



The Lake News

Where Community Journalism Matters!

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Medical, environmental experts outline health risks study

By **Bobbie Foust**
Special correspondent
The Lake News

Last Thursday a team of six University of Louisville environmental and medical experts laid out plans for a comprehensive health risk study. About 30 Livingston and Marshall County citizens attended the meeting at the Grand Rivers Community Center. Perceived health risks from the Calvert City Industrial Complex

prompted the study, team members said. Rhonda Fratzke — who last September told the Calvert City Council that she suffers from angiosarcoma — and her husband attended the meeting but neither spoke. Lark Reynolds, director of integrative Environmental Health Services at U of L, said the team has identified four other angiosarcoma patients in the region but she didn't name them. Angiosarcoma is a type of soft tissue

cancerous tumors that originate in tissues supporting or surrounding bodily organs. It can occur anywhere but is often found in the liver, breasts, head and neck. It has been linked to exposure to vinyl chloride. At the September meeting, Fratzke told the city council she had lived near "the plant" for 10 years. Dr. Matthew Cave, clinical expert on toxin induced liver disease, said the meeting was scheduled to introduce

the team to the public. And the study will include wastewater sampling, air quality monitoring and human and wildlife health. The team's mission is to build a framework to assess human actions, Cave said, noting that Calvert City industries have a history of chemical emissions. Though the study began in March, the team had no projected ending date, mainly because it has only a \$20,000 budget and is seeking other



Dr. Luz Huntington Moskos, director of community engagement for the Center for Integrative Environmental Health Services at U of L, introduces study team members. Photo by Bobbie Foust

federal money. "We are committed to report See Health risk study on page A3.



Powder Puff Football

Marshall County High School holds an annual "Powder Puff Football" game at the end of the spring football practice. This year the game was held Friday afternoon at Carroll Traylor Stadium at the high school. Traditionally the junior girls face off with the senior girls for a flag football game, photo above. Friday the junior girls shocked the senior girls with a couple of quick touch downs and eventually won the contest going away at 45-14. - Photo by Loyd Ford/ the Lake News.

Woman sentenced to federal prison for defrauding employer

Paducah, KY - Amanda S. Robertson, 34, formerly a resident of Marshall who now resides in Calloway County, was sentenced this week to 2 years and 1 month in federal prison for six counts of wire fraud. U.S. Attorney Michael A. Bennett of the Western District of Kentucky and Acting Special Agent in Charge Olivia Olson of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Louisville Field Office made the announcement. Amanda S. Robertson, 34, was sentenced to 2 years and 1 month in prison, followed by 2 years of supervised release, for six counts of wire fraud. According to court documents, between May 2020 and May 2023, Robertson was employed as a bookkeeper for a construction company in western Kentucky. She embezzled over \$1,000,000 from her employer. She used the stolen money to finance the operations of several businesses that she owned and to pay personal expenses. At the time of her indictment Robertson was a Marshall County resident working for a Marshall County contracting firm. Robertson was also ordered to pay \$1,470,000 in restitution. There is no parole in the federal system. This case was investigated by the FBI Hopkinsville Satellite Office and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Raymond McGee, of the U.S. Attorney's Paducah Branch Office, prosecuted the case.

City approves \$5.9 million budget, raises garbage rates

Council gets report from Mayor Colburn on health study

By **Loyd Ford**
Editor and Publisher
The Lake News

Calvert City has a new budget for the coming fiscal year. The city council approved a \$5.9 million budget during their meeting at city hall Monday night. The new budget which goes into effect on July 1, 2025 also includes \$1.88 million in capital projects. Mayor Gene Colburn and the council met in a budget workshop session two weeks ago that was set specifically for the coming year's budget. The budget mea-

sure received the council initial approval at that time. (Editor's note: A public notice containing a summary of the income and expenditures by department for Calvert City in the coming fiscal year is on the classified page of this issue.) One of the changes Calvert City residents, who pay for garbage pickup at their home or businesses is an increase in garbage pickup rates. The council agreed to increase garbage pickup rates by \$1.50 per month. The base fee for garbage pickup will increase to \$8.50 per month per authorized container. Back door or side door pickup will

increase to \$12 monthly. During the discussion about the increase in collection fees for garbage pickup City Administrator John Ward said they believed the increase was the first since approximately 1991. There was also a brief discussion about the requirement for using a city furnished trash can. Mayor Colburn explained it was a requirement to use the 90-gallon containers provided by the city. Customers can get additional containers but are charged the monthly fee for each container. Mayor Colburn said one of the reasons they required the use of the city provided containers

was safety. The containers are designed to be used with the tipper mechanism on the city's garbage trucks. Street department workers do not have to man handle the large containers, which reduces the risk of injury. The schedule for trash pickup is twice weekly and continues to be twice-weekly after the fee increase. While the city council did not take any action on it the new state law that allows for the operation of special purpose vehicles on state highway was discussed. City Attorney Greg Northcutt, explained the new state law will not go into effect until July, but that Mar-

shall County had already approved an ordinance to allow the use of the vehicles on county and state roads in Marshall County as long as those roads did not have a speed limit above 55 MPH. There are some big differences between the golf cart ordinance the city has had in place for years and the law on what are commonly referred to as side-by-sides. The special purpose vehicles must be fully compliant with state and federal laws for operation on state and county roads. They must be licensed and insured and operated by a licensed driver. This means these special pur-

pose vehicles must have full running lights, turn signals, mirrors and seat belts. They also must be inspected annually. The special purpose vehicles have much larger engines than golf carts and can travel great distances at highway speeds. There was very little discussion of the measure after Northcutt gave the explanation of the law. He told the council they have time to consider what they want to do about the new statute before it goes into effect. In reports to the council, Calvert City Fire Chief Tim Davis said the See City approves \$5.9 million budget, raises garbage rates on page A3.

Dempsey named principal at Jonathan Elementary

See page A2



Mary Lockhart of Calvert City, celebrated her 99th birthday April 25, 2025. - Photo submitted.



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