

Briefs

School:

Operation Smile, a new student organization started by Jacylyn Wintle, will continue to hold meetings every Tuesday after school. Applications will be accepted all year. Students who are interested should meet in room 1401.

PTSA Reflection theme for 2009-10 is "What Beauty is... to you." The entries are due October 23 and are in visual and 3-D art, literature, theatre, photography, film, dance and musical composition. There will be cash prizes.

Community:

Riverton Has Sole is an eight week walking program for anyone who is interested. From September nine to October 28, registration can be done at the Riverton Parks and Recreation building. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

State:

Salt Lake Valley Health Department has closed Daybreak Lake for tests of Ascariasis (roundworm) after three cases of roundworm were reported in Utah. SLVHD is running tests to find out where it is coming from.

According to the Center for Disease Control, roundworm is spread by playing in the sand, or swimming and swallowing the eggs in the water. Once the eggs get into the small intestine and hatch, the worms travel into the lungs and throat and are then swallowed again. Symptoms include: stomach pain, cramps, and constipation. Roundworm can be easily treated by a physician.

Nation:

On September eighth, President Obama gave a speech for kids across the nation discussing the importance of getting an education. The purpose of the speech was to motivate kids to pursue an education so that they can be successful throughout life.

World:

According to American Red Cross, a flood has affected over 300,000 lives throughout Senegal and Burkina Faso (West Africa). Five disaster specialists have been sent to help from the American Red Cross. Brigitte Gaillis, head of flood disaster, thinks that because of the damage, a food shortage could be a major problem for these countries for a long while. Meanwhile, Red Cross has raised 4.6 million dollars to help with the funding for the people in Africa.

Proposed Curriculum Causes Controversy

BY MARY HAMNER

Legislation has been on debate for the past few months on whether or not schools should broaden their scope on sex education.

The new health curriculum would teach about STDs, testing for them, all forms of birth control and alternate living (homosexuality).

Some health teachers believe that the schools should not take the place of parents. Parents fear what might come of this extra semester of sex education.

"Teach them, and then let them make their own decisions," Mike Johnson, health teacher said. "Let the parents be the ones that teach the specifics."

Johnson is not alone in his opinion that the schools should not be teaching a broader view on

sex to their students.

"I do not want to take the place of parents," health teacher Peggy Caughey said. "I do not want to go to alternative lifestyles."

But not everyone is against it. Emma Waitzman, a West High School senior, has been an advocate for the cause of the new curriculum.

Facebook has a group called Comprehensive Sex Ed in Utah, dedicated to those that want to expand the topics of sex education.

This is not the first time that teaching controversial sex topics in school have been broached.

According to the American Medical Student Association website (www3.amsa.org), in 1936, Thomas Parran Junior, began his campaign to teach the American people the dangers of

sexually transmitted diseases. He sent out pamphlets, posters and wrote a book, called "Shadow on the Land," which became a national bestseller.

His efforts paved the way to the Venereal Disease Control (VDC) Act of 1938.

With the VDC increased funding for sex education campaigns and started research for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the Physician website, the next major breakthrough in sex education was with Joycelyn Elders, Surgeon General till she was asked to resign from her talk at the United Nations' headquarters in New York City.

She asked whether or not children should be taught about masturbation.

"We've taught high school

students what to do in the front seat, now we need to teach them what to do in the back seat," Elders said, according to The New Physician.

The AMSA website quotes David Sundwall, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health.

"Some people just don't like to talk about sex; they don't like to acknowledge that sexuality is a normal human function," said Sundwall."

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'PTSA Encourages Testing for STD's'

Japanese Beetles Hazardous to Utah Lawns

BY BIANCA GARCIA

The Japanese Beetle was originally found in Riverton in 1916. Then in 2008, over 100 beetles were detected in Orem. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) created a treatment program to get rid of the pests.

Once the treatment program started, there was a 95 percent reduction in beetles. When 2009 rolled around, the department hoped for the same results.

The Japanese Beetle is hazardous because it can cause significant damage when in high numbers because it feeds on plants. Adult and immature beetles feed on more than several hundred plant species (www.orem.org).

Treatment was scheduled to begin in early June 2009. Lawns, bare ground, and soils were treated first. Areas where high numbers of beetles are discovered will be possibly treated twice.

The treatment consists of traps and sprays. The traps contain sex pheromone/floral lure trap to help adult beetles emerge. Once the beetles emerge from the ground, remove the beetle and drop into a jar of soapy water.

The sprays are a foliar insecticide. These are used in extreme situations, customary insecticides, including carbaryl (Sevin), marathion, and permethrin (Pounce, Bayer Advanced) can be used (www.orem.org).

The philosophy was to only spray areas beetles were found. Treatment for 2009 started in June. A notice of 48 to 72 hours was given to tell residents in the treatment area.

Beetles have been found in the green waste facility in Provo. Orem has asked residents to follow the Orem City Green Waste disposal policy.

The beetle is typically above the ground in June, July, and August. During this time other precautions need to be made in disposing of

tree trimmings, brush and plants as well as grass clippings.

The Japanese Beetle larvae need high moisture in the grass to survive. Residents have been asked to hold off watering their lawns until absolutely necessary.

Along with holding off water, it is essential to remove all grass form garden areas. The female Japanese Beetle lays eggs in grass and the larvae feed on the roots of the grass.

According to the latest count by

the UDAF, a total of four beetles have been collected as of August third. The UDAF will wait until the end of summer 2009 to establish whether treatment is necessary in 2010.

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