Parasite infects Mustang water park

The county health department tested the water and found cryptosporidiosis, a common waterborne disease

Amanda Strachan
MUSTANG DAILY

The discovery of a highly contagious parasite in the water at Mustang Water Slides, in Lopez Lake, caused its closure early this month.

The park voluntarily shutdown Sept. 1, after several patrons complained of falling ill after visiting the park.

The county health department tested the water and found cryptosporidiosis, one of the most common waterborne illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It is extremely resistant to chlorine and can survive in a pool for several days, the CDC website dedicated to the virus said.

"We're going to disinfect the sidewalks, the railings, the steps, everything. We want to make sure that no one ever gets sick there again," said owner Phil O'Carroll.

Dr. Tom Maier of the San Luis Obispo public health department said this is the first outbreak the county has ever seen.

The latest count shows 11 confirmed infections and many more awaiting confirmation, according to the county health department.

T he infected experience symptoms ranging from vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, weight loss, achache, fever to no symptoms at all.

How the parasite ended up in the water can only be speculated. All public water facilities are to take certain steps in the event of a fecal accident, according to health and safety regulations.

"The theory is that someone, probably a small child, who was infected went down the slide and had an accident," park manager Sean O'Carroll said.

In that situation if no one says anything it is impossible to know and take the necessary precautions, O'Carroll said.

The closure is not expected to have major impact on the water park's future business. It came near the end of the season when there are fewer patrons.

"I expect the new ride we will have next year will offset any future loss we may have seen from this incident," said Sean O'Carroll.

The park will be adding a new ride next year a 40-foot v-shaped slide.

A disease called cryptosporidiosis has so far made 11 people sick in San Luis Obispo County.

The vote drew an angry response from about three dozen students attending the meeting, who greeted the decision with shouts of "Education is a right. Not just for the rich and white."

"The change, which takes effect for students entering in fall 2007, stems from a recent report that found 14.4 percent of California high school students are meeting UC requirements. Under state educational policy, UC is supposed to draw students from the top 12.5 percent of graduates, designing its admission standards to capture that group.

The UC regents decided to raise the required GPA UC officials calculated raising the GPA requirement would lower eligibility rates for all students. However, most of the debate focused on the effect on black and Hispanic students, since those groups already are underrepresented at UC.
Bridge
continued from page 2

to take on the project. People working on the project have tried to ease local complaints by explaining the situation.

"Everyone just needs to be patient," Tony Guerra, an operator at Whitaker said. "It's easy to complain, but it'd be a whole lot worse if we let the bridge collapse and the road wasn't there at all."

"It's really a Catch-22 situation," Guerra said. "You suffer in the short term but in the long term this will be a huge benefit."

While the construction on Foothill may seem new to many, the Steenker Creek Bridge has proven to be a puzzling problem for decades. Cal Poly alum Karen Groppi, now an engineering professor at Cabrillo College in Aptos, California, attended Cal Poly and created a design for the bridge for a senior project.

"Construction projects can be a real pain when they're going on," Groppi said. "Especially when you design a bridge, you have to look at it statistically."

"Hypothetically, there's a flood every 100 years," she explained. "The construction organizers need to figure out how high the water level would be in such a storm and then build accordingly."

Students are planning on traveling by the construction site any time soon, some of the public works department has some tips.

"We really encourage bicycle riding and walking," he said. "If you're driving to school, use California Boulevard or Highland Drive. Plan ahead and give yourself some extra time."

Wanted:
Mustang Daily staff photographer

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(Building 26, room 226)
or call 756-1798
Ask for Matt Wechter
**Hybrid vehicles get privilege in carpool lane**

Drivers of hybrid vehicles are now permitted to drive solo in the carpool lane, thanks to a bill signed by Schwarzenegger.

Steve Lawrence  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of the Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes, which supporters hope will prompt more consumers to buy the fuel-efficient, low-emission cars.

"This bill is great for California," said the measure's author, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills. "It eases our commutes. It saves us money at the pump, reduces our dependency on foreign oil and clean our air at the same time."

The bill allows up to 75,000 hybrids to obtain decals from the state to use carpool lanes without having to have the minimum number of two or three occupants. Certain other advanced-technology vehicles could also qualify for the program.

"To obtain the decals, the vehicles would have to rate at least 45 miles per gallon and meet tough emission standards."

The new law is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, but it also needs federal approval because federal funds help pay for carpool lanes. A bill pending in Congress would grant that approval.

Paley's legislation will expire in 2009 unless extended by lawmakers. Opponents complained that the legislation would lead to congested carpool lanes and undercut the purpose of the lanes, which is to reduce overall traffic.

