

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear mingles with the audience at a Democratic fundraiser in Butler County, Ohio, March 21, 2026.
 JULIE CARR SMYTH — AP



BRIDGE

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intersection with Dahl Road, has been in disrepair for some time, causing a weight limit restriction that prevented larger vehicles like school buses from being able to use it.

That was a bit of an inconvenience to the students and administrators of Shopville Elementary, since the school is within sight of the bridge, but to get from the school to Dahl Road buses needed to take a several-mile detour to avoid that bridge.

That's about to change soon, as county and state officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony declaring the bridge open.

The 90-foot bridge cost around \$920,000 to get back into shape, according to government officials.

"Opening the road back up is going to help our families at Shopville Elementary tremendously," said Shopville Elementary School Principal Michael Childers. "We appreciate Pulaski County Government for strengthening the bridge at Dahl Road and getting our school traffic flowing again. This will make the traffic flow for buses and parent pickup not just smoother, but safer as well."

Pulaski officials were also pleased to see the return of the bridge.

"Small country bridges may not always grab headlines, but they are lifelines for rural communities, connecting families, farms, schools, and emergency services," said Pulaski County Judge Executive Marshall Todd. "Investing in these structures isn't just about infrastructure. It's about protecting the everyday travel and safety of the people who depend on them. I was happy my Administration was finally able to get this bridge where it needs to be for the people of Shopville."

Fourth District Magistrate Mark Ranshaw added, "Infrastructure is more than just concrete and steel. It's a commitment to the future. When we prioritize small rural bridges, we're ensuring that no community is left behind and that growth, opportunity, and safety can reach every corner of our county."

Also in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony was Kenny Morgan, field representative for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

RIVER

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Strunk said the crash happened at the U.S. 27 bridge that crosses the north fork of the Cumberland River. It appears that the boat hit one of the piers of the bridge, Strunk said.

Neither Strunk nor Price knew when the crash happened. Strunk said that his office received the call at 9:31 a.m. Monday, and was on scene at 9:50 a.m.

In addition to the Coroner's Office and the Rescue Squad, the Somerset-Pulaski Special Response Team, Somerset-Pulaski EMS, and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife responded.

DEMOCRATS

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alesced around California Gov. Gavin Newsom as a strong candidate because of his aggressive strategy in going after Republicans.

He coined the nickname "JD 'Just Dance' Vance" on social media, and he has mocked the vice president's appearance, saying Vance "grew a beard and lost his spine."

Smith, the strategist who led Pete Buttigieg's 2020 presidential campaign and still works with the former Biden administration transportation secretary, said every line of criticism of Vance is an audition.

"There's definitely value in taking on Vance to show Democrats, hey, this could be me on the debate stage against him," said Smith.

VANCE OFTEN INVOKES HIS WORKING-CLASS ROOTS

The vice president was born and raised in Butler County's Middletown, and he rose to prominence with the publication of "Hillbilly Elegy" in 2016. The book earned Vance a reputation as someone who could help explain Trump's appeal in middle America, especially among the working class, rural white voters who helped Trump win the presidency.

Vance carried that reputation to the U.S. Senate, winning election in 2022,

and later to the vice presidency. That same background is likely to be central to any future presidential run — and it is precisely what Democrats are now working to undercut.

At Saturday's Democratic fundraiser, the mere mention of Vance's name drew a chorus of boos from the audience.

"I don't think he's got the magic that everybody looks at with Trump," said Theresa Vacheresse, a retired physician and business owner who attended the event. "I think when Trump is gone, the Democrats might have a chance. My god, I hope so."

The focus on Vance is not unusual for a vice president widely seen as a potential future nominee, particularly one as young as 41. Republicans went after Kamala Harris early in her tenure under President Joe Biden to undermine her political future.

Jamal Simmons, Harris' communications director in 2022 and 2023, said vice presidents can be vulnerable.

"The party is built to defend the president more than it is the vice president," he said. "The vice president's kind of out there on their own, to defend themselves, and find friends where they can."

Republicans, including Vance, frequently tied Harris to some of the Democratic administration's most politically difficult issues, such as immigration and border security.

"Being vice president is a very mixed

blessing," said David Axelrod, who was a top adviser to Democratic President Barack Obama. "You often don't have the assets of the president, but you inherit all of the president's record. The good, the bad, and the ugly."

BESHEAR HAS HAD SUCCESS IN TRUMP COUNTRY

Beshear is the rare Democrat to lead a red state, and he is positioning himself as someone who can reach voters who have tuned out his party.

He said Democrats can "actually go and win back those voters that JD Vance is so condescending to" if they stay focused on Americans' basic needs such as affordable health care and public safety.

"We've gotta start talking to people and not at them," he said. "That's how I won counties in eastern Kentucky that normally vote for Republicans by large margins — including Breathitt County. That's the county JD Vance pretends to be from. Donald Trump won it by 59 points. I won it by 22 points the year earlier."

The audience appeared delighted with Beshear's message.

"I think he's first-rate," said Mark Kaplan, who lives in Butler County. "What he's got is compassion, empathy, charisma and intellect, but he's also down-to-earth."

Cappelletti reported from Washington.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 SOUTH EASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
 CUSTOMER NOTICE

On or about March 19, 2026, South Eastern Water Association (the "Association") will file revised tariff sheets with the Kentucky Public Service Commission that revise its rules and regulations for the provision of water service to conform with the Public Service Commission's current regulations. The proposed revisions include: (1) reordering portions of the tariff to more cogently organize rules; (2) deletion of outdated practices, provisions, and Association Bylaws; (3) the inclusion of required forms; and (4) the establishment of rules under which electronic billing will be provided and payment via credit card and bank draft will be accepted.

Additionally, the revised tariff sheets provide that Developers constructing water main extensions to serve new residential, commercial, or mixed-use developments shall waive any entitlement to a partial refund for the cost of construction of the water main extension, but in lieu of a partial refund shall not be charged for the cost of testing necessary to place the water lines into service or for the final inspection of the facilities.

Finally, the revised tariff sheets establish that any excavation that changes the contour of the land above an existing Association-owned water line requires the prior written consent of the Association, and that any relocation of the water line necessitated by such excavation will be conducted by the Association at the expense of the person or persons planning and conducting the excavation.

The Association proposes to place the revised tariff sheets into effect on May 11, 2026. The proposed revisions to the Association's rules and regulations will not affect the rates charged for water service.

Any person may examine the proposed tariff sheets at the Association's office at 6615 Highway 914, Somerset, Kentucky 42501, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The proposed tariff sheets may also be viewed at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <https://psc.ky.gov/trf4/TRFListFilings.aspx?mode=1>.

Comments regarding the proposed tariff revision may be submitted to the Public Service Commission by mail to Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602 or by email to psc.tariffs@ky.gov.

The rules and regulations contained in the proposed tariff sheets are those proposed by the Association. However, the Public Service Commission may order rules and regulations that differ from those which are proposed. Such action may affect the conditions under which a customer currently receives water service.

A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY, 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the person's status and interest. If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the proposed tariff revisions.

South Eastern Water Association