

Hello there! Thanks for tuning in to 91.9 FM KPTZ. I'm Simon Jaynes. Here is the local news for Port Townsend on this Thursday, May 26, 2022.

We have another light overcast day on our hands with mild temperatures and a chance of scattered showers. This looks to be the pattern for the next several days heading into the long weekend. Memorial Day is this coming Monday, and for students in the Port Townsend school district, tomorrow is a day off as well. It is a snow make-up day that wasn't used, so kids and parents are preparing for a 4 day weekend.

The iconic Rose Theatre in Port Townsend is for sale after 30 years of being owned and operated by local businessman Rocky Friedman. Friedman spoke of his decision to sell the theatre in a Port Townsend *Leader* article this week. He is still looking for potential buyers and says he is committed to taking the time it takes to find a successor who has a similar ethos. According to Friedman, "It is what I owe this town, to be as thoughtful in who I sell to as I possibly can be." The Rose Theatre opened under its current ownership in 1992 with a single screen and over the past thirty years has expanded to include the "Rosebud Cinema" and the "Starlight Room" under its umbrella of viewing locations for the theatre's signature blend of curated films. The Starlight Room will be included in a potential sale.

Anyone trying to use the Hood Canal Bridge or Highway 104 near the bridge yesterday morning through the afternoon felt the effects of a serious traffic back up. Drivers on the west side of the bridge were already stopped for a Navy ship crossing, when an eastbound box truck failed to stop in time, locked up his brakes, and plowed into the last of five vehicles stopped for the drawbridge opening. This started a chain-reaction collision. Six vehicles were involved in the collision, with the last car in line taking the brunt of the damage. Both the driver of the box truck (a man in his late thirties) and the driver of the first rear-ended vehicle (71-year-old Alaska resident) were transported to Harborview Medical Center. None of the other drivers were injured. Highway 104 adjacent the Hood Canal Bridge was closed from 9:50am until 2:22pm. During the closure, drivers were sent on a detour around Paradise Bay Road to through Port Ludlow which channeled them onto Highway 19 and back onto 104.

The Jefferson County Fairgrounds has a new manager. Danny McEnerney is replacing Sue McIntire, longtime fair manager who retired last fall. He began working three days a week on May 2 and will start full time beginning June 1. In a *Peninsula Daily News* article yesterday, McEnerney alluded to several state and county grants that have been awarded to improve the horse arena, campground, and some structures, as well as adding another part-time worker to the present one-man grounds crew. "We can't change things overnight," McEnerney said Tuesday, adding that the fairgrounds, which will host the Jefferson County Fair on Aug. 12-14, hasn't been updated since the 1980s. "People might not see fun stuff happening for a while," he said, citing as an example a top priority to fix water leaks that are contributing to an \$1,800 monthly bill. But in 2023 the public can expect events produced by the fair association that are "financially accessible, interesting and fun." McEnerney, 43, has served since 2018 as the general manager of Key City Public Theatre in Port Townsend. Before that, he owned a design business in Port Townsend.

Jefferson Co Public Health reported 72 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, bringing our total case count to 4,008. There are currently 202 cases in active isolation and the case rate is 938/100,00. Jefferson County is in the high risk category for transmission of the virus. Local residents and visitors alike are asked to avoid large indoor gatherings and please wear a mask whenever possible.

That's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday, and at 5pm Monday through Friday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Simon Jaynes, thanks for listening and have a great day.