The bill requires the state Transportation Department to suspend hybrid access to any of the 1,112 miles of carpool lanes in California that become overcrowded. The bill was supported by state Treasurer Phil Angelides, who could be Schwarzenegger's Democratic opponent in 2006 if the governor runs for re-election, and Schwarzenegger's Environmental Protection secretary, Terry Tamminen.

It was opposed by Bill Ford, chairman of Ford Motor Co., who wrote Schwarzenegger a letter urging him to veto the bill. Ford called the legislation a "buy Japanese bill" that would primarily benefit owners of the Toyota Prius.

The Prius and the Honda Insight and Civic hybrids qualify for the decals, but Ford has no vehicle that does. Its new Escape hybrid is expected to get only about 35 mpg. Pavley said Toyota lobbyists had no influence in how the bill was written and had pushed unsuccessfully for a lower gasoline mileage threshold to qualify for the decals.

California already allows battery and natural-gas-powered vehicles and motorcycles to use carpool lanes without meeting the occupancy requirements. Hybrids run on a combination of gasoline engines and electric motors.

**Schwarzenegger signs bill in favor of over-the-counter needles**

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed into law on Monday a bill permitting people to purchase hypodermic needles.

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill for the sale of hypodermic needles over-the-counter in California.

Conor Dale & Jennifer Jamali  
SACRAMENTO

BERKELEY — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law on Monday a bill allowing over-the-counter sales of hypodermic needles, while shooting down another bill that would have made it easier for local governments to allow the distribution of clean needles.

SB 1159, written by Sen. John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara, allows local governments to permit the sale of up to 10 hypodermic needles to adults anonymously and without a prescription.

"This law opens the door for people who might otherwise not have access to sterile needles. Currently, needles are only given with a prescription or proven diabetic condition."

"If a needle exchange program closes at 11 p.m., a user can go to a 24-hour pharmacy and buy a syringe for 15 cents instead of sharing a dirty needle," said Rudge Norton, media relations manager for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The new law, which requires the distribution of informational pamphlets with the sale of each needle, does not provide methods of safe disposal.

"The problem is that it's a trip to jail if you're caught with a needle," said John LaPointe, an organizer at Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution, a free program in Berkeley.

"There's no supervision in this law. There's no way to monitor how many needles are on the street," said LaPointe.

"There's no incentive if disposal is a liability to their freedom," said Mike Kennedy, the chairman of the California Narcotic Officers Association.

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Friday, September 24, 2004  
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Carolyn Harbaugh & Whitney Tritt
OLD GOLD AND BLACK

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — There’s no doubt that the first few weeks of freshman year can be traumatic. But moving in, buying books, scheduling classes, meeting new people, showering in flip flops and forgetting the names of thousands of acquaintances, there’s a lot to do, a lot to see — in short, a lot to handle.

Can you imagine leaving all this behind to fly to Los Angeles, shop with a celebrity and make an appearance on national television? It sounds like a dream, but for freshman Allie Walker, it became a reality.

On Sept. 9, Allie received a call informing her that her twin sister, Ell, had been chosen to go to Los Angeles to make a surprise to her sister on the Oprah Winfrey Show. The producers asked her if she would be up for the surprise.

When Allie agreed, they then ordered her to shop everything and drive to Tallahassee, Fla., to give a presentation where Ell is a freshman at Washington and Lee University.

Upon her arrival, the camera crew followed Allie into the dining hall where her sister was eating. Allie sat next to her sister and exclaimed, “You’re getting a makeover on the Oprah Winfrey Show.”

“After this declaration, Ellis proceeded to scream, “Oh my god!” several times. Then again, why shouldn’t she be excited? She was going to be on one of the nation’s most popular daytime television series. However, that wasn’t Oprah had in store for the Walker twins.

Although Allie and Ell both wrote letters to Oprah, Ell was the one who was slated to receive the makeover. Despite the fact that Allie was happy for her sister deep down inside, she said that she couldn’t help but envy the royal treatment her sister was about to enjoy.

Fairy godmother Oprah just could not leave Allie behind as part of her sister. She said, “Making Dreams Come True,” so she was included in the makeover madness as well. If Ell’s initial reaction wasn’t enough, Allie and Ell’s excitement combined made for a classic television moment.

Walters filled her with surprise, followed by shouts and shrieks of joy. The sisters were in for a lifetime of college life, but not for long.

The next week, the two were flown to Chicago to tape the actual Oprah show, where they would wear either a celebrity treatment. They spent one night at the exclusive Le Meridien hotel in Beverly Hills.

