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JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE

Providence, Kentucky

City Council hears bids for water project

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
FOR THE JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE

The Providence City Council met Monday night with a relatively short agenda, including the next step in a project aimed at easing the burdens on an aging water system.

The council first heard from Nick Pilcher with HMB Engineering, who opened the sealed bids for the Providence-Webster County Water District Interconnect Project. Mayor Tom Glover explained that after losing the water system in July 2025, the city received state dollars to tie Providence's water line into the county to help mitigate any future problems the city might have.

Pilcher first looked over each bid to make sure it was signed and completed appropriately before announcing the bid amount to the council.

Bobby Luttrell and Sons LLC bid \$119,075, Koberstein Contracting bid \$247,255, M and G Services LLC bid \$238,250 and Norris Bros Excavating bid \$316,350.

The lowest bid was \$101,587.60 from Solid Rock Trucking LLC. Pilcher said his company would check the math and references on the bid and come back with an official recommendation. Glover reiterated that Pilcher would make sure that the winning company could complete the work.

Glover also invited Pilcher to discuss the Diamond interconnect project. This would essentially do the same thing—tie in with the county at the city limit.

Councilman James Crowell asked if there was money to do that, and Pilcher said Judge-Executive Steve Henry and the

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Kelley named Miss Hopkins County Fair

BY CASSIE JONES
THE MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

On Saturday night, the 70th Miss Hopkins County Fair, Nataleigh Morck, crowned her successor, Meredith Kelley, as Miss Hopkins County Fair 2026.

Kelley, 20, is the daughter of Danny and Marcie Whitledge of Providence, is a junior at the University of Kentucky, and teaches ballet at Pennyrile Gymnastics.

Her competition in the pageant was sponsored by Rolling Cones Ice Cream Bus, a business she owns and is scheduled to open in Madisonville in the fall.

"I'm a new business owner here in Madisonville, and I thought it would be a great way to meet a lot of the community and serve in another way other than just business," are the reasons Kelley gave when deciding to vie for the title of the 71st Miss Hopkins County Fair.

As the new owner of the title, Kelley has a busy year ahead of her.

"She will be expected to represent the county in the local parades and will complete community service opportunities as her class schedule allows," explained Alyssa Browning, the pageant's coordinator. "In January, she will go to Louisville to



Jason Jones | For The Messenger

Miss Hopkins County Fair 2025 Nataleigh Morck ended her reign on Saturday night by crowning Meredith Kelley Miss Hopkins County Fair 2026.

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Provided

Pastor Kieth Hopson and family took the church through a four month renovation three years ago.

Living Word Ministries celebrates 3 years in community

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
FOR THE JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE

Reverend Kieth Hopson and the congregation at Living Word Ministries recently celebrated their third year of ministry in Providence. The church celebrated humble beginnings and faithfulness to God during their recent anniversary. They also invite the community to an upcoming revival this week.

Hopson recalled first his own personal experiences in faith.

"In 2014, I gave my life to the Lord and was called to preach," he explained.

Two years later, Hopson preached his first sermon. He later became an ordained minister with a vision to open a new church in the community. Living Word Ministries began around Hopson's dining room table, with Hopson's family the first physical parishioners. Hopson's family helped him stream his services live on Facebook.

"We had a tremendous response," explained Hopson, who noted that the services averaged between 300-500 views online in those first services.

Living Word Ministries moved to its present day location at 219 Locust Street in 2023. Since the building had been closed for years, Hopson and his church family had its work cut out for them.

"It was physically in bad shape," Hopson noted.

The church also was also trapped in a time warp, still outfitted with its rotary phone, electric typewriter and shag carpet.

After a four-month remodel, the church was officially opened and dedicated to service.

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Providence home to swing musician Phillips

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
FOR THE JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE

The Webster County High School marching band recently wrapped up its summer camp week, highlighting in a Facebook post how the student performers have grown in both work ethic and musical ability in preparation for the school year. Musical talents have a rich history in Webster County and western Kentucky in general. One particular example is Rueben Phillips.

Phillips was born in Providence sometime around 1920. His career took him away from Kentucky and first to Alabama State University in Montgomery. This historically black university was founded in 1874 as a teaching school. There are currently 103 "historically black colleges/universities" in the



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Your mental health is my priority.



Owensboro Health
Madisonville Healthplex

OwensboroHealth.org/Cullen

Keely
Cullen, APRN

