

Good afternoon, thanks for tuning in to 91.9 KPTZ FM. I'm Simon Jaynes in Port Townsend, Washington bringing you the local news for the Olympic Peninsula and beyond. It is Thursday, September 15, 2022.

Many residents were paying extra attention to the weather this past week waiting for winds to shift and deliver cleaner, more breathable air. Now we watch the forecast to see if this region might get a little precipitation in the near future, to quench its dry plants and vegetation. Clouds were hanging on in many areas yesterday afternoon although the onshore flow was pretty light. Today, we might see a little more sunshine, but an upper trough will bring more clouds and a chance of showers to the area on Friday. Saturday looks like an uneventful day, more marine air, maybe a couple of isolated light showers, remaining cool all the while here on the peninsula. Expect highs in the upper 50s to low 60s this weekend and into next week.

The local brush fire which burned over the weekend at Petersen Lake was subdued on Monday. Discovery Bay Fire & Rescue Chief Willie Knoepfle announced on Tuesday that the Department of Natural Resources had mopped up the last of the embers of the fire that began at about 5pm Friday. The fire was located near Petersen Lake, just north of Highway 104 and south of Discovery Bay. According to a press release from East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) it had spread to 5 acres, threatening thick vegetation, when the first firefighters arrived on Friday. It eventually consumed 7 acres of brush, Knoepfle said. According to coverage in the *Peninsula Daily News*, in addition to Discovery Bay Fire & Rescue and EJFR, units from Brinnon, Port Ludlow, Clallam County and DNR – which provided a helicopter – arrived to help. The fire spread to the side of state Highway 104 but no structures were threatened. Wind, terrain, and access issues were challenging the firefighting effort, EFJR said. Both Port Ludlow and EJFR recalled off-duty personnel to cover the vacancies left by the mutual aid support for the blaze. The cause of the blaze remained under investigation on Tuesday.

Wreckage of the floatplane that crashed into Mutiny Bay over a week ago was finally located on the seafloor this past weekend. The depth and motion of the water had been hiding the wreckage for several days, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. A large section similar in length and width to the plane was located Saturday by sonar about 190 feet below the surface of Puget Sound just off Whidbey Island, according to spokesperson Jennifer Gabris. This is good news for those searching for answers in the cause of this tragic crash. NTSB Board Member Tom Chapman told the *Seattle Times* on Sept. 6 that the investigation into what caused the accident largely hinged on the recovery of wreckage and could take up to 24 months under normal conditions, adding that the crash was “an unusual situation under any circumstances.” Investigators worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Washington’s Applied Physics Laboratory to comb a 1.75-by-0.75-mile area where the plane was believed to have crashed. Given the depth and 3- to 5-knot currents, the NTSB is currently seeking a work-class, remotely operated vehicle to recover the wreckage.

The Port Townsend School Board will be holding a meeting tonight at 5:30pm at the district office at 1610 Blaine Street. The public may attend in person or via Zoom. Masks are recommended and social distancing is practiced. The first board meeting of the school year will contain a number of updates from the Superintendent on the subjects of enrollment, student celebrations, and the first week of school. According to the online agenda there has continued to be much public correspondence regarding the proposed early childcare facility on High School property, as well as an email from Debra Swanson with Olympic Community of Health, offering to

share research relating to substance use disorder in the community. The Board will also discuss its recent Title 1 Learning Assistance Report, as well as a progress report from the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST). The agendas, including Zoom access information are posted to the district website (<https://www.ptschools.org/> > below “Next Meeting”).

The 20th annual Jefferson County Farm Tour Celebration starts tomorrow and runs from September 16 through September 18. You can find a schedule of events at <https://theproductionalliance.org/>. This includes everything from outdoor movies to self-guided tours of local farms in Chimacum, Port Townsend, and Quilcene. For this year’s 20th anniversary of the Jefferson County Farm Tour, White Lotus Farm and Inn in Port Ludlow will be hosting a Barn Dance in conjunction with The Production Alliance from 6 to 10pm Saturday, September 17.

And that’s it for today’s local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday, and at 5pm Monday through Friday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I’m Simon Jaynes, thanks for listening and have a great day.