

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME EIGHTY-NINE

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE



DOZENS OF VINTAGE cars and trucks were on display in Onton on Saturday evening during the car show which is held as a part of the annual Onton Hay Days celebration. Additional photos of Hay Days activities can be found in this week's paper.



Webster County Fiscal Court Approves Claim; OKs Contract

Webster County Fiscal Court met in regular session Monday morning hearing a reimbursement request from a former employee, approving personnel for the jail and sheriff's office and okaying an agreement for the Highway 670 project.

Following the approval of meeting minutes for one regular session and two special sessions of the fiscal court, magistrates moved into the business session of the meeting. The first item of business to come before the court was public comments. Brandy Lanham, a former employee in the WC Sheriff's Department addressed the court to submit a receipt for just over \$199 for a room reservation from the Sheriff's Convention she attended during the week of September 8-12. Lanham submitted a letter to the judge/executive resigning from her position in the sheriff's department on September 2, noting that she was "giving two weeks' notice as per standard practice."

During Monday's meeting when Judge/Executive Steve Henry called for a motion to pay the county's claims, he advised magistrates they could "accept the list of claims as is or they could add on Lanham's claim for the sheriff's conference that was held in Bowling Green." Magistrate

Bob Hardison made a motion to pay the claims including Lanham's claim; Tony Felker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Magistrates also heard comments from PVA Jeff Kelley provided the court with a list of property tax rates by taxing district for the last six years. In his comments Kelley noted that this year local taxing districts have reduced their tax rates by several cents on \$100 over that six year period.

In addition to approving the claims, transfers, and purchase orders, magistrates approved a change of employment from part-time to full-time for jail employees Lindsey Howard and Daniel Nicholson. The hiring of Megan Clark as a fulltime employee in the sheriff's officer was also approved. Tonia Duncan and Leesa Russell received approval to attend the KACO conference in Louisville on November 11-14.

In their final business on Monday, magistrates approved an agreement between HMB and the court for engineering services on the Highway 670 projects. Grant funds are being used for that project.

Fiscal Court will next meet on Monday, October 13, at 9:00 a.m.

City Of Slaughters Receives Funding From DRA

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) announced last week that the agency has awarded nearly \$1.8 million to 16 communities through its Strategic Planning Program, a funding opportunity providing communities within the DRA region with the necessary resources to develop strategies that maximize opportunities in public infrastructure, workforce development, and small business development and

entrepreneurship. Through the Strategic Planning Program, DRA has invested approximately \$3.3 million, to date, toward 29 projects in its final round of funding for the 2025 fiscal year. The city of Slaughters is slated to receive a portion of those funds.

"The Strategic Planning Program gives public entities across DRA's footprint the ability to address long-standing challenges and to develop

a course of action for economic growth and revitalization," said Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chairman. "This investment will better position communities to build stronger foundations for future development and sustained infrastructure improvements."

With grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000, the Strategic Planning Program provides communities in the lower Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt

regions with the necessary resources to develop roadmaps for economic development, such as comprehensive economic development plans, preliminary engineering reports, utility rate studies, feasibility studies, workforce development plans and broadband deployment plans.

Second-Round 2025 Strategic Planning Program award recipients include communities in Alabama,

Illinois, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi.

In Kentucky the City of Slaughters was awarded \$150,000 to complete a project engineering report consisting of a feasibility study, evaluation alternatives and an environmental analysis for a much-needed transportation infrastructure project that will address flood-control concerns.

World War II Veteran's Awards Presented To Family

SSgt. Junior J. Shelton's remains were identified in April of 2025—81 years after he was first reported Missing in Action. On September 5, 2025, Sgt. Adam Biggers and Tamara Faulkner of the US Army's Past Conflicts Repatriations Branch met with family members at the home of James and Misty Weldon in Madisonville to share the Staff Sergeant's military journey and his accomplishments during his years of service. The two previous stories followed Shelton's enlistment to his death and then the search to find his re-

mains. Today concludes that journey with the military helping the family make plans to return SSgt. Junior J. Shelton to his home in Sebree for burial near other family members.