The two knew that they were in for a makeover, but they had little idea of what would help with their clothes selection, hair and makeup.

As they were sitting down to a leisurely breakfast at a sidewalk cafe, both Allie and Ell screamed to be taken back when a limo pulled up. Then, out of the dark black stretch emerged their stylist for the day, actress Mischa Barton from the television series The O.C.

They then went out for the day with their new friend Mischa, who showed them her favorite shopping digs. Some of the stores they visited included Veronica M., Decades, Wanel and Miss Story.

“Mischa is very poised, and she’s carrying herself so much older than a normal 18-year-old. My sister and I were jumping up and down screaming, and she was so put together. She said, ‘Don’t cry baby, it’s going to be OK. It’s just me, just Oprah.’”

Back at theBoth the Bostwick lounge and the studio audience were excited and anxious to see their friend on national television.

“I was so happy for Allie. I was there when she got off the plane with Oprah’s producer for the first time. She was literally jumping up and down,” freshman Cassie Durand said.

At 4 p.m. Sept. 17 there was hardly a place to sit in the Bostwick lounge. The moon was packed with supporters huddled around the big-screen television, all eagerly awaiting Allie’s debut on the Oprah show.

Some of Allie’s friends even made the trip up from South Carolina for the weekend just to watch it with her.

Freshman residents in other halls may have been watching, too. A few of Allie’s hallmates covered the freshman residence halls with posters encouraging students to watch the show.

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Back at the Bostwick lounge, the event was creating quite a sensation, particularly among the female population. Allie’s hallmates were excited and anxious to see their friend on national television.

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Both the Bostwick lounge and the studio audience were enthusiastic and displayed all grins

Stephanie Evans
PARKER & SCOTT FLANDERS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — With a 14-6 vote, Florida State University’s Interfraternity Council chose to allow the Eta Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Pi fraternity to re-colonize on campus Tuesday night.

Sigma Pi had been kicked off campus this previous spring, but after he left the area again, the vote to voice a closing argument, and the community a better place,” Turk said.

“I think that there’s an enormous difference between the group that has petitioned in this fall versus the group the petitioned us back in the spring,” Towner said. “They have shown tremendous improvements, tremendous gains in several different areas. I’m really excited about it, and I look forward to having them back.”

Brian Loffson, alumni club president, said the next round of ps and cons, he spoke in favor of allowing Sigma Pi to re-colonize.

“Last spring, I was one of the many guys laughing at them and not letting them back on campus,” Turk said. “But speaking with Brian, I don’t see why we shouldn’t let them back on campus. All the bad guys that were there have cleared out. They want to make this greek community a better place,” Turk said.

Hoffson was allowed to re-enter the house after a closing argument, and after he left the room again, the vote was conducted.

Before the chapter is re-established at FSU, there are many things that must be completed. For the national Sigma Pi organization to support the chapterusp the chapter must be interested in joining the fraternity, and they must complete a community service project.

“Before we can get back on we have to complete the ACE project,” said T.L. Clinefelter, one of the students who petitioned to get Sigma Pi back on campus. “We have to hold ourselves as an example to show. It’s just good to be back on campus with a quality group of fraternities.”
The little Art Café on Higuera Street dished up some serious publicity after Oprah Winfrey claimed the sandwich the group called "Chicken Salad sandwich" was one of the best sandwiches she has ever had — and coincidentally, the most expensive. The owner, Margaux Sky, was just about to shut down her eatery in July when Winfrey seemingly gave her $10,000 to keep the store open. The Art Café and Bakery opened two and a half years ago, said Britannie Bennett, who has been there since day one. Bennett said it wasn't lack of business that almost closed the doors but that Sky couldn't work 12 to 18 hour days anymore. "She just needed to hire help," Bennett said.

Oprah's investment allowed for just that, as is apparent by the "serv­ er wanted" sign on the window. The talk-show queen first tried the sandwich because the president of Harpo Productions, Tim Bennett suggested the Art Café bring sandwiches to a press conference. Thankfully Bennett is also Sky's brother-in-law.

Oprah thought the sandwich was worth $10,000, but when you buy every member of your studio audience a car for your season pre­ miere, $10,000 might seem some what reasonable. So is it worth 10 grand? Not by this reporter's stand­ards or budget. But the Art Café sandwich is worth a try, maybe even two.

The menu features a great selec­tion of both vegetarian and carni­ vorous items. But be warned, the sandwiches aren't laid out like the ones you mom put in your lunch­box. For example, the Reuben fea­tures a slice of bread topped with small chunks of corned beef mixed with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and grilled onions. It would look like an open-face sandwich if it weren't for the slice of bread balanced on top of the juicy goodness.

