

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

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CITY EMPLOYEES IN Sebree spent Monday hanging memorial banners along Main St. in preparation for Memorial Day, a day that pay homage to the men and women who lost their lives defending the USA. Junior Shelton, pictured on this banner, lost his life in Germany in October 1944; he was remembered with a service last October after his remains were identified



WC Grand Jury Returns Indictments

Nine individuals were indicted by the Webster County Grand Jury when they convened in the honorable Judge Daniel Heady's courtroom on Wednesday, May 13.

Ali Andrew Avery was indicted on five charges: first degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense greater than or equal to two GMS methamphetamine; careless driving; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess.

Six indictments were returned against Sarah Elizabeth Beck who is charged with second degree hindering prosecution or apprehension; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; possession of marijuana; and convicted felon in possession of a handgun, two counts.

In the case of Miranda Dawn Floyd, the defendant was indicted for second degree assault-domestic violence, amended to fourth degree; second degree disorderly conduct and menacing.

Dezmon Dewane Golike saw four indictments returned against him. Golike is charged with public intoxication-controlled substance, excludes alcohol; second degree disorderly conduct; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess.

Five indictments were returned against Michael David Gray. Gray is charged with first degree possession

of a controlled substance, third or greater offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; no/ expired registration plates; failure of nonowner operator maintain required insurance second or greater offense and improper equipment.

Michael Wayne Hamilton had four indictments returned against him with a sixth count being found a no true bill. Indictments were returned on charges of first-degree possession of a controlled substance, third or greater offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; possession of marijuana and convicted felon in possession of a handgun, two counts.

Paul Thomas Mabrey was indicted on a single charge of custodial interference.

Ten indictments were returned against Paul Manitar Rafael and two charges were returned as no true bill in that case. Indictments were returned on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, first offense, aggravating circumstances, four counts of first-degree wanton endangerment; leaving the scene of an accident-failure to render aide or assistance; failure to produce an insurance card and no motorcycle operator's license amended to no operator's license. No true bill was returned on charges of no/ expired registration plates and no/ expired registration receipt.

Indictments were also returned against Cody Lyne Wilson (see separate story).

Scholarships Awarded To Graduates In Class Of 2026

A number of Webster County High School seniors were awarded scholarships from local businesses, clubs and agencies in a May 12, event held at the high school. Local scholarship recipients include

- Hayden Wright--Five Star Electric
- Caila Clary and Raynei Roy--Americorp
- Valerie Poscasangre--Bailey-Onton Lodge
- Delaney Kelley, Maddox Hibbs and Carson Hill--Beta Pakendall Scholarship
- Brylee Whitledge--Bill Harley Memorial
- Brylee Whitledge--Brian Casey Jones Memorial
- Kiyonna Scott--Craig Shoulders Memorial Scholarship
- Raynei Roy, Caila Clary, Maryann Davis, Audrey Billings and Hadley Duckworth--Distinguished Young Women scholarship
- Sadie Cowan--FFA Alumni
- Hunter Redfern--FFA land lab (Aubrey Mooney Memorial)
- Doddy Caballero Ramos--Frank Carden Memorial Scholarship

- Hunter Lanham and Evan Moore--Frontier Kemper
- Bobby Hardison--Gary Cole Memorial Baseball Scholarship
- Hayden Wright and Cameron Gibson-Grayson Wilson Memorial Lineman Scholarship
- Kendell Dalton, Katrine Rivas Rivera, Harrison Warren, Sophie Deibler, Paige Denton, Hunter Weisser, Mylee McDowell, Elliot McCushman, Taylor Robards, Braghen Sloat, Kaylen Braden, Karina Ventura, Ella White, Doddy Ramos, Vanessa Bautista, Samantha Aguilar, and Tanner Davis--Heather D. Teague Heart and Soul Scholarship
- Mylee Whitledge--Highland Dairy
- Hunter Redfern and katherine Rivera--Independence Bank (online)
- Vallie Ann Humphrey, Aiden Alstadt and Reagan Corbett--Jarred Ashmore Memorial
- Hayden Wright and Brandon Mitchell--Jason Lee Ware Memorial
- Chloe Lovelace and Hadley Duckworth--Jeremy Elder Memorial
- Kimberly Shelton--Ken and Pat Hammack Memorial

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Sebree Residents To See Hike In Water, Sewer Rates

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Billy Smith presiding. Four council members – Kathy Edwards, Perry Culberson, Kord Cooper, and Jim Williams – were present. Council members Pam Jones and Jana Forker were absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were City Attorney Wil Cox and City Clerk Mary Meredith.

Following approval of the minutes from the regular meeting in April and a called meeting also held in April, the council heard an update on the crumb rubber grant which is being sought, passed second reading of the insurance tax ordinance, reviewed on first reading two ordinances which will increase water rates and sewer rates for local residents, and review the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.

The city clerk told members the crumb rubber grant has been approved. That grant, which will total about \$26,000, according to Ms. Meredith, will require a 25% match from the city. The local tourism committee will provide the funding or in-kind services for that match. No date was given on when the funding could be expected.

The council voted 3-1 to accept the increase in the city's insurance tax. That ordinance calls for the insurance tax to increase from eight percent to nine percent on July 1, 2027 and nine percent to 10 percent on July 1, 2028. Council member Cooper cast the dissenting vote.

Council members also learned, according to Mayor Smith, that rates for water and sewer service in the community were supposed to be increased "by another administration", but that did not happen. On Monday night, the council members

reviewed rates which will be implemented upon passage of second reading of ordinances increasing those rates.

In material provided on Monday night, the rate for water for residential customers will increase to \$24.52 per month for a one inch or less meter. For businesses, the rate will increase to \$25.54 per month. The sewer rate will increase to \$32.22 per month for residential customers and \$32.33 for businesses. Mayor Smith called the increases "minimal", but necessary to enable the city to make the necessary repairs and improvements to infrastructure. The second reading of those ordinances will be held in June.

Both the mayor and city clerk noted that residents have not seen an increase in water and sewer rates since 2021.

Council members also reviewed the first reading of the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget in the amount of \$2,549,631. The second reading of the budget ordinance will also be held in June.

Prior to adjournment, Cooper asked about the lights at the softball field in Sebree Springs Park. Mayor Smith responded, "We are working on it."

Apparently the electrical supply to the lights was interrupted by dirt work being done for the soccer field under construction at the park. According to the mayor, the contractor has been contacted about the damage done, and negotiations are underway to make and pay for repairs.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, June 15, 5:30 P.M.



Memorial Day Services Planned

The Jack McDowell VFW Post will host two Memorial Day services on Monday May 25. A 10:00 a.m. service to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice will be held at the VFW Post in Providence. That service will be followed with the annual service held on the courthouse lawn at 11:00 a.m.

The public is urged to attend these services to remember those who died in war as well as those who have served their country in both peace time and war.

Bricks that were purchased following last year's service at the Walk of Honor are expected to be in place for the courthouse service.