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Capsule Inspection in Seattle Nearly Done

SEATTLE (AP) — Inspectors found fewer capsules as they continued to search King County stores for banned two-part capsules, and a health department official predicted the inspections would be finished by the end of the week.

“We didn’t find any analgesics, aspirin Monday, mostly vitamins or health supplements,” said Chuck Kneiberg, director of Environmental Health for the Seattle-King County Health Department. “We’ll be back out tomorrow to see what we can find.”

Kneiberg says the department will have checked all supermarkets, drug stores, convenience stores and health food stores in King County by the end of the week. He estimated that 40 or so health inspectors were participating in the checks.

County inspectors had visited nearly 700 stores by Monday. On Friday, they found capsules in about 30 percent of them, but Kneiberg said the percentage was about 6 percent on Monday.

The department last week banned the sale of all low-part, non-fused, hard gelatin capsules. A 60-day ban by the state Pharmacy Board covers only over-the-counter capsule medications.

Two Seattle-area residents died after taking cyanide-laced Extra-Strength Excedrin in the past two weeks, one of them had been found in five bottles, four of Extra-strength Excedrin and one of Anacin-3, from Aurora and Crest residences and stores, officials have said.

Inspectors for the state Pharmacy Board on Monday also returned their random checks of drug stores across Washington, said Don Williams, the board’s executive secretary.

Figures were not immediately available on the number of stores around the state still selling capsule medication, Williams said.

“We haven’t found any disregard for the regulation,” he said.

Crews Fight Fires At Fairbanks

The Fairbanks fire smoldered Monday night after charring 10 acres of cleared land dotted with piles of drying brush and timber, said Pete Rust, state Forestry Division spokesman in Fairbanks.

The blaze started Sunday within a mile of downtown Fairbanks. It filled parts of the city with smoke as firefighters climbed onto their roofs and hoisted the towers to watch the fire.

“It’s not out,” Rust said. “We’ve got two crews and some other people and equipment working on it. We’ll work as long as we need to get it out. I would guess a couple more days.”

He said a private developer had piled up the brush with the intent of burning it when more covered the ground.

The county has notified the state order, covers the sale of capsule vitamins. Many state health food stores owners complained last week that they would face financial trouble if the ban lasted very long.

Nixon said the ban will continue until the health department is convinced that areas other than south King County — where the deaths of Sue Stone, 46, and Bruce Nickel, 52, last month were blamed on laced capsules — are thoroughly free of risk.

“That could take as little as a week or as long as a month, he said.

The regulation will be based on meetings with federal Food and Drug Administration officials and biostatisticians from the University of Washington, he said.

“We’ve had some conversations scheduled with biostatisticians to talk about the number of samples we need to poll statistically to give us the risk level

Union Turns Down Weyerhaeuser’s Offer

CHIEHALIS, Wash. (AP) — Weyerhaeuser Executive Vice President Charles W. Bingham refused to speculate on the results from the first union vote on the company’s revised final contract offer.

“We decline to speculate on the impact this unofficial tally of a single local might have on the outcome,” Bingham said. “The local involved had representation less than 10 percent of the membership and the official final IWA membership will not occur until next Monday at Portland.”

Raymond, led the voting by 7,000 voters and millworkers between the IWA and the Lumber Production and Marketing Workers in Oregon and Washington. Union officials said a final vote count in the Northwest was expected until July.

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30,000 acres were burning in areas of Alaska overrun by the state. The federal Bureau of Land Management also is fighting a substantial number of fires.

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Alutian Foxes Dead; Rest of Wildlife OK

ADAK, Alaska (AP) — Biologists studying the effects of an experimental fox poisoning program on a remote island have found that foxes and other animals, including birds and seals, are safe.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the Arctic foxes of Kiska Island so it can re-establish a nesting colony of the rare Alutian Canada goose.

In March, workers sprayed nearly 9,000 pellets of Compound 1000 on the 10-mile-long island, located near the tip of the 1,800-mile Alutian chain.

The agency has been shooting and trapping, but this was the first use of Compound 100, a powerful poison that has attracted controversy because of its use on sheep-killing coyotes in the western United States.