Lunch items are served with your choice of soup or salad, which is why the prices might seem a lit­tle high for a college student's bud­get. The unique selection of sand­wich breads is a definite plus.

Over time the group has enjoyed occasional radio play for a few of its more commercially simple songs, notably in 1999 hit "You Got Me" featuring Erykah Badu, but unfor­tunately its eccentric style has often run out of certain items by the end of the day.

The Art Café also has a patio that would suggest local art hangs on the walls for diners to appreciate.

While the Art Café's curry sandwich might not look like something Oprah would pay $10,000 for but Oprah didn't pay for looks, she paid for taste. Her check saved the restaurant from closure this past summer.

New Flogging Molly album for fans only

Mary Schroeder

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Flogging Molly's Irish-inflected punk returns on its third album, "Within a Mile of Home," off of Side One Dummy Records. This band formed in 1997 when Dave King met six other people who shared his love for Ireland and punk rock and Guinness.

"Swagger" is the punk debut with "Swagger," taking the punk and Celtic feel from past albums, the song kicks into high gear with a fast mandolin and violin.

King's connections with the Catholic Church was apparent on its second album but this is the first time a commentary on American politics has been part of Flogging Molly. However, this song is fol­ lowed with "The Seven Deadly Sins," which keeps the tempo high and is very reminiscent of the first Flogging Molly album "Swagger." It is a hearty drinking song that simply makes you want to get up and dance. The lyrics are simple and speak of the difficulties of life while maintaining the Irish delec­ tefulness that permeates all of the music of this band.

Being from one of history's most revered countries, King has a special place in his heart for the thousands of Irish that stayed in Ireland and sailed for America. This song also features vocals by Lucinda Williams who adds a very nice complement to King and Bridget Regan's tin whistle. "To Youth (My Sweet, Reelin' Dubh)" and "The Light of a Fading Star" provide some fast, energetic anthems about generations passing on the torch.

"Tobacco Island" comments on the events of 1659 when Charles II of England forced many Irish from their homes — reminding us that even though King has come to America, he has not forgotten where he is from. Bassist Nathan Maxwell provides the lyrics and a lead vocal growl to the "Queen Anne's Revenge." The rest of the album follows these with some Irish fun and a smattering of poli­tical commentary thrown in for good measure.

If you are unfamiliar with this great and amzingly original band, in debut "Swagger" would be the best place to start but if you are a Flogging Molly fan then pick up this record.
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Ask for Emily or Allison
COMMENTARY

Calling informed student voters only
Louis Schuh

I only want a certain type of voter at the polls: The informed citizen. The informed citizen evaluates the candidates, educates himself on the issues and casts a ballot based on which candidate best meets his needs and the needs of the country.

If character were the most important factor in making a good president, Jimmy Carter would be the greatest president of all time. And if character were the least important, Richard Nixon would be the greatest president of all time. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”

Only the informed citizen will protect us from the allure of the demagogues, for the ignorant are easily led astray, but the informed citizen will not be swayed by the cynical calculations of designing men. Here, then, is my plan for ensuring an informed voting citizenry: Government classes should teach about issues as well as structure.

The education system is the state’s attempt at creating an informed citizen. And in the area of politics, no class is potentially more important than the high school government class.

Unfortunately, most of the time in this class is spent drilling the government structure into the students’ heads one more time. Ideally, a student would have already learned the basic structures of government in classes from elementary school through junior high. The high school government class should be spent teaching the students about the issues. These classes should foster debate and encourage evaluation of the reasoning behind the positions of the major parties and their candidates.

Remember, these students are going to be potential voters in the near future. We owe it to our republic to give these students the tools to make informed voting decisions. The media should spend less time on scandal and more time on issues. Scandals are important in the race, but not nearly as important as the candidates’ positions. Scandals illustrate the character of a candidate, but character doesn’t appear to be that important of an issue when it actually comes to being a good president.

The informed government should introduce a voter competence test. If the citizen can avoid becoming informed despite our best efforts to educate him, I don’t want that citizen voting. It would be created by a bipartisan commission to ensure that the test would be fair and balanced. The test would be attached to the top of the ballot and if the voter failed to get a certain percentage (say 70 percent) correct, his vote would not be counted. This would ensure that only informed citizens vote.

In conclusion, if you’re going to vote, be informed. If you’re basing your vote on whether or not you like the candidate’s ketchup, do me a favor, and stay home.

Battleground states see more young voters
Martha Irvine

Voter registration drives aimed at young people are turning 18- to 24-year-olds into an important variable in the presidential election, especially in decisive battleground states such as Michigan and Wisconsin.

