

Hello again! This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, July 20, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

It's not often the people who write the news end up in it, but this week has seen a shakeup at The Port Townsend & Jefferson County *Leader*. Inside sources report that after finishing this week's edition of the paper, Managing Editor Brian Kelly packed his belongings and walked out the door. Full disclosure, I too once worked for the *Leader* as a reporter and did not leave on the best of terms. (My sources say Kelly originally gave notice to leave by the end of August, but decided he could not make it that long.) The job of Managing Editor for The *Leader* has been listed online since July 4. Kelly first brought his 30-years of newspaper experience to The *Leader* in 2020 when he was hired by the paper's previous publisher, Donna Etchey. Etchey was fired in January of this year when Lloyd Mullen took over as publisher. Since Etchey's departure, staffing has continued to be an issue. The current publisher, Lloyd Mullen, is also 50/50 owner of the paper with his father Tom Mullen, who is set to take over as interim manager while they seek out someone new for the position.

PLEASE NOTE: KPTZ News issued a correction to this story on Tuesday July 25, 2023. It reads as follows: Last Thursday, we reported on the departure of Brian Kelly who was the managing editor of the Port Townsend and Jefferson County *Leader*, who left the paper on Tuesday, July 18 at the end of the workday. Having spoken yesterday with Brian, we issue this correction now to establish that he chose to resign from the paper of his own volition, with July 18 as his scheduled departure date. Certainly the reasons for his exit are between him and the management of the PT *Leader*. Here at KPTZ NEWS we apologize for any confusion created by our news report. Be assured, we always endeavor to be rigorous and thorough in our reporting. Also, the archived broadcast and transcript available on the website for July 20, have been revised to reflect this correction.

With the deepest regret and sorrow, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe announced the passing of its chairman, Jeromy Sullivan. He was 50. Sullivan is survived by his parents Dianna Purser and Melvin (Poe) Sullivan. He is also survived by his wife, Toni; their two children, Samantha and Jacob; and his brothers, Chad and Corey. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Chairman and CEO W. Ron Allen said, "The passing of Chairman Jeromy Sullivan is an immense loss for the Port Gamble S'Klallam community, as well for all our Northwest Tribes. In his 15-year tenure as a Tribal Chairman, he made a lasting impact in defending our Tribal sovereignty and Treaty rights. Jeromy cared deeply for the S'Klallam peoples' way of life, including: hunting, fishing, and gathering. He was a humble, yet steady warrior for his cultural ways of protecting children, families, elders, and veterans. Jeromy is known regionally and nationally in countless political forums and championing for better education and health care opportunities. His leadership style is reflective of the character and integrity of his predecessors. Jeromy was a caring husband and family man. He made a significant difference and will be dearly missed. We trust he'll be watching over us in the spiritual world now." A memorial service honoring Sullivan will take place on Saturday, July 22 starting at 1pm in the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Gymnasium. For more information about the service, visit: <https://pgst.nsn.us/chairman-sullivan-memorial/>.

Further darkening the local skies, smoke could be seen rising yesterday from a fire that destroyed an equipment shop at a Whidbey Island dairy farm. King 5 reported that the fire broke out just after noon at the Engle Dairy Farm at the intersection of Fort Casey Road and Terry Road just outside of Coupeville. I happened to be at Point Hudson at that time and was witness to the thick black smoke that billowed up framing Mt. Baker. Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue responded, along with every other fire agency on the island, including Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. It took more than three hours to put out the blaze which firefighters managed to keep

isolated to the one building. Along with the fire, crews also battled the heat with temperatures in the low 80s. Because it is a rural area, just like our own, there are few fire hydrants around, which posed some challenges for those firefighters. In the same way many fires are fought in Jefferson County, hose lines must be laid out to the fire engine itself with water tender trucks brought in. Those trucks carry typically about 2,500 gallons of water which they drop and then must go and refill. Luckily, There were no injuries and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.