

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, November 1, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Two days ago, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer announced that the Administration for Children and Families Office of Community Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a total of \$403,447 in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding to eight Tribes in Washington's Sixth Congressional District: the Hoh Indian Tribe, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe, the Makah Indian Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation, and the Suquamish Indian Tribe. The funding is designed to assist low-income individuals and families within these Tribal communities to cover their home heating expenses during winter. It aids in making homes more energy efficient through weatherization and also provides support during energy emergencies caused by disasters or extreme weather.

The following story contains material that some listeners may find disturbing. Listeners are cautioned.

Numerous news outlets report that Aline Jones, 44, of Sequim faces formal charges that may include second-degree murder of Susan Ferrell, 65, a Nevada resident. She is scheduled for a court appearance today in Port Angeles. Jones is being held in the Clallam County jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail and in the investigation of second-degree murder, removal or concealment of a body, motor vehicle theft, tampering with evidence, and making false statements to law enforcement, according to the Clallam County Sheriff's Office.

Ferrell, the daughter of recently deceased Raymond Rhodes, had come to Sequim to deal with her father's affairs. She was killed in the Diamond Point house on October 14. Aline Jones was Mr. Rhodes' live-in caregiver and claims that Rhodes had signed a quit claim deed, turning possession of the house over to her and her former boyfriend, who lives in Florida and with whom she has children. A deputy arrived at the house last Thursday evening as part of a welfare check to find Ferrell deceased on the ground. Jones came to the home that evening at 9:45pm and, in her initial statement to investigators, said she had been there at about 11:45am that day to clean it, then she left about noon to go to work.

Eventually in court this past Monday, she confessed to the crime and told detectives that her original statements had been false and that "she and Susan got into a bad fight." Ferrell had discovered that her father had put the house in Jones' name. The two had a physical altercation in which Jones asserts that she acted in self-defense and claims she went into "kill or be killed" mode, wrestling the hammer away from Ferrell and striking Ferrell three times in the head, killing her. After that, investigators say she went to great lengths to conceal what had happened.

Later, when she returned to the house, she ripped up the will and house deed, took the rental car, drove west from Diamond Point Road toward Sequim, and threw the double-bagged hammer and screwdriver and the shredded documents along the highway before abandoning the car. She later disposed of Ferrell's purse and car fob.

In an update to our October 18 report of a murder in Poulsbo, the victim has been identified and one of the two suspects has been arrested. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office said that 38-year-old Brandon Egeler was shot and killed by 29-year-old Caleb Sloan and 26-year-old Aksel Strom inside a home in the 3100 block of Lincoln

Road Northeast on October 3. Strom was found and arrested in Pacific County last Friday, October 27. He was pursued twice by Pacific County Sheriff's deputies, who lost him once and then spiked his vehicle to finally catch him. Strom was booked into Kitsap County Jail for second degree murder and first degree burglary. Sloan, who is still at large, is facing the same charges.

Court records show both men have lengthy criminal records dating back nearly a decade. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office is still requesting tips from the public. Anyone with information about the location of Sloan is asked to call 911. Tips can also be received via email at kcsotips@kitsap.gov.

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