2 birds with West Nile virus found in SLO County

Laura Kasavan
SECTIONS EDITOR

Two birds in San Luis Obispo County tested positive for West Nile virus last month. The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department reported that one bird was found in San Luis Obispo and the other was found in Nipomo.

Mosquitoes are vectors, meaning that they become infected with West Nile virus after feeding on infected birds and then may transmit the virus to animals and humans.

State health officials said that evidence of the virus in dead birds is often the first indication that the virus has been introduced to a new region, or that the risk of transmission is high.

Dr. Gregory Thomas, county public health officer, said in a statement that most people infected with West Nile virus do not show any symptoms.

"However, up to 20 percent of infected individuals can expect to experience symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and a small number may develop severe illness," Thomas said.

Less than 1 percent of infected individuals develop severe illness. Symptoms include high fever, headache, coma, tremors, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms can last for several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. The virus infection can be fatal.

Symptoms develop from five to 15 days after the infected mosquito bite occurred.

Kurt Barton, director of environmental health at the health department, said that the county's mosquito abatement efforts are particularly high at this time of year.

"We use a granular material made out of corn cobs and spread it with blowers or belly grinders. The material IS essentially a bacteria that appeals specifically to mosquitoes," Barton said. "The mosquito larvae eat the material which shuts down their development and infection "compact" is fully funded, faculty raises will be paid see Virus, page 3

State budget impasse threatens CSU funding

Brooke Robertson
SECTIONS EDITOR

Four weeks into the new fiscal year and without a budget, California State University professors are not seeing the effects of spring contract negotiations in their July 31 paychecks.

All CSU faculty members were set to receive one percent pay raises effective June 30, with another 3.7 percent raise effective July 31.

These raises are the result of a contract battle this spring, where 23 CSU campuses picketed and 94 percent of CSU faculty voted to strike.

CSU officials negotiated base pay increases of 20.7 percent over a four-year period for faculty members, including step increases for eligible faculty.

State Controller John Chiang said in a statement on his Web site that in the absence of a state budget, he will "continue to pay regular salaries and wages, including overtime, to all state and California State University employees who are covered by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act."

California-elected officials and their personal staff, policy-making appointees and legal advisors not protected by civil service laws cannot be paid until a budget has been enacted, Chiang said.

Once a state budget is approved, assuming the higher education "compact" is fully funded, faculty raises will be paid retroactively, according to the California Faculty Association (CFA).

According to the CFA, any loss of funding would mean starting classes for all students, cutting new student enrollment, and reopening CSU employee contracts. If contracts were reopened, CSU faculty could strike when fall classes resume.

Senate Republicans blocked the governor's proposed $145 billion budget at the beginning of July, calling for cuts to reduce California's budget deficit.

Although the seven-year deficit has decreased over the years, Senate Republicans said the proposed budget would increase the deficit to $3.5 billion next year, and force many new programs to potentially be cut.

"The question now is whether we cut education funding," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a July 20 statement. "I don't think that's what the people of California want. I will not cut education."

Schwarzenegger's proposed budget allocates $86.3 billion towards education, a 4.4 percent funding increase from the 2006-07 budget.

see Budget, page 2

Poly fraud suspect in custody

Laura Kasavan
SECTIONS EDITOR

A Cal Poly business student charged with grade fraud scheme by Contra Costa County prosecutors last week is in custody at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond, Calif.

Julian Revilleza, 25, is being held on six counts of illegally altering data, said detention facility officials.

His bail is set at $250,000.

Revilleza allegedly led a cash-grades scheme with 33 current and former Diablo Valley College students.

Investigators said that students at DVC allegedly paid Revilleza hundreds of dollars to alter their grades so that they would be eligible to transfer to universities like UC Berkeley, UC Davis and San Francisco State.

California State University that had accepted the charged suspect in Poly fraud

Laura Kasavan
SECTIONS EDITOR

Cal Poly student Erik Satterstrom, 19, was behind the wheel of his Nissan 350Z on July 23, when he lost control of his car and killed a pedestrian couple in San Jose, before hitting another pedestrian. Neither Satterstrom nor his passenger survived the accident.

California Highway Patrol officials said Satterstrom was driving with his friend Max Harding around 8:20 p.m. when he lost control of the car and hit his physician Paul Barra, 65, and his wife, Uma Barra, 57, as they were walking home.

They suffered fatal injuries.

California State University at San Luis Obispo and others

Megan Pirley
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students may look back on the summer of 2007 with memories of tragic events where too many precious lives were taken.

For the fifth time in the past year, a Cal Poly student's life has been taken by a car accident.

Cal Poly student Erik Satterstrom, 19, was killed in a car accident that occurred in San Jose. The accident happened at night, and the driver, Erik Satterstrom, was driving under the influence.

Erik Satterstrom and friends at their '06 high school graduation.

Car crash claims Poly student, 3 others
Accident
continued from page 1
Jose Satterstrom was enrolled at Cal Poly but had chosen to take the spring quarter off. He had planned to return in the fall. He graduated from Valley Christian High School in 2006.

He worked at home with his dad and did all kinds of work around, Anderson said.

He had fun was held Tuesday, July 31 at 6 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Almaden. According to the National Safety Council, motor vehicle deaths in September 2006 totaled 3,970—down 2 percent from the September 2005 total of 3,904.

California alone had 2,857 car accidents that resulted in deaths in a nine-month period. Cal Poly has seen five vehicle deaths in students since 1994.

Another tragedy occurred on June 20 along US Highway 101 in Paso Robles. Anna Rose Laskin, 24, died two days later from injuries.

In Nebraska on March 25, 25-year-old Basketry Nicole Carr died in a car accident only a week after leaving Cal Poly.

Motor vehicle deaths aren't even the most surprising part. Beyond those 3,970 lives lost there were added 1.74 million disabling injuries in 2006, and approximately twice as many minor injuries.

The cost of motor vehicle collisions in 2006 was estimated to total nearly $174 billion. The cost includes injury, productivity, medical expenses, employer costs and vehicle damage.

So what can be done to help prevent any further disasters? The question concerns many students who often leave on weekends and vacation breaks and head out on long drives back to their hometowns.

The US Department of Transportation says it is important to remind motorists that in order to ensure the safety of both drivers and passengers, people must buckle up, not drink and drive and simply drive safely through work zones.

To prepare for long drives, motorists should ensure that their vehicles are fit to endure long trips. Most importantly, drivers should check fluids, tires, lights, wipers and brakes as well. Most importantly, drivers should avoid risky behavior such as speeding, aggressive driving, and driving under the influence. Driving while fatigued is dangerous and motorists should stop every three hours and rotate driving responsibilities.

Budget
continued from page 1
Or that $19.8 billion would be spent on higher education, which could enable over 35,000 new students to be supported in the University of California, Californi­ a State University and California Community College systems, according to the governor's Web site.

UC funding would increase by $4.4 billion, escalating from the 2006-07 budget by $270.6 million.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said in a July 21 statement, "(The Senate Republican Caucus') refusal to vote for a budget leaves our state's credit rating at risk and creates con­ fusion and concern for our school districts which will be starting fall term in just a few weeks.

"I urge the Senate Republicans to come back to the table with a plan that also lives up to the commitment we must make to our schools if we truly want our students to be prepared for success in the competitive, global economy of the 21st century.

"Senator Richard Ackerman and other Senate Republicans produced a 'balanced and fiscally responsible' budget, he said in a statement on his website.

Ackerman's proposal leaves funding for both the CSU and UC systems relatively intact, with the exception of a plan to cut the UC Labor Institute and a UC science program.

"Republican Sen. Tom McClintock also proposed his own list of cuts, which includes cutting CSU enrollment funding and cost-of-living pay adjustments. McClintock's plan would also repeal in-state tuition for undocumented students and increase the minimum grade point average to qualify for a Cal Grant B.

"Senators met Monday to try and finalize the budget, where Senate Republicans called for a tax-referral package, which would give tax cuts to revenue-generating businesses such as biotech and high-tech firms.

If Senate Republicans remain stubborn in their demands, the budget impasse could last well into August, leaving thousands of people with lowered paychecks, uncertain about the future.

By The Numbers

3.7%
Expected pay increase to CSU faculty effective July 31, as a result of spring contract negotiations

94%
Number of CSU faculty that voted to strike during spring, when 23 campuses picketed

$19.8b
Funds allocated toward higher education in the governor's proposed budget

8485 23 6 7 8 9 10
Number of CSU faculty that voted to strike during spring.
State

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is expected to claim executive privilege to prevent two more White House aides from testifying before Congress about the firings of federal prosecutors. Thursday is the deadline for Karl Rove, Bush's top political adviser, to provide testimony and documents related to the firings under a subpoena from the Senate Judiciary Committee. Also subpoenaed was White House political aide J. Scott Jennings. The Justice Department included both men on e-mails about the firings and the administration's response to the congressional investigation.

International

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's largest political bloc announced its withdrawal from the government Wednesday, undermining efforts to seek reconciliation among the country's rival factions, and three bombings in Baghdad killed at least 70 people.

In one attack, 50 people were killed and 60 wounded when a suicide attacker exploded a fuel truck near a gas station in western Baghdad. Another 17 died in a separate car bomb attack in central Baghdad. And in a mostly Christian section of the capital, a parked car bomb killed three people.

PARIS (AP) — France, Denmark and Indonesia offered Wednesday to contribute to a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur, while Sudan praised the U.N. resolution, which was watered down to drop the threat of sanctions.

Acceptance of the new 26,000-strong force marked a major turn around for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's government, which had resisted for months a push to send U.N. peacekeepers to the western Darfur region, where over 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million been chased from their homes in four years of fighting.

Briefs

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Two more California counties have reported virus activity, bringing to 219 the number held by public health authorities. The state had reported 423 birds testing positive for the virus so far this year, health officials said Tuesday.

Mark Hooten, director of the Department of Public Health, said the latest victims were an elderly man in San Joaquin County and an elderly woman in Colusa County. The first fatalities of 2007 were an elderly man and woman in Kern County.

Fifty-two more Californians have become ill after being exposed to the virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes.

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP) — A monthlong wildfire that has burned 56 square miles of national forest in the state's central coast region could turn toward rural homes, fire officials said Wednesday, and towns in its path were warned to stay alert.

About 15 cabins and recreational homes in Peachtree Canyon that were evacuated over the weekend were reded on Wednesday, fire spokesman Macon Friel said.

Fire crews and aircraft had managed to channel the fire's advance so it was heading into Los Padres National Forest back country.

Virus

continued from page 1

The California West Nile virus Web site said that 42 positive human cases of the virus had been reported in the state so far this year. Of the 42 cases, 13 were reported last week.

A total of 38 counties have reported virus activity. Last year at this time, only 16 positive human cases of the virus had been reported and a total of 37 counties had reported virus activity.

The rise in positive human cases may be correlated to an increased number of infected birds. In 2006 at this time, 219 birds had tested positive for the virus. This year that number has almost doubled, with a reported 423 birds testing positive for the virus so far.

Howie Barnum said that West Nile virus is really a disease of birds, and that humans merely get in the way. He said that the increased number of positive human cases may also be weather or water dependent.

Barnum recommended that people wear light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants whenever possible to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, and avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Other precautionary measures include draining areas of water where mosquitoes can breed, keeping windows and door screens in place and in good repair, and wearing mosquito repellent with DEET.

In the caption for the article "Traces of lead found in campus preschool," from the July 26 edition, it was incorrectly stated that children continued to play at the Cal Poly Child Development Preschool Laboratory as there are no children there currently.

The photo used with the story was taken of the ASC Children's Center, not the preschool.

In a statement that Bancroft family members and trustees representing 27 percent of the company's share­holder vote have agreed to support the deal. Combined with the 29 percent of the vote held by public shareholders, who are very likely to support Murdoch, the deal is now assured of passing.

The companies said several other counties, both large and small, have expressed interest in becoming part of the agreement.

Murdoch is getting one of the great trophies of U.S. journalism and entertainment empire News Corp., which owns the Fox broadcast network, Fox News Channel, the Twentieth Century Fox movie and TV studio, the social networking site MySpace, newspapers in Austral­ia, and the U.K., and several satellite TV broadcasters.

News Corp. to buy Dow Jones for $5B

Seth Sutel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Rupert Murdoch has sealed a deal to buy Wall Street Journal publisher Dow Jones & Co for $5 billion, ending a century of family ownership and adding a crown jewel to his global media empire, News Corp.

The companies said early Wednesday morning that they signed a definitive agreement after the deal won sufficient support to pass from a deeply divided Bancroft family, which has controlled the storied newspaper publisher for generations.

Murdoch is getting one of the great trophies of U.S. journalism and a newspaper that is considered a required reading among the business and power elite.

The deal will also expand Mur­doch's already massive global media and entertainment empire News Corp., which owns the Fox broadcast network, Fox News Channel, the Twentieth Century Fox movie and TV studio, the social networking site MySpace, newspapers in Austra­lia, and the U.K., and several satellite TV broadcasters.

Dow Jones and News Corp. said in a statement that Bancroft family members and trustees representing 27 percent of the company's share­holder vote have agreed to support the deal. Combined with the 29 percent of the vote held by public shareholders, who are very likely to support Murdoch, the deal is now assured of passing.

The companies said a member of the family or an mutually acceptable person was appointed to News Corp.'s board of directors as part of the agreement.

The Bancroft family, descended over several generations from an early owner of Dow Jones, Clarence Barron, clashed long and hard over whether to sell to Murdoch, with several members saying they feared the quality and independence of the paper would suffer under his watch.

Some family members actively sought alternatives to Murdoch — without success. One of them, Leslie Hill, quit Dow Jones' board Tuesday when the deal edged toward completion, the journal reported. Two weeks ago, another director quit in protest, Ger­man publishing executive Dieter von Holtbrueck.

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Rock legends at Mid-State Fair

Brooke Robertson

The annual California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles kicked off its first three nights with three of rock's greatest legends.

Aerosmith, Stevie Nicks and Bob Dylan took the stage July 23 to 27 to perform to a largely sunburnt Central Coast audience.

Aerosmith kicked off the fair's entertainment sector Wednesday with almost two hours of pure head-banging, hair-flipping rock.

Steven Tyler emerged as a glamorized hobo, long coat and glittering scarves flailing as he effortlessly strutted across the stage, garnering cheers from the crowd as only a hair-metal sex symbol could.

The band started off its set with the hit, "Love in an Elevator." Tyler's voice resonated through the stadium, as strong and hair-ripping rock.

"Walk This Way" and "Jaded."

" 1 Don't Want to Miss a Thing," Tyler commanded a powerful on-stage presence throughout the show, dancing, strutting and rocking across all sides of the stage while shedding layers of clothing. He used his microphone stand as both an air-guitar and as a support while pulling himself up with his arms, leaving his legs stretching into the air.

At other times he thrust his mic into the crowd, urging fans to sing.

A true performer, Tyler segued from one song to the next by asking fans questions relating to the next number. He kept the crowd involved, asking "Oh you think so?" after appliance, inciting more cheers.

While his mouth mostly dominated the video stream, Tyler made sure to give camera credit to the rest of the band, leaving on members as he sang and walked to the back of the stage during instrumentals so cameras could focus on his band mates and project their images on the giant screens surrounding the stage.

The following night, Stevie Nicks charmed the crowd with a beautiful and personal performance. Her secret, as a band member, was to project her hearts to the hearts of fans, who Nicks thanked for staying with her throughout the years, addressing her audience as old friends.

She explained her songs as they related to moments in her life, giving fair-goers the inside scoop to the inspiration behind many of her lyrics, including "If Anyone Falls In Love," "Dreams" and "Landslide."

Nicks also took the time to introduce each of her band members, sharing a story about them with the audience which revealed their personalities or contributions, and also some inside jokes.

During the concert, Nicks underwent five costume changes, all conforming to the mostly black gypsy, boho-chic look she popularized during the '70s. Many fans attempted to imitate her look less-artistically.

Eye-catching graphics displayed on the large screen behind the band, created a visual as well as auditory experience.

Performing artists Aerosmith (left), Bob Dylan (above left), and Stevie Nicks (above) played at the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles Wednesday, July 25, Thursday and Friday.

They each delivered, transporting listeners to different eras.

No matter Dylan was a little self-absorbed, no matter he requested no close-up camera shots, no matter he wrote after a conversation with her father about her future, to the fathers of her fans.

On Friday, fair-goers experienced the way-too-cool whirlwind of Bob Dylan. He came, he played guitar, he rockèd the keyboard, he blew on the harmonica, he sang, and he left.

Dylan failed to acknowledge the crowd until an elongated applause propelled him to face the stage once more for an encore.

"Thank you, friends," he drawled as if his words were the lyrics to a song.

Dylan's signature lary, nasal voice was a little more raspy, a little more unintelligible, but definitely Dylan.

He spit out newer songs as well as classics, including "Let's Get Stoned," "Just Like A Woman," "Lay Lady Lay" and "All Along the Watchtower," as he lazily swayed back and forth to the beat of his band.

Fans celebrated Dylan's iconic performance in different ways, some balloon dancing down aisles, others rocking out in their seats, and others embracing marijuana (the drug Dylan is widely associated with and reportedly introduced to the Beatles).

Besides enjoying sets from rock's greatest, fair-goers could also go on carnival rides, play games and peruse a variety of goods offered by vendors, ranging from hot tubs to fan-covered riding chips. They could also enjoy overpriced alcoholic beverages (a tall can of Budweiser cost $7), and overdose on chili cheese and a variety of fried foods.

Tonight the fair will feature a performance by the award-winning country group Rascal Flatts, for which tickets are still available.

Musical acts continued through the week, with Daughtry, Godsmack, the Jonas Brothers, Martina McBride, Dierks Bentley and LeAnn Rimes.

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For fair and ticket information, visit www.midstatefair.com.
Laura Kasavan

Temperatures rose and rocking beats vibrated the jeans of onlookers as the crowd packed into Downtown Brewing Co. last Wednesday to watch the appropriately named Hot Hot Heat play.

"Fuck, it's hot in here!" said Steve Bays, who plays vocals and keyboards. And it certainly was.

I Hate Kate, a rock band from Huntington Beach, Calif., started the night off with an energetic and rousing show. Lead vocalist Justin Mauriello, formerly with Zebrahead, engaged the crowd with several songs including "Always Something" and "Inside Inside" from the album "Embrace the Curse".

The energy was palpable when I Hate Kate cleared the stage to make way for the second opening act. The Deadly Syndrome, from Los Angeles, played cameo drums and crunching spiraling guitars among onstage cardboard cutouts of ghosts.

Onlookers were noticeably less energetic for the second opening act. The Deadly Syndrome, from Los Angeles, played cameo drums and crunching spiraling guitars among onstage cardboard cutouts of ghosts.

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Sports: too ready to rumble?

Mollie Helnus

When I was 8, I joined the ranks of ball-mobbing, ponytail-clad soccer players on the "Graze Balls of Fire." I proudly wore my pur- ple cotton jersey tucked in to high-waisted shorts with tube socks. My dad was my coach and sometimes during practice he'd bring us wigs to substitute the soccer ball with a stuffed Barney that spoke when you kicked it. He made it exactly what it was just a game. I vividly remember seeing our sweater yelled at after a defeat. She'd let a couple go by on her and her dad had something to say about it. "Did you even TRY to get that last one? I didn't see you running, C'mon, Diana!"

