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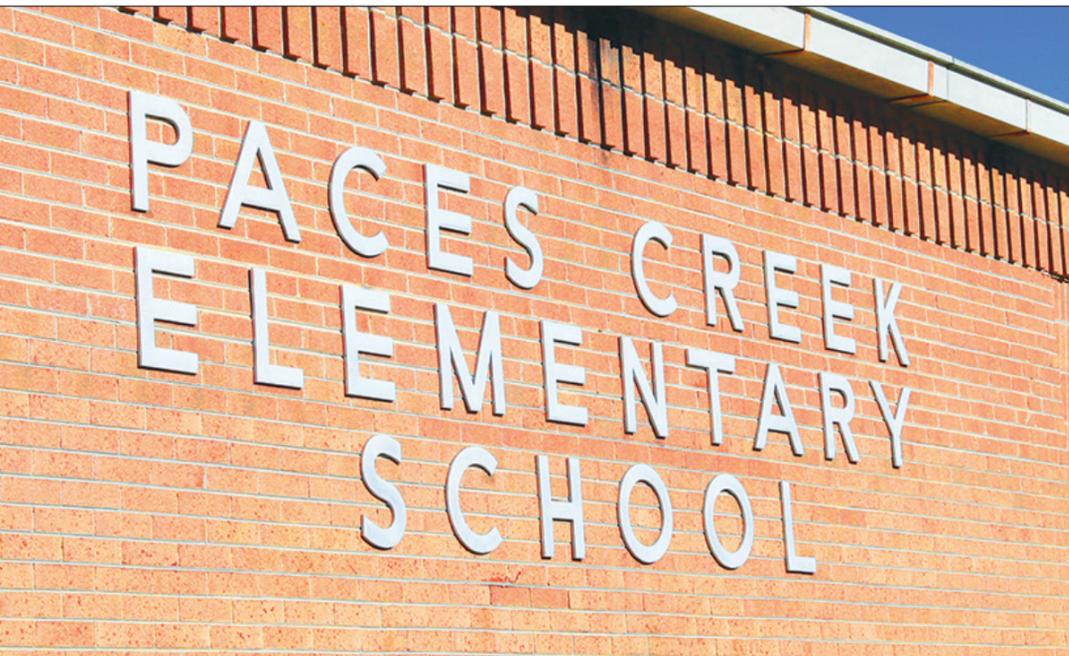
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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

\$1

“Paces Creek Elementary is our top priority now. The school was built in 1979, and we are at maximum capacity.”

WILLIAM SEXTON -- Clay Superintendent



The Board of Education is working to secure funding to renovate Paces Creek Elementary, built in 1979.

Paces Creek Elementary top priority in facilities plan

Board approves new facilities plan with Paces, Big Creek at top

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

Clay County Board of Education members approved their district facility plan during their monthly meeting.

The state requires each school district to submit a facilities plan showing their needs. Each school is listed with needs at a total cost of \$93 million.

Superintendent William Sexton says the most significant need in the district is the renovation of Paces Creek Elementary.

The renovation of the 43,000-square-foot facility is currently estimated at \$19,854,378. According to the plan, the estimate to construct a new Paces Creek Elementary is \$29,054,054.

“Paces Creek is our top priority now,” Sexton

said. “The school was built in 1979, and we are at max capacity.”

Bonds are usually sold to cover the expense of renovation or new construction for school districts. Clay County currently does not have enough bonding potential to cover the renovation.

DISTRICT NEEDS
Clay Co. submitted a facilities plan with \$93 million in needs to the state.

“Building the new technology center has utilized a large portion of our bonding potential,” chairman Mark Hoskins said. “We cannot use all of our potential as we may have an immediate need arise, such as a roof or HVAC failure.”

Hoskins says the board is working on several avenues to obtain funding for the Paces Creek renovation.

“Things are very preliminary right now, but we are hoping some funds will become available soon to help this school,” he said.

See **FACILITIES A6**

DRUG RAID JAILS ONE

MPD, Feds seize drugs, guns from Town Branch home

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

A Town Branch man is behind bars for federal charges following a raid at his home Monday night.

Stephon Lyttle, 30, was lodged in the Laurel County Detention Center on a federal drug indictment warrant, according to Manchester City Police Chief Jeff Couch.

The MPD collaborated on the raid with Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms,



STEPHON LYTLE

the Kentucky State Police, and the Clay County

See **LYTTLE A10**

NO SPRING BREAK

Harsh winter leads to spring break cancellation

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

Due to the excessive days missed, spring break has been canceled for the Clay County School District, according to Superintendent William Sexton.

“Our spring break, scheduled for March 24-28, will be canceled,” he said.

The district has missed 31 school days due to winter flooding and snow.

“It’s been one of the harshest winters since I’ve been superintendent,” Sexton said.

As a result, students’ last day of school will be June 3rd, and teachers’ last day will be June 9th.

However, if legislators pass a bill to allow school districts more allotted days, the end-of-school date will change.

“We will just have to wait and see what they (legislature) do, if anything,” Sexton added.

FINDING HOME AT FREEDOM HOUSE

One of the first graduates of VOA’s recovery program celebrates nearly five years of continued sobriety

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

In August 2020, a mother named Allison walked through the doors of a new recovery program in Clay County.

After spending most of her life battling substance use disorder, she suffered from severe depression and was desperate to change the course of her life and create a different, hopeful future for her 4-year-old daughter, Lilah.

“I was miserable. I didn’t care if I lived

or died,” Allison said. “I had to find my will to live. And that’s what I got at Freedom House.”

Freedom House, a nationally recognized recovery program offered by Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA), gave Allison the support she needed to understand the root cause of her addiction and learn how to be a sober, stable parent. VOA’s licensed clinical therapists used therapy to help her start her journey toward healing and recovery.

“I’m bipolar and I have generalized anxiety disorder, and they said I had PTSD



Allison has been five years sober and enjoying life with her daughter Lilah.

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