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REGIONAL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

OLYMPIA

No Lake Wenatchee sockeye season

State officials today canceled Lake Wenatchee's sockeye sport-fishing season, because fewer fish than expected have returned to the area.

The season had been scheduled to open Friday.

"We enjoyed a record return of 50,000 sockeye back to Lake Wenatchee last year and we anticipated another good return this summer," said Fisheries Director Bill Wilkerson. "However, similar to sockeye returns statewide, the runs are late and lower than projected."

The department also announced that beginning Friday, sockeye will no longer be allowed in the daily catch limit in the Columbia River between Chief Joseph and Priest Rapids dams.

And Wilkerson said there is little chance there will be a season in Lake Washington, which hosts the state's largest sockeye population.

Wilkerson said the sockeye run at Lake Washington has fallen nearly 100,000 fish short of the necessary 350,000 required by the department before it allows commercial or sport fishing in the lake.

"At this point in the historical timing of the run, there is little if any chance of a sockeye season in Lake Washington," said Wilkerson.

KENNEWICK

Nursing home firm won't oppose order

The corporation that owns two Tri-Cities nursing homes won't seek court action to stop a state order to close the homes, an official said.

Instead, the company is working to correct the deficiencies that led to the state action, said Benjamin H. Wygal of Cleveland, Tenn., president of Life Care Centers of America.

Conrad Thompson, director of the state Bureau of Nursing Home Affairs, has hinted a court injunction may be the only way to stop the closure of the Richland and Kennewick Life Care Centers. The homes, which have 223 patients and 46 percent of Tri-Cities nursing home beds, are scheduled to have their licenses revoked Aug. 17.

"I feel like the state is taking the hard line like it feels it should, and we are taking the hard line of correction as we feel we should," Wygal said Monday.

"The state wants quality and we want quality. I don't think what may look like a collision course may have to be a collision course. If we're able to show quality to them, I would expect a positive outcome."

KETCHIKAN, Alaska

'Dead man' seen in San Francisco

A fisherman who worked with Dean Moon before the Investor fire says he saw the crewman on a San Francisco street months after he supposedly was killed on the fishing vessel.

Harlan Dean told jurors in Ketchikan Superior Court Monday that he had worked with Moon during the 1982 herring fishery, before Moon went to work for Investor skipper Mark Coulthurst.

Prosecutors say John Kenneth Peel, 26, killed Moon along with the Coulthurst family and three other crewmen on the Investor in September 1982, then burned the boat. Peel is charged with murder and arson.

His defense attorneys contend that Moon, whose body never was found, should be considered a suspect in the case.

Dean testified that he was sitting in San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf restaurant in February 1983 when he saw Moon stroll by on the street. Dean said he was so surprised to see Moon that he did not try to follow him.

PASCO

42 arrested in decoy operation

Pasco police last weekend arrested 42 persons in a decoy operation targeted at customers of the city's prostitutes.

The arrests were made Friday and Saturday nights at Fifth and Lewis and at First and Lewis, a police spokeswoman said. All but one of those arrested were charged with soliciting for an act of prostitution. The other was arrested for possession of marijuana, police said.

OLYMPIA

Gardner gets new rug for office

Gov. Booth Gardner has a new rug — on his office floor, that is.

The governor showed off the plush new carpeting Monday at swearing-in ceremonies for prison chief Chase Riveland. It's two large area rugs of cream-colored wool with burgundy inset borders. The carpets are inset into hardwood floors.

The cost, said Press Secretary Jim Kneeland, was $4,550.

Gardner told a visitor the old oriental rug was tacky. He said when former Gov. Dan Evans paid a call, he looked down and said, "You've still got this old thing?"

The governor joked to Riveland that he had thought about swapping offices with the prison chief. The Department of Corrections office is in a waterfront building with a sweeping view of Budd Inlet, Mount Rainier and the Olympics.

"But now that I've got my new rug, I guess I'll stay," Gardner said.

SEATTLE

Grant will fund Alzheimer's study

University of Washington researchers have received a National Institute on Aging grant to study whether victims of Alzheimer's disease get worse if their spouses dislike or don't care for them.

