

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

The Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) sent out a call for tour guides for the upcoming season: Do you love meeting new people and sharing stories? Are you passionate about Jefferson County and its vibrant history? JCHS is looking for friendly and engaging individuals to lead our walking tours. Dive into local history, connect with the community, and bring our county's past to life! Tour guide positions are paid per tour and generally lead two to four tours per month. Email your letter of interest to programs@jchsmuseum.com with the subject line "Walking Tour Guide Application" by February 20.

The Washington State Patrol has reported that yesterday were the 8th and 9th shooting incidents on highways in Washington since January 1. They sent out a press release last week describing the 7th such incident and asked for the public's help in finding the perpetrator.

Witnesses Needed For 7th Freeway Shooting in King County: At approximately 3:10pm January 31 Washington State Patrol (WSP) communications received a 9-1-1 call from a driver reporting that their vehicle was being shot at Westbound on State Route 18 near 304th. The victim further advised he took the exit to 304th and the suspect vehicle continued West Bound on 18. He also discovered two bullet holes in his vehicle but thankfully was not injured. It was confirmed that there was a bullet hole in the left rear driver's side door and the left front fender. He advised that he was traveling West Bound on 18 approaching 304th, passed a semi then moved back to the right lane. It was at that time a white Dodge Charger pulled alongside and the passenger displayed a black handgun and fired three shots before fleeing.

A short time later a trooper located the suspect vehicle taking the exit from South Bound 1-5 to 72nd Street in Tacoma. Shortly after the vehicle exited, WSP aircraft located the vehicle and followed it, advising the ground units the direction and location of travel. The suspect vehicle traveled through Tacoma streets then reentered North Bound I-5 and exited the freeway in Fife. A witness also called 9-1-1 and advised that a gun was thrown from the vehicle in Tacoma which was retrieved and placed into evidence. The suspects continued to an apartment complex where they abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. They were observed taking off their jackets and placing a backpack into another vehicle and continued on foot until leaving the scene in a white SUV that appeared to be waiting for them. Ground units had not yet arrived and the white SUV was able to leave the area. The Dodge Charger had a plate on it that returned to a rental company, but further investigation showed this was the wrong plate and the vehicle was stolen. The Dodge Charger was placed into WSP evidence for a search warrant, the backpack was retrieved out of the other vehicle, and a search warrant was being obtained last week.

In all three of the last incidents there was no loss of life, but yesterday one of the targeted drivers was injured by flying glass when the window of the car was shot out, according to KIRO 7 News this morning. Naturally, if any member of the public was a witness or has any information about any of those incidents, they are asked to please contact Washington State Patrol.

Yesterday, Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence both spoke to The Board of County Commissioners for their Public Health Update. Willie Bence mentioned when asked by a County Commissioner that using a candle in a can in a closed space like a car if you're stranded somewhere in winter weather might not be the best idea,

partially because of the flammability of the candle and also because it removes oxygen from the interior of the car when you might want to keep the windows closed. He recommended hand and foot warmers – the chemical kind that you activate by popping them out of the pouch and rubbing them – or space blankets – those little thermal blankets that are inexpensive and can help you stay warm with your own body heat. Willie also recommended to everyone that they put a “go kit” in their car that has basic things like food, water, a battery-crank radio, a flashlight... any sort of basic, basic survival gear for when you’re stuck. You can listen to Dr. Allison Berry and Willie Bence’s full remarks at KPTZ.org on the BOCC Health Report.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can reach out to us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.