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Pikeville, KY

PIS preschool program receives awards

By Olivia Morgan
Staff Writer

The Pikeville Elementary School preschool program received a five-star rating through the Kentucky ALL STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System and was recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Special Education and Learning as the number one district participating at the program-wide status with the Pyramid Model.

The Pyramid Model is an evidence-based framework used in early childhood education to promote social and emotional skills, according to PIS Preschool

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News-Express photo by Olivia Morgan

The Pikeville Elementary School preschool program received a five-star rating through the Kentucky ALL STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System and was recognized by the KDE OSEEL as the number one district participating at the program-wide status with the Pyramid Model.

Barr to Pike GOP: 'If we lose the Senate, we will lose our country'

By Russ Cassady
Regional Editor

Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, who is vying against Democrat Charles Booker to succeed Mitch McConnell in the U.S. Senate, told attendees at the Republican Party of Pike County that losing McConnell's seat would mean the loss of the country.

In his speech at the Coal Run Community Park, Barr painted the race between him and Booker as a race between "crazy" and "common sense."

"If we lose a Republican seat from Kentucky in the Senate, we will lose the Senate," Barr said. "And if we lose the Senate, we will lose our country — that is what is at stake."

Barr said Booker's policies are supported by only a small group in Kentucky and that Booker is a "socialist."

Barr said the way for America to move forward is a series of policies that include tax cuts, deregulation, energy dominance, affordable housing and innovation.

Barr also told the crowd that coal

must make a comeback so that the nation can be competitive in supporting new technologies.

That, he said, will help restore Eastern Kentucky's economy.

"Some say that the coal industry is dead, and don't look back and don't preach false hope," he said. "And it is true that it's going to be hard to bring back the coal industry, and why? Because they got rid of our customers."

Barr said the country made a strategic error in "prematurely" closing 290 coal-fired power plants at a time when the energy-intensive technologies are driving more energy demand.

"The largest land-holding company in Eastern Kentucky says that the geology here, after 125 years of mining coal, has left us with a century of coal still in Eastern Kentucky," Barr said. "We are blessed by God with an ocean of fossil energy right here in Eastern Kentucky."

Barr said that the region can be an economic power.

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News-Express photo by Russ Cassady

Republican candidate for U.S. Senate Andy Barr addresses the crowd at the Republican Party of Pike County's Annual Family Picnic on Sept. 19 at the Coal Run Community Park.

PCFC authorizes 2026 tax rates

By Olivia Morgan
Staff Writer

The Pike County Fis-

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cal Court acknowledged and authorized the 2026 tax rates for all taxing district agencies during a special meeting on Sept. 18.

All taxing district agencies have kept their tax rates the same as the previous year, according to Judge-Executive Ray Jones.

While the fiscal court does not approve any of the rates but its own, the court acknowledges the other rates, which are set by their own boards, so that they may all be placed on the same bill received by taxpayers.

The tax rates for the taxing district agencies, which were authorized to be placed on a court order, are as follows:

- The Pike County Conservation District set its tax rate at .8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of real property;
- The Pike County

Board of Health set its tax rate at 6 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real property, personal property, motor vehicles and watercraft with the motor vehicle tax rate;

- The Pike County Extension District set its tax rate at 3.80 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real and personal property, and 1.10 cents per \$100 of assessed value on motor vehicles and watercraft;
- The Pike County Public Library District set its tax rate at 9.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real and personal property, and 2.39 cents per \$100 of assessed value on motor vehicles and watercraft;
- The Pike County School District set its tax rate at 82.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real and personal property, and 55.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value on motor vehicles and watercraft;

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Attendees to the Sept. 19 Annual Family Picnic held by the Republican Party of Pike County were offered barbecue, along with music and inflatables, in addition to speeches and booths representing the party's general election candidates.

News-Express photo by Russ Cassady

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