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By Olivia Morgan
Staff Writer

The Pikeville Independent School District is officially in the early planning stages of new construction and renovation for its facilities.

A News-Express Staff Report

USA Waste and Recycling, which proposed to construct and operate a new landfill in Pike County, is claiming in a federal lawsuit that the Pike Fiscal Court illegally rescinded an agreement on the project.

The federal lawsuit, filed Aug. 26, against the county arises from a Feb. 24 action in which the Pike County Fiscal Court voted 3-1 to rescind a Host Community Agreement award to the Connecticut-based USA Waste

and Recycling and its subsidiary American Land Reserve LLC.

According to the lawsuit, USA had incurred more than \$2.1 million in expenses in land purchases, consulting and engineering fees and legal fees. It also purports that as of the Feb. 24 date, the franchise awarded to USA had a fair market value of no less than \$20 million.

The lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, London Division.

The lawsuit claims that the Host Community Agreement that

the fiscal court approved in January 2026, then rescinded in two separate meetings in February and March, resulted in monetary damages to USA Waste and Recycling.

“American Land Reserve had complied, and continued to comply, with all of the terms and conditions set forth in the Host Community Agreement when the Pike County Fiscal Court repudiated the Host Community Agreement and thereby attempted to revoke the franchise,” the lawsuit states. “The Pike County defendants have prevented American

Land Reserve from proceeding with the development, permitting, construction and operation of a new landfill and have thereby denied plaintiffs all economically beneficial or productive use of the franchise.”

It continues that even if the Pike County Fiscal Court immediately “ceased their interference” in the franchise, their actions have already injured and damaged the franchise “by significantly diminishing its value ... (and) are liable for their injuries

See LAWSUIT, Page 10A

New elementary school, high school renovations set in Pikeville

Independent facilities plan

Superintendent David Trimble confirmed that the district is planning to construct a new elementary school and gym on its existing property at an estimated cost of nearly

\$23 million and to renovate the high school at a total cost of more than \$30 million. The Blue Goose Gym will also be receiving maintenance, currently estimated to cost more than \$62,000,

according to the plan.

“In both cases, both facilities need some attention,” he said. “And so we decided, with this initial plan, to move forward with the process of looking at new construc-

tion for the elementary school.”

Trimble said the current plan would be to keep the current elementary school open while

See SCHOOL, Page 8A

Election ballot finalized

By Terry L. May
News Editor

The deadline for anyone wishing to file a write-in campaign for the upcoming election passed at 4 p.m. on Aug. 24; with this, the ballot for the 2026 General Election in November becomes final.

Only one person — Cassandra Williamson of Hardy — exercised this option. She will be a recognized candidate for Pike County magistrate District 6.

However, according to Pike County Clerk Darrell Pugh, her name will not be printed on the ballot. Instead, there will be a box — which must be marked — labeled “Write-in.” Once that box is selected, voters who support Williamson will physically write her name on their respective ballots.

Election officers in the clerk’s office said write-in votes must be legible and the write-in candidate’s name must be spelled close enough to Williamson’s name that election night workers can verify the voter was truly attempting to vote for her.

There were no write-in campaigns filed with the Kentucky Secretary of State’s

See ELECTION, Page 9A

The University of Pikeville held its annual Street Fair in the Benefactors Plaza on Aug. 25. The event serves as a way to introduce students to campus faculty and staff, programs and local businesses. A variety of vendors had tables at the event, including Grace Baptist Church, Drake’s, Bears Den Nutrition and the Pikeville Area Family YMCA.

News-Express photos
by Olivia Morgan

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UPIKE welcomes students with Street Fair



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