

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Taylor Nations with local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

The Washington State Patrol issued a report about an incident that occurred on Easter Sunday, a Personal Injury Collision involving a motorcycle with two people riding. Northbound on Highway 101 just north of Quilcene, the motorcycle driver saw a car in the southbound lane slow to turn left across his path and hit the brakes too hard, overcompensated, and lost control of the motorcycle, which came to rest in the southbound lane. Both the driver and passenger were transported to St. Michael's Hospital in Silverdale. The driver, Alexander Thompson of Seabeck, sustained minor injuries, and the passenger on the bike, Catherine Thompson, was injured as well. State Patrol said the cause of the accident was speed and overcorrecting. There were no drugs or alcohol involved. Both riders were wearing helmets.

As KPTZ reported last week there was a motorcycle accident involving a rider under the influence. As the weather warms up it's a good idea to keep an eye out for motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians while driving. From <https://www.defensivedriving.com/>, an automobile safety website, there are tips for motorists sharing the road with motorcycles:

- DON'T FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY: When a vehicle is smaller than a car and moving just as fast, they still need the same amount of space on the road, if not more. Give motorcycles a full lane, just as you would a full-sized car. When following a motorcycle, know that they can stop more suddenly than a car, and their brake lights are smaller. Give them twice as big a gap as you would a car. Allow four seconds (instead of two) between the two of you.
- CAREFUL WHEN MAKING LEFT TURNS: Around 40 percent of two-vehicle fatal accidents involving a motorcycle in 2012 were the result of a car trying to turn left as a motorcycle was trying to go straight. When looking to turn at an intersection, double check for a motorcycle that may be coming from the other direction. If you are at an intersection, they likely have the right of way.
- CHECK YOUR BLIND SPOTS: Even if you are not turning left, it is important to check your blind spots regularly.
- BE AWARE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER: Drivers should use more caution when driving in hazardous weather, but motorcyclists are even more affected by things like rain, snow, or sleet.
- DRIVE DEFENSIVELY: Lastly, it is important to practice defensive driving on the road. Rather than trying to get from point A to point B as quickly as possible, be considerate of others on the road, and enjoy the drive!

NPR and other news outlets have a story, not a local story but could affect you, if you are now, or have ever been, an AT&T customer: AT&T announced on Saturday it is investigating a data breach involving the personal information of over 70 million current and former customers leaked on the dark web. According to information about the breach on the company's website, 7.6 million current account holders and 65.4 million former account holders have been impacted. The breach, which occurred two weeks ago, has not had a "material impact" on the company's operations, but includes social security numbers, full names, and phone numbers of some customers, according to an AT&T press release. The company has so far not identified the source of the leak, at least publicly. See <https://www.npr.org/2024/03/30/1241863710/att-data-breach-dark-web>.

And in *The Peninsula Daily News* yesterday: There will be field-carrier landing practice operations for aircraft stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Complex the rest of this week. There will be landing practice at the Outlying Landing Field in Coupeville Tuesday and Wednesday nights until late in the night. Practice is also slated for early Thursday afternoon, and operations will continue early Friday afternoon. There are no landing practice operations scheduled at Ault Field for this week. Comments, including noise complaints, can be directed to the station's comment line at 360-257-6665 or via email (naswi_noise_comments@us.navy.mil). All other questions can be directed to the public affairs office at 360-257-2286.

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 Taylor Nations. Thanks for listening.