

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, August 31, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

On Tuesday, local social media feeds were bursting with images of a white sedan stuck in the doorway of Papa Murphy's in Port Townsend. The story goes like this: an older woman plowed the vehicle into the front of the business around 11:30am just moments after customers left, according to owner Ben Von Ruden. There was damage to not only the doors and frame, but also to the interior walls where the car finally came to a stop. Even though the business had to close for the day, Von Ruden was still feeling generous enough to give away 60 pizzas that had already been sauced and topped with cheese before they could expire. And, despite needing to wait for insurance to figure out all the details for a full repair, the business was able to put in a temporary fix and got back to slinging pies out the door on Wednesday.

Another local business also blew up on social media recently after putting out a call for help. Crusty Crumb Bakery first reached out on August 23 as their sales over recent months were not able to cover all of their overhead operating costs, stating, "We are sadly at a critical moment when I have to decide if we will be able to continue in retail or if we will need to shift to a more wholesale store." One week and many pastries later, they again took to social media to announce they had had their best week of sales ever, adding, "We were literally tearing up at the support from all of the people in this amazing community, thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!" If you'd like to try the homemade delights everyone is talking about, you can find them at 1433 West Sims Way in Port Townsend nextdoor to Bonita's pet supply store.

And more celebrations of financial feats are in order as the Jefferson Land Trust has met their fundraising goal for the Quimper Wildlife Corridor challenge, raising \$3.14 million to protect up to 167 more acres of the corridor. This beautiful length of green space provides essential wildlife habitat, natural stormwater management, and miles of recreational trails. The generosity of our community and the success of the fundraising challenge has already helped the Land Trust protect 40 acres in the corridor in 27 separate transactions since 2021. It's also given them the resources to help facilitate the purchase and permanent protection of 107 acres of forestland by Jefferson County through the Trust Land Transfer program of the Washington Department of Natural Resources to be completed in the next few months.

Local water is also in need of protection, however, which is why the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is asking people to keep an eye out for invasive green crabs. To that end, the coalition is inviting the community to participate in "Molt Search" – an early detection community science program designed to help managers direct resources to undersearched or already-green-crab-detected beaches. It's a systematic beach walk, where you spend 20 minutes collecting and identifying all the crab molts you can find and submit that information via the MyCoast app.

European green crabs are one of the world's most damaging invasive species. In the past 10 years, they've begun popping up in the Salish Sea. Managers are concerned about their potential impacts on eelgrass which are important nurseries for native species like salmon and Dungeness crab. Because the green crab is still so rare in inland Washington, responding quickly is key and most effective if their arrival in a new area is noticed early.

Community members can be an important part of this process by eyes on their local shorelines and the systematic protocols of Molt Search adds even more.

If you'd like to help, you can attend one of Washington Sea Grant & WSU Extension's many in-person, on-beach "Molt Blitzes". The next scheduled event is the Kitsap County Molt Blitz on September 14 from 1 to 2:30pm in Silverdale. The event will include on-beach, guided Molt Search training and practice, which are free and open to all! To register, go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRAsPXznGbu4EHL3YoOSfmKfWp7MjVtMKiU9kxXLaoY82KOW/viewform>. And while registration is helpful, it's also not required.

One last bit of news: the final Concert on the Dock originally scheduled for tonight at Pope Marine Park has been moved inside to the American Legion Hall due to unpredictable weather. Organizers first canceled the event, but the American Legion Hall jumped in and began the process of moving the event indoors to allow us all to keep on partying with Kevin Mason & the PT Allstars.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.