

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

NUMBER EIGHT

Webster County Grand Jury Returns Indictments

The Webster County Grand Jury convened March 11, returning indictments in six cases.

Katelyn Christine Bowman, who faced four charges, was indicted on two of them. Indictments were returned for third degree criminal trespassing and public intoxication- controlled substances (excludes alcohol).

No true bill was returned on her charges of tampering with physical evidence and first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine.

Two indictments were returned in the case of Scott Craig Dame. Dame was indicted for first degree sodomy, victim under 12 years of age, two counts.

Martha Ann McGuire saw four charges of first-degree promoting contraband merged with a single indictment returned on those charges. She was also indicted on four merged charges of second-degree promoting contraband; possession of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a legend drug.

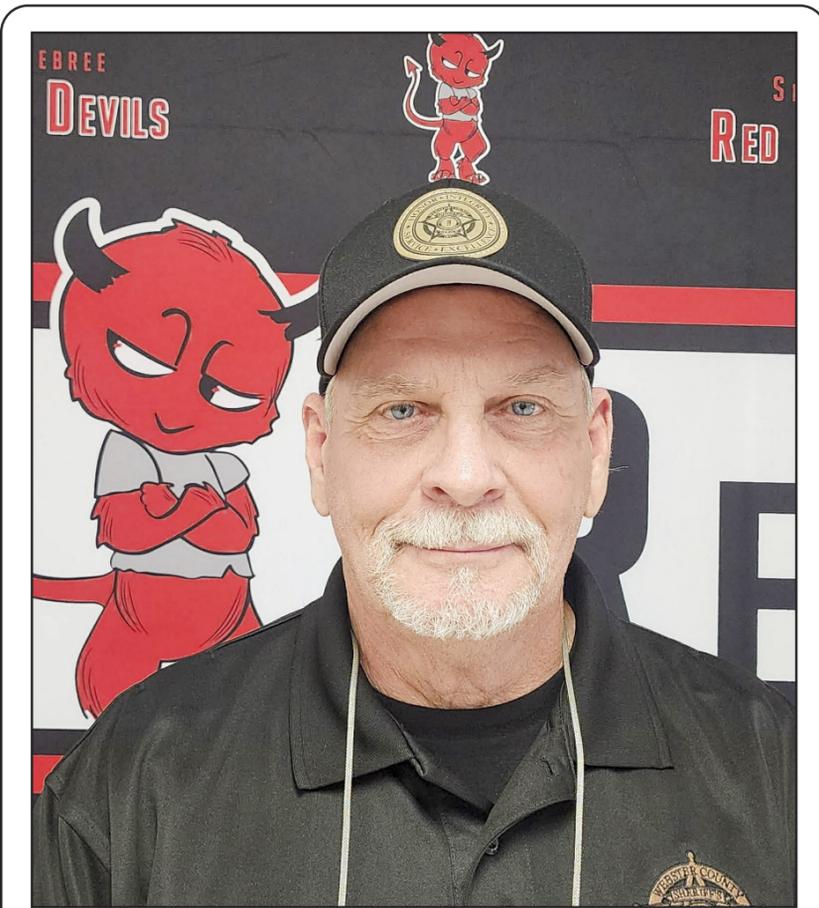
In the case of Triston Mat-

thue Puckett, indictments were returned on charges of fourth-degree assault, minor injury; second degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest; and retaliating against a participant in a legal process.

Dusty Dawn Weir was indicted on three charges: giving officer false identifying information; first degree possession of a controlled

substance, fentanyl and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess.

Four indictments were returned against Tina Pauline Wood. Wood faces charges of first-degree sodomy, victim under 12 years of age; first-degree sodomy, victim under 12 years of age; incest with person less than 12 years of age and incest with person less than 12 years of age.



TOM BASHAM, A lifelong Sebree resident, has been named the new school resource officer (SRO) at Sebree Elementary School. Basham began his duties at the school on Thursday, March 12. He will be not only insuring the safety of the children and school employees, he will also be building relationships with the students and helping them navigate the school day.

Clay Council Approves Agreement WC With Water District, Resolution

The Clay City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10 with Mayor Jack Edens presiding and all council members in attendance. City Clerk Christy Freeman was also present for the meeting.

Following approval of the minutes from the regular meeting in February and a called session later in the month, the clerk's report, and the accounts payable, council members dealt with a short agenda that included the approval of an agreement with the Webster County Water District, approval of a resolution, and a declaration of several items as surplus.

Ms. Freeman told the council a Clay resident who lives on First Street had been to the city office to complain about water runoff from

a neighbor's yard. She stated the complainant said water was coming into the driveway during periods of heavy rain. Mayor Edens responded there was no action the council could take to rectify that problem.

Council members approved a 10-year agreement with the Webster County Water District, which includes a recent rate increase to \$4.92 per gallon for water. The mayor noted that city officials are currently in discussion with the city's auditor to determine if a water rate increase is going to be necessary for the City of Clay. He added that will likely be the case.

If compensation for elected officials is going to be increased, that decision must be done by ordinance and a final decision made by April. At the March meeting, council members were in agreement they declined to increase compensation, which would have become effective on January 1, 2027.