After years of research and analysis, work to prove the remains they had found were truly SSgt. Junior J. Shelton's and a DNA match with two family samples, on April 12, 2025, the U. S. Army confirmed that they had, indeed, correctly identified the remains. The family reviewed documents that show SSgt. Shelton was buried by a German soldier

soon after his death, and a medical examiner's report that identifies the body and cause of death.

On September 5, Tamara Faulkner and Sgt. Adam Biggers met with members of Shelton's family not only to trace his movements through the military and the search for him after he was reported missing, but to also help the family make arrangements for a burial in his hometown of Sebree.

Those discussions included selecting a casket or urn, travel arrangement for family, funeral services and plans to honor Shelton's

service. The military will prepare the remains for burial, place a uniform and awards over those remains and fly them from Omaha, Nebraska to Nashville, TN on Thursday, September 25, where at least some family members will meet the plane and participate in a ceremony transferring SSgt. Shelton's remains from the military to the family. Tomblinson Funeral Home will transport the body via hearse from Nashville to Sebree for a graveside service scheduled for October 4, at 10:00 a.m.

An honor guard will be in place at the airport to remove the flag draped coffin from the plane and into the hearse.

A military escort will travel with Shelton's remains to Nashville and then on to Sebree.

As the family made funeral plans, Vonette Shelton Curtis, Junior J. Shelton's oldest niece, signed documents to accept the body, work with the funeral home, schedule a time to meet with funeral director Chip Tomblinson along with Sgt. Biggers, and schedule a burial date.

After funeral arrangements were made

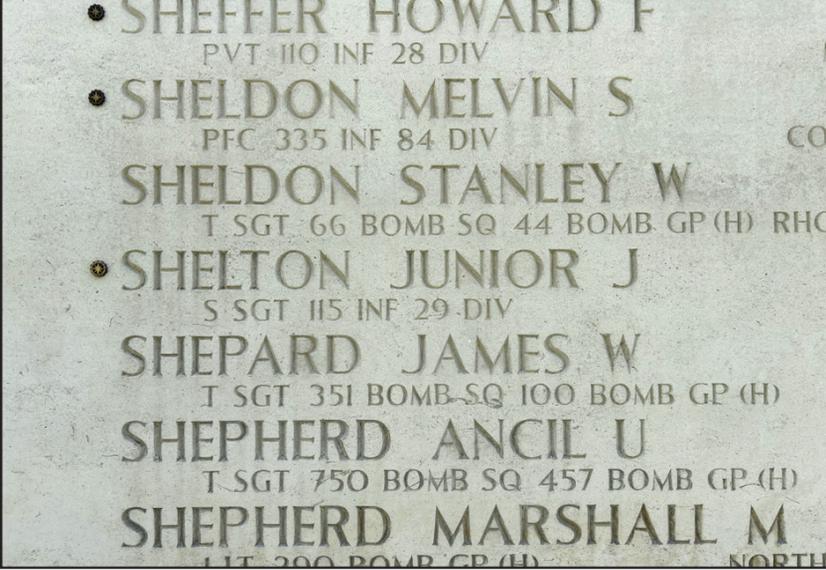
at that September 5, meeting, Sgt. Biggers rose from his seat to present the awards Junior J. Shelton had earned as a soldier.

Those awards include

*Two Bronze Stars with oak leaf. A Bronze Star was established by the US Military in February 1944, just eight months before

Shelton's death, to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with Armed Forces of the United States, or a friendly foreign nation after December 6, 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service in connection with the military operations in-

Continued on Page 5



A BRONZE ROSETTE indicating SSgt. Junior J. Shelton's remains have been identified by his name on the Wall of the Missing in the Netherlands.



SFC ADAM BIGGERS, the U.S. Army representative helping the Shelton family with burial arrangements for SSgt. Junior Shelton, whose remains were identified after 81 years, presents the Staff Sergeant's military awards to his family during a September 5, meeting. Shelton was awarded two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts in addition to several other awards for his service and sacrifice.