

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, November 15, 2024.

The *Peninsula Daily News* reports a fire in a rental home just west of Sequim turned deadly this week. A neighbor called 9-1-1 to report the fire in the 100 block of Barnes Road at 12:41pm Tuesday and Clallam County Fire District 3 units arrived 10 minutes later. According to Battalion Chief Elliott Jones, they quickly had two attack water lines on the home, but after they had knocked the fire back, firefighters discovered a deceased man inside the home. No other people or pets were found in the structure. The fire was extinguished at 2:50pm and kept under watch until 10pm to ensure the roof had no more hot spots. No nearby vehicles, structures, or trees were damaged. Clallam County Chief Criminal Deputy Amy Bundy said Wednesday no foul play was suspected. She was waiting on next of kin to be notified and an autopsy to be conducted before releasing the man's identity. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

Also on Tuesday, the *Daily News* tells us a kennel containing several malamute mix puppies fell out of a truck and was hit by another vehicle on U.S. Highway 101 west of Sequim. State Patrol's Katherine Weatherwax said troopers responded at 11pm Tuesday evening to a report that a large homemade kennel had been struck by a vehicle in the eastbound lane on the highway by Kirk Road. One of the puppies was found dead due to injuries from the collision and two more were rescued from the nearby woods and transported to the emergency veterinary service in Poulsbo with minor injuries. Two additional puppies remain unaccounted for in the area, Weatherwax said. Apparently the dogs' owners were moving from Port Gamble. The kennel had been loaded with multiple other items in their truck's bed and they were unaware it had fallen out until later, according to Weatherwax. No criminal charges were filed.

The Port Townsend *Leader* reports that the Port Townsend School District is launching a community engagement process to plan for facility upgrades for Port Townsend High School and OCEAN (Opportunity, Community, Experience, Academics, and Navigation) School students. Community members are invited to guided tours of the high school campus on Wednesday, November 20 from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Soup and salad from the award-winning school cafeteria will be available, and teachers and students will lead the tours. Attendees will learn about the academic and extracurricular activities offered by Port Townsend High School and OCEAN K through 12 Alternative School as well as the limitations the outdated facilities present. TCF Architecture (<https://www.tcfarchitecture.com/>) staff will also be present to share the results of their recent building assessments and to gather feedback from the community.

According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, the city of Port Townsend is expecting to spend about \$18 million in capital improvements next year. The 2025 capital spending budget notes more than 50 projects. In the category marked general funds, 11 projects, from updates on city hall to a new downtown restroom, account for more than \$2.5 million in spending. The city has outlined 14 streets projects for 2025 and expects to spend about \$4 million on those. The city is investing about \$380,000 annually into maintaining the sewer pipe system as well, but wastewater reflects the largest category in the 2025 budget, with 15 projects listed and more than \$9 million planned in spending for the year. Many of the projects are multiyear and will ultimately cost the city more than \$31 million, according to the budget. Among the 11 water projects on the 2025 budget, the city will include a

pipeline assessment of the main waterline coming from Quilcene, which provides water to all of Port Townsend.

And finally, travelers on State Route 104 no longer have to worry about turn restrictions at Shine Road and Paradise Bay. As of this past Wednesday morning, all turns have been restored. Although there are no more restrictions, work continues at the site. Please slow down in the work zone and give crews room to work.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and again at noon on Saturday. You can contact to us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening and have a great weekend.