

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

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The Washington State Patrol, in partnership with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) and law enforcement agencies statewide, is launching its annual "Surviving Summer" traffic safety campaign. Historically, the period between June and September has marked the most dangerous stretch of the year on Washington roadways. According to the WTSC, more than 1,500 people have lost their lives in fatal crashes during the past eight summer seasons, with law enforcement responding to an average of more than 60 fatal collisions each month throughout June, July, and August. The leading factors in these deadly crashes continue to be excessive speed, impaired driving, distracted driving, and failure to yield the right of way. To kick off this year's campaign, law enforcement agencies across the state will be conducting high-visibility emphasis patrols this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, to encourage folks to drive safely, not just this week, but all summer long.

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Around 1am last Thursday, a State Trooper near the state's Legislative Building in Olympia observed a male suspect throwing large rocks at the building's first floor windows. When the suspect fled in a white Malibu, a chase ensued. Additional troopers and the Olympia Police Department joined the pursuit. Though one trooper's vehicle was struck by the suspect's car, there was little damage and no injuries. The suspect turned onto an access road on the east side of Capitol Lake, then left the access road, crossed a pedestrian bridge and then crashed. Security cameras located the suspect near railroad tracks at the south end of Marathon Park, and the suspect, identified as 21-year-old Clayton Stephen Seaborn, was taken into custody without further incident. In all, 13 office window sets and two doors were heavily damaged, but the protective film installed on the windows effectively denied entry and limited interior damage.

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With a legendary El Nino predicted and a record low snowpack, Washington faces a significant wildfire risk this summer. In addition, the forest service lost nearly 6,000 employees last year, the Trump administration has removed almost 600 employees from the National Weather Service, closed 57 out of 77 forest service research labs, and has withheld nearly \$49 million in federal funding for the forest service from Washington State due to new conditions set by the US Department of Agriculture. Congresswoman Emily Randall grilled Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz last week, asking how these decisions will impact the administration's active management strategy with regards to state forestry agencies. Schultz replied, "...We are working through this, even with the state of Washington."

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Due to federal funding cuts, children and families who qualify for WIC (Women, Infants and Children) are no longer receiving WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program benefits, so the market is offering to provide farm-fresh food for them through Family VegRX. To participate, bring your WIC card to the market info booth to collect your Family VegRx voucher, which is good for \$60 in market tokens. If you did receive one of the 29 WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits available to Jefferson County families this year, present your FMNP benefits using the WIC shopper app at the market info booth to collect your \$30 community match tokens. You can then shop for farm-fresh food at both the Port Townsend and Chimacum Farmers Markets.

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And finally, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has declared numerous items of county-owned equipment and vehicles as surplus, authorizing the sale of the items via public online auction. The surplus inventory includes 21 vehicles and pieces of equipment, including Ford Escapes, pickup trucks, a Ford Focus, Crown Victorias, Dodge Chargers, Volvo tractor trailers, a snowplow, a boat and trailer, and various utility vehicles and attachments.

The public will have the opportunity to purchase these items through GovDeals online consignment auction services. Listings will be posted incrementally throughout the year. Information regarding item availability, inspection opportunities, and bidding procedures will be provided directly on the auction website at <https://www.govdeals.com/JeffersonCountyWA>.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at noon and 5 PM. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker; thank you for listening.