

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

This past weekend, Jefferson County Sheriff's office deputies were called to the Coyle area for a water rescue. Apparently two individuals had gone out during the evening in a kayak and the vessel had capsized, placing both occupants in the water. One individual was able to make it to shore; however, the other was not. Neither individual was wearing a personal flotation device.

Assisted by the Coast Guard, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Quilcene Fire Rescue, Brinnon Fire Department, and Jefferson County Search and Rescue, the Sheriff's Office searched over a two-day period, but due to weather conditions at the time, aerial drone operations were limited. Search efforts were conducted primarily using marine, a US Coast Guard helicopter, and ground resources; and yesterday the missing male was located and recovered. Tragically, he did not survive the incident.

Port Townsend-based Public Historian Susan Ferentinos, Ph.D. has been appointed to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Board. Ferentinos, who specializes in helping cultural organizations tell a wider range of stories about the past, including LGBTQ+ history, gender history, women's history, and various racial and ethnic minorities, is known for having published a book entitled *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites*, which won the National Council on Public History Book Award in 2016. Ferentinos took several months before agreeing to serve, as she needed to be reassured that she would not be called upon to violate the ethics of her profession, but she has now officially agreed to the appointment and will attend her first in-person board meetings next Thursday and Friday in Washington DC.

Jefferson County Public Health has announced that the SmileMobile will be at the Tri Area Community Center on West Valley Road in Chimacum this week and next week. Appointments may include dental exams, oral health education, a fluoride varnish, sealants, simple extractions, filing, and/or X-rays. The SmileMobile's dental team will see babies (first tooth), young children, youth, pregnant/postpartum people, and adult family members with Apple Health or no insurance, all at no cost. To schedule an appointment, call 888-286-9105.

This Friday marks the start of this year's Soundcheck Art and Music Festival, a weekend of participatory artist-driven events and experiences that highlight Port Townsend's rich creative spirit. Totally free and enjoyable for all ages, Soundcheck will kick off Friday at 5 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Erickson Building with the presentation of the Port Townsend Art Awards, followed by a community Pasta Feed and Mystery Box Dessert Cookoff.

Saturday begins in Downtown Port Townsend at 1:00 with a creation station at the Cotton Building featuring music and hands-on art projects for all ages, an artist salon at Velocity Coffee, multiple performances in the City Council Chambers, and snacks from the Port Townsend High School Culinary Cruiser at the Pope Marine Park.

From 5 to 11pm on Saturday there will be an all original, all local music concert with a number of local bands performing at the American Legion Hall. Sunday begins at 9am with a free pancake breakfast in the Fort

Worden Commons, followed by a self-guided walking tour of Fort Worden and a variety of entertaining workshops distributed through Fort buildings 305, 306, 310, and 315.

So enjoy the weekend, and be sure to pick up your Soundcheck Bingo Card: the more places you go and the more things you do, the more chances there will be to win lots of fun prizes. To learn more about the individual events and special offers from local businesses in celebration of the weekend, visit <https://ptcreativedistrict.org/soundcheck/>.

Jefferson Transit is proposing some service changes for 2026, and they're interested in hearing your thoughts on their proposals. There's a survey you can take and there are several pop-up events you can attend, including one tomorrow at the Port Townsend Library at 3:00. To learn more, visit <https://jeffersontransit.com/229/Service-Changes>.

And finally, good news for swimmers: the Mountain View pool is now open again!.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.