

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. This is Casey Dolan with local news and commentary for Thursday, June 13, 2024.

The City of Port Townsend has announced in a press release that parts are on the way for the boilers and electrical equipment damaged by a watermain break at Mountain View Campus. A 2.5-inch pipe had failed under approximately 100 PSI of pressure, which inundated the boiler room and adjacent electrical panel. The new boiler parts are expected to arrive in four to five weeks. Power and water were restored to the facility within a day of the break, but inspections determined what parts were required to repair the boiler.

It will take two weeks to install and test fire the boilers and the pool is expected to reopen on July 26. Initial estimates on costs hovered around \$100,000, but the anticipated total will be closer to \$60,000, thanks to “the hard work and due diligence of staff.” Meanwhile, the YMCA will provide bus transportation from the Mountain View campus to the YMCA of Sequim pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30am, starting June 18. The buses will be at the YMCA of Sequim from 12:30pm to 2:30pm with plans to leave by 2:45pm and return to the Mountain View campus. Those wishing to utilize the transportation need to register on the Olympic Peninsula YMCA website or by calling the YMCA front desk at 360-385-5811.

The PT *Leader* reports that Port Townsend Police Chief Thomas Olson has applied for the position of police chief in Prineville, Oregon. Olson is one of three finalists for the police chief’s post. Olson and co-candidates appeared at a public meet and greet there on June 5, followed by a day of interviews with three interview panels on June 6. According to a press release quoted by the *Leader*, “The City of Prineville aims to appoint a new chief by the end of the summer.” Olson’s response when questioned about the job search was “Until I am offered and have accepted a position in another city, I am the Port Townsend Chief of Police. This is my only comment at this time.”

The Washington State Patrol reports that motorcyclist Joseph M. Blanks, 68, of Tahuya was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle last Saturday afternoon after hitting a black bear. The accident occurred on U.S. Highway 101 west of Mount Walker. Blanks is listed in satisfactory condition and the bear was a smaller female who died on impact.

Multiple national news sources are following the story of the disappearance of a recent Washington State University graduate, her Idaho fiancé, and a 2-year-old child. The trio may have fled to Mexico. Two-year-old Seraya Aung Harmon was to have been returned in a custody exchange by her 21-year-old father, Aaron Aung of Moscow, Idaho. The same day, his fiancée, 21-year-old Nadia Erika Cole of Port Angeles, disappeared from Sea-Tac Airport as she was preparing to leave for a family vacation in Italy, according to police and a statement from Cole's family. Cole is not Seraya's mother.

Police said that “Initially, Aung was thought to have traveled to Montana because he was seen buying camping gear and a Montana map book in Moscow. However, the investigation later revealed that Aung and Cole likely traveled to Mexico in a black 2014 Cadillac XTS with Idaho license 1L5147U.” Authorities on June 5 issued an arrest warrant for Aung for first-degree custodial interference for allegedly violating a court-ordered parenting plan. Seraya was scheduled to be returned to her mother on June 3, police said. Cole recently graduated from

Washington State University with honors and Aung is described as 5 feet, 9 inches tall, weighing about 135 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information about the three disappearances is asked to contact the Pullman Police Department at PoliceTips@pullman-wa.gov or the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324) or tips.fbi.gov.

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.