

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news for Jefferson and Clallam counties for Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

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KPTZ News received an alert from Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management Coastal Flood Warning until 10pm Tuesday. Significant coastal flooding is expected in the North Coast and Central Coast zones from 7am this morning to 10pm Pacific Standard Time this evening. Numerous roads may be closed. Low-lying property – including homes, businesses, and some critical infrastructure – will be inundated. Some shoreline erosion will occur. High tide anomalies of 1 to 2 feet are expected. After high tide later today, swells will be building to 25 to 27 feet. Swell will subside later tonight. Take the necessary actions to protect flood-prone property. If travel is required, do not drive around barricades or through water of unknown depth.

The National Weather Service reports there is a flood watch for Port Townsend until 4:30pm Wednesday. Rain today with temps in the high 40s, with windy conditions throughout the day: 7-to-24 mile per hour winds with wind gusts up to 41 miles per hour.

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This past Friday, Governor Jay Inslee sent a holiday message and it said:  
“Gov. Jay Inslee and the staff of the Office of the Governor wish you and your family a warm, festive, safe, and joyous holiday season in good company.” After the warm wishes the email included information about proposed gun violence bills. From the Governor’s office:

More than 117,000 Americans are shot each year, including 6,000 children and youth. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for kids. Hundreds of police officers are shot every year. Hundreds of mass shootings occur every year. America has the highest rate of gun ownership in the world, and the highest gun death rate in the world among high-income countries (by a factor of four) to show for it.

As the start of the 2023 legislative session nears, Gov. Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, and several legislators announced three bills during a press conference last Monday to help further reduce gun violence in Washington state. Inslee is requesting legislation to require a permit to purchase a firearm, certifying that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm, and has completed a state-certified safety training program. Every firearm purchase would be accompanied by an additional background check and 10-day waiting period. Connecticut passed a similar law following Sandy Hook and observed nearly a 40% reduction in gun violence since.

Inslee said, “This epidemic of gun violence we are facing is unacceptable. What might have been a fistfight in a parking lot is now someone dead in the street. We cannot surrender to this epidemic. I refuse to accept that we’re powerless.” Inslee and Ferguson will jointly request two other bills: a ban on assault weapons, and liability for firearm industry irresponsibility.

Washington voters and legislators have consistently supported substantive, common-sense gun violence measures including universal background checks; bans on bump stocks, ghost guns and high capacity magazines; extreme risk protection orders sometimes known as “red flag laws;” and open carry restrictions in certain public spaces. In 2020, legislators approved creation of a new state Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention that partners closely with community and law enforcement leaders to pursue data-driven solutions to gun violence.

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Due to the Christmas holiday, Jefferson County Public Health did not update the COVID-19 dashboard yesterday. They will update it today. Go to <https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1429/COVID-19> to find out the numbers later today.

Just your weekly reminder: Wear a well fitting high-quality mask in public indoor settings, stay home if you are sick, and if you can, get a flu shot and the bivalent Covid booster shot.

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In January, the public health briefings for the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners will go to two per month, but because of two Monday holidays, they will be on two Tuesdays – January 3 and January 17 – on Chris Bricker’s show, *Morning on the Salish*.

Submit your Public Health questions to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence by emailing [contactus@kptz.org](mailto:contactus@kptz.org) by this Friday, December 30 at noon, to be answered the following Tuesday, January 3. You can still order Home Covid tests from: <https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org>

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!