

After 81 Years Local Soldier Is Coming Home



JZ Shelton, Jr.



Brylee Whitledge



Mylee Whitledge

Two Rising Seniors Selected For Rural Scholar Program

WCHS Juniors Brylee Whitledge and Mylee Whitledge have been selected into the University of Louisville's School of Medicine Rural Scholars Program.

According to Baptist Health, the High School Rural Scholars Program provides an early opportunity for rising seniors and recent high school graduates from rural areas interested in health careers to gain exposure to health professions. The program divides program time between shadowing at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville and functional human anatomy tutorials at the UofL Trover Campus (ULTC).

Scholars will meet with current medical students to gain an understanding of the life of a medical student. Students from Hopkins, McLean, Webster, Caldwell, and Muhlenberg counties are considered for the program.

Webster County Grand Jury

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offense; first degree sodomy and first-degree sodomy.

Three indictments were returned against James William Painter. Painters was indicted for first-degree promoting contraband; first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense greater than or equal to two GMS methamphetamine and first-degree persistent felony offense.

Felipe Lucas Perez saw his case passed to the next grand jury. Perez is charged with no operator's license; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, first offense; no/expired registration plates; display of illegal/alterd registration plates; and second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument.

Michael Eugene Rucker was indicted on charges of possession of marijuana and first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, cocaine.

Jacob Preston Shelton was indicted on multiple charges: possession of marijuana; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; first degree possession of a controlled substance; first offense, methamphetamine; vehicle a nuisance, noisy, etc.; no/expired registration plates; and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, first offense.

Three indictments were returned against Javen Tyler Spears who is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess; and third-degree possession of a controlled substance, drug unspecified.

Three indictments were also returned against Graham Collins Watson. Watson is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia buy/possess and third-degree possession of a controlled substance, drug unspecified.

The case of Michael Steve Wilson, who faces a charge of receiving stolen property \$1000 but less than \$10,000 was passed to the next grand jury.

As Memorial Day approaches, it is fitting that a Sebree family has received word from the United States Army that their loved one, a World War II soldier who was listed as missing in 1944, and then later (1950) listed as killed in action is coming home. The remains of Junior J. Shelton (JZ Shelton, Jr.) will be brought back to Sebree for burial, according to his niece Vonette Shelton Curtis. His entry into the military required a name change. Shelton's first and middle initials were just that-initials-and the Army required he have a name, and according Curtis, it was the army who gave him the name Junior J Shelton.

J.Z. Shelton Jr. was born August 10, 1920, and grew up in Sebree. The son of J.Z. Shelton, Sr and Zula Farmer Shelton was one of several children, and based on stories she was told as a child he was described by his niece Vonette, who was born three years after he was reported MIA, he was described as a happy, funny person with brown hair and brown eyes standing at 5 feet 8.5 inches tall.

Over the years growing up, Curtis recalls the sadness that surrounded the Shelton family and the tears that her grandmother would shed as year after year she waited for news about her son. JZ was one of five children—two brothers and two sisters, and the family grieved at nearly every family gathering.

Vonette recalls that the family seldom talked about the war, and each time her grandmother cried, she wondered about the reason. As Vonette got older, she began to ask questions about the grief and sadness that she saw in her family. Her mother told her bits and pieces, but that was a time when people didn't talk about the war—too many lives had been lost and too many families had suffered. Curtis was never satisfied not knowing the why, the when, the where, and never just accepted that "he died." As she grew older she became interested in genealogy and more determined find answers, so just over 50 years ago she began her quest to find out more about the uncle she never knew.

She first contacted the government who initially told her they had no records of a JZ Shelton being in the US Army. Today, Curtis still has a letter she received from a lady who wrote: "I was on vacation in the Nether-

lands and came across a name written on a wall Junior J. Shelton, I hope this helps someone." Curtis later learned that her uncle's name is among those etched on the American MIA/KIA Wall known as the "Tablets of the Missing" located at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. The cemetery includes the graves of over 8000 American soldiers killed in the war and the tablets hold the names of over 1700 soldier that were MIA/KIA in World War II. That note helped Curtis in her quest to find out more about her uncle, and by submitting his military name to the Army, the government was able to provide her with more information about Junior J Shelton and where and how he died.

Shelton was just 19 when he joined the US Army on April 7, 1939. His age required he have his parents' permission to join—his father's name appears on a letter he wrote giving his son permission to join the US Army. His enlistment took Shelton to Fort Benjamin, IN where he remained until September. He was then transferred to Fort Custer in Michigan where he served from September 1939 to February 1941. In February, his service took him to Ft Wheeler, Georgia where he earned the designation of Master Sergeant. He remained in Georgia until January 1942, when he was transferred to Fort McClellan Alabama. It was during his time at Ft. Wheeler war was declared and Shelton and fellow soldiers in Company B 115th Infantry 29th Division shipped out.

