

Primary races set in Carroll, Trimble

Nab, Bates, Tucker file to succeed Wilhoite as Carroll Judge-Executive

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The filing deadline for Kentucky’s May 2026 primary election has passed and the matchups are set in Carroll and Trimble counties.

As expected, Carroll County Judge-Executive David Wilhoite did not file for another term in office so current District 3 Magistrate Scott Nab and Mark Bates will seek the Republican nomination for that office and Ruby Tucker will run unopposed as a Democrat.

With Sheriff Charles Kelton stepping down mid-year in Trimble County, a two-way race for the GOP nomination will involve David “Neil” Mesker and James “Jim” Mitchell while Bob G. Temple will run as a Democrat for the office held since July by interim Sheriff Greg Clifford.

The Judge-Executive race in Trimble County will be heavily contested on the GOP side Ricky Simmons, Jonathan G. Turner and Kenneth Green opposing GOP incumbent John D. Ogburn Jr. while no candidates filed as a Democrat.

Incumbent Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Gosser will have no opposition in the Republican primary but will face Democratic challenger J.T. Shaw in the November general

election.

Milton Mayor Denny Jackson, as expected, did not file for reelection but Troy E. Alexander has filed unopposed to succeed Jackson as Milton mayor.

The primary election will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and the general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

Those who have filed for local offices include:

CARROLL COUNTY
Republican Primary
Judge-Executive
Scott Nab
Mark Bates
County Clerk
Danielle Maiden Kinman (I)

Sheriff
Ryan Gosser (I)
Jailer
Daniel Rose (I)
Property Valuation Administrator
Rob Robertson (I)
County Attorney
Nicholas Marsh (I)
County Coroner
Magistrate District 1
Benjamin “Benjie” Long (I)
Paul D. Yocum
Lance Maiden
Magistrate District 2
Clay Cable (I)
Magistrate District 3
Jennifer Beach
John Darrell Barnhill
Jesse Saggus
Joe Gibson

Jason Noble
Constable District 3
James Fox
Samuel A. Proctor

Democratic Primary
Judge-Executive
Ruby Tucker
Sheriff
J.T. Shaw
Coroner
Brent Stucker (I)
Magistrate District 1
John Proctor
Dustin Allen Smith
Magistrate District 3
Keifer McIntyre
Constable District 1

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Carroll's retiring dog warden has his day

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS
THE NEWS DEMOCRAT

An old idiom claims “Every dog has its day” and after 29 years of faithful service, that also applies to Carroll County’s dog warden, Leonard Danner.

Danner recently retired at the end of 2025 after 29 years service to the county as dog catcher and working at the Carroll County Animal Shelter. He was recognized for that service at Tuesday’s Carroll Fiscal Court meeting.

Judge-Executive David Wilhoite said Danner has served the county reliably for about 29 years but is now officially retired.

“So, today, we’re going to try and do a little recognition for him,” Wilhoite said, inviting Danner to the front of the fiscal courtroom to be presented a large wooden plaque as a “token of our appreciation.”

The plaque listed Danner’s years of service from 1996 to 2025, as well as the inscription: “Thank You For Serving The Carroll County Community With Compassion And Dedication.”

Danner was also given a small blue envelope, which Wilhoite said contained “a little gift.”

“We appreciate all that you’ve done for us in the county and the work you’ve done over the years by coming out on your own and taking care of everything,” Wilhoite said. “But I know you’ll be all right and everything will go good for you.”

District 3 Magistrate Scott Nab thanked Danner, and asked if he would be interested in “writing a book about all the stories, because I’m sure you’ve got a lot of them.”

In other business, Wilhoite provided an update on the county’s efforts to obtain a Building Code Inspector. He said he has held discussions with Matt Dunaway, the certified building and electrical inspector



Retired Carroll County Dog Warden Leonard Danner (left) is recognized by Judge-Executive David Wilhoite (right) with a wooden plaque and gift envelope in honor for his 29 years of service to the county.

for Trimble County and a few other nearby counties.

“He’s willing to move forward with it and help us with the county,” Wilhoite said of Dunaway.

“He came and talked to me and I told him we’d get back with him after we got everything lined out here starting the first of the year.”

Nab questioned whether the decision was something the court needed to approve in resolution form, which Wilhoite and District 2 Magistrate Clay Cable agreed.

Matt Dusing, Carroll County’s Director of Government Services, said an ordinance for a building inspector has been drafted, but they have been waiting on an update from Dunaway and still need to “work out ... the fees and the pricing.”

“Pretty much all the primary stuff that’s

needed has already been drafted into an ordinance,” Dusing said.

Wilhoite said he has been waiting until the court started budgeting to get a “line item” for the job as well as including the discussion into a work session.

In other matters, the court voted to donate a “surplus property” salt box to the City of Worthville. Wilhoite said Worthville’s previous salt box, used for snow removal on a former county truck given to the town in the past, is “beyond repair.”

Cable made a motion to donate the salt box which was seconded by District One Magistrate Benjie Long and unanimously adopted.

The fiscal court’s next meeting will be at 9 a.m.on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Carroll County courthouse.

