

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, January 3, 2024 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

There has been an update by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) on the bicyclist fatality in Greys Harbor since Jim Burke reported on it on KPTZ yesterday. WSP detectives are asking for the public's help in identifying the vehicle involved in the fatal collision that was discovered Monday afternoon on State Route 115 near milepost 2 in the area of Ocean City State Park near Hogan's Corner where 115 and 101 intersect. The collision is believed to have occurred between the evening of December 31, 2023 to the morning of January 1, 2024, not at 1:30pm on New Year's Day as previously reported, on northbound SR115 at milepost 2 involving a silver Nissan Rogue and a bicyclist. Tragically the bicyclist, still unidentified, was killed and the body was later discovered on the shoulder of the roadway by a passerby Monday afternoon. WSP detectives are seeking any information and/or witnesses to the collision as well as information regarding observations of the bicyclist riding along SR115 prior to the collision. They ask that anyone with information should contact Detective Michael Osberg by phone at 360-473-0300 extension 0 or email at Michael.Osberg@wsp.wa.gov.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports that an open house was conducted at the Port Townsend golf course on Monday heralding the change in management and to open the course to the public without playing golf. The Friends of the Port Townsend Golf Park has taken over management of the course. The first two years of the lease will require the organization to begin restoration of the property, develop a business plan, and meet metrics for public access, outreach and involvement of additional community and recreational groups, as well as increasing access for the general public. When those metrics are met, the lease will be automatically extended for an additional 20 years.

Current plans include the addition of Disc and Foot Golf, walking trails, increasing native plantings and expansion of the Camas prairie, as well as periodic use of the driving range as an amphitheater for public performances and events. The course will also be closed to golf activities at specific times so that the public can simply wander and enjoy the open space and its environs. There may be a grand opening celebration in March, but that is still to be determined.

John Sattgast, Washington State House Republican Communications Broadcast Coordinator, announces in a press release that yesterday, Kennewick Republican State Representative April Connors prefiled House Bill 2040, also known as the Carbon Auction Rebate – or CAR – Payment Program. If the measure is approved, registered vehicle owners in Washington could receive a rebate check in July of \$180, or up to 360-dollars per two car family. The bill will be up for consideration when the 2024 session convenes on January 8. Sattgast claims that, since taking effect last January, the state has collected about \$1.3 billion from the cap-and-trade auctions, more money than the state anticipated.

A seasonal closure that bears repeating is that the Black Ball ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria, British Columbia will undergo maintenance from today, January 3 to February 7 and not be operational until then. This means that any resident on the Olympic Peninsula will have to use one of the several ferries to cross Puget Sound, or take the Port Townsend ferry to Whidbey Island, and enter Canada by way of the “mainland” (so to speak).

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.