

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

## MRSA Questions, Answers

From Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in schools

What type of infections does MRSA cause?

• Most MRSA infections are skin infections that may appear as pustules or boils which often are red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. These skin infections commonly occur at sites of visible skin trauma, such as cuts and abrasions, and areas of the body covered by hair (e.g., back of neck, groin, buttock, armpit, beard area of men).

• Almost all MRSA skin infections can be effectively treated by drainage of pus with or without antibiotics. More serious infections, such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or bone infections, are very rare in healthy people who get MRSA skin infections.

How is MRSA transmitted?

• MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection (e.g., towels, used bandages).

In what settings do MRSA skin infections occur?

• MRSA skin infections can occur anywhere.

• Some settings have factors that make it easier for MRSA to be transmitted. These factors, referred to as the 5 Cs, are as follows: crowding, frequent skin-to-skin contact, compromised skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions), contaminated items and surfaces, and lack of cleanliness.

• Locations where the 5 Cs are common include schools, dormitories, military barracks, households, correctional facilities, and daycare centers.

How do I protect myself from getting MRSA?

• Practice good hygiene (e.g., keep hands clean by washing with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and shower immediately after participating in exercise);

• Cover skin trauma such as abrasions or cuts with a clean dry bandage until healed;

• Avoid sharing personal items (e.g., towels, razors) that come into contact with bare skin; and use a barrier (e.g., clothing or a towel) between skin and shared equipment such as weight-training benches;

• Maintain a clean environment by establishing cleaning procedures for frequently touched surfaces and surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin.

Should schools close because of an MRSA infection?

• The decision to close a school for any communicable disease should be made by school officials in consultation with local and/or state public health officials. However, in most cases, it is not necessary to close schools because of an MRSA infection in a student. It is important to note that MRSA transmission can be prevented by simple measures such as hand hygiene and covering infections.

Should the school be notified that my child has an MRSA infection?

• Consult the school about its policy for notification of skin infections.

Should students with MRSA skin infections be excluded from attending school?

• Unless directed by a physician, students with MRSA infections should not be excluded from attending school.

I have an MRSA skin infection. How do I prevent spreading it to others?

• Cover the wound. Keep wounds that are draining or have pus covered with clean, dry bandages until healed. Follow healthcare provider's instructions on proper care of the wound. Pus from infected wounds can contain staph, including MRSA, so keeping the infection covered will help prevent the spread to others. Bandages and tape can be discarded with the regular trash.

• Clean hands frequently. Anyone in close contact should wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after changing the bandage or touching the infected wound.

• Do not share personal items such as towels, washcloths, razors, clothing, or uniforms, that may have had contact with the infected wound or bandage.

## FROM DAYS GONE BY

### 20 Years Ago

From The Files Of February 23, 1989

'89 About 35 members of the public attended a public hearing held Tuesday evening, February 21, to discuss the Central Fulton School District's proposed project to build an addition to its elementary building. Superintendent Swadley explained that the increased kindergarten enrollment figures in the district over the last several years is a factor in the expansion.

Former Hustontown residents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stevens will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on February.

Friends were saddened by the news of the death early this week of Cpl. Chester "Chet" Rowan of the Pennsylvania State Police. Chet was stationed in McConnellsburg for more than 14 years and had just retired in 1986.

Denise and Jimmy Chesnut have opened a new restaurant and amusement parlor on Lincoln Way West where the Fifties Restaurant was formerly located.

Fulton County's new planner-block grants coordinator, Daniel Swain Jr. of Needmore, began his duties last Monday, February 13.

Local racer Tom Peck's number 96 finished 42nd in a field of 82 cars during time trials for last Saturday's race at Daytona. Peck missed making the field by 200th of a second for the Daytona race. He will be racing this Saturday in the Pontiac Excitement 200 race at Richmond.

Leonard Thomas, McConnellsburg High School junior, connected for the 1,000-point mark in his basketball career at MHS. He reached the milestone during Friday night's game with Forbes Road, in which the Spartans were defeated 63-57. Thomas is the first junior in MHS history to hit the 1,000-point mark.

Linda Ullsh and Gary Bradshaw were united in marriage on January 14 at Cedar Grove Church in Dott. The bride is the daughter of Herman and the late June Strait and the groom is the son of Harold and Phyllis Bradshaw.

Specials at the IGA: red ripe strawberries, \$1.19 pt.; grapefruit, 4 for \$1; lettuce, 59 cents a head.

Births at the Medical Center: a son to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Horowitz of Mercersburg on February 9; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. David Conrad of Chambersburg on February 11; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Carr on February 14; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hess of Orbisonia on February 16.

Susan and John Edison Mumma of Hustontown announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Jo, on January 31.