In April 1943, Shelton found himself along with his fellow soldiers in Europe, and on October 4, 1944, records show that their unit

engaged in a fire fight with the enemy in the vicinity of Hatterath, Germany. Military records indicate that two US companies of soldiers were in a battle that included artillery, tanks and mortars as well as small arms fire so intense that they were forced to withdraw and allow the enemy to occupy the area. Shelton was one of six "unresolved casualties" from that battle, and due to the extreme emergency, fellow soldiers were unable to evacuate the casualties. Families were notified that the men were MIA, and the Shelton family awaited news, but year after year, there were no new reports according to Shelton's military file.

The military practices the motto "leave no man behind, and finally, in 1947, a field investigation was conducted in the area where Shelton was last assigned, but the results of that search were negative, and further searches by the Graves Registration Unit and teams clearing land mines from the area disclosed no more information about the casualties from the October 4, 1944 battle. In 1950, the US Army declared Junior J Shelton killed in action, but Curtis still wanted more answers.

Two weeks ago she got information she has long sought-- the US Army contacted Vonette Curtis to notify her that her uncle's remains have been positively identified and he will be brought home for burial. According to Curtis, she and other relatives will meet with government personnel in the next few weeks to make arrangements for JZ Shelton, Jr's burial in Springdale Cemetery in Sebree. He will be escorted home by US Army personnel and will be buried with full military honors

provided by Fort Knox. For his service and his sacrifice, Shelton was awarded the Bronze Star, Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Cluster.

For 81 years, members of Shelton's family have waited for answers and have hoped he would someday return home. His parents passed away not knowing their son's remains had been found. His brothers who also served in the Armed Forces--Von Toble Shelton, Sr (Vonette's father) and Joseph Marvin Shelton, and his sisters Wanda Speaks and Emma Gene Thompson have also passed away and never knew their brother's body had been recovered.

Vonette Curtis, his niece, and O. J. Eastwood, his nephew, are the only living local relatives. A daughter, Mary Frances Wagon, lives in Alabama. Three grandchildren are also among those who mourn Shelton's loss.

For Vonette Curtis, it has been a long journey finding answers to the questions she had as a child. She has learned that the grief doesn't go away, but answers help, and now having her uncle back where his life began will bring peace to a person who spent her life looking for the answers to why, when and where.

*The Shelton family was not the only Sebree family affected on October 4, 1944, Paul M. Sellers, a sergeant in the US Army and the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Sellers, also died that day. He had been in the service since January 1943, and was buried in Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium according to military records. Shelton and Sellers were among the first young soldiers from Sebree to lose their lives in the war.

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WEBSTER CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION 24-CI-00227**

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING PLAINTIFF
vs.
DESTINY C HEBARD, JESSICA A TAYLOR, MARK ANTHONY TAYLOR, WEBSTER COUNTY AND CITY OF PROVIDENCE DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Webster Circuit Court on the 27TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025**, at the hour of **11:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Dixon, Webster County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Webster County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 108 S Willow Street, Providence, Kentucky 42450
PVA No. / Map No.: PR3-014-012

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.
Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 7th day of May, 2025.

STEPHEN M. ARNETT, Master Commissioner
6/4c

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WEBSTER CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION 24-CI-00134**

MARTHA WHEELER and JERRY WHEELER, wife and husband; DOROTHY A. HATLER; MARTHA JANE HERRIN; JEFFREY DAVID HERRIN and JENNIFER HERRIN, husband and wife; JENNIFER LAYNE DILLON and LARRY DILLON and LARRY DILLON, wife and husband; and DEBORAH GAIL HAWKINS and ADAM HAWKINS, wife and husband; and NELDA J. DRIVER PLAINTIFFS
vs.
CHARLET HIBBS; DONNA THRELKELD; ONA GAYLE FRASER; MELANIE ANNE FRASER; EMORY E. HERRIN and PHYLLIS HERRIN, husband and wife.

RE-NOTICE OF SALE.

The scheduled sale of the following property was set for Thursday, May 8, 2025. However, the Sebree Banner failed to advertise the sale on Wednesday April 23. (See Exhibit A). The local rules state that sales must be advertised in the three (3) weeks preceding the sale. Therefore, by virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Webster Circuit Court on the 23rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2024, I will on **THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025**, at the hour of **11:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Dixon, Webster County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Webster County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: New Hopewell Church Road
PVA No. / Map No.: 010-006-000.

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.
Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 28th day of April, 2025.

STEPHEN M. ARNETT, Master Commissioner
5/21c

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WEBSTER CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION 24-CI-14**

ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC PLAINTIFF
vs.
JAMES BRASHER; BRENDA BRASHER; CITY OF PROVIDENCE, KENTUCKY; AND COUNTY OF WEBSTER, KENTUCKY DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Webster Circuit Court on the 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024, I will on **THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025**, at the hour of **11:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Dixon, Webster County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Webster County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 205 West Main Street, Providence, Webster County, Kentucky, 42450
PVA No. / Map No.: PR2-012-011

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.
Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 6th day of May, 2025.

STEPHEN M. ARNETT, Master Commissioner
6/4c