

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Tim Quackenbush with local news for December 23, 2021.

Jefferson County Public Health reports 11 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 1,410. Thirty-five people are in isolation and 2 are hospitalized. This brings Jefferson County's case rate to just above 180/100,000.

Michelle Sandoval has just completed 20 years on the Port Townsend City Council, including two terms as Mayor. Her notes, published on the City of Port Townsend website (<https://cityofpt.us/newsletter/page/note-mayor-michelle-sandoval-0>), share her unique perspective on the future and the past of the city, touching on the issues that have persisted and will likely remain topics of conversation and debate for years to come. Michelle Sandoval is our special guest on *Brewocracy Now* with City Manager John Mauro, today at 12:30. Join in.

Winter, the best 9 months of the year in the Pacific Northwest, has begun. The National Weather Service advises that a series of Pacific storms will bring periods of heavy, low-elevation rain and heavy mountain snow to the Western US. Here in Jefferson County, that means a 70% chance of rain and snow on Christmas Day and Saturday night, beginning close to a week during which our high temperature is forecast to be below freezing, with lows in the teens. So, pets inside, enjoy the ride.

The Jefferson County Public Utility District has made a "Freezing Temperature Checklist" available on their website (<https://www.jeffpud.org/freezing-temperatures-checklist/>). This will perhaps help all of us avoid that grim parade to the hardware store to repair frozen pipes. I have been there, so will be checking that list. Twice.

If it's any consolation, some residents of Eastern Washington may visit our county to get warm, as some forecasts indicate highs in Spokane to be below zero degrees beginning on Tuesday, and lingering for a few days.

That's it for today's local news. KPTZ 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 Tim Quackenbush. Thank you for listening.