

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, December 6, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Yesterday, Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean announced through a press release her intention to campaign for Congress to fill the seat being vacated by US Representative Derek Kilmer for the Sixth Congressional District. Dean was the co-founder of three small local businesses – Old Tarboo Farm, Finn River Farm, and Mt. Townsend Creamery – and has raised two kids, now 16 and 20, in Port Townsend public schools. Before getting elected in 2016, Kate served as the Regional Director of the North Olympic Development Council, a federally-funded council of governments overseeing economic development planning and initiatives.

In her current job as a Jefferson County Commissioner, she serves on over 20 local and regional boards and committees and represents the County in consultation with the Navy and tribal nations. Dean was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve on the Washington State Board of Health and the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, where she is currently the Vice-Chair.

Early endorsements include Mayor Kate Dexter of Port Angeles, County Commissioners Mark Ozias and Mike French of Clallam County, Sequim City Council Member Rachel Anderson, County Commissioners Greg Brotherton and Heidi Eisenhour of Jefferson County, and Mayor David Faber of Port Townsend.

Nearly 800 acres of former state trust land in Jefferson County have been added to the Dabob Bay Natural Area after the Board of Natural Resources approved a pair of transactions during its meeting yesterday at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia, according to a press release issued by the State Department of Natural Resources. The transactions – an Inter-Trust Exchange and a Trust Land Transfer – were funded by the Legislature and will ensure that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources can continue to generate revenue to support local services in Jefferson County while also conserving rare habitat.

Jefferson County Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour said, “Protection of these forest stands around Dabob Bay, which contain a rare plant community and likely wouldn’t have been harvested, allows not only conservation of the forests but also further protects Dabob Bay and its water quality for future generations. These transactions will improve the ability for state-managed lands to produce revenue for beneficiaries like schools and fire districts in Jefferson County. This is a win-win if I’ve ever seen one and required the work of many DNR staff, Olympic Peninsula citizens and leaders as well as local conservationists and shellfish growers.” Many of the conserved acres will protect a globally rare, higher-quality plant community that includes western hemlock, Pacific rhododendron, and evergreen huckleberry.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that two people were rescued from approximately 1,000 feet offshore in Squamish Harbor after their 15-foot aluminum dinghy capsized. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s office received a report about 4:20pm this past Sunday of an overturned boat with two people clinging to the side without their life jackets, which had been lost during the incident. The pair contacted the sheriff’s department and said their dinghy had overturned but was staying afloat. Jefferson County Sgt. Ryan Menday located a Bridgehaven resident, Kory Mills, who had a 20-foot fiberglass boat and was willing to assist.

According to a press release issued by the sheriff’s office, “The pair were able to rescue the subjects as well as give a ride to two additional family members who had commandeered their own vessel and were paddling

towards [them] with only a 2×4 as an oar. Mills piloted his boat through the darkness until we were able to locate the subjects and get them safely aboard his vessel.” The two people were transported to aid units for treatment for hypothermia. Attempts to retrieve the boat were unsuccessful.

Jefferson County Public Health has announced that several Jefferson County recreational shellfish beaches are re-opening for most species of shellfish. Recent samples indicate that the levels of biotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning have dropped below the closure limit, except in butter and varnish clams. The Washington Department of Health has removed all-species closures on the Quimper Peninsula from the entrance to Discovery Bay to Point Hudson, and in Admiralty Inlet south to Port Ludlow, including Kilisut Harbor, Mystery Bay, Oak Bay, and Mats Mats Bay for recreational shellfish harvesting. Signs are posted at public access points indicating this change.

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.