

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

Fiscal Court Approves Resolutions; Accepts Tax Rates

The Webster County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on Monday morning with County Judge/Executive presiding. Magistrates Chad Townsend, Bob Hardison, and Tony Felker were present, along with County Attorney Clint Prow, County Clerk Valerie Newell, and County Treasurer Tonia Duncan.

In his report to the court, deputy judge/executive Ryan Hammack noted several events had taken place in the past few days. Those in-

cluded a meeting with the Industrial Development Authority, site visits to businesses, attendance at the farm to form dinner, a meeting with state officials seeking grant funding for the county, and the Webster County Farm Bureau annual meeting. He also noted that work is continuing on the site for the farmers' market.

Providence resident Philip Halsrud was in attendance and asked the identity of the county's ADA coordinator. Judge Henry responded

that he served in that role. Halsrud asked for a meeting with the judge and was told to make an appointment. Before leaving, Halsrud noted the identity of the ADA coordinator is required by law to be posted for public inspection.

Magistrate Townsend noted he had received a request from a resident on Rakestraw Bottoms Road for the removal of debris left from a recent storm. Magistrate Felker said he had several inquiries about a schedule

for mosquito spraying. Henry responded that both matters are being addressed.

The court approved the 2026 tax rate for the Webster County Health District at .05 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. The rate for the Webster County Extension District was accepted at 0.56 cents for real property and 0.61 cents for tangible and intangible property.

In discussing the county tax rate, Judge Henry noted the current rate is 18.8 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. The compensating rate for 2026 is 18 cents. That rate plus four percent is 18.6 cents. Henry explained that real property value in Webster County has increased in 2026. As a result, the 18.6 cents rate, although slightly lower than the current rate, will generate about \$48,000 in addi-

tional revenue.

He emphasized the county tax rate comprises only a small portion of a resident's yearly property tax bill. The majority of county property taxes are from the Webster County. School District tax rate. That rate has not yet been set.

On Monday, magistrates agreed the county should adopt the compensating rate plus four percent. As a result, a hearing will be scheduled to hear public comments. The schedule for that hearing and a similar hearing for the Webster County Ambulance District can be found in this week's paper.

Magistrates approved two resolutions authorizing Judge Henry to act as the county's representative in seeking state grants to be used for equipment and services and nego-

tiations with Kentucky Secondary Roads personnel.

Magistrates also approved the fiscal year 2026 financial state, subject to audit.

Kem Braden was approved to attend fire arm training in Richmond, Kentucky August 23 through September 4.

Zara Toal told court members that extensive work is underway at Canaan Ridge Park. That includes work on the welcome center, the restrooms, and the walking trail. She also said an invitation only business round table is scheduled in September.

No further business came before the court, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

The next meeting of Webster County Fiscal Court will be Monday, August 24, 9:00 A.M.

Dixon Commission Meets Briefly

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commissioners in attendance. Also present were City Clerk Barb Goff, Code Enforcement Officer Kim Turner, and Code Enforcement board member Sondra Norman.

Following approval of the minutes from the July meeting and the bills and claims, commissioners conducted a short business session that lasted about 15 minutes.

Commissioner Randy Norman reported the city purchased 2,334,200 gallons of water in July. The city sold 1,498,200 gallons during the month. Both Mayor Webb and Norman noted the city was forced to do considerable flushing during the month because of the extremely hot weather. The monthly water loss was 17%.

Mayor Webb also said public works employees have found two leaks which are scheduled for repair in the next few days.

Members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 18 incidents in July.

Commissioner Robert Brown told the board that an area of College Street is in need of repair and the sidewalk along Fuqua Street and areas of that street are in disrepair.

Mayor Webb responded that the areas will be checked and a possible solution discussed.

Commissioner Mande O'Leary reported that lights have been installed and benches and picnic tables placed at Baker Park. Some of those articles have been sponsored by businesses and individuals, and additional sponsors are being sought. She also said the Family Night which was cancelled in July will be rescheduled.

Commissioners also approved donating several old benches for use at Camp Clark.

Ms. Turner told the commissioners that 12 cases were opened in the past 30 days. Of that number, five have been closed. She also said two notices of violation have been sent, and two citations have been issued.

In final business, the commission approved second reading of a 2025-2026 budget amendment. That amendment increases the city budget from \$1,262,855 to \$1,434,785. That change is the result of grant funds received by the city.

No further business came before the commission, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Dixon City Commission will be Monday, September 14, 6:00 P.M.

