

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Due to high winds yesterday, there were multiple sailings from Port Townsend and from Coupeville that were canceled. Low tides cancel multiple sailings from Port Townsend and Coupeville in January. Please see WSF's Tidal Cancellations table (<https://www.wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/AddCancelBySimpleRoute.aspx?routeid=8>) or a complete list of affected dates and departures.

The wind and severe weather conditions from the last two days did minimal apparent damage here in Port Townsend, especially compared to other areas in our region. Be ready however, for very cold weather this Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, when overnight lows will be in the teens and low 20s, and daytime highs will be below freezing. This cold wave will last until Tuesday. There is a possibility of snow as low as sea level. Put those covers on your outdoor spigots and layer up if you're heading out, and make sure you have some basic supplies in your car. (Do you know where your ice scraper is?)

Jefferson Interfaith Action Coalition runs the Winter Welcoming Center at Pope Marine Park at 100 Water Street in Port Townsend. The website (<https://www.jeffersoninterfaithaction.org/www>) says: "We offer a socially-distanced space from 8:30am to 12:30pm, 7 days a week, and longer when the weather is severe. We will provide warmth, WiFi, bathrooms, and community for those who have nowhere else to go."

A newsletter (https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/2024.01_-_discovery_road_project_email_newsletter.pdf) from the City of Port Townsend's Engineering Department arrived in the news inbox Monday and it provides information about the ongoing Discovery Road Bikeway, Roadway, and Sidewalk Project. The newsletter outlines the timeline for the ongoing project. Construction is scheduled to be completed in May but is subject to change, of course. Currently there are underground utilities being put in. The two things that stood out in the newsletter are: The 14th Street intersection will permanently close in February. The newsletter also has drawings and pictures of future "mixing zones" where pedestrians and cyclists will share the same space. Looking at the newsletter would be the very best way for KPTZ listeners to see what that means rather than me painstakingly describing it (even though you know I love that sort of thing.) To sign up for emails, go to <https://cityofpt.us/newsletter/subscriptions> > check "Discovery Road Bikeway and Sidewalk Project. The Department of Public Works reminds everyone to be extra alert around the construction zone.

Opioid-related drug overdose deaths in Washington have risen dramatically, and rates of opioid-related fatalities among adolescents aged 14 to 18 have surged almost threefold from 3.6 per 100,000 individuals in 2016 to 10.6 per 100,000 individuals in 2022. This increase is largely due to an increase of synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, in the illegal drug supply. As a result, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is offering all public high schools across the state naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, which is a safe and effective medicine that can reverse the harmful effects of an opioid overdose, including one caused by fentanyl. Naloxone is available in a nasal spray that can be given to anyone, any age, during a suspected opioid overdose and has no harmful effects even if opioids are not present in the system.

DOH is partnering with Educational Service Districts to offer all public comprehensive and alternative high schools two kits of intranasal naloxone. This offer from DOH is voluntary and supports the Washington law

([https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.210.390#:~:text=\(2\)\(a\)%20For%20the,in%20accordance%20with%20RCW%2069.41](https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.210.390#:~:text=(2)(a)%20For%20the,in%20accordance%20with%20RCW%2069.41)) requiring school districts with 2,000 students or more to stock at least one set of opioid overdose reversal medication in each high school. Smaller school districts may also choose to obtain and maintain naloxone in their schools. DOH works with K-12 schools and partners throughout Washington to make learning spaces healthier and safe (<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/schools#Resources>). While overdoses are rare at schools, staff should be prepared to recognize and respond to them in the same way that they do for other medical emergencies.

Individuals and families can purchase (<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/150-148-StatewideStandingOrderFAQ.pdf>) naloxone over the counter or obtain it from a pharmacy using the statewide standing order (<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/150-127-StatewideStandingOrderToDispenseNaloxone.pdf>), which acts like a prescription for anyone in the state at risk of witnessing or experiencing opioid overdose. (It could happen anywhere.)

Information on how to prevent and respond to drug overdoses can be found on the DOH website (<https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/injury-and-violence-prevention/opioid-overdose-prevention>), including links to resources on how to talk with teens about fentanyl.

The “Prevent Overdose WA” campaign (<https://preventoverdosewa.org/>) informs Washingtonians about the risks of opioids and fentanyl and the power of naloxone to reverse overdoses.

In addition, DOH’s Opioid and Drug Overdose Data (<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/overdose-dashboard>) and Unintentional Drug Overdose Data (<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/unintentional-drug-overdose-data-sudors>) dashboards provide useful insights for addressing substance use in the state.

The DOH website (<https://doh.wa.gov/>) is your source for a healthy dose of information. Find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WADepthHealth/>). And follow us on X, formerly Twitter (<https://twitter.com/wadepthhealth>). Sign up for the DOH blog, Public Health Connection (<https://medium.com/wadepthhealth>).

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.