It was the first time I realized sports aren't always fun. They could be scary and competitive, and we were only 8 years old. Of course, healthy aggression is necessary in most competitive sports, but when did playing games become wrought with such much controversy? Turn on ESPN and listen to what John Sally and Rob Dibble are discussing on "The Best Damn Sports Show Pe- rice." Are we that cutthroat, or is it just the game stepped be- ing a game and turned into an episode of "Law and Order?"

Where did this overly competitive, drug-induced world of athletics originate? Obviously, there are more enhancement drugs available today and more media hype given to outstanding performers, but in the early days, there was always another component: parental encouragement. I can't help remembering Diana's dad yelling at her in front of the whole team. He took the fun away and made it scary. 

Republican candidates wary of CNN/YouTube de- bat e

Chris Hokanson

By many accounts, July's CNN/YouTube Dem- ocratic debate, featuring most of the Democratic presidential hopefuls, was a success. Ratings of the debate show that it was the most watched debate by 18- to 34-year-olds since that date started to be compiled in 1992. With U.S. voter turnout dimly low, and the fact that the 18 to 34 age group contributes largely to that, you would think that all the candidates would jump at the chance to debate in such a populist style. So why, then, have only Sen. John McCain (R- Arizona) and Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) agreed to the Republican YouTube debate?

It's not because of the stereotype that Republic- ans are the party of rich white men disconnected from the people they represent, for most, but not all, of the Democratic candidates fall into this category. McCain and Paul are not the only GOP candidates not afraid of technology. In fact, most of the candi- dates have embraced the concept of viral videos and social networking. YouTube channels run by Kep. Chris Hokanson

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The Cal Poly women's volleyball team is ranked No. 1 in the Big West preseason coaches poll. Cal Poly received eight of nine top vote ratings.

Claimed 19 points to secure the eigth spot while UC Riverside finished bottom of the table with 10 points.

"To be viewed by the Big West coaches in such a positive light brings a degree of affirmation to the program," third-year head coach Jon Stevenson said. "However, we are focused on the opportunity to bring practice and the prospect of making daily, incremental improvements."

Last season, Cal Poly advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament at Mott Gym, reached as high as No. 14 in the AVC Division I Top 25 Coaches Poll and produced the second-best winning percentage in program history (.793). Returning from that squad is Big West Player of the Year Kyle Archerstone (outside hitter), first team All-League pick Chelsea Hays (setter), Kristin Jackson (libero) and Jaelyn Houson (middle blocker) and starters Alice Wolter and Ashleigh Bernt (both outside hitter).

Investigation targets athletic program

Thirty-nine subpoenas were issued to college sports departments for student lenders probe.

Michael Gordy

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo is now investigating whether top college athletic departments nationwide — including those at Auburn University, Ohio University and Texas Christian University — steered athletes and other students to education lenders in exchange for kickbacks.

Cuomo said Wednesday that he served 39 universities with subpoenas and requests for documents about deals between athletic departments and Student Financial Services Inc., which operates as University Financial Services. He said he's looking at how team names, mascots and colors were used to suggest the company was the college's preferred lender.

"Students must understand their university's athletic departments so because much of campus life at Divisions I schools centers around supporting the home team," Cuomo told The Associated Press. 

"We feel confident what we're doing is above board," Linder said.

"The purpose for Auburn and Texas Christian universities didn't immediately respond to requests for comment, and the Louisiana State University immediately reached for comment.

Cuomo began the investigation as an outgrowth of his national probe of student loan providers and college administrators, which he said uncovered a pattern of favoritism for lenders who provided kickbacks, "revenue sharing" plans, and trips and other gifts in exchange for designations as recommended lenders.

Sometimes the colleges provided college employees with kickbacks for lenders drumming up business.

Cuomo's investigation led to state and national reforms.

"Today's action is an important new step we continue to examine the unethical conflicts that pervade the student loan industry," Cuomo said.

Ohio University spokesman Sally Linder said the school received a subpoena and will cooperate with Cuomo, as it did in a student loan probe by the Ohio Attorney General's office, if the definition further comment until the university's lawyers review the request.

"We feel confident what we're doing is above board," Linder said.

