

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, October 20, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

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Yesterday, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer and Representatives Gerry Connolly from Virginia, Don Bacon from Nebraska, and David Valadao from California reintroduced the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, legislation to address a gap for federal employees who began their careers as temporary workers and were thus unable to make retirement contributions. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act will allow these workers to make catch-up contributions to ensure they can retire as planned. In the absence of this provision, many face an unfair choice: exit the federal service without complete retirement benefits or delay retirement to achieve full benefits.

In a press release from Kilmer's office he writes, "Many federal employees begin their careers in temporary positions before transitioning to permanent status. We need to have their backs. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act will ensure that all federal workers, from those at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to postal workers and beyond, have the opportunity to retire on time, regardless of how they started their careers. This bipartisan bill ensures that all employees, regardless of their initial hiring status, are granted the same retirement opportunity for the same amount of work."

Before 1989, the Office of Personnel Management permitted federal employees to make catch-up payments, enabling them to compensate for years they didn't contribute to their retirement accounts. However, this provision was eliminated when the government transitioned to a new federal employee retirement system.

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Yesterday at about 10:25am, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was dispatched near the Beckett Point area to deal with a male subject who claimed that there were aliens in his house and that he had shot at them with a shotgun. Deputies encountered a male subject, still unidentified, who initially refused to exit the residence and was armed with the shotgun. Deputies were eventually able to negotiate with the man, who exited his residence and was detained. Deputies retrieved the shotgun and found that the man had fired the weapon four times within the residence, causing damage. Deputies determined the man was exhibiting signs of delusional behavior and transported him to Jefferson Healthcare for treatment.

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In line with yesterday's Great Shakeout exercise, the Washington Emergency Management Division, working with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, has created new tsunami evacuation walk maps for Copalis Beach, Pacific Beach, Hoh, La Push, Moclips, Ocean City, Queets Village and Taholah. These are available on their website (<https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami-resources>).

Tsunami evacuation walk time maps show a more detailed view of the time it would take to evacuate on foot from the tsunami inundation zone. The maps also show how long it is estimated to take for the first tsunami wave to arrive. Officials advise using these maps to learn routes ahead of time for work, home, and school. In an actual tsunami event, always head inland to the highest ground you can find.

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In an update to Wednesday's report of a homicide in Poulsbo, the *Kitsap Sun* reports that authorities have identified the deceased man whose body was found on a sidewalk off Winton Lane in Poulsbo Sunday morning as 26-year-old Nicholas Anthony Serra, of Seabeck. The Kitsap County Medical Examiner's Office said in a

news release on Wednesday that Serra's cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head and ruled his manner of death to be homicide. Police said Monday that they were investigating the incident as a homicide.

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To end on the realistic note that nothing is certain aside from death and taxes, here's a reminder that the 2nd Half of Property Taxes are due October 31. Mailed payments must be postmarked, put in a drop box, or paid online to avoid additional charges. Taxpayers who would like a receipt should include their email address to have a receipt emailed to them, or they must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their payment to receive a hard copy receipt mailed to them. For online information regarding paying taxes, levy and assessment explanations, the Senior/Disabled Exemption Program, and homeowner foreclosure assistance, see the Treasurer's Office FAQs at the county website (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/faq.aspx?TID=36>).

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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 Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.