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## Hammons: Principal of the Year



Gerald Hammons accepts his Principal of the Year from District PTA board member, Je Ann Wylie, with shock and surprise. — Heather Mathes Photo

**By Heather Mathes**  
**"Of Course, Every Year"**  
 Many times principals go unthanked for the valuable services they provide often on their own time, all year long. Not so for Nicholas County Elementary School Principal, Gerald Hammons.

At the Seventh District Parent Teachers' Association Hammons was awarded, out of all the district principals which included his Lexington area, the prestigious Principal of the Year.

Hammons has a long record of dedication to the field of education.

He began his education at Cumberland College for a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education.

Hammons continued at Xavier of Ohio as a Master's Degree, attended Miami of Ohio as a post graduate and secured a rank one at the University of Kentucky.

He still attends administration classes to update himself and to keep in step with the ever changing programs in the education and administration fields.

Hammons is very active in all programs at NCEES according to Brenda Mattox, membership chairman for the local PTA.

"In my opinion, he really cares about the kids and is always there for them when they need him most," said Mattox.

"Plus, I can go to him with just about anything and he will listen, always objective," Mattox added.

The principals were judged upon their attributes listed in the letters of nomination written by a selected individual from their local PTAs.

Je Ann Wylie, on the board of the seventh District PTA, helped judge the group.

Wylie said, "In many of the recommendations enough could not be said of the good these principals have done for their communities and in the schools."

"Time was donated by these men and women on their own time as well as during the school day."

"The principals were first rated by a board of non-partial judges from Kentucky's new

industrial plant, Toyota, that decided to lend a hand," she said.

Each attribute, or what they felt were attributes, were rated on a scale of one to 10 and the total determined placement for the award.

All the principals were found to be fantastic at their job and unselfish to a fault, but Mr. Hammons receives the award for principal of the year," Wylie concluded.

In her nominating letter, Mattox said, "Mr. Hammons often tells me that the chair in his office should have my name in it because I sit in it so often."

"But that would be more than appropriate because I feel very comfortable in his chair."

In a word, all agreed that Hammons summed the image of a model educator who gives more to a job than his skills, but gives of himself.

"Mr. Hammons has an open door policy to anyone that has a problem, a positive suggestion or just something that they would like to comment on."

"Finally, he has a way of making the impossible possible and inevitably just finds a way," Mattox summarized.

Hammons was proud, although shocked, about the deserving award and promises to continue serving Nicholas County in the same fashion that brought him principal of the year.

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Nicholas County Elementary PTA is Also Honored  
 See Story Inside This Week

## Disease may cause herd eradications; Nicholas farmers will be affected

**From Staff and AP Dispatches**  
**FRANKFORT, Ky.** — New regulations proposed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture would require the slaughter of all cattle herds infected with brucellosis.

According to Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ward "Buck" Burnette, Kentucky would become the first state to require that herds eradicate the disease. Previous efforts have been voluntary.

Nicholas County Extension Agent for Agriculture Mike Phillips says the real problem is getting no better.

As of January 1, 1987, there were 10,500 mature beef cows in Nicholas County, according to statistics available to Phillips.

"As far as the actual brucellosis program, we're no further ahead now than we were 35 to 40 years ago."

Phillips said education may really be the key.

"The state has a technician, who will come to the farm and work with the herd at no charge. All you need is a gate in front of the pen so he can back his equipment up to it and he will work with the herd and vaccinate, at the state's expense."

The new law is very specific, Phillips pointed out. If one animal is found in a herd to be infected, the entire herd will have to be destroyed.

"We have had a program in place for many years concerning brucellosis, but there's no way of solving the problem."

"We have many farmers who don't want to accept the fact there could be a problem with the herd, and that it's costing the farmers money."

"There's no way to tell for sure, without testing," he continued.

Transmission of brucellosis normally occurs following birth of a calf, either stillborn or a miscarriage of an immature fetus.

It can be transmitted by the fluids and after-birth in the birthing area.

"One real myth among many farmers is that once an animal has brucellosis it cannot have a calf. That is not true."