Marriage licenses: Jeffrey Morris, Warfordsburg, and Iva Diehl, Warfordsburg; Marvin Fittery, Harrisonville, and Tina Gress, Harrisonville.

### 30 Years Ago

From The Files Of February 22, 1979

'79 Even though the temperature readings were 10 degrees to well below zero, it wasn't "too cold to snow" as the saying goes. The biggest snowfall of the season started Sunday and blanketed the area with more than 12 inches. All schools in the county as well as several manufacturing plants in the area were closed on Monday while people dig out from the white stuff.

Residents and guests were safely evacuated early last Thursday morning during a fire at Motel 70 in Crystal Spring, Fulton County, at the interchange of Interstate 70, near Breezewood. Fire officials estimated damage at more than \$200,000. The motel owner, Wallace College, and his wife and child were asleep in their residence adjoining the motel when fire broke out in their kitchen at about 5:00 a.m. College safely evacuated his family and guests, who were occupying eight units of the 20-unit one-story motel.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Yocum of St. Thomas, former owners of Yocum's Tavern, now the Double J Bar, on Lincoln Way East, McConnellsburg, recently opened a new business, "Yocum's Beverage," licensed beer distributors, where years ago the late Chauncey McGarvey Beer Distributor used to be located. The new business is in the garage part of the Western Auto building, on the east side.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Brant of Hustontown spent last week enjoying the warm temperatures of Florida. Also, congratulations to the Brants on their 25th wedding anniversary, which was celebrated by a surprise reception at the firehall on February 11.

Engagements: Mr. and Mrs. Glen Palmer of Warfordsburg wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Ann, to Kevin Keon Mellott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Mellott of Needmore. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Seburn of Big Cove Tannery proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Kaye, to Norman Lee Schetrompf, son of Norma Schetrompf of Hancock.

Specials at the IGA: Libby's fruit cocktail, 39 cents; Tide, \$1.39, 49 ozs.; Pepsi-Cola, 89 cents, 64 ozs.; loin pork chops, \$1.49 lb.

Births at the Medical Center: a son to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fischer of Warfordsburg on February 10; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sipes of Burnt Cabins on February 10; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hollenshead of Needmore on February 11; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Holmes of Shade Gap on February 13; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Berkstresser of Breezewood on February 13; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hall of Wells Tannery on February 15.

Marriage licenses: Ricky Lee Anderson, Needmore, and Christine Elaine Berkstresser, Harrisonville; Donald Harry Keebaugh, Fort Littleton, and Jana Faye Brown, Orbisonia.

Deaths: Mrs. Margaret Mellott, Warfordsburg; John D. Barnes, Warfordsburg; Janet R. Wentling, Chambersburg; Mae Edwards, Broad Top.

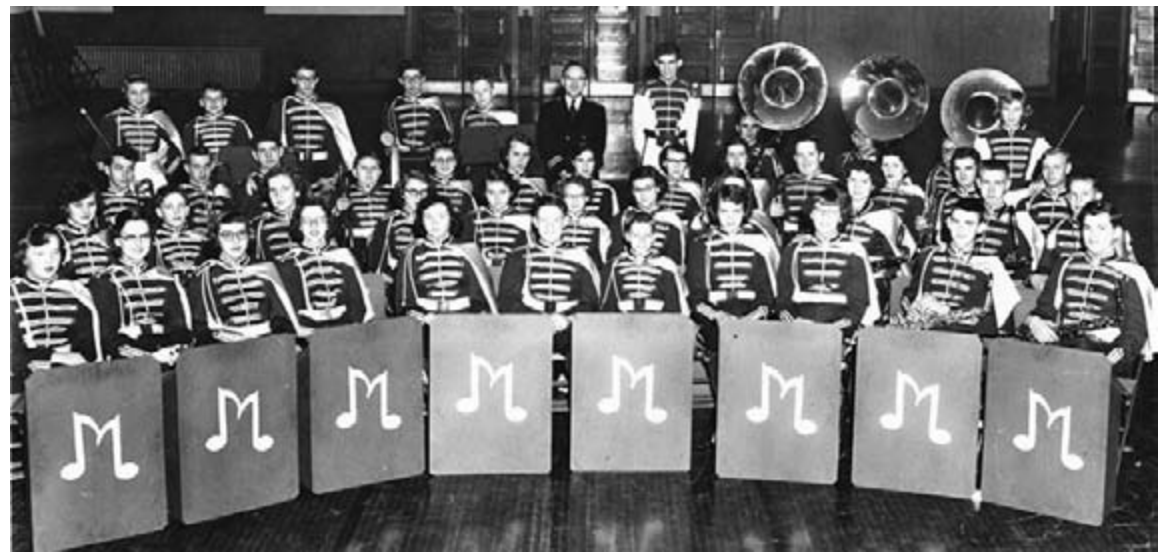
### 40 Years Ago

From The Files Of March 6, 1969

'69 The Harrisonville United Methodist Parish will be host for a visit of Bishop Herman W. Kaebnick, resident bishop of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, on March 23.

