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Food poisoning reported in Lane County

Alfalfa sprouts produced by Harmony Farms have caused two reported cases of salmonella poisoning

By Ali Shaughnessy
Senior News Reporter

University students and community members who have eaten Alfalfa sprouts and feel sick should contact their primary care physician, Lane County Public Health officials advised.

The Oregon Department of Health Services has identified Alfalfa sprouts as the cause of at least two cases of salmonella poisoning in Lane County and at least three cases in Linn County.

The sprouts were produced by Harmony Farms in Washington and were distributed throughout Oregon. They were sold in 5-ounce plastic packages and were labeled "Fresh Alfalfa Sprouts," "Gourmet Salad Sprouts" and "Fresh Alfalfa and Oregon Onion Sprouts."

None of those affected have been hospitalized.

Lane County Health and Human Services Nursing Supervisor Betsy Meredith said anyone with sprouts from Harmony Farms should discard them immediately.

"People who are generally healthy recover within a few days and should be sure to take in plenty of fluids while they are ill," Meredith said. "Antibiotics

and anti-diarrhea drugs are generally not recommended for typical cases, and such treatments should be carefully supervised by a physician."

University Health Center Director Tom Ryan said no students at the University have come to the health center with salmonella poisoning yet.

According to the Oregon Department of Health Services Web site, salmonella is spread when people eat or drink food or water contaminated with the bacteria, or by contact with people or animals with the disease. It lives in the guts of humans and animals and is passed through bowel movements.

Symptoms of salmonella include frequent diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps. The illness usually lasts four

to seven days, and most people will recover without treatment. The elderly, infants and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to have severe symptoms.

Salmonella may also be present in the solid waste of some pets, especially those with diarrhea. According to the Web site, reptiles are particularly likely to hold salmonella, and people should wash their hands immediately after handling a reptile.

"Careful hand washing will help prevent the spread to others," Meredith said. "Prompt treatment for severe infections is important."

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

College Dems to send packages to soldiers

The College Democrats are preparing gift packages for U.S. soldiers in Iraq to help bring holiday cheer

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

The University's College Democrats are preparing to send gift packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to demonstrate their support for the troops and provide the sand-weary soldiers some comfort.

The "Hate the War, Love the Warrior" program aims to put items such as cotton socks, books and magazines, tuna, baby wipes, trail mix and Frisbees in the hands of U.S. soldiers fighting to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Anything that could be good on a day off," College Democrats Secretary Sarah Koski said of the materials being sent.

Group members said that while they opposed President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq, they don't hold it against the troops.

"We feel that, while we dislike the war in Iraq, that's no reason to make these people out there doing their job suffer," College Democrats spokesman Chris Halverson said. "It's not their fault that George W. Bush sent them to Iraq."

Koski said members of the group are trying to locate addresses of local soldiers serving in Iraq to send them gifts.

The United States currently has approximately 130,000 troops in Iraq, many of whom are National Guard and Reserve soldiers serving one-year

tours, according to media reports. Military reservists have complained that they were inadequately outfitted with proper equipment before being sent to Iraq, and 34 percent of troops described their morale as "low" or "very low" in a recent survey conducted by military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

The troops' situation hits close to home for some group members.

Koski said her boyfriend's brother was injured in Iraq after a test of a safety protection vest went awry. The

Turn to GIFTS, page 8

CRIME WATCH

Thefts and recoveries

The Department of Public Safety received three reports of bike theft: one from Bean Complex, one from the Carson Hall central warehouse and one from Lawrence Hall. DPS received four reports of found property and five reports of larceny.

Saturday, Nov. 29, 7:23 p.m.: DPS received a report of a stolen wallet

from McArthur Court.

Disorderly conduct

DPS received one report of disorderly conduct, one report of intimidation, one report of criminal trespass, one report of reckless burning, five reports of suspicious subjects and eight reports of suspicious conditions.

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 12:36 a.m.:

DPS received a request for officer assistance in Hamilton Complex regarding damage or a threat due to bias.

Sunday, Nov. 30, 9:18 a.m.: DPS received a report of a suspicious male subject possibly casing bike racks in Hamilton Complex.

Monday, Dec. 1, 7:18 a.m.: DPS received a report of reckless burning in Earl Complex.

Alcohol and drugs

DPS received two reports of drug law violations.

Thursday, Nov. 27, 11:43 p.m.: DPS received a report of an officer with four people in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

Miscellaneous

DPS received two reports of emergency calls.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tucson Police Department official front runner for Eugene police chief

The assistant chief of police from Tucson, Ariz., has been identified as the top candidate to be Eugene's next police chief.

City Manager Dennis Taylor identified Robert Lehner on Monday as the leader from a field of six candidates, following a lengthy process by the city to select a new police chief. Taylor announced Lehner as the top choice, pending a thorough psychological evaluation and background investigation, which should be completed within 30 days.

George Aylward, the previous favorite from the first search for a new chief, pulled out of the race in early September citing family concerns about moving to the West Coast. Aylward is the assistant vice

president for public safety at the University of Minnesota.

Lehner joined the Tucson Police Department as an officer in 1978 and has served as assistant chief of police since 1998. He has considerable experience constructing neighborhood and community partnership in Tucson, which is home to the University of Arizona, according to a press release from the city manager's office. Lehner holds a master's degree in business and public administration from the University of Arizona.

"Bob is a seasoned leader and an astute manager," Taylor said. "He has the demonstrated ability to inspire employees and to earn community respect and trust. He has the right set of competencies, experience and values to lead the Eugene Police Department and to be a great addition to the city of Eugene's leadership team."

- A. Sho Ikeda

Floyd Prozanski appointed to State Senate District 4 seat

Lane and Douglas County Commissioners appointed Rep. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, Monday to fill the State Senate District 4 seat. Sen. Tony Corcoran, D-Cottage Grove, vacated the seat on Nov. 5 before his term expired.

Corcoran resigned to accept an appointment to the state Employment Appeals Board. Since Corcoran is a Democrat, his replacement also had to be a Democrat.

Prozanski, a Eugene attorney who currently occupies the House District 8 seat, beat candidates Shirley Cairn, a tax consultant from Oakland, and Don Nordin, a businessman from Cottage Grove.

"The process was smooth," Lane County Board of Commissioners Chairman Peter Sorenson said in a press release. "There were three very qualified candidates forwarded by

the Democratic Party to select from. And, the two boards served the citizens well by working efficiently together to come up with a replacement."

Each county commissioner from Lane County had 9.4 votes to distribute, which is determined by the number of registered voters living in the district, according to state rules. Douglas County commissioners had six votes each.

Prozanski received 37.6 votes. Cairn received 27.4 votes.

While Prozanski will immediately fill the seat, he will have to run for reelection in May 2004 in order to keep his position.

After Prozanski resigns from his position in the House, Lane County commissioners will appoint someone to serve the remainder of his term, which runs through next year.

- A. Sho Ikeda

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