

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Yesterday, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer announced in a press release that the U.S. Maritime Administration has designated three maritime organizations in Washington's Sixth Congressional District as Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education: Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding in Port Hadlock, Peninsula College in Port Angeles and Flagship Maritime Training Center in Tacoma. Kilmer said, "In earning designations as Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education, the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding, Peninsula College, and Flagship Maritime will be eligible for new federal resources to train workers and meet the local need for experienced maritime technicians in the community." This designation will enable each of these maritime partners to become eligible for future grants and federal funds that will allow their organizations to expand their offerings.

For those who may be interested in witnessing crimes in progress, please go to the Clallam County Sheriff's Office Facebook page to watch several videos of the same suspect committing various thefts. Two days ago at about 6:22am Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a burglary at Peninsula Friends of Animals cat shelter located in Port Angeles. Video surveillance showed the suspect arriving in a green Chevy Astro. The van was registered to 46-year-old Port Hadlock resident James Kingsland. The video footage of the suspect matched James Kingland's driver's license photo. Kingsland entered the cat shelter, rifled through cupboards, stole some syringes, and left a t-shirt inside the building. Kingsland then stole a 1989 maroon Chevrolet truck with matching maroon canopy that was registered to Peninsula Friends of Animals and left the scene.

Later that morning, Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a report of a theft of a FedEx vehicle at a FedEx warehouse in Port Angeles. Employees reported that someone had punched the ignition of a FedEx truck, drove it around, and left the vehicle on scene. The vehicle was equipped with a dash cam showing the suspect inside the truck who was quickly identified as James Kingsland. The FedEx truck was also equipped with a GPS tracking device which showed Kingsland drove the truck up and down Easy Street multiple times.

Kingsland was also identified in video surveillance entering other vehicles at the FedEx facility and stealing items to include a box of cameras. Kingsland is now in custody and has been charged with two counts of Burglary 2nd Degree, four counts of Vehicle Prowl 2nd Degree, Theft 2nd Degree, Malicious Mischief 1st Degree, and Theft of a Motor Vehicle (2 counts).

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is warning drivers of a fake officer stopping cars for undetermined reasons. Kitsap County Sheriff John Gese told KIRO Newsradio that the impersonator was good enough that people would pull over. One woman, who was stopped south of Port Orchard this weekend, grew suspicious and called 911. She said the phony officer was driving a dark, four-door Dodge Charger with a spotlight on the driver's side. The sedan had red and blue emergency lights on its front grill, but no lights on its roof. The word "Washington" is on the car's side.

KCSO Deputies determined the traffic stop was not made by any state or local law enforcement agencies and reminded drivers that they do not have to stop immediately on contact. They can drive slowly to a spot where they feel safe to stop and the officer will follow. Kevin McCarty, the public information officer for KCSO, told

KIRO Newsradio, “Slow down, put your flashers on, and drive to a place that’s well lit, public and safe. Any legitimate law enforcement officer is going to understand that you’re doing that for your safety. You can certainly ask for an officer’s badge. You can ask for their name. If you’re concerned about it, any legitimate law enforcement officer is going to do their best to put you at ease, let you know you’re safe and give you that information.” The charge for impersonating a police officer in Washington is second-degree criminal impersonation – a gross misdemeanor – and can carry a sentence of up to a year in jail. As of yesterday, the suspect was still at large.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I’m Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.