

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Happy New Year everyone!

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In neighboring Grays Harbor County there was a bicycle fatality hit and run incident on State Route 115 yesterday. KPTZ radio news received a very scant press release from Washington State Patrol. It read in part:

**"AN UNKNOWN VEHICLE WAS TRAVELLING NORTHBOUND STATE ROUTE 115 AT MILEPOST 2. A BICYCLIST WAS TRAVELLING NORTHBOUND STATE ROUTE 115 AT MILEPOST 2. THE VEHICLE STRUCK THE BICYCLIST FROM BEHIND. THE BICYCLIST CAME TO REST IN THE BLACKBERRY BUSHES OFF THE NORTHBOUND SHOULDER."**

The 55 year old cyclist, from Aberdeen, has not been identified by State Patrol pending notification of next of kin. The report indicates that everything about this incident is still under investigation. The driver of the vehicle and the vehicle they were driving are unknown at this time. The incident occurred at around 1:30pm yesterday, January 1. Milepost 2 on State Route 115 is near Hogan's Corner where 115 and 101 intersect, north of Ocean City State Park and east of Quinault Beach. Anyone who has any information about the vehicle or driver who left the scene of this accident should call Washington State Patrol.

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As we reported last week, the wrapper came off the landmark Post Office building in Port Townsend a few weeks ago and now the scaffolding has come down as well. So, another building moves on from the SCAFFOLDISM architectural movement, but the result is actually quite beautiful.

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This reporter conducted an informal survey on Christmas Day. Driving around Port Townsend between 11:30 and noon on Christmas Day, every business was closed uptown on Lawrence Street. Downtown on Water Street every business was closed but one: Four Seasons Chinese restaurant. O'Reilly's Auto Parts was open! Perhaps if you drove over the Hood Canal and through the woods to your grandmother's house, you might have needed a battery or a bulb or something to get back home safely, so maybe an auto part on Christmas Day? I was quite surprised by that actually. The McDonald's? Closed. The Safeway was open, as was the Starbucks inside. The QFC up the hill was closed, but the sweet surprise was Mean Bean Coffee. There was a long line. I asked about working on Christmas Day and Tyra answered that she and the other two baristas, Tori and Austin, all volunteered to work on Christmas day. They were quite cheerful. That's your commerce report for Christmas day in a small city in Northwest Washington.

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Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties, Dr. Allison Berry, gave a public health report this morning to the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners. Also along was Jefferson County Director of Emergency Management Willie Bence. Dr. Berry mentioned that there is a surge going on of COVID-19, especially of the latest variant, JN-1. Gatherings and events around the holidays contributed to the surge, and she said there are also more cases of Influenza and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and now strep. She said that a sore throat with a fever, without hoarseness and loss of voice are the hallmarks of strep. Because strep is a bacterial infection, antibiotics are indicated, so getting a throat swab at the doctor's office is needed. She also said that if a parent suspects their child has any one of these maladies that calling the doctor's office in the middle of the night is possible and a good idea. In answer to a listener's question about deer being carriers of

Covid, for most people keeping your distance from deer would keep you safe. You will get Covid by being exposed to people who have Covid-19. Hunters should mask and wear gloves while dressing their prey.

Willie Bence spoke about the mild winter we have had so far, which is likely to continue and that the Warming Center in the Pope Marine Building in downtown Port Townsend is open every day. He also spoke about the NIXLE Alert service, a voluntary free subscription service which can provide warnings in the event of emergencies and extreme traffic delays on major routes of more than a half an hour. You can sign up on the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management website (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/950/Dept-of-Emergency-Management>).

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