

At 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Friday, June 23.

The National Park Service announced this week that the Hurricane Ridge area in Olympic National Park will open up again, this coming Tuesday, June 27. This is after a nearly two-month closure of the popular spot, after a fire burned down the Hurricane Ridge Day Lodge. The 12,000-square-foot structure burned to the ground on May 7 and there has been no report on what caused the fire. Starting Tuesday, you can go to Hurricane Ridge and soak up the magnificence outside the Lodge. Parking is limited, though. So you may want to take the Clallam Transit bus that runs to and from the Ridge, departing from downtown Port Angeles. Details are at [clallamtransit.com \(https://www.clallamtransit.com/HurricaneRidge\)](https://www.clallamtransit.com/HurricaneRidge).

News sources around the state report that Washington state Senator Kevin Van De Wege, a firefighter by profession, has announced he will run for commissioner of public lands. Van De Wege is serving his second term representing the 24th Legislative District in the Senate right now. Before this, he served five terms in the state House of Representatives.

The current state lands commissioner, Hilary Franz, announced she is running for governor about a month ago. The state lands commissioner oversees the Department of Natural Resources, which manages more than 5 million acres, ranging from forests and tidal land to farming and commercial land.

In May, Dave Upthegrove, chairman of the King County Council, indicated he was taking a good look at running for the lands commissioner post. He ran for the job in 2016, but Franz defeated him. Upthegrove said this week that he hasn't decided yet whether he will run.

This Saturday from 2pm until 8:30pm, the Field Day will happen at Fort Worden State Park. Live music, games – including tug o'war – prizes, beverages, food, and a community portrait are all part of the plan. There will be an ice bath challenge starting at 3pm, and then root beer floats for anybody who wants one at 4:30, a Watermelon Eating Contest at 5:30, and then the community portrait is set for 5:45. You can find the schedule and more information about the Field Day at [summerkickoff.org \(https://theproductionalliance.org/events/fieldday\)](https://theproductionalliance.org/events/fieldday)

In business and bicycling news, the Velo Cats Collective has opened its doors in Port Townsend. This bike sales and repair shop is in the former Holly's Flowers location, at the first roundabout as you're heading out of town. Velo Cats is a worker-owned cooperative that sells new and used bikes. The mechanics work on traditional and electric bicycles. Jonathan Arp, one of the workers and owners, told me that he and his colleagues all came from the ReCyclery, which is no longer a full-service repair shop. The ReCyclery is focusing on programs involving volunteers, including the community shop days. The PTRecyclery.org website (<https://www.ptrecyclery.org/>) has information.

Back at Velo Cats, the workers' credo is to strive to make riders of all abilities feel welcome. The shop has a pay it forward program, so people with available resources can help folks with limited resources maintain their bicycles. The shop is open from noon until 6pm Tuesdays through Saturdays – except this Saturday, as the cats are going on a campout.

And this Sunday, starting at 10am, the East Jefferson Fire Rescue team will host a sidewalk CPR training at the Chimacum Farmers Market. These first responders will show market-goers the basic medical emergency dos and don'ts. The Chimacum market happens on Sundays outside the Chimacum Corner Farmstand, at the intersection of Highway 19 and Center Road, and that's from 10am until 2pm every Sunday.

Also at this market: Traveling songwriter Norman Baker will play his music. His songs are stories of camping, driving without cell phones, childlike innocence, home towns, and walking until your shoes wear through.

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.