

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Friday, September 15, 2023.

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SEA Marine, a full-service boatyard at the Point Hudson Marina, made a \$30,000 gift to the Northwest Maritime Center's Maritime Discovery Program. The gift, given over three years, will help underwrite the cost of providing hands-on, experiential, real-world learning for Port Townsend School District's 7th grade students. The Maritime Discovery Program connects 7th-grade coursework with maritime experiences and real-world problem-solving, fostering leadership skills, self-confidence, and critical thinking. Reading, writing, mathematics, and the sciences come to life through real-world applications – maritime nomenclature and poetry, navigation, and the study of weather, wind, and marine wildlife. Students also gain exposure to the many jobs in the marine trades through interviewing local business owners.

It costs \$52,000 annually to run the Maritime Discovery Program for Blue Heron School. SEA Marine's gift covers about 20% of the program's costs. The school district pays a small fee, and the remaining expenses are raised by the Northwest Maritime Center through donations and grants. SEA Marine co-owner Pat Shannon said, "The Maritime Discovery Program is a great way to expose our local youth to opportunities in the maritime industry. It's about learning, having fun while doing it, and for some a pathway toward a good living wage job right here." Pat recognizes that this investment will not have an immediate payback for the company in terms of future employees. "But" he says, "we have to start somewhere. Hoping is not a strategy. More importantly, SEA Marine cares deeply about being a part of our community. We want to be good neighbors by sharing our resources."

Northwest Maritime Center (NWMC) CEO Jake Beattie said, "We're excited to partner with SEA Marine. The Maritime Discovery Program connects every local student to the opportunities in our marine trades as well as the value of this sector to our community. I've always thought of it as our county's unofficial saltwater citizenship class, and one that has opened doors to the maritime world for those whose imaginations were sparked by their 7th grade experience."

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Jefferson County resident Peter Lumsdaine traveled through Ukraine just before the start of this summer's military counteroffensive. This coming Tuesday, Mr. Lumsdaine will report on his experiences there, the Ukrainians who he and fellow team members interviewed, the global resource issues at stake, and the rising danger of escalation to nuclear world war – as both sides increasingly shift towards AI-enabled military systems.

Ukraine Eyewitness: report from the front, is scheduled for Tuesday September 19 at 7pm at the local Friends Meetinghouse in Port Townsend at 1841 Sheridan Street. The event is sponsored by the Port Townsend Friends Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, is free and open to the public.

Lumsdaine serves on the national Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) committee for abolition of nuclear weapons; and he was in Ukraine with three other delegates from the Zaporizhzhia Protection Project, an informal spin-off of PSR. The global affiliate of PSR, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. Shortly before the 2023 Ukraine counteroffensive began, Lumsdaine and three other team members traveled overland from Warsaw, Poland to Ukraine, including to Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and through backroads army checkpoints to Marhanets – a mining town near the edge of the Ukrainian military's off-limits "red zone", close to the Russian lines and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. They met with government officials, soldiers, religious leaders, townspeople, teachers, miners, factory

workers, journalists, former Russian citizens, health professionals, and also with dissidents in Ukraine's semi-underground peace movement. Over the summer Lumsdaine has given invited Ukraine Eyewitness presentations in Seattle, Bellingham, and several cities of North Carolina, as well as a previous Washington DC seminar.

In past years he has been an invited speaker on US foreign policy and global resource conflicts, Artificial Intelligence, and nuclear weapons – as well as on his experiences in the armed conflict zones of Mexico, the Philippines, and occupied Iraq – for more than 100 campus, church, community, and conference audiences. He has lived in Jefferson County with his family since 2017. For more information, you can contact: [tierralinda@live.com](mailto:tierralinda@live.com).

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and noon on Saturday. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.