

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, December 8, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Clallam and Jefferson counties have survived the predicted “atmospheric river” according to the National Weather Service. Meteorologist Kirby Cook with the National Weather Service in Seattle spoke to the *Peninsula Daily News* and said, “For much of the (North Olympic) Peninsula, the rain already has shifted to the south and the east. So, it’s not raining in Forks, but it’s raining heavily in Seattle. Port Angeles to Port Townsend have been sheltered by the Olympics. [They] have seen a lot less. The atmospheric river has shifted south.” Jefferson County’s 24-hour precipitation totals as of 5:30pm Tuesday were 2.1 to 2.64 inches in Brinnon, 1.12 inches in Quilcene, 0.42 inches in Chimacum, and 0.27 inches to 0.39 inches at 11 locations in Port Townsend.

Olympic National Park announced December 1 it was closing coastal campgrounds through Monday due to high winds. The state Department of Transportation issued numerous reports of downed trees and water over the roadway Monday and overnight Tuesday. Downed trees blocking both lanes of State Highway 20 at Anderson Lake Road were reported at about 7pm Monday and cleared by 8:55pm. Trees were reported blocking the northbound lane of U.S. Highway 101 at 9:38pm Monday at milepost 151 near the Grays Harbor/Jefferson County line. They were cleared by 11:26pm.

Jefferson County PUD reported a brief outage beginning at 7am Monday affecting 2,044 customers in the Port Ludlow area. It lasted until 7:55am. The utility experienced a similar outage from 6:30pm until 9:30pm Monday that affected 108 customers in the Chimacum area. The cause was a tree on the line. There is a comprehensive list of outages during the past few days in the *Peninsula Daily News* reportage and I encourage curious listeners to seek it out.

The *PT Leader* reports that the Friends of Fort Worden State Park will begin removing an old garbage dump next week along Mule Barn Road and turn the area into a natural meadow with a view of the nearby Chinese Gardens. Mitch Freeman, a Friends board member and one of the project leaders said, “We now have permission to continue the project we began earlier this year. We can remove ugly debris sticking out of the ground, level the berms, and replant the area with native grasses and wildflowers.” Earlier this year, a Friends contractor removed decades of invasive, non-native English blackberry bushes and other noxious weeds from the area. That work revealed a scenic view of the Chinese Gardens lagoon to the west. But also visible were chunks of concrete, asphalt, and rusted steel protruding from the artificial berms over the dump site.

Washington State Parks would have to assess whether historic artifacts were buried there before giving permission for the project to continue. Over the summer, State Parks workers and a separate contractor gave approval, but advised in a white paper that certain actions should be taken if there would be “inadvertent discoveries” of anything significant.

Yesterday in a press release from U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer’s office, Kilmer announced that he and Lori Chavez-DeRemer from Oregon announced the introduction of the bipartisan Investing in Digital Skills Act, legislation to expand training opportunities around digital skills and literacy. The Digital Skills Act would integrate digital skills and digital literacy as key elements of adult education and literacy programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The bill would ensure that adult education programs are better

equipped to prepare individuals for the evolving demands of the digital economy, enhancing their employability and skill sets in a technologically advanced job market. Kilmer said, “I’m particularly proud that the Investing in Digital Skills Act is geared towards bridging the digital divide, equipping people with essential digital literacy skills to thrive in the 21st-century economy.”

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.