

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Port Townsend City Manager John Mauro and Mayor David Faber offered a generally positive review to the city's performance in 2023 during a State of the City address this past Monday, pinpointing key issues such as housing and infrastructure. In a report by the *Peninsula Daily News*, the review included the Port Townsend City Council approving zoning changes last spring in order to promote what the city calls "tactical infill" housing, allowing more density in traditionally single-family neighborhoods. Codes were changed to allow more accessory dwelling units in residential and commercial zones, including the addition of so-called tiny homes on wheels.

The city is also hoping to develop the entirely new and denser Evans Vista neighborhood near Sims Way and Rainier Street with up to 321 units of apartments and townhomes. The city has already received state and federal grants to acquire the land and build sewer infrastructure, but the new homes will ultimately be built by a private developer.

While praising the city's successes, Mauro and Faber also acknowledged there have been some contentious issues in the community, but they said those were learning experiences for city staff. As an example of a less favorable outcome, the city began the demolition of the Carmel Building on Cherry Street in December. It had been hoped to develop into an affordable housing project, but the Cherry Street project never materialized and cost the city millions of dollars. There was also division in the community over what to do with the Mountain View pool and the Port Townsend Golf Course. The city and community members came to an agreement over the future of the golf course, but the process was acrimonious.

A similar situation has arisen over plans to reconstruct the city's pool, currently housed at the Mountain View Commons. In November, the city council approved a plan to build a new \$37 million facility at the same site with two pools and potentially additional amenities based on how much money could be raised for the project. But several community members have questioned the cost of the project and some Jefferson County residents have been hesitant to help pay for a facility located within the city.

The Clallam County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page reports that late afternoon last Friday, deputies responded to the 7 Cedars Casino for a report that a man dropped a bag of 27 suspected fentanyl pills. The man was identified as 36-year-old Bainbridge Island resident, Kyle K. Bateman. Bateman was later contacted at Safeway by Sequim Police Officers, who then requested deputies to respond. Deputies arrived and arrested Bateman for an outstanding warrant issued by Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). In a search of Bateman, over 100 suspected fentanyl pills, as well as suspected methamphetamine were discovered on his person. Clallam County Sheriff's deputies then searched Bateman's vehicle to discover a veritable pharmacy of illegal drugs, including 371 grams of suspected methamphetamine, fentanyl, crack cocaine, and black tar heroin along with small plastic bags and a digital scale. Bateman was booked into the Clallam County Jail for his DOC warrant and Possession with Intent to Deliver Controlled Substances.

The Washington State Department of Transportation alerts us to a work zone at the Jefferson-Clallam county line for a multi-year project to improve fish passage and habitat under US 101. This very week, contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation will start building a temporary bridge to

keep people moving around the work zone. So, if you're driving out to Forks, expect one-way alternating traffic on US 101 while crews build a new 175-foot-long girder bridge to replace an outdated culvert that blocks fish migration in May Creek. Once the temporary bridge is in place, a temporary signal will alternate travelers on the single-lane bridge. Starting today, the speed limit on US 101 will be reduced to 25 mph from the current 55 mph between mileposts 184 and 185. The reduced speed limit and temporary configuration will remain in place until fall 2026 when the project is complete. May Creek potentially supports coho, Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat, and resident trout.

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.