

This is Casey Dolan with your local news for Wednesday, June 1, 2022 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

In a bold effort to combat homelessness in Clallam County, the Clallam County Commissioners have unanimously approved funding for hotel leasing, emergency and continuous-stay shelters, rental assistance, outreach to people needing housing and associated operational and service costs. \$300,000 was approved yesterday to be allocated from the State Department of Commerce to Clallam County Health & Human Services. Applications for hotel leasing and re-housing must be received by Clallam County Health & Human Services Offices by 3pm, June 14. “Having this money is fantastic,” says Clallam County Commissioner Randy Johnson speaking to the Peninsula *Daily News*, “but you have to keep taking small bites to try and alleviate the problems because that’s all we can do.... You have seniors on Social Security living in their cars and students who are homeless, too. So, all of us working together is what it’s going to take.” Along with the recently declared intention of Jefferson County to purchase 14.4 acres near the Port Townsend paper mill to build low-income housing, there finally appears to be concerted and committed efforts address the problem on the Peninsula.

Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI), a nonprofit organization that has focused on land conservation and habitat restoration along Tarboo Creek and Dabob Bay for 20 years, has purchased ninety-one acres of forest and streams at the headwaters of Discovery Creek, a major tributary to Dabob Bay in East Jefferson County. Their acquisition of the land on May 12 ensures that the land will be permanently protected. Most of the downstream watershed of Discovery Creek has already been permanently conserved as part of the state’s Dabob Bay Natural Area.

The Tarboo-Dabob Bay ecosystem is nationally recognized for its rich marine resources and shellfish. Native Americans have harvested shellfish, crab, shrimp and salmon from Dabob Bay for thousands of years, and the bay continues to support harvesting by four tribes that share treaty rights in this region. According to an NWI press release, “The preservation of this remaining property will not only protect a diversity of wetland, stream, and forest habitats for coastal fish and wildlife species, but also will help maintain the water quality of Dabob Bay and its abundant marine life.” The acquisition safeguards the habitat of many at-risk native species including federally listed steelhead salmon, coho salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and western brook lamprey. Forests and wetlands on the property provide habitat for iconic birds, amphibians and mammals native to the Pacific Northwest, and they also provide a migratory corridor for the state-endangered fisher and other wildlife. The property was purchased from Rayonier, a forest management company, for \$925,000 with funding from state, federal, tribal and private sources.

Timothy Hall, 33, of Bremerton was sentenced to 78 months in prison followed by 12 months of State Department of Corrections community custody after being caught with 221 Fentanyl pills, a large amount of methamphetamine, a stolen wallet and a 9mm Hi-Point pistol. Hall had been arrested on March 5, a mere two months after serving 80 months of a 108-month sentence for pointing a pistol at a state trooper. He was picked up in a routine traffic stop for crossing the centerline on Four Corners Road in Port Hadlock. He pleaded guilty on May 12 in Jefferson County Superior Court to first-degree unlawful possession of a firearm and second-degree identity theft, according to the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

The driving surfaces of the Big Quilcene River Bridge will undergo repairs commencing in late June, according to the State Department of Transportation. This will affect driving time on Highway 101 as traffic will be reduced to alternating one way flow due to lane closures. According to Project Engineer Casey Fraisure in a release by the DOT, the repair work will include total bridge closures with a signed detour in place....This type of construction can be noisy and some of the work may take place at night.”

Jefferson County Public Health reports that 53 cases were added yesterday, bringing the total number of cases to 4,082.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Thursday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Casey Dolan, thank you for listening.