

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Taylor Nations with local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Starting off with two disturbing stories from *Peninsula Daily News*: A 5-year-old Port Angeles girl was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after she was shot with a 9mm handgun, the Port Angeles Police Department said. Officers responded at about 10:20am Sunday to an apartment complex in Port Angeles. Port Angeles Police Sgt. Clay Rife confirmed the call was to what was described to 9-1-1 dispatchers as "an accidental firearm discharge." Rife also said, "There appears to be just probable cause for reckless endangerment at this point. This case is still under investigation."

An update was issued Monday: The 5-year-old girl shot with a 9mm handgun in Port Angeles Sunday was treated at Harborview Medical Center and released, according to the Port Angeles Police Department. Stephen J. Miller, 27, of Port Angeles was booked into the Clallam County Jail on Sunday afternoon for investigation of one count of reckless endangerment. It later was changed to reckless endangerment – domestic violence.

Also in the *Peninsula Daily News* this weekend: Human remains were discovered in a house that burned down, according to Clallam County Fire District 4 Chief Greg Waters. Waters said that the firefighters were called to a fully involved structure fire on Oxenford Road about 9pm Saturday and at the time it was unknown if it was occupied. Firefighters found a single-family home and nearby fifth-wheel trailer engulfed in flames. The human remains were found while firefighters were battling the fire. Chief Waters said, "The coroner took control of the remains (Sunday) morning. The fire was out about 9:45pm, and then we did an overhaul for probably 3-1/2 to four hours. The metal roof had collapsed, so we had to pull that off to get at the hotspots." The overhaul was complete at about 1:30am, and then an engine and fire district personnel remained on scene overnight, along with sheriff's deputies and the coroner. The Clallam County coroner's office is investigating the scene of the Saturday night house fire.

And yesterday there was an article in *The Washington State Standard*: At Salish Coast Elementary School in Port Townsend, a group of fifth grade students is asked a math question: If a farmer wants to plant four seeds per foot in two 40-foot rows, how many seeds will the farmer need? It's the kind of math problem teachers often ask fifth graders. At Salish Coast, though, it's not theoretical: "Farmer Neil" asks the question, and the students plant the seeds.

11-year-old Gus Griffin, who's helping plant 320 bean seeds in one of Salish Coast's three gardens said, "If you know you helped make the food, it always tastes better." Salish Coast's gardens are part of Port Townsend School District's farm-to-school program, and "Farmer Neil" is what the kids call the school's garden production manager, Neil Howe. Howe tries to teach kids math, science, and research skills through gardening. He also tries to foster their curiosity. Howe said, "Every time I find a grub out there, I try to link it back to science. 'What is this? Does anybody know?' I want them to pass it around. I want them to want to know what that is."

The school also gets beef, pork, and grain from local farmers, which means it participates in all three elements of farm-to-school: school gardens, food education, and local food procurement. The specifics vary, but nearly every state has some kind of farm-to-school program. Washington's was established in 2008, and since then, farm-to-school has exploded in popularity. Last fall, the Washington State Department of Agriculture received

over \$8 million in farm-to-school funding requests from schools, more than twice the amount of funds available. The state expanded the program in 2021 using federal COVID-19 funds. Based on how the budget is written, the Agriculture Department expects that as federal funds run out, legislators will backfill the money with state dollars. To read more about Port Townsend School's Farm-to-School program, go to [washingtonstatestandard.com](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/04/08/farm-to-school-programs-flourish-in-washington/?emci=2718ffac-65f5-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&emdi=4249883c-b7f5-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&ceid=553235) (<https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/04/08/farm-to-school-programs-flourish-in-washington/?emci=2718ffac-65f5-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&emdi=4249883c-b7f5-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&ceid=553235>).

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