

**WJBD**1350 AM  
100.1 FM

News, Sports, Weather, and More Online and On-Air



Updated: Today @ 9:56:37 pm

Dow 8574.65 +164.80 1.96%

Nasdaq 1739.00 +22.76 1.31%

S&amp;P 500 929.23 +21.84 2.40%

Markets closed

Updated: Today 9:47 pm

Clear  
63°FHumidity: 93%  
Wind: Calm

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## Local News Story:

» **Area woman honored for her work with Lyme disease**

5/8/09 @ 2:51:08 pm

A Centralia woman is working hard to keep people informed about the dangers of Lyme disease, and her hard work has paid off, resulting in three awards for her work on the subject. Dottie Heffron was honored by the Physician's Roundtable for her advocacy work on behalf of people afflicted with Lyme Disease. She also received awards for a Power Point presentation she made about the disease as well as a website about it.

Heffron wants to make sure that what happened to her doesn't happen to anyone else. About four years ago, she was bitten by a tick. She knew something was wrong with her, but doctor visit after doctor visit and test after test didn't reveal anything.

"Then, I got on the Internet when I got back to my office, and I looked up Lyme Disease and I saw what was really going on. Then I stopped crying and I was mad. I was so mad that they were letting this happen. That was probably doctor number 30 that I had gotten back from," said Heffron.

Heffron wants the Center for Disease Control to take a closer look at Lyme Disease and how its treated.

"I really just want to get this out into the light. Our hospitals don't even test for it around here. You have to make them do it. If I have to stand out at the hospitals with my entourage of people who are helping me, then that's what I'll do," said Heffron.

Heffron has gone to the state for help, and has even gotten Pat Quinn to proclaim May 2009 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Heffron encourages people to not be afraid of the outdoors, but to wear light clothing and check for ticks. She also says if you're bitten to ask for a Lyme Disease test to be done.

You can view her website, and her Power Point, by going online to [illinoislyme.com](http://illinoislyme.com).