

Corbin ATC hosts annual three-day non-traditional camp for students



Photos by MARK WHITE

Exploring opportunities: As part of last week’s camp hosted by the Corbin Area Technology Center, the Kentucky State Police Special Response Team brought an armored vehicle and several pieces of equipment to show students.

■ **By Trevor Sherman**

Last week, the Corbin Area Technology Center (Corbin ATC) welcomed in a group of incoming 6th-9th graders for a three-day camp that allowed them to get hands-on experience in exploring potential future career pathways.

“The overall goal of this camp is to try and draw students into the career and technical education side of things, and to make them more aware of what’s out there,” said ATC Principal Josh Watkins.

Watkins explained that, for many years, he feels like there was a troubling lack of focus on vocational training with school-aged kids. “I think we saw the pendulum swing really far with that,” he said. “And now we are needing to invest in local economies with local people. We want these kids to realize that there are a lot of opportunities, and a lot of money to be made. There are good, steady careers if they’re willing to put the time and effort into it.”



Throughout the three-day camp, students were able to construct their own CO2-powered drag racers, as well as shadow boxes that can be used to display items at home. On the final day, members of the Kentucky State Police Special Response Team brought an armored vehicle to the school and spoke about some the roles and responsibilities that go along with their job.

“We want to open up their eyes to what we offer here at the ATC,” Watkins said. “When they get to high school, hopefully they will remember

this experience and be interested in taking some of those classes.”

“The really neat thing here is that students are offered an opportunity to stand up, move around, use their hands and get dirty while doing something a little different than in a normal classroom setting,” Watkins added. “Hopefully it will spark an interest in a future career.”

Follow the Corbin Area Technology Center on Facebook for more information, including announcements regarding future learning opportunities.

Kentucky Hemp Association urging Congress to support American hemp farmers

Ag Commissioner, Sen. Rand Paul weigh in

The Kentucky Hemp Association (KYHA) serves as the statewide voice for the hemp industry in the Commonwealth. With a focus on empowering farmers and small businesses to meet a growing consumer demand for hemp and hemp products, its members have spent the last 11 years investing their time and resources into rebuilding a domestic supply chain of hemp and hemp products under the authorities of the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.

The group is now expressing its strong opposition to Rep. Andy Harris’ hemp language included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The KYHA says the language will have a devastating impact on farmers and small businesses by destroying genetics developed to conform to the definition under the 2018 Farm Bill and recriminalizing hemp products with detectable amounts of THC.

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has weighed in, saying, “Kentucky’s farmers deserve stability and support as they work to grow and diversify their operations.

“We’ve seen strong progress in hemp production, including significantly increased acreage from last year - an encouraging sign of the industry’s resilience and potential.”

“To give Kentucky hemp growers every chance at success, I support the Kentucky Hemp Association’s efforts to remove the over-broad proposed language in the FY2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that would criminalize non-intoxicating CBD products

in our hemp program.”

The KYHA points out that there is a strong demand for hemp products in Kentucky driven by adults seeking functional relief from chronic mental and physical pain not addressed by traditional options.

They say that the proposed language not only eliminates the most profitable end market for farmers, but turns Kentuckians into criminals.

Senator Rand Paul also commented, saying, “For years, Kentucky hemp farmers made investments based upon Congress’ legalization of hemp, one of the Commonwealth’s historically vital crops. Rather than put those investments and livelihoods at risk by unnecessarily recriminalizing hemp, Congress should pass my HEMP Act.”

“The HEMP Act would help the industry reach its full economic potential by raising the currently arbitrary THC restriction that forces farmers to destroy a significant portion of their crop.”

Thanks largely to the support of state-led regulatory frameworks, Kentucky has emerged as a national leader in hemp production and innovation. The KYHA says that now is not the time for the federal government to impose changes that would disrupt that progress.

The hemp industry has called for thoughtful regulation that protects consumers while preserving economic opportunities for farmers.

However, many fear that language recently introduced by Rep. Harris would go too far, effectively dismantling Kentucky’s age-restricted and tightly regulated hemp marketplace. For this reason, the KYHA is asking for federal policy that will do more to reinforce this thriving sector instead of seeking to recriminalize it.

WYATT: Local journalism is important

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Today’s society is rife with misinformation and disinformation, as well as a variety of echo chambers that perpetuate both. I believe that local newspapers with local journalists that genuinely care about serving the public in which they are tasked with keeping informed are one of the best weapons that can be utilized against that issue.

But it does take a certain type of person to do this work consistently at a high level.

Sure, most people could probably learn to do the job, but I believe that the larger percentage of them likely couldn’t truly do it well. It requires a level of dedication that lies somewhere between stalwart and unwavering. And I’ve been battling with a number of personal issues that have shifted my focus away from the work itself.

I generally enjoy the work that I do and the people that I do that work with. I

also obviously care about local journalism and its importance to smaller communities such as ours, but this opportunity felt like too much of a potential boon for my family for me to be able to pass up.

If these next few weeks end up being the last ones in which I provide content for the News Journal, I will still continue to hope for this newspaper’s success from afar.

I’m proud to have been able to do it for the time that I have and I expect I will miss it once I have transitioned away entirely. The silver lining, I suppose, is that I will still be getting to do work within the field, though I will be trading in the newsroom for a classroom.

I would like to thank my coworkers for the guidance and fellowship they have provided over the past few years. I would also like to thank those in the community whom I’ve covered and worked with during that time. I appreciate each and every one of you.

Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICE:

The City of Corbin hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for an Entertainment Destination Center no later than June 27, 2025. The licensed premise will be located as described in Ordinance 2025-6. A complete copy of Ordinance 2025-6 including a map of the geographical boundaries for the licensed premise can be found in the Office of the City Clerk, located at 