

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Port Townsend and vicinity on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

Eron Berg, the Port Director, and several other officials were on hand this past Wednesday afternoon for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Point Hudson Jetty Replacement construction, which is now underway. The work will continue for six 10-hour days every week until March 1 of next year. Next September, work on the jetty on the Northwest Maritime Center side of the marina will start the first Wednesday after the Woodenboat Festival ends.

Eron Berg had this to say: "We have so many people to thank, and I want in particular to thank: The City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the PUD, the Maritime Center, the Chamber, the EDC, the Washington Trust, the Marine Science Center, the PTMTA (Port Townsend Marine Trades Association), and Main Street. Everybody came together and said this is a project we want to do. There are three phases of work. This is Phase 1; Phase 2 includes the building restoration and rehabilitation. Phase 3 includes infrastructure improvements across Point Hudson. I call that out because I understand that continues to be fairly unique: everybody agreed! That this was something that needed to happen right here in Port Townsend."

In a letter to the community, Matt Klontz, the Director of Capital Projects and Port Engineer said that funding for this project comes from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, taxpayers of Washington State, taxpayers of Jefferson County through the 2019 Industrial Development District Levy, and Jefferson County Public Infrastructure Funds.

Several people gave speeches that included "thanks" to the many people and agencies who helped get this massive project underway.

Sailmaker-turned-Port Commissioner Carol Hasse had this to say: "I sailed into Point Hudson in 1975 through this breakwater that was built in 1934 even before it had its little sister pilings in the '90s and, like so many things around us that have grown old (including ourselves) there are things in deferred maintenance. And I am so grateful, grateful, grateful, that we have a rock jetty that's going to come in here that we will have another 90 or 100 years with any luck to celebrate the Wooden Boat Festival, the marine tradespeople, and the beauty of this stunning spot on our planet that we are so blessed to live in. So, thanks to everybody who held the good wishes for it, did all the hard work, and here we go,. We're going to get a jetty! Rock the jetty!"

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting was yesterday, and Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties spoke to the commissioners during the Public Health Briefing.

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 364 per hundred thousand, which is a slight rise, according to Dr. Berry. No one is currently hospitalized. 86 new cases were added this week for a total of 5,785 cases. Jefferson County's total count of COVID-19-related deaths is still 31. There are still no cases of MPV (monkeypox) in Jefferson County.

In Clallam County, the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 186 per hundred thousand, just 60 new cases for a total of 15,449 cases since the pandemic began. Two people are hospitalized at this time. 124 people have died

in Clallam County from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. There has been only one detected case of MPV in Clallam County.

Two of the three Jefferson County vaccination clinics for the new bivalent boosters are already full, but you can reach out to your local pharmacy for a shot. Dr. Berry said that if you are not over 65, and you do not have comorbidities, that you should simply wait a few weeks to get the booster shot. She also recommends that you wait at least two months from your last booster to get the new one, and that 4 months since your last shot is ideal for maximum “immune response.”

You can listen to Dr. Allison Berry’s full remarks at <https://kptz.org/2022/09/19/county-public-health-report-9-19-22/>. (You can still order COVID-19 tests from Washington State at <https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>.)

Two burn ban reminders:

As of September 9, a total burn ban is now in effect for Jefferson County. Due to the increasingly hazardous risk of fire, the burn ban in Jefferson County has been upgraded. Full fire restrictions are now in place including campfires and BBQ fires. No outdoor fires, burning, or discharge of fire arms or fireworks are allowed.

Burn restrictions have been modified in unincorporated Clallam County to a full burn ban as of September 13, 2022. From George Bailey, Clallam County Fire Marshal: The Clallam County Burn Ban is being modified to include all campgrounds within unincorporated Clallam County (county-controlled campgrounds are included in the burn ban) This prohibits all outdoor burning, and includes: campfires, bonfires, briquette BBQs, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement, and agricultural burning activity. Propane or gas appliances are permitted provided the use is over a non-flammable surface and at least 5 feet from flammable vegetation.

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.