

This is KPTZ FM 91.9 in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Nhatt Nichols, bringing you news and commentary from the Jefferson County *Beacon* for Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

Families suddenly separated, long-term green card holders held for an indeterminate amount of time in detention centers, sometimes hundreds of miles from their home: This is the heartbreaking reality of Trump's immigration policy. Though these stories are surfacing all over the US, Jefferson County has, so far, not experienced any ICE activity beyond patrolling. That doesn't mean that Katie Franco, cofounder of the Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Association, commonly known as JCIRA, is resting easy. "Right now the level of emergency is just sightings but I think the fear and what's in the news is there and people are worried. We can easily say, so far so good on the Olympic Peninsula." Franco and the rest of JCIRA have been working with hospitals, schools, and churches to help people in those spaces understand immigrants' rights since Trump ended the Biden-era protections that kept immigration enforcers out of those spaces. JCIRA trains those workers to refrain from posting anything on social media and to document everything to pass on to lawyers, the ACLU, and the family of the person being detained by ICE. JCIRA also trains people for their Rapid Response team, which provides assistance in case ICE is spotted detaining someone in Jefferson County.

The volunteer who answers the Rapid Response phone sends someone to verify the details, and then a larger team documents the interaction. Rapid Response team members don't intervene; instead, they film the ICE officers and ensure that no one's rights are being violated and that the person being detained understands what ICE is not legally allowed to do, like enter a house without a warrant. The team also contacts the detained person's family to offer them support, including help to work out where they are being detained at. For many members of Jefferson County's immigrant population, the fear surrounding current policy is reminiscent of the campaign waged against them in 2008.

After a suspected terrorist was apprehended at the Port Angeles border, the number of agents increased from four to 25 on the Peninsula. Suddenly, checkpoints appeared on highways, including on 101 and the Hood Canal Bridge, and ICE agents monitored hospitals and schools. In Washington State, these stops led to 81 undocumented immigrants being taken into custody, though they were unable to find any additional evidence of terrorist activity. Today, trained JCIRA volunteers also accompany immigrants to public places.

Natalia Durán, JCIRA's Outreach Coordinator, has seen firsthand how afraid people are. "People asking, wondering, can we still go to the court to pay our tax? Or, you know, just a regular not for court, but just to do, like, to the court. And I'm like, Yes, like the Yeah, you know, the judges are very friendly." Franco added that local law enforcement and David Faber, the mayor of Port Townsend, have also expressed support.

Another way JCIRA is able to help is by offering a family preparedness package that helps families identify what they need before a problem arises. They even have their own public notary who can make any legal paperwork binding. If you would like to become a member of JCIRA's Rapid Response team, they are hosting a workshop today on Wednesday, August 27 at 6.30pm at 2328 Washington Street. They are also holding a vigil for immigrants at the Haller Fountain on September 1 at 4pm. If you see ice or border patrol activity, call 360-531-2958 to reach the Rapid Response team.

And now for some very important doom metal news. As you may know, a monolithic barn dominates the sepia-toned album cover of Earth's 2005 album *Hex*, making the Quilcene Lantern's historic barn the perfect place to

play that very album in its entirety. Earth is doing a “Little Pacific Northwest Hex run” for the album’s 20th anniversary. In its twenty years, it has become an iconic emblem of the American West, a stark landscape that borrows its song titles from the 1985 Cormac McCarthy novel, *Blood Meridian*. Earth will be playing alongside other Pacific Northwest punk and metal greats Trashfecta, Von Wildenhouse, and Filth is Eternal at the first annual Live Life Loud festival. You can find tickets and more information on the Quilcene Lantern’s website (<https://www.quilcenelantern.com/events/live-life-loud-presents-2-days-at-quilcene-lantern-featuring-earth>).

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5 Tuesday through Thursday, partnering on Wednesday to bring you stories from jeffcobeacon.com. You can submit ideas to the *Beacon* through info@jeffcobeacon.com. This is Nhatt Nichols. Thanks for listening.