



SEBREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL nurse Aleisha Buchanan was named #1 WC Certified Employee of the Month at Monday night's school board meeting. Samantha Shelton, who was nominated by a student, received the #1 WC Certified Employee award. She was unable to attend the meeting.

Board Of Education Recognizes Staff, Students; Hears Reports

The Webster County Board of Education met for about two hours Monday night hearing from teachers and community members regarding the possible non-renewal of superintendent Aaron Harrell's contract (see related story in the issue of The Sebree Banner), recognizing several students and employees and approving a number of agenda items.

The meeting opened with the recognition of the #1 WC Employees of the Month. Samantha Shelton, a Sebree Elementary third grade teacher, was recognized as the #1 WC Certified Employee of the Month. Her nomination came from a student; Ms. Shelton was unable to attend the meeting. Alisha Buchanan who works as the school nurse at Sebree was recognized as the #1 WC Classified Employee of the Month.

Other recognitions included the presentation of a certificate to Venecia Gilbert, a second grader at Providence Elementary School, who led the pledge and to the Webster County 4H Lifesmart's Teams that recently competed in Louisville at their state competition. Middle schoolers Amera Ramin, Cy busby, Katherine White and Luke White brought home a state championship from the Lifesmart's event, and Carson Hill, Andrew Pleskach, Chloe Pleskach, Nate Whitaker and Naomi Sui participated in the senior division of the competition.

Following the recognition, the board heard comments from the public; thirteen individuals addressed the board regarding rumors that Harrell's contract will not be renewed. At the conclusion of those comments which lasted until 6:09 p.m., board member Amanda Coomes excused herself from the remainder of business session, telling those present she was "keeping the book" for the district tournament. She noted as she left the session that she supports the agenda items on which the board was scheduled to vote.

As the meeting continued, the first item of business was a brief discussion about moving the March 9 and 23, meetings to WCHS due to the number of community members, teachers and others who have attended the last two board sessions. On February 9 approximately 175 individuals were in attendance and Monday night approximately 100 plus were on hand for the meeting. The March meetings will also be held at the high school media center to accommodate the large crowds that have attended and addressed the board asking for answers as to why they might be considering a non-renewal for him.

The discussions then moved to



MEMBERS OF THE WEBSTER COUNTY 4-H Lifesmart's team were recognized by the board of education for their recent state competition. The middle school team came home with a state championship. Pictured left to right are Amera Ramin, Chloe Pleskach, Naomi Sui, Carson Hill, Cy Busby, Katherine White and Luke White. Other members of the team not pictured include Andrew Pleskach and Nate Whitaker. The middle school state champions include Amera Ramin, Cy Busby, Katherine White and Luke White.

Kim Saalwaechter sharing information regarding the 2026-27 SBDM guidelines and the tentative 2026-27 SBDM allocations. According to Saalwaechter, the personnel allocations for all elementary schools will remain the same as this year's numbers; however, the due to a decline in enrollment, the middle school will lose one teaching position and one instructional assistant. Saalwaechter noted that should the enrollment at WCMS increase by eight students the teaching position will be restored. At the high school a declining enrollment will force the loss of two teacher positions, dropping the number of teachers to 25. The 2026 graduation class totals 197 students while the incoming freshman class for 2025-27 will have only 132 members, she said.

At the conclusion of Saalwaechter's reports, Harrell presented the quote for student accidental insurance. The lowest quote came from Zurich, the present carrier, at a cost of \$22,353.65.

The superintendent also reported on the most recent walkthroughs of classrooms which took place last week. Harrell noted that the administrators involved in the walkthroughs "had a good visit, seeing much consistency and confidence in teaching. It was good to see that." Harrell told the board "there is undeniable growth" taking place, and while he praised the continuous improvement of instruction, he added that there are still areas of focus. "I appreciate so much our students are given these opportunities and continue to achieve. There are some bright spots and the instructional coaches and teachers are working to continue these accomplishments."

At the conclusion of Harrell's report, the board approved a number of consent items in one vote. The consent items included approval of four field trips, a fundraiser, the student insurance contract, and the monthly reports.

