

This is Casey Dolan with your local news for Wednesday, October 26, 2022 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

In the only scheduled debate before the November 8 general election, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, a Seattle Democrat, and challenger Tiffany Smiley, a Pasco Republican faced off last Sunday in Gonzaga University. Smiley attacked Murray's 30 years in the Senate and said it was time for a change. She also said the Biden administration is seeking to hire 87,000 employees for the Internal Revenue Service who will be "coming after our businesses." Murray, who is seeking a sixth term, emphasized that the election was a referendum on women's rights, democracy, and the economy on which she said she is focused on lowering costs for families, and supported President Biden's inflation reduction act. Murray leads Smiley by 8 points in the polls.

- The candidates notably differed on a variety of issues, including abortion with Smiley supporting states deciding for themselves, thus supporting the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year, and Murray saying that she would "pass legislation to codify Roe v. Wade."
- On the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021, Murray said we must fight to save our democracy while Smiley responded that her husband lost his eyesight to a suicide bomber in Iraq while in the Army working to save democracy.
- Murray said she would support gun control legislation: "We need to ban dangerous weapons. We need to ban assault weapons. We need to make sure that we have really good background checks." Smiley said she supported the Second Amendment.
- The candidates also disagreed on climate change, with Smiley calling for more energy production in the United States and Murray calling for investments in alternative energy resources.
- Each have traded barbs in ads with Murray connecting Smiley to former President Donald Trump, his MAGA supporters and extremism within the GOP, and Smiley describing Murray as an idle senator, blaming her for crime and other social ills.

A reminder to our listeners: Ballots are mailed out! Don't forget to vote by November 8!

The death of a 70-year-old Brinnon woman two Sundays ago has been ruled a homicide and the case has been forwarded to the Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office. According to Detective Sgt. Brett Anglin of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office speaking to the *PT Leader*, Rebecca Lynn Beck died during an early-hours argument on Sunday with her roommate. It escalated into a physical altercation and Beck was pushed backward as she tried to climb into the loft area of the trailer where her roommate lived. Beck's injuries proved to be fatal. Anglin told the *Leader* that the altercation was audio-recorded and backed up the roommate's version of events that Beck had been the aggressor during the dispute. The roommate, who was the only witness to the incident, has not been identified by authorities and only briefly detained. She provided a full statement to law enforcement, as well as the four-minute-long recording of the altercation. She was not arrested.

Gov. Jay Inslee has announced the appointment of Joe Maroney, the director of Fishery and Water Resources for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, to serve on the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which awards grants for restoration projects statewide. Maroney has experience with hydropower relicensing and implementation across Washington, Idaho, and Montana. He was a two-time chairman of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority and worked on bull trout recovery, fish passage, and non-native fish suppression and eradication projects focused on northern pike and brook trout. He has been a member of the Washington Invasive Species Council since 2016. Maroney's term runs through July 15, 2025.

The rebuild of the Point Hudson Marina jetty will now take on overnight work to accommodate low tides to complete excavation near the shoreline. Orion Marine will perform the night work beginning tomorrow evening and continuing until Saturday, October 29. Work will take place during the hours of 6:00pm to 4:30am.

Tonight, due to tidal currents, the 8:30pm ferry from Port Townsend and the 9:10pm ferry from Coupeville are cancelled. Please be advised the final departure from Port Townsend is at 6:45pm and from Coupeville at 7:30pm. Your alternate routes are Edmond/Kingston and/or Mukilteo/Clinton.

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.