A team of biologists returned to the uninhabited island last week to see if any of the island’s estimated 700 foxes had died, said Fred Zellensaker, manager of the Alutian Islands unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

“The poison worked even better than wildlife officials expected, Zellensaker said.

“I’m not prepared to say there aren’t foxes on Kiska Island, but if there are some, they’re so few and far between we weren’t able to detect them in two weeks of work,” he said.

The poisoning worked more effectively than when using guns and snares,” he said. “This technique is more likely to be used in one year.”

Workers will return to the island next month to check again for foxes, he said. They’ll spread poison if they find any, he said.

Character Witnesses Called in Peel Trial

KECHIKAN (AP) — Defense attorneys began Monday trying to build a case for the good character of John Kenneth Peel, calling witnesses who said he was a miller man with no violent tendencies.

Charles Berthel, Peel’s father-in-law since 1982, said he was a Navy Shore Patrol chief and juvenile corrections officer and he would have recognized Peel had he known of his former boss’ involvement in a rape the night of Sept. 5, 6, 1982, and then killed Coulthart’s wife, their two children and four teenagers who lived with Coulthart — including friends of Peel’s.

“I cannot conceive of John Peel doing something violent,” Berthel told the Ketchikan Superior Court jury. “His son said back and mellow a boy as I’ve encountered.”

Berthel said he wouldn’t hesitate to give incriminating evidence if he thought his daughter risked spending her life with a murderer.

Peel is accused of killing eight people aboard the fishing vessel Invenor, and then setting it on fire to hide the crime.

A high school friend said Peel had an amiable visit with Invenor skipper Mark Coulthart in spring 1982, six months after Peel reportedly was fired from Coulthart’s crew on the Invenor.

Rince Tothman, 27, of Bellingham, Wash., said he and Peel went to Coulthart’s Blaine, Wash. home for coffee and Peel used his former boss’ nautical charts to show where he would go for Alaska crab fishing weeks later.

Peel and Coulthart didn’t show any animosity toward each other, Tothman said.

Peel never had a violent streak as a youngster.

“He either had to be a fast talker, a fast runner or a nice assassin,” said Tothman. “I’m sure of it.”



“I will be knocking on your door.” Joe Hayes will be in Sitka on July 2, 1986. He will be going door-to-door; talking to Alaskans about the issues facing our state. Take the opportunity to chat with our next Governor. He is a good listener. He'll be a Governor you can count on!

JOE HAYES for Governor

Photo by Joe Hayes for Governor, 1115 Tongass, Ketchikan, AK 99901 225-814

Fishery on Russian R. Is Closed

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A popular stretch of the Kona Peninsula's Russian River will be closed to red salmon fishing after midnight Tuesday.

Coming just before crowds of fishermen descend on the peninsula for the Independence Day weekend, the closure is intended to ensure that enough fish escape upstream to spawn, said Dave Washburn, a research coordinator for the agency's southeastern region.

“The area below the Sanctuary will remain open,” Washburn said. “We’re leaving that lower area open so people will still have an opportunity to catch a fish down there. If we do get a surge of fish, they’ll do real well down there.”

The agency also might shut the closure if more salmon show up. That’s what happened last year when the agency closed the river June 28.

Trollers Needed For Volunteer Observer Program

Trollers interested in taking observers aboard are asked to call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 747-6320, by early July.

Observers will monitor the incidence of hook and release of chinook salmon after the established chinook quota has been caught. A similar observer program was conducted during last year.

The monitoring is required under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Salmon Info Offered

The Marine Advisory Program office had several new publications including “World Salmon Farming with Emphasis on Penobscot and Problems in Alaska” in room 215 in the post office building.

Marine Sea Tips Offered

The Marine Advisory Program office, room 215, post office building, has information on private aquaculture, marine safety, development of fisheries, and Southeast’s marine resources.

DANCE TO THE BIG BAND SOUND OF THE Tuxedo Junction from Seattle

July 5 • 8pm-Midnight • Centennial Building Limited amount of tickets available. Call 747-6320. Sponsored by the First 50 Year Alumni Sitka High

Getting Married?

Order announcements, invitations, glasses, matches, napkins and other accessories from the professionals— Arrowhead Press 112 Barracks 747-3219