

SEBREE BANNER



NUMBER EIGHTY-EIGHT

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

NUMBER FIFTY-TWO



THIS WAS THE scene in Sebree last Thursday afternoon when a home located on Church Street was totally destroyed by fire. Firefighters from area departments responded to the fire and were on scene for several hours to prevent the fire from spreading to other structures. Additional photos of the incident can be found on page 3 of this week's paper.

Cases Heard In Circuit Court

A number of individuals appeared in Webster Circuit Court on January 16, where they entered pleas before the honorable Judge Daniel Heady.

In the case of Steven R. Sigler, the defendant withdrew his guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to a charge of third-degree assault-inmate for corrections officer. Sigler was adjudged guilty of the offense and sentenced to three years imprisonment. Court costs were waived due to Sigler being a state inmate serving 13 years incarceration.

Betty A. Hall was granted pretrial diversion by the court and placed under the supervision of probation and parole. Hall, who is charged with possession of a controlled substance first degree, first offense, was ordered to attend Drug Court if she is accepted into that program, complete alcohol and drug assessment with MBC Outreach and complete all treatment recommendations. If she is presently incarcerated, she will remain as such until a treatment bed becomes available. The term of her diversion is three years with Hall ordered to follow all conditions set forth in the diversion order. Failure to complete the terms and conditions set forth by the court will result in incarceration.

Brandon J. Higgins also received pre-trial diversion for a five-year period provided he commits no further offenses and meets the conditions set forth by the court. He will participate in drug court if accepted, complete alcohol and drug assessment with MBC Outreach, or other assessment programs, and complete all treatment recommendations. If he is incarcerated, he will remain so until a treatment bed is available. Higgins charges include trafficking in Mj less than eight ounces, cultivating Mj less than five plants and first degree PCS first offense.

Mickey L. Mitchell, who is charged with flagrant non-support, appeared before Judge Heady withdrawing his not guilty plea and entering a plea of guilty to the charge. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment probated for five years.

Respiratory Illness "Very High" In Kentucky

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

Kentucky is seeing a "very high" rate of respiratory illness right now, especially among children.

"We are seeing somewhere between 10 to 20 patients each day in the children's hospital needing admissions," Chief Medical Officer for Kentucky Children's Hospital Dr. Lindsay Ragsdale said at an online press conference on January 17.

Statewide, the Kentucky Respiratory Disease Dashboard shows that in the week ending January 11, 19% of the state's emergency department visits and 23% of its inpatient encounters were related to respiratory illness.

Ragsdale and Dr. Nicholas Van Sickles, medical director for UK HealthCare Infection Prevention and Control, agreed that the overlap of multiple viruses, including flu, RSV and Covid-19, have contributed to the state's high activity level.

"It's been kind of just a perfect storm of different waves hitting Kentucky that have kept the levels high, as opposed to other states," Van Sickles said at the news conference. "Hopefully, that will signal for us an earlier decline."

On January 16, the Kentucky Department for Public Health reported that respiratory illness activity is "very high" in

Kentucky, with seasonal influenza activity elevated and Covid-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity decreased.

The doctors also noted that there has been an uptick in Norovirus, a highly contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

"Norovirus, unfortunately, does not respond to alcohol-based cleansers," Van Sickles said. "You have to wash your hands and do the 20 seconds, really get in there and wash. The other thing that's important is the surfaces, and it really requires a bleach-type cleaner to clean those surfaces and get rid of the Norovirus."

To decrease the spread of these viruses, the doctors urged Kentuckians to practice good hand hygiene, stay home when they are sick and to get vaccinated, calling vaccinations the best tools available to help prevent infections.

Asked when to seek medical attention, Ragsdale encouraged people to call their child's primary care provider if they have any concerns, and to seek emergency care if their child cannot breathe and eat or drink at the same time or shows any signs of respiratory distress.

"If you're seeing your child really not be able to breathe and eat or drink at the same time, that's really one of those signs that make us nervous. I think the other

thing is they really are working hard to breathe. So we're seeing their nostrils flare, their lungs and muscles working overtime, just to make sure that they're breathing. I think those are really what we would consider hazard signs where we would want rapid attention in our emergency department or acute care visits."

Van Sickles encouraged everyone to get vaccinated against the flu, Covid-19 and RSV, if they qualify, but he especially encouraged those with chronic underlying health conditions to do so.

He encouraged Kentucky adults to reach out to their primary care provider and specialists early if they are sick with one of these viruses because there are treatments for both Covid-19 and the flu.

He added, "I encourage people to seek urgent medical attention if you are having high fevers and unable to eat and drink, if you are vomiting profusely, having diarrhea (or) not breathing well."

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Voter Registration Remains Strong

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Despite there being no regular elections scheduled in Kentucky until the May 2026 primary, Secretary of State Michael Adams announced Friday voter registration remained strong in the last month of 2024,

with 9,324 voters registering in December.

"It's remarkable that in the month following a presidential election, and 17 months before our next election, Kentuckians showed strong interest in voting," said Adams.

Balancing out the

new registrations in December, there were also 4,962 voters who were removed from the rolls.

4,034 were voters who had died, 505 who lost their right to vote due to a felony conviction, 234 who moved out of state, 98 duplicate registrations, 56 who vol-

untarily de-registered, and 35 who were adjudged by a court to be mentally incompetent.

Republican registrants now account for 47 percent of the electorate, with 1,674,447 voters. Republican registration rose by 5,263 voters, which

represents a .32 percent increase. Democratic registrants currently make up 42 percent of the electorate, with 1,499,867 voters. Democratic registration fell by 2,970 voters, a .20 percent decrease.

There are 385,339 voters registered as Independent or under other political affiliations, which consists 11 percent of the electorate. "Other" registration climbed by 2,069 voters, a .54 percent increase.

Clay City Council Accepts Bid

Clay City Council met on Tuesday, January 14, in a short session that saw the group taking action on the sale of a surplus backhoe.

The council had advertised three items—a fire truck, a pick up and the backhoe—for sale by sealed bids, but only one bid was received. Bruce Moore submitted a bid of \$6000 for the backhoe. On a unanimous vote by the five council members present, the bid was accepted.

Council members also heard an update from city attorney Becky Johnson that three actions

have been filed and a judgment of order of sale on one property has been issued. The council acknowledged that it takes quite a long time to go through the legal process of placing liens on property due to the fact that a number of people and/or mortgage companies have to be contacted.

In addition to approving the minutes, accounts payable and the clerk's report, the council learned that a new radio system for the city is in place, and Mayor Jack Edens reported that a tank to spread brine prior to incoming inclement weather has

been purchased under a state of emergency. That purchase was made just prior to the ice storm that hit the area earlier in January.

The council was also presented with a copy of the December fire department report which shows Clay Rescue responded on 11 runs in December and held their annual awards program to recognize a number of firefighters for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 with the next council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m.

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