

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Don't get depressed over the rain! Speaking to the *Peninsula Daily News*, Molly Pittman, public affairs specialist with Olympic National Park, says, "We expect this coming weather system to put a damper on (the fires in the park)." But it's unclear to park officials whether the rains could extinguish the fires completely. There were 57 fire personnel in the park Monday and two types of helicopters combating the fires. The largest fire currently burning in the park, the Delabarre Fire, was reported at 4,165 acres as of Sunday, and the second-largest fire, the Low Divide Fire, was at 340 acres.

The National Weather Service forecasts showers and light rain through Friday with a chance of thunderstorms. Hurricane Ridge Road remains open to the public, but several trails have been closed. Trails closed until further notice include:

- Elwha River Trail from Whiskey Bend Trailhead to Low Divide
- Bailey Range Traverse beyond Cat Basin
- Long Ridge Trail to Dodger Point
- Hayden Pass Trail
- Dosewallips River Trail from Dose Meadows to Hayden Pass
- Dodger Point Way Trail
- North Fork Quinault Trail from Elip Creek trail junction to Low Divide
- Skyline Trail from Elip Creek Trail junction to Low Divide
- Martin Park Trail
- Obstruction Point Road and Trailhead

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has issued an advisory that the recreational shellfish harvest at South Lilliwaup Beach and the commercial shellfish harvest on the adjacent tidelands are closed due to high bacteria levels near the southern portion of Hood Canal. Signage will be posted at the beaches warning harvesters of the closure. DOH is working with Mason County Public Health and Human Services to determine why bacteria levels are high and to fix the problem. People can still harvest at Lilliwaup State Park recreational beach, but check the DOH's Shellfish Safety Map (<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html>) before going to the beach to ensure a safe and legal harvest.

As a follow-up to the much-reported double stabbings that occurred on Sunday, September 10, near A+ Equipment Rentals on State Route 20 near Jacob Miller Road in Port Townsend, the Port Townsend *Leader* reports that both the male perpetrator and his female victim are both in stable condition. The man, who had stabbed himself in the throat, will be transferred to Jefferson County Jail upon his release from Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. It was initially reported that the female victim was his wife. That detail has since been corrected. She was his brother's significant other. The man's life had been saved due to a combined effort on the part of two sheriff's deputies – Gordon Tamura and Dean Murray.

The U.S. Coast Guard called off its search for a 26-year-old woman after a body matching the woman's description was located on Rialto Beach near La Push at 5pm this past Monday. Earlier in the day, the Coast Guard said it received a call about a woman who was reportedly taken by ocean currents while she was on Rialto Beach near Olympic National Park. Coast Guard helicopter aircrews searched about 51 square miles for more than five hours. The National Weather Service in Seattle had issued a small craft advisory and a gale warning Monday along the coast for strong winds causing hazardous seas.

And we have some advisories from the Jefferson County PUD: This morning starting at 8am, PUD substation teams are conducting a brief outage (lasting approximately 1 minute) as crews conduct switching at the Discovery Bay substation in Gardiner. Another brief outage will occur at approximately 4pm as crews reset. Also, as of yesterday, traffic along Beaver Valley Rd will be reduced to a single-lane with flaggers in place as PUD line crews hang distribution lines. Crews may be on or near the roadway, so please drive carefully.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.