

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

A quick word about Washington state ferries: the Seattle/Bainbridge route will be closed to vehicles, motorcycles, and bicycles for six days from 1am Thursday, September 7 through 3am Wednesday, September 13. The route will only operate on a one-boat schedule for customers traveling without a vehicle. To help accommodate travel during the vehicle closure, a third ferry will be added to the Edmonds/Kingston route when crewing and vessel availability allows. The extra boat will not run on a set schedule; it will operate around the route's current two-boat schedule. Due to the closure, customers will also be able to use their single-use or multi-ride tickets from the Seattle/Bainbridge route on the Edmonds/Kingston route, Seattle/Bremerton, or Fauntleroy/Southworth routes at no extra cost. Passengers can get additional information about the upcoming construction work and associated vehicle closure on the project's website.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Northwest Maritime Center will be welcoming Hōkūle'a to Port Townsend today. The canoe – a large, ocean-going canoe with sails – will arrive at the Northwest Maritime Center dock on the afternoon of September 5 – that's this afternoon – and depart tomorrow morning, September 6. Tours may be offered in the evening on September 5. For a more specific arrival time, you can track Hōkūle'a's progress on their website (<https://hokulea.com/>).

Hōkūle'a is a legendary voyaging canoe that revived the lost art of Polynesian voyaging and navigation and sparked a cultural renaissance in Hawaii. This visit is a part of its four-year, 43,000-mile Moananuiākea Voyage around the Pacific. Hōkūle'a has been sailing south from Southeast Alaska since the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) held its global launch of the Moananuiākea Voyage in Juneau, Alaska on June 15. The Moananuiākea Voyage, led by PVS, will cover an estimated 43,000 nautical miles around the Pacific, visiting 36 countries and archipelagoes, nearly 100 indigenous territories, and more than 300 ports.

This morning, Dr. Allison Berry reported to the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and said this about the current state of things, Covid-wise. [sound bite]

We are heading into a COVID-19 surge. We are seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases nationally and even at the local level. And you've likely experienced that in your friend group. Many people have recently come down with COVID-19. We are likely to see that get worse as most of our children have now gone back to school. We are in a different time of the response in that we are not seeing anywhere near the level of masking that we used to see. We're certainly not seeing mandatory masking. We expect to see more cases out of the kids going back to school.

This is Jim Burke and I'm talking here with Lisa Widner:

Jim: "What are you doing here, Lisa, at the Northwest Maritime Center?"

Lisa: "I'm preparing for this week's festival which, of course, will be outrageously fun. I'm a captain out at the Kids' Cove. We build little boats and we print fish on T-shirts and baby onesies and tea towels."

Jim: "You print fish. Is that like from a wood block or..."

Lisa: "That's from a real rock fish."

Jim: "You're actually taking a fish and you're rubbing ink or paint on it and putting it on paper?"

Lisa: Putting it on your shirt or a T-shirt.”

Jim: “A T-shirt printing of a fish.”

Lisa: “Correct.”

Jim: “And where can I get these?”

Lisa: “You can come out to the Kids’ Cove on Friday, Saturday, Sunday all day, all the way out on the point, so you’ll have to come by all the other great exhibits and foods and such. There’ll be a paddleboard pool out at the end as well as a third bar – A Wee Nip – this year; pizza, coffee. So we’re all out on the end.”

Jim: “You showed me a word a second ago, what was that word?”

Lisa: “Gyotaku – fish print or rubbing in Japanese. Traditionally that’s how the fisherman documented their catch of the day. By printing it on rice paper with black ink, they could prove what they caught.”

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and noon on Saturday. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening..