

Trump limits tariffs on most nations for 90 days

WASHINGTON (AP) Facing a global market meltdown, President Donald Trump on Wednesday abruptly backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days even as he further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and most of the world to a showdown between the U.S. and China. The S&P 500 stock index jumped 9.5% after the announcement, but the drama over Trump's tariffs is far from over as the administration prepares to engage in country-by-country negotiations. In the meantime, countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%.

The president hit pause in the face of intense pressure created by volatile financial markets that had been pushing Trump to reconsider his tariffs, even as some administration officials insisted the his reversal had always been the plan.

As stocks and bonds sold off, voters were watching their retirement savings dwindle and businesses warned of worse than expected sales and rising prices, all a possible gut punch to a country that sent Trump back to the White House last year on the promise of combatting inflation.

The global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect early Wednesday, a signal that the U.S. president was not immune from market pressures. By early afternoon, Trump posted on Truth Social that because more than 75 countries had reached out to the U.S. government for trade talks and had not retaliated in meaningful ways, "I have

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Ashland extends PAC operations, lease of theater

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND Ashland city commissioners voted to allow the current operators of the Paramount Arts Center to continue managing the theater until the end of the year, extending a previous deadline by six months.

Last October, the City of Ashland and Paramount Arts Center Inc. entered a \$3 million purchase agreement transferring the ownership of all real properties to the city.

Per that agreement, once the deal closed, the city agreed to lease the theater back to the PAC for \$1 per month and allow the existing board to continue operations, show bookings and management until June 30, 2025.

In the meantime, the city opened a RFP (request for proposals) process to allow companies — including the PAC

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Two students, two adults injured in wreck

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Two juveniles and two adults are recovering from injuries — ranging in severity — after a two-vehicle wreck that occurred Tuesday morning near Raceland schools.

Three people, including two Raceland students, suffered serious injuries. Three patients were trapped in one vehicle, according to Raceland police. The Raceland Fire Department extricated them from the vehicle. The other vehicle contained one patient.

The accident occurred at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Caroline Road at about 7:40 a.m. Tuesday, according to acting Police Chief Chadwick Spence.

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PHOTOS BY AARON SNYDER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
ABOVE: Tim England, Boyd County Emergency Management Director, speaks to media members on Wednesday at Catlettsburg Elementary. BELOW: The Catlettsburg Fire Department was among first responders at the scene.

‘Natural gas smell’ impacts Catlettsburg Elementary

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG The Boyd County School District evacuated Catlettsburg Elementary on Wednesday afternoon after a “natural gas smell” seemed to sicken students and a faculty member.

First responders arrived before 1 p.m. on reports of a natural gas smell. The odor was still being investigated a few hours later without resolution.

Tim England, Boyd County Emergency Management Director, said six or seven students had exhibited symptoms like nausea and headaches — nothing severe, he noted.

One student and one staff member were transported to a local medical facility for evaluation, England said. The student had vomited. The staff member had passed out.

England said a few students had left school early Tuesday, too, with symptoms. No one at the school reported anything to authorities until Wednesday. The affected students were in various areas of the building.

“Today triggered something was going on,” England said. “... If it is CO — and it may not be — any time you’re having symptoms, make that call and let us come out and check.”

England said the school system executed its plan well, as staff ushered students to the playground to keep them safe while authorities went inside to check LEL readings, which would be for gas or carbon



monoxide.

“We’ve been checking, and at no times did we get readings for LEL,” England said.

Buses arrived within 45 minutes to transport students to an alternate location in Catlettsburg.

“It’s been used in the past,” England said. “It’s a large facility with restrooms, water fountains, what they need.”

The school notified parents as quickly as it could, England said. Superintendent Bill Boblett was at the school along with other administrative staff.

As of 5 p.m., Columbia Gas had discovered no leaks in the gas lines or meter.

“Maintenance, contractor and plumber will be investigating the odor now,” England said via text

message just before 5 p.m.

School administration decided to close Catlettsburg Elementary today “out of an abundance of caution,” Boblett said in a letter to families.

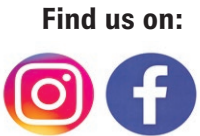
“We’re not sure if something was moving through the air handler system,” England said. “There have been some issues with the boiler system, so that’s why the contractors had been here. ... We’ve not been able to pinpoint it.”

Catlettsburg Fire, Catlettsburg Police, Boyd EMS, Columbia Gas and Emergency Rescue all responded to the scene.

All other Boyd County schools are in session today.

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