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Pikeville, KY

Judge cleared to return to bench after jury verdict

By Russ Cassady
Regional Editor

Pike Circuit Judge Howard Keith Hall has been cleared to return to the bench after a federal jury found him not guilty of charges of theft of government funds and mail fraud.

On Nov. 18, after a more

SEE CLEARED, PAGE 4A



News-Express photo by Russ Cassady

Pike Circuit Judge Howard Keith Hall returns to the bench on Nov. 20, two days after a federal jury found him not guilty of charges of theft of government funds and mail fraud. Hall was suspended from the performance of his duties as a judge after the charges were filed in April, but the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission ended the suspension on Nov. 19 in light of his acquittal.

Walk raises awareness of homelessness, hunger

By Russ Cassady
Regional Editor

Students with the JAG-KY programs at Mullins School and Pike Central High School joined members of the community on Nov. 19 to help raise awareness of homelessness and hunger issues locally.

The participants in the Feed the Need for Change Walk in Pikeville walked along Bypass Road, stopping at the WestCare Perry Cline Emergency Shelter, the community’s homeless shelter, where they learned about the services the shelter provides.

The week before Thanksgiving, according to shelter Prevention Specialist Rick Branham, is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Annually, Branham said, he has tried to do something to promote awareness of the issues in Pike County.

“Still, to this day, people don’t realize that we actually have a homeless shelter here in Pikeville,” Branham said.

The WestCare Perry Cline Emergency Shelter at 173 Redale Road in Pikeville houses men, women and families and can hold approximately 35 people, Branham said.

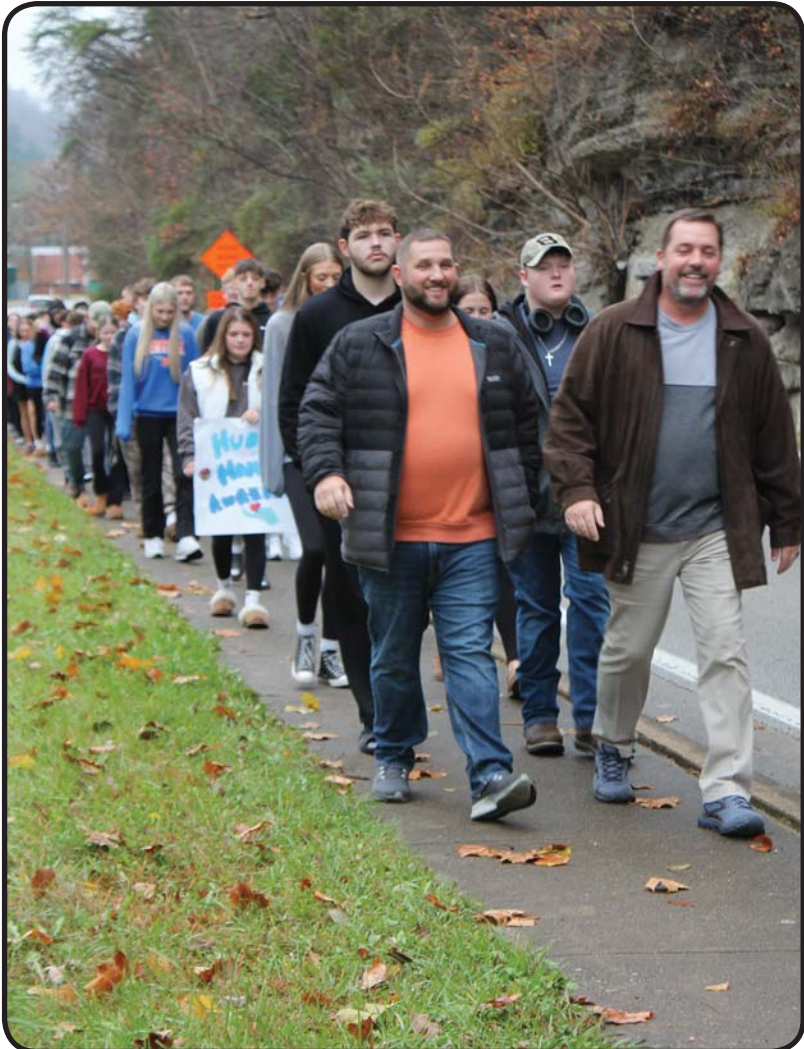
“This time of year, especially, the shelter is full,” he said. “As temperatures change, people need a place to go.”

Branham said many people are not aware of the issue’s impact locally.

“We do have hungry and homeless people here in Eastern Kentucky,” he

SEE WALK, PAGE 7A

Students from the JAG-KY program at Mullins School and Pike Central High School, along with members of the public, participated in the Feed the Need for Change Walk in Pikeville on Nov. 19, helping to raise awareness of homelessness and hunger in the community and donating food to the Perry Cline Emergency Shelter.



News-Express photos by Russ Cassady

Adkins ends campaign for judge-executive; taking over at SOAR

By Terry L. May
News Editor

The only person, as of yet, to file for the office of Pike County judge-executive is leaving the campaign trail on Nov. 21 — only two weeks after submitting his candidacy paperwork.

In an interview with the Appalachian News-Express on Nov. 19, Dr. Reed Adkins explained his decision to withdraw his name from the ballot.

“I filed Monday afternoon of last week,” Adkins said. “I had an unbelievable and overwhelming amount of support for the

fact that I considered running for county judge. To be honest, I was humbled by what I saw and had in relation to that.

“A couple of days later, I got a phone call and was notified that the executive director’s job at SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region) was open and wanted to

know if I was interested,” he continued. “I told them the timing was terrible and I was not interested because I had filed for the judge-executive’s position.”

Adkins said the conversation ended there. However, he was

SEE ADKINS, PAGE 4A

Pikeville Independent ranks high in assessments

By Russ Cassady
Regional Editor

Pikeville Independent Schools officials said that the recently released Kentucky Summative Assessment results show good things for the district and are the result of an en-

tire community working toward educational success.

According to the data, Pikeville Independent, on a scale classified from red (the lowest performance) to blue (the highest performance),

SEE ASSESSMENTS, PAGE 9A

Pike Schools show significant improvement

By Terry L. May
News Editor

As the first nine weeks of the current academic year are over and students were given their report cards, individual school districts have also received their annual report cards with Pike County performing very well.

The Kentucky Department of Education released its annu-

al assessment report for schools and school districts across the commonwealth on Nov. 19. That report shows that for the first time since the current assessment model has been in use all Pike County Schools are categorized as “Green” or higher.

The model currently employed by KDE uses a

SEE IMPROVEMENT, PAGE 9A

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