

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with local news and commentary for Friday, June 21, 2024.

\*\*\*

The *Port Townsend Leader* reports that four-person Team Malolo sailed into Ketchikan Monday afternoon on their custom-built Cochrane trimaran, Dragon, to become the first all-Canadian team to win the Race to Alaska. Team Malolo made the 710-mile trip from Victoria to Ketchikan in five days and three hours with the four-person team of Duncan Gladman, Paul Gibson, Becky Kelly, and Matthew Macatee.

This was Gladman's fifth Race to Alaska but his first win. In 2019, his team came in second and in 2022, the Dragon was knocked out of the race after hitting a rogue log. This year's race was a bit short on wind, so at one point the team spent 15 straight hours using pedal power to push north. But at the time of Team Malolo's finish, its nearest competitors were more than 90 miles from Ketchikan, with 29 of the 32 teams that set out from Victoria still navigating the Inside Passage.

The four-person crew celebrated their win at the Alaska Fish House in Ketchikan with an impromptu awards ceremony, during which they received their first prize of \$10,000 cash, as tradition dictates, nailed to a piece of firewood. The race's second-place prize – a set of engraved steak knives – was won by Team Brio, which pulled into Ketchikan just after 5am Tuesday with a total race time of five days and 18 hours.

\*\*\*

*Peninsula Daily News* tells us U.S. Highway 101 near Sequim Bay State Park was closed in both directions at about 9:05am Monday after a collision involving three vehicles, including a semi truck and two SUVs. Two people were transported to Jefferson Healthcare in Port Townsend with non-life-threatening injuries, and the semi truck driver was transported with non-life-threatening injuries to Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles.

First responders discovered a diesel fuel leak at the site that amounted to about 100 gallons, so firefighters created an earthen dam and applied absorbent material to stop the spread of fuel. Staff with the state Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took over mitigation of the spill. The driver who caused the accident was arrested for suspicion of DUI, and traffic remained backed up well into the afternoon.

\*\*\*

Jefferson County Public Health has sent out a Heat Alert for south Jefferson County. Residents of Brinnon and Quilcene can expect unusually high temperatures this weekend. The Public Health Department recommends you stay indoors from 10 am to 4, wear loose, light-colored clothes, drink lots of water, and make sure elderly neighbors, children, and pets are cool and safe.

\*\*\*

And, speaking of pets, we have a cautionary tale for you today: For those of you who walk your dogs on the bluff overlooking North Beach: be sure to keep them on a leash. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, a 65-year-old woman broke her ankle Tuesday while looking for her dog after it fell off a bluff in the 100 block of Sea Bluff Lane in Sequim. The woman had been hiking along the beach looking for her dog and fell from about 10 feet up on the bluff. She lay on the ground for several hours and showed signs of shock when multiple career and volunteer firefighters responded. Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue crews anchored a life safety rope system from a neighboring home's property and rappelled about 160 feet down to reach the woman. The crews splinted the woman's ankle and provided warming blankets while other crews drove the department's Utility Task Vehicle

(UTV) 3 miles along the beach from Green Point to the woman's location. She was then transported by the UTV to Olympic Ambulance staff, who then drove her to Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles. Sadly, the dog did not survive the fall.

\*\*\*

And finally a reminder: the intersection of State Routes 19 and 104 is scheduled to remain closed for another week while crews continue working on the new roundabout there. All traffic will still detour to Center Road.

\*\*\*

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](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening and have a great weekend.