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Perry County Fiscal Court to purchase property in Rowdy to help tourism

By KATIE KELLEY
STAFF WRITER

During the Nov. 9 Perry County Fiscal Court meeting, fiscal court members approved the purchase of 10 plus acres of property from Lisa Fugate for the Rowdy Trailhead and Campground project. The check, said officials, will not be issued until the deed is signed.

"What we're looking at here is to buy some property down at Rowdy - it's a beautiful piece of property - and be able to connect our 4-wheeler trails to Breathitt County and Knott County, and have campground sites as well," said Perry County Judge-Executive Scott Alexander. "We know this

tourism is growing. We can already see what Knott County, Breathitt County, Harlan and some of the communities are doing, and we're a little bit behind in getting in on the 4-wheelers but we're getting there as fast as we can. This will really help us connect with them and start attracting tourism dollars here."

Once purchased, said Alexander, the property will probably be set up similar to Eagle's Landing, and the county will create the campground then lease it out for someone to run.

A motion was made and seconded, and all court members approved the purchase of 10 plus acres of property for the Rowdy Trailhead and Campground project.

Perry BOE approves 2021-2022 improvement plan

By KATIE KELLEY
STAFF WRITER

During the Nov. 16 Perry County Board of Education meeting, board members discussed the 2021-2022 Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP). For the 2021-2022 CDIP, many goals were similar to those set during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This year we have six district goals; five of them are set by the state so every district in the state has the first five goals," said Perry County Assistant Superintendent Kristi Gorman. Those goals, she said, are related to increasing proficiency in academics.

"Our last goal that we chose to add is that our students are in a safe, trauma informed classroom," said Gorman. "We put a lot of work into that this year especially during COVID and this pandemic," she said.

The goals, said Gorman, include increasing proficiency in reading and



Hazard Herald photo by Katie Kelley

The Perry County Schools District approved its Comprehensive District Improvement Plan for 2021-2022.

increasing proficiency in math, while also increasing proficiency in science as their next chosen focus for academic indicators; making sure students stay proficient from grade to grade; focusing on the gap in the special education population; making sure students graduate transition ready (college and career ready); and focusing on the social and emotional wellness of students (having training sessions for how teachers should handle trauma).

"We understand this is the most crucial year our students have ever faced," said Gorman, stating that the BOE knows students and staff have all been through a lot during the pandemic. The board, she said, has put in a lot of training and tried to invest wisely during this time.

Perry County School District Superintendent Jonathan Jett said the school officials are also considering other methods to help students combat the academic and social regression stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You can tell some kids

have been isolated for far too long by the way they interact and things of that nature, and it's sad," said Jett. "We're doing what we can."

"We're looking to hire some mental health clinicians next year for a couple of years," he said, adding that the BOE hopes to get more resources to help with those issues and wants the staff to be more trauma informed and approach students as if there has been trauma. "That in and of itself deescalates a lot of situations, it gives you a different perspective."

The main highlights of the CDIP, said Gorman, are that the BOE will be purchasing new reading and math textbooks for schools, will be putting instructional coaches in schools, will put three to four weeks of professional development in all subjects and will put a lot of focus on RTI and which children need additional support.

A motion to accept the proposed CDIP was made and seconded, and all board members voted, "Yes."



Hazard Herald photo by Katie Kelley

In an annual tradition, students and staff of Hazard High School worked together to collect items to provide local families with food boxes for Thanksgiving.

HHS students, staff collect food boxes for families in need

By KATIE KELLEY
STAFF WRITER

Each year, the students and staff of Hazard High School collect items for Thanksgiving food boxes to donate to local families in need. This year, said school officials, the school is serving its highest number of families ever.

"It's for students and people in town. We've done it every year," said Donald "Happy" Mobelini, principal of HHS. "This year we've got more than ever," he said, stating that the school is providing food boxes to 50 families in need for Thanksgiving this year.

Family Resource Youth Service Cen-

ter (FRYSC) Director Helen Williams said this is a much higher number of families served this year.

"We did 35 last year," said Williams. "I think it's just because times are hard and we have more kids this year that are in need than we've ever had," she said.

Mobelini said every student brought in the school brought an item then the school supplied the items that weren't brought, so families would have everything needed for a holiday meal. "Everything they need for Thanksgiving is in the basket," said Mobelini.

Williams said half the boxes have already been delivered, and the rest will be delivered this week.

HPD: Knott County man found with large quantity of narcotics

A HAZARD HERALD
STAFF REPORT

A Knott County man was arrested on several charges, according to the Hazard Police Department, after officers responded to a call reporting someone was passed out in a vehicle in Hazard.

According to court documents, on Nov. 16, Officer Steve Everidge was investigating a vehicle on East Main Street on which the department had received a complaint that someone was passed out in

the vehicle and they were driving under the influence.

Officer John Holbrook wrote in the arrest citation that, upon arrival, he found Corey E. Skiles, 29, of Lower Mill Creek Road, Carrie, and a female in the back seat of the vehicle. The duo, the citation said, were "acting unusually nervous" and Skiles gave the officers false information.

The department deployed a K9 officer, who "alerted" several times to the

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