

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

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Over half of the over 700 traffic fatalities in 2024 in Washington State, 349 were related to DUI – driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Impaired driving includes more than just alcohol: any substance that affects your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle puts lives at risk and is against the law.

In order to reduce impaired driving collisions – through education and by removing impaired drivers from our roadways – the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) has awarded the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office a three-year traffic safety grant to fund a dedicated DUI enforcement officer. Deputy Dylan Heck has been appointed to serve in this role.

Already well regarded within the traffic safety community for his dedication to impaired driving enforcement, Deputy Heck is highly motivated to identify and remove impaired drivers from our roadways and has already made a significant impact this year. His roles as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor have helped hold impaired drivers accountable.

If you choose to consume alcohol or other impairing substances, the Jefferson County Sheriff's office encourages you to please plan ahead and arrange a safe ride home. Options in our community include not only designated drivers and local taxi services, but also a free ride program available through a partnership with Believe in Recovery, Gateway to Freedom, and Olympic Peninsula Health Services. This free ride service operates in East Jefferson County and can be reached at 360-316-6120.

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We have four closure notices for you today: Port Townsend City Hall is closed today for staff training, and the Port Townsend Library will be closed until 2:00 for the same reason. In addition, the Mountain View Pool will close at 4:30pm this afternoon due to a lifeguard shortage, but the wellness center will remain open until 7pm.

And finally, the HJ Carroll County Park's JUMP! Playground will be temporarily closed today and tomorrow from 8:30 to 5pm in order that they may install the shade sail to protect playground participants from excessive sun exposure.

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Jefferson County PUD has announced its tree trimming crews will be working north of Mats Mats Bay along North Bay Way and Sound Bay Way beginning April 27. Please be alert to crew on or near the roadway in those areas.

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Jefferson County Public Health warns us that if you're planning to travel with children this spring and summer, it may be wise to avoid those parts of the country where measles is spreading, as the disease is highly contagious. To see a map showing where the current measles hotspots are, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>.

In the meantime, you can protect yourself, your family, and your community from travel-borne diseases by staying up-to-date on vaccines, masking in crowded indoor spaces, washing your hands often, and staying home if you feel sick.

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The Clallam County Sheriff's office has been involved in an ongoing mail theft and financial crimes investigation in which stolen mail and financial documents have been recovered. No arrests have been made at this time, and the investigation is ongoing, but they remind citizens that you can protect yourself from mail theft by collecting your mail promptly, using a lockable mailbox, and signing up for US Post Office Informed delivery.

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And finally, tomorrow, April 22, is Earth Day, and Local 20/20 will observe Earth Day from 5pm to 8pm with a free celebration at Finnriver Farm and Cidery in Chimacum. The gathering will begin at 5pm with a poem by Rufina Gray, the city of Port Townsend's poet laureate. Attendees can explore booths from local organizations, play Earth Day games, take a plant walk in the Friends of the Trees garden, and help paint the Abracadabra Trip caterpillar bus. There will be a presentation by Richard Tucker, the executive director of Jefferson Land Trust, at 6pm followed by a concert by Laura Newman of Abracadabra Trip at 7pm. For more information, visit [www.finnriver.com](http://www.finnriver.com).

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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.