

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant sitting in for Lily Haight, with local news and commentary for Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

A 76-year-old Port Townsend man involved in a bicycle accident on July 5 died from his injuries yesterday, at the same time that a second incident occurred on the same road. Stanley L. Cummings died at Harborview Medical Center, having not recovered from injuries sustained after he was struck by the trailer load from a passing motorist. Cummings was the founding director of the Northwest Maritime Center, having raised the funds for the construction of the current facility and supervising its construction before retiring in 2010. The driver of the vehicle, an 81-year-old Chimacum man, has not been cited although the incident is under investigation.

Yesterday, a 52 year old Poulsbo woman was struck by a car while bicycling on Highway 19 just north of the intersection with route 104. The car, driven by a 23-year-old Silverdale woman, drifted over the fog line and hit the cyclist with the vehicle's mirror. The driver was cited for DUI and vehicular assault, while the injured cyclist was transported to St. Michaels Hospital in Silverdale. We don't usually report about traffic accidents on this broadcast, but this is important. More people are out riding bikes on busy thoroughfares, increasing the chance of accidental contact with speeding cars. Cyclists need to be especially careful, while drivers need to pay particular attention and not drink and drive at 2 in the afternoon. Or any other time, for that matter. Safety responsibility rests equally with motorists and cyclists, but cyclists have more at stake. And helmets are a good thing. You know who you are.

If you don't have any plans this afternoon and want to learn about the city you can attend an informational briefing session from 3 to 4:30pm at the Cotton Building downtown. Ostensibly meant to equip City Council Candidates with the background and information they need in order to govern, it is open to the public and the curious. Department Directors and the City Manager will make brief presentations on what they and their departments do and we will take questions from candidates. It will not be a debate nor will it include presentations from candidates. That takes place at 2:30pm this Saturday in the same location, a City Council Candidate Housing Forum meant to examine what has become one of the most important local issues. This is also open to the public, but it will be live-streamed on the Housing Solutions Network Page and broadcast live on KPTZ. This is a rare opportunity to evaluate the candidates on your own prior to the August 3 primary – even as there is only one race where the primary is relevant. Three candidates are running for Position 1, now held by Mayor Michelle Sandoval, and one will be eliminated in order to facilitate a runoff in the November 2 general election. Ballots are now in the mail. If you are registered to vote and do not receive your ballot in a week contact the Auditor's office, 360-385-9119 or by email elections@co.jefferson.wa.us.

Two new cases of COVID-19 were added yesterday, bringing the total number to 467. Thirty eight people are awaiting test results. After a period of gender equity men now outnumber women, reporting 249 cases, 53.3%, compared to 218 cases, or 46.7%. While the county is winding down its pop-up clinic efforts, it is concentrating on developing a long-term vaccination strategy focused on distributing booster shots when they're available or necessary. For more information about vaccinations, if you are homebound or just need help scheduling, call 360-344-9791.

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.