

0% APR for 36 Months WAC

Creg Damron FURNITURE
606-433-0595
199 Hibbard St., Pikeville

APPALACHIAN NEWS-EXPRESS

THE CONSCIENCE OF EASTERN KENTUCKY
Formerly The Pike County News and The Appalachian Express
www.news-expressky.com

7-Month CD Special
3.89% APY*
Community Trust Bank

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 02/01/2026 and applies to the initial term of your CD. Minimum balance to open and obtain APY is \$1,000. APY assumes interest is credited quarterly and remains on deposit until maturity. At maturity, the CD will automatically renew for the same term, at the interest rate and APY in effect at that time. Member FDIC

VOLUME 113, NUMBER 14 • 20 PAGES February 17-19, 2026 \$1.00; MAIL DELIVERY 58 CENTS Pikeville, KY

Relax with a massage

China Massage

Call for appointment
(606) 939-2620
3767 N Mayo Trail, (Coal Run Village) Pikeville

EHC Integrity Extended Healthcare
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

- Primary Care
- Hormone Replacement
- Weight Loss
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Aesthetics

1098 S. Mayo Trail, RH Group Building, 3rd Floor, Suite 303, Pikeville
Call 606-898-2478
to see a Board Certified Physician

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength

JW Call & Son Funeral Home
Gary K. Justice, Owner
703 Hambly Blvd, Pikeville
jwcallfuneralhome.com
437-6228

INDEX

Classifieds	4B
Comics	5B
Entertainment	6B
Kid's Corner	7B
Obituaries	6A
Opinion	5A
Sports	1B



News Express photo by Terry L. May
More than 200 people attended the Pike County Fiscal Court meeting on Feb. 16 to discuss issues concerning a proposed landfill. Attendees were not allowed to comment because the meeting was deemed "a special meeting," but they were told that limited comments or questions would be accepted at the next meeting.

Fiscal court discusses landfill issues

By Terry L. May News Editor

The Pike County Fiscal Court discussed problems with the current county landfill and proposals concerning the future of solid waste options during a special meeting of the court Feb. 16.

all wanting to express concerns about a proposed new landfill in the Dor-ton/Myra area. However, they were not allowed to speak because the meeting was deemed a special meeting and public comment was not on the agenda. Public meeting laws allow members of the court to discuss non-agenda items as long as no action is taken.

attendees was that they "had been lied to" by a large number of people who used Facebook to spread false information. "You have been given a lot of erroneous information, and I am going to walk you through the entire process of where

we are, the history of the landfill, and what the fiscal court has done," Jones said. "Just be quite sure, the fiscal court has not voted to let a landfill come in. This will only allow a future landfill company to negotiate with the fiscal court.

Jones was referring to a recent RFP (Request for Proposals) issued by the fiscal court allowing what he termed "an exploration" of using a private landfill company. This has been met with

See LANDFILL, Page 5A

That discussion continued for more than an hour and a half and included a PowerPoint presentation from USA Waste Management LLC, which is exploring the possibility of establishing a landfill at the location of a former surface mine. The court's meeting room swelled with more than 200 spectators, overflowing into the hallway,

Pike County Judge-Executive Ray S. Jones II told those attending that the matter would be placed on the agenda for the March 3 meeting, at which time limited comments or questions from the public would be permitted. Jones' message to



Photo courtesy Gov. Andy Beshear's office
Gov. Andy Beshear walks across the muddy parking lot of the Weddington Plaza in Coal Run in Pike County during a visit to tour flooded areas and meet with local officials on Feb. 17, 2025.

By Gary Slone Staff Writer

After suffering residential and commercial losses, the City of Coal Run is rebounding one year after a devastating flood event. "I heard a lot of naysayers in the beginning saying you'll never get built back, but building back is exactly what

we have done," Coal Run Mayor Andrew Scott said. "We've come a long way, as we have seen homes rebuilt and families back in those homes, and I'm proud of where we are now. "We've had a lot of fights and hard work with FEMA and it seems that all but two of our projects will

See COAL RUN, Page 3A

PCRS still providing resources to flood victims

By Terry L. May News Editor

Although it has now

been one year since the devastating Valentine's Day weekend flooding of Feb. 15 and 16, 2025, recovery efforts are still ongoing, with one local agency just receiving a new funding source.

"There are still people out there who may be suffering and not knowing where to turn," Penix said. "Maybe FEMA appeals were denied, or they didn't know what to do and are still trying to figure it out."

Pike County Relief Services Executive Director Sandy Penix told the News-Express her agency was informed on Feb. 13 that it had been awarded a new grant for long-term flood relief needs. The grant, she said, will actually be for people who are 48 months from a disaster.

She said oftentimes in times of disaster, such as the last flooding, long-term situations present themselves well after the initial event, or victims find themselves struggling with needs that just have not been met.

See PCRS, Page 3A

Cardiologist Zach Neace, MD
NOW SEEING PATIENTS IN PIKEVILLE AND PRESTONSBURG

*Specializes in Treatment of Coronary Artery Disease | Valvular Heart Diseases
Cardiomyopathies | Arrhythmias | Heart Failure Conditions*

PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

Heart & Vascular Institute
OF EASTERN KENTUCKY

SCHEDULE TODAY
Pikeville | (606) 430-2201
Prestonsburg | (606) 886-1495

pmcky.org