

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME EIGHTY-NINE

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

NUMBER THIRTEEN

91 County Homes Impacted By Flooding

At least 91 home surveys have been completed on Webster County homes impacted by the recent flooding, according to Jeremy Moore, the county's EMA director. Moore noted in a statement released Sunday that representatives from the county, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Kentucky Emergency Management Agency (KYEM) have already classified 41 homes as destroyed or have sustained major damage with 50 homes classified as having minor damage. The joint assessment by the state and federal agencies is complete and officials have all the information they need to make a decision on Webster County's inclusion to the federal disaster declaration.

The FEMA and KYEM joint assessment began last week as soon as water began to recede with officials view-

ing homes and beginning a Joint Damage Assessment, something necessary to complete the data FEMA needs to add Webster County to the Federal Disaster Declaration request. Governor Andy Beshear has filed a request for the state and its affected counties to receive federal disaster aid. That request is awaiting the President's signature.

Moore said that once the county is added to the federal declaration, a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will be opened in the county. At those centers, individuals and businesses seeking help will be able to talk to FEMA representatives, the Small Business Administration (SBA), local agriculture agents, the Red Cross and other agencies who offer a variety of resources. Moore's office will keep the public updated on the opening of that

office and its location.

The EMA director also reminded the county that "in coming weeks we will have several residents in need. We will pass along ways that citizens can help. Webster County is a strong community and will no doubt answer the call to help our fellow neighbors get through this challenging time."

Meanwhile, a number of state highways running through the county continue to be flooded as do several county roads, though the list was growing shorter by Sunday afternoon. The Sebree compaction center remained closed due to high water in that area. Kentucky 109 between Clay and Wheatcroft also remained underwater early Monday along with KY 132 from Crittenden County to the Clay side of route 493 in multiple places; KY 143; KY 1525 and KY 630. Ken-

tucky 494 and KY 132 near Sebree opened over night Sunday as did KY 120.

Moore cautions those involved in flood clean-up to use appropriate safety gear including rubber gloves, waterproof boots and goggles; to disinfected surfaces and practice water safety. Five gallon buckets holding cleaning supplies are available in two county communities, and a clean-up help hotline (270)887-4657 is available for those who need help cleaning up damages from the early April storms.

Clean-up buckets containing rubber gloves, masks, garbage bags, sponges, bleach, borax, and other cleaning solutions may be picked up at Sebree City Building and Onton Methodist Church. United Community Methodist Committee on Relief has provided these buckets.

Other agencies that those impacted by flooding to receive the fullest extent of help available should also contact Catholic Charities by calling or texting 270-702-4952, or contacting by call or text Stacey Menser at 270-702-5049, Karina Gonzalez (Spanish only) at 270-702-5053 or Tina Hawley at 270-702-5074. Other contacts include the Clean-up Hotline at 270-887-4657; the state hotline at 502-607-6665 or the American Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Moore also reports that flooding debris from impacted homes should be placed at the roadside (do not block any waterway or drainage systems, road or driveway) and separated. Debris will be picked up when all areas are ready for pickup.

Sebree City Council To Begin Search For Mayor

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with all council members in attendance. Also present were City Clerk Monte Davenport and City Attorney William Cox.

The city clerk conducted the first portion of the meeting in the absence of Mayor Jeremy Brown. As a first order of business, Davenport read a letter from Brown stating his intention to resign the office of mayor effective Monday, April 21, 5:00 P.M. The full contents of that letter can be found in this week's edition.

Davenport told members of the council a mayor pro-tem needed to be appointed in order to conduct the city's business on Monday night. Council member Jana Forker nominated council member Billy Smith for the position. That nomination was seconded by council member Pam Jones, and four council members voted in favor of that nomination. Council member Jim Williams case the dissenting vote.

In a short business session, Smith asked for approval from the council to develop an incident response plan with the city's credit card company. According to Davenport that

agreement is needed as a guard against fraud and to develop a cybersecurity plan between the city and the carrier. That request was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Council members also unanimously approved participating in the Municipal Road Program cooperative program. The city donates three percent of all MRA funds received back into the cooperative program, and those funds are available to all state participants in the event of an emergency. This is the second year the city has participated in the program.

Discussion then turned to the open mayor's season. The city attorney told members, "The city needs a mayor." The position will be filled for the remainder of Brown's term, which expires December 31, 2026. The position can be filled by a vote of the council within 30 days. After that 30 period, Governor Andy Beshear would make the appointment.

The deadline for the council to fill the seat is May 21, 2025.

