

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Carmen Jaramillo with local news and commentary for November 16, 2021.

In one of the largest single-day power outages in recent memory, over 11,000 east Jefferson County residents lost power yesterday including the entire city of Port Townsend. The PUD said that at one point over 50% of their customers were without power. The PUD reported outages starting in the late afternoon Sunday which continued throughout the day Monday. By 5:30am close to 2,000 people were without power in Coyle, Port Ludlow and Hadlock. The PUD reported at 11:30am that the entire city of Port Townsend was without power. Outages were reported across the county on Marrowstone Island, in Chimacum, Quilcene, Discovery Bay, Port Ludlow, and at the Port Townsend Paper Mill. By 4pm power was restored to about 5,000 people but another 6,500 were in the dark as the sun went down.

The National Weather Service advised to expect winds from 35 to 45 mph with gusts up to 60 mph in the Admiralty Inlet area. Winds were recorded up to 75 mph in Coupeville. Port Townsend to Coupville sailings were cancelled for almost the entire day.

After torrential rains all weekend, a flood warning was issued for Clallam and Jefferson counties. Flooding closed portions of US highways 101 and 112 on Monday, isolating some residents of Forks from emergency services. At least 11 homes in Forks were evacuated due to the flooding and some families were moved to overnight emergency shelters.

Jefferson County residents are no strangers to wind storms. When I was eight years old the power went out in a similar windstorm over Superbowl weekend. My family lived in Port Ludlow and we were without power for almost three days. The Seahawks played the Pittsburgh Steelers and I remember sitting by the fire with my family listening to the game on an emergency radio. Eventually we decided to go into Hadlock to eat at our favorite restaurant Pedro's Fiesta Jalisco. When we got to the restaurant we saw they had the game going on a 12 inch TV. We watched the game from the table. The Seahawks lost.

Avoid a trip across the Hood Canal bridge tonight as it will be closed for several hours for repairs. Starting tonight at 11pm and ending tomorrow at 4am the Hood Canal Bridge will be closed for construction. An advisory from the Washington State Department of Transportation says the work is weather dependent, meaning it could be canceled and rescheduled.

The Port Townsend Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's office are investigating the death of Port Townsend man as a potential vehicular homicide. Jack Bishop, 25, was reportedly being pulled by a scooter while he rode a longboard in the early morning hours of October 23 when he suffered a head injury. Officers responded to the area of Sheridan Avenue and Seventh Street at close to 2am. Bishop was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center where he died of his injuries. Details of the incident which led to his death have not yet been released. Bishop graduated from Port Townsend High School in 2015 and was a classmate of mine. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and fiance Dawn Conway.

COVID-19 cases are back on the rise nationally this week, Dr. Allison Berry told the Board of County Commissioners Monday. This doesn't come as a surprise, Berry said, since we are moving quickly into winter and we know transmission most often occurs indoors. Locally case rates are slightly down in Jefferson County with 202 cases per 100,000 residents. Jefferson County Public Health added 8 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday bringing the total confirmed case count to 1,217. 28 cases are in active isolation and five people are hospitalized locally.

Willie Bence, Director of Jefferson County Emergency Management gave a positive report on the first local vaccine clinic for children ages five to 11 which took place Saturday at Blue Heron Middle School. Bence said 196 children were administered their first shot. Those children who were vaccinated Saturday will have to return next month for their second dose. The next clinic for children will be held this coming Saturday at Chimacum Schools and as of yesterday there were still several open availabilities so visit <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=822> to make an appointment for your child.

That's all from me for today. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five PM Monday through Thursday and at noon on Friday and Saturday. You can contact us through news at kptz.org. I'm Carmen Jaramillo. Thanks for listening.