School Board Hears Reports, Reviews Tax Rates For 2026

The Webster County Board of Education met in a work session Monday night where they heard financial reports, discussed the 2027 tax rates, and heard reports from the superintendent and director of elementary instruction.

The meeting opened with treasurer Brandi Burnett sharing information related to the FY26 Annual Financial Report (AFR) and balance sheets. Burnett told the board the audit report will be that

will be reviewed in a few weeks reflects receipts of \$39,588,616.06 and disbursements of \$32,603,440.46.

Burnett also provided the July financial report reflecting a \$7.8 million opening balance and an ending balance of \$8.3 million, an increase of about \$479,000. She also provided board members with a total of July expenses and payroll.

The treasurer then shared with the board the proposed tax rates

for FY26-27, and noted that the board has 45 days to adopt a rate. She added that changes from the state require the rate to be advertised for two consecutive weeks. PVA Jeff Kelley has requested that rates be in place by September 11, Burnett said, adding that to meet the deadline, the rate will need to be advertised August 19 and 26, and set by 4:00 p.m. September 11, and could require a special

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Do Drop In Farms Recognized By Webster County Farm Bureau

At their annual meeting Thursday night, Webster County Farm Bureau named the Do Drop In Farms as the organization's 2026 Legacy Farm. The Legacy Farm program began three years ago through Kentucky Farm Bureau as a way to recognize and honor farmers throughout the state whose families have left a lasting impact on the state's agriculture

industry. Do Drop In Farms, owned and operated by Jerry and Jane McGill, have been in operation in the Blackford area for over 75 years.

In his comments after receiving the award, McGill noted that "farming is about who we are." He added that his father loved farming and in turn, Jerry, too, became part of the operation that is rich in family history.

Originally start by Jerry's father Gerald over 75 years ago, the farm continues to thrive and serve as a reminder of the important role the farming community plays in the everyday lives of community members. Kentucky Farm Bureau president Eddie Melton made the announcement along with Webster County Farm Bureau president Bo Boles.

Guests at the meeting also heard comments from local FFA members. Hannah Duckworth gave the invocation and Cali Walters led the pledge to the American flag. WCHS FFA president Tripp Boles shared updates on FFA activities. Boles told the group that the WCHS FFA is the school's largest organization with 223 members. He also re-

ported on the group's many activities and events. Local FFA members host several fund raisers throughout the year, offer community service work and participate in both regional, state and national FFA events. In addition to his role as local chapter president, Boles is the secretary of the Green River Region FFA.

WCHS FFA vice president shared her summer experience at the Farm Bureau sponsored IFAL (Institute of Future Agriculture Leaders) at Murray State University. Liggett hosted a slide presentation featuring the farm tours IFAL students took around Murray, talked about the barn yard Olympic competitions students were involved in as well as sharing other learning opportunities that included college prep and scholarship workshops. The weeklong camp activities also included leadership activities and team building work, discussion groups, a night of reflection and a banquet. Campbell urged other students to participate in the IFAL program which is paid for by

Farm Bureau and open to students who are rising seniors.

The local Farm Bureau membership also approved the list of officers and board of director members for the coming year. Officers include Bo Boles, president; Danny Liggett, first vice-president; Ryan Hammack, second vice-president; Greg Shouse secretary/treasurer and Vicki Shadrick Ag and Natural Resource agent. Board members include Jeremy Benson, Jeff Blanford, Ken Brown, Dr. Tim Cottingham, Brandon Higdon, Chad Hobgood, Richard Leslie, Eddie Melton, Chris Mitchell, John Montgomery, Jeff Pettit, Joshua Scott, Keith Tapp, Ben Turley, Doug Turley and Jerry Winstead.

Member in attendance also approved a resolution for 2026 that states "We support the state fair board reorganizing to ensure a majority of the appointees are directly involved in agriculture."

Before the meeting adjourned, door prizes donated by area businesses were drawn for.



JERRY AND JANE McGill were recipients of the Kentucky Farm Bureau/Webster County Farm Bureau Legacy Farm award at the local agency's annual dinner on Thursday, August 6. The late Gerald McGill, Jerry's father, began farming over 75 years ago. Growing up, Jerry joined his father in continuing the farming operation that is located near Blackford. The presentation was made by Kentucky Farm Bureau president Eddie Melton, right, and Webster County Farm Bureau president Bo Boles. The couple received a framed certificate and a sign that will hang on the Do Drop In Farms property.