Ms. Forker nominated Smith to fill the unexpired term. That nomination was again seconded by Ms. Jones. Council member Kathy Edwards immediately noted the council need-

Sebree Mayor Submits Resignation

When the Sebree City Council was gavelled into session on Monday night, it was City Clerk Monte Davenport who presided over the meeting. Following the roll call and opening prayer, Davenport read a letter from Mayor Jeremy Brown stating his intention to resign from office effective April 21, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

That letter read:
"Dear Member of the Sebree City Council:
"Please take notice that I do hereby resign from the elected position of Mayor of the City of Sebree, Kentucky, effective 5:00 P.M., local time, on Monday, April 21, 2025.

"I have done my best to faithfully serve the citizens of Sebree during my time as mayor. However, I sincerely believe that I am no longer able to fulfill those obligations and therefore, that it is in the City's best interest, as well as my own, for me to resign so that I may better focus on both personal and professional matters.

"I with the City Council and my successor all of the best in their deliberations and decisions moving forward, and for the continued growth and prosperity of Sebree. I also thank the citizens for allowing me the distinct honor and privilege of serving as their mayor.

"Respectfully submitted,
"Hon. Jeremy Brown"

ed more time to discuss the vacancy. When the vote was called, the nomination was defeated 3-2. Ms. Edwards, council member Kord Cordero, and Williams voted no on the nomination.

A motion was then made to enter into a closed session to discuss the vacancy. Again, Ms. Edwards voted no, but the motion passed 5-1,

and at 5:48 P.M., the council adjourned to a closed session to discuss personnel.

Council members returned at 6:10 P.M. The city will accept letters of interest from persons who desire to fill the unexpired terms. Those letters are due at the Sebree Municipal Building by 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 1. The letters should be

addressed to City of Sebree, Attn: City Clerk, P.O. Box 245, Sebree, KY 42455.

The council will meet in a special session on Monday, May 5, 5:00 P.M. to discuss the letters and fill the vacancy.

In final business, Ms. Forker asked about the Dixon Street railroad crossing which has been closed for several weeks. According to information provided at the March meeting, CSX Railroad has requested closing the crossing. On Monday night, council members voiced their displeasure at that request. The city clerk will contact CSX for a timeline as to when the crossing will be reopened.

Ms. Forker also noted that several lights are out on the decorative posts near Bell's Drug Store. Personnel from the public works department will check on the lights.

Williams told members the city has an abundance of cleaning supplies which are available to the city if there is storage space available.

Ms. Eastwood asked about a safety railing which has never been erected near her property. Davenport will contact the contractor in an effort to get that work completed.

Ms. Eastwood also noted she has had complaints about cars being parked on the sidewalks on KY 370 in the city. She also said that off road vehicles are being used on city streets.

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

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, May 19, 5:30 P.M.

Providence Council Meets

The Providence City Council met in a short session Monday night with the only action item on the agenda being the approval of minutes of the previous meeting.

Following the approval of the minutes, Mayor Butch Hackney called on council members for them to voice concerns or give updates. Jimmy Crowell commented that the water quality has improve. Hackney responded that city employees have started treating the city lake with new chemicals that seem to be working.

A number of citizens were present to make requests or express concerns about city services.

Willie Torain announced that on Memo-

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WC Grand Jury Returns 16 Indictments

The Webster County Grand Jury convened Wednesday, April 16, returning indictments in seven cases and passing two cases to the May grand jury session.

The cases of Michael Dewayne Denton and Dezmom Dewayne Golike were passed to the May session of grand jury. Denton faces charges of first-degree rape, second degree strangulation (non-domestic violence) and incest-person less than 18 by person three or more years older. Golike is charged with

second degree assault and menacing.

In the case of Allen Curtis Hoover, the defendant was indicted for first degree possession of a controlled substance second offense, amended to third offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess and tampering with physical evidence.

A single indictment was returned against James Wade Hunter for flagrant non-support.

Overton Posey Jackson

was indicted on four charges: operating on a suspended/revoked operator's license; possession of marijuana; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess and first-degree possession of a controlled substance third or greater offense, methamphetamine.

Four indictments were returned against Kaylee Marie Lewis. Lewis' charges include failure to wear seatbelts, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphet-

amine and possession of marijuana.

Charles Wayne Quinn was indicted for first degree possession of a controlled substance, third or greater offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia buy/possess; failure to report traffic accident; operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, second offense, aggravating circumstances; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security first offense and possession of alcohol beverage container

in a motor vehicle.

Seven indictments were returned in the case of Randy Lloyd Travis. Travis was indicted for public intoxication-controlled substances (excludes alcohol); third degree assault police/probation officer, two counts; resisting arrest; third degree terroristic threatening; menacing and first degree strangulation-non-domestic violence. A charge of theft by unlawful taking or disposition shoplifting was returned as no true bill.