

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Hurricane Ridge Day Lodge was destroyed by fire Sunday afternoon, May 7. In a picture released by Olympic National Park, as seen on multiple news outlets and reported in the *PT Leader*, it shows that it burned to the ground. It is a total loss. No one was in the lodge at the time. The lodge had been undergoing renovations, and park officials said a law enforcement ranger on patrol saw the 1950s-era structure fully engulfed in flames around 4:30pm Sunday. Park officials said Clallam County Fire District 2 and the Port Angeles Fire Department responded to the fire and were in the mop-up phase just after 9pm Sunday. No one was injured in the blaze.

Hurricane Ridge is a popular destination in Olympic National Park. The lodge has easy access in the park's high alpine area, but the 17-mile-long mountain road that leads to the lodge has been closed since renovations began on March 27. The building housed interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, and small café.

Yesterday, May 8, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) issued the following statement regarding the fire on Sunday: "The loss of the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center is devastating for the Olympic Peninsula and for the more than 300,000 travelers who visit the iconic visitor center every year. I am working with Secretary Haaland and the National Park Service to make sure this historic lodge is rebuilt."

The Washington State Department of Health website reports the two-week COVID-19 case rate in Jefferson County is approximately 152 cases per 100,000. No one is currently hospitalized. There have been a total of 5,088 reported cases in Jefferson County since the pandemic began. Across the state there is still a downtrend in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, but there is a very slight bump upward in cases in Jefferson and Clallam Counties at this time. No new COVID-19 deaths were reported locally. The all-time number of deaths reported on the State website is now 37 but that reflects an update to the state webpage, and not a new death in Jefferson County. Dr. Berry explained last week that there was a death reported to the state previously that has not been added to the overall count at the state level. The last reported deaths in either Clallam County or Jefferson County were in March according to the Washington State DOH COVID-19 data dashboard. To pore over the data yourself, see <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/data-dashboard>. Whether you live in Jefferson or Clallam County, you are encouraged to report a positive home test to the State website. There is a link to that webpage here: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/testing-covid-19/tested-positive-covid-19>. Or simply report your positive result to Washington's COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-525-0127.

And a reminder: COVID-19 is still present in the community. Jefferson County Public Health recommends getting up to date on vaccinations and boosters, and wearing a well-fitting, high-quality mask in crowded public indoor settings.

Yesterday and this morning there were a few tidal cancellations on the Port Townsend-Coupeville route of the Washington State Ferry System. There are no cancellations scheduled for the rest of this week but next week there will be two cancellations every morning From Tuesday, May 15 through Sunday, May 21. On Wednesday, May 17 there will be one sailing added from the Port Townsend end at 8:05am.

Below is a spreadsheet with these cancellations (or you can check online at <https://www.wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/bulletin.aspx>).

May 2023

Date	Cancelled P. Townsend	Cancelled Coupeville	Added P. Townsend	Added Coupeville
Tue 05/09	11:00 1	11:45 1		
Tue 05/16	6:30 1	7:15 1		
Wed 05/17	6:30 1 8:00 1	7:15 1	8:05 1	
Thu 05/18	6:30 1 8:00 1	7:15 1 8:45 1		
Fri 05/19	8:00 1	8:45 1		
Sat 05/20	8:00 1 9:30 1	8:45 1 10:15 1		
Sun 05/21	9:30 1	10:15 1		

So, there are no long weekend closures required for the State Route 104 Hood Canal Bridge repairs. Instead of four long-term weekend closures of the bridge, WSDOT made the decision to separate the work into phases. Closures require good weather and calm tides, so they might be rescheduled. All closures will be announced in advance. There are four overnight closures on the bridge coming up this weekend into next week, and these overnight closures will be happening the following week, and during two weeks in June.

May 13 to May 17

10pm Saturday, May 13 to 10am Sunday, May 14, the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic.

From 11pm Monday, May 15 to 4am Tuesday, May 16

From 11pm Tuesday, May 16 to 4am Wednesday, May 17

From 11pm Wednesday, May 17 to 4am Thursday, May 18

May 20 to May 24

From 10pm Saturday, May 20 to 10am Sunday, May 21

From 11pm Monday, May 22 to 4am Tuesday, May 23

From 11pm Tuesday, May 23 to 4am Wednesday, May 24

From 11pm Wednesday, May 24 to 4am Thursday, May 25

June 10 to June 14

From 10pm Saturday, June 10 to 10am Sunday, June 11

From 11pm Monday, June 12 to 4am Tuesday, June 13

From 11pm Tuesday, June 13 to 4am Wednesday, June 14

From 11pm Wednesday, June 14 to 4am Thursday, June 15

June 17 to June 21

From 10pm Saturday, June 17 to 10am Sunday, June 18

From 11pm Monday, June 19 to 4am Tuesday, June 20

From 11pm Tuesday, June 20 to 4am Wednesday, June 21

From 11pm Wednesday, June 21 to 4am Thursday, June 22

In addition to the center lock work, WSDOT maintenance crews will make lighting improvements to the Hood Canal Bridge in early June. For more information, see <https://ptmta.org/wp/news/2023/04/hood-canal-bridge-closures-in-may-2023/>.

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 Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!