

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, December 29, 2020.

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Jefferson County reported six new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the total to 218. This represents 48 new cases during December, or an increase of 21 percent. There are 13 cases in isolation, and just two people await test results.

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The Fort Worden Public Development Authority Board of Directors will meet at 1pm today, addressing an agenda that includes the adaptation of new budgets for its capital and services fund. The coronavirus pandemic damaged the PDA's business model, causing the cancellation of all the summer Centrum festivals along with the proposed second year of the THING! Festival. This led to the dubious decision of relying on credit cards to finance operations.

The agenda also includes a move to authorize interim director David Timmons to cancel and streamline some of the existing leases. The PDA hopes that the pandemic will be under control in the summer, at which time the facilities will be able to host public and private events.

KPTZ plans to move its studios to the Fort Worden Campus in early 2021.

In the meantime, there is the idea that some of Fort Worden's facilities could be used to house the homeless, as it provided some temporary relief several years ago during a similar crisis. But that isn't likely, according to Port Townsend City Manager John Mauro, who told KPTZ that such a move would require a major change in the PDA lease with State Parks. Additionally, Mauro predicts there would be a range of community concerns that would get in the way of implementing the idea.

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Heidi Eisenhower was sworn in as Jefferson County's District 2 Commissioner this morning, taking over from four-term commissioner David Sullivan. This shifts the board's gender balance to two-thirds female. This is nothing new, as it's the same ratio that existed between 2016 and 2018 when Kathleen Kler and Kate Dean were board members. What is new is the age ratio. For the first time in this century, all of the commissioners are younger than 50 years old. Eisenhower, at 49, is the oldest and will turn 50 in March. Dean is 46 and district three commissioner Greg Brotherton is 48. Brotherton, incidentally, shares a March birthday with 68-year-old Sullivan.

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Port Townsend is adjusting to the virtual model, as demonstrated by announcements from two local culture providers. The Jefferson County Historical Society will continue its First Friday speaker series, concentrating on skills needed for material makers of all kinds, including food, fiber jewelry and wood. The 2021 series will kick off virtually via Zoom in February, with hopes of transitioning to in-person events at some point later in the year. It begins on February 5 with baking and candy making and ends November 5 with canvas clothes making. Non-member series passes are available for \$75, while members pay \$65 and individual lectures are \$10 apiece. Series pass holders will have access to lectures for the entire year, while individual attendees will need to be there when it happens.

For a complete list of programs go to the Jefferson County Historical Society web site, <https://www.jchsmuseum.org/>.

And the Port Townsend Film Festival will enter its second year of virtual programming, beginning with The Women in Film Festival from April 23 to May 2, which will feature 16 new films from insightful female filmmakers for online viewing. The status of an in-person festival in September is as yet undetermined but the festival staff is “awaiting the time when we’ll be hugging at the Outdoor Theatre on Taylor Street” according to a press release.

The festival is also launching a new program called PTFP Pics, which provides year-round programming for film lovers everywhere. The January offering is *Haida Modern: The Art and Activism of Robert Davidson*. The film and interview will stream from January 4-10, 2021. Proceeds are shared with the filmmaker.

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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.