

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news and commentary for today, June 24, 2022.

On May 27 of this year, The *New York Times* published a poem by Amanda Gorman, the young poet who gained recognition at president Biden's inaugural. She read "The Hill We Climb" in a lilting voice that garnered attention far and wide. Last month she submitted an opinion piece to the *New York Times*. It is a poem titled, "Hymn for the Hurting". It is a remarkable work, offering solace and hope in these days when we seem to be in a rather dark place. We've been cleared to read it on air and will soon, but in the meantime, you can pick up a copy at the poetry box at 1417 Washington Street. Bob Frances and his deceased wife Kathy started the community monthly poetry sharing exactly 10 years ago and Gorman's offering is the poem for June. The "Hymn for the Hurting" is also in the *New York Times* on-line archives for May 27. Between inflation, global warming, gun violence and politics in general, most of us are hurting. This poem is a good antidote.

The Fort Worden Public Development Authority's (PDA) Executive Director, David Timmons, says that the high-end camping project known as "glamping," begun long ago and scheduled to be completed this month, is on hold. The glamping tents and tent platforms that have already cost 1.3 million dollars remain empty and neglected while the PDA looks for ways to solve its financial woes. According to *The Leader*, Timmons is hoping to find someone or some entity interested in taking the project on as an independent investment. He estimates it will take about 1.5 million dollars.

The PDA is also looking to consolidate its four existing bonds into one single bond with an adjusted date for paying off the debt. In a well-researched April article for the publication *Post Alley*, Ross Anderson detailed the overly ambitious goals of the first set of managers that led inexorably to the current situation. Income couldn't meet the output of funds, there was some suspected embezzlement, and then COVID-19 happened. There's a more financially astute PDA board now, and consolidating debt, suspending the glamping tents and, barring a return of COVID-19 restrictions on Centrum's summer, Anderson writes, "Insiders believe that, at least in the short run, they can make it work."

Many people see Fort Worden as Port Townsend's most important asset, and KPTZ is getting ready to move out there to new studios this summer. Let's hope we can keep it as a unique and strong home for the arts.

The Friends of the Jefferson County Fair are hosting a volunteer work party from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through Sunday. The work is centered on the booth area under the grandstands. The fairgrounds are at 4907 Landes St. Volunteers should check in with James Schultz upon arrival. For more information, call Danny McEnerney at 360-385-1013.

The two-week case rate for COVID-19 in Jefferson County is very high. They are currently reporting 979 cases per 100,000, with 200 active cases in isolation and one person hospitalized.

The Race to Alaska was won handily by the monohull Pure & Wild that sailed outside up the west coast of Vancouver Island. But for those who believe that finishing is a reward itself, the race goes on. Of the 37 boats that started the full race, 10 remain as of this morning. Many have found the 780-mile race too demanding.

Others have capsized or broken equipment. But the remaining boats are hoping to make it all the way no matter the time.

In another notable competition, a bloodhound named Trumpet won the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Wednesday night, marking the first time the breed has ever snared U.S. dogdom's most coveted best in show prize.

And that's it for today's news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five pm, Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. I'm Ann Katzenbach. Thanks for listening and enjoy the warm weather for this first weekend of summer.