

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, June 14, 2024.

According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, fire destroyed a garage in the 300 block of West Kincaid Street in Irondale this week. The contents of the garage were destroyed, but luckily a neighbor spotted the smoke and safely released two dogs from the structure.

And, speaking of fire, East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) has announced the formation of a Community Risk Division to enhance and expand programs that address and reduce fire and life safety risks within the community. The new effort will address fire extinguisher training, smoke alarm installations, and community CPR training. The expansion will include addressing other risks faced in the district such as wildfire preparedness, fire safety in schools, and senior safety. Programs will be based on incidents, data trends, public requests, and feedback from public safety personnel.

In related news, if you're planning to spend some time camping in an RV this summer, the state fire marshal's office tells us RVs can have an increased risk of fire incidents. In fact, in 2022, there were 15 fire deaths in Washington state that occurred in recreational vehicles. So, to increase safety, they offer the following suggestions:

- Check your propane tank regularly and test for leaks.
- Install and maintain working carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
- Install a fire extinguisher, know how to use it, and conduct a monthly inspection.
- Keep doorways and walkways clear.
- Keep space heaters 3 feet away from combustibles. Ensure the space heater unit has tip protection features.
- Practice an escape plan.
- Make sure to use electrical outlets properly and do not overload the circuitry.
- Watch what you cook and turn burner and ovens off when finished.
- Inspect your RV camper before heading down the roadways.

And, if you're headed west in that RV, you might want to know that contractor crews working for the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will be chip sealing several locations around the peninsula, including the three miles of U.S. 101 from just north of the Big Quilcene River Bridge to north of Mount Walker Lookout Road.

And a quick note: For those of you who are curious about the Race to Alaska, Team Malolo is still in the lead, followed by Narrows Minded, Hullabaloo, Stranger Danger, and Brio. All of them are catamarans except Stranger Danger.

Jefferson County Public Health reports that recent shellfish samples from Jefferson County were found to have high levels of the biotoxin that causes Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) and the Washington State Department of Health has closed Mystery Bay for recreational harvesting of all shellfish species. The closure does not affect Kilisnoe Harbor. Jefferson County Public Health and Washington State Parks have posted warning signs at public access points.

And, in case you're planning to ignore this warning, remember this: Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning toxin is not destroyed by either cooking or freezing. To find out which areas in Washington are safe to harvest shellfish, you can call the Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632.

The official ribbon cutting for the Discovery Road project will be held tomorrow at 2pm on the lawn of the San Juan Baptist Church. It'll be your chance to not only enjoy food, drinks, community, music, and games, but also to explore one of the three shiny new bus stop shelters Jefferson Transit has installed this month.

And finally, a warning: The Clallam County Sheriff's office reports that for the second half of June local law enforcement officials will be conducting extra patrols for impaired driving. Impairment is involved in over 50% of fatal crashes locally and across the State, so don't drive under the influence, and do your best to intervene for those who need redirection.

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 Diane Walker. Thank you for listening and have a great weekend.