

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news and commentary for today, August 12, 2022.

Each year the Marine Science Center recognizes significant contributions to the protection and stewardship of the natural environment of the North Olympic Peninsula when it presents the Eleanor Stopps award. The award pays tribute to a woman whose vision, advocacy, and determination exemplify the power and importance of citizen leadership. Stopps was a tireless educator and recognized the need to protect the vast and delicate ecosystem of the Salish Sea. She worked with groups of students and Girl Scouts to raise environmental awareness, eventually forming a coalition of grassroots advocates who labored to marshal public support and push for legislation to preserve Protection Island and the surrounding marine waters. The nomination form can be found on the Marine Science Center website (<https://ptmsc.org/about/eleanor-stopps-award>) or by calling 360-385-5582.

It's estimated that an individual is in need of blood every two seconds in the U.S. and a new initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services is working to insure there is an adequate supply. The national blood drive is aimed at encouraging more Americans to donate blood and plasma amid the shortage that was declared in January. The department also wants to emphasize the need for people of all races and ethnicities to volunteer. Having a diverse pool of donors is important because certain blood types are unique to specific groups, and blood from a donor with a similar background is less likely to be rejected.

Bloodworks Northwest has donation centers throughout western Washington. The closest to us is in Silverdale. You can give blood there six days a week. They also have pop up clinics – one starting this Monday and Tuesday, August 15 and 16 in Sequim at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Elks Lodge will host a Blood Works pop-up clinic on Monday and Tuesday, September 12 and 13 and then again on 19 and 20. For more information, go to <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/>. It doesn't take long to donate blood, and your generosity could well save a life.

The Growler jet program on Whidbey Island was set to increase its flights to more than 110,000 a year, but federal judge Richard Jones has quashed this expansion, declaring that the Navy failed to analyze the impacts of the jets on schools and local birds, a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The ruling addresses two lawsuits – one by Attorney General Bob Ferguson and another by the Citizens of Ebey's Preserve, a group that has battled the jets for years. Attorney General Ferguson said in response to the lawsuit, "The Navy has an important job. But that does not relieve the federal government of its obligation to follow the law and take a hard look at the public health and environmental impacts of its programs."

The small plane that crashed yesterday morning in Blyn was enroute from Friday Harbor to Olympia. The lone pilot, David Hodges, aged 66 of Friday Harbor was killed. The suspected cause of the crash is low visibility due to fog. "These incidents are always tragic for the family involved, the first responders, and the neighbors who witnessed the event. The quick actions by the community to report their observations proved vital in narrowing down the location of this scene," the sheriff's office said in a press release.

There are still a few spaces left for artists at the annual Port Townsend Street Fair, next Saturday, August 20th's annual extravaganza featuring art, music, dancing, and a parade on August 20. Interested artists find an application at <http://porttownsendartsguild.org/>.

Extremely low morning tides will cancel the eight o'clock Port Townsend ferry to Coupeville tomorrow morning and the return trip as well. All other ferries should run as scheduled.

Starting today and this weekend, it's all about the Jefferson County Fair. The weather forecast is excellent. The food will be too. The entertainment on-going. You can get daily tickets or weekend passes at the gate.

At that's it for today's news. 91.9 brings you local news at noon and five pm, Monday through Friday and at noon on Friday and Saturday. You can contact us through news@KPTZ.org. I'm Ann Katzenbach. See you at the fair.