

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, April 23, 2026.

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An amendment to Port Townsend's Comprehensive Plan submitted by the Quimper Growers Network was rejected by City Council at Monday's meeting. According to the *Leader*, the amendment sought to address challenges Port Townsend growers face, including uncertainty around irrigation, constraints on farmworker housing and infrastructure, barriers created by rights-of-way on larger farms, and a desire to establish a permanent home for the farmers' market. Rather than pursuing the amendment, the council decided to bring it back to the city's workplan retreat this summer. They plan to meet prior to that time with members of the agriculture community to better understand their priorities.

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A Port Ludlow man has been convicted of first-degree child molestation and is currently being held in prison without bail awaiting sentencing. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, George Joseph Golay, 51, abused a position of trust and was caught on video in July of 2024 entering an 11-year-old's bedroom and engaging in inappropriate physical contact. Officially charged in January 2025, Golay subsequently left the country and relocated to Thailand but was located, arrested, and returned to the United States, where he was then charged with bail jumping in addition to child molesting. Golay will be sentenced May 8 by Jefferson County Superior Court Judge Brandon Mack. Each count carries a potential maximum sentence of life in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

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The first Blessing of the Fleet in Quilcene's history will take place this coming Saturday. The event, which will include a boat parade, a water taxi historical tour, music, food, a cold plunge, and multiple open houses, will begin at 10am and go until 2pm at the Herb Beck Quilcene Marina, 173 Linger Longer Road. The parade will begin at noon with a signal cannon and bagpipes provided by Nancy Fredrick. A blessing vessel containing a navy chaplain will be anchored off the marina, and Dana Ward will perform a blessing from the shore, representing the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

The parade of boats will come from Frenchman's Point or Fisherman's point, ushered in by safety boats – including one from the Brinnon Fire Department – and pass the blessing boat before they go out the way they came in. Live music will be provided for the length of the event by the Boiler Room String Band, Quimper's Watch, No Borders Band, and the Derek Stallman Band.

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Following reports of unauthorized encampments at the Dana Roberts substation on Kearney Street, Jefferson County PUD crews embarked upon a cleanup operation at the substation. The department placed signage at the site three days prior to the work, and everyone had vacated by the time cleanup began, but crews arriving at the site found seven different camps, drug paraphernalia, human waste, and garbage scattered around, and ended up carting away six truckloads of debris. Following the cleanup, a tree removal crew cleared the area and turned the brush into mulch. The plan now is to lay down beauty bark around the area and plant native, lower-lying hedges and vegetation.

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Jefferson County PUD will hold an Arbor Day celebration at their 310 Four Corners Road facility from 9am to 1pm tomorrow, April 24. Swing by, say hello, and take home a complimentary utility-friendly tree – maybe even a Pacific Crabapple!

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Did you know? Jefferson County Public Health has an Environmental Public Health Division that manages eight environmental programs that deal with conservation futures, drinking water, food services, septic systems, community safety, solid waste, water quality, and water resources. Visit their website (<https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/204/Environmental-Public-Health>) and get the latest scoop on air quality, recalled foods and supplements, and more.

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And finally, this Saturday, April 25, Port Townsend will hold a Comprehensive Plan celebration at the Port Townsend Golf Park from 2 to 4pm. There will be poetry, live music, a time capsule, ice cream sandwiches from Elevated Ice Cream, disc golf, snacks, beverages and more. Stop by City Hall beforehand to pick up your Postcard to the Future – a chance to add your message to the time capsule, which will be opened in 2045.

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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.