

# Unpasteurized milk recalled after outbreak of E. coli



PORTLAND (AP) — Unpasteurized milk was removed from 35 grocery stores after six people became ill with a virulent strain of E. coli bacteria, health officials said Wednesday.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recalled raw milk produced by Thomas Jersey Dairy in suburban Tigard, department spokesman Bruce Pokarney said.

The strain of E. coli is the same one that contaminated mayonnaise at two Oregon Sizzler restaurants in March.

The bacteria can cause bloody diarrhea and hemolytic uremic syndrome, a severe kidney complication.

Two people were hospitalized in mid-April after drinking the milk, but have been released, said Dr. Katrina Hedberg, deputy state epidemiologist.

The ages of the victims ranged from 9 to 62. One case was reported in December, another in March and four in April, she said.

The cases were linked Tuesday, when the Agriculture Department issued the recall order and took samples from milk containers and the 80 cows at the family-operated dairy.

John Thomas, the dairy's owner, said the results of tests taken at his farm will not be available until Friday.

"Without finding it was definitely the milk, they shouldn't condemn me, because we serve milk to several thousand people," Thomas said.

"You spend 43 years doing something you believe in, you don't like to have it destroyed in 24 hours," he said.

Thomas said he distributes about 350 gallons of unpasteurized milk a day and probably will not divert his product for pasteurization, which heats the milk to kill bacteria and prevent disease. Instead, the milk will remain at his farm pending the outcome of the investigation.

The state has suggested the pasteurization until it locates which cattle are contaminated, Pokarney said. The infection spread when the milk came into contact with contaminated cattle feces, Hedberg said.

"We recommend that people refrain from drinking unpasteurized milk," Hedberg said. "It's considered to be a health food, but as far as we're concerned, there's no nutritional value."

Pokarney said there are no plans to shut down the dairy during testing.

The milk was pulled from the shelves of Portland-area stores including Fred Meyer, Safeway, Food for Less, Thriftway and Nature's Fresh Northwest.

The dairy is the only supplier of raw milk in the Port-

land area, but there are nine distributors in the state.

The state regularly tests distributors of raw milk for contamination, but no specific test is required to detect E. coli, Pokarney said.

Since January, three other cases of the E. coli strain have been confirmed but have not been linked to a source, Hedberg said.

"More cattle are being infected," she said. "We're going to continue to see more outbreaks and more cases of this illness."

Consumption of undercooked meat that has come in contact with cattle feces has been the most commonly identified source of the infection.

In mid-March, dozens of people were infected with the same strain of E. coli — O157:H7 — after eating at two Sizzler restaurants in Grants Pass and North Bend. It was traced to salad dressing and sauces containing mayonnaise that had been contaminated by meat.

A different strain of E. coli bacteria killed two children and made hundreds of people sick in Washington last January after they ate at Jack in the Box restaurants.

A third child also died after being infected with that strain of E. coli, but the death could not be specifically linked to the outbreak.

## Coastal eccentric uses appliances for street art

CANNON BEACH (AP) — "Sometimes he'd take perfectly good electric appliances, washing machines, portable fans, vacuum cleaners — that kind of thing — and just drop them off in the middle of Main Street. He'd walk off a ways, and turn around and watch them. I don't know what he expected them to do. But that was John."

— Possible eulogy at the funeral of John Fraser, who is still alive.

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Such a remembrance might please Fraser, part-time businessman and civic leader, and full-time practitioner of impractical jokes and the art of Dada.

Around the north coast, Fraser is perhaps most widely known as the driver of THE VAN — a piece of modern art in progress, festooned as it is with plastic cows, stenciled Elvis mugs, lacquer-covered French fries, and the tail-end of a surf board.

In Cannon Beach, his home of 15 years, Fraser is also known as the owner of Once Upon A Breeze Kite Shop; publisher of the sarcastic newsletter, "The Rocker;" perpetrator of innumerable weird pranks; and, at least a little incongruously, the

former holder of two elected local offices.

"I don't know what you're going to make of this," Fraser said with a laugh, at the conclusion of a recent interview.

Hard enough to make sense of someone who acts with apparent purpose. But what do you make of a guy who once blanketed the town with a fine layer of plastic tree frogs? And then was awarded a handsome, wooden plaque for his years of dedicated community service?

"The first few years I was here, I was a mime," notes Fraser. "So people knew I had a little wackiness in me" before the election.

Tending business at his kite shop, located in an out-of-sight mall just behind the boutiques that front Main Street, Fraser looks the part of a less-serious businessman.

On a Tuesday afternoon, he wore sweat pants and an untucked rugby shirt. On his feet were canvas Converse sneakers — one black, one white. His hair, graying at the temples, hung well below the collar line.

In the sunlit back room of the kite shop, Fraser sat back in a director's chair and prepared for an interview. About him was a mass of unconnected do-dads. A

**'There were things that just didn't make any sense at all — things like baby dolls impaled with carrots.'**

— John Fraser, Cannon Beach resident

white diamond-shaped kite featuring the mug of Mad Magazine's Alfred E. Neuman hung in front of a window. A cartoon greeting card featuring two people inspecting a cadaver was tacked to a filing cabinet. A wide-eyed Mattel doll wearing a nun's habit sat on a shelf.

Fraser pointed out an item sitting on the window sill — a piece of art he's been working on, he said.

It's a pink plastic flower pot with a rock in it. A black sheet of cardboard bisects the pot vertically, and on this are two black and white photos of a girl's face. The one on top shows her with a frog in her mouth. The one below features a normal, smiling pose. A broken, ceramic flute lies across the pot, beneath the pic-

tures, and a plastic travel alarm clock is taped to the pot's brim.

Fraser said he's been working on the piece for some time, and it's apparent that he's proud of its progress.

The piece is an example of the kind of art Fraser likes best — nonsense art.

He had studied all the major genres, but the one that captivated him was Dada, a French movement earlier this century.

"There were things that just didn't make any sense at all — things like baby dolls impaled with carrots," Fraser said.

In Cannon Beach, Fraser takes the theory of Dada to the streets once every two or three months.

His art-in-the-crosswalk series involves nothing but leaving an occasional electrical appliance in the middle of the street in front of Osborne's Grocery Store.

Often, the fun is just seeing how long the thing will remain there, before some tourist — or the police — come along and remove it.

Last Cinco de Mayo — the Mexican celebration May 5 — Fraser lined up five jars of mayonnaise along the road's median. He was pleased to find out that a few people got the joke.

## Two more charged with killing teens

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A team of state and federal law enforcement officers arrested two young men Wednesday in the shooting deaths of two Oregon teen-agers, officials said.

Richard Ayala and Steven Bowen, both 22 and of Oklahoma City, were taken into custody without incident, said Mark Crawford, a U.S. Marshal's Service spokesman.

The arrests bring to seven the number of people taken into custody. All have been charged with first-degree murder in the Feb. 26 deaths of Nicie Clark, 16, and Teresa Beasley, 17. Both victims were from Portland.

The bullet-riddled bodies of Clark and Beasley were found on a dirt road at the edge of Lake Hefner in northwest Oklahoma City.

One man arrested earlier in the case, Steve Lorence Thames, told authorities that several people planned to rob, kidnap and kill the victims, an affidavit said.

Thames said a woman who picked up Beasley at the bus station told him the teen-ager had 3 kilograms of cocaine possibly worth \$900,000. A plot then developed to steal the cocaine, the affidavit said.

Last week, Chandra Denise Griham and Frederick N. Blackmon were arrested in Oklahoma City. California authorities picked up Jarren Moore, 21, of Los Angeles, and Camille Wallace was apprehended in Chandler.

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