Friday, March 7, is the World Day of Prayer for 1969. Fire destroyed a trailer home occupied by the Thurman Bishop family on Black Oak Ridge near the Maryland line last Wednesday, February 26. The entire trailer was ablaze when firemen from Hancock and Needmore arrived on the scene. The trailer and its contents were a complete loss.

### MEMORY JOGGER



This week's Memory Jogger, submitted by Fred Stenger of Myrtle Beach, S.C., was taken in 1954 and pictures the McConnellsburg High School Band, under the direction of John Enck. First row, left to right: Jane MacKinlay, Ruth Gordon, Nancy Pyle, Sally Tritle, June Smith, Ernest Harris, Larry Chubb, Jean Swope, Faye Gordon, Larry Cisney, Lee Glazier; second row: Darlene Deshong, Ned Cornelius, Nancy Cornelius, Dolly Ray, Joan Bard, Ann Deshong, Betty Culler, Beverly Hill, Wanda Crouse, George Cline, Kirk Cover; third row: Fred Stenger, Rodney Cover, Parker Crouse, Richard Black, Donna Bard, Helen Mellott, Phyllis Deshong, Sally Johnston, Barbara Stahl, Bruce Harris, Helen Miller, Walter Grissinger, Raymond Snyder; fourth row: Pat Culler, Gerald Wible, Don Chubb, Charles Crouse, George Clouser, Mr. Enck, Bob Reeder, Charles Lake, Foster Schooley, Marvin Buterbaugh, Pat Cutchall.

Marriage licenses: Daniel J. O'Donnell of New Orleans, La., and Cleo M. Bailey of Harrisonville; James N. Pressel of Harrisburg and Judy K. Mann of Fort Littleton.

February 16 Susan M. Keiper and Gerald E. Quimby were united in holy matrimony in Trinity Lutheran Church, Hagerstown. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Keiper, McConnellsburg. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Quimby, Simpsonsville, Md.

Second Lt. Judy Strait, R.N., of Litterman General Hospital of California is home on a few days vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Strait and Terry of Harrisonville. On returning she goes on tour of duty in Vietnam.

Mr. and Mrs. David Cook of Hustontown announce the birth of a daughter, their first child, in Fulton County Medical Center on February 26. Mrs. Cook is the former Linda Heefner.

Births at the Medical Center: a son to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boggs, Mercersburg, on February 15; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Briggs, Mercersburg, on February 26; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Francis McCarty of Hancock on February 23; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yohn of Huntingdon on February 24; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller of McConnellsburg on February 26.

Specials at the local A&P: round steak, 89 cents lb.; Maxwell House coffee, 14-oz. jar, \$1.99; Jane Parker potato chips, 59 cents, 1-lb. bag.

Men in service: Airman William H. Woodal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Woodal of Needmore, has completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He has been assigned to Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois for training in aircraft maintenance.

Engagement: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cromwell of Three Springs wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Deloris Maw Cromwell, to John H. Mills, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Mills, also of Three Springs.

Mrs. Paul MacDonis was called to Scranton on Thursday due to the death of her father.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mann moved on Saturday from Fort Littleton to the apartment on East Market Street, recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Richards who have taken up residence in their newly built home south of town.

Deaths: Joseph B. Seylar, McConnellsburg; Mrs. Andrew Fisher, Philadelphia; Mrs. Jan Betty Melius, Fort Littleton; Arnold J. Chaney, Hopewell; Mrs. Mary Ethel Peterson, Burnt Cabins; Mrs. Emma L. Barnett, Hustontown.

### 50 Years Ago

From The Files Of March 5, 1959

'59 One of the "boners" that are forever cropping up in newspapers will be seen in the "News" this week. The dates on four pages were not corrected, thus bear last week's date, even though they were printed this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Enck spent Saturday in Hershey, completing plans for the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Bandmasters Association, of which Mr. Enck is the president.

The people of this community were shocked on Tuesday night when word was circulated that a well-known local man had taken his own life. The victim of the self-inflicted gun wound was E. Carl (Alec) Fraker, tax collector of McConnellsburg for several years.

The property known as the Mosser home on the courthouse square and owned by Mrs. Helen MacKinlay, wife of the late Dr. E.H. MacKinlay, was purchased last week by Albert Foster, local attorney. The purchase price was not disclosed. Mr. Foster plans to move his law offices to the building, but no definite date has been sent for the move.