Auburn University and Texas Christian universities didn't immediately respond to requests for comment, and the Louisiana State University immediately reached for comment.

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Sometimes the colleges provided college employees with kickbacks for lenders drumming up business.
Progress sluggish for stadium

Megan Priley

A half-refurbished stadium filled with half new seating, contemporary architecture and updated utilities provides a perfect way to set the proper mood for the upcoming 2007-2008 sports season.

If you happen to be walking along California Street you will catch sight of the lavish Alex G. Spanos Stadium and Mustang Field, formerly known as Mustang Stadium.

It may look finished from the outside but this renovation project along with the expansion of the parking structure both have a long way to go. Phase one of the construction project has provided approximately 4,000 additional seats, restrooms and a new press box. The project is now slowly inching its way into phase two.

The estimated completion date is set for 2010 and the overall cost for the stadium’s makeover totals $15,405,000.

Phase two of the renovation, which includes removal of the existing east 5,855-seat stadium, is expected to maximize the total seating capacity to approximately 22,000, and provide the required restroom and support facilities needed to serve the entire building.

Phase two is still in beginning stages as aesthetic designs are just now starting to develop even though contractors haven’t yet been hired.

Despite the shortcomings the stadium is still set and ready for the fall sports season.

“We are very excited. You don’t know how good it made our team feel last year to see the line (of fans) stretched around the corner just to watch us,” Cal Poly running back James Noble said. “We are happy that the stadium is finished so more people can see us. We look forward to playing hard for the fans.”

The Cal Poly men’s soccer team will christen play in the recently renovated stadium on August 21 with an exhibition game against the defending Pac-10 conference-champions California.

The restored stadium has even found a way to get your name etched in stone, anyone can become a part of Mustang Memorial Plaza.

The renovation of the stadium has gone above and beyond with its architecture, it serves not only as an abundant gathering place during the school year but also brings together all sports lovers into an ideal location.

“The guys love the new stadium. It’s something we’ve talked and dreamed about for years,” head football coach Rich Ellerson said.

Chicoine holds the Cal Poly record for career interceptions (20) and the record for most interception return yards in a game (286). Those records include tackles for loss (340) and quarterback sacks (10).”

Chicoine was named to all star team at championships

Former Cal Poly free safety Kenny Chicoine was one of 13 Team USA members named to the 24-man all star team following the 2007 World Championships of American Football held in Kawasaki, Japan. Chicoine tallied up six tackles, an interception, a fumble recovery, a blocked field goal and a pass deflection during Team USA’s three games.

Goccong vying for starting position with Eagles

Former Cal Poly defensive end Chris Goccong is looking to get a starting position at outside linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Goccong missed last season due to a herniated disk and has, since then, recovered and is participating in preseason training with the team.

Goccong was drafted by the Eagles in the third round of the 2006 NFL draft after setting multiple records (since the team moved to Div. 1-AA) during his Cal Poly career.

Those records include tackles for loss (70), quarterback sacks (42), yards from tackles for loss (340) and yards from sacks (286).

MUSTANG ROUND-UP

Day finishes in tie for sixth place at Pan-Am games

Cal Poly senior Sharon Day finished in a tie for sixth place at the Pan American games held in Rio de Janeiro.

Day cleared a height of 1.81 meters (about 5-11 1/4) to tie Juana Arrendel who was representing the Dominican Republic.

Day was the top Team USA finisher in the event, placing four spots up from teammate Inika McPherson who cleared 1.78 meters (about 5-10).

Day hit her top mark this season of 6-02 1/8, placing second, at the USA Track and Field Championships held in Indianapolis in June.

Goccong missed last season due to a herniated disk and has, since then, recovered and is participating in preseason training with the team.

The game will be the first competition, in the recently renovated Spanos Stadium. The Cal Poly men’s team finished fourth in the Big West last season with an overall record of 13-6-1 in a season that included two conference wins over national runner-up UCLA.

California defeated Cal Poly 4-0 in the teams’ last meeting in September of 2001.