

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

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From NPR and other news outlets: Boeing has agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud charge stemming from two fatal 737 Max crashes in 2018 and 2019, the Justice Department said in a court filing on Sunday. The two fatal crashes killed a total of 343 people. As part of the deal, Boeing will pay a \$243.6 million fine, invest upwards of \$450 million toward safety and compliance programs, and be on probation for the next three years. The crash victims' families hate this deal. They say it's a "sweetheart deal for Boeing." They've urged a federal judge to reject the deal. Many hoped for bigger fines and personal accountability for the company's leaders. Federal law enforcement is looking separately into an incident in January when a door plug blew off a Boeing jet operated by Alaska Airlines in midflight.

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From the *Peninsula Daily News*: If one travels west on the Olympic Discovery Trail from North Sequim Avenue, across from the Sequim School District soccer field they will come upon a small, open field on their right. Against a fence on the west side of the field, one will see a curious structure. On a small stand – what could be a community book box or a free food pantry – is a structure which serves a different purpose. An old rotary phone sits in a booth. It is a phone with wires running to nothing.

It's a wind phone – a device and a space for someone going through a loss to speak to their deceased loved ones. Diane Fatzinger, who had the phone installed, said, "It's a phone for anyone who wants to use it and it's not connected to any wires; it's connected to the wind. I lost my partner Pam in January a year ago, and I could sit in my house and talk to her or sit in my car and talk to her, but there's something about picking up that phone and talking to her that's different." Fatzinger and Pamela Larsen shared 23 years together before Larsen died suddenly (from bleeding in her brain) in January of 2023.

This past March, Fatzinger saw something on Facebook that reminded her of wind phones. She recalled that she had originally seen a story about wind phones on a 2021 CBS segment several years before with Pam, and she was moved to tears. Fatzinger said, "This is something concrete I can do, not just for me, but for a whole lot of other people who have loss." Fatzinger has gained so much value from it, she uses it every night, if only for a few moments. Often, she shares details about her day, like how the garden is falling behind, less well-kept than when Pam managed it.

Following Pam's death, Fatzinger said her friends were very supportive, but eventually it started to feel like she needed more support as she was not simply moving on from the grieving process. She said, "I saw a therapist because I couldn't cope. I went almost a year and started talking to a therapist, and that was probably the best thing I ever did for myself because I thought I was strong enough to handle the loss. I kept working and I couldn't get over that hump of loss."

Wind phones have become an international phenomenon with hundreds installed across several countries. Many who visit them describe their effect as meaningful. The first wind phone was installed by Japanese garden designer Itaru Sasaki in 2010. His cousin received a terminal cancer diagnosis and died after three months. Following his cousin's death, Sasaki felt the need to talk to his cousin, so he installed a phone booth in his garden overlooking Ōtsuchi, Japan, to talk to the wind. In 2011, the Tōhoku region in northern Japan was hit by a 9.1 magnitude earthquake and tsunami, killing almost 20,000 people. The catastrophe killed at least 1,200 in Ōtsuchi, 10 percent of the regional town's population. Sasaki opened the Ōtsuchi wind phone to the public

following the disaster. People soon began visiting, speaking with lost loved ones, and others began to install their own phones.

The website at <https://thetelephoneofthewind.com/> catalogs many wind phones internationally and across the USA. It shows the locations of two other Washington wind phones, one in Olympia – featured in the CBS segment – and one in Battle Ground. Fatzinger recently reached out to register her wind phone on the site, where it might be featured soon.

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