Parker E. Crouse, a graduate of the local school, has been selected by the Pennsylvania State University to receive a freshman honor prize in mathematics. He is the 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Crouse of McConnellsburg.

James E. McFadden of Harrisonville has been selected as a junior member of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Brattleboro, Vt. He was recognized for having done satisfactory dairy club work with registered Holsteins.

Sherd Mellott is laying the foundation for his new home at Needmore.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Himmel Keith of Hustontown on February 23; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Max Deshong of McConnellsburg on February 25; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schooley of McConnellsburg on February 27; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Deshong of McConnellsburg on February 28.

Deaths: Marshall Hixon of Crystal Spring; Joseph Benjamin Pittman of Thompson Township; Iley Mann Hiatt of Cumberland, Md; John F. Mackey of St. Thomas.

Fred Houck has returned to his home at New Grenada from the Medical Center, much improved in health. Miss Jean Barton of Hustontown was a patient for

several days in the Medical Center where she underwent surgery.

### 60 Years Ago

From The Files Of March 10, 1949

'49 Mrs. Albert King of Taylor Township is a patient in Everett Hospital, suffering from a fractured vertebrae in the neck which she received in a fall last Friday.

Ernest Harris is a patient in Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for observation.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Layton of Laidig announce the birth of a daughter on March 8.

Paul Powers of Warfordsburg died of a heart attack on Tuesday afternoon while fighting a brush fire, one-half mile west of Warfordsburg.

Death: Mrs. Roy Sipes of McConnellsburg.

The Hustontown juniors will present a play, "Take It Easy," on March 18 and 19. Taking part will be Rhea Funk, Joy Newman, Charles McElhaney, Donald Gracey, Ellis Yingling, Margaret Ramsey, Joanne Decker, Walter Knowle, Donald Zilch and Carl Stevens.

Mr. and Mrs. William Heefner, guests at the Methodist Home for the Aged at Tyrone, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on February 28.

James Frey Nelson Sr. of Littlestown was killed instantly in an automobile accident near Hanover on March 4.

### 70 Years Ago

From The Files Of March 9, 1939

'39 Deaths: Mrs. Arminda Cook of near Hustontown; William F. Berkstresser of near Waterfall; Samuel W. Bender, Waynesboro; Mrs. Mary E. Kalbfus of State College, widow of Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, the first secretary of the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Lester Gissing of Todd; Conrad Jacob Wink of Hancock; George L. Ritchey of Bedford County; Harry Eugene Gordon of near Cove Gap; Lucinda Laura Fritz of Sylvan.

Walter Lynch, formerly of McConnellsburg, died last Wednesday in the Princeton Hospital in Illinois. His wife who had been ill became suddenly worse and died just five days after the death of her husband.

Honey Boy's Minstrel, with a mixed cast, will be presented by the McConnellsburg Band on Friday evening.

According to a survey by the "Pennsylvania Farmers," Fulton County has one of the highest farm populations than any county in the state. Figures in the survey show that 9,230 persons in Fulton County are engaged in farm pursuits, practically the entire population for the county. The survey also shows there are 1,355 farms in Fulton County which produced a farm cash income of \$1,349,279 in 1938.

The Three Springs Band, under the direction of Arthur Rupert, will present a sacred concert on Sunday afternoon in the Wells Valley Methodist Church.

David Kerlin and Hazel Craig were married on March 1.

L.L. Cunningham of New Grenada has been appointed a notary public by Gov. Arthur H. James.

Thomas Morton has purchased the share owned by Max Stenger in Morton and Stenger's Men's Shop and will continue the business under the trade name of Morton's Men's Shop.

The first signs of South Penn Construction in Fulton County were seen on Monday night when the first of several large units passed through McConnellsburg on their way to the grading job near Hustontown. On Tuesday, a number of local men were signed up for work by unemployment compensation officials at the courthouse.

Application for a marriage license was made last week in Mercersburg by Hayward V. McLaughlin, 24, of Fort Loudon and Madeline B. Mellott, 24, of McConnellsburg.

Mrs. Walter Reed Sloan joined her husband in Harrisburg on Monday and on Tuesday attended a dinner given by the speaker of the House of Representatives and their wives. On Tuesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan attended a reception at the executive mansion at which Gov. James and his daughter were host and hostess.

On Thursday, the Ladies' Aid of Harrisonville met at the home of Mrs. Thomas Morton and quilted two quilts for Mrs. Libbie Sipes.

Born: a 10-pound son to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Shaw of Fairview on Saturday.

See FROM DAYS GONE BY, Page B2

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