

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Friday, January 26, 2024.

More sad news from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) yesterday morning: A Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) employee is presumed drowned in the Duckabush River and the case is under investigation. On Wednesday, January 24 at approximately 2:20pm, the sheriff's office received a report of a missing woman near the Duckabush River. The missing individual was identified as 48-year-old Mary A. Valentine of Anacortes, a dedicated Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife employee. She was last believed to be performing her duties, checking and setting a fish trap near the mouth of the Duckabush River. Concern grew when Valentine failed to return, so a concerned coworker called it in. Valentine's dog and vehicle were discovered in the vicinity. Further search efforts led JCSO deputies to locate her in the river, where she was found deceased. Preliminary investigation suggests that Valentine drowned while carrying out her responsibilities. The case has been referred to the Jefferson County Coroner for further review.

This past Monday, January 22, the City of Port Townsend issued a press release: The City of Port Townsend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) and City of Port Townsend Arts Commission (PTAC) are inviting proposals for 2024 grant funding. Grants are available from LTAC for activities that attract visitors to Port Townsend and grants from PTAC may be used for arts and cultural events.

LTAC Grants – Port Townsend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's vision of sustainable tourism is to reinvest community resources to enhance the lives of both residents and visitors. Community organizations interested in LTAC grants can apply in two rounds, spring and fall. All applications should connect to the vision of City LTAC and must meet the requirements of a law (RCW 67.28) regulating the use of Lodging Tax funds. Event organizers are also asked to demonstrate the success of bringing visitors to Port Townsend for overnight stays, with a focus on the shoulder seasons (October through May). \$40,000 is available in LTAC grants this year, with approximately \$20,000 in each round. Funding for projects can range between \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on the number of applicants and eligible projects. The application deadline for the spring round of funding is Friday, February 23 and proposals will be considered at a regular meeting of LTAC scheduled for Tuesday, March 12. Sample proposals, criteria, deadlines, and an application form are all available on the City's website (<https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/lodging-tax-advisory-committee>). A recorded grant application webinar will be held on Monday, January 29, at 12:30pm.

PTAC Grants – The Arts Commission's mission as an appointed City Commission is to facilitate public arts programs that enhance the cultural life of community residents. PTAC grants are awarded throughout the year, with \$22,000 total available for six rounds (\$3,666 in each round). The Arts Commission encourages applicants from all backgrounds to apply and PTAC-funded events are those that bring the arts to the public. These can include performances, exhibitions, talks, screenings, or arts education-related public projects. Each project must have at least one pay-what-you-wish event or free entry. First-time applicants are encouraged to apply. PTAC is dedicated to supporting artists and cultural events that have a significant connection to the City, and events that promote public awareness of and interest in our creative community. Interested applicants can find the full schedule of application deadlines and PTAC meetings on the City's website (<https://cityofpt.us/bc-ac/page/arts-commission-grant-funding>).

Both Advisory Committees are seeking new members! Visit the Boards & Commissions webpage to learn more and apply (<https://cityofpt.us/newsletter/page/consider-applying-be-city-advisory-board-or-commission>).

Co-owner of the Old Consulate Inn and LTAC Vice Chair, Nathan Barnett, says, “We look forward to seeing proposals this year that reflect LTAC’s vision. Being in the hospitality business alongside my work on LTAC, PT Main Street, and Olympic Peninsula Steam, I know how important it is for us to invite everyone to the party – connecting visitors and residents through events new and old is not just fun, it supports our social fabric and is part of a vibrant year-round economy.”

For more information on LTAC including RCW 67.28, grant criteria, the yearly LTAC funding cycle and link to register for the webinar (<https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/lodging-tax-advisory-committee>).

Questions about City Lodging Tax can be sent to LTAC@cityofpt.us.

For more information on PTAC including grant FAQs, the yearly PTAC funding cycle, and the grant application, go to the PTAC webpage (<https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/arts-commission-0>).

In the *PT Leader*: Film submissions are now open for the 2024 Port Townsend Film Festival (PTFF). This includes the festival’s new category of local short film. PTFF Executive Director Danni McClelland said that the festival encourages short film submissions from filmmakers based on the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas as well as the Puget Sound islands. The official deadline for film submissions is March 8. For more information, go to <https://www.ptfilmfest.com/submityourfilm>.

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. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.