

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news and commentary for today, May 27, 2022.

COVID-19 cases continue to be on the upswing in Jefferson County. 938 per 100,000 people. Currently no one is hospitalized with COVID-19 in Jefferson County. The health department has not issued any mask mandates, but you are strongly advised to wear a mask in indoor public places.

An update on avian influenza from the Washington State Dept of Agriculture identifies two more infected flocks in King County. There are none so far in Jefferson. Flock owners are urged to keep domestic flocks isolated from wild waterfowl.

The bacteria salmonella has been confirmed in the JIF brand of peanut butter across the country. This includes associated products that use the same brand of peanut butter. The J. M. Smucker Co. has issued a recall. Consumers should dispose of JIF peanut butter with lot codes ending in 425. These numbers are right next to Used By Date on most products. At <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/j-m-smucker-co-issues-voluntary-recall-select-jif-products-sold-us-potential-salmonella> you can find out more about this national recall and at <https://www.businessinsider.com/jif-peanut-butter-recalled-as-salmonella-outbreak-hospitalizes-two-2022-5> there is a complete list of the peanut butters and associated products that are being recalled, should they be in your pantry. If in doubt, dispose of any JIF jars and wash and sanitize utensils that may have touched the recalled peanut butter. The J.M. Smucker Co. hotline is 800-828-9980. Their website is <https://www.jif.com/contact-us>.

In ferry news, the Edmonds/Kingston, Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, Seattle/Bremerton, and Port Townsend/Coupeville runs are still on alternate service schedules. There will likely be long waits throughout the system this weekend. The Washington Dept of Transportation advises travelers that the busiest sailings will be westbound today and then eastbound Sunday and Monday. To reduce or eliminate waiting, riders should consider taking an early morning or late-night sailing or walking on.

There will be local Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday. At each of four cemeteries, veterans' organizations will lay floral tributes, post colors, present a gun salute, and play taps in public ceremonies. In Port Townsend, the day will begin at 9am at the Fort Worden Military Cemetery on Spruce Street followed by Laurel Grove on Old Discovery Bay Road at 9:45am, St. Mary's Star of the Sea on Blaine Street at 10:15am, and then Greenwood Cemetery on State Highway 19 at 11am. The times after 9am are approximate. A concert by the Port Townsend Summer Band is set from 11:30am to noon followed by a brief program at the American Legion Hall on Monroe Street. Finally, the groups will lay a floral tribute on the waters at Pope Marine Park, and serve a buffet sandwich and salad luncheon at the Legion Hall with all welcome.

The announcement that Rocky Friedman is selling The Rose Theatre made me realize, not for the first time, that The Rose is emblematic of all that is wonderful about Port Townsend. Years ago, many of us watched the boarded-up storefront on Taylor Street turn like a caterpillar into a butterfly as Rocky forged ahead with his vision for a community movie theater. The transformation wasn't only visual – it was really spiritual, because the Rose reached out and embraced us all with a profound sense of community and resilience. Modestly, quietly, Rocky gave us a theater and then theaters that were beautiful and showed great films, but also gave jobs to young people, served as a venue for live, creative events, and was the envy of small towns everywhere. I hope Rocky finds someone to buy the theater, but for me, it will always be Rocky's Rose.

And that's it for today's news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five pm, Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news at KPTZ.org. Have a great Rhody weekend!