

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Friday, May 24, 2024.

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Memorial Day weekend is the kick-off of summer travel season across the US. Washington State DOT has issued a few press releases to remind us all of changes to local routes that can cause delays and they urge us to plan ahead:

- US highway 101 in the area near Lake Crescent has alternating one-way traffic due to construction that can cause delays.
- The intersection of Highway 19 where it connects to State Route 104 is partially closed due to the construction of the roundabout there. No left turns either on or off State Route 19 at this time. So if you are headed off the peninsula toward the Hood Canal Bridge you will need to connect with State Route 104 via Center Valley Road. Temporary Traffic Lights are set up at that intersection to ease this interface, and it adds a few miles to the trip.
- The good news is, overnight closures of the Hood Canal Bridge are not happening this holiday weekend. The bridge might be open during the day for marine traffic. Closures originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, May 31 have all been canceled. Contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation completed work on the shock absorbers on the south side of the bridge ahead of schedule.
- Overnight closures will resume Monday, June 3. The bridge will close at 10pm every night that week through (and including) Saturday, June 8. For a full list of closure dates, visit the State Route 104 Hood Canal Bridge Center Lock Rehabilitation project page (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/sr-104-hood-canal-bridge-center-lock-rehabilitation>). Each night of work is weather dependent and could be rescheduled.

Real-time information is available via the WSDOT Hood Canal Bridge webpage (<https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/hoodcanalbridgestatus>) and the WSDOT app (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/mobile-app-and-social-media>). Sign up to receive Hood Canal Bridge email alerts (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/roads-bridges/hood-canal-bridge>).

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From *Peninsula Daily News*: Investigators probing the officer-involved shooting at a downtown Port Angeles bank want to speak with a woman they say was using the ATM at the time of the incident. Two Port Angeles police officers responded to a hold-up alarm on May 3 and encountered Joseph Jacob Hadden, 38, with a handgun outside Chase Bank on Front Street, Police Chief Brian Smith and Clallam County Sheriff Brian King said in a prepared statement that afternoon. Hadden, who had no known criminal history, died as the result of multiple gunshot wounds to the torso and extremities, according to a press release from the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT). Toxicology results from the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory are pending, KCIRT said. Investigators now believe a woman was using the bank's ATM at the time of the shooting and would like to interview her. They encourage anyone with information related to the case to call Sgt. Brandon Myers of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office at 360-337-5683.

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Several state agencies are asking campers and outdoor enthusiasts to not move firewood and instead buy it where they burn it this camping season. The Washington Invasive Species Council, Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program, Washington State Department of

Agriculture, and Washington State University Extension are strongly encouraging outdoor recreationists to heed their “Buy It Where You Burn It” campaign as a way to keep invasive species in check. The warning comes after emerald ash borer – an invasive, wood-boring beetle that kills ash trees – was found this month in Vancouver, British Columbia. It was first discovered on the West Coast in 2022 near Portland, Oregon. Emerald ash borer has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America and has moved westward at a rapid pace; experts suspect that moving firewood contributed to their arrival. Protect trees by following these simple steps:

- Don’t move firewood.
- Always buy it near where you will burn it.

Spread the word – tell friends, neighbors, and your family about the dangers of moving firewood and encourage those prepping for a camping trip or vacation in their recreational vehicles to buy firewood locally. Call ahead to find local wood dealers near camping destinations. Learn to recognize the pests of concern on the council’s website (<https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/find-a-priority-species/>). Burn all firewood before leaving a campsite.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact to us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.