

# School safeguards against super bug

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM  
Staff Reporter

A little bump can cause a lot of pain.

Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus, more commonly known as staph, quickly is becoming what is known as the super bug. CA-MRSA is a bacterium that is found in the nose or on the skin. Although most people carry the bacteria without having any symptoms, it can cause skin or soft tissue infections if CA-MRSA gets into a cut. Once this happens, a small pimple-like bump will appear, followed by swelling, redness, heat around the infection and extreme pain.

Brenda Higgins, Student Health Center director and family nurse practitioner, said people are terming CA-MRSA the super bug because it is extremely resistant to antibiotics.

"People today use antibiotics so frequently that CA-MRSA has built up a resistance to most antibiotics," she said. "... There are probably only two [antibiotics] that can treat MRSA now."

Higgins said that this year there have probably only been four or five students who have come into the health center who were diagnosed with CA-MRSA. These cases were not extremely serious because the infection had not yet reached the blood stream. The students with this infection had an incision cut into the area, which then drained the fluid from under the skin. The health center gave these students antibiotics to help the sore heal faster. Higgins said the most common way to treat the

infection is to make an incision and drain the fluid.

"We try to use antibiotics as little as possible because using these wouldn't guarantee that the infection would be cured," Higgins said.

Higgins said the people who are most likely to contract the infection are athletes, health club users, children and the elderly. She also said the best way to prevent the staph infection is by practicing frequent hand washing, taking a shower as soon as possible after exercise, cleaning the surfaces of exercise equipment before and after use and not sharing items such as razors or towels. Higgins said that if anyone is experiencing any symptoms of CA-MRSA, he or she should visit the health center or a doctor immediately.

"People in close contact using the same equipment are in the most danger of contracting infection," Higgins said. "The athletic department and recreation center here at Truman got on top of things and are using a lot of practices to stop the spread."

Sue Limestall, director of the Student Recreation Center, said several precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of CA-MRSA among students who use the rec center.

"We provide clean towels and disinfecting soap and water in spray bottles to wipe off the mats and equipment before and after each use," Limestall said.

Limestall also said that every night before the rec center closes, the exercise mats and weight and workout equipment are disinfected, and the upholstery of the chairs and



Senior Angie Prost, a Student Recreation Center employee, cleans a bench press Tuesday. Rec center members are taking extra precautions to prevent staph infections among those who use the facility.

couches are cleaned. Limestall said that by Nov. 15 the recreation center is expecting to have two hand sanitizer stations set up for public use outside the weight room and around the stairs in the lounge area. She said everything except the stands for the hand sanitizer stations have arrived.

"We want to make the recreation center more protected so people using it will have less risk of getting sick," Limestall said. Sophomore Elizabeth Esry said she knows exactly what it feels like to suffer from CA-MRSA and is an expert on how to treat the infection.

"I've had several on my legs, about three on my lower back and one on my hip," Esry said. "It was not awesome."

Esry said she contracted her first staph infection during the fall of her junior year of high school

and that one began to show up right after another over the next several months.

"I think I may have gotten it from my high school's weight room because I lifted and worked out on the mats," Esry said.

Esry said she thought the infections were ingrown hairs, so she didn't seek medical help and let the infections heal naturally.

"When [staph infection] started to drain, I would go through several Band-Aids in just a couple of hours," Esry said. "And when it was done draining there was just a big hole in my skin, and then they eventually healed. Now it's just a scar."

Esry said that if anyone gets this staph infection, he or she should make to be sanitary while it's healing and to visit a doctor as soon as possible.

## NEWS | In Brief

### Senate notices students' absence

Student Senate hosted its first open budget focus group meeting Monday to listen to students' ideas on how Senate should spend its money.

Senior Greg Wisa, senior senator and budget review committee chair, said no students showed up to the meeting. Senators were left to discuss the budget among themselves, he said.

