

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, August 30, 2024.

Although the 2620 Road Fire is 100% contained, Brinnon Fire Chief Tim Manly reports there are still some small plumes on the ridge. Brinnon fire crews are actively working to patrol the stump and root balls that continue to smolder and will be maintaining a presence over the weekend and through the holiday, monitoring and extinguishing any flareups as they arise. This is a normal part of the wildfire recovery process, and they will keep folks updated if any further action is needed.

Due to improvement in the atmospheric and field conditions, the Jefferson County Fire Marshal and the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs have downgraded the fire danger risk from very high to high. This downgrade does not indicate a significant easing of the risk of wildfire, and the following restrictions remain in place:

- No recreational wood fires;
- No yard debris or land clearing burning;
No open flame wood or charcoal cooking;
- No open flame devices such as tiki torches, liquid fuel candles, or lanterns;
- No gas or propane-fired weed burners;
- No discharge of fireworks of any type.
- Wood or charcoal cooking is allowed in enclosed devices only.

Shellfish samples from Port Townsend Bay tested by the Washington Department of Health (DOH) have been found to have high levels of the biotoxin that causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). Port Townsend Bay is now therefore closed for the recreational harvest of all species of molluscan shellfish including clams, oysters, mussels, and scallops. Jefferson County Public Health has posted Danger signs at public access points in the area. Crab and shrimp are not included in the closure, but even when crab meat is safe, toxins can accumulate in crab gut and butter (that white-yellow fat inside the back of the shell), so clean crab thoroughly and avoid eating the crab butter and guts.

Fortunately Quilcene and Dabob Bay have been re-opened for recreational shellfish harvesting of all shellfish species; effective as of yesterday, August 29.

The Clallam County Sheriff's Office wishes to remind all citizens to beware of email and phone scams. They report that a recent email scam reporting to be from Norton Antivirus resulted in a loss of over 20 thousand dollars. Detectives determined the scam's perpetrators were located in India and were actually able to speak to one of the suspects on the phone, but he laughed and said there was nothing they could do to him.

Scammers may request your help with information or offer to help you, often by posing as tech support, but their goal is to access your computer and/or your bank account. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to recover money lost to these scams, so here are some handy tips on how to avoid financial loss:

- Don't open emails, click links, and/or download attachments from questionable sources.
- Reject any unsolicited advice or help.

- Do not answer any requests for personal information or passwords.
- Don't believe in tempting offers. If you think a deal is too good to be true, it probably is.
- Use two-factor authentication. Along with strong, unique passwords, it can never hurt to add an extra layer of security to your online accounts.
- Make sure you are using updated antivirus software and stay informed about new types of malware that are circulating.

This Saturday several local agencies have bonded together to mark International Overdose Awareness Day, with a free, all-ages community event from 11am to 2pm at The Nest. Overdose is the leading cause of death for people ages 18 to 45 in this country, with more than 100,000 deaths in the 12-month period ending March 2024. Listeners who have lost family and friends to overdose may wish to participate in a memorial walk from The Nest to Recovery Café, starting at 1pm, with lunch at 2pm.

And finally, The Port Townsend City Hall, City offices, and Library will be closed on Monday. And if you're planning to travel, drive safely and plan ahead for traffic congestion, ferry delays, and long vehicle boarding lines.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.