The board also addressed six action items before they adjourned at 6:33. Those items included the approve of an additional school resource officer who will work at Dixon Elementary and the SRO contracts. The vote was 4-0 for approval due to Mrs. Coomes leaving the meeting before it concluded. The board also approved the Consolidated District Improvement Plan that was presented by Dawn Forker on February 9, okayed the 2026-27 SMDM staffing guidelines, the tentative SMDM allocations, the change of location for the March board meetings and the 2026-27 Code of Conduct all on 4-0 votes.

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Sebree Council Rejects Time Change; Approves 1% Insurance Tax Increase

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17 with Mayor Billy Smith presiding and five council members present. Council member Jana Forker was not present for the meeting.

Also in attendance were City Attorney Will Cox, City Clerk Mary Meredith, and Interim City Clerk Kim Campbell.

Following approval of the minutes from the January meeting, council members rejected an ordinance to change the meeting time for monthly meetings, approved a one percent increase in the insurance tax, and held a closed session to discuss pending litigation.

In late 2025, Ms. Forker asked that meeting times be changed from 5:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. On Tuesday night, the city attorney told members the city ordinance concerning meetings would have to be changed. Council member Perry Culberson stated he felt meeting times should remain at 5:30 P.M. and offered a motion to that effect. That motion received

a second and was approved on a 3-2 vote. Council members Pam Jones and Kathy Edwards voted against the motion, while Culberson, Kord Cooper, and Jim Williams voted to leave meeting times at 5:30 P.M.

Council members were reminded in 2024 an order was approved to increase the city's insurance tax one percent per year over a three year period in order to reach a cap of 10%. On Tuesday night, the council approved that one percent increase, raising the insurance tax from eight percent to nine percent for 2026. There will be one more increase next year.

At 5:40 P.M. the council went into a closed session to discuss pending litigation. Upon returning to the open meeting at 5:53 P.M., Mayor Smith stated there was nothing to report from that session.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, March 16, 5:30 P.M.

Providence City Council Meets In Regular Session

The Providence City Council met in a 25 minute session Tuesday evening where they heard reports from department heads and briefly discussed the sanitation ordinance and a building that is going to be taken down.

Police Chief Ray Agent reported that officers in his department made 14 total calls during January including responding to 57 complaints, issuing 20 citations, issuing 22 verbal warnings; conducting 23 special details providing 16 motorists assists and 16 officer assists as well as other duties.

According to Fire Chief Cameron Brown, EMS made 75 runs and the fire department made 16 runs during January. Brown also noted that he continues to work on specifications and prepare a bid for a new ambulance.

Terry Turner told the council that city employees have started cleaning up cemeteries preparing for mowing season and have gathered and repainted several trash cans. The water department has repaired several leaks and is taking care of other work as needed.

Turner also reported that the city has a week-long gas inspection coming up, but he does not foresee any issues will be found.

Also in his report, Turner noted that city residents recently received a letter from the fire department regarding water lines. The letter relates to the Kentucky Division of Water's work to do away with lead pipe being used for water lines. The survey relates to water customers checking the water lines from the meter the house. Turner stressed that the survey is for information only and "no one has to pay anything." He added that should a customer have a question regarding the survey, they may contact the city for help. City

employees are also checking water lines on the city side of meters and replacing any lines as necessary.

In his remarks to the council, Mayor Tom Glover said the city is working closely with Health First on their expansion project which will include water/sewer, storm sewers and electric work.

The mayor also reported that the Cole family is working to take down an uptown building, but has run into issues with the building it adjoins. For the present time the demolition of the Cole's building is on hold until that issue can be resolved.

Glover also reported

that he will soon order the new trash containers. Each customer will have one container, but may request a second container for an additional charge. The city continues to work on amending the city's sanitation ordinance, he said.

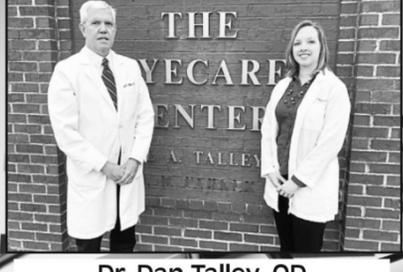
Several months ago, Glover told the council that the city has a landfarm drilling truck they are not using; at that time he suggested the city may want to surplus the truck. However, on Tuesday night, the mayor said he has learned that the city still has a landfarm lease and the truck could prove to be beneficial for the city. The city will not surplus the truck.

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