Wisa said Senate decided to have the meeting because students had expressed concerns about some of the things the group has funded, such as its yearly retreat. Monday's forum was meant for students to voice their opinions on the Senate budget, he added.

"It now means we're flying blind and hoping whatever we come up with students will like," Wisa said of the absence of students Monday.

He said Senate will conduct a survey soon on TruView concerning students' thoughts on the topic. Students also always are free to contact senators with their concerns via the Student Senate Web site, he added.

### Kirkville man sentenced in meth case

Kirkville resident David Stewart is sentenced to 15 years in prison, according to a Friday press release. Mark Williams, Adair County prosecuting attorney, filed the charges against Stewart.

Members of the Adair County Sheriff's Department and Missouri State Highway Patrol arrested Stewart after searching a residence in Kirkville March 1. The officers conducted the search based on possible narcotic activity at the residence, according to the release.

The officers found Stewart in a bathroom with meth and other drug-related paraphernalia.

Stewart pleaded guilty to felony possession of methamphetamine July 3. The county then granted Stewart a term of probation and ordered him to complete a drug court program.

Stewart was ejected from the drug court program Sept. 17 due to his failure to follow the protocols and policies related to controlled substances and alcohol, according to the release.

### Farmer yields record soybean crop

Gov. Matt Blunt announced Tuesday that Kip Cullers of Joplin, Mo., has broken the world record for soybean production with a yield this year of 154.7 bushels per acre, according to a Tuesday press release. The previous record, which Cullers also held last year, was 139 bushels per acre.

Cullers is the co-owner and operator of K&K Farms and has been involved with farming for more than 20 years, according to the release.

In addition to soybeans, he grows livestock and manages more than 5,000 acres of corn, green beans, spinach, turnips and other crops.

Soybeans are the largest crop sector in the state, and Missouri ranks fifth nationally in acres of soybeans planted. In 2006, Missouri farmers produced more than 190 million bushels of soybeans, which totaled about \$1.2 billion in cash receipts, according to the release.

### Kirkville police investigate rape case

Kirkville Police Department responded to a report of a forcible rape Friday in Town and Country Trailer Park. The victim is a 17-year-old female, according to police documents.

Sgt. Steve Farnsworth said there have not yet been any arrests connected with the incident and that the investigation is ongoing.

"There is a suspect," Farnsworth said. "He has not been arrested yet. There are still some possible witnesses to interview."

He said police think the victim and suspect knew each other.

### Kirkville man is assaulted, hospitalized

Kirkville resident Devin Blake, 31, was the victim of aggravated assault last Wednesday.

Kirkville Police Chief Jim Hughes said the department has a potential person of interest in the case, but the police are waiting for confirmation from Blake before proceeding further in the investigation.

Hughes said the department thinks one or more people broke into Blake's apartment and assaulted him.

Blake's medical condition has prevented the department from speaking with him directly, although officers have spoken to witnesses of the incident.

Hughes said Blake sustained serious injuries during the assault and had to be airlifted out of Kirkville.

Investigation into the case is ongoing, Hughes said.

## Student Senate | In Brief

• Senate has not yet approved minutes from this week's meeting.

## DPS | Reports

11/10 **Sophomore Heidi Brockert was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**

# Student groups encourage voting

BY BONNIE BIRDSSELL  
Staff Reporter

Campus political organizations are trying to prove the strength of the ballot by gearing up for next November's presidential election.

Although there still is a year between now and then, the College Republicans, College Democrats and College Libertarians are taking active steps to interest fellow students and involve them in the political process.

"We're going to send a group of kids up to the Iowa Caucus," said junior Courtney Robbins, chairman of the University's chapter of the College Republicans.

Robbins said the group members would be working as volunteers for the Republican caucus, helping with tasks like phone banking. In past Republican campaigns, student volunteers participated in phone banking, going door to door, distributing literature and working parades.

"We plan trips to help out candidates," Robbins said.

She said that along with sending members to the Iowa Caucus, the organization will continue to do what it has done for past elections: voter registration drives, absentee ballot drives and other outreaches such as campaigning for candidate ap-

pearances on campus.

Bringing presidential candidates to campus will not be a possibility until after the primary election, however, because of the College Republicans' constitution.

"We do have a clause in our constitution that says we are not allowed to endorse a candidate as an organization until after the primaries," Robbins said. "We've got a lot of Ron Paul supporters in our group. We've got some [Mike] Huckabee people. We've got some [John] McCain people."

Robbins said that currently the organization is trying to bring a debate to campus between incumbent Gov. Matt Blunt and gubernatorial candidate Jay Nixon in hopes of generating interest among students.

The College Democrats also are working to get people to the polls.

"We just want people to vote," said senior Sam Hodge, national political director of the College Democrats of America. "We don't care if you're Republican or

Democrat. That's not what matters. We just want people to participate because we all have a vested interest in the outcome of the election."

Hodge said the College Democrats will host a voter registration drive the week of Nov. 26 on the Quad in hopes that the location will encourage students to register who otherwise might not have.

"We're going to make it easy and simple for people to vote," Hodge said. "At the event we're going to say if you register to vote, you get a cup of hot chocolate."

Hodge said the College Democrats also are planning campaigns to inform students about its candidate once it chooses one. Like the organization's Republican counterpart, the College Democrats are not allowed to

support one candidate as an organization until after the primaries.

However, Hodge said he has never been as happy with the field of candidates as he is for this election. He said the important part

right now is not so much the candidates, but the issues being debated.

"I think our primary goal is to focus on specific issues that are important, that students care about, like ending the war in Iraq and highlighting how Democrats are better than Republicans on that issue," he said.

College Libertarians also are hoping to bring out students, both to vote and to its meetings. The group reformed recently after a hiatus and already is gaining members.

"We're rebuilding," junior Vice President Kevin Haynie said. "We had College Libertarians a few years ago, and it really fell apart to some extent."

Haynie said the organization has grown from three members at its first meeting to somewhere between eight and 12 currently.

Sophomore Justin Logan, president of the College Libertarians and the person Haynie said was the driving force behind the group's rebirth, said libertarian views are a mix between those of Democrats and Republicans.

"[Libertarianism] is basically a critique of government involvement in the economy and people's lives," Logan said. "We just think that the government is usually inef-

ficient and ineffective."

As a group, the College Libertarians support Ron Paul and are launching a strong campaign to support him.

"I don't think we have anybody in our group who's not trying to get Ron Paul elected," Haynie said.

Logan said Ron Paul connects with those who may feel disconnected from or neglected by the current political system.

"[Paul] has a ton of support online, and that's largely youth-driven," Logan said. "[Young people] can blog. They can get on Facebook. ... I think the youths that were disenfranchised feel a connection and they're doing something about it."

As far as campus-wide campaigning goes, both Logan and Haynie said they have big plans for the coming year. Haynie said his organization currently is supporting a group called Missouri Citizens for Property Rights by signing petitions and raising awareness. The group also plans to spread the word about Ron Paul.

"We're thinking about getting a discussion panel together, maybe a debate, a concert, just a bunch of events to get people interested in politics and get them involved," Logan said. "That's basically what we're about."

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National Political Director  
of the College Democrats  
of America

## Index Classifieds

Rates: On-Campus: \$3 per ad per issue. Under 25 words.  
Off-Campus: \$5 per ad per issue. Under 25 words.

660-785-4319  
Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

### For Rent

**For Rent:** Behrman Rentals is offering a selection of two-, three- and four-bedroom houses close to Truman campus. All homes offer off-street parking, washer and dryers, and many have central air. These are well-maintained rentals and are available for May 2008. Call Jeff Behrman, owner-agent, at 660-626-7598 or visit [housesinkirkville.com](http://housesinkirkville.com).

**For Rent:** One-, two-, three-, four-, five-, and six-bedroom apartments and houses for the 2008 school year. Call 660-216-1179.

**For Rent:** Now renting for 2008-09. "White Apartments" (across from O.P. and two great locations. Nice one-, two-, three-, and four-bedrooms.) Call 627-2060 for information and appointment.

### For Rent

**For Rent:** Renting nice two-bedroom house for next semester (available sooner if needed). 1 1/2 blocks from campus. WD. Call 660-341-6947.

**For Rent:** Attention, professional students: Multiple high quality two- and three-bedroom modern apartments with countless amenities currently available for May 2008 and August 2008 leases. Locations are all in established safe residential/rental progressive areas of the city. These beautiful complexes are all electric and are geared for professional conscientious individuals who place a high emphasis on safety, privacy, and an attractive surrounding less than a five-minute commute from campus. Please call 626-7695 for details. Student references gladly given on request.

### For Rent

**For Rent:** Enjoy living on your own in this spacious three-bedroom house. New beautiful cabinetry, new appliances, new bathrooms, washer/dryer. LARGE bedrooms. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

**For Rent:** Looking for lots of space? Here's a six- to seven-bedroom building. All new cabinetry, new appliances, new bathrooms, washer/dryer and walking distance to campus. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

**For Rent:** Super nice four- and five-bedroom houses. New cabinetry, new appliances, beautiful bathrooms, large bedrooms, washer/dryer, nice flooring too. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

**For Rent:** Very nice one- and two-bedroom houses and apart-

### For Rent

ments. Extra nice kitchens with new appliances, carpeting, renovated bathrooms. Pets welcome upon approval. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

**For Rent:** Two, two-bedroom basement apartments. Landlord furnishes washer/dryer, lawnmower, refrigerator and pays utilities. Two showers. Near Stokes Stadium: one-block east. No big noise, smoking or pets. \$235 per renter. Call 660-258-3791.

**For Rent:** New one-, two-, three-bedroom apartments. June & August contracts. All with washers, dryers, central heat & air, and private parking. Other two-, to four-bedroom houses available all within two blocks of campus. 660-627-5437 or 660-341-5538.

**For Rent:** 901 S. Haliburton, three-, to four-bedroom, central heat, electric heat, window a/c, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. One block from campus. Available June 1. \$750/month. 660-349-8552.

### For Rent

**For Rent:** One-bedroom furnished apt. available Jan. 1, with washer / dryer, walk-in closet, AC, off-street parking and two blocks from TSU. No pets. Also leases avail. for May and August. Call 660-488-6465.

### Now Hiring

**Now Hiring:** Market research interviewers. Part-time work, flexible scheduling, \$7.50/hr starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 within 90 days. Interviewing at the Missouri Career Center (MCCC campus), Mondays 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further info., call 660-626-1500.

### Wanted

**Wanted:** Two female sublessers needed for spring semester in four-bedroom apartment on High St. Two blocks from campus. \$225/month plus utilities. 314-960-3178 or [Imp547@truman.edu](mailto:Imp547@truman.edu).

### Wanted

**Wanted:** Two to three sublessers for apartment in Vista Heights spring '08. Two-bedroom, one bath, clean and spacious, new carpeting. Rent negotiable. [cpr902@truman.edu](mailto:cpr902@truman.edu) or 816-225-1236.

**Wanted:** Free room and board in exchange for part-time big brother or sister for my son, age 11. I work rotating shifts. Contact Sgt. Crouse, KPD 660-341-1817 or 660-785-6945, ext 19.

**Miscellaneous:** Can We Know God? "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3 Lake Road Chapel 22963 Potter Trail Sun. 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. [lakeroadchapel.org](http://lakeroadchapel.org). Call 660-349-0766.

**Miscellaneous:** FREE GARDASIL at Planned Parenthood. Be one less life affected by cervical cancer. Call 1-800-230-PLAN or visit [www.plannedparenthood.org/trpp](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/trpp). Services nondiscriminatory.