

You're listening to KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. This is Lily Haight with What's New in this week's Port Townsend *Leader* for June 10, 2020.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases remains at 31 as Jefferson County prepares to move to Phase 3. In Jefferson County more than 2,000 people have been tested. Only 1.5% of those tests have had positive results. There have been 24,041 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Washington state and 1,161 deaths.

According to public health officer Tom Locke, the county could go to Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start Recovery Plan as soon as June 13. County Commissioners want to synchronize Jefferson County's move to Phase 3 Clallam and Kitsap counties. Those two counties are eligible on June 18, a five day difference.

Phase 3 allows gatherings of 50 or fewer people, including sports; non essential travel; restaurants at 75% capacity with a table size of ten; bars at 25% capacity. Gyms and movie theaters at 50% capacity, and retail, libraries, museums, and government buildings could open. Pools and recreation centers could open at 50% capacity. Camping would be open.

There will be a special joint meeting of the board of commissioners and board of health to discuss moving to Phase 3 on Wednesday June 17 starting at 5pm. KPTZ will air the meeting live.

Brion Toss, a world-renowned master rigger, author, knot expert and lover of wooden boats, died on June 6 at the age of 69. Toss spent much of his life aloft, rigging everything from daysailers to massive square riggers.

When he wasn't aloft, Toss was in Port Townsend teaching, writing, philosophizing and sharing hearty laughs with friends, family and anyone who stopped by his rigging shop, Brion Toss Yacht Riggers, in the historic Point Hudson Marina. He leaves behind his wife and kids, as well as many friends in Port Townsend.

Toss is known around the world for his book, *The Rigger's Apprentice*, which is considered the authoritative text on rigging.

A celebration of Toss' life is in planning for a future date. His family has created a Facebook page, called Brion Toss Life Memories, so friends and community members can share stories, photos, videos and memories of his life.

The search is on for a new chief to lead East Jefferson County Fire Rescue. Fire Chief Jim Walkowski recently told fire district commissioners of his intent to resign, and at the board's last meeting, officials talked about the process for selecting a new chief.

The job was officially posted on May 29, and the fire district is taking applications for the post through July 16. He came to East Jefferson Fire Rescue from Spokane County Fire District 9, where he had been the assistant chief of emergency services, in December 2017.

The Jefferson County Library will re-open its book drops and start curbside holds pickup and delivery services over the next two weeks. Library Director Tamara Meredith said the library has developed a safety plan to restart operations that were suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In an announcement earlier this week, Meredith said two book drops will reopen at the library in Port Hadlock on Monday, June 15, and the bookmobile will start to roll again on Monday, June 22.

Other book-drop locations – Brinnon, Quilcene, Gardiner, and Port Ludlow – will be reopened the week of June 22.

For these stories and more, check out this week's edition of the Leader on newsstands and online now. This is Leader news reporter Lily Haight, on KPTZ 91.9 FM.