

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

The Mayor, the City Manager, and the Police Chief of Port Townsend have issued a statement to the community regarding ICE operations in which they restate their commitment to serve and protect all members of our community regardless of immigration status. Both Washington Law and Port Townsend Police Policy prohibit our officers from assisting ICE or other federal law enforcement with federal civil immigration enforcement. Federal immigration enforcement is not the function of local law enforcement, and officers are prohibited from taking action based on a person's immigration status.

Though Port Townsend Police have no jurisdictional authority over ICE or any other federal law enforcement agency, the *Washington State Standard* reports that Washington's Attorney General Nick Brown has not ruled out the possibility of state or local authorities stepping in to enforce state law against federal agents, and both he and Governor Ferguson have urged residents to monitor and record questionable immigration enforcement conduct.

In the meantime, our local leaders are asking anyone in our community who observes a situation that creates a public safety concern to please call 911 and report it. The Port Townsend Police will respond, assess the situation, and take action to ensure public safety. No one in our community should fear calling 911 for help due to their immigration status, as local law enforcement is here to protect everyone.

The annual Point in Time Count will occur on Thursday of this week. If you or someone you know may be experiencing homelessness, please encourage them to participate. Being counted helps communities understand local needs and informs funding, services, and planning across the county. To be counted, go to one of the three places to be counted:

- In Port Townsend: the Winter Welcoming center, 9am to 3pm on Thursday at 100 Madison Street
- In Quilcene: the Quilcene Community Center, noon to 5 pm on Thursday at 294952 US highway 101
- In Port Hadlock, the VFW Post 7498, 9am to 3pm on Thursday at 31 Matheson Street

Please share this information with neighbors, service providers, and anyone who may need to be counted. Awareness helps ensure everyone has a chance to be seen.

This past Sunday at about 3:41pm, a Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) Deputy attempted to stop an erratically-driven vehicle on Center Road. The driver attempted to flee the scene, and deputies briefly lost sight of the fleeing vehicle on State Route 104, but shortly thereafter, 9-1-1 callers reported a vehicle collision on Hwy 104 at Shine Road. The suspect abandoned the crashed vehicle and fled on foot into a wooded area but was taken into custody after a brief pursuit. The individual was booked into jail on multiple charges, including eluding a law enforcement vehicle, reckless driving, driving while license revoked, and operating a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device.

Later that evening, a JCSO Sergeant attempted a traffic stop near Highway 104 and Shine Road for a traffic violation. The driver stopped and immediately fled on foot, leaving behind a passenger who was later identified

as the protected party in an active domestic violence no-contact order. Using a drone and a K-9 unit, deputies located the suspect hiding in the woods and took him into custody.

Nighttime travelers: If you plan to use the Hood Canal Bridge this coming Thursday evening from 10pm to midnight, WSDOT crews will be conducting emergency storm training at the bridge, which may mean intermittent bridge closures of up to 30 minutes. Every effort will be made to keep closures as short as possible.

And finally, for those concerned about recent events in Minneapolis, the *Washington State Standard* reports that the White House is backing off some of their more violent rhetoric, and Gregory Bovino, commander at large of the US Border Patrol, will be removed from that position and face imminent retirement. US border czar Tom Homan, who headed ICE during the Obama administration, was sent to Minneapolis yesterday to calm things down.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.