

At 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Friday, June 2, 2023.

The Port Townsend Food Bank is expanding its hours. The wonderful food bank, which is right next to KPTZ in Mountain View Commons on Blaine Street, is open to everyone on Wednesdays from 10am till 3pm. And until now it has been open particularly to people 65 and older on Saturdays from 11:30am to 2pm. That's what's expanding. People younger than 65 are invited to come to the Port Townsend Food Bank on Saturday afternoons between 3pm and 5pm. Food bank manager Shirley Moss says that this is to better serve the folks who work or go to school during the week.. In a letter to the *PT Leader*, she said, "we have seen a sustained incremental increase in the number of families using the food bank. And we're committed to serving their needs as best we can." More about this food pantry and others in nearby communities is found at <https://jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org/>.

Nighttime closures of the Hood Canal Bridge will resume next week. The bridge will shut down to vehicle traffic from 11pm till 4am next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, June 6 through June 8. This is for lighting improvements, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation. Then, starting on Saturday, June 10, there will be eight more overnight closures through the morning of Thursday, June 22. Those are so crews can upgrade and replace key elements of the bridge. Specific dates and times for these Hood Canal Bridge closures can be found on the Washington State Department of Transportation website at <https://wsdot.wa.gov/about/news/2023/change-plans-no-long-weekend-closures-required-sr-104-hood-canal-bridge-repairs>.

Pride month is here with events across the North Olympic Peninsula. In Port Townsend, Olympic Pride will put on a celebration titled Beyond the Rainbow on Saturday, June 10 – that's a week from tomorrow. We're talking 35 booths, a drag show, Tobias the Magician, music by Nasty Habits and by True Reckoning, a kids' zone, youth performances, and other activities, from 11am till 6pm. The place is Pope Marine Park in downtown Port Townsend.

In Sequim, Pride Weekend will happen from June 15 through the 17th. Among other festivities, there will be a Pride ceremony at 6:00 the evening of Friday, the 16th of June. That gathering will be at the Sequim Community Plaza, which is on Sequim Avenue near the Civic Center and the totem pole. A Pride march will follow, starting and ending at the Plaza. More about Sequim's Pride weekend awaits at <https://clallam.lgbt/>.

Our state, and especially Jefferson County, is getting up there in years. The *Seattle Times* reports that in all of Washington's 39 counties, the median age has risen. And since 2010, the over-65 population has gone up significantly, while the numbers of children under age 5 have decreased. When it comes to aging, Jefferson County is number one. The median age went up by nearly 7 years, to nearly 61 years old.

This Saturday in Port Townsend, it's Art Walk night. Here are a few of the gallery shows you can see downtown, where venues will extend their hours until 8pm Saturday evening, in many cases:

- Psychedelic Summer is the new exhibition at Grover Gallery on Taylor Street. Trippy paintings by Virginia Ashby and Herman James are on display.
- And a few doors down on Water Street at Jeanette Best Gallery, the new “Shadows and Light” exhibit has arrived. This features local artists, as well.
- Also downtown, the Autonomy Art Show will happen at Brigids Loft – that’s the big yellow house at Quincy and Washington Streets. The show, a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood, will be open to all on Saturday evening from 5:30 to 7:30.

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.