Council members approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Edens to sign all paperwork necessary for the city to apply for a crumb rubber grant for improvements at the city park. That application would be for a 75/25 matching grant. There was no dollar amount set for the ap-

plication at the meeting last week.

Council members declared a 1975 dump truck as surplus property and will accept sealed bids for the truck with a minimum bid of \$1,000. Two metal desks and 15 filing cabinets were also declared as surplus with the minimum set at \$40.00 and \$15.00, respectively. A minimum bid of \$500.00 was set for a grader blade which was also surplus.

Fire Chief Jeremy Moore reported members of the Clay Rescue Squad responded to nine runs in February. Clay firefighters responded to two incidents in the month.

The Clay Fire Department was awarded a \$7,000 grant for two sets of personal protective equipment, and the council approved the purchase of that equipment from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment.

In final business, Mayor Edens announced the resignation of Rebecca Johnson as the city attorney. The city will begin the search for an attorney to fill that vacancy.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned after a 40 minutes session.

The next regular meeting of Clay City Council will be Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 P.M.

Drivers Can Reduce Accident Risk

Driving a car or truck is part of daily life for most people. Commutes to work or school, leisure trips or time spent behind the wheel as part of a profession compel people to drive each and every day. Although most trips to the office or the store are uneventful, the risk that something may go awry is present any time a person gets behind the wheel, and drivers need to plan accordingly.

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis says there were approximately 16,200 automotive accidents per day in the United States in 2022, the most recent year for data. This number has steadily risen over the last decade and may be attributable to a number of factors, including increased vehicle usage. Diamond and Diamond Lawyers in Canada says approximately four Canadians die and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes every day. Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

getting into an accident, and many accidents are directly related to speeding. Slowing down can make roadways safer.

Eliminate distractions

Smartphones, GPS devices, passengers, pets in the car, or anything that causes a person to take his or her eyes off of the road, even for mere seconds, can increase the risk of being in an auto accident. Accident Care and Treatment Center, Inc. says distracted driving is the primary cause of car accidents each year. Smartphones are a modern distraction, and keeping phones turned off and out of reach can keep drivers safer.

Change your perception

It is important to think of a car or truck as what it truly is: 3,000 pounds or more of fast-moving metal that can cause a lot of damage. Those who do not drive responsibly, or feel they are invincible behind the wheel, could be on a crash course for an auto accident. Treating a vehicle with respect is a must.

compound the problem of accidents. Travelers insurance company urges drivers to stay at least three seconds behind the vehicle ahead of them, and longer for those driving heavier vehicles. The timing also should be extended when weather conditions are bad. A significant cushion enables drivers to stop safely or maneuver around to avoid an accident.

Improve visibility

A cracked or dirty windshield or dim headlights can diminish visibility. Being able to see and be seen when on the road is a major contributor to accident risk reduction.

Brush up on skills

Newly minted licensed drivers and older drivers may need a driving skills refresher course. Oftentimes learning how to avoid accidents comes down to experience and defensive driving techniques. Those who feel they may need a little extra practice can enroll in a course. An additional upside is that such a course also can help reduce insurance premiums.

Know your limitations

Geico notes the risk of a fatal crash is three times higher at night than in the day for every mile driven.

Although it may not be possible to avoid nighttime driving entirely, limiting it, particularly for those who have challenges seeing at night or in dim conditions, can help reduce accident risk. The same can be said for staying off of roads in inclement weather.

Various strategies can help drivers reduce their risk of being involved in auto accidents.

Water District Board Approves Engineering Services Agreement

The Webster County Water District Board met Thursday morning with members approving an engineering services agreement, discussing hiring legal counsel and reviewing the water operations report for February.

Following the approval of the minutes and vouchers, the board heard the monthly operations report. Water superintendent Trevor Baldwin told the board that the district produced 32,590,211 gallons of water during February and sold 25,312,042. The large discrepancy between production and sales is due to the water loss during the outage and backwashing, Baldwin said. He also noted that increased number of man hours is also due to the snow and outage which required employees to work extended hours.

In his report Baldwin also told the board that a new Class III treatment licensed operator has been hired. He added that production at the plant has been slowed, but the district is running longer hours and competing routine maintenance and watching

pumps and filters around the clock. Baldwin is seeking bids for filter remediation and will have those in hand on March 24. The board gave him the authority to select the best bid and move forward with the filter project.

In other business, Baldwin presented an engineering agreement with Haworth-Meyer-Boleyn Engineers, LLC (HMB) for the board to review. By entering into the agreement, the water district is assured of services but is not required to pay a fee to be added to the HMS's list of companies they serve. Work and payment is on an "as needed" basis for the water district.

The board also asked that Baldwin move forward with retaining legal representation for the district. A motion was made and seconded to search for an attorney that can advise the district on an as needed basis.

The next meeting of the Webster County Water District Board is April 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Stick to the speed limit

Speed limits are posted on roadways for a reason. Exceeding speed limits significantly increases the risk of

Leave a space cushion

Tailgating and aggressive driving maneuvers that do not leave an adequate distance between vehicles can