

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM, Port Townsend Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach, filling in for Simon James, with local news and commentary for today, November 25, 2022.

There are people in our community living without homes, without food, without medical and mental health care. And we face new challenges daily – from the rising cost of living to limited living wage jobs, to a lack of affordable housing and healthcare. Now, during this late fall season and on until December 31, United Good Neighbors is raising funds to support the local frontline organizations that provide safety net services to children, fixed income seniors, the homeless, and people with an array of disabilities. Organizations, like the gardeners who grow for the food bank to Habitat for Humanity to the Jefferson Teen Center, are under the umbrella of United Good Neighbors. In these early days of their campaign, they have raised just under \$33,000. Their goal by December 31 is \$375,000. You can easily donate by going to their web site <https://www.givejefferson.org/>. There you will find all the non-profit organizations that get help, and you can designate your gift, if you so choose. Shopping locally and giving locally add strength to our community.

The Caswell Brown Village is an encampment for people who are unhoused on Mill Road has been operating with portable toilets, trucked-in water, and garbage pick-up, a big kitchen tent that has once burned and once been blown away since residents were relocated from the fairgrounds last October. People live in tents, fifth wheels, RVs, and campers. Up until this week there were no showers or hot water. But now things are moving ahead with a portable shower, running water on the horizon, and 10 tiny houses coming on December 1. The United Way brochure includes these words from a homeless person: “When you're homeless it's easy to feel stuck. To wake up each day and ask yourself, ‘How did I get here?’ How can I possibly get out? At times you decide there's no point in trying. You lose faith in yourself. When people show you kindness and organizations help, it reminds you that you're seen as a human being, that you deserve love, and that you can keep going. And if you do, it can get better.”

There are lots of opportunities to shop locally this weekend. You will find hand-crafted gifts a little out of town with two sales Saturday on Marrowstone Island at Old Nordland Church Community Hall and also at the Nordland Garden Club. Port Ludlow Art League Holiday Fair is at the Beach Club on Saturday. Here in town, there's a holiday bazaar today and tomorrow on both floors of the Community Center. And the Port Townsend Farmer's Market continues with many booths devoted to crafts. The Marine Science Center's annual holiday gift sale goes today until 4pm. Tomorrow, a new seasonal event sponsored by Main Street is a swag-making workshop from 2 to 4 under the heated tent at Tyler Steet Plaza. And starting at 5pm there's the annual Night Market at Manresa Castle.

The National Safety Council estimates that 518 people may die on U.S. roads this Thanksgiving holiday period. If this estimate holds true, Thanksgiving 2022 will experience the most deaths since 2007. If you are driving this weekend on busy highways, stay alert, drive defensively. Don't become a statistic.

Here's heads up for travelers on this day after Thanksgiving. Low tides will cancel tonight's 8:30 ferry from Port Townsend and then the 9:10 ferry from Coupeville.

And because Thanksgiving time is a chance to express gratitude, here is a quote from writer, Jonathan Safran Foer: “I'm grateful for anything that reminds me of what's possible in this life. Books can do that. Films can do that. Music can do that. School can do that. It's so easy to allow one day to simply follow into the next, but every once in a while we encounter something that shows us that anything is possible, that dramatic change is possible, that something new can be made, that laughter can be shared.”

And that's it for today's news. 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five pm, Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@KPTZ.org. I'm Ann Katzenbach thanks for listening and enjoy this remarkable November weather.