



MCHS's graduation was held Friday night. There are more photos on page 7. Visit The Lake News Facebook page to see our album.

The Lake News

Where Community Journalism Matters!

May 27, 2026 Calvert City, Kentucky 42029 SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS Volume 42, Number 52

\$28.6 million budget gets okayed by Marshall Co.

By Loyd Ford
Editor and Publisher
The Lake News

Marshall County Fiscal Court met in a special called meeting Tuesday morning, May 26, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the county courthouse to take action on a number of items. The most significant was the reading of and approval of the first reading of the county budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

While the final amounts could change the budget approved Tuesday morning was \$28.6 million. The county's General Fund is the largest item in the budget at \$12.9 million. The next largest items is the Sherriff's Fund at \$5.35 million and then the Road Department at \$4.45 million.

The Commissioners will have a second vote on the budget before it will become final and that vote must come by June 30, 2026.

The court also voted to accept the Marshall County Health Department's tax rate, which is set at the same rate as the last fiscal year. The measure to approve the rate is a stop-gap measure to set a rate until the new compensating rate for the health department is determined by the state. When the new compensating rate is determined by the state the court will have an opportunity to vote on that rate.

Marshall County Sheriff's Department has received a grant for \$12,500 from the Kentucky Office of Home Land Security for 12 new rifles. Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht explained his department had applied for the funds. The court approved the grant.

The court also accept a grant of \$79,000 for the new crumb rubber material to be applied to the playground at the Miracle League Playground at Mike Miller Park. That grant will reduce the amount of funds that were going to be needed locally for the project at the park.

The court also approved a change in how members of the library board can be seated. A new law approved by the Kentucky General Assembly now give county courts more control over library board,

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Remembering Those Who Gave All

A day to honor the sacrifice of others

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1084 hosted the annual Memorial Day Ceremony Monday morning May 25, 2026 at the Veterans Honor Plaza in Mike Miller Park. Flags fluttered in a muggy breeze that was the remnants of days of rain. While the day was overcast the rain showers paused for the observance that remembers those who died in the service of their country.

Perhaps because of the days of rain prior to the ceremony Monday, the crowd was smaller than normal and the audience older. An aging population has affects and shows up in local events, like the Memorial Day program. Those that come are truly dedicated to honoring our war dead and remembering their sacrifice.

VFW Post Commander Curtis Boyd welcome the crowd and the Calvert City American Legion Post 236 Honor Guard posted the colors. As is their tradition they also place boots on the bricks in front of the monument for the fallen at the Honor Plaza, insert a bayoneted rifle into the ground and place a helmet on the upturned butt of the rifle to remember the fallen. A table for those who are still Missing In Action (MIA) was set on the plaza as well.

Alison Watson led the crowd in the singing of the National Anthem. Jada McWilliams gave the invocation prior to the remarks of featured speaker Brandon Shea.

The Kentucky-Barkley Lakes



Calvert City American Legion Post 236 Honor Guard, photo above, prepares to post the colors Monday morning for the Veterans Day ceremony at Mike Miller Park. - Photo by Loyd Ford/The Lake News.

Board of Realtors placed the remembrance wreath in front of the monuments that carry the names of the war

dead from Marshall County.

The Legion honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and played taps prior to retiring the colors at the end of the program which was closed with prayer by Jada McWilliams.

It was and always is a somber service, much more so than the annual Veterans Day program on November 11th. Which is appropriate because the Veterans Day program is to honor and uplift all veterans. The Memorial Day observance is dedicated to those who died and to their families and loved ones. Often on Memorial Day veterans will note the difference and remind people that Memorial Day is for those veterans who died for their country.

The service was a moving tribute to Marshall County war dead in particular, although they were not singled out, the service was for all of them from every time and from every place.



Calvert City American Legion Post 236, photo above, participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Mike Miller Park in Draffenville Monday morning. - Photo by Loyd Ford/The Lake News.

Mis-trust, skipping vaccinations blamed for resurgence of measles

By Sarah Ladd
Kentucky Lantern

The United States is experiencing a resurgence of measles, a highly contagious disease eliminated in the country nearly three decades ago, even as Kentuckians die from preventable illnesses like influenza.

Experts blame an ecosystem of technology like artificial intelligence, social media algorithms that put people in information silos and a polarizing political environment.

Reversing course on medical misinformation will not happen quickly or easily, Kentucky experts say. It will

take systemic investments of time for the medical community to build trust lost with the public during and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, as mistrust increases, routine vaccination declines, putting more Kentuckians at risk of bad outcomes from contagious and preventable illnesses.

Fewer kindergarten children in Kentucky got routine vaccinations after the COVID-19 pandemic than before.

Before the pandemic, in the 2018-2019 school year, nearly 94% of kindergarten children in Kentucky got their polio vaccination. By the 2024-

2025 school year, that dropped to 87%. Measles, mumps and rubella vaccination also declined from 93% in 2018-2019 to 87% in 2024-2025. (To prevent outbreaks, experts push for measles vaccination rates of 94% and higher).

In their severest forms, these preventable diseases can cause muscle paralysis, neurological damage, infertility, disability and death.

Right before the COVID-19 pandemic, about 84% of students were up to date on all their vaccinations. In 2024-2025, that had dropped to 82%. (Just 2% of roughly 51,000 children had religious exemptions).

The medical community has blamed President Donald Trump's administration for spreading misinformation about medicine and science and its handling of medical advice.

Last year, the American Academy of Pediatrics filed a lawsuit against Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. after he dismissed all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and replaced them. In March, a federal

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Grab your fishing gear. Free fishing weekend coming up!

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