

The Marshall Times

★ SERVING MARSHALL & CALLOWAY COUNTIES SINCE 2004 ★

Britney Moss Appointed to Executive Committee of KRPS Board of Directors

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

Paducah, KY — Britney Moss, Director of the Marshall County Parks Department, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society (KRPS) Board of Directors. The appointment was made by Cameron Levis, KRPS President, and officially confirmed at the KRPS Board Meeting on June 18th, 2025.

Moss has been an active member of the KRPS community for several years, previously serving as the elected District 1 Representative on the board for three years. Her new role on the Executive Committee highlights her dedication and leadership in Kentucky's parks and recreation sector.

With more than six years of experience as the Director of the Marshall County Parks Department, Moss brings a wealth of knowledge in park



Britney Moss was appointed to the Executive Committee of KRPS

management, community engagement, and strategic planning. Her hands-on experience in the maintenance, development, and programming of public parks makes her a valuable asset to the KRPS

Executive Committee, which oversees the direction and activities of the organization.

The Kentucky Recreation and Park Society serves as the leading organization for parks and recreation professionals across the state, providing resources, training, and advocacy for the industry. Moss' appointment strengthens KRPS's commitment to promoting high-quality recreation and park services throughout Kentucky.

As an advocate for local parks, Moss is excited about her new role and looks forward to contributing to the future growth and success of KRPS. "I'm honored to serve on the Executive Committee and continue working toward the enhancement of Kentucky's parks and recreational spaces," said Moss.

Her appointment marks a significant milestone in her career and further solidifies her impact on the state's parks and recreation field.



MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

RACER NEWS REPORT

Murray State University's Town & Gown Community Band and Chorale present free Independence Day concert on July 4

MURRAY, Ky. – The Murray State University Town & Gown Community Band and Chorale will present a free Independence Day themed concert as part of Murray's annual Freedom Fest celebration on the evening of Friday, July 4 at 7 p.m. inside Lovett Auditorium on Murray State's campus.

The concert is free, and the public is cordially invited to attend.



The Murray State University Town & Gown Community Band and Chorale performs at the 2024 Independence Day concert.

Dr. Bradley Almquist, Murray State professor of music and director of choral activities, will conduct the Community Chorale. Dr. Ashley Shoupe, Murray State assistant professor of music and assistant director of bands, will conduct the Community Band.

Audience members can relax in the air-conditioned comfort of the recently renovated Lovett Auditorium as they enjoy holiday favorites such as "America the Beautiful," "Red River Valley" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" to name a few. Readings of several iconic American documents, such as the Gettysburg Address and the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence will be interspersed with the musical selections.

"As I was growing up, every small town celebrated Independence Day with picnics, parades and concerts, concluding with fireworks, sometimes as a community and other times in our own backyards," said Almquist. "We would gather at the town center. In the gazebo a brass band would be playing folksongs, marches and patriotic songs. It is that Norman Rockwell-style American tradition that we bring to Murray. As we move into celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, we hope that our concert this year will stir our sense of pride in our diverse past and hope for our future."

"What a wonderful time of year to welcome the Town & Gown Community Band and Chorale, led by Dr. Ashley Shoupe and Dr. Brad Almquist," said Jen Robertson, coordinator of the Town & Gown Partnership Program. "These ensembles are made up entirely of volunteers—high school students, Murray State students, employees and community members—who dedicate countless hours to creating beautiful music for everyone to enjoy. Their talent and commitment are truly inspiring, and this concert is a celebration of that spirit. We're also deeply grateful to our Town & Gown partners for their continued support in making events like this possible."

The Town & Gown Partnership is an ongoing collaboration between Murray State University and the surrounding community that aims to enhance the quality of living and learning for everyone in the community. Town & Gown Partners include leaders from Murray State University administration and student government, local and state government, industry, small business, banking, health care providers and other community organizations. Membership fees help fund community projects and events such as these summer concerts.

Marshall County Fiscal Court Seeking Auditor; Approves Business Items

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

The Marshall County Fiscal Court opened its June 17, 2025 meeting with Elena Bevins, Executive Director of the Kentucky Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, who gave an update for the tourism department. During her report, Blevins spoke about the impact of the Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour that took place in early June on Kentucky Lake. Blevins shared with the board that over the course of the four day tournament, an estimated 10 million social media impressions were generated which put a huge spotlight on Kentucky Lake. Afterwards, Blevins shared the 2024 Tourism Impact and stated that the local tourism industry in Marshall County accounted for \$90.4 million of economic

impact through labor income, state and local taxes, and more.

Erica West, the County Treasurer stated that after the court sent a standard annual letter to the State Auditor, the court received a letter back, in which the State Auditor declined to perform the county's audit. West then told the board that she would begin seeking quotes for the service to present at the next meeting. Also during the meeting, the court tabled a discussion of bids for construction on the New Hope Road bridge. This is due to the bids having to first be reviewed by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The court did go on to approve a bid for a new Road Department truck from David Taylor. The low bid came in at \$64,281 and it was the recommendation of the Road Department staff. The court went on to approve

the advertisement of bids for pressure washing and painting services for the courthouse. This is when Kevin Spraggs, the Judge Executive noted that the courthouse would not be painted in full, but that the painting services are for the window trim and existing white decorative pieces on the courthouse exterior only. It was also announced that a Marshall County Senior Citizens meeting will be held in the fiscal court room on June 24, 2025 at 6 p.m. This meeting is to re-establish a board for the organization. The court also set a special called meeting for June 30, 2025 at 9 a.m. for final bill payments and actions that must be completed prior to the new fiscal year, which starts on July 1, 2025. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for July 1, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Marshall County Tourism Impact Increases in Numbers for 2024

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

The Kentucky Lake/Marshall County board shared the growth in which the county had as tourism continues to fuel Kentucky's economy at the Marshall County Fiscal cOurT Meeting. There is new data showing significant year-over year growth statewide and locally for the County of Marshall. According to the 2024 Economic Impact Report that was commissioned by the Kentucky Department of Tourism, both visitor spending and job creation increased again, and this reinforces tourism's role as a key

economic engine.

Across the State of Kentucky, tourism generated \$14.3 billion in spending in 2024 which was a record and is currently up from \$13.8 billion in 2023 which makes it a 3.6% increase. Statewide tourism employment increased to 97,394 jobs, with labor income hitting \$3.596 billion, and state and local tax revenue hitting \$1.035 billion. Marshall County saw measurable gains as well from 2023 to 2024. In 2024, visitor spending reached \$90.4 million which is a 4.6% increase up from \$86.4 million in 2023. Tourism alone supported 755 jobs in 2024, putting it up 3% from 733 jobs in 2023. Labor

income increased to \$21.0 million in 2024, which was an increase of 4.5% from \$20.1 million the previous year. The State and local taxes generated by tourism went to \$6.5 million for an overall increase by 4.8% in 2024. Another thing that is expected to boost tourism within the county is the recent resurgence of the Kentucky Lake fishery. With the fishing conditions being improved and a reawakened natural environment, more people such as anglers and outdoor enthusiasts are returning to the lake. Another reason why this resurgence is significant is due to the leisure travel market fluctuating.