he will make it to Washington DC in time for the 250th anniversary, but plans to enjoy the celebration in whichever town he happens to be nearest when July 4 comes around.

South Jefferson County fire agencies conducted a coordinated wildland training and prescribed burn this past Saturday at Camp Parsons on Bee Mill Road in Brinnon. Designed to strengthen responder readiness for increasingly complex wildfire incidents, the exercise offered hands-on training in structure triage, defensible

space evaluation, structure preparation, resource deployment, and risk assessment and decision-making under realistic conditions. According to the Brinnon Fire Department, Camp Parsons provided an ideal setting, offering mixed fuels, multiple structures, and varied terrain that closely resembled the real-world challenges faced throughout Jefferson County and the Olympic region.

And finally, the Washington State Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment is awarding over \$30,000 to five Jefferson County Organizations in support of accessibility improvements to a variety of public resources. The funding will enable purchase of Chetzemoka Playground Accessible Equipment for the City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County Park Accessibility Guides for Disabled Hikers, accessible seating for the Jefferson County Historical Society, accessible bench tables for the Peninsula Trails Coalition's Olympic Discovery Trail, accessible picnic tables for the Blue Heron Middle School, and portable Access Trax pathways for uneven terrain, to be shared with the wider community via the Port Townsend Marine Science Center's Community Tool Library.

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.