

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, June 25, 2026.

The brush fire posted yesterday off Mill Road in Port Townsend has been contained, but due to hot and dry weather conditions, Olympic Interagency Fire Managers have officially declared the start of fire season and are asking all residents to follow these basic steps:

- o Never leave campfires unattended, and be sure to drown them with water, stirring the ashes and feeling for heat before leaving.
- o Do not ignite fireworks on federal lands; it's illegal.
- o Do not smoke on trails or in vegetated areas. Smoke only in designated areas and dispose of cigarette debris in proper receptacles.
- o Avoid parking over dry grass, as hot vehicle parts can ignite vegetation.
- o And if you see smoke or flames, call 911 immediately and let them know the location, size, smoke color, and whether anyone is in danger.

With a record housing waitlist totaling almost 200 people, Bayside Housing & Services hopes to replace Pat's Place, a tiny-home shelter village established in Port Townsend in 2021, with a 32-unit permanent supportive housing project later this summer. According to city permit documents, the proposal calls for a three-story residential building containing 32 units. The development would include common areas at ground level, off-street parking, and controlled-access entrances. The tiny homes currently located at Pat's Place will be relocated to United Methodist Church property and combined with Peters Place Village to remain in service as housing units rather than being removed from use. Bayside expects to receive final approvals for relocating the tiny homes within the next month, at which time construction on the project would begin.

Jefferson Healthcare has elected NOT to seek a levy lid lift this year. If placed on the ballot and approved, the lid lift would have bumped property taxes for a \$500,000 home from \$25 to \$375 annually. Originally proposed in response to the predicted reduction in Medicaid funding to start in 2027, plans for the lid lift have been placed on hold to be revisited later this year.

At around 6:30pm this past Sunday, East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR), with help from Salish Rescue, rescued a lone kayaker who capsized near Point Wilson. Fortunately the kayaker wisely stayed with their vessel while calling for help and was recovered without significant injury. EJFR reminds boaters to wear flotation vests and stay close to your vessel in the event of an emergency, adding that it's wiser for kayakers to enter the water in pairs.

The FDA has issued a recall notice for Gas-X softgels. Apparently certain batches of the softgels have been contaminated with a diluted propylene glycol-based coolant from a machine leakage during the packaging process. Ingestion of the affected Softgels may result in nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.

To see which package lots have been affected, visit <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/haleon-issues-voluntary-nationwide-recall-gas-x-extra-strength-softgels-125mg-120-ct-and-72-ct>.

This week, Senator Maria Cantwell has voiced objections to a new rule implemented by the United States Postal Service which requires mail to be processed at regional distribution centers instead of local post offices, causing significant postmark delays. Given that in the 2024 election nearly a third of all voters – close to 48 million people – cast their ballots by mail, a significant number of voters nationwide could be disenfranchised by the postmarking delays resulting from the new rule.

And finally, this coming Saturday, June 27, is Jefferson County Preparedness Day. Come to FinnRiver (at 124 Center Road in Chimacum) from 10am to 4pm and enjoy a fun, welcoming event designed to help our community stay safe, informed, and prepared for the unexpected. There will be free strawberry shortcake and over 30 booths, field games, food vendors, cider, a variety of workshops, and a tug of war with a \$1000 grand prize. Visit <https://www.theproductionalliance.org/preparednessday> to register your organization for the event, make a donation, volunteer, or sign up for the Tug of War.

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.