

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, May 14, 2026.

It's Rhody Festival week, and even if you missed the trike parade yesterday there are plenty of fun events still coming your way. You can start by checking out the store window display contest: for a chance to win door prizes you need to pick up a map at one of the participating stores and have it stamped by at least 7 stores.

But still to come are the pet parade (today at 4:30), the kiddie parade (tomorrow at 3), the bed races and beard contest (tomorrow at 5:30), the fun fair (both Friday and Saturday from 10 to 6), the Rotary's Running of the Balls (at 12:30 on Saturday), the Grand Parade (starting at 1 on Saturday), the Port Townsend Chautauqua's Big Show (7 pm Saturday at the Legion Hall), and the Rhody Run, starting a 9am Sunday at Fort Worden.

But: as the city informs us, with Rhody Fun comes Rhody Parking and Street Closures. Please be aware of pedestrians and runners out on the street and make sure to follow all posted street signs and directions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Take transit and active modes of transportation if you can and, if parking or driving, plan your trip accordingly.

Quilcene Fire Rescue reports that yesterday morning around 10:51am the pilot of a small, single-propeller aircraft notified air traffic control of engine failure and that he would be attempting to make an emergency landing on Highway 101 near the Highway 101/104 interchange. By the time crews got there, the aircraft had safely landed in an open field at Boulton Farms off U.S. Highway 101 near Quilcene.

The pilot reported that the engine failure caused an onboard fire while the plane was in flight. The pilot immediately began engine failure emergency landing procedures, was able to extinguish the flames using an onboard fire extinguisher, safely landing the aircraft in an open field. When fire crews arrived, they found the pilot out of the aircraft and uninjured, and no motorists or pedestrians were harmed, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Jeffco PUD sends a huge shout out to mutual aid partner, Clallam PUD, for helping to energize customers after an outage at their Discovery Bay Substation left 759 customers without power yesterday morning. Thanks to crews from both units coordinating repairs and testing substation equipment, 221 customers were back online by 2:00, and by 4:30 all customers had been restored.

The Port Townsend school district will begin abatement on the historic Lincoln Building at Port Townsend High School next Monday. Final demolition is scheduled to commence starting June 29 and is expected to be completed in August. Despite community and district-led efforts to find a way to utilize the space rather than demolish it, the building was deemed too far gone to be restored. Demolition is expected to cost \$1.5 million. Once demolition is complete, the district plans to use the space as a terrace above the football field where students may gather to enjoy the beautiful views of the strait of Juan de Fuca that will have been exposed by the demolition.

The Washington State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control have sent out a notice that three King County residents were potentially exposed to the Andes type of hantavirus linked to the *MV Hondius* cruise ship. One was a passenger on the ship itself, and two were seated near an ill passenger on a plane, though that passenger was removed from the plane prior to takeoff. Area health officials assure us that the possibility of transmission is extremely low, as studies show that for the virus to spread between people requires prolonged, close contact with a sick individual, and exposure to the infected person's saliva, respiratory secretions, or other bodily fluids.

And, finally, another reminder from WSDOT that the Hood Canal Bridge will be closed from 10pm tonight to 5am tomorrow, and will be closed again from 10pm to 5am Monday through Thursday evenings next week.

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 time at the Rhody Festival.