"Many farmers will just say the

is not likely of strong because of complications during pregnancy, when in reality the mother is infected."

Although not serious, the disease can be passed on to humans. While not normally fatal if detected and treated, it should still be a concern, Phillips said.

"If a calf is born dead, then that animal should be taken to the diagnostic center in Lexington for testing. The only charge to the farmer is the cost of transporting the animal to Lexington," Phillips said.

"Without vaccination," Phillips concluded, "the only answer will be herd eradication."

Anyone wishing additional information should contact Phillips at the Nicholas County Extension Office, 208 S.W. 222.

Brucellosis, also called Bang's Disease, causes reproductive problems and abortion in cattle and causes undulant fever in humans.

The State Board of Agriculture was expected to consider the proposed regulations at its meeting today. The rules would require that any cattle herd that is not completely vaccinated and that becomes infected must be sent to slaughter within 90 days after an order from the state.

Any herd that is completely vaccinated and that suffers a brucellosis infection that affects 50 percent or more of the herd would also have to be slaughtered.

In a release, Burnette said the quick elimination of the disease is crucial to Kentucky's cattle industry.

He noted federal funds for control of brucellosis are scheduled to run out in 1990 and states that have a low incidence of the disease are threatening to blacklist cattle from states where brucellosis is still prevalent.

## The curtain goes up

**By Heather Mathes**  
**"Of Course, Every Year"**  
 Spread the news—the curtain goes up tonight!

Tonight, (Thursday) Nicholas County Drama Club takes part in the last in the general public presentation of the spring drama, *Pump and Circumstances*.

The time is here when all the hard work of learning lines, rewriting through stage directions and getting just that right look and gesture together pays off for members whose dream is real.

The event will be held in the Nicholas County High School (Thursday) with an admission fee of \$2 per person to cover costs of costumes, scenery and general expense of the production.

The following day the presentation will be viewed by the Junior High at 8:00 a.m. and the Senior High at 1:30 p.m.

*Pump and Circumstances*, directed and sponsored by Catherine Conroy involves: Anna Conroy, Neal Kestelnie, Carol Bond, Timmy Dailly, Arnold Payne,

Rocky Dale, Tracy Howland, Tony Gray, Tracy Manley, Chris Knapp, Teresa Oakley, Janie Mahery, Shannon Eskier, Cindy Clark, Pat Dale, Tim Harmon, Elizabeth Dill, Julie Hamilton, Cyndi Miller, Arveda Bean, Ellen Dale and Cyndi Miller.

All support and attendance by the community, parents, friends and other relatives will be greatly appreciated by all those involved in or with the play.

Plus, meet a packed crowd on opening night may make the production's showing all the more special.

**Shared Services: A way to combat rising medical care costs**

**By Chip Miller**  
**"Of Course, Every Year"**  
 Everybody is aware the cost of medical attention has skyrocketed in the United States in the past few years.

For smaller medical facilities, like the Nicholas County Hospital, the rising expense sometimes limits the amount of technology physicians have at their disposal for diagnostic purposes.

Thus, the creation of certain mobile shared services have sprung up to cater to many of these smaller facilities who wouldn't otherwise have such expensive technology.

The Nicholas County Hospital is one facility utilizing such services.

"We do this to provide things to our patients that we couldn't previously afford and have," said Bob Hester, Nicholas County Hospital administrator.

Hester said the hospital contracts out to other companies mobile services used at the local health facility for diagnostic purposes.

The hospital has four such mobile units.



The Nicholas County Fire Department van was hit head on as it responded to a fire on Collier Road, April 1. The van driven by Eddie Earlywine and a 1987 Chevrolet driven by Janet Campbell were both totaled. The Chevrolet apparently went out of control and crossed the line. Steve Vance, a passenger in the fire department van, was admitted to Nicholas County Hospital for observation and released, Sunday. Earlywine and Campbell had no visible injuries. — Hank Bond Photo



Nicholas County Volunteer Firemen battle a blaze at the home of Billy Sexton on Collier Road. Gary Hughes (left) and Calvin Denton do battle on the blaze, which destroyed the two story dwelling. — Heather Mathes Photo

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