P&Z seeking a way for wig shop to relocate in Trimble

BY CINDY WARRICK
THE TRIMBLE BANNER

Trimble County’s Planning and Zoning ordinance was adopted to control undesirable growth and development in a predominantly rural county but on Tuesday members of that commission were looking for a way to balance that to not restrict uses that are acceptable but previously unforeseen.

That was the case at the Plan Commission’s meeting on Tuesday evening, when new Trimble residents Nathan and Connie Wentworth came before the board seeking a solution that would allow them to continue to operate their small wig business after relocating from Madison, Indiana.

The Wentworths had previously lived in and operated a wig shop in Madison until the death of a parent in Trimble County. Knowing they would be moving to Trimble, they went through the local zoning channels to seek approval to operate the shop in Trimble County. But upon contacting the zoning office, they were informed that the current zoning ordinance does not contain a provision for wig shops or a permit for conditional use.

As a result, the Wentworths are currently unable to operate their business in Trimble County and their building lease in Madison expires at the end of February.

Stacy Ginn, attorney for Trimble County Planning and Zoning, offered the opinion that the Wentworths must wait for a zoning change or amendment to uses that would allow them to operate the business in the county. Based on the guidelines that will require discussions at meetings, a 30-day notification of neighbors to ascertain any concerns or objections to the proposed business, legal publication in the newspaper and public hearing before a vote to send the issue to Trimble County Fiscal Court for more discussion, final approval, legal publication in the newspaper, and implementation.

Ginn said it’s a complicated, time-consuming process but one that by law must be followed. He reminded residents that the county’s comprehensive plan mandates many of the zoning requirements and since the county is predominantly agricultural, many of the zoning

issues are directly related to that.

The Wentworths shared some of the impact their business has had on its clients in the Madison area — especially those dealing with hair loss due to illness. They noted some health insurance companies will not pay for wigs for women going through cancer treatment, so clients come to them with a doctors’ prescription for a “cranial prosthesis” so that wigs are covered.

Lakin Alexander, a client of the Wentworths, spoke at the meeting as a cancer patient who was able to secure a wig during her breast cancer treatment. Due to the encouragement of the Wentworths, she was able to regain part of her life again, and have the courage to speak up at the meeting on the importance of the business to the area.

“We need to try to find a way to encourage and not stifle entrepreneurship in the county,” said Plan Commission member Eric Cox. “We need to have a commonsense regulation. We do not want to discourage small business.”

Ginn noted that Trimble County’s planning and zoning initiatives, adopted in 2020 but essentially not implemented until a couple of years ago, are still in their infancy so growing pains will happen. About 30 people attended Tuesday’s meeting to see how the commission would handle the issue.

Trimble County Judge-Executive John Ogburn reminded the residents of the benefits already realized by having a strong planning and zoning ordinance: Rejection of a septage business possibly polluting land and water around that business, strong ordinances restricting development of wind farms in the county, and rejection of a landfill proposal to build a methane gas collection facility in the southern part of the county without any controls.

Planning and Zoning Chair Stacy Burkhardt said the process could be somewhat expedited by holding extra special meetings during the discussion phase, but with notification and publication requirements, the process would still extend into March at best case.

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Charlie's Beat: Celebrating 1,800 years of sacred music

In Egypt in 1918 archeologists discovered a papyrus fragment from the Third century AD. And on that scrap of ancient paper was inscribed the earliest known Christian hymn to contain both lyrics and musical notation. It’s called the Oxyrhynchus hymn, and it’s the first known church music! This is the tune that will be playing as you take your seat for the next Madison Performing Arts Foundation concert at Trinity Methodist Church,

Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

“We wanted to present the full spectrum of religious music over the entire span of centuries since Jesus’ time,” explains Luke Richards, pastor at United Methodist Church in Hanover, and one of the organizers of the show. “The show will include chants and hymns, of course, but also classical selections, music from medieval, Baroque and Renaissance times, a pair of old-time spirituals, and even a couple of bluegrass tunes.”



CHARLIE ROHLFING


The concert should be very entertaining, and a lot of fun, if you can say that about sacred music. The composers are a veritable who’s who including Bach, Mozart, and Mendelssohn, plus a hymn from the big protestant man himself, Martin Luther! Notable musicians will feature Jonathan Stanley on organ, Yvonne Davis, Starla Raley and Lynn Maricle on piano, Meg Bramer on cello and Rob Houze on bass, and Jacob DeAtley on guitar. Reverend Luke will be chiming in himself with his trumpet and on the dulcimer.

Vocals will come from

the Presbyterian Church Choir, Marlene Bateman, and Faith Bible. The bluegrass selections will include “I’ll Fly Away,” and the Ricky Skaggs tune “I’m Ready to Go.” Like I said, it should be joyous and fun!

“We believe the concert will give listeners a chance to reflect on how much music shapes us,” explains Rev. Luke. “It gives us a vocabulary to praise God and help define our journey with God. I truly believe music can be foundational ... it’s not a neutral thing, something that just happens between the

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RIVER LEVELS			
Forecast			
Jan. 16: — 21.3 ft.	Jan. 17: — 19.4 ft.		
Jan. 18: — 19.4 ft	Jan. 19: — 19.2 ft.		
— at Markland Dam, provided by the NWS			

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