

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

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The unprecedented heat wave that wrung the life out of Port Townsend and the rest of the country, has subsided, with temperatures in the 70s expected all week. So it's over...until next time. But there is a theory that the increase in summer heat could occur on a regular basis. The heat wave of the future, perhaps.

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Jefferson County reported two new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the total to 449. This represents 33 cases for June, up from 26 for all of May. According to County Health Officer Dr. Tom Locke, in Jefferson County, 67% have had at least one COVID-19 vaccine while 64% are fully vaccinated. As a result, demand has decreased, causing the suspension of vaccination pop-up clinics. Local pharmacies and Jefferson Healthcare Express Clinic will continue to offer vaccines. The County has a good supply of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson on hand. The information lines remain open. You can still call the Department of Emergency Management at 360-344-9791 with general COVID-19 questions or the Nurse Consult Line at Jefferson Healthcare (360-344-3094) to address urgent situations. Both numbers are included in the transcript of today's news.

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Washington Governor Jay Inslee extended the eviction moratorium until September 30, which had an immediate effect on the disposition of the Jefferson County Fairgrounds homeless encampment. County and city officials were faced with the insurmountable task of finding an alternative site while developing a plan to move the 50 or so people to that site. The extension takes away some of the pressure, but these problems will recur soon enough. To this end, the Board of County Commissioners yesterday discussed all of the viable options, which now includes the Jefferson Community School building in downtown Port Townsend and vacant land on Mill Road. District 3 Commissioner Greg Brotherton has already assembled a matrix that includes details about every options, so they are not starting from scratch.

The commissioners authorized the Interim County Administrator Mark McCauley to investigate the properties through a qualified appraiser and prepare purchase and sale agreements in anticipation of any action to be taken. A special meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday to continue discussion of these two properties and the shelter at the American Legion. The commissioners also authorized McCauley to offer the fair board \$100,000 for the next three months. This allocation represents the difference between paying rent and a mortgage, as it does nothing to develop a long term solution. But the commissioners are committed to have a solution to this before the expiration date, according to the county's official Facebook page.

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Many COVID 19 restrictions end tomorrow and retail establishments may not require a mask for entry. Individual stores may, however, opt to leave them in place because you can never be too safe. Unvaccinated individuals still are required to wear masks indoors for their own protection, given the more transmissible variants that now predominate. Vaccinated people and those under five years old are not required to mask, however they should still wear masks indoors in crowded settings.

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As the heat subsides, it's still abnormally dry in Jefferson County, according to Assistant Fire Chief Brian Tracer. The county began its burn ban early this year, on Saturday, June 25 through September 30 Typically, the ban begins on July 1. So you can't burn any yard waste or anything else. Fireworks are still legal, but setting them off may not be the smartest course of action. The small fire at the Jefferson County Library this weekend was a result of kids playing around with fireworks. There is a proposal that people reallocate the money intended for fireworks and instead purchase a bag of pet food to contribute to the Humane Society. But this idea is perpetrated by the same people who think climate change is a thing.

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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.