

Pink Eye

causes

symptoms

-  bacteria
-  redness
-  viruses
-  drainage
-  old mascara
-  lid swelling
-  contact lenses
-  pain & itching

Pink eye spotted on campus

BY HUONG TRAN
Staff Reporter

Junior Maddie Slane found out she had pink eye last Monday after using the same computer as one of her friends, who also had pink eye.

While the Student Health Center does not report a significant increase in cases, Slane said she knew at least five students who contracted pink eye this month.

That makes sense because pink eye, medically known as conjunctivitis, is contagious and can spread quickly, Health Center Director Brenda Higgins said.

Slane said she experienced awful headaches and sensitivity to light. She was advised to refrain from human contact for 24 hours and to wash her hands as frequently as possible.

Slane was able to get a Health Center appointment Tuesday morning and was prescribed eye drops, she said.

Higgins said pink eye can occur throughout the year. She said there are about 30 cases of pink eye that are diagnosed per academic year at the Health Center.

"It's fairly common in any kind of school setting, particularly very young-aged children because they do a lot of touching each other's faces, and also in colleges because we have people in such close contact living together in residence halls," Higgins said.

Pink eye usually spreads through direct contact, such as touching someone's hand or sleeping on the same pillow, Higgins said.

"If your eyes are bothering you, you may rub it, then you may touch somebody else or use the doorknob or the phone, and somebody else touches that, and then transfer that to their eyes," Higgins said.

Pink eye generally is caused by three things — virus, bacteria and a mechanical or physical agent like contact lens or dirt, Higgins said.

For women, pink eye also can come from using old mascara, Higgins said. She said women are not supposed to keep their mascara for more than three months.

Higgins said wearing contacts longer than recommended also could cause pink eye. She said people should wash their hands with soap and then clean their contacts.

She said pink eye symptoms usually include redness, drainage, swelling of lid or skin around the eye and pain or itching associated with it.

Higgins said pink eye usually will get better on its own, depending upon which type it is. The bacteria type will heal quicker with an antibiotic eye drop, she said.

For people who get pink eye through a mechanical agent, it actually can do some damage if attention is not paid to whatever is causing the problem, Higgins said.

Walgreens pharmacist Melissa Kerr said she has seen about five cases of pink eye come to pick up the medicine this month, three of which were students.

Kerr said she noticed a slight increase of pink eye cases from the beginning of the year, but not a huge amount.

If students think they have pink eye, they should visit a doctor to receive the appropriate treatment, Higgins said.

She said people with pink eye should use an antiseptic spray to disinfect objects other people might touch.

Higgins said depending upon what causes pink eye, there will be different types of eye drops for treatment.

When students come in with pink eye, in addition to treating the condition, the Health Center usually gives them education about how to prevent spreading it to others in their community, Higgins said. Residence halls have self-care books that cover information about pink eye, she said.

"[Pink eye] is, generally speaking, fairly contagious and can spread to others so the earlier you can get treatment the better," Higgins said.

Truman hails in Mardi Gras



Hanna Bilinski/Index
Senior Joel Kirby performs with the Truman Jazz Combo on Tuesday in the SUB Hub as part of the Center for Student Involvement's Mardi Gras celebration. Students who attended listened to free live performances.

I-70 toll plans persist

A bill would allow voters to decide whether I-70 becomes a toll road

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
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Whether it's tolls or taxes, Missouri drivers likely will be digging deeper in their pockets to fund reconstruction of Interstate 70.

The Missouri Department of Transportation proposed installing tolls along the highway last November. The interstate spans the width of the state between St. Louis and Kansas City. However, a new bill in the House would give Missourians the chance to vote on the issue.

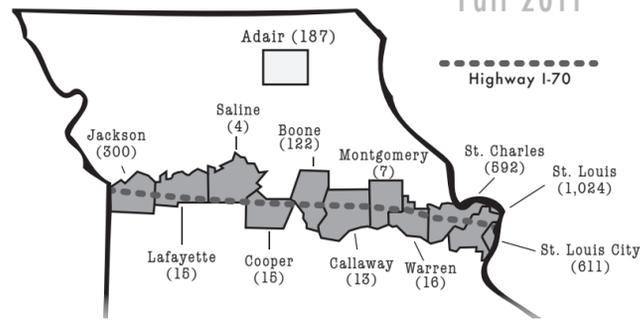
Rep. Thomas Long, R-134, is sponsoring HB1277, which intends to guarantee voters a say in whether tolls are used.

