

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with with local news and commentary for Thursday, April 22, 2021.

COVID-19 cases are following a pattern in Jefferson County: flurries of cases over the weekend and a midweek lull. No new occurrences were reported yesterday, with 378 cases so far and 42 people awaiting results. There are 32 cases reported in April so far, compared with just ten for the entire month of March. People in their 30s represented the biggest jump with 12 new cases, followed by eight new cases for people in their 50s. There have been no new cases reported for people over 70 since April 1. Vaccination appointments are available, for scheduling as soon as tomorrow. To sign up for this Saturday's clinic in Chimacum (April 24) call 360-344-9791 or online: bit.ly/jeffcovax. To schedule an appointment at the hospital, go to JeffersonHealthcare.org and click on the top yellow banner.

The Brinnon Shrimpfest festival, planned for next month, will not take place this year after initially announcing plans to proceed. The reason is, of course, COVID-related but is not related to concerns about large gatherings. Rather, it has to do with the availability of storage freezers to accommodate the anticipated shrimp delivery. In previous years, the weekend festival has been a family event celebrating Hood Canal Shrimp and other seafood, featuring food, crafts booth and entertainment. Since its establishment in 1993 it has raised funds for local community projects.

As for other summer festivals, the Centrum program recipients are connecting online, and the Port Townsend Film Festival is expected to hold virtual programs-although some in person activities could take place. The Rhody Festival could take place in late summer, focusing on the parade but skipping many of the other smaller events. The Wooden Boat Festival plans to proceed, and is now taking applications from potential participants. It will, however, be scaled down from the event that draws 30,000 people to town.

The channel for submitting public comments to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners is changing, with email no longer accepted as an avenue for submitting comments during the meeting. Instead, comments will be accepted on video or phone during the meeting. This new policy is intended to streamline and not restrict access. People with an issue or question needs to log onto the county web page (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/492/Board-of-County-Commissioners>) for a list of the specific issues addressed by each commissioner. Having done so, they should send an email to that commissioner.

If the person is not satisfied after this interaction or seeks to address the entire board they can then follow the new comment protocols. Board Clerk Carolyn Galloway told KPTZ that the process increases the efficiency of commissioner communications, as sending an email to more than one commissioner can cause confusion as to who should respond. If you want to get your last email public comment licks in, the final day for email submissions is April 26, two weeks from yesterday. Otherwise, public commenters will need to log on the county's website or phone in when the meeting begins, and get in the queue to address the board.

The Jefferson County Community Foundation is offering grants of up to \$1500 as part of its Better Living Through Giving initiative, intended to support ideas and initiatives that connect generations, promote collaboration, celebrate diversity and brighten hearts and minds in our community, according to a press release.

The program is part of a giving circle, defined as a group of individuals who come together to learn the needs of the community and pool their charitable dollars to address an issue through targeted philanthropy. These grants seek to support ideas that stimulate a sense of joy and imagination. Young people are encouraged to apply with the support of a parent, guardian or sponsor. Applications are limited to one per person and must adhere to the Healthy Washington plan. For a link to that program go to kptz.org and open today's news transcript.

The application process opens May 1 and closes on June 1. Recipients will be announced on June 15. For more information go to <https://jcfgives.org/spark-joy/>.

For Safe Washington guidelines go to <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.