

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke with local news and commentary for Thursday, August 1, 2024.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) sent out good news! State Route 104/Beaver Valley Road roundabout fully opens.

Travelers will notice crews have fully opened the new roundabout at State Route 104/Beaver Valley Road (State Route 19) in Jefferson County. The fully opened roundabout means travelers will once again be able to turn left to and from SR 104 at Beaver Valley Road. The temporary traffic signal at State Route 104 and Center Road also is no longer necessary. This nearly marks the completion of one half of the safety improvement project on State Route 104 (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/sr-104-paradise-bay-shine-road-sr-19-intersection-safety-improvements>). While construction is largely complete, crews will return to the intersection in late August. Workers will install the final lane markings at that time, so use caution in the meantime.

Roundabouts reduce the potential for serious injury collisions while improving traffic flow. Crews will turn their attention to the Shine Road/Paradise Bay Road intersection. This portion of the project will have staggered short-term closures of both Paradise Bay Road and Shine Road. The exact closure dates will be announced as soon as WSDOT has them. While travelers will see a lot of roadwork around the Olympic Peninsula this summer (<https://engage.wsdot.wa.gov/olympic-peninsula-construction/>), the Washington State Department of Transportation has tools to help everyone get where they are going. Travelers can sign up for email updates (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_542) for projects in Jefferson and Clallam counties. For the most up-to-date information, check the WSDOT app (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/mobile-app-and-social-media>) and statewide travel map (<https://wsdot.com/Travel/Real-time/Map/>).

Two items from the *Weekly Standard*:

With one week left until Election Day, just under 11% of the state's nearly 4.9 million registered voters have returned their ballot. At this time four years ago, statewide voter turnout was around 15%, though 2020 saw some of the highest voter turnout in history for a statewide primary. Voters may be moving slow in part because of the stakes in narrowing down who should advance to the November general election. Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell said, "There's a lot to dig into for a lot of races." Registered voters who are listening have just 5 days to submit their ballots. There are drop boxes throughout Jefferson County and ballots can be mailed in without a stamp. The top two prevailing candidates in all races will advance to the November 5th General Election, regardless of party. Those who have not received their ballots should contact the Jefferson County Auditor or go to co.jefferson.wa.us. You can register right up through election day at the county auditor's office inside the courthouse in Port Townsend.

Read more here: <https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/07/30/a-trickle-of-ballots-so-far-for-washingtons-primary/?amp%3bhmact=ggNe3pblAxMqqCsLpx9dObfmiZ0OeqmSkThqlYQOTok%3d&%3bemci=0d88d3ac-b94e-ef11-86c3-6045bdd9e096&%3bemdi=f0d4405a-494f-ef11-86c3-6045bdd9e096&%3bceid=553235>

Also in the *Weekly Standard*: Legislation aimed at protecting children online sailed through the U.S. Senate on Tuesday in a 91-3 vote. If passed by the House, the legislation would require producers of platforms popular

among children and teens to follow new rules governing advertising, algorithms, and collection of personal data. Washington's Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell said in a statement that the bills will give parents new tools to protect their kids online. Cantwell said, "Americans, including kids, are being tracked across the internet and every place they go with a phone or mobile device. Social media companies are harvesting our children's personal data and making billions of dollars a year through targeted ads aimed at them."

Read more here: <https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/07/30/in-rare-bipartisan-vote-u-s-senate-passes-package-aimed-at-protecting-kids-online/?amp%3bhmac=ggNe3pblAxMqqCsLpx9dObfmiZ0OeqmSkThqlYQOTok%3d&%3bemci=0d88d3ac-b94e-ef11-86c3-6045bdd9e096&%3bemdi=f0d4405a-494f-ef11-86c3-6045bdd9e096&%3bceid=553235>

And, this Sunday, the Jefferson County Farmers Markets will join markets across the country in kicking off the 25th National Farmers Market Week (NFMW). Celebrate on Sunday, August 4, at the Chimacum Farmers Market (CFM) with music and activities for people of all ages. National Farmers Market Week, August 4-10, is an annual celebration of farmers markets proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition (FMC), a membership-based nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide. Each year, this event highlights the vital role farmers markets play within our nation's local food systems. For more than fifty years, farmers markets have influenced the way Americans eat, shop, and connect to their food, their farmers, and one another. Farmers markets are more than marketplaces, they are places where neighbors learn, grow, and work together. On Sunday for the first day of NFMW at the Chimacum Farmers Market, they will host a scavenger hunt, big bubbles, and crafts by Jefferson County 4-H. Complete the scavenger hunt and win an "I (heart) My Farmers Market" temporary tattoo or sticker. Pick up the scavenger hunt form at the market info booth.

The Chimacum Farmers Market is located at the Chimacum Farms Stand at the corner of Beaver Valley Road and Center Valley Road and is open from 10am until 2pm, Sunday.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.