

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, April 9, 2026.

The Port Townsend City Council announced Tuesday that they would not accept the settlement offered by Affordable Hometown Port Townsend (AHPT) concerning the City's Comprehensive Plan. Hoping to avoid extensive litigation, the Council has instead asked city staff to prepare a counteroffer focusing on:

- Potential revisions to the City's Land Capacity Analysis
- Performing an Inclusionary Zoning study
- Identifying funding sources for affordable housing
- Performing a Landlord Tenant protection study
- And continuing to work on affordable housing as an open public process rather than a closed judicial process.

AHPT's John Watts noted at the meeting that AHPT was willing to come to a settlement and avoid further litigation, and that they seek a solution that supports both greater density and more affordable housing for middle and lower incomes.

Council member David Faber pointed out that many of the elements in AHPT's original settlement offer might actually have delayed the process of achieving more affordable housing. If AHPT's appeal does proceed to a hearing, the Growth Management Hearings Board will issue a final decision as to whether or not the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan is compliant with the Growth Management Act on August 19. Until that time the current plan and regulations are presumed valid and will remain in effect.

Jefferson County Superior Court warns residents that emailed notices claiming to be from the court regarding vehicle collision settlements or legal summons are fraudulent attempts to steal personal information or money. If you receive an email demanding payment with a link, threatening suspension of driving privileges, or asking you to click a link to "view court evidence", do not respond, do not click links, do not share personal or financial information, and call the court at (360-385-9395) if you are concerned.

In its first grant round of the year, the Port Townsend Arts Commission (PTAC) has awarded \$13,500 to eleven creative projects by Jefferson County artists and organizations. Funded projects include a Make Music Day for East Jefferson County, Bringing Supaman back to Port Townsend, a Community Street Mural for the Farmer's Market, a student wearable art show, a student art exhibit for the Port Townsend Schools, a Salish Sea Butoh Festival, a Japanese Woodworking festival, a Port Townsend Community Dance, a Port Townsend Studio Tour, and Flamenco workshops and performance.

For more about the Arts Commission and the organizations sponsoring these activities, visit <https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/press-release-city-port-townsend-lodging-tax-committee-and-city-arts-commission-announce>.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, the Jefferson Land Trust is again investigating the possibility of establishing a conservation burial site, this time on a heavily wooded site it already owns. The organization attempted over a year ago to establish a similar project on a Marrowstone Island golf course, but neighbors to

the site objected, so this time the trust is not pursuing permitting or doing a public announcement until more facts are gathered and the site's neighbors are on board. Conservation burial forgoes embalming and relies on biodegradable materials like wooden caskets. Individual sites are unmarked, carefully documented, and restored with native plants as part of a long-term habitat plan designed to contribute to healthier soil, thriving trees, and resilient wildlife habitat, while at the same time allowing individuals and families to leave a legacy that reflects their values.

Starting next Monday, the Hood Canal Bridge will be closed at 10am and 1:30pm each weekday for the next two weeks for inspections of the bridge's mechanical and electrical systems. Every effort will be made to keep closures as short as possible.

And finally, renowned climber Jim Whittaker, the first American to summit Mount Everest, died Tuesday this week at his home in Port Townsend. Whittaker, 97, summited Everest on May 1, 1963 and returned home to be celebrated as a national hero. A manager at Seattle-based REI when he decided to climb Everest, Whittaker later became chief executive and president of REI and was instrumental in establishing a global mountaineering craze that continues today.

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 have a great weekend.