The three-year, $196,000 study will examine whether Alzheimer's patients decline faster if they are in non-nurturing environments, said study chief Dr. Peter Vitaliano, UW associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

Ninety couples will be studied for one year. Receipt of the grant was announced by the university during the weekend.

Earlier studies have explored how well or poorly spouses cope with males suffering from Alzheimer's. The new study will look at what Vitaliano says is a vicious cycle that forms when the patients become more and more dependent on their caregivers.

Both the patient and spouse are increasingly confined to the home without other company, and their feelings for each other can change, he said.

"It could be that if a spouse is hostile or ignores his or her spouse, it could encourage the patient to give up and the patient may decline faster," Vitaliano said in a news release.

Alzheimer's is a disease that kills brains cells, causing progressive loss of memory and loss of other mental abilities. Its cause is unknown, although severe stress and other problems, including alcohol abuse and depression, have been documented in families of Alzheimer's patients.

Kaiser says polluter listing 'a crock'

From staff and wire reports

Kaiser official Chris Carlson said the list was a public relations bid to get more funding.

Because voluntary compliance with state environmental laws isn't working as it should, Ecology Director Andrea Riniker said Monday she's initiating a new policy to get tough with repeat violators.

In connection with Riniker's announcement, the Ecology Department compiled its list of the state's top 10 repeat polluters of 1985.

Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp., with plants in Spokane and Tacoma, was eighth on that list with four penalties totaling $16,750 in fines.

Kaiser vice president Chris Carlson called the list a "crock" that paints the state's most responsible corporations as habitual polluters. The listed firms, he said, are those that monitor their own pollution-control efforts, and report themselves when there is a violation.

The new departmental guidelines will escalate penalties in four steps for the repeat offenders. The crackdown also includes stepping up enforcement efforts, Riniker said.

If the new guidelines were applied to the 597 penalties totaling $551,350 levied in 1985, the department estimates the same violations would result in fines as high as $5 million.

The new guidelines will automatically increase fines levied for continuing violations of pollution control laws during any two-year period.

In the fourth step, the department will also take other steps against operators who repeatedly violate the law, including court action or revocation of pollution control tax credits many firms enjoy, Riniker said.

Under the plan the department will impose the maximum fine allowed under state law after the third violation of clean air and water and other anti-pollution laws.

Carlson said the biggest fine assessed against Kaiser — $7,200 — was for failing to submit all required paperwork on time, a failure he attributed to manpower reductions at the company.

Kaiser would not have been on the list if it had appealed that fine, he said, but the appeal would have cost more than the fine. Two $1,000 fines were assessed against the Mead smelter for accidents, one by a contractor, that caused no damage off the plant site.

The fourth fine was for an air pollution violation at Kaiser's Tacoma smelter. There have been no fines against the company's Spokane plants this year, Carlson noted.

"Our people live and work in the Spokane area. They have as much interest in the environment as anyone," he said.

Carlson said the list was a public relations bid to get more funding, and he added that proposed guidelines for escalating fines on violators will not "make one whit of difference" in the fight against pollution.

Scott Paper Co. of Everett tops the list of repeat polluters.

Other companies had as many or more repeat violations last year, but the fines for Scott were the highest. The department ranked the companies by points, with one point for each penalty plus one for each $1,000 of penalty.

All penalties were issued in 1985 and have been paid or are due and payable and not under appeal.

The list:

1. Scott Paper Co., Everett, 10 penalties, total fines $48,100.
2. Weyerhaeuser Co., Longview, Cosmopolis, 19 penalties, total $31,750.
3. Crown Zellerbach Corp., Camas, Port Angeles, 10 penalties, total $27,800.
4. Aluminum Co. of America, Vancouver, Wenatchee, four penalties, $26,000.
5. ITT Rayonier, Hoquiam, Port Angeles, seven penalties, $20,500.
6. Texaco Inc., Anacortes, four penalties, $21,500.
7. Georgia-Pacific Corp., Bellingham, seven penalties, $14,900.
8. Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp., Tacoma, Spokane, four penalties, $16,750.
9. Reynolds Metals Co., Longview, three penalties, $15,900.
10. Longview Fibre Inc., Longview, seven penalties, $7,550.

