

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Kate Dean has decided not to run for a third Term as County Commissioner. On Facebook, Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean said, “Friends, constituents, colleagues, enemies – it is with many mixed and big feels that I announce that I will not be seeking re-election as Jefferson County Commissioner. I am ready to start thinking about the next phase of my life and am excited to see someone with new ideas and energy take over this important role. I have loved *nearly* every minute of my 7 1/2 years in this role.”

She went on to say, “If you, or someone you know, cares about rural issues, knows a thing or two about policy and governance, lives in District 1, and wants a demanding job, I’d be glad to talk to you about running for office. We need someone good in this role. Humbly and gratefully your public servant (until December 31st), Kate”

So, if you think you might have what it takes to be a Jefferson County Commissioner, Kate Dean would like to hear from you. I’m sure the voters would as well.

This is from the *Peninsula Daily News*: A Port Hadlock woman was in satisfactory condition Wednesday morning after she was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle following a collision at the intersection of state Highways 19 and 20. A 2017 Dodge Ram pickup truck driven by Dawn M. Crocker of Port Hadlock, who was northbound on Highway 19 in the left-turn lane at Highway 20 on Tuesday afternoon, according to a memo from the Washington State Patrol. A 2021 Dodge Ram pickup driven by Ricky L. Neitzel of Silverdale was westbound on Highway 20 at Highway 19. Crocker’s pickup went straight through the intersection and struck Neitzel’s pickup, the memo stated. Crocker was airlifted to Harborview. She was cited for second-degree negligent driving.

Neitzel was not injured but was taken to Jefferson Healthcare by aid car. John C. Twogood of Bremerton was a passenger in Neitzel’s truck. He also was not injured but was transported to Jefferson Healthcare by aid car. All occupants of both pickups were wearing seatbelts, the State Patrol said. The cause of the wreck was under investigation, but neither drugs nor alcohol were involved, according to Washington State Patrol.

Last Thursday, KPTZ News reported that a local woman had driven off a cliff according to the *Peninsula Daily News*, but that was an error: It was a man who drove off that cliff. A quick recap of that story: A Port Hadlock man was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle Wednesday afternoon, March 13 after blacking out and launching his car off a cliff near Adelma Beach, according to Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office. A dog that was in the car was taken to the Humane Society of Jefferson County, according to authorities. A witness reported seeing the vehicle drive off the cliff toward the beach at about 4pm, an online post from the sheriff’s office stated. When East Jefferson Fire Rescue and sheriff’s personnel arrived, they determined the vehicle was airborne for approximately 150 feet and rolled several times, ejecting Larson. Sheriff’s deputies interviewed Larson, who reported driving southbound on South Discovery Road before blacking out. He received immediate medical care before he was loaded into an ambulance, taken to Jefferson International Airport, and airlifted to Harborview by Airlift Northwest. That is one of three incidents where people have been airlifted to Harborview, just in the month of March.

Mitzi Jo Gordon, who has been managing editor of the *PT Leader* for a scant three months resigned yesterday, and in yesterday's *Leader*, said this: "During my short time working at the *Leader*, I've come to learn a few things about myself. One of those things is this: Journalism is no longer a good fit for me. Examining this truth, I find that I identify as a writer and artist who enjoys telling stories – but not as a newshound. Those are two different things. Effective today, I have resigned from the editor's role to resume my arts career.

I'm excited to welcome Meredith Jordan as the *Leader*'s new managing editor. A resident of Oregon with a long history of news experience, she is coming here from a paper in Alaska, ready to meet you and steer this ship forward. Jordan is a career journalist who has worked for a wide range of daily and weekly newspapers, wire services, magazines, and digital-only operations. Also, Jordan teamed up with a small group of journalists and educators to develop "Press or Media," an effort to clearly delineate the mission of the press – as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and evolved through the court system – from the bulk of more amorphous media in operation today. Jordan said, "It's local news, and places like the *Leader*, where the core values of traditional journalism are most visible. Mitzi Jo Gordon."

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.