

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Friday, November 24, 2023.

There are a couple of tidal ferry cancellations today on the PT/Coupeville route of the Washington State Ferries. The 5:15pm sailing from Port Townsend and the 6pm sailing from Coupeville are canceled due to tidal conditions. Your alternate routes are Edmonds/Kingston and/or Mukilteo/Clinton, of course.

On Tuesday, KPTZ news reported on a recent fatal car crash that occurred on State Route 104 at the intersection with Paradise Bay Road, right at the west end of the Hood Canal Bridge. We also looked at an article in the *PT Leader* that outlined why State Route 104 is so dangerous in the stretch that goes from the intersection with Center Valley Road and the Hood Canal Bridge. It was also a partial explanation of why the roundabouts that are slated to be built at the junctions with State Route 19 and Paradise Bay Road, had not yet been built.

In this week's *PT Leader*, the State responded. "Washington State Secretary of Transportation (WSDOT) Roger Millar has written to assure that this project will move forward as quickly as possible. We [the *PT Leader*] are publishing his letter here in full. KPTZ News, however, is simply quoting from that letter.

Roger Millar said this, "Good morning. In 2024, WSDOT will deliver a safety improvement project in Jefferson County on State Route 104 at the intersections of State Route 19 and Paradise Bay/Shine Road. The design phase of the project is wrapping up and the project will go to bid in January of 2024. Washington State DOT is advancing this project forward as quickly as possible and the project is anticipated to begin construction in spring of 2024. This project experienced a significant design delay in 2021 after heavy rains hit the peninsula, triggering landslides that blocked State Routes 101, 112, and 113 in multiple locations and cut off access to communities. The same office that was overseeing the design of the State Route 104 safety improvement projects managed the emergency repairs on State Route 112. Once a contractor is selected and the project begins, our region communications team and project office will provide updates on the construction start date and what travelers can expect during construction. Safety is a priority at our agency. Target Zero is our state highway safety plan, which aims to have zero deaths and zero serious injuries by 2030. Over the next several years, we have many projects that will construct roundabouts at intersections on our state highways. This project on State Route 104 in Jefferson County is one of many such projects.

Thank you,
Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP
Secretary of Transportation"

Also in the *PT Leader* this week: Egor Shokoladov, one of Northwind Art's local Artist Showcase program participants, has been accepted to Art Basel Miami, the gigantic art fair set for December 6 through 10. The south Florida event, considered the leading art festival in the Americas, will show work from 277 galleries around the world. Last year, organizers reported attendance of 76,000 people. Shokoladov said through his interpreter, who is also his wife Alina: "We are very excited about this opportunity." The Shokoladovs are now preparing to go together to Miami to present his artwork in the Synergy exhibition, one of the many shows at Art Basel Miami. Shokoladov grew up in the small town of Grodno in Belarus, and received his Master of Fine Arts degree at Yanka Kupala State University there.

The Shokoladovs moved to Port Angeles in 2020 when Alina, who is a pharmacist, took a position at the Rite Aid there. Alina had come to the U.S. when she accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Washington State University. Soon after arrival on the North Olympic Peninsula, the pair met Ken Hulick, manager at Northwind Art's Jeanette Best Gallery. After seeing Shokoladov's artwork – including his hand-colored etchings – Hulick invited him to apply to the juried Artist Showcase program. Shokoladov has had his work at Jeanette Best Gallery ever since.

The Artist Showcase program displays the work of 24 local artists. This is the first time one has been accepted into an art festival on the scale of Art Basel Miami. Hulick said, "Egor's work has an Old World sensibility. Yet the whimsical nature and superb execution stand out and speak to today's collectors." Shokoladov has eight of his hand-colored etchings in the Showcase gallery. In the adjacent room, in Northwind Art's juried show titled "Small Expressions," he has "Hoo," his etching of an owl beneath a starry sky. Shokoladov said, "I am particularly inspired by humor...and seek to bring positive vibes into the world."

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.