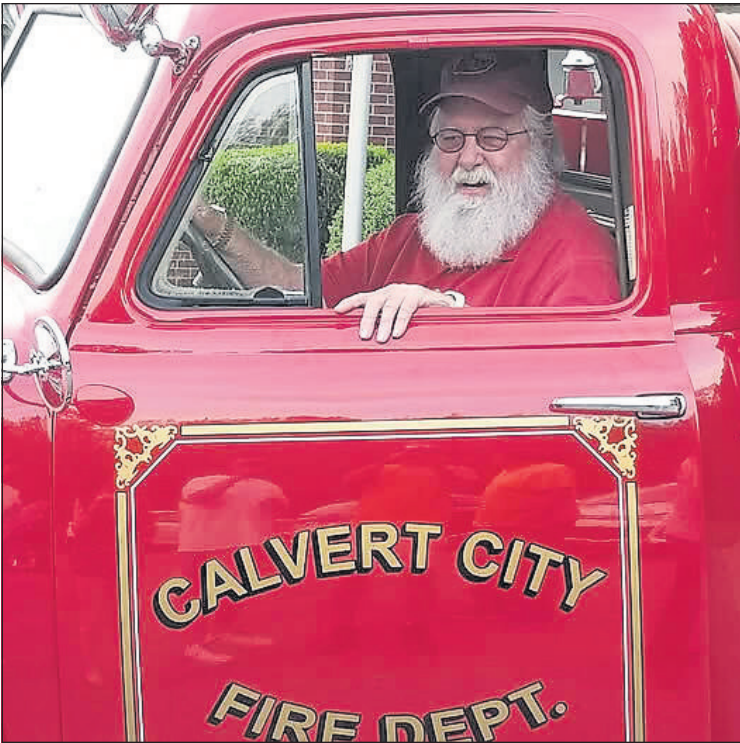


Community mourns longtime Calvert City fire chief

BY MESSENGER STAFF
Longtime Calvert City Fire Chief Fred Ross died on Friday, Sept. 18. He was 82 years old.
“Chief Ross dedicated many years of service to his community and to the fire service,” Marshall County EMA wrote. “His commitment, leadership, and service will not be forgotten.”
Calvert City took to social media to “mourn the loss of a dedicated city leader.” the city wrote on social media. “Fred served our community for many years as fire chief, leaving a lasting impact through his leadership, ser-

vice and commitment to Calvert City. We are grateful for the many years he gave to our community and the legacy of service he leaves behind. Our thoughts are with all who knew and loved him during this difficult time.”
Ross, who had a military background, served as the second acting fire chief for the city, according to the Calvert City Fire Department. He spent more than five decades with the fire department and 25 years as its chief, according to outside reporting.
“We will miss him deeply and find comfort knowing

that he is now at peace in the presence of Jesus and the love of his life, his wife Sherry,” the fire department wrote. “Rest peacefully, Chief Ross. Your legacy will live on in this department and we will take it from here.”
Funeral Services will be Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 at 11 a.m. at the Calvert City United Methodist Church. Burial will follow at Calvert City Cemetery with Military Rites and Fire Firefighter Last Call. Visitation will be Friday, Sept. 25, 2026 from 5- 8 pm at Calvert City United Methodist Church, according to his obituary.



Calvert City Fire Chief Fred Ross in 2022.

Calvert City Fire Department



ROBERT PHILLIPS

Contributed

South Marshall Elementary gym named in memory of longtime custodian

BY MESSENGER STAFF
The South Marshall Elementary School gymnasium will be named in memory of the school's longtime custodian, Robert Phillips, also known as “Mr. Robert.”
According to a news release from the Marshall County School system, Phillips served the school for more than 20 years, taking great pride in keeping the gym floor looking its best.
“Naming the gymnasium in Robert's memory is especially fitting because of his love for basketball and the pride he took in caring for that part of the school,” the release read. “Robert loved talking with

students about their basketball games, hearing how they played, and occasionally watching them play.”
Principal Chad Darnell announced the dedication at a recent board meeting. While speaking to the board, Darnell said Robert was much more than a custodian at South Marshall.
“For generations of students and staff, he was simply ‘Mr. Robert,’ and he became an important part of the identity and history of the school. He was known for his unmistakable laugh, his sense of humor, his practical jokes, and most importantly, the relationships

he built with students and staff throughout his years at South Marshall.”
Darnell went on to say that Mr. Robert's legacy “is found in the generations of students who remember him, the coworkers who considered him family and the countless stories that still begin with, ‘do you remember when Robert...?’”
Marshall County Schools said naming the gymnasium after Phillips is “a fitting and lasting tribute” that ensures that his name remains part of a place he cared for with pride and connected to the game of basketball.



