

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with a series of small yet significant local notifications for Thursday, August 27, 2020.

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Jefferson County reported one additional COVID-19 case this week, a man in his fifties. We now have 69 confirmed county cases. Fifty people are awaiting results.

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The census continues, with approximately 5,000 uncounted Jefferson County households, according to a county spokesperson. Port Townsend boasts the highest response rate at 77%, while Brinnon and West County are only 32%.

To encourage participation the County will sponsor a Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Pop-Up table at the Chimacum Corner Farmstand with specialists from the Census Bureau. It takes place the next two Fridays – August 28, otherwise known as “tomorrow” and September 4. Similar outreach events have already occurred in Brinnon and Quilcene.

People will be on hand to answer questions about the Census and provide help with the form. It takes about five minutes and your information is protected under law. Anyone not responding will receive a follow up call or visit, so answering the form helps curtail the spread of COVID-19. Do you see how everything seems to connect with everything else, these days?

After a series of postponements the drop dead date is September 30.

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People who were participating in shellfish harvesting as a pandemic pastime are out of luck. The Jefferson County Department of Public Health has reported that marine biotoxins that cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning have continued to spread, prompting the closure of the Northern Hood Canal area to the recreational harvest of all species of shellfish. In Jefferson County, all recreational shellfish harvesting is closed north of the Hood Canal Bridge. All previous closures this summer are still in effect. Danger signs have been posted at public access points by Jefferson County Public Health.

The closure includes clams, oysters, mussels, scallops, and other species of molluscan shellfish. Shellfish harvested commercially are tested for toxin prior to distribution and should be safe to eat. Crabmeat is not known to contain the biotoxin but the guts can contain unsafe levels. To be safe, clean crab thoroughly and discard the guts. To be completely safe, buy your seafood at the market.

For more information call the Washington State biotoxin hotline, 800-562-5632.

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The pandemic has turned the job market upside down, with people seeing an inversion of their career opportunities. The *Washington Post* reports that many now-unemployed people are running for office, a trend that is not apparent here. But there now exists a pair of unique job opportunities for people who want to try something new.

After five years Amanda Millholland is leaving her job as the manager of the Jefferson County Farmers Market system. This is a challenging position that requires a variety of knowledge and skills. And even as that person won't take the reins until early next year, farmers markets will continue to eke out their place in a world changed by the pandemic.

If that sounds too challenging, The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department is seeking two people to play a key 'live-on-site' role at HJ Carroll Park in Chimacum. Here, the caretakers work 15 hours per week maintaining and supervising the popular day-use park. In exchange for your service, we provide a large, private, gated space with full subsidized utility hook-ups, a yard, and storage space.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org).

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.