

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Berman with news and commentary for Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

This just in: Acting Jefferson County Sheriff Andy Pernsteiner issued a statement this morning, stating that his department will not necessarily assist ICE agents who seek to deport local citizens. He cited 2019's Keep Washington Working Act, which prevents local law enforcement from assisting with civil immigration enforcement, inquiring about immigration status unless necessary for a criminal investigation or sharing non-public personal information with federal immigration authorities.

A recent Department of Justice (DOJ) memo mandates that local law enforcement needs to assist deportation activities. Pernsteiner wrote that his department has sought legal opinions on the potential impacts of the DOJ memo, continuing that the department's priority remains public safety. "We are dedicated to building trust within our county while aggressively pursuing those who threaten our community," he wrote.

A movie that was once intended to be filmed in Port Townsend ten years ago has re-emerged in novel format, after the producers could not find financing. Director John Sayles was the special guest at the 2014 Port Townsend Film Festival, when he visited Fort Worden State Park, determining that it would be the perfect setting for a planned movie. Titled *To Save the Man*, it sought to tell the story of 19th Century Reform Schools meant to assimilate young Native American and Black men into white society. The title originated from a quote from the school's headmaster: "To save the man you must kill the Indian." The story recounted how the best intentions can go horribly awry, according to producer Maggie Renzi, also Sayles' wife. The headmaster, John Henry Pratt, felt that if a school squeezed the cultural identities from Indian and Black students they would become well-functioning members of white society. This would never fly today, obviously, but Renzi had hoped that the film would become an object lesson and be shown in schools. None of Sayles's films have been blockbusters and are often used for educational purposes. While it never got that far, Sayles and Renzi hoped to cast actor Chris Cooper as Pratt.

The school's original Pennsylvania location had changed too much for the filming to work. Fort Worden was appealing due to its rustic nature, with architecture that resembled the time period, or the perception thereof. The project was abandoned after an inability to secure funding. But the idea was not. Sayles' novel, also called *To Save The Man*, was released this week, garnering a favorable review from the *Washington Post*. It concluded that "Both tender and harrowing, *To Save a Man* once again demonstrates Sayles's dogged commitment to unearthing the buried truths that contour the ground beneath our feet."

Voters within the boundaries of the Port Townsend School District received ballots last week, to approve or reject a school district request for renewal levies. If approved, property taxes are expected to stay about the same, according to the district. The two proposed measures will replace those that expire at the end of 2025 and are intended to fill the funding gaps for programs that are not funded by the state, according to the Port Townsend School District's web page.

The first levy is an Educational Programs and Operations measure that supports arts, athletics, maritime learning and multi language programs. Additionally, the capital levy is geared toward facilities, intended to improve disability access, replace old technology, perform seismic upgrades, and finally remove the derelict Lincoln Building on the high school campus.

Voters participating in the February Special Election must return ballots to a county drop box or voting center by 8pm on Tuesday, February 11. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 11 to be counted. For more information visit <https://www.ptschools.org/levy>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.