

This is 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Thursday, March 16.

Jefferson Transit is looking at changing and adding to the bus service on several of its routes. So the agency is conducting a survey, now through next Wednesday the 22nd. You can find the fairly short questionnaire on Jefferson Transit's website (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023SERVICECHANGE>) and there's a QR code for it at bus shelters and the buses themselves.

Here's what might be coming: earlier departures and additional trips for the Brinnon-Quilcene route, the Upper Sims route in Port Townsend, the Poulsbo and Tri-Area bus, the Kingston Express, the downtown Port Townsend shuttle, and the dial-a-ride buses for Kala Point, Cape George, and Marrowstone Island. The details are found in the survey and in a 6-minute video on the Jefferson Transit website (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PGpg-jnbkM>).

The agency will hold a public hearing about the proposed changes on Tuesday, March 21. If the added service on various routes is approved by the Jefferson Transit Board, the changes will go into effect in early June. More about all of this is found at jeffersontransit.com.

As KPTZ reported Tuesday, the 2023 THING festival lineup has been revealed. The sprawling event will take over Fort Worden State Park August 25 through 27, with about three dozen musical acts plus live comedy, podcasting, indigenous storytellers, community workshops, and a lantern parade. KPTZ's Charlie Berman interviewed festival producer Adam Zacks – and you can listen to that interview at <https://kptz.org/2023/03/14/heres-the-thing/>. "THING organizers are focused on improving the experience," Zacks said. He also wants to broaden the tent and invite younger people into the fold. "We want THING to be for everybody," said Zacks. "So if tickets are too steep, consider volunteering and you'll have access to more of the festival. THING takes place at a state park, mind you, so there is a lot of open space, and people watching, and audible music from the stages for those who did not buy a THING pass."

The festival debuted in August 2019 and it was huge that year. Then it went away after the pandemic took hold. THING returned last year, but it did not sell out, Zacks said. When asked if the festival was profitable, he answered, "not yet. It was profitable emotionally." The festival capacity, according to Zacks, is 6,500 people per day.

The names I recognize on the THING poster are, first of all, Pacific Northwest soul singer Grace Love. Also: Fleet Foxes, Ben Lee, and Digable Planets. Some of the more interesting band names I find are: Black Country, New Road, Y La Bamba, and the Sacred Souls. To find out the pass prices, you can visit <https://thingnw.org/> and use the code word EXPLORE to unlock those ticket buttons. When tickets go on sale tomorrow, Friday, as the hosting venue of the August event, the Fort Worden Commons desk will offer local residents a 20% discount on the purchase of THING passes.

In downtown Port Townsend business news, a new place called the Wild Madrona Studio and Gallery is open on Water Street, with the motto "art is affordable joy". This latest addition brings the number of art galleries in the four blocks of the downtown core to ten, by my count. Also on Water Street, Imprint Books and the Writers' Workshop are reintroducing in-person classes and a book launch, after a long stretch of online activities. The

Living Poets Society book club with poet Lauren Davis and a generative memoir workshop with Kathryn Hunt are a couple of the gatherings coming to the shop. Local author Nicole Persun, whose nom de plume is Jennifer Gold, will launch her third novel *Halfway to You* with an in-person event at Imprint Bookstore at 5:30 the evening of Saturday, April 8.

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.