

Water shortage watch announced for Kentucky

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet is announcing a Water Shortage Watch for the Bluegrass and East areas of Kentucky.

A Water Shortage Watch indicates that conditions are more favorable than usual for water shortages to occur. A watch is a recommendation for planning, preparation, and increased awareness. Some water systems may need to consider voluntary or mandatory conservation in order to reach the desired amount of water-use reduction.

The Bluegrass and East areas are in a moderate drought, with the Bluegrass area approaching severe drought, according to the Palmer Drought Index. The Central and West areas are in mild drought, with the Central approaching moderate drought.

A Water Shortage Watch is called for when water supply data, such as amount of rainfall, reservoir levels, streamflow, and the Palmer Drought Index, indicate the potential for water shortages.

Recent rainfall will help lawns, flowers, and crops, but it has been insufficient to replenish declining water supplies in rivers and reservoirs. Several of the rivers in the Bluegrass and eastern Kentucky are at less than 20 percent of the flow normal for this time of year. Several inches of rain above normal and for an extended period of time will be required to relieve the present deficit. Long-range forecasts predict normal rainfall at best.

Water suppliers in the 70 counties of the areas affected should watch supply sources and notify the Divisions of Water before shortages become critical. They should also begin planning ways to curtail demand. At least 51 water systems have issued water shortage advisories, asking their customers to conserve water. Water systems and their customers in surrounding counties of areas affected by the watch should also take note.

Water conservation begins at home, and most water use in the home is in the bathroom, laundry, and kitchen. Seventy-five percent of water use in the home takes place in the bathroom. Another 20 percent is used for laundry and cleaning, and only 5 percent is consumed as drinking water and used for cooking. Two of the more important ways to conserve water in the home are: (1) Check for leaks and fix them, and (2) don't let water run continuously while brushing your teeth or shaving, preparing food, or washing dishes.

Habitual, don't worry about the lawn. It will go dormant during extended periods of low precipitation, but it will come back with rainfall. If you water outdoor plants, water once a week and water deeply - one inch. Don't water on windy days or in the middle of the day when evaporation rates are high. Keep the water on the ground, not on the air where it will evaporate or on the pavement, where it will be wasted.

spotlight on travel

Find A New Passion: Discover Sailing



After working all week on ESPN sailing programs, Gary Johnson relaxes under sail with his daughters Kristi, Brooke, Ashleigh and wife, Janice.

By Gary Johnson
 "SAILING—A typical day along the nation's waterways includes a picturesque scene of sailboats of all shapes and sizes, lending a touch of romance and a little mystery as to how sailors master the wind.

Sailing is easy, fun, safe and readily accessible to anyone with a boat that is comfortable for you. Young sailors who claim their life is not complete without it. There is no greater freedom than when you develop the few simple skills that make you and your boat one with the wind and water. You can choose your own activity levels ranging from simple day sailing to cruising over the horizon or even testing yourself in racing competition. Setting forth under sail can take as little as an hour, or provide days of fun and relaxation.

Everything seems better—sunset, a drink with friends, conversation with the family—when you experience it under sail. Over 1,000 organizations throughout America offer sailing instruction. For your first step, call Discover Sailing at 1-800-526-SAIL. You can also get information on the web site at <http://www.discover-sailing.com>. Either way, you'll get information about the nearest sailing school to your home or your next vacation destination. Discover Sailing also offers free, introductory sailing rides at boat shows and waterfront festivals throughout the US.



Kari Jordan photo

Remember, the key to understanding sailing is trying it. Feel the boat yield to that first puff of breeze and begin to slide through the water. You will understand the basics in just one day. From there your horizon is unlimited.

Your first sail should take place in a boat that is comfortable for you. Young sailors who claim their life is not complete without it. There is no greater freedom than when you develop the few simple skills that make you and your boat one with the wind and water. You can choose your own activity levels ranging from simple day sailing to cruising over the horizon or even testing yourself in racing competition. Setting forth under sail can take as little as an hour, or provide days of fun and relaxation.

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Here I Come!

Christian Daniels, 2, enjoys the 'Dino Slidin'' at the Blackberry Festival. The Carnival has rides for kids of any age.

July 4th holiday travel to hit 13 year high

This 4th of July weekend, 37.4 million Americans will travel 100 miles or more from home, the highest volume of travel for that holiday in 13 years, says AAA. That figure represents a 5 percent increase over the same period last year. The record for July 4 travel is 38 million, set in 1986.

"Good economic conditions are prompting many people to travel more this summer," said Dan Dickson, Public Relations Manager for AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky. "Confidence in the economy means people are willing to spend a little more for meals and accommodations on the road," added Dickson.

Of those taking a trip this holiday, 32.4 million are expected to go by car, light truck or recreational vehicle, a 5 percent increase over last year. Another 5 million will travel by airplane, train or bus, up 9 percent over the previous year. The greatest number of

motorists will come from the Southeast and the West regions, with 8 million each, followed by the Midwest, the Northeast and the Great Lakes.

The most popular holiday travel destinations will again be cities, with 32 percent, followed by oceans and beaches, towns and rural areas.

AAA urges motorists to prepare their vehicles before travel. Have a mechanic check tires, belts and hoses. Proper fluid levels for oil and antifreeze/coolant will help prevent overheating and breakdowns. Also before leaving, pack a safety kit containing a flashlight, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and if possible, a cellular phone.

AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky is a not-for-profit auto club serving 120,000 members in 61 counties in central and eastern Kentucky and parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

July gas prices down 1.5 cents

Fourth of July holiday travelers will find little relief at the gas pumps when they fill their tanks, according to AAA.

AAA's monthly Fuel Gage Report show the average national price for self-serve unleaded regular gas is \$1.142 per gallon, down only one and a half cents since May. The price is 3.4 cents higher than last 4th July, when prices averaged \$1.108 per gallon.

National average prices for the last six months: May, \$1.157 per gallon; April, \$1.15; March, 97 cents; February, 96 cents; January, 92 cents; and December, \$1.023.

National average prices for AAA's pre-4th July survey for the last five years: 1998, \$1.108 per gallon; 1997, \$1.25; 1996, \$1.303; 1995, \$1.288; and 1994, \$1.115.

In Kentucky, the average price for a gallon of self-serve unleaded regular gas dropped two cents to \$1.07. This month, Kentucky has

the nation's 14th cheapest gas prices. The cheapest gas can be found in Georgia, at 97 cents per gallon, followed by South Carolina, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The highest gas prices are in our 50th state, Hawaii, at \$1.50 per gallon, followed by California, Washington, Nevada and Idaho.

A survey of 30 gas stations in Lexington found that the average price for a gallon of self-serve unleaded gas was \$1.06, down three cents from May.

Large stockpiles of crude oil, from which gasoline is refined, are starting to shrink, and oil companies have cut production quotas, bringing gas prices back up.

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* National Sailing Industry Association's 1999 Consumer Research Study

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