

The News Democrat

Serving Carroll County Since 1868

VOL. 158, NO. 3 • FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 • \$2

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.

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

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

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. Yocom
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

SEE PRIMARY/PAGE A8

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.

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

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."

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

SEE MUSIC/PAGE A8



CHARLIE
ROHLFING

SEE P&Z/PAGE A8

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."

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

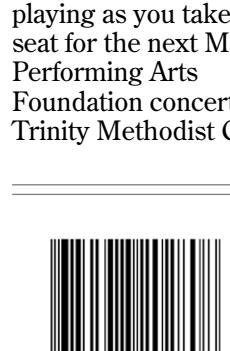
the Presbyterian Church Choir, Marlene Bateman, and Faith Bible. The bluegrass selections will include "I'll Fly Away," and the Ricky Skaggs tune "I'm Ready to Go." Like I

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

SEE MUSIC/PAGE A8

SEE P&Z/PAGE A8



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

INDEX

OBITUARIES

SPORTS

PUBLIC RECORDS

A2

A4

A5

CLASSIFIEDS

A7

A8

INSIDE

STEIN CAN NOW TURN FULL

ATTENTION TO WILDCATS

PAGE A4

OBITUARIES

ROBERT ADAMS

SHIRLEY CHIPMAN

CARL COWAN

HENRY HOLLIDAY

SANDRA THOMAS

JOHNNIE TILLEY

MICHAEL VINCENT

PAGE A2