



**LOST RIVER FIRE**  
Lost River Cave building damaged in Tuesday fire; donations for repairs now sought.  
**3A**

**THURSDAY**

BOWLING GREEN  
**DAILY NEWS**  
PARK CITY

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**SOLAR SQUABBLE**



PHOTOS BY GRACE MCDOWELL / Daily News  
Visitors file into the Barren County Fiscal Court meeting room in Glasgow on Tuesday for a public hearing on the controversial Wood Duck Solar, LLC, solar energy project.

**Barren County solar farm proposal mostly criticized at public hearing**

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GLASGOW – More than 60 people squeezed into a room and trailed out the door in a Tuesday public hearing for a controversial solar electric project that would span 2,259 acres across Barren County.

The utility-scale, 100-megawatt project, called Wood Duck Solar, is proposed for 8230 New Bowling Green Road and led by the Charlotte, North Carolina-based company Geenex. At least 17 people delivered oral public comments at the hearing, the vast majority opposing the project.

The seven-member Kentucky State Board of Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board – whose approval is required for the project, given its generating capacity – includes the three

Public Service Commission Executive Director Linda Bridwell speaks about the project application process at Tuesday’s hearing.

commissioners who are on the state Public Service Commission.

Since Barren County has essentially no applicable zoning regulations, local government cannot stop the project. Tuesday’s hearing was intended to inform the state PSC commissioners with local public input; several Barren County Fiscal Court commissioners and Barren County Judge-Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd also showed up to hear comments.

A formal project hearing is set for 9 a.m. ET Oct. 2 at the PSC in Frankfort, and a decision is required by Nov. 14.

See SOLAR, 3A



**FLOODING  
FALLOUT**

**City buys another Cave Mill property**

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The city’s efforts to mitigate flooding along Cave Mill Road continued Tuesday as commissioners approved a \$270,600 purchase of 1112 Cave Mill Road, the fourth property the city has purchased along Cave Mill and the fifth one acquired since April’s flooding event.

Mayor Todd Alcott was absent from the meeting.

Andy Souza, head of Bowling Green Public Works, said the plan with these properties likely involves tearing down each of the flood-damaged homes and then repurposing the land into stormwater mitigation areas.

“... We’re trying to maximize how much water we can store at the site,” Souza told the Daily News. “So the more water we store means the less water is on the road, the less water may be getting into other people’s crawl spaces.”

Cave Mill Road was one of a slew of roads around Bowling Green and Warren County inundated with floodwaters when a multi-day stretch of rain dumped more than 10 inches of water across the region.

The weather event led to dozens of sinkholes opening, several water rescues and, on Cave Mill, a six-foot deep puddle near the intersection with Dishman Lane. At nearby 1050 Cave Mill Road, 20 feet of water stood on the property.

Including the purchase approved Tuesday, four properties along Cave Mill Road and one on Brighton Avenue have been acquired, so far

See CITY, 3A

**Mammoth Cave to host Star Party for Friday meteor shower**

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For those searching for a prime spot to view the dazzling Perseids meteor shower on Friday, look no further than Mammoth Cave National Park, which will host a Star Party from 7 to 10 p.m.

During the party, rangers and volunteers will present an evening program about the night sky at the outdoor amphitheater, provide telescopes to view deep sky objects and distribute Junior Ranger Explorer books while watching the meteor shower.

Molly Schroer, the park’s public information officer, said since the meteor shower happens yearly, it makes it easy to plan for each year.

“It’s such a fun evening event for our visitors,” she said. “It gives them the chance to see up to 100 meteors per hour in dark locations in the park. And it’s the perfect opportunity for us to highlight the night sky and educate others about it.”

The park was recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association as an International Dark Sky Park in 2021.

This certification showcases the park as “land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment,” according to information from a news release.

The night sky events will begin with a program at 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater, which Schroer said will

Mammoth Cave National Park hosts annual events where visitors may gaze through telescopes to view the moon, planets, meteors and deep space objects. The park will host a Star Party from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday for the Perseid meteor shower.

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See HOST, 3A

