

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. This is Casey Dolan with local news and commentary for Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Numerous news outlets, including the *New York Times*, are reporting a recall two days ago of organic walnuts across several states after 12 people have been infected with E. coli. Seven people have been hospitalized and two people have developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a serious kidney disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, the outbreaks have been found in two states – Washington and California.

The walnuts were sold in 52 stores in Washington, mainly in Seattle and Spokane, but also in 31 other cities, including Port Townsend. Customers could have bought E. coli-infected walnuts from various PCC Community Markets, food co-ops, natural markets, or other organic-friendly grocery stores. The CDC reported the walnuts were sold in bulk bins with expiration dates between May 21, 2025 and June 7, 2025. The walnuts could have also been repackaged into plastic clamshells or bags.

Among the local stores listed by the CDC are the Food CoOp in Port Townsend, Goose Community Grocer and Star Store in Langley, Payless Foods Mainland in Freeland, and Country Aire Natural Foods in Port Angeles. If you think you purchased the walnuts, the CDC says to wash any items or surfaces that may have touched them with hot soapy water or a dishwasher. The Washington State Department of Health says to stop eating and throw out any walnuts, including those stored in your refrigerator or freezer. If you can't tell if your walnuts are part of the recall, it's safer not to eat them.

If you experience these symptoms of E. coli infection, call a healthcare provider: Diarrhea and a fever higher than 102 degrees Fahrenheit; diarrhea for more than three days that is not improving; bloody diarrhea; so much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down; and signs of dehydration, such as: not peeing much, dry mouth and throat, or feeling dizzy when standing up. Businesses should check if they received Gibson Farms, Inc. organic walnut halves and pieces with lot codes 3325-043 and 3341-501. If so, the contents of the bins should be thrown out and the bins cleaned and sanitized before refilling them. Anything that came into contact with the walnuts should be washed.

Our beleaguered Anderson Lake is closed once again by the state Parks and Recreation Commission after the Jefferson County Public Health found dangerous levels of Anatoxin-A, according to the *Peninsula Daily News*. Fishing, boating, and swimming are all prohibited until the bloom dissipates and toxin levels decline. Samples of water revealed levels of Anatoxin-A that were 90 times higher than the state's recreational criteria allow. Anatoxin-A is a neurotoxin produced by cyanobacteria that can cause sickness or death when ingested in even small amounts. Public Health has monitored lakes in Jefferson County since 2007 and Anderson Lake has been closed every year since 2007, when Public Health began taking samples.

A Jefferson County Sheriff's Office press release reports that Jonathan M. Coccia, 44, of Brinnon, allegedly broke into two homes while carrying a rifle and was booked into the Jefferson County jail last Sunday after Mason County sheriff's deputies arrested him. He is charged with felony harassment, first-degree unlawful possession of a firearm, first-degree burglary, third-degree theft, and third-degree driving while license suspended. He is being held without bail pending his court appearance in Jefferson County Superior Court tomorrow. Coccia is accused of forcing his way into a residence in the Lazy C Ranch community of Brinnon on

Saturday, armed with a rifle and threatening to kill people. He left the residence and tried to flee, but a car wouldn't start. Then he entered another residence, still armed, the sheriff's office said. After attempts to reach Coccia by bullhorn and telephone were unsuccessful, deputies entered the residence to find Coccia gone, having left behind a rifle. The residence's two occupants exited safely and Coccia was apprehended soon after.

And one last reminder that tomorrow, noon, is the deadline for KPTZ listener questions for the Monday morning BOCC Health Update with Dr Alison Berry. Submit your questions for Dr. Berry or Director of Emergency Management Willie Bence to contactus@kptz.org.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you 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.