

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz, filling in today for Casey Dolan, with local news and commentary for Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

The Winter Welcoming Center is open in the Pope Marine Building in downtown Port Townsend. That's the little building at Pope Marine Park, across Water Street from City Hall. Anyone who needs warmth, shelter, companionship, electricity to charge a phone, snacks, and information about local resources is welcome. The center is open seven days a week, from 8:30 in the morning until 12:30pm. The hours may be extended in extreme conditions. The Jefferson Interfaith Action Coalition, with support from local people who contribute, funds the Winter Welcoming Center, and plans to keep it open until mid-April.

If you have warm clothes, camping gear, hand warmers and other items that provide some comfort in the cold, you can drop them off at the Pope Marine Building during its regular hours. More information about the center, now in its fifth season, can be found on the website of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend, and by scrolling down to the Winter Welcoming Center link (<https://fpcpt.org/welcomingcenter>).

That said, we're in the middle of a sunny break this week on the Peninsula. That bright golden orb in the sky will continue to shine full-on through Friday, according to the National Weather Service. Winds will continue to be light while temperatures will stay pretty cold, only getting as high as 48 degrees today and Thursday. The clouds are expected to arrive Saturday and maybe a little rain Sunday night or Monday.

And with such weather can come road work. If you're out on Highway 101 around Discovery Bay and Sequim, or on State Route 104 on this side of the Hood Canal Bridge today and Thursday, you'll want to build in some extra travel time. State Department of Transportation crews will be out on those two highways removing what they call "trees of concern," and clearing the debris left over from the big storm earlier this month. You'll see one-way alternating traffic and intermittent delays today until 3:00 on state Route 104 between Beaver Valley Road and South Point Road west of the Hood Canal Bridge.

On Thursday, you can plan on those delays from 8 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon on Highway 101 between the Seven Cedars Casino area in Blyn and Discovery Bay. As always, the Department of transportation says this work is weather-dependent and could be rescheduled. Real-time traffic information is found on the Washington Department of Transportation website (<https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/>), on the DOT app and on its regional Twitter account.

This Friday afternoon, the JUMP Playground, at HJ Carroll County Park in Chimacum, will have its public grand opening. This is a place for any and every child to play, or just chill. The J-U-M-P stands for Jefferson Universal Movement Playground, meaning the equipment is friendly to youngsters with different abilities. The groundbreaking happened last spring, and ever since, local supporters have been working together to get to this point. The grand opening celebration of inclusive and accessible play will get going at 2:45 Friday. The JUMP Playground awaits next to the basketball courts at HJ Carroll Park. More about the project can be seen at <https://www.jumpplayground.org/>.

At a packed Veterans Day commemoration last Friday at the American Legion in Port Townsend, the North Olympic Peninsula Quilts of Valor volunteers presented home-sewn quilts to eleven local vets. These are our heartfelt expressions of gratitude, local group leader Kathey Bates said to each one. She then added that there are more finished quilts right now than veterans and families requesting them. There's no cost to request a Quilt of Valor, and this group covers both Jefferson and Clallam counties. The volunteer quilters meet twice a month in Port Townsend, and say they are happy to teach newcomers. Details about connecting with the group await on the Quilts of Valor foundation website, <https://www.qovf.org/>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Diane Urbani de la Paz. Thanks for listening!