

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news and commentary for today, July 1, 2022.

Today the price of new Washington license plates go up. A new one will rise from \$10 to \$50 with comparable increases for all plates across the board. All this additional revenue will add up to billions of dollars over the next few years and will go to a list of \$17 billion dollar transportation projects. While large portions of this staggering amount will go toward completing and beginning major highway projects, it also spends heavily on transit and projects for walkers and bikers.

In Washington, the sale and discharge of fireworks is restricted. Legal fireworks include roman candles, cone fountains, sparklers, ground spinners, reloadable mortars, and cylindrical fountains. However, firecrackers, bottle rockets, sky rockets, and missiles are illegal to sell, possess, and/or discharge. Here's a list of precautions recommended by the Red Cross:

- Never give fireworks to small children.
- And never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.
- Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud".
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.

The Fire Chiefs of Jefferson County have called for a county-wide ban on the outdoor burning of brush, debris, and rubbish. This ban begins today, July 1 and continues through September 30 or until further notice. The burn ban does not apply to recreational fires at this time.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that the historic Good Templars Hall at 280 Quincy Street has been purchased by Good Templars Building LLC, which intends to create flexible spaces for artists' studios, maker spaces and office suites. The building is three levels with a day-lighted lower floor that opens to a side garden. Port Townsend architect Richard Berg has been hired to do the conversion, with Terrapin Architecture for the interior design.

At 6:30 this morning, "Don't Tell Mom", a rowboat from Bristol, Maine, and "Oracle", a kayak from Victoria BC were still in the Race to Alaska. "Don't Tell Mom" was 75 miles from Ketchikan and "Oracle" 20 miles behind. This is the nineteenth day of the race.

National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman wrote this poem as an opinion piece in the *New York Times*. Here's a reading of the poem by Jim Burke:

“Hymn for the Hurting” by Amanda Gorman

*Everything hurts,
Our hearts shadowed and strange,
Minds made muddied and mute.
We carry tragedy, terrifying and true.
And yet none of it is new;
We knew it as home,
As horror,
As heritage.
Even our children
Cannot be children,
Cannot be.*

*Everything hurts.
It's a hard time to be alive,
And even harder to stay that way.
We're burdened to live out these days,
While at the same time, blessed to outlive them.*

*This alarm is how we know
We must be altered —
That we must differ or die,
That we must triumph or try.
Thus while hate cannot be terminated,
It can be transformed
Into a love that lets us live.*

*May we not just grieve, but give:
May we not just ache, but act;
May our signed right to bear arms
Never blind our sight from shared harm;
May we choose our children over chaos.
May another innocent never be lost.
Maybe everything hurts,
Our hearts shadowed and strange.
But only when everything hurts
May everything change.*

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. Have a great Fourth of July, and stay safe.