

Camping is cooled by winter weather

Riverview Park, formerly known as Dam 50, saw a significant decline in camping activity during January as cold weather further reduced visitor turnout. Only two RV nights were reserved, and there were no tent reservations throughout the month. The seasonal limited activity led to financial challenges, marking a stark contrast to the slight positive income recorded in December.

Revenue for January was notably impacted by adjustments and refunds, resulting in a negative RV site revenue of (–\$660). With additional fee and tax adjustments, total deposits for the month stood at (–\$729.21). Combined with total expenses of \$1,126.81, the park recorded a net loss of \$1,856.02, making it the most financially challenging month of the winter season so far. The decline follows December’s modest net income of \$193.45, which had reflected stability despite low winter reservations.

Riverview Park includes a seasonal dock, restrooms, pavilion, and recreational facilities. Revenue collected during more active months helps support necessary upkeep, even as winter months bring reduced camping participation. The park’s tent sites remain available at \$5 per night, and RV sites at \$20 per night with full amenities, with reservations accessible online at CrittendenCountyKy.org.

85 dogs came into county shelter in Jan.

Crittenden County Animal Shelter has released its intake and discharge summary for January, detailing the number of dogs taken in, adopted, fostered and rescued.

At the end of January, the shelter had a headcount of 42 dogs, with an additional 54 placed in foster care. Throughout the month, 85 dogs were brought into the facility.

Efforts to find homes and rescue placements continued, with 22 dogs successfully transferred to rescue organizations. Meanwhile, four dogs were adopted by new families, and three were reclaimed by their owners.

The shelter reported one dog passing away due to medical reasons and two dogs were euthanized. No dogs escaped or were deemed unable to be relocated.

Two counties move to relook at solar rules

Daviess and Henderson counties are taking proactive measures to address the growing number of solar energy projects proposed within their jurisdictions, each implementing morato-

riums to allow for regulatory refinements and public input.

Last Thursday, the Daviess County Fiscal Court voted 3–1 to enact a 12-month moratorium on wind and solar energy projects. The decision follows concerns from residents over property rights, infrastructure impacts, and economic development, particularly in response to a proposed 1,200-acre solar farm on agricultural land. The pause will allow officials to assess and refine regulations governing renewable energy installations, ensuring they align with community interests and long-term planning.

Similarly, the Henderson County Fiscal Court on Tuesday advanced a broader restriction, unanimously approving a resolution that effectively halts new large-scale solar energy developments until at least Feb. 1, 2027. The measure introduces a text amendment to the county’s 2019 solar energy system ordinance, specifically targeting Level 2 solar installations, which involve expansive solar fields like those currently under construction in the Robards area.

According to the amendment, the moratorium suspends the filing, processing, review, and acceptance of applications related to the rezoning, conditional use permits, or any other necessary approvals for Level 2 solar projects. This affects multiple county agencies, including the Henderson Fiscal Court, the Henderson City-County Planning Commission, and the Henderson County Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Officials in both counties have cited the need for comprehensive planning to balance renewable energy development with agricultural preservation, infrastructure concerns, and economic considerations. The extended pause in Henderson County suggests a more long-term evaluation, whereas Daviess County’s shorter-term moratorium may lead to revised policies within a year.

As renewable energy continues to expand in western Kentucky, these measures reflect local governments’ efforts to address both the opportunities and challenges associated with large-scale solar projects.

Bill would change state water regs

A bill moving through the Kentucky legislature could significantly change state water pollution regulations, a move that supporters say would reduce red tape for industry but opponents warn could lead to dirtier water and higher costs for Kentuckians, The Courier-Journal reports.

Senate Bill 89, sponsored by Sen. Scott Madon, R-Pineville, aims to narrow the



state’s definition of “waters of the commonwealth,” limiting the Energy and Environment Cabinet’s authority to regulate streams, wetlands, and groundwater. According to The Courier-Journal, Madon argues that the bill aligns with federal water regulations weakened by a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, easing the burden on industries like coal.

However, environmental advocates and the Energy and Environment Cabinet have raised serious concerns, warning that the bill would remove protections for crucial water sources, potentially exposing groundwater and public water systems to pollution. The cabinet stated the legislation would make Kentucky the only state to surrender its authority to define state waters to the federal government, The Courier-Journal reported.

The bill passed the Senate in a swift vote and now heads to the House. Critics argue it could increase treatment costs for drinking water, raise utility bills, and exacerbate flood risks by eliminating protections for wetlands. Advocates, including Kentucky Resources Council attorney Audrey Ernsterberger, told The Courier-Journal that the proposal disregards the role of small streams and wetlands in maintaining water quality and flood control.

Martins’ arrival is an indication of spring

The first Purple Martins of the year have been spotted in Kentucky, marking a sure sign that spring is approaching. According to a news release from the Purple Martin Conservation Association, a Purple Martin enthusiast recorded the first sighting on Feb. 7 in Hickory, just north of Mayfield in Graves County.

These birds, North America’s largest species of swallow, migrate up to 7,000 miles from their wintering grounds in Brazil to the eastern United States and Canada each year. Their migration is closely monitored through a community science project called the Scout-Arrival Study, which helps conservationists track their movements and population trends.

Joe Siegrist, president of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, emphasized the importance of these reports, noting that tracking the migration provides valuable data to aid in conservation efforts. Over the past 50 years, Purple Martin populations have declined by one-third due to habitat loss, competition with invasive species, and other environmental challenges.

The species relies almost entirely on human-made nest boxes for survival in most of its range. Dedicated conservationists, often referred to as “martin landlords,” maintain these nesting sites, ensuring the birds have a place to return each year.

