

21 charged with felony bootlegging in Kotzebue

by Steve Pilkington

Tundra Times reporter

Alaska State Troopers, after a lengthy investigation into illegal alcohol sales, arrested 21 Kotzebue residents last week on charges of felony bootlegging.

Trooper Capt. Glenn Godfrey said last week that the operation, which used an undercover officer working since last December, culminated in the issuance of 31 arrest warrants.

Some of those arrested last week were charged with up to five counts of felony bootlegging.

"That is not casual bootlegging to us," Godfrey said.

In June 1988, a similar operation in Kotzebue resulted in the issuance of 49 arrest warrants, Godfrey said.

But in August 1988, first offense bootlegging became a felony, and this operation is the largest in the state since bootlegging was classified as a felony, he said.

The following people have been arrested for the sale of alcohol without a license or permit:

David Burnor, 33, five counts; Ronald Oakley, 52, one count; Moshe Elazar, 21, four counts; Charles Evak, 23, two counts; John Evans Jr., 20, one count; Fanny Flood, 28, one count; Amos Foster Jr., 23, one count; Raymond Karmun, 21, one count; Larry Kennedy, 34, two counts; Jeffery Outwater, 22, one count; Gilbert Schaeffer, 33, one count; Paula Smalley, 41, one count; Fred Washington, 23, one count; Homer Washington, 27, one count; Peter Wright, 36, one count; Martin Kennedy, 24, one count; Daniel Melton, 33, one count; David Melton, 21, one count; Joyce Reed, 24, one count; Daniel Thomas Jr., 51, three counts; Whittier Williams, 34, one count.

All those arrested were from Kotzebue.