

This is Casey Dolan with your local news for Wednesday, August 3, 2022 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Preliminary election returns are in for Washington state's Primary. It was a show of strength for Democratic incumbents across the board in Jefferson County. By last night at 9pm, with a voter turnout of 40% and an estimated 561 ballots remaining to be counted, these are the candidates who will advance to the fall ballot in each race:

For U.S. Senator:

Patty Murray (Democrat) Tiffany Smiley (Republican)

For Congressional District 6 Representative:

Derek Kilmer (Democrat) Elizabeth Kreiselmaier (Republican)

Washington State Secretary of State:

Steve Hobbs (Democrat) Julie Anderson (No Party Affiliation)

District 24 State Representative, Position 1:

Mike Chapman (Democrat) Sue Forde (Republican)

District 24 State Representative, Position 2:

Steve Tharinger (Democrat) Brian Pruiett (Republican)

County Commissioner District 3:

Greg Brotherton (Democrat) Marcia Kelbon (Republican)

Sheriff:

Joe Nole (Democrat) Art Frank (Democrat)

All other positions were unopposed. Jefferson County has 27,410 registered voters.

A demonstration of 45 to 50 people occurred mid-day yesterday outside of the YMCA Mountain View pool to support transgender rights, the second day of demonstrations beginning on Monday. This was in reaction to an incident which occurred in late July at the facility involving local resident Julie Jaman.

On Monday, Jaman appeared before the City Council to read from a July 29 letter addressed to the Council describing the incident in which a transgender person appeared in the women's locker room. When Jaman asked an employee of the YMCA to have the person removed from the locker room, she was accused of being discriminatory and permanently expelled from using the facilities. Her testimony to the City Council included suggestions on how the YMCA could deal with future issues in gender-designated locker rooms – like adding additional all-gender locker rooms for those who identify as trans-gender. She also referred to the exposure of children to transgender people as an exposure to possible predators and pedophiles.

In the meeting with the City Council, this characterization of transgender people was sharply criticized by speakers from the public, Mayor David Faber, City Manager John Mauro, and former Mayor Michelle Sandoval, who called in and likened the epithets of "predators" and "pedophiles" to former President Trump's description of Mexican immigrants as "drug dealers, criminals and rapists." The public speakers spoke against discrimination of transgender people, including a nine-year old who identified as non-binary and two transgender individuals. Others defended Jaman and spoke of a need for privacy in locker rooms and the abruptness of her expulsion.

Jaman had hoped to circulate a petition outside the YMCA yesterday but was confronted by the demonstration. In a conversation with KPTZ reporter Jim Burke, she said, "I didn't know this was going on. I just stepped into

the traditional place I've been using for 40 years...What I encountered was something that appeared to me to be not right."

Protestor Lindsey from Port Hadlock objected to the sign Jaman carried which read: "Men who identify as women are using the women's shower/dressing room." She said, "A trans woman is not a man; she's a woman. In many cultures, there's a space for trans people and our narrow, present world doesn't allow space for literally [pointing to the sign] their existence." A different sign read, "Trans is not a choice. Transphobia is."

The Mountain View Pool reopened to the public on Monday, October 25, 2021, after the City of Port Townsend entered into an agreement in August with the Olympic Peninsula YMCA to operate the pool for up to two years. The history of the pool had been fraught with difficulties: staffing changes, COVID-19 health restrictions, serious equipment failure, and operational issues. In an article in the *Peninsula Daily News* from October 2021, YMCA CEO Wendy Bart said she was glad to be working with the city. Erin Hawkins, the Marketing & Communications Manager for the Olympic Peninsula YMCA, writes to KPTZ News, "The Y operates in accordance with state law that gives people the right to access the locker rooms, changing rooms, and bathrooms that aligns with their gender identity... The Y will uphold and respect this law in regards to Y staff, members, and program participants that use Mountain View Pool. At the Y, we hope to create a welcoming place for all that is free from discrimination, hatred, derogatory or unwelcome comments, intimidation, or actions based on an individual's sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression or any other legally protected status."

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Thursday 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.