They are the nation’s newest swing voters, with polls showing their support on the rise in recent months. A Harvard University poll found that, in a five-person race, roughly 19 percent of young potential voters changed their minds about whom they’d support.

“It’s a big population of fluid voters, and they’re largely unknown,” says Evan Frishberg, outreach and communications coordinator for the nonprofit New Voters Project, which has registered tens of thousands of young people across the country.

Take Kristin Wilson, a 23-year-old in Perryburg, Ohio, and her 18-year-old sister, Kellyn, a freshman at Ohio State University. Both have registered to vote, but neither identifies as Republican or Democrat and both are taking their time deciding who to vote for.

“I think people underestimate people our age,” Kellyn says. “And they shouldn’t.”

Traditionally, young voters have been among the least likely Americans to vote. Exit polls from the 2000 election found that, of 46 million potential voters younger than 30, only about 18 million of them went to the polls. And in this year’s Democratic primaries, widespread support on college campuses did not translate into victories for candidates Howard Dean. Candidates have made some attempts to reach out to college students and other young people. The Bush campaign has a Web log that includes “Barbara and Jenna’s journal” detailing the president’s daughter’s campus exploits. Democrat John Kerry, who made a campus tour last spring, recently appeared on Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” and was to appear Monday on “The Late Show with David Letterman.”

The political parties, meanwhile, are using volunteers and paid canvassers to register young voters and get them to the polls. For instance, the College Republican National Committee has 60 field staffs and a multimillion-dollar budget dedicated to turning out young voters for the president in battleground states.

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Ask for Emily or Allison
Volleyball looks for turnaround in Big West play

UCSB again picked to finish first in the Big West Conference while Cal Poly is picked to finish eighth

Amanda Strachan

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team looks to rebound this weekend against two Big West Conference opponents after dropping two straight matches. The team faces Cal State Fullerton today and will then play UC Davis Sunday. Cal Poly has already played in first conference game losing to UC Santa Barbara. This week the Mustangs get a taste of two more conference opponents.

In a recent coaches poll, UCSB was picked to win its third straight conference title while Cal Poly was voted to finish eighth. Currently, four teams in the conference remain undefeated. Long Beach State, Cal State Northridge, UC Irvine and UCSB all stand 2-0 in the conference. Long Beach State hasn't lost a game yet.

Some players returning to face the Mustangs this year are Pacific's Jennifer Jones who was named 2003 Big West Player of the Year and UCSB's Olivia Wolda who was named Big West Freshman of the Year.

"We need to start with some solid wins and play to set a precedent going into the season," said junior outside hitter Kayla Mulder. The team return to play after a series of losses in non-conference matches. Out of ten matches the team has only been able to secure two wins. The team is 0-1 in conference and 2-8 overall.

"We've had a solid competitive season so far, it has allowed us to be challenged and to grow," said coach Steve Schlick.

The Mustangs started their non-conference season with a 3-2 win over Northern Arizona State University. The Mustangs lost their first two games against North Arizona, but then quickly bounced back with three wins to take the match. Cal Poly also defeated Utah Valley State on Sept. 17. The 3-2 win broke a six-match losing streak for the Mustangs.

"We have a lot of time to progress and to get better. We've set some high goals this year," Schlick said.

One of Cal Poly's early season losses came in its Big West opener against UCSB. Cal Poly needed to take the lead 23-22 over UCSB in the first game but the Gauchos gained seven points in a row to take the match to game point. UCSB took it from there winning 30-26.

In the second game, the Mustangs gained a 10-9 lead but were again shut down by UCSB. The Gauchos went on to win the match 30-16. UCSB finished the third game with a 30-12 win. This season the team is primarily underclassmen, something Schlick said would be both a strength and a weakness. Despite the early season losses the team has managed to gain three and counting: Three straight Big West victories.

This year's Mustang team is made up of primarily lowerclassmen. Thus far, the Mustangs have struggled with an overall record of 2-8.

Condon steps in as Poly's new head softball coach

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Jenny Condon, associate head softball coach at Oregon State for the last six years, takes over the Mustang softball head coach position.

After 46 years as the Cal Poly softball coach, Lisa Servais resigned in late August and accepted a new position as coordinator with Cal Poly's Department of Continuing Education and Conference Services and Training.

"We are excited to be able to hire someone with the experience and coaching ability that Condon possesses," said interim athletic director Alison Cone. "She has helped turn the Oregon State program around, and we think she will provide the leadership experience we need to build a competitive consistency in our program and take the next steps — enjoy greater success in the Big West and earn an NCAA playoff berth."

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