State files suit over legal fees in repository case

Associated Press

OLYMPIA — Washington state is suing the federal government for refusing to pay for the state's legal challenge of Hanford's selection as a finalist for the national nuclear waste dump, Attorney General Ken Eikenberry said today.

The state already has filed four lawsuits against President Reagan and the U.S. Department of Energy for the way the nuclear reservation was chosen as one of three sites for more in-depth studies. Washington also has filed a motion to prevent destruction of any documents relating to site-selection.

How to pay for all that litigation?

Eikenberry says federal law indicates DOE should pay, but that it rejected the Washington Department of Ecology's legal bill of $200,000. Anticipating the government might balk, the state Legislature appropriated the legal costs earlier this year, but authorized a lawsuit for reimbursement.

So Eikenberry today announced the filing of yet another lawsuit with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (which covers how to pick a deep-geologic repository) envisioned state participation in the siting process," the attorney general said. "Meaningful participation includes litigation when necessary to ensure that the USDOE follows the act."

Eikenberry said he tried without success to convince federal officials to settle the dispute amicably and without litigation.

"They were totally unreceptive, leaving us with no choice but to file this action," he said.

Added Ecology Director Andrea Beatty Riniker, "The court challenges to the Hanford selection were necessary to help establish USDOE credibility. We should not have to use state funds to get USDOE to properly perform its site-selection tasks."

Eikenberry said the federal appeals bench has set no court dates for any of the lawsuits.

The latest filing comes in the same week the state Legislature will meet in emergency session to place a referendum on the fall ballot so voters can sound off on the site-selection process. That one-day sitting is Friday.

Bear concerns, opposition may end Yellowstone ride

Associated Press

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Concern over grizzly bears and opposition from environmental interests may make this year's Appaloosa Club of America ride on the Nez Perce trail through Yellowstone National Park the last.

"It wouldn't surprise me if this is the last trip through the park," said Edith Stanger of Idaho Falls, the club's past national director. This year's ride is scheduled for Aug. 3-8, she said.

The National Park Service, which normally allows parties of no more than 20 horses in Yellowstone, has given the club permission to camp with 150 horses and 12 trucks in the Turbid Lake area that was closed to hikers and limited to only day-use by horsemen after a grizzly mauled a hiker on July 19.

The area also is within a area already restricted under the Fishing Bridge Interim Management Plan, which closed some backcountry areas but allowed the controversial campground to stay open.

The club applied for the special use permit more than a year ago, agreeing to cut down the number of trail riders from 300 to 150 to meet park and outfitter concerns. Over a 13-year period, the club rides the route the Nez Perce Indians took in their ill-fated effort to reach Canada while chased by the U.S. Army.

"This is the one exception," Ben Clary, assistant park superintendent, said, noting the special use request came before the management plan was in place.

The group will camp in the park in two other spots, a borrow pit area near Nez Perce Creek and the Otter Group Camp. Neither is as sensitive as Turbid Lake, Clary said, adding that if a bear is still in the lake area when the group arrives the Park Service would increase ranger supervision.

But Idaho Environmental Council spokesman Scott Ploeger said the government's decision only "shows that the Park Service is still willing to curtail small amounts of backpack activity but not affect any sizable group activity for the sake of preventing bear-human conflicts."

Ploeger said the group of riders may be large enough to scare bears away, but it could also create problems because of garbage, horses and feed.

But Clary, pointing out that the trail ride only occurs every 13 years, said the service would not support an annual activity that runs counter to basic management policies.

Stanger said the Appaloosa Club received the permit only after long negotiations with park officials and lobbying to secure approval from area outfitters.

"The park management is obviously under great stress," she said, adding that the horse club was sensitive to the grizzly issue and that it along with other park management problems may make this ride the last through the park for the club.

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