

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz, filling in today for Casey Dolan, with local news and commentary for Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

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The state opens applications today for two grant programs: round five of the Working Washington Grants and the new Convention Center Grant program. Altogether, this pair of funding opportunities will distribute \$75 million dollars in pandemic relief, not only to nonprofit organizations but also to small businesses all across our state. The Department of Commerce manages the whole thing, with support from the Washington State Arts Commission, also known as Arts WA.

The deadline to apply is 5pm September 9. The website is <https://commercegrants.com/>. There, you will find dates and times for virtual information sessions and workshops. Those are scheduled through the rest of this month. More than half of this grant money is set aside for the arts, heritage and science sectors. Karen Hanan, the executive director of ArtsWA, has said that funding the creative economy is critical for the entire state, since it enriches communities at every level.

Then there's the Convention Center Grant program, for businesses and nonprofits that rely – in full or in part – on conventions for steady income. Many of them were forced to cancel or go virtual after public health measures put limits on in-person gathering. \$5 million dollars is up for grabs from the state, to help keep this sector strong during its recovery. Department of Commerce director Lisa Brown says it's all about an equitable economic recovery. That website again: <https://commercegrants.com/>.

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Tribes in Washington, including the Olympic Peninsula's Quinault Indian Nation, are working with the state committee on geographic names to make changes. A derogatorily named creek in West Jefferson County, with a name that refers to Indigenous women, is the subject of the Quinault proposal. This stream could be renamed Noskeliikuu ("Naws-kell-ee-koo") meaning "the place where the whale dropped." Still to come is a long review process, and comments on the possible name change from local and tribal governments, and from the public. The committee is made up of a representative of the Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, three members of the public, a representative of the State Librarian, the director of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and a representative of Washington state tribes. Lots of information awaits your review on the Washington Department of Natural Resources website. Use the "About" tab to find the Board of Natural Resources page (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources>).

You might remember that Port Townsend High School changed the name of its mascot back in 2014. For nearly nine decades, the mascot was the Redskins. After two years of committee review and public process, the high school students voted to become the Red Hawks.

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Port Townsend is about to throw a big party known as SoundCheck festival. It begins this week and runs right up to THING festival at Fort Worden next week. SoundCheck has many glittering facets, from a kickoff party at the Castle this Friday – featuring Uncle Funk and the Dope Six – to an outdoor filmmaker showcase in the Key City Public Theatre parking area. That's next Tuesday.

Here are a few other attractions: the Uptown Street Fair on Saturday, a dance on Tyler Street Plaza with Jonathan Doyle and friends Sunday afternoon, jazz night with Wepa and Jim Nyby and the F Street Band at the Vintage downtown. The point of this latest festival is to highlight local brilliance when it comes to music,

poetry, dance and visual art. Unlike THING's offerings, SoundCheck spotlights local creators of art – and nearly all of the events are free. The Creative District, who brought you the art markers around town, is a supportive partner to Soundcheck. More about that, plus the schedule of activities, is found at <https://www.ptsoundcheck.com/>.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five o'clock Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Diane Urbani de la Paz. Thanks for listening!