

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, October 18, 2024.

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The *Peninsula Daily News* has announced that ready-to-eat meat and poultry products contaminated as part of the nationwide Listeria outbreak have been sold in stores in both Clallam and Jefferson counties. Listeria is the third-leading cause of death from food-borne illness in the United States, according to the CDC. According to a USDA update, some of the recalled products have even been distributed to schools. Its website noted that a school distribution list will be posted when it becomes available.

The affected meat and poultry items were produced at Oregon-based BrucePac's Durant, Oklahoma, plant between May 31 and October 8. BrucePac sells its ready-to-eat items to companies that resell or repackage them or use them as ingredients in foods they manufacture and distribute.

The USDA has identified 11 stores in Clallam and Jefferson counties that sold products included in the recall. Among local grocery store chains affected are QFC, Safeway, and Walmart, and, in Jefferson County, the Chimacum Chevron, Peninsula Foods in Quilcene, and the Port Ludlow Village store. Brands named in the recall include Boston Market, Dole, El Monterey, Great Value, Michelina's, Signature Select, and Udi's. The list of recalled products is 343 pages long and can be found at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls-alerts/all-safa-us-llc-recalls-frozen-ready-eat-chicken-products-due-possible-listeria>. The document includes instructions for how to search for product names and brands.

Consumers are urged to throw away any products that are part of the recall or return them to the store where they were purchased. Food contaminated with Listeria bacteria can cause serious complications in newborns, pregnant women, older adults, and individuals with compromised immune systems, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those who believe they have eaten food contaminated with Listeria and have symptoms like fatigue or muscle aches are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider.

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The Port Townsend *Leader* tells us that hospitals on the Olympic Peninsula have begun conserving IV fluid stocks and preparing for the possible effect of national shortages after the nation's primary manufacturer closed its North Carolina factory last week, following the impacts of Hurricane Helene. Baxter International, the nation's leading IV fluid manufacturer and supplier, is responsible for 60% of the nation's supply, around 1.5 million bags used daily. The company's goal is to resume production and to be up to speed on providing certain IV solutions by the end of 2024.

IV fluids are vital for delivering hydration and drugs directly into the bloodstream, and are crucial for patients in surgery, intensive care, and critical emergency conditions. Jefferson Healthcare is working to minimize disruptions to patient care, according to Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joe Mattern. In addition to implementing conservation strategies, they are modifying their surgery schedule, which may include postponing some elective procedures to prolong their IV supply for critical needs and emergencies.

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Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, along with Representative Derek Kilmer have announced that the Washington State Department of Transportation will receive over \$51 million in federal funds to repair the Hood Canal Bridge. The funding comes from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Program, which provides grants to nationally and regionally significant transportation projects to improve the country's freight

network. This project will replace over 3,400 linear feet of the western half of the bridge. Preliminary design work is scheduled to begin in November 2025, with project completion scheduled for June of 2027.

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Here's a reminder from our Jefferson County Treasurer: property taxes are due this month. Mailed payments must be postmarked, put in a drop box, or paid online by October 31 to avoid penalty and interest charges.

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And finally, the weather service tells us to expect high winds this afternoon and again on Sunday. Be prepared for possible power outages and downed trees. The winds will be out of the south, so if you're walking around downtown, hold on to your hats!

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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](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.