

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, May 28, 2026.

A runner who collapsed from cardiac arrest during the annual Rhody Run is expected to make a full recovery after a group of off-duty healthcare workers performed CPR and treated him with an automated external defibrillator (AED). Tommy Hertenstein, a registered nurse at St. Michael's Medical Center in Silverdale, was running up the hill near New Life Church on Hastings Avenue on May 17 when he saw some people huddled together in the yard of the church. Will George, a friend and fellow St. Michael's nurse, called out to him that one of the runners had collapsed.

Hertenstein ran over, noticed the fallen man's breathing was shaky, and rolled him onto his back, trying to get him to wake up. When that failed, George started CPR, another bystander called 911, and Hertenstein and another friend, Katie Davis, ran to the church, found an AED, and ran back to the patient, who was now being given CPR by Hertenstein's wife, also a nurse. After being shocked with the AED, the patient responded quickly, and within the next two or three minutes, East Jefferson Fire Rescue crews arrived and transported him from the scene. The patient is expected to recover.

EJFR Community Risk Manager Robert Wittenberg notes that every minute that passes without CPR reduces chances of recovery by around 10%, adding that EJFR will offer its next compression-only CPR course on June 5 at 10am at Station 6 in Chimacum. Registration is required and can be completed at www.ejfr.org.

The city of Port Townsend has elected not to pursue further negotiations with Affordable Hometown Port Townsend over the city's Comprehensive Plan. The dispute will now go before the Growth Management Hearings Board on July 7 and a final decision is expected August 19.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners have been asked to support a federal bill entitled "The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Land Transfer Act of 2026." The bill seeks to transfer the Protection Island and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuges into trust for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Though the tribe has maintained that it intends to continue stewarding the ecologically sensitive sites to standards that meet or exceed federal requirements, some community members have voiced anxieties that the change in jurisdiction could lead to commercial aquaculture operations within fragile marine environments. Commissioners have therefore delayed the approval of a letter to congressional representatives in support of the bill and have directed staff to insert language to reflect the community's desire to safeguard the permanent protected status of the wildlife habitats. The updated letter will be placed on the consent agenda for next Monday's meeting.

A local petition to allow Uber in Jefferson County has garnered over 300 signatures, but Port Townsend's municipal code requires rideshare companies to hold both a for-hire and a business license and to pay business and operation taxes. Apparently rideshare operators are unwilling to meet these rather stringent requirements. The Port Townsend City Council discussed easing those requirements in 2021 but ultimately tabled it due to concerns about employment practices and impacts on local transit. From March 18–25, the *Leader* conducted an informal survey of 50 bar-goers at the Hilltop Tavern, Uptown Pub, Pourhouse, and Anchor to gauge interest in rideshare options. Eighty percent of respondents said they would use a rideshare service if it were available,

while 94% said having the option would improve public safety overall. Port Townsend city council member Fred Obee, who also serves on the Jefferson Transit Board of Directors plans to propose that the issue be included in the council's upcoming work plan.

And finally, if you find a tick on your skin, don't panic. According to Jeffco Public Health, most ticks in Western Washington are not positive for Lyme Disease. That said, you should still remove the tick as soon as possible. Using clean tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull steadily upward, clean the bite with soap and water, and then wash your hands. Call your healthcare provider if you notice a red rash around the bite or have flu-like symptoms within one month after the bite.

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.