

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I am Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Friday, March 15, 2024.

The *PT Leader* reports that three teenaged suspects were arrested March 6 and arraigned March 12 due to a reported gun incident. According to Port Townsend Police Deputy Chief Jeff Thaxton, two young women, aged 15 and 16, were allegedly threatened by a trio, including two young men, aged 14 and 15, and one young woman, aged 16, in the parking lot of the Park and Ride on Wednesday, March 6.

Thaxton explained that the threatening incident at the park and ride appeared to be in retaliation for one of the victims spray-painting “a derogatory word” on the trailer of a friend of one of the suspects a month prior. Thaxton said, “The suspects allegedly drove by the Park and Ride, saw the victims, rolled down a window, and yelled out a derogatory word of their own, before one of the suspects pointed a gun at the victims.” According to Thaxton, all three suspects were charged with assault in the second degree, unlawful possession of a firearm, and criminal conspiracy. The suspects were sent to the Kitsap County Juvenile Detention Center, but the female suspect was released by Friday, March 8.

The *Kitsap Sun* has an extraordinary story. In March of 2009, Christian Robert Basham was seen walking towards the midspan of the Tacoma Narrows bridge. Basham had been arrested by Bremerton police in 2008 and charged with second-degree child rape, but skipped his next court appearance after posting a \$350,000 bail. If convicted, Basham was facing a minimum of six and a half years in prison. A witness told investigators that Basham jumped “without hesitation” over the railing, falling 240 feet into the water. Basham’s car was found on the Gig Harbor side of the bridge with a suicide note inside and it was suggested by law enforcement that the man jumped due to the pending charges. Washington State Patrol, Tacoma police, Gig Harbor police, and Tacoma fire departments searched the water for his body, but it was never recovered.

Tommy Cuellar moved into his current apartment complex in Los Angeles in 2014 and lived downstairs from a maintenance man named Mark Clemens. In 2021, Cuellar moved to a unit one floor up, coming to share a wall with Clemens. But on February 26, Clemens was found dead in his apartment. The Los Angeles County medical examiner posted a tag on the apartment with a case number. Cuellar’s neighbor and Cuellar himself became curious and looked up the case. But neither of them found anyone by the name of Clemens.

Instead, the Los Angeles County medical examiner identified the deceased man, known as Mark Clemens, as Christian Basham. Basham’s date of birth matched that of the Christian Robert Basham who still had outstanding warrants for his arrest in Kitsap County and was the man presumed to have jumped off the Narrows Bridge 15 years ago. After being contacted by the *Kitsap Sun*, the Los Angeles County medical examiner’s office notified the Bremerton Police Department, who confirmed this week that the Basham found dead in L.A. was the same man who had jumped from the Tacoma Narrows bridge. Cuellar said, “None of us in the building knew, which makes this especially unsettling as he was trusted with a master key for our apartments as maintenance person.”

Numerous news outlets are reporting that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been notified of a recall of a brand of cashew nuts in many states, including Washington. The problem is that undeclared ingredients on the product pose a serious health risk to certain consumers. John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc is voluntarily recalling a “limited amount” of Great Value Honey Roasted Cashews because it may contain undeclared

coconut and milk. The agency warns that anyone with an allergy or severe sensitivity to these ingredients is at risk of “serious or life-threatening allergic reactions” if they consume these nuts.

The nuts come in an 8¼ ounce plastic can with a blue wrap-around label. The best if-used-by date is July 8, 2025, which can be found on the bottom of the can and is distributed via Walmart.com and physical stores. No adverse reactions have been reported as of this past Wednesday, but officials urge consumers who purchased the nuts to throw them out or get a refund from a Walmart store.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your 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.