Tyler Schmidt | For The Messenger

Events Director of the American Cancer Society, Richard Averitte. “This community has really wrapped their arms around this event, and we can’t be more thrilled,” Averitte said.



Tyler Schmidt | For The Messenger

Ten stars spent months raising funds through various events, silent auctions and other means while rehearsing a dance routine with a professional to be performed at the grand event Saturday night.

Dancing with Our Stars raises money for American Cancer Society

BY DRAYTON CHARLTON-PERRIN
FOR THE MESSENGER
The 19th annual Dancing with Our Stars campaign fundraising amounted to more than \$300,000 for the American Cancer Society to aid in research for a cure.

Ten stars spent months raising funds through various events, silent auctions and other means while rehearsing a dance routine with a professional to be performed at the grand event Saturday night.
Around 900 people packed into the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center on Sept. 19 to celebrate the culmination of the fundraising and watch the stars perform.
“Dancing is something you do probably once in your lifetime, but after that, you become part of the event,” said participant Rafael Pearson. “You always remember this night, all the months I went to preparation, and now it’s just more personal.”
Many of the stars said yes to the event in honor of people in their lives that have battled cancer.

“Unfortunately, cancer has impacted every one of us in different ways,” Pearson said. “Maybe not directly, but at least everyone knows someone indirectly that has been touched by cancer.”
Recent American Cancer Society research estimates 626,140 people in the United States will die from cancer in 2026. That amounts to 1,720 deaths per day.
Richard Averitte said events like these have a huge impact on progress to finding a cure.
“We’re winning this battle on cancer,” Averitte said. “The life expectancy rates have increased every year.”
The mission of the society is to end cancer using research, patient support, and advocacy.
“We are a volunteer-led, staff-supported organization, and if it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t be getting closer to a cure,” Averitte said.
The 2026 edition of Dancing with Our Stars was dubbed a success by organizers. Averitte said he couldn’t be prouder of everyone involved and the city of Paducah for their support.
Together, you proved that when a communi-

ty comes together for a cause, incredible things can happen!”
“This community has really wrapped their arms around this event, and we can’t be more thrilled,” Averitte said.



Around 900 people packed into the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center on Sept. 19 to celebrate the culmination of the fundraising and watch the stars perform. The campaign amounted to more than \$300,000 for the American Cancer Society to aid in research for a cure.

Tyler Schmidt | For The Messenger

Graves Co Board of Education Budgeted Revenues and Expenditures								
For the Year Ended June 30, 2027								
Graves County Board of Education approved the 2026-2027 Working Budget during the Sept 17 2026 Board Meeting.								
A complete printed copy of the budget is available for review at the Board of Education Office								
located at 2290 State Route 121N Mayfield KY 42066 and online at https://financialdisclosure.graves.kyschools.us								
REVENUES	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Outlay	Building Fund	Debt Service Fund	Food Service Fund	Day Care Fund	
Beginning Balance	15,959,881	-	355,733	-	-	2,764,369	80,000	
Revenue from local sources	15,032,605	15,169	-	1,437,297	-	326,000	76,900	
Revenue from state sources	27,958,342	1,911,558	355,733	990,128	-	358,000	45,000	
Revenue from federal sources	490,000	3,427,700	-	-	-	3,872,000	-	
Other revenue/Fund Transfers	551,810	70,000	266,846	-	2,876,219	-	-	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 59,992,637	\$ 5,424,427	\$ 978,312	\$ 2,427,425	\$ 2,876,219	\$ 7,320,369	\$ 201,900	
EXPENDITURES								
Instruction	26,730,162	3,145,258	-	-	-	-	-	
Student Support Services	4,014,617	75,572	-	-	-	-	-	
Instructional Staff Support Services	1,617,697	1,242,966	-	-	-	-	-	
District Admin Support	1,349,563	-	-	-	-	-	-	
School Admin Support	2,932,347	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Business Support Services	754,853	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Plant, Operations & Maintenance	4,273,798	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Student Transportation	3,756,836	29,696	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Service Operations	-	-	-	-	-	7,155,369	-	
Day Care Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	201,900	
Community Services	9,859	503,611	-	-	-	-	-	
Adult Education Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Land/Site Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Debt Service	-	-	978,312	-	2,234,191	-	-	
Fund Transfers	65,000	427,323	-	2,427,425	642,028	165,000	-	
Contingency	14,487,904	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 59,992,637	\$ 5,424,427	\$ 978,312	\$ 2,427,425	\$ 2,876,219	\$ 7,320,369	\$ 201,900	
	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -	