

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

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Grand Jury Returns Indictments

Webster County Grand Jury returned multiple indictments when they convened on Wednesday, June 10. The honorable Judge Daniel Heady presided over the session.

The case of Jimmy Lee Clark was passed to the next grand jury. Clark is charged with fourth degree assault, dating violence, minor injury; third degree terroristic threatening; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

Four indictments were returned against Mitchell Adam Diamond. Diamond's charges include drug paraphernalia buy/possess; third degree criminal

trespassing; public intoxication controlled substances, excludes alcohol; and first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine, amend to first offense.

Indictments were returned on eight of 16 charges against Darrin Wayne Ditzer. Ditzer was indicted for first degree criminal mischief; six counts of third degree burglary and a single charge of criminal littering. No true bill was found on charges of third degree criminal trespassing and seven counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others.

Joseph Earl Gamble saw five indictments returned against him. Gamble's charges include

no/expired registration plates; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, first offense; first degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-by/possess and third degree criminal trespassing.

Three indictments were returned against Timothy Brian Shelton who is charged with drug paraphernalia buy/possess; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine and third degree possess of a controlled substance, drug unspecified.

Sebree Council Approves Ordinances, Rate Increases

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Billy Smith presiding and four council members – Pam Jones, Perry Culbertson, Kord Kordero, and Jim Allen Williams in attendance. City Clerk Mary Meredith was also present. Council members Jana Forker and Kathy Edwards were not present for the session.

Following approval of the minutes from the May meeting, council members approved two resolutions, three ordinances, amended a fourth ordinance, and received an update concerning the city's insurance umbrella. Additionally, a local resident addressed the council with a request concerning maintenance of Wildwood Drive on the eastern limits of Sebree.

Spender Holley with Rudd Insurance Agency in Madisonville, Kentucky presented an overview of the city's insurance coverage and the cost of that coverage. City officials had asked for a comparison of their current coverage and costs compared to coverage and cost provided through the Kentucky League of Cities. Holley presented a detailed report of the insurance program for the city, which comes at a cost of \$38,422.37 annually. According to Holley, that figure is about \$3,100 less than the cost of the same coverage through KLC.

City resident Carrie Jones addressed the council concerning the city taking over upkeep of Wildwood Drive, a private entrance to several homes just of KY 370 at the eastern city limits of the community. She told members a previous council had considered the same request; however, no action was ever taken. She also noted that trash pickup is an issue for residents because

Impact Services, the city's trash contractor, will not put their trucks on the drive. As a result, residents must take their trash receptacles to the end of the drive where it intersects with KY 370. She noted that residents do pay city taxes.

Mayor Smith responded, "We can't do anything tonight. We will make an evaluation and discuss this at another meeting." He also noted it is his belief that Wildwood Drive was not constructed to city specifications, and that has resulted in the roadway not being declared a city street.

Council members approved two resolutions – both on a 4-0 vote – concerning the closure of Main Street for the annual Sebree Summerfest and the establishment of a pricing structure for rent and usage of the pavilions at Sebree Springs Park.

According to information provided on Monday night, plans are underway to close Main Street on Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 for the Summerfest celebration and parade. According to Mayor Smith, while most activities will be held downtown this year, several events are being planned for Sebree Springs Park. The plan for rent at Sebree Springs Park ranges from \$75.00 for a local resident to \$200.00 for a non-resident. Those fees fluctuate based on whether water and electricity are needed and how long the pavilion will be needed. Additionally, rentals will require a \$100.00 refundable security deposit. Mayor Smith noted the fees are being put in place to try and recoup some of the costs associated with usage of facilities at the park. Additionally, vandalism has caused problems, and those issues are also costly.

Council members approved

a change in the utility due date ordinance. That amendment changes payment, delinquent, and cutoff dates for customers.

Second reading of ordinances increasing both the water rate and sewer rate for local customers were also passed. Beginning July 1 and recurring on July 1 for the next three years, water rates in Sebree will increase. On July 1, 2026, residential customers will see their minimum water bill increase to \$24.52. On July 1, 2028, that cost will be \$28.07. Rates also increase based on the size of meter service. For out of town customers, the rate on July 1, 2026 is \$25.54. On July 1, 2028, that cost will be \$29.21. For business customers, the rate on July 1, 2026 is \$25.81. On July 1, 2028, the rate will increase to \$29.55. The cost for out of town business customers is just over \$1.00 higher. Ms. Meredith told members it is hoped that the incremental increases over the three year period will prevent customers from suffering an abrupt rate hike.

The rate for the sewer service charge is much the same. For a residential customer on July 1, 2026, the minimum cost is \$32.22. On July 1, 2028, that price reaches \$37.95. For out of town sewer customers, the rates are \$33.32 and \$39.21. For business customers, those prices are \$33.91 and \$39.94.

In final business, council members approved the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget in the amount of \$2,549,631.00.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, July 20, 5:30 P.M.



CIVIL WAR PERIOD costumes drew much attention Saturday at Webster County's 250th birthday celebration of America. Visitors to Canaan Ridge Park were able to enjoy presentation about Paul Revere and his role in the Revolutionary War as well as Civil War history and the dresses and uniforms worn during the mid 1800's. This award winning blue dress exemplifies the refined lifestyle of many southern women who dressed elegantly for all occasions. See additional pictures from the celebration in this week's paper.

Water Board Hears Reports, Selects Auditor

The Webster County Water District Board met Thursday, June 11, at the water plant where they did a walk-through of the operations, discussed the recent water issues, heard the water operations report and approved a contract with an auditor.

Water superintendent told the board that for about two weeks, the plant operated around the clock, due to an hydraulic issue with a high loop in the plant. Baldwin explained that a T on the high loop experienced caustic build-up, causing the plant to experience distributions problems. He noted that the issue began on Memorial Day, and although a number of contractors were contracted, and either they did not have the ability to make the necessary repairs or they were scheduled weeks out. Baldwin said he finally contacted two individuals who were able to change out the 15 feet of pipe in the plant, so operations could continue normally. According to Baldwin, last for at least two days, the plant was only able to push 300 gallons of water a minute until replacement parts could be installed. The issue was likely caused by one of the chemicals used to treat water, Baldwin said.

The superintendent has since contacted and is working with chemical specialist to resolve the chemical issues and build up chemicals in the pipes at the plant. In coming weeks Baldwin hopes to have a bypass line installed to alleviate further

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Providence City Council Meets, Passes Two Ordinances

The Providence City Council met in regular session Monday evening with council members approving two ordinances and hearing department head reports.

Following roll call and the reading of the minutes, attorney Bobby Murray gave the second reading of the city's fiscal year 2027 budget totaling \$12,524,424. The council unanimously approved second reading of the line item budget which includes special revenue totaling \$3,671,857; utility funds totaling \$5,515,625; a general fund of \$3,198,392 and golf and recreation funds of \$1,038,550. Amounts listed reflect both revenue and expenditure dollars. Itemized copies of the budget are available at the city office.

City officials also approved the second reading of an ordinance that establishes an emergency service am-

balance district tax and creating an emergency service ambulance district board. That ordinance, which was passed unanimously by the council, calls for the creation of an ambulance service district, for individual within the limits of Providence to pay a 10 cents per \$100 assessment ambulance tax collected and used solely for the tax district, fines for non-payment of the tax and the creation of an ambulance board. The board will have no fewer than three members who will serve staggered terms beginning with a one-year term for one-third of the board, a two-year term for one third of the board and a three-year term for one third of the board. All subsequent appoints will be for three-year terms. The ordinance also addresses removal of board members and their duties and powers. The ordinance became effective

with second reading and passage and publication. Mayor Tom Glover told the council he will introduce the board members at the council's next meeting.

Monday night's meeting also included reports from three department heads. Police Chief Ray Agent told the council that his officers made 152 responses during May. Those responses included 66 complaints, 32 special details, 39 traffic stops, 14 officer assists and five wellness checks as well as other calls.

Travis Turner of the public works department reported that flags and veterans banners are up for July 4, employees continue to work on the swimming pool which he says may open this week. He also provided information on the sanitation department which he said continues to handout trash containers to city customers.

Glover addressed the trash container distribution and noted that the new containers are 96 gallons. He also told the council that the city is working to address issues with individuals who continue to place multiple trash filled bags on the curb for pick up. The city has asked that all sanitation customers use trash containers with lids closed rather than filling the containers to overflowing or placing loose bags on the curbs. Individuals who need extra containers may secure one from the city and pay half the charge for the second can.

Employees on the truck are keeping track of addresses where one or more trash cans are needed and will address the issue with the residents. The mayor said that the sanitation department is working to insure any customer issues are addressed

in hopes that those presently using outside services will convert to city pick-up.

Fire Chief Cameron Brown noted that his department responded to nine fires and made 63 ambulance runs. Firefighters participated in 68 hours of training, Brown said.

In her comments to the council, council member Shannon Layton said she has received comments from several residents complimenting the city on the cemetery upkeep. She added that she appreciates the work being done.

Glover added, "Our guys are working," and he thanked Sureway for lunch they recently provided to city workers.

The mayor also reported that the city has an opening for a 16-22-year old to work for the city through GRADD's

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