

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Carmen Jaramillo with local news for September 28, 2021.

Jefferson County Public Health announced last week three clinics for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster shots in the month of October. The FDA and CDC have opened eligibility up for third shots to those ages 65 or older and those ages 50 to 64 with underlying medical conditions who are at least six months out from their second dose. Third shots are currently only available for those who received the Pfizer vaccine, as the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are currently undergoing booster shot trials. Stephen Hoge, president of Moderna Therapeutics said Saturday he believes the Moderna vaccine is also on it's way to booster shot approval and that the majority of adults may need a third dose to really "lock in" long term efficacy. Since the CDC opened up eligibility, President Biden, age 78, got his third dose of the Pfizer vaccine Monday. While boosters are important, Biden said he is more focused on the 23% of American adults who haven't received the vaccine at all. That minority is "causing an awful lot of damage for the rest of the country" he said.

Eligible Jefferson County residents can get their third shots Oct. 9 at Chimacum School, Oct. 16 at Blue Heron Middle School, or Oct. 23 at Quilcene School. Register beforehand on the health department's website or by calling 360-344-9791.

In regional news, a small community just outside of Sequim has been researching potential ways to deal with an overabundant deer population that includes trapping and euthanasia. Residents of Jefferson County are no strangers to nuisance deer. They eat our gardens, cause collisions and occasionally can be aggressive to humans and other animals. What to do about the deer has always been a hot button and slightly hilarious local issue, but calls to manage the population through euthanasia or hunting have historically been balked at as too outlandish. Residents of Sunland outside of Sequim are now at the epicenter of this argument.

The Sunland Homeowners Association told the *Peninsula Daily News* that a draft plan to manage the deer population may be discussed and presented at their next board meeting on Oct. 18. The plan was developed in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and has been in the works since 2015, said William Blankenship, a wildlife conflict specialist with the department. The plan aims to reduce the deer population to 22 deer in order to reduce collisions, aggressive deer interactions and damage to residential shrubbery. If approved, state officials would trap and euthanize deer and harvest their meat for local food banks and tribes.

As it stands today, the plan needs more community support to get off the ground, Blakenship said. A comment period for the plan saw a low level of participation but the majority of respondents opposed the idea. One concerned Sunland resident gathered signatures in order to hold a community meeting to discuss the issue. The meeting took place September 13 and saw close to 130 people in attendance. The majority of speakers at the meeting were not in favor of trapping and euthanasia. If approved, the plan would be a case study for many other urban Washington state communities who feel they are crushed by the weight of their four-legged oppressors.

After months of uncertainty and years of conflict, the homeless encampment at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds will be vacated this week as residents are being quickly moved to a new site on Mill Road just outside the City of Port Townsend. Before the pandemic, unsanctioned tent-cities at the fairgrounds were not

uncommon. Last year Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP) struck a deal with the Fairgrounds Board to allow extended use of the property for a kind of open-air shelter with tents and RVs. The expiration of that contract on September 30 has loomed large this summer as OlyCAP and the county considered many options for another monitored encampment. Coming down to the wire, Jefferson County purchased a 30-acre property on Mill Road earlier this month for approximately \$600,000, but fast work needed to be done to level the ground and bring utilities to the site. Cherish Cronmiller, executive director of OlyCAP, gave an update to the Board of County Commissioners Monday. Approximately 19 former fairgrounds residents have already been moved to the new site, she said, some of them in tents and some in RVs. The remaining four or five residents are expected to be out by the end of the month. Because of the accelerated timeline, work to build the site is happening alongside efforts to move in residents. The PUD is currently working on installing lights and a transformer. Sanicans and handwashing stations have already been put in place. The new location will be monitored 24/7 by OlyCAP and have its residents in 4-6 person tents with a canopy outside of each one. Cronmiller said she hopes the site can function as its own community, with rules the residents decide on and a dining and kitchen area where they can have communal meals. The site has a current maximum capacity of 40 residents, but officials hope that number can be re-evaluated as they develop the land. A volunteer work party is being held this Friday, October 1 at 10am to clean up and remove anything left behind at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

And that's it for today's local news. 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. I'm Carmen Jaramillo. Thanks for listening.