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Rumors of 'super bug' staph infection in high school false

Last week, rumors spread through Hoopeston Area High School that someone was infected with MRSA, Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus, a drug-resistant staph infection.

Principal Larry Maynard addressed the issue at Thursday's board meeting. "Things were spinning in a negative direction," he told the board adding that no students have the infection.

Information was given to staff and students about MRSA. And while no students at Hoopeston have been reported to have MRSA, the bacteria has been found in some Vermilion County patients.

Below is information provided by Hoopeston Regional Health Center about the infection.

Staphylococcus aureus is a germ commonly carried in the nose and on the skin of healthy people. MRSAs cannot be killed by certain antibiotics which are commonly used to treat staph.

Most infections caused by staph are skin infections, such as pimples or boils. Infections can be red, painful, swollen or have pus or other drainage. More serious staph infections can also cause pneumonia and infections of the blood and joints.

Participants sought for sixth annual Holiday Lights Parade

*Event will be held December 8 as
kickoff for holiday activities in village*

ROSSVILLE—Rossville Community Organization will host the sixth annual Holiday Light Parade at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007.

The parade is open to any business, civic organization, church, family or individual who would like to encourage community spirit during this holiday season.

The parade will start at Gilbert Street and South Chicago and continue north through downtown Rossville to

Staph is spread by improperly washed hands; contact with secretions from infected skin lesions, wounds and nasal discharge; objects and surfaces contaminated with staph; and through crowded living conditions, which can spread staph or MRSA among family members, children and athletes.

To stop the spread of MRSA, wounds should be kept covered if they have pus or are draining. Bandages and tape may be thrown away with regular trash.

The best way to help stop the spread of MRSA is for people to wash their hands with soap and water, especially after changing a bandage. Alcohol-based hand gel may be used when soap and water are unavailable.

According to information from the Mayo Clinic, MRSA is dangerous but can be treated. Instead of broad-spectrum antibiotics normally used to treat many infections, vancomycin is often used.

However, some vancomycin-resistant bacteria have been seen so some health care providers have begun treating the lesions by draining them, rather than with drugs.

the High School building. Those wishing to may have their floats on display at Christman Park for the remainder of the weekend as part of the Holiday Light Display there.

This year's parade will have a "best of" contest for the best float in commercial (including civic and churches) and family (including family and individual) categories. Participation in the contest is voluntary.

For more information or to receive an entry form, please call 217-748-6081 or 217-748-6745.

Parade information packets may also be picked up at the Village of Rossville Building.

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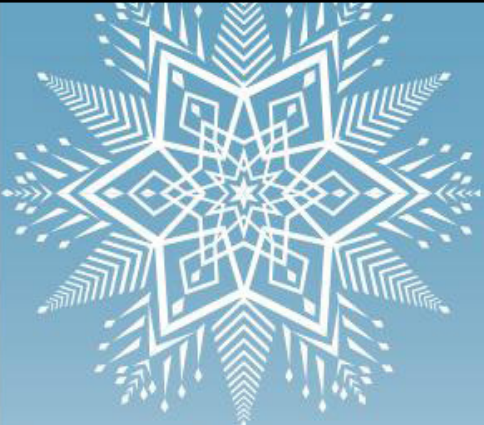
Obituaries

ADKINS - Carla J. Adkins, 63, of Eustis, Fla., died Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007 in Orlando. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

ERVIN - Marti Ervin, 41, of Rossville died at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12, 2007 at St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

MILLER - Shelley L. (Ault) Miller, 53, of Gilbert,

Ariz., died at 10:39 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007 at home. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Miller Children Memorial Fund, for their education, c/o Cindy Bell, 610 E. Penn St., Hoopeston IL 60942.



Start your Christmas season off right! Take some time to tour some festively decorated homes on Sunday, December 9th from 2 PM to 7 PM. You can purchase tickets and start at any of the homes. Tickets for the tours are \$10.00 each. You can also purchase tickets for this year's Christmas Tree Raffle at any of the homes & at the hospital. Molly Culbert has kindly donated the tree.

Holiday Tour of Homes

Participating Homes on the Tour

Glen & Shelle Franke	618 E. Penn
Dr. Jay & Wendy Colbert	856 E. Washington
Mike & Jackie Johnson	703 W. Penn
Joe & Linda Fecker	416 E. Penn
Hugh & Marsha Griffon	415 E. Washington
David & CJ Elliott	701 S. Fifth Street
Andy & Megan Braden	516 E. Seminary
Tim & Angie Totheroh	2790 E. 300 N Road, Wellington

You're sure to enjoy a tour of the beautifully decorated homes. You'll get some Christmas spirit and lots of ideas to make your home more festive! The Holiday Tour of Homes is sponsored by the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation.



Photo contributed

The importance of education

On Tuesday, November 6 Hoopeston's Mayor, Bill Dewitt signed the American Education Week proclamation at Honeywell School. American Education Week is November 11 - 17. The theme this year is Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility. Pictured at the signing is Principal, Linda Sheppard, Kendall Staley, Mayor Dewitt, Skylar Barnard and band teacher Jennifer Ellis. While he was at Honeywell School Mayor Dewitt spoke to the students during Morning Meeting about Citizenship, the Character Counts word of the month.

Police News



A black key ring was found Sunday at Iroquois Federal, 511 S. Dixie Hwy. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Weather



Partly sunny today and tomorrow. High today 62, low 33. Tomorrow, high 46, low 27.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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