For more information on Purple Martin conservation and how to participate in tracking their migration, visit www.purplemartin.org.

Howell sponsors bill for animal health board

The Kentucky Senate has unanimously passed Senate Bill 69, bipartisan legislation aimed at modernizing veterinary laws by recognizing equine dentistry and animal chiropractic practice under new allied animal health professional licenses. Sponsored by Sen. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, and co-sponsored by Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, the bill also establishes the Allied Animal Health Professional Advisory Board to oversee these professions.

Webb said the legislation enhances animal welfare, supports agriculture, and improves access to specialized care, while Howell, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, emphasized its importance in maintaining high veterinary standards for Kentucky’s equine and agricultural industries.

SB 69, which also updates veterinary record-keeping

laws, now heads to the House for consideration.

Plumbing Code Exam prep course at MCC

Madisonville Community College Workforce Solutions is offering a Spring 2025 Plumbing Code Exam Prep Course to help plumbers and apprentices prepare for the Kentucky State Plumbing Exam.

The 36-hour course provides a detailed review of the Kentucky Plumbing Code, practice tests, and real-life applications. Participants will receive a codebook and workbook. Licensed plumbers can earn up to 18 continuing education credit hours.

Classes begin March 17 and run for four weeks, meeting Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brown Badgett Building on the Madisonville Community College campus. The course costs \$295, and registration is required.

To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/7zcdhxxd or call 270-824-8658. Early registration is encouraged to meet the minimum enrollment requirement.

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10 YEARS AGO

February 26, 2015

■ A proclamation was signed to celebrate Nancy Hunt ahead of her retirement as the long-time Extension agent in Crittenden County.

■ Chelsea Oliver scored 27 points in the Lady Rockets' Fifth District Tournament semi-final game in a 63-38 win over Trigg County. Both the Rocket girls and boys were preparing to play in the district championship game.

25 YEARS AGO

February 24, 2000

■ Kentucky Utilities announced the closure of its Marion office on Bellville Street in Marion.

■ Shanna Hunt and Eric Collins, students at Crittenden County Middle School, earned the chance to compete in the state Governor’s Cup competition after placing second in regional competition.

■ Crittenden County Rockets were ranked third in the Second Region after a 19-7 season, only its fourth 19-win season since Crittenden and Marion high schools consolidated in 1956.

■ The Lady Rockets finished their season 10-12 and settled for second in the Fifth District to Caldwell County. Lyndsey Hall was the team’s scoring leader with 14 and Shelly Johnson had a career high 24 points.

50 YEARS AGO

February 28, 1975

■ Dulcie Hardin was selected chairman of the Breath of Spring campaign to fight children’s lung-damaging diseases, such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and bronchitis. Hardin was president of the Woman’s Club of Marion.

■ Sons of American Revolution held a banquet in Marion. Bob Wheeler was president of the Francis Marion Chapter won the Sons of the American Revolution.

■ Crittenden County High School’s Woodwind Choir competed in the Green River Valley Music Festival. Members were Jeannie Pyse, Amanda Easley, Connie Drennan, Patty Beavers, Sandra Boone, Tammy Binkley, Teresa Slayton, Scooter McMican, Kurt McMackin, Donald Marsh, Shelby Shewcraft, Jeff Hughes and Daryl Temple. Occupying the principal seat in their sections were Shewcraft, Marsh and Temple.

Read Brenda Underdown's Forgotten Passages column at The Press Online between newspaper issues.

Marion native appearing on NBC series

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article (or at least part of it) appeared in last week's newspaper. In our haste to meet an early deadline for the newspaper to get ahead of the snow, we inadvertently left out part of the article. So, here it is again, in it's entirety.

STAFF REPORT

Matt Collins, a Marion native and Murray State University graduate, is returning to NBC's Chicago Fire in a new role that spans multiple episodes this season. The 38-year-old actor will appear in episodes 15 and 16, with a potential third episode later in the season.

"I can't talk a lot about it because of spoilers," Collins says of his upcoming role, "but essentially I'm just a regular Joe who's in a car accident, and the person that I hit... Well, it doesn't go well for them."

Collins' journey into acting began at Crittenden County Middle School, where he participated in the speech team. In high school he was part of a production of Shakespeare's MacBeth. While at Murray

State University, he discovered his passion for acting almost by accident.

"I saw an Acting 101 class and thought 'Sure, it'll be easy, why not,'" he recalls. "Then I got in there and thought 'Okay, this makes sense for me.'"

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in theater studies.

This isn't Collins' first experience with the Chicago television universe. He previously appeared in episodes of both Chicago Med and Chicago Fire before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the entertainment industry. Living in Chicago, he balances his acting career with work as a leasing agent, which gives him the flexibility to pursue auditions and take acting classes.

Collins has been active in Chicago's theater scene, with his most recent stage role in a play called Southern Gothic. He's taken classes at the renowned Second City, known for its improv training.

"Improv is really, really good on your resume," he notes.

The actor acknowledges the challenges in his field, particularly since the pandemic.

"A lot of the storefront theaters closed because of COVID, so there haven't been as many opportunities," he explains. "The big theaters are still feeling the financial strain, so they've been bringing in bigger name actors from LA and New York. It makes it even tougher, but I just kind of take whatever you can get."

Viewers can catch Collins's upcoming appearances on Chicago Fire later this season on NBC, with the episodes expected to air in the coming weeks. The most episode was No. 12, Collins said.

Viewers can catch Collins's upcoming appearances on Chicago Fire later this season on NBC, with the episodes expected to air in the coming weeks. The most recent episode was No. 13.

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