

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. This is Casey Dolan with local news and commentary for Thursday, May 9, 2024.

According to numerous news outlets, Peninsula Communications public safety 9-1-1 dispatch center received a notification of a confirmed “Hold Up” alarm from Chase Bank located at 101 West Front Street in Port Angeles last Friday morning. City of Port Angeles Police Officers were dispatched and arrived at the bank within five minutes. Clallam County Sheriff’s Deputies and Officers from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe also responded. Port Angeles Police Officers informed the dispatch center that a male at the scene was being uncooperative. Soon after, shots had been fired at the suspect by two officers of the Port Angeles Police Department. Officers and Deputies immediately rendered emergency medical aid to the lone male suspect. The City of Port Angeles Fire Department responded and paramedics initiated advanced life support measures, but the suspect died at the scene. The Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team detectives took control of the investigation, including ascertaining the reasons that necessitated a show of force. The deceased suspect is still unidentified.

The *Peninsula Daily News* provides a useful summary of the major issues and priorities discussed by local legislators in a meeting with the Port Angeles Business Association on Tuesday. State Representatives Steve Tharinger of Port Townsend, Mike Chapman of Port Angeles, and Sen. Kevin Van De Wege of Lake Sutherland – all Democrats from the 24th Legislative District – told the Association that the Peninsula did well in terms of bringing in state funding. Tharinger said over the past six years the Legislature has been able to put money into the state operating budget to increase Medicare reimbursement for community hospitals like Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare.

During the question-and-answer session, meeting attendees raised concerns regarding the state Department of Transportation’s plans to install roundabouts on the highways leading to Jefferson and Clallam counties. Tharinger said, “I’m not as opposed to roundabouts as I was originally. I think that, as people learn to use them, they’re not as onerous as one might think. We have talked to DOT about not putting them in, but their engineers seem to think that, for all their data that they have, that they’re a better way to go.” Chapman strongly defended roundabouts. In addition to increasing traffic flow and safety, Chapman said that installing roundabouts creates private-sector construction jobs.

The lawmakers also addressed concerns about more state Department of Natural Resources’ timberlands being moved into conservation status. Revenue from state timberlands funds junior taxing districts and local education and the local timber industry provides a number of well-paying jobs. Tharinger said, “Personally, my view is that if we could take those trees and turn them into mass timber products and build buildings with those trees, that will sequester that carbon.” But he also predicted that the issue of timberlands and carbon sequestration is likely to be debated heavily in the next few legislative sessions.

Last November, KPTZ reported that a Sequim woman, Aline Jones, was arrested for killing the daughter of a deceased man for whom she had been a caregiver. According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, Jones was sentenced this past Tuesday in Clallam County Superior Court to the maximum allowed under state law for second-degree murder: 20 years and four months in prison. A plea deal that offered four fewer months had been rejected by Judge Simon Barnhart. Barnhart said, “This was an act of pure evil. Although the court can only add four months, I believe it’s important to recognize the depth and the scope of the evil we’ve had to experience.” Jones pleaded guilty March 26 to the second-degree murder of Susan M. Ferrel of Nevada with a deadly weapon

enhancement. The standard range for the murder plus the enhancement under the state's Sentencing Reform Act is 12 years and three months to 20 years and four months, plus three years of community custody. The prosecution and defense had negotiated for 20 years with credit for time served, but Barnhart added the four months after hearing victim statements from family, friends, and co-workers in court.

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. I'm Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.