

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with the local news for Jefferson and Clallam Counties on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

It is November 1, one week from Election Day. In Jefferson County, there are 27,491 registered voters, and as of this morning 9,076 ballots have been returned to the County Auditor, which is 33% of the ballots out there. Of those ballots, 117 have been challenged. The top three reasons for challenge statewide are: the signature does not match, the ballot envelope is unsigned, or they are awaiting further review. After you send it in, you can check the status of your ballot, on the county Elections webpage on the Jefferson County website. A link for that, and for the ballot return statistics are here: <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1266/Elections> and <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/research/ballot-return-statistics.aspx>.

In Clallam County, there are 57,164 registered voters, and 16,965 ballots have been returned, just under 30%. 250 ballots have been challenged (<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/162/Elections-Voter-Registration>).

So, a friendly reminder: fill out your ballot. Place it in the envelope. Sign and date it. Include your phone number or email address if you wish to be contacted over any irregularities. Place it in the mail or drop it in a ballot drop box in your county.

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners did not meet yesterday, as it was the fifth Monday of October. The Public Health Briefings are going to go to one per month, on the third Monday of the month, so the next Public Health Briefing will be November 21.

In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case rate is 233 per hundred thousand. No one is currently hospitalized. 39 new cases were added this week for a total of 6,149 cases. The total count of COVID-19-related deaths in Jefferson County stands at 32.

According to the Clallam County smartsheet web page (<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/254/Coronavirus-Information>) where they have the COVID-19 numbers: as of today, they will be shifting to a new model of sharing information. Home testing COVID-19 availability, while excellent for helping control the spread of disease, has made it more difficult to see the true number of COVID-19 cases in Clallam county. As a result, they will be prioritizing the sharing of the following information: current levels of hospitalization due to respiratory illness, including COVID-19 but also including influenza and other respiratory illness; overall outlook and trends based on new and emerging COVID-19 variants; universal precautions and steps to take based on your or your loved one's risk of severe disease; and vaccination rates and statuses of available boosters dependent on age and risk. Individual case level data is still available on the State COVID-19 dashboard (select Clallam County for county-specific numbers), as well as reports on vaccination rates, variant sequencing, and outbreaks.

This is from the Brinnon Fire Chief, Tim Manly, on the Brinnon Fire Department Facebook webpage: "On October 28, just after 10am, a pickup driver lost control of his vehicle and spun around at the infamous Highway 101 milepost 302.5. Once again, a driver was speeding for the conditions present and not adhering to the signals and posted signs." Then he added, "I understand this is the second accident at this location in less than 24 hours. But I remind everyone that it's only the 4th this year alone." In 2020 before the new signage was added, there was an accident in that location every 11 days. The Brinnon Fire Department's fight to have the

increased signage and flashing lights isn't perfect, but it is working, according to Tim Manly. He said he will continue to advocate for safer conditions and will call upon the community when the need arises to help push safety issues. Then he said, "Thank you, Brinnon Community, for your patience and support." - Tim Manly

Yesterday afternoon, shortly after 1pm, a 31-year-old man from Bremerton was driving a Hyundai Tucson north on Route 19 towards Port Townsend near the intersection of State Route 20. He continued through the green light at speed and continued on State Route 20 and, just where it veers to the right, he continued straight ahead across the highway. As the Washington State Patrol report on the incident said: "Vehicle one failed to negotiate a turn and left the roadway to the left. Vehicle One struck multiple trees, a boulder and came to rest on the passenger side." Drugs or Alcohol Involved: Yes. The driver was injured and transported Saint Michael's by ambulance. He was not wearing a seat belt and is being charged with Driving Under the Influence.

Next Monday at Noon and 5pm, Attention Please! will feature my interview with Peter Lumsdaine, who is with the Physicians for Social Responsibility, about the parallels between the current threat of nuclear war, and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!