

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Lily Haight with local news for October 6, 2021.

Jefferson County Public Health reported 7 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday. This brings our total case count, since the beginning of the pandemic, up to 1,026. All available appointments have been filled for Jefferson County's large-scale booster dose clinics taking place this Saturday at the Chimacum Schools and next weekend at Blue Heron Middle School. About 600 people have signed up for boosters of the Pfizer vaccine.

There are about 200 booster shot appointments still available at the Quilcene clinic on October 23. That clinic will take place at the Quilcene School. To sign up, go to the Jefferson County Public Health website (<https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1429/COVID-19>) or call the Department of Emergency Management at 360-344- 9791. You must bring your vaccination card with you to your appointment at all of the clinics.

Some local pharmacies have been offering booster shots as well. You can check with your local pharmacist or call the Department of Emergency Management for information on available appointments. The Department is also working on setting up clinics for kids, ages 5 to 11, as public health officials believe the CDC will approve vaccines for this age group in the coming months.

City of Port Townsend officials reported an intermittent leak of treated sewage at North Beach near the border between North Beach County Park and Fort Worden State Park yesterday. The outfall of the wastewater treatment plant has broken where it crosses the beach enroute to the normal discharge location in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. As a result, Jefferson County Public Health has issued a health warning for North Beach waters that may contain elevated levels of bacteria that can be harmful to human health, and posted warning signs.

The public is advised to avoid swimming at North Beach. Shellfishing is always closed at North Beach due to the proximity of the sewage treatment plant outfall. The treated wastewater typically contains low counts of bacteria, but there is a potential risk to human health. City crews were able to make a repair on the section of pipe that was damaged on Tuesday afternoon, so the leak has been repaired at this time.

The Jefferson County Commissioners will be interviewing three finalists for the job of County Administrator this Friday, October 8. In a special meeting starting at 8am, commissioners and staff will be interviewing the three candidates: Martin Casey, former City Manager for the City of Sunnyside, WA; Richard Kuhns, County Administrative Officer for Trinity County, CA; and Ethan Raup, Chief Operations Officer and Chief of Staff for KEXP, public radio in Seattle.

Casey was the city manager in Sunnyside, which is a small town in Yakima County, from January 2019 through August. He announced his departure in June. Prior to taking the job in Sunnyside, he was director of Thurston County's Central Services Department from 2013 through 2018.

Raup is currently the chief operating officer and chief of staff at KEXP, a public radio station in Seattle. He has been with the radio station since 2014 and before that worked for the city of Seattle as director of policy and operations. He also was deputy chief of staff and director of the Office of Regional Policy & Planning for King County from 1998 through 2003.

Kuhns is the county administrative officer for Trinity County, California and has served in that position since 2017. He was also regional director of the Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, Modoc County Housing Authority and executive director for the Shasta County Community Action Agency from 2006 to 2017. Kuhns has also worked as a psychologist in private practice and for county government, and was previously the director of the Office of Emergency Services for Del Norte County, California.

Members of the public are invited to join a presentation from the candidates on Zoom from 2 to 3:30pm. Information for joining that meeting can be found on the county's website

(<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/civicalerts.aspx?aid=797>). The Commissioners may or may not choose a desired candidate for the position at the end of the special meeting.

And, in election news – the council candidates will participate in a virtual forum this Thursday, October 7, hosted by the League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. In the Zoom forum, moderated by Renee Klein, position 1 candidates Cameron Jones and Ben Thomas will speak from 6 to 7pm. Position 5 candidates Tyler Vega and Libby Wennstrom will follow from 7 to 8pm. Links to the Zoom meeting can be found on the League of Women Voters website (<https://lwvwa.org/Jefferson/>), which is also where a recording of the forum will be posted after the event.

And that's it for today's local news. 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. I'm Lily Haight. Thanks for listening.