

Good afternoon you are listening to KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Simon Jaynes with local news for December 2, 2021.

Residents of Quilcene received a disturbing alert from authorities this past weekend, of an ongoing man-hunt for someone considered to be armed and dangerous. The twelve hour man-hunt ended Saturday when the murder suspect ran out of gas near Chimacum, and while hiding in the woods with deputies closing in on him agreed to give himself up.

On Monday, November 29, Blake Robert Fox, a Port Townsend Man, was charged with second degree murder during his initial appearance in Jefferson County Superior Court. The victim, Robin Richards, 62, of Quilcene, was pronounced dead at the scene at his home on McInnis Road after he had been shot once in the chest, according to a probable cause statement written by Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Detective Art Frank. The motive in the crime is still under investigation. Richards, Fox, a female witness, and her 6 year old daughter who was asleep on a couch, were the only people at the residence at the time shots were fired. While the suspect did initially resist sharing his location and meeting with authorities, he eventually agreed to disarm himself and turn himself in to deputies. After getting a warrant to search Fox's bedroom at his parent's house, police found hundreds of rounds of ammunition, in eight different calibers. They also found an AR-15 rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun. The Second Degree Murder Charge is a Class B felony and punishable by up to life in prison and/or a \$50,000 fine.

Jefferson County reported eight new cases of Covid 19 Wednesday. The county has confirmed a total of 1,311 cases since the pandemic began, according to county public health data. Jefferson County will update its case rate on Friday due to last week's Thanksgiving holiday. Health officials recorded a case rate of 193 per 100,000 for the two weeks prior as of Nov. 17.

Health officials continue to monitor new cases closely due to the potential for a surge caused by the Thanksgiving holiday, but so far, no increase has been seen, according to health officer Dr. Allison Berry. "This is the first time we've had the holidays with vaccinations available," she said "The majority of both our counties' residents are vaccinated, so that may well shield us from a large-scale Thanksgiving surge. It remains to be seen."

Two Pfizer vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11 will happen in December. The first one will occur Saturday December 4 at Blue Heron Middle School, and the second one will be on December 18 at Chimacum High School. The clinics will provide first and second doses of the vaccine. Appointments are required and you can make one online by following the link on Jefferson County Public Health's web page, or by calling the Department of Emergency Management at 360-344-9791. Parents of children receiving a second dose should bring proof of their child's first dose.

The Salish Sea and all waterways near Port Townsend are experiencing large tidal fluctuations today and for the rest of the week. That coupled with the consistent northwesterly winds means you can watch out for paddle board and windsurfers at north beach. It also means that the Port Townsend / Coupeville Ferry will have to cancel one or more of its sailings this week. According to the Washington DOT: Today, December 2, due to tidal currents, the 5:15pm and 6:45pm sailings from Port Townsend and the 6pm and 7:30pm sailings from

Coupeville are cancelled. Your alternate routes are Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton. Make sure to go to wsdot.com to check tidal cancellations if you have any ferry travel planned for the near future.

State, tribal and Olympic National Park wildlife officials are taking steps to restrict fisheries along the Washington coast to protect steelhead this winter and spring. Starting Wednesday December 1 through April 30, 2022, state-managed steelhead sport fisheries will close in the Quinault and Queets rivers and their tributaries. Fishing from a boat will not be permitted except on the main stem of the Quillayute River and below the Highway 101 bridges on the Calawah and Bogachiel rivers. A little farther out on the Olympic Peninsula, there will be full closures of tribal and sport steelhead fisheries on the Chehalis and Humptulips rivers during the same time period. These measures are aimed to protect wild steelhead populations, provide sport fishing opportunity where possible, and support tribal treaty rights.

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 Simon Jaynes. Thanks for listening and have a great day.