

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. This is Casey Dolan with local news and commentary for Thursday, April 25, 2024.

A press release from U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's office announces that the Environmental Protection Agency is awarding over \$156 million to the Washington State Department of Commerce to expand the Solar For All Program, which helps deliver residential solar energy to low-income households. With this funding, the Washington State Department of Commerce will expand solar access to income-qualified residents and frontline communities throughout the state. Washington's proposal includes provision to at least 3,000 low-income households with no-cost rooftop solar installations, a program to provide no-interest loans to multifamily properties to install solar and energy efficiency upgrades, and a program to work with Tribes to co-create a solar offering for at least 2,000 tribal households.

Cantwell said, "These historic awards will empower over 900,000 American households to go solar, reducing their utility bills by \$350 million per year, and enabling them to benefit from the transition to a cleaner energy future. This is a special Earth Day for thousands of low-income households and Tribal communities across Washington state who will soon be able to generate their own solar energy, reducing their energy costs and shrinking their carbon footprint."

Various news outlets report that Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson's office announced Tuesday that 30 felony charges related to animal abuse have been filed against Angela Jacobsen of Sequim who was discovered to have a shocking number of neglected and deceased animals in her care. It's already being called one of the worst animal abuse incidents in recent state history. According to the Attorney General's office: "The criminal charges stem from the discovery of hundreds of dogs, turkeys, pheasants, goats and more on Jacobsen's property that were living in unsanitary conditions – both inside and outdoors – without access to food or fresh water. Some animals had bite wounds, and many were emaciated, malnourished, and dehydrated. All of the floors were slick with accumulated feces and urine. Chickens and dogs ran wild throughout the house. Live and dead animals were caged together, including ferrets and chickens. Dead ducks were located on the kitchen and bathroom counters. Jacobsen provided no food or accessible water for any of the animals kept in her house."

Jacobsen had reportedly reached out to an animal support and rescue group known as WAG – Welfare for Animals Guild – for some help with some animals she said she could not care for, or was having difficulty with. This began in November of 2021. After numerous visits to her property, citations, and other discussions, officials finally proceeded with the felony counts. Jacobsen is facing a maximum possibility of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for each of the 30 felony counts. Officials have not yet released information about pending court appearances.

The Jefferson County Treasurer reminds us that the first half of property taxes are coming due! Mailed payments must be postmarked, put in a drop box, or paid online by Tuesday, April 30 to avoid penalty and interest charges. For online information regarding paying taxes, levy and assessment explanations, the Senior/Disabled Exemption Program, and homeowner foreclosure assistance, see the Treasurer's Office FAQs at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/. Taxes may also be paid online at <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/337/Pay-Online-Property-Taxes-and-Assessment>. Drop boxes in Jefferson County can be found at the Courthouse rear parking

lot, the Port Townsend 1st Security Bank of Washington, the Port Hadlock 1st Security Bank of Washington, and the Port Ludlow Sound Community Bank.

The Victorian Heritage Festival is back with its annual presentations, walking tours, a fashion show, and a contra dance this weekend. Tickets are now sold for cash only at the Festival Headquarters in the Cotton Building, 607 Water Street. Many of the events at this year's festival are already sold out, so attendees should visit <https://porttownsendvictorianfestival.org/> to check availability. Costume rentals from Lakewood Costumes are available in the Cotton Building from noon to 6pm Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday, and 9am to 4pm Sunday.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you 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.