

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news for March 19, 2022.

\*\*\*

The COVID-19 case rate in Jefferson County has moved from high to moderate. At this level, the health department recommends that everyone mask in public indoor spaces. Three new cases have been added in the past week, bringing the total of county COVID-19 cases to 3,137. Two cases are currently hospitalized and there are 13 active cases in isolation. For all up-to-date covid information go to <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1466/Case-Information>.

\*\*\*

Washington is offering free at-home COVID-19 test kits to people in Port Townsend and other designated areas throughout the state. The website is <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/testing-covid-19>. There is excellent information on the page and at the top you will see an offer for free test kits. Just fill out your address and phone number and place your order. These kits are delivered by Amazon to your door.

\*\*\*

The 8th Annual Women & Film Festival launches Friday, April 22 and streams all-access, on-demand through Sunday, May 1. This festival will take place online where patrons can watch from the comfort of their own home. This year's 10 days of streaming will feature 2 shorts programs, 12 feature films, and exclusive interview content with the filmmakers! Their press release says: Rain or shine / There will be no line! More details at <https://www.ptfilmfest.com/> or call 360-379-1333.

\*\*\*

Washington State Ferries has issued a list of ferry routes that will be getting back to normal starting April 10. The list is based on ridership, service performance, availability, and directness of travel alternatives and vessel and crew availability. Here is the prioritized order:

1. Anacortes/San Juan Islands
2. Seattle/Bainbridge
3. Mukilteo/Clinton
4. Edmonds/Kingston
5. Fauntleroy/Vashon Island-Southworth
6. Seattle/ Bremerton
7. Port Townsend/Coupeville
8. Anacortes/Sydney BC

Nicole McIntosh, chief of staff of the WSDOT Ferries Division says that it will take time to restore service across the ferry system. There is not enough crew available to restart the international Sydney BC service or a second boat on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route during the up-coming spring sailing season. The Port Townsend route will not come back to normal until at least June 18.

\*\*\*

On Wednesday, in a rare show of bipartisanship, the US Senate voted to stop changing the clocks each year and go onto daylight savings permanently. This still requires confirmation by the House of Representatives, but all indications are that this will be an easy approval. It should be noted that the US tried doing this in the 1970s and

it didn't last long. Getting up to dark mornings and sending children off to school under streetlights made public approval for the law drop severely and rapidly – from 79% in December of 1973 – down to 42% in February of 1974. By October of that year, congress reversed course and put the country back on standard time for four months of the year. It will be next year before this new daylight savings law takes place and then, who knows if we'll like it any better today than we did in 1974. Stay tuned.

\*\*\*

After an eleven-week closure, the Jefferson Museum of Art and History will now be open Thursday through Sunday from 11am-4pm. There are several new exhibits including a survey of local wood-working artists: Seth Rolland, Brian Perry, Steve Habersetzer, Annalise Rubida, and Helga Winter. A painted portrait of each artisan by Jeremy Johnson and four paintings by Stephen Yates are also part of the current exhibit.

\*\*\*

And that's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Ann Katzenbach. Thanks for listening. Have a great weekend!