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MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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Owensboro, Ky. • \$2

Daviess County's fire protection rating improves

Change could reduce insurance costs

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Fire protection continues to improve for Daviess County residents outside of Owensboro, and that should help put a few more dollars in a lot of property owners' pockets.

Daviess County fire and elected officials announced Monday morning that the Insurance Services Office has given the county an improved Public Protection Classification grade, which is what

insurance companies use to gauge fire protection.

"We were able to (improve) it as a county-wide project this time," Fire Chief Jeremy Smith said. "We kind of viewed this a little different this time around than we have in the past. This time, we were able to view our county as a whole. Whereas we have our 10 different districts for our 10 volunteer fire departments; this time we were able to recognize their efforts in the ISO rating, but also bringing in the two paid stations the county has as well, which help across the entire county."

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Daviess County Fire Department's Keith Hurm, investigator/inspector, left, speaks next to Fire Chief Jeremy Smith as they give an update on the community's ISO rating on Monday at the Daviess County Airport Fire Station at 2145 Airport Road.

Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com

A RUFF EXPERIENCE

Owensboro family reunited with missing dog after almost a year

BY MICHELE RUXER
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Mark Mills and his family said that they were devastated when their 11-year-old Shih Tzu, Callie, went missing on Dec. 1, 2023, from their home in Thoroughbred Acres in Owensboro.

"The dogs have a doggie door to go in and out," Mills explained. "Callie had only ever gotten out of our yard once before, but there were storms that day, so we think she got scared and disoriented and wandered away."

The family began searching for Callie in their neighborhood and posted in local groups dedicated to finding and reuniting owners with missing pets on Facebook, such as Lost Pets of Daviess County.

"We called all of the vets around town and gave them Callie's description so they could keep a look out for her," Mills said.

Mills also said that he called the Daviess County Animal Care and Control on Highway 81 and the Owensboro Humane Society on Highway 60 West looking for Callie.

"I gave the shelter Callie's description so they could call and check in if they got a dog in that looked like her," Mills said. "And the Humane Society didn't have any little dogs matching her description."

Mills said that he had made a few trips to the shelter to look at dogs matching Callie's description, but none of them were Callie.

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Mark Mills holds his dog, Callie, a Shih Tzu, after reuniting with her after 11 months thanks to a Good Samaritan who found her and took her to the Daviess County Animal Control Shelter.

Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com



DCPS board OK's bond issuance

Funding for projects not to exceed \$22M

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Daviess County Public Schools' Board of Education approved a resolution Monday providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds to cover the costs of several projects the school district has already undertaken or plans.



Sara Harley

Sara Harley, the school district's director of finance, said the bond issuance isn't to exceed \$22 million.

Board members were told Monday the interest rate on a 20-year bond — with parts amortized over 15 years — would likely be around 4.25%.

"There are six projects, so we've been saving them up to do one bond issue to save money," Harley said.

The scope of the projects is wide, with it including:

- Energy management project, phase 1, which includes energy improvements at Heritage Park, solar panels installed at Apollo and Tamarrack schools, and all of the lights at Daviess County High School being replaced;
- Energy management project, phase 2, which

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Here are the people Trump has picked for some key positions up to this point

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President-elect Donald Trump is starting to fill key posts in his second administration, putting an emphasis so far on aides and allies who were his strongest backers during the 2024 campaign.

Here's a look at who he's selected so far.

Susie Wiles, chief of staff
Wiles, 67, was a senior adviser to Trump's 2024 presidential campaign and its de facto manager.

Wiles has a background in Florida politics. She helped

Ron DeSantis win his first race for Florida governor. Six years later, she was key to Trump's defeat of him in the 2024 Republican primary.

Wiles' hire was Trump's first major decision as

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Susie Wiles watches as Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Lititz, Pa., on Nov. 3.

Evann Vucchi | Associated Press



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