

At 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Friday, August 11.

The community has lost a much beloved woman who was a radiant actor, wife, mother, and friend. Consuelo Aduvise Brennan, who was 57, suffered a stroke on July 5. After fighting so hard, she passed away, her husband Marshall Brennan posted Wednesday on Facebook. Consuelo and Marshall were married nearly 24 years and have a son, who is 22. Those who knew Consuelo or watched her perform in plays and in movies remember her as a very bright light, one who exuded love and joy. She had a girlish voice to match her petite stature. But Consuelo was a powerful force. She appeared in many Key City Public Theatre productions including "Spirit of the Yule", "Mercy Falls" and "Men on Boats". She was also a director who worked with young people on Shakespeare productions. Her most recent project was directing the Saltfire Theater Company's production of "The Taming of the Shrew" which is playing at Finnrivier Cidery in Chimacum this weekend and beside the big madrona tree at Fort Worden next weekend.

Consuelo is also remembered as a generous mentor who encouraged young people – and everyone else around her. Tobi McEnerney of Port Townsend recalled that when her then 9-year-old son, an aspiring actor, was cast in a movie, she called Consuelo in a panic. The professional theater artist came over to the McEnerney home, and taught Tobi and her husband Danny how to help their son learn 130 pages of script. He's now 11, and his mom is running lines with him for a new play, just as Consuelo taught them to do. "She swooped in to support this kid and his parents," Tobi wrote on Facebook. It was at a point when Consuelo had absolutely no time in her schedule to do it. But she found it, "Just to be kind and reassure us all. What a woman."

Starting on Sunday, drivers can expect major delays on U.S. Highway 101 around Gardiner. Washington state department of transportation crews will be working on a fish barrier removal project between Sequim and Discovery Bay. The highway will be reduced to one lane, with each direction of traffic alternating through the work zone. This is happening from 7pm Sunday, August 13 through the evening of next Friday, August 18. If you're traveling that stretch of highway 101, you might consider going early or late in the day, or even reschedule your whole trip. That way you can avoid backups, which could be as long as 90 minutes.

In other local travel news, on Thursday the Washington State Transportation Commission approved increases to ferry fares. Starting on October 1, foot passenger and vehicle fares will go up 4.25%. At the same time, the commission decided to increase the discount for multi-ride passes by 1%. And on October 1, 2024, ferry fares will rise again. That increase will be another 4.25%.

The 86th annual Jefferson County Fair is starting today and runs through Sunday. There are 4-H cats, draft horse pulls, mud drags, a reptile isle, live music, and lots of other animals, vendors, and food. Among the live entertainment highlights are Joy in Mudville today at 2 o'clock. The Olympic Express Big Band will perform Saturday at noon. Hippy and the Squids will appear on the fair stage on Sunday at 12:30pm. The county fair gates are open from 10am till 8pm today and Saturday and from 10 till 6 on Sunday. A schedule can be found at <https://jeffcofairgrounds.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Gate-Schedule8.5.2023-1.pdf>.

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.