

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, July 19, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Yesterday, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office announced that \$190 million in grants were to be awarded to communities statewide to improve outdoor recreation and conserve important wildlife habitat. The grants were awarded to a variety of organizations to renovate parks, build trails, and create new places for people to recreate outdoors. The grants also made investments in conserving lands that are homes to plants and animals at risk of extinction and that preserve Washington's agricultural and forestry legacy, such as important working farms and forests. In a press release from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, Governor Jay Inslee said, "These grants advance our priority to protect Washington's world-class outdoor recreation offerings enjoyed by locals and travelers from across the globe. I'm proud of these investments. They will go a long way to ensuring Washington's outdoor areas are healthy, open, and usable by everyone."

Last week, a male cougar that had numerous livestock kills in the North Kitsap area in recent months was shot and killed near Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Speaking to the *Kitsap Sun*, Sgt. Ken Balazs with the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife said the agency had been tracking reports of livestock depredations by a cougar in the Poulsbo area dating back to April and said the agency attempted to trap the animal several times and used dogs to locate it unsuccessfully. The cougar had recently killed a sheep and a goat at a small farm off Clear Creek Road, south of Poulsbo, and returned the next night. Balazs said he then shot the animal. The cougar was a large tom weighing around 180-190 pounds. Balazs said, "Once they get in the habit of killing livestock, it's a behavior that they don't break. If we tranquilized it and moved it into another area, it would become that type of problem in that area. It's an unfortunate thing, we don't like having to do that. I'd prefer it help manage the deer population, we don't have a lot of hunting pressure to help keep things in check. But when they get this kind of behavior under their belt, it becomes problematic."

The Clallam County Department of Health has updated harvest closures for the following beaches for the recreational harvest of the species of shellfish listed:

- In Clallam County, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Cape Flattery to Dungeness Spit, is open for recreational harvest of all species of shellfish.
- Dungeness Spit east to the Jefferson County Line is closed to Butter and Varnish Clams only.
- All areas are closed for the sport harvest of scallops.
- These closures do not apply to shrimp.
- Crabmeat is not known to contain biotoxins, but the guts can contain unsafe levels. To be safe, clean crab thoroughly and discard the guts (butter).

The City of Port Townsend is inviting public engagement for the Evans Vista Housing Development Master Plan, the new neighborhood planned for 14 acres of land northwest of the Port Townsend Paper Mill. With a focus on conceptual site plan renderings and preliminary financial pro forma, the City is dedicated to creating an inclusive and sustainable community. The next engagement opportunities include a discussion on the plan's financial feasibility in front of the Planning Commission in City Council Chambers tonight, Wednesday night at 6:30pm.

The meeting will reveal the findings from the community survey conducted in May, which received over 300 responses. The survey was reopened for additional input in June and July, focused on housing needs, amenity interests, and demographics.

Tomorrow, Thursday, the City Evans Vista booth at Concerts on the Dock will have poster boards showing site plan alternatives and early financial key points, such as the amount of subsidy required, Area Median Income (AMI) levels, and the resulting affordability in terms of rent or mortgage within the city.

The project team will prepare a final option and summary for a joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting on October 9. This meeting will serve as a significant milestone in the planning process that refines alternatives with a feasibility analysis, engineering study, and framework for desired affordability goals and vision so that the City can request proposals for development in early 2024.

For more information on Evans Vista Housing Development Master Plan, visit the project website:
<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/evans-vista-housing-development-master-plan>.

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.