Interstate sections range from 46 to 55 years old, according to the MoDOT website. Intended to carry as many as 18,000 vehicles a day, today more than 31,000 vehicles use it. MoDOT estimates that by the year 2030, more than 80,000 vehicles will use the highway each day.

Bob Brendel, MoDOT special assignments coordinator, said the construction would give the interstate a higher vehicle capacity. These repairs would cost between \$2 billion and \$4 billion dollars and take six to eight years, he said. Other options to raise money for the repair include raising fuel taxes or implementing a designated sales tax, but Brendel said he thinks the tolls are a viable option to raise the money quickly and begin construction.

A separate bill in the Missouri Senate would allow MoDOT to enter into a private partnership with a firm to create tolls. The chosen firm would pay for the initial construction and operation

Students Enrolled by County Near I-70 Fall 2011



and be repaid from the collection. Details such as how many stops and the cost of each toll won't be known until a partnership is secured. He estimated the cost would be between 10 cents and 15 cents a mile. Brendel said MoDOT would choose the company offering the best product and price.

The tolls system would be completely cashless, Brendel said. Motorists would use electronic monitors that could either take money from their bank accounts or send them bills based on how often they drive through the tolls. For drivers without the monitors, Brendel said cameras would take photos of license plates and send the bill to drivers.

If the House bill passes and voters approve the tolls, Brendel said MoDOT would "move forward as quickly as possible with issuing proposals to find the best company for the citizens of Missouri."

Tom Crawford, Missouri Trucking Association president and CEO, said he supports the issue going on the ballot. The cost of implementing tolls is much higher than implementing sales or fuel taxes, he said. Both taxes are options he said he would support. Crawford said he thinks the public might oppose tolls

as well. "When the voters understand the problem and believe the need is there, they will support efforts to raise funds for highways," he said.

With more than 2,700 students with permanent addresses in counties surrounding the highway, according to the Budget and Planning office, many students would be affected by the possible tolls.

Sophomore Anne Mattson drives on I-70 between Truman State and her home in St. Louis. She said she would support the implementation of tolls.

"I don't drive it too much unless I'm coming up here, so it would make more sense for me to pay just that once and get it out of the way than have to pay for gas every time I use my car," she said.

Senior Dylan Terry said she would rather see the state use a different way to raise the money, such as a sales tax, because she wouldn't notice the cost increase as much.

"I recognize the need for more funding," Terry said. "Raising taxes can be hard, but as a broke college student I'm against [tolls] because I don't want to have to pay them."

A.T. Still hires new dean

A.T. Still University announced Christopher Halliday will be the new dean of the dental school Tuesday afternoon.

Halliday is the assistant surgeon general and chief of staff to the surgeon general of the United States, according to a Feb. 21 press release from ATSU.

Halliday received a doctor of Den-

tal Surgery from Marquette University School of Dentistry in Milwaukee and a masters of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

He could not be reached for comment by deadline. Halliday starts his term as dean June 1.

The announcement came one year after Kirksville was chosen as the lo-

calation of the branch of the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

The first class of students will enter the dental school during Fall 2013 and ATSU President Jack Magruder said he expects the first class to be about 45 students.

Halliday will be in Kirksville March 15 for the the dental school ground breaking.

Program Development & Data Manager

The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program office at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri is seeking a Program Development and Data Manager. Qualified applicants will possess a Bachelor's plus postgraduate studies in Business/Health Administration with one to two years' experience in data entry and database management. Individual selected will manage data collection and reporting functions of an Access-based database serving the statewide AHEC partners. Individual will also collaborate with other members of the ATSU-KCOM AHEC management team and partners at state and national levels to develop funding and program proposals, write grant applications, and track grant and contract related performance. To apply, please submit along with the application, a resume, cover letter and copy of transcripts. You may find the application at: <http://www.atsu.edu/contact/jobs/display.asp>, click on Employment Application.

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