

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with with local news and commentary for Thursday, April 29, 2021.

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Thomas Olson, who begins as the new Port Townsend Police Chief next week, is the subject of a series of allegations that he created a hostile work environment at his last position in the University of Washington Police Department, Olson's last employer. The allegations were included in a letter to several media outlets, purportedly from his past colleagues which included documents indicating that Olson was assessed a \$30,000 fine in 2014 for a securities violation.

In response, City Manager John Mauro told KPTZ that he had confidence in the rock-solid process used in Olson's background checks initiated during the employment process. "We did a very extensive, comprehensive and professional third-party background check on Mr Olson," he wrote in a statement. "I'm confident he is qualified and ethical. An email from an unknown person with accusations isn't really a story from my perspective."

In the next few days the press will presumably investigate these allegations, to confirm or refute them. This is a necessary process, since we need to know the level of truth or falsehood. Still, we should not jump to conclusions just yet. KPTZ will provide updates about this story, as they emerge.

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Jefferson County reported three new COVID-19 cases, for an accumulated total of 386. More men than women have been recently diagnosed. There are 37 test results pending. On the vaccination front, Jefferson Healthcare is now scheduling administration of the one-and-done Johnson & Johnson vaccine for May 7. In an effort to make receiving the COVID-19 vaccine more accessible for our smaller communities, a Pop-Up Clinic has been scheduled for May 1 in Brinnon at the school gym, 46 Schoolhouse Road from 9am to noon. The Moderna vaccine will be given to anyone 18 years and older. There are 100 doses available. Call 360-344-9791 to schedule an appointment. To schedule an appointment at the hospital, go to JeffersonHealthcare.org and click on the top yellow banner (<https://jeffersonhealthcare.org/covid-19-vaccine/>).

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ShakeAlert, an earthquake early warning system that detects and warns of significant earthquakes, will become available for use by the general public in Washington on May 4. A public webinar hosted by the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) on April 29, 10AM-11:30AM, will cover the different technologies that will help the U.S. Geological Survey ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning system protect people once it goes live for public alerting on May 4. For the webinar's address check today's news transcript on kptz.org (<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2021041316>).

According to Washington EMD Hazards and Outreach Program Supervisor Maximilian Dixon, "The Washington Emergency Management Division, Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and private partners will also explain how people can receive alerts via mobile phones through the existing Wireless Emergency Alert system and how Android phone users will have the potential to get notifications through their phones' own built-in software, which doesn't require a specific app. For more information about alerts, go to <https://mil.wa.gov/alerts>.

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Derek Kilmer, who represents Jefferson County in the United States House of Representatives, is unsurprisingly a fan of President Joe Biden. In a statement issued after the president's joint congressional address last night, Kilmer said that the president outlined a positive vision for the future of our nation – one built on making America stronger, and doing so in a way that seeks to bring people together rather than to divide us. Biden, according to Kilmer, has worked to get folks vaccinated, help small businesses stay afloat, and provide immediate and direct relief to families bearing the weight of the COVID-19 crisis.

Tim Scott, who provided the Republican rebuttal to Biden's speech, disagreed with Biden's characterization of systemic racism and that his infrastructure proposal wastes money. Scott said that the nation is starving for more than empty platitudes. We need policies and progress that bring us closer together. But, three months in, the actions of the president and his party are pulling us further and further apart.

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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](mailto:news@kptz.org).

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.