

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news for Port Townsend and vicinity on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

After covering a search area of 2100 square nautical miles, the Coast Guard has called off the search for the float plane that crashed in Mutiny Bay Sunday. The plane, a DeHavilland DH-3 Otter, was in flight from San Juan Island and headed to NorthWest Seaplane's base in Renton. Suddenly the plane veered toward Port Townsend and plummeted into the Salish sea. One body was recovered Sunday. An additional 9 souls are still missing.

Yesterday, because it was Labor Day, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting is today, however both Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence are not available, so there was no Public Health Briefing this morning. Still, the county websites updated information about COVID cases this morning, so here are the numbers:

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 345 per hundred thousand. One person is currently hospitalized. 70 new cases were added this week for a total of 5,648 cases. On September 1, Jefferson County Public Health added one more death due to COVID-19. The individual was a woman in her 80s with multiple chronic health conditions. She had completed her primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. She had not received a booster dose. Jefferson County's total count of COVID-19-related deaths is now 31.

In Clallam County the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 309 per hundred thousand, just 13 new cases this week for a total of 15,410 cases since the pandemic began. One person is hospitalized at this time. 122 people have died in Clallam County from Covid since the pandemic began.

(There is link to Medicare/Medicaid with info on getting over the counter COVID -19 tests for free: <https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>. And you can still order tests from Washington State at <https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>.)

The Board of County Commissioners will meet again next week. The County Health Report will return on Monday morning September 12 and will be broadcast live at 9:45am right here on KPTZ 91.9 FM. Submit your Public Health questions to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence by emailing contactus@kptz.org by this Friday at noon, to be answered next Monday.

It appears the city of Port Townsend is getting ready to move on from the Cherry Street Project by selling the property on the open market. According to an article on the Port Townsend *Leader* website this past Friday, the Port Townsend City Council, in its August meeting, discussed the controversial affordable housing project, and will likely decide that the best path forward is to sell. The Cherry Street Building (originally called the Carmel Building) was purchased by the city in 2017 with plans to utilize the structure as a source of housing for Port Townsend's working-class residents. After being barged to the Quimper Peninsula from Victoria BC, the project and the property has gone through two housing providers and encountered a slew of problems from unexpected extra costs, vandalism, and now it's abandoned state. The city is looking to cut its losses by either selling the property as-is or with maximum density requirements. Councilmembers and staff weighed six separate options. I won't go into all six of them here.

Option C is to sell it on the market as-is with no affordable housing requirements, but to require maximum density. It would be a net gain for the city at \$225,000. The course of action is low risk and would take around a year to complete.

Option D, which is city staff's recommended course of action, would be to sell the property as-is with zero restrictions. It would earn the city \$320,000, is low risk, and would take a year to do.

The other options include greater restrictions on end use, or increased costs to the city.

Councilmember Libby Wennstrom stated her preference for Option C: "It seems like we can at least try to push for density, if we don't get any bids then we can reevaluate, It adds value to the community in a way (more) than just saying 'Let's sell this to the highest bidder' and somebody can build a beautiful mansion there. It doesn't seem like it aligns with the value of where we want to go."

Both Wennstrom and Councilmember Amy Howard agreed that the council is leaning toward option C or D out of the six options under consideration.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention greenlit a new tool for battling the pandemic: updated booster shots. The Food and Drug Administration authorized the shots early last week. The new vaccine will most likely be available at pharmacies, doctors' offices and community health centers. You can search a directory of sites at <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.