

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with commentary for Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

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Here are today's statistics: Jefferson County's COVID-19 case number remains at 71, with 51 people awaiting test results. And Port Townsend's Air Quality Index is in the good range, with a rating of 7.

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A good-faith effort to show appreciation of local law enforcement with gift baskets was thwarted when Jefferson County Sheriff Joe Nole declined the gifts due to ethics concerns.

Port Townsend resident Rebekah Logue, who organized a "Back the Blue" rally in Port Hadlock last Saturday, assembled several "grab and go bags" containing cookies and snacks intended as a thank you gift for law enforcement officers.

As reported by the Jefferson County Washington news Facebook page, which is not affiliated with the county, Nole declined the gifts after researching policy. In a letter to Logue, Nole said, "it was a very tough decision for me to make, but in my opinion accepting the gift bags violates ethics policy and state law." He added that he had a responsibility to the deputies and the citizens of Jefferson County to lead the department in an ethical, responsible, and professional manner.

The page reported that Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean sent a gift card for meals to JCSO deputies who responded to the teen suicide earlier this month in Port Hadlock. This gift was also returned, due to Nole's concern about accepting gifts.

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Jefferson Healthcare is the recipient of a \$91,000 department of Commerce's Childcare Partnership Grant, a state collaboration with the Safe Start Fund to develop community-based plans for expanding childcare capacity.

The grant funds will be used to re-assess childcare needs during the pandemic and then create an implementation-ready blueprint to address the childcare crisis by increasing high-quality, community-based childcare capacity in Jefferson County. The project continues the work of the task force established in 2019.

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The Port Townsend City Council canceled its meeting this week because the agenda items were easily rolled into a future meeting, Council members have attended a plethora of recent meetings, and this one wasn't really necessary. The council next meets on Monday, September 28. The council meets every Monday in October.

This is to correct a report from the Port Townsend Free Press, stating, "All Port Townsend City Council meetings for this week have been cancelled. There is no scheduled City Council Business meeting scheduled for the next month." While it's not up to KPTZ to correct other media outlets' mistakes, we present this as a public service for those who were misled by that post. And to remind you, don't believe everything you hear or read.

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Lately our attention has focused on two potential disasters, the COVID-19 epidemic and the threat of fires. But we can't forget what keeps some of us awake in normal times – the threat of an earthquake or tsunami. With that in mind, the annual great shake out earthquake drill is scheduled for 10:15am on Thursday, October 15. At that time KPTZ will broadcast the drill, preparing us for the eventual emergency. The number of actual emergencies occurring before that time is yet to be determined.

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

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.