

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news for today, January 20, 2023.

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Low tides will cancel several Port Townsend-Coupeville evening ferry runs tonight through Monday. Find out more at <https://wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/scheduledetailbyroute.aspx?route=pt-key>.

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Travelers who use State Route 19 near Chimacum will want to plan for additional travel time. Until further notice, a 25-mph speed limit and one-way alternating traffic is in place between Chimacum Road and Swansonville Road. The closure is due to scouring underneath the roadway. The southbound lane is closed around-the-clock as a precaution until repairs are developed and implemented. It is not yet known how long repairs will take. An update will be provided once a timetable is established.

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According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, a 31-year-old man, yet to be named by law enforcement, fell asleep Tuesday evening while driving down Race Street in Port Angeles. He crashed through the heavy steel fencing around the city's state-of-the-art skate board park and ended upside down in the deep cement bowl. It took more than 3 hours to extract the car which looks, from the photo in the paper, to have been totaled. It's amazing that the driver was not injured and the park was empty. Apparently, the driver was not drunk, drugged, or medically impaired. But his case will be referred to the prosecuting attorney's office for driving violations.

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The cities of Langley, Gig Harbor, and Port Townsend have passed a Declaration of Rights for the Southern Orca and this week the Jefferson County Commissioners voted unanimously to support this declaration. They are the first county commissioners to do this. A group of advocates, dressed like orcas, delivered heart-felt speeches to the commissioners, reminding us all that there are only 73 of these whales left in our resident pod. The declaration is symbolic, but as Patrick Johnson said at the public comment period, Jefferson County's recognition of the rights of orcas should inspire other counties to take this step. Several speakers pointed out the importance of demolishing the Snake River dams on the Columbia. That would open salmon runs that would be affect the orcas and the fisheries throughout the northwest. And one thing we can all do, as was suggested by orca supporters, is not to eat coho salmon caught here or anywhere. Leave them for the orcas.

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Owl360.org (<https://www.owl360.org/>), a local non-profit, takes a holistic approach to helping young people. Their most recent effort, The Nest, when it opens today will be a welcoming coffeehouse for young people to meet each other, access resources, and gain social and employment opportunities. The coffeehouse is at 1119 Lawrence St. in a one-time dentist office. Its opening hours are today from 3:30 to 7:30pm and tomorrow from 10am to 7:30pm. Then on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 5pm. Owl360 says of its mission, "We believe that creating these environments for young people to choose their own path is the most sustainable, attainable, and authentic way to support them in their autonomy and brilliance."

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During a special meeting last Thursday, Jefferson Healthcare Commissioners raised CEO Mike Glenn's salary to \$350,000. According to the *Peninsula Daily News* this is a \$50,000 increase. The vote was four to one with Commissioner Matt Ready opposed. Other commissioners praised Glenn's management skills, commenting that he would likely be paid more elsewhere. The *PDN* quoted official sources, saying that Jefferson Healthcare is the county's largest employer with more than 800 employees. In addition to a 25-bed hospital, it owns and operates six rural health clinics, five primary care clinics, a dental and express clinic, and nine specialty care clinics. It also operates Jefferson Healthcare Home Health and Hospice Service.

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And that's it for today's news. KPTZ, 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. I'm Ann Katzenbach, Thanks for listening and have a great weekend.