

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

Following an executive session this past Monday evening, the Port Townsend City Council has voted to reject Affordable Hometown Port Townsend (AHPT's) counteroffer in the group's ongoing appeal of the city's comprehensive plan. According to the *Leader*, disagreements over a temporary moratorium on recent zoning changes are apparently a key point of contention between the two parties. The city claims a moratorium could delay affordable housing efforts, but AHPT notes that the requested moratorium would basically restore previous zoning standards, which doesn't necessarily halt development, as prior regulations already allowed fourplexes and additional density through accessory dwelling units. If no settlement is reached, the Growth Management Hearings Board is scheduled to issue a final decision on August 19.

The *Leader* reports that Jefferson County Humane Society's executive director, Jen Dupree, is "no longer serving as director," following the results of a third-party investigation into allegations of animal abuse, a toxic workplace, and retaliation made in January by former shelter veterinarian Dr. Deanna Kraft. The board states that it has completed its review of the investigation findings and is committed to taking necessary corrective actions to protect the animals, support their staff and volunteers, and strengthen the organization going forward. Asked for clarification on whether Dupree was fired or quit, Board President Tony Hillman said he would not comment further. Hillman will serve as interim executive director while the Board searches for permanent leadership.

Despite attracting two qualified buyers, the May 11 auction of the historic 18-hole Discovery Bay Golf Course ended without a sale, as neither offer was considered high enough by the current owners. Despite there being no winning bids at the auction, the two groups are still actively pursuing the property, and one of the interested buyers, the group hoping to establish a Discovery Bay Wellness Community, is still in talks with the brokerage team that was managing the auction.

Port Townsend resident Patty Schmucker, who heads that group, has told the *Leader* that one of the most encouraging parts of the process has been the level of community conversation and collaboration that has emerged around the future of the property. "It is clear," she says, "that many people recognize that this land holds significance not only as a real estate asset, but as an important part of the county's social, environmental, and economic fabric."

Washington State Ferries has introduced a new pet policy starting this Memorial Day Weekend. Under the updated policy, pets will be allowed on vehicle decks, in outdoor passenger areas, and in marked areas inside cabins on the opposite end from the galley. Pets are not allowed in the galley or on passenger seating and tables, nor can they stay inside the cabin on the galley end of the vessel. Pet owners may pass through this restricted area but must take the most direct route and not stop. If a pet is not under control or is not cleaned up after, a crew member may ask the owner to move the pet to the vehicle deck or an outdoor area. Service animals are allowed in all areas, as required by law.

A replica of Charles Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis* arrived at the Jefferson County International Airport last week and is now on view at the Port Townsend Aero Museum. The plane's May 14 flight to the Jefferson County International Airport coped with less-than-ideal weather conditions, but 25 people were on hand to see the replica make a beautiful three-point landing without any brakes, in keeping with the historic aircraft it was modeled after. The Museum plans to incorporate the aircraft in multiple aspects of its youth education and mentorship programs.

And finally, those nightly Hood Canal Bridge closures have been canceled. And, if you prefer to stay local this weekend, the Tri-Area Garden Club will host its spring plant sale from 9am to 1pm Saturday in the Horticulture Building at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. And at 7pm Friday and 3pm Sunday the Wild Rose Chorale will perform music with the theme of "Can You Feel the Love?" at Grace Lutheran Church in Port Townsend.

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.