

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

Low tides will cancel several sailings from Port Townsend and Coupeville in November. Tonight, the 8:30pm sailing from Port Townsend and the 9:10pm from Coupeville are canceled due to tidal conditions. Please be advised the final departure from Port Townsend is at 6:45pm and from Coupeville at 7:30pm tonight.

As KPTZ news reported last week, there were two major accidents recently on State Route 104 at the intersection with Paradise Bay Road which is right at the west end of the Hood Canal Bridge. The most recent occurred just after 2pm, Tuesday the 14th, when an 83-year-old man from Nordland in a Dodge Ram pickup attempted a left turn onto 104 from Paradise Bay Road and hit a GMC Sierra head on. The driver of the Ram truck was airlifted to Harborview, the passenger in the truck, an 82-year-old woman, was transported to St. Michaels in Silverdale.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) report was updated last week to say the woman in the truck has died as a result of her injuries. Yesterday, Washington State Patrol amended their report yet again to say that the driver of that Ram Pickup truck has also died as a result of his injuries. So, Wilbur Jurden 83, and Judith Jurden, 82, of Nordland, Washington both gone due to a fatal left turn at that dangerous intersection. Construction of the roundabouts on State Route 104 at the intersections with Route 19 and the intersection with Paradise Bay Road are due to start in April of 2024 according to State transportation officials. You know what to do in the meantime.

The new Kearney Street roundabout opened last week as KPTZ News previously reported. Social media is abuzz locally with many comments about the design and construction of the new Sims Way roundabout. Partially because lines and signage have been slow in coming, there have been some difficulties. Drivers are complaining about traffic backups on Kearney Street where it meets the roundabout. Getting into the roundabout involves a hard right turn to go onto Sims way AWAY from the ferry and the traffic coming FROM the ferry doesn't need to slow down much so it can be unrelenting. One person on social media complained that the wait on Kearney Street is now longer than the traffic light that used to be there.

And the diagonal merge – that little lane that is an extension of Jefferson Street in front of the bank – is closed to traffic now, and it's unclear if it will be reopened. Because of the tightness of lanes at the intersection, the low island is meant to allow larger vehicles to drive over it as they would otherwise be unable to fit the turns. Smaller vehicles, of course, are meant to go around. It's easy to lose sight of that only slightly raised central island. There have been a couple of instances of large RVs pulling cars behind them getting stuck trying to turn right onto Sims Way from Kearney Street.

The alternative to getting out of town from the campgrounds at Point Hudson or Fort Worden is Discovery Road and it is now compromised, as the eastbound lane is closed during the day for construction of the improvements that stretch from Salish Coast Elementary to the roundabout where Discovery Road meets Rainier Street. Delays can be 20 minutes or more according to recent information from the City of Port Townsend. Bring your patience if you feel frustrated; please keep calm as not to harm anyone near the school or anywhere else.

Parks in 25 counties will get much-needed repairs thanks to one-time funding for backlogged parks maintenance projects and needed equipment. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) announced the award of \$4.7 million for 53 projects through its Local Parks Maintenance grant program. The Legislature created the grant program this past year to address maintenance backlogs in local parks.

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation will use a grant of just under \$83,000 to repair and refresh amenities in six parks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of this project (<https://rco.wa.gov/state-awards-recreation-planning-grants/>). There is also a link to descriptions of all the grants to counties all over the state, including Clallam County Parks which received a grant of over \$90,000 (<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NEWS-277-LPMGrants.pdf>).

And last thing, it is Giving Tuesday, so give to whatever local charities and causes call out to you, and remember that one local cause, KPTZ Radio Port Townsend, a treasured community resource, can also use your support! Go to KPTZ.org and press the blue donate button to make a one-time donation or to become a sustaining member. And we thank you.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can reach out to us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.