

Hello, world! Thanks for tuning in to 91.9 FM KPTZ. I'm Simon Jaynes with the local news for Port Townsend on this Thursday, July 21, 2022.

Recovery efforts have been completed in the search for the climber reported missing in the Olympics on Monday. Sadly, the body of Sean Allen, a 38-year-old from Port Angeles was located yesterday around 5:30pm and transferred from the Olympic National Park to the Jefferson County Coroner's Office. According to the National Park Service, the crew on board the contract helicopter from North Cascades National Park spotted Allen on the southern end of Mount Mystery approaching the Del Monte ridgeline. The helicopter was able to drop off a search team on the ground and perform the recovery operation with helicopter support.

Late in the evening on July 18th, Sean Allen was reported missing after he did not return from a backpacking trip. Allen had a wilderness permit for July 16 through 18 and was travelling solo with an intended route from Royal Basin to Home Lake. Allen's itinerary included potential climbing attempts at Mount Mystery, Hal Foss Peak, and Little Mystery. Search and Rescue personnel hiked into the wilderness on Tuesday to begin a search of the area after Allen was reported missing. The National Park Service helicopter from North Cascades National Park was also activated to assist with the search on Tuesday and continued in the search efforts Wednesday. Search teams from Olympic National Park and Olympic Mountain Rescue were in the field Wednesday covering routes near the Upper Dungeness Trail and all around Royal Basin, assisted by the Washington State Search and Rescue Planning Unit. The Jefferson County Coroner's Office will determine the cause and date of death. The National Park Service is reporting that no further details are available at this time.

Drivers using Hwy 101 between Port Townsend and Sequim should be prepared for possible long delays due to road preservation work the first week of August. According to a Department of Transportation (DOT) press release issued yesterday, "Crews are set to repair and preserve areas of the highway between Old Gardiner Road along Discovery Bay and Gardiner Cemetery Road. Crews will work along a 5-mile section of US 101 between mileposts 277 and 282 doing surface repair work and chip sealing of the existing pavement. The work will take place from 5am to 5pm Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 5, and travelers can expect delays of at least 15 minutes. A pilot car and flaggers will lead drivers through the work zone. Travelers can also expect to see the speed limit reduced to 35 miles per hour around the clock throughout the week. The DOT asks that drivers please slow down and avoid distractions while driving through the work zone to help keep everyone safe.

Jefferson County Public Health reported yesterday that recent shellfish samples were found to contain elevated levels of the marine biotoxin that causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). As a result, the Washington State Department of Health has closed Fort Flagler, Mystery Bay, and Kilisut Harbor for recreational shellfish harvest for all species of mollusks. This does not include crab and shrimp. Danger signs have been posted at public access points warning people not to consume shellfish from this area. PSP can be fatal. Illness is caused by eating shellfish contaminated with toxins from the naturally occurring marine plankton Alexandrium and these Biotoxins are not destroyed by cooking. Symptoms of PSP can appear within minutes or hours and usually begin with tingling lips and tongue, moving to the hands and feet, followed by difficulty breathing, and paralysis.

During the warmer months, the naturally occurring Vibrio bacteria within shellfish is also a concern. Hood Canal currently has a Vibrio bacteria warning. The public should cook shellfish from Hood Canal to 145°F internal temperature for 15 seconds. Additionally, there are still shellfish closures in Discovery Bay, Quilcene

Bay, and Dabob Bay due to Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning. Public access points are posted with the appropriate warning signs, and the DOH Shellfish Safety Map (<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html>) has up-to-date information for shellfish harvesting throughout Washington.

Fall reservations for the San Juans and Port Townsend/Coupeville ferries will become available next week. Vehicle reservations for travel between late September and New Year's Eve on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands and Port Townsend/Coupeville routes will be released starting at 7am on Tuesday, July 26. Travelers can secure their spot for sailings between September 25 and December 31. To do so you will of course want to view the sailing schedules for these dates at the Washington State Ferries Web Page (<https://wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/default.aspx>). Reservations can be booked online or by calling 206-464-6400 and speaking with an Information Agent.

And that will do it for our Local News broadcast today. KPTZ 91.9FM 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.