

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, December 15, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

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The *PT Leader* reports that the Port Townsend City Council unanimously authorized the city manager to sign the lease with the Friends of Port Townsend Golf Park for the operations of the golf park, but only after changing certain clauses in the lease. The Friends would then determine if they're amenable to those changes. Carrie Hite, director of parks and recreation strategy for the city of Port Townsend, explained that the biggest change was that whenever the city eventually initializes its site development plan, it will provide a two-year notice to the Friends that they'll need to adjust the golf course layout accordingly. Hite deemed a number of the other amendments to be mostly minor clerical issues, noting that City Council member Owen Rowe wished to stipulate that the city would be responsible for the golf course's well, pump, and pump house, while Mayor David Faber requested that an initial stipulation of "permanent affordable housing" be revised to simply "housing development" to afford a mix of housing development. If the Friends decide to take issue with any of the changes, those disputes would be addressed by the Port Townsend City Council during its January 2 meeting.

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In the latest move of candidates playing musical chairs, the *Peninsula Daily News* reports that Marcia Kelbon of Quilcene will face Representative Mike Chapman of Port Angeles for the state senate seat now held by Kevin Van De Wege of Port Angeles in 2024. Kelbon officially announced her candidacy for the Legislative District 24 state senate seat on Tuesday and filed with the state Public Disclosure Commission on Monday. As mentioned in the KPTZ Wednesday Local News report, Chapman had announced in July that he would run for the seat now held by Van De Wege, also a Democrat, who is seeking the state Commissioner of Public Lands seat, the seat to be vacated by Democrat Hilary Franz, who is seeking the federal 6th Congressional District seat that U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer, a Gig Harbor Democrat, is vacating.

Kelbon, a Republican, is a long-term resident of the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas and is a chemical engineer, attorney, former U.S. Navy civilian engineer, former biopharmaceutical executive, and current Quilcene fire commissioner who was appointed in 2022 and elected in November. Kelbon said she will "provide a balanced legislative voice to reduce the many regulatory, legal and economic obstacles that have been placed in the way of young people trying to build a successful life in Washington. I will also work to ensure that a safe and strong community is maintained to support our retirees." Kelbon holds bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering and a law degree from the University of Washington School of Law.

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The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that about 5:20am Wednesday, an East Marrowstone Road resident reported hearing a vehicle pass her house at high speed, then heard sounds consistent with a collision. It transpired that two Port Townsend men in their early 20s were in a vehicle rollover at East Marrowstone and Meade Roads. Jefferson County Detective Sgt. Brett Anglin said that both men were injured and it was suspected they had been ejected from the vehicle. The names have not been released but the driver was a 21-year-old man and the passenger was a 23-year-old man, both from Port Townsend. They were airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

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Washington State Parks are asking the public to participate in their annual First Day Hikes events. They encourage everyone to choose a guided hike, snowshoe excursion, bike or trail ride, dog walk, or paddle adventure to enjoy on New Year's Day. Hikes will range in difficulty from paved, flat ADA-accessible trails to moderate hill climbs. A few parks will host more than one hike with options tailored to different interests and abilities, including educational talks with rangers, where you can learn about the history and natural features of the parks. Most First Day Hikes require advanced registration and group sizes may be limited. The Washington State Parks website provides a list of all activities and registration information (<https://parks.wa.gov/find-activity/activity-search/first-day-hikes>).

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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.