

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your hyper-local news and commentary for Friday, January 12, 2024.

The weather. The sudden onset of snow caused problems all over western Washington when a cold air flow down the Frazier River Valley brought frigid temps and several inches of snow that fell heavily in just two hours here in east Jefferson County. The latest Nixle alert from the County at 10 this morning read: "Road conditions remain hazardous due to ice; consider delaying non-essential travel. May remain icy through Sunday or Monday."

I am in a production of *Twelfth Night* with Saltfire Theatre which opens tonight. As a result, when a 6pm rehearsal was canceled yesterday at 5:30pm the text exchanges provided real-time updates on the state of the roads in east Jefferson County. Cars driven by two members of the ensemble wound up in ditches along the way and there were numerous stories from multiple sources of cars off the side of the road on State Route 20, Highway 19, Sims Way, Discovery Road, and also on local streets right here in Port Townsend.

City Councilwoman Libby Wendstrom, who is also the Costumer for *Twelfth Night*, said, "I drove from Fort Worden to Goodwill and back around 5. I fishtailed exactly once, turning on the Rainier/Discovery roundabout. Driving back, there were at least 6 cars stopped in the travel lane on the uphill climb on Hastings. Drove home from Fort Worden at 9:30. It had stopped snowing and there was a clear sky. Roads were empty, with lots of cars abandoned in odd places. Major streets were plowed and sanded. I lucked out and followed a sanding truck up Discovery. It was slick but drivable in town. About 3 inches on Castle Hill. Front-wheel drive minivan, new regular tires."

I, too, have a front-wheel drive vehicle, but I only had to drive from my home near the Redmen Cemetery to KPTZ here at Mountain View Commons. Because I able to keep momentum up Blaine Street, I was able to get on the air between 7 and 9pm alongside Rachel who hosted the *Dude Babe Radio* hour between 10 and midnight last night with her friend Lidia. Rachel drove to the station without incident from Discovery Bay, but witnessed many ditched cars along the way and she bailed from the main routes to take Jacob Miller Road to get to town. The Bowie tribute was wonderful and she pointed out that David Bowie's birthday is January 8, and that he died in 2016 on January 10. The question raised was, based on world events over the past 8 years, is it safe to say that things got worse after Bowie died?

Teens and twenties for the next couple of days all over Puget Sound, with the notable exception of single-digit temperature around Bellingham. The cold will not ease up until later Sunday into Monday, and by midweek even overnight temperatures will allow for more rain.

From the *PT Leader*: A new electronic vehicle (EV) carshare program in Port Townsend recently launched, and now you can try out an EV, or get access to a car for the times when you need one. A local nonprofit consumer cooperative, ZEV Co-op, has partnered with a number of local organizations to bring EV car sharing to Jefferson County. There are two cars currently in place in Port Townsend, and more coming. The partnership came out of the Jefferson County/Port Townsend joint Climate Action Committee's (CAC) EV Work group (that's a mouthful), with the City of Port Townsend, the Chamber, and OlyCAP all key partners. The ZEV Co-op Car Share program is available to all qualified users, and offers lower rates for income-qualified drivers.

EVs have been identified by the CAC as one of the top opportunities to reduce the community's transportation carbon footprint, which is 66% of our total community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Members of the co-op

can reserve a vehicle up to a week ahead of time, using the ZEV Co-op app. At the scheduled time, at the vehicle, members use the app to open the car door. After using the car, the driver would return it to the same spot, plug it into the dedicated charger, activate the charger using the RFID card in the vehicle, and walk away.

The current introductory rate allows EV users to join the co-op for free, and use it for \$5 an hour or \$40/day. Rates will increase to \$8 an hour for members, but will stay at \$5 an hour for income-qualified members. There will be membership fees once the introductory phase is over. There is also an option for visitors, with no membership fee but a higher rate of \$16 an hour, and a \$20 monthly access fee. Driver's check and orientation are still required, so some advanced planning is needed, but it could happen within a day. Learn more at <https://zev.coop/>.

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. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening. Please, please, please be careful out there.