

## RN – NEW OPPORTUNITY

### RN – NEW OPPORTUNITY

Are you an RN whose tired of the “**RAT RACE**”, tired of constant weekend work, a schedule that’s never set and very tired of working in departments with so many patients that it’s hard to give quality care.

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**Hoopeston Regional Health Center**  
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**Hoopeston, IL 60942**

**Human Resources phone# 217-283-5531,**  
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## Meth manufacturing, use on rise in county: VMEG agents

Methamphetamine manufacturing and use in Vermilion County has tripled each of the last three years, according to law enforcement officials.

Special Agents Bobby Woodard and Trevor Mouser spoke on methamphetamine awareness at Monday’s Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

In 2000, Vermilion County law enforcement officials seized no meth labs, Woodard said. In 2001, four labs were seized. The number grew to 18 in 2002, 46 in 2003 and last year, police seized 103 methamphetamine labs. “They’re just the ones we’re finding,” he said.

Meth labs are often compact - one can fit in the trunk of a car - and include such things as glass canning jars, starter fluid, plastic tubing, lithium batteries, drain cleaner, rock salt, coffee filters, cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and anhydrous ammonia.

To try to decrease meth manufacturing, Illinois passed a law limiting people to purchasing two boxes of cold pills containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine. That has caused some cooks to go to Indiana to purchase ingredients.

Those who manufacture methamphetamine, called “cookers” combine the ingredients to make the drug, which may be injected, inhaled, ingested with food or drink, or smoked.

The drug is a central nervous system stimulant and once addicted, the majority of users are unable to kick their habit. Users tend to make the drug for their own use and, according to statistics, one cooker will teach 10 others how to make the drug.

Methamphetamine can be made nearly anywhere, from the trunks of cars to hotel rooms and abandoned buildings in rural areas. Even backpacks may be used to house a meth lab, Woodard said. “You may

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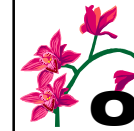
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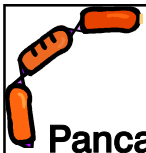
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stumble

See METH on other side

### **Meth** continued from other side

across a meth lab and not even know it,"  
he said. In some cases, cookers have  
used unsuspecting people's burn barrels  
as a manufacturing site.

The by-products of meth  
manufacturing is often dumped in  
ditches in rural areas, contaminating the  
area.

In combining drain cleaner and  
salt to make methamphetamine, a highly  
explosive gas, hydrogen chloride, forms.  
In several cases, fires have been started  
by the gas, Woodard said.

Inhaling fumes from a working  
methamphetamine lab can cause health  
problems. Hoopeston Police Chief Mark  
Drollinger said last September, he was  
investigating a methamphetamine case  
when he opened a cooler outdoors. A  
gust of wind pushed the fumes into his  
face, he inhaled them and burned his bronchial tubes.

Those who use the drug suffer even more dam-  
age. Meth use is divided into seven stages, Woodard  
said. The initial rush lasts from five to 30 minutes, fol-  
lowed by a four- to 16-hour high. The binge stage is  
next, marked by hyperactivity, when users may be  
awake for from three to 15 days. Tweaking is next, with  
a feeling of emptiness and dysphoria (abnormal depres-  
sion and discontent), followed by a crash, where the user  
sleeps for one to three days. The user then returns to a  
state of normalcy after the crash.

Short-term effects of methamphetamine in-  
clude aggressive behavior, increased heart rate, blood  
pressure and muscle tension, loss of appetite, hallucina-  
tions, acne, sores - called "crank bugs" from the user  
imagining bugs are crawling on him and trying to pick  
them off - paranoia and insomnia.

Long-term effects include malnutrition, liver  
and brain damage, coma, fatal kidney and lung disorders  
and death.

Despite the dangers of the drug, more and  
more people are becoming addicted and addicts find it  
nearly impossible to quit. "You don't stop cold turkey



The makings of a meth lab, including a blender, aluminum foil, starter fluid and a plastic container were displayed at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

with a drug like this," Woodard said.

Woodard has never known someone who  
kicked a meth habit. He had heard that a Peoria woman  
who was addicted may have quit. The woman received a  
lighter sentence for allowing her information to be used  
by police. Her pictures showed a stark contrast from  
1998 before she used the drug, and 2002, when she re-  
sembled a skeleton with rotting teeth.

## Police News



**Ona Mae Stevens**, 43, of 323 W. Third, Ran-  
kin was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:43 p.m. Mon-  
day at South Fifth St. and East Orange. She was charged  
with possession of cannabis and drug paraphernalia and  
was released on notices to appear.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 34. Tonight, partly  
cloudy. Low 23. Tomorrow, chance of rain, snow. High 40,  
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