

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm with local news and commentary for Thursday, February 19, 2026.

The City of Port Townsend Arts Commission has announced the names of the winners of the 2025 Port Townsend Art Awards.

- The Arts Catalyst Award goes to Alexandra Anagnostopoulos
- The Creative Community Builder Award goes to Genevieve Barlow
- The Art Educator Award goes to Daniel Ferland
- The Arts Legacy Award goes to Martha Worthley, and
- The Youth Impact Award goes to the Port Townsend Youth Theater

The award ceremony will be held as part of the Soundcheck Art & Music Festival on February 27 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

The Port Townsend Food Co-op has awarded \$83,844 in grants from its Farmer Fund to Jefferson County farms. Out of 27 applications, 13 recipients were selected:

- The historic multi-tenant Glendale Farm in Chimacum Valley will use its grant to secure a shared cold storage unit at the farm.
- Chimacum's Goosefoot Farm will use its grant to pay for a walk-behind tractor.
- Chimalow Produce will use the grant to help purchase a power harrow, and
- Up Hill Farmers, a micro-farm that specializes in at-risk heritage breeds, will use the grant to improve its rabbit shelter.

In addition,

- Cold Snap Farm, located north of Quilcene, produces maple syrup, and its grant will help defray the cost of essential modernization equipment.
- Chimacum Valley Grainery, which grows and mills whole grains, operates a wood-fired bakery and crafts micro-brews, will use the grant to help purchase a delivery van.
- Shy Acre Farm, led by a mother-daughter team, will use the grant to pay for a two-door, 54-inch refrigeration unit.
- Solstice Family Farm will use the grant to pay for inspection and repairs on its historic 15,000-square-foot barn.
- Crust Bakery and Market Kitchen will use the grant to repair the transmission of the bakery's 80-quart Hobart floor mixer.
- COLAB, a collaborative project between Dharma Ridge Farm, Red Dog Farm, and Springrain Farm, will use their grant to purchase a chemical-free sanitation system that eliminates weed seeds and soil-borne diseases.
- Saltwater Seeds will use its grant to purchase a Winnow Wizard, a piece of seed-cleaning equipment.
- Straight Up Shrooms, a mushroom farm in Chimacum, will use their grant to purchase an autoclave which will facilitate mushroom spawn production.
- And finally, Stellar J Farm, an organic vegetable and blueberry farm, will use their grant to help purchase a mini-barrel washer to more efficiently and safely clean root crops.

Since its inception in 2023, the Farmer Fund, which is supported by round-up donations at the cash register from the Co-op's shoppers and member-owners, has awarded more than \$175,000 in grants to the Jefferson County agricultural economy, helping to ensure a strong and secure regional food system.

When we last reported on the snowpack in the Olympics in January, it was estimated to measure at approximately 47% of the normal amount. But now, at winter's midpoint, the *Leader* reports that the snowpack is down to 34% of normal, a level climatologists say may result in one of the most challenging snow seasons in recent memory.

The likelihood of enough snow falling between now and April 1 to bring the pack back to normal levels is extremely low, which may reduce Port Townsend's water supply. Fortunately, the city's water supply agreement with the paper mill should compensate for any gap, as the agreement states that if the late-season water supply tightens, the mill must limit water consumption.

And finally, good news for swimmers: City staff have begun refilling the Mountain View Pool, which has now been cleared of broken glass. Assuming the pool liner, which began to separate from pool walls during the draining process, will respond to the refilling by reshaping back to its original form, the process of balancing, treating, and heating the water can begin, and the pool will soon reopen. In the meantime, the wellness center and the gym are still open, and swimmers may wish to use the YMCA pool in Sequim.

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, and have a great weekend.