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Hammons warns parents of student substance abuse

By Josh Shephard
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — At a Monday night meeting of the Nicholas County Elementary School PTA, School Principal Gerald Hammons warned parents that there have been reports some school children may be deliberately inhaling toxic substances.

Hammons implored parents to speak to their child about the hazards of such activity.

"We have received reports that students are deliberately concentrating the fumes from White Out, Airplane Glue, and worse, Nail Polish Remover, in a paper bag and sniffing it," Hammons said before a crowd of parents, teachers and children in the school cafeteria.

The purpose of the meeting Monday evening was primarily for parents to meet with teachers and inform parents about an upcoming site based management council vote Thursday.

However, before parents went to meet with teachers in the classrooms, Hammons stood before parents to inform them of recent events involving the confiscation of prescription medicines at school and dispelled erroneous rumors that have circulated since the incident took place.

According to Hammons, there were, fortunately, no reports of adverse side effects from ingestion of the pills. But the possibility that children may have had a serious allergic reaction to them was very real and should be a concern not only of the school, but by the parents themselves.

"What this building is full of is precisely what is brought

into this building in the morning when children leave home. It is all our responsibility to address this problem. The blame cannot simply be placed on the school system or forgotten. We will do what we can when they are in school, but parents must be involved — here and at home," Hammons said.

As a preventive and precautionary measure, Hammons suggested parents discard medicines they no longer use but may still be in the house.

Far more serious, and potentially fatal, has been the report of students inhaling fumes from glue, white out, and nail polish remover.

Hammons said teachers and school administration have been watching for this dangerous practice at school and advised parents to do the same. The effect of these fumes, when concentrated and inhaled, is the immediate destruction of brain cells. Warning labels printed on various products have stated the practice to be potentially fatal.

"Be aware of what your children are doing. Take nothing for granted. If there is no reason for your family to have these substances in the home and you find them, talk to your children. Warn them of the dangers. But most importantly, I ask you to be as involved with them as possible," Hammons said.

In answer to one parent's question, Hammons said the elementary school will have the drug abuse prevention program, DARE, sponsored by the Kentucky State Police, beginning in January.



Past meets present

With a few significant differences, such as televisions, video cameras, fashions, road signs, and a 35 mph speed limit, Carlisle looks much the same as it did 100 years ago when such classic roadsters were more commonplace. Thanks to the visit by the Golden Antique Car Tour which passed through and made stops in Carlisle last Monday morning, Carlisle appeared almost transformed. Help bring the past and present together by visiting the members of Carlisle/Nicholas County Tourism, Inc. dressed in period costume to welcome the drivers.

Miller criticizes Governor's health reform plan

By Josh Shephard
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Governor Brereton Jones' Health Care Reform plan has been the focus of more questions than applause during his campaign to bring it before the Kentucky Cabinet of Human Resources, one of the principal goals of the Governor's Health Care reform plan is medical insurance.

Dan Miller, chief administrator with Johnson Mathers Health Care in Nicholas County, commented recently that the Governor's reform plan proposes to treat rural Kentucky residents as second class citizens.

Miller described the proposed reform plan as illogical and impractical.

brimming with ideas that contradicted one another, and in practice, appears to raise the cost of rural health care while cutting down on quality and service availability. According to a recent press release from the Kentucky Cabinet of Human Resources, one of the principal goals of the Governor's Health Care reform plan is medical insurance.

"Universal access to affordable medical insurance health care 'mega-pool' in the commonwealth by which Kentucky will become a model for the rest of the nation as well as the federal government," Jones said.

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Burgoo anyone?

Flooper McCarty relaxes after a day of preparing his famous black iron kettle burgoo for members and friends of the Central Kentucky Fishermen's Association at Clay Wildlife all last week. Besides excellent burgoo, the hunt featured over 200 hounds released in the first morning cast on Thursday morning.

By Josh Shephard
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Nominations for parent and teacher positions on the soon to be formed Elementary School Site Based Management Council were closed last Wednesday with four parents and seven teachers nominated for one of five places.

Elections for council positions will be held Thursday, according to Elementary School Principal Gerald Hammons.

The Site Based Council for the elementary school was approved overwhelmingly in the school by a majority vote of faculty members several weeks ago and since, Hammons said, nominations for a position on the council have been steadily coming in.

There are openings for three teachers and two parents and their responsibilities as decision makers at the school are considerable, he said.

Elections for the three teacher positions will be held Thursday afternoon immediately following the regular

class session, he said. Voters are limited to the elementary school faculty, he added.

Seven teachers, he said, have been nominated: Sandy Sweeney, Charly Griffith, Ann Baird, Brenda Lawrence, Pat Atkinson, Health Clay, and Sue Denton.

The two parent positions will be decided at 7 p.m. Thursday night at a special meeting of the school's PTA. Nominations are: Jim Galbraith, Jimmy Dale, Vickie Fleming, and Debbie Minton.

The Site Based Council is limited to members of the elementary school faculty whose children are currently students at the school. Parents who wish may join the PTA Thursday night prior to the election process, Hammons said.

All voters must present their membership card to vote. Of the four nominees, two chosen must have a majority of the entire voting membership. The two highest

vote getters is not sufficient until the parent positions are filled, he said.

Once a Site Based Management Council has been elected, the first order of business will be to decide when the council should activate.

According to Nicholas County School Board policy, Hammons said, site based council terms are for one year and run from July to July. If the council desires to activate early, around January, Hammons said, members would face a shortened office term.

"If we decide to start this term, we need to submit a written request to the school board requesting they make an exception for this particular council.

"The rationale for July to July terms makes sense because July marks the beginning of the new fiscal year. But as to the question of when to officially begin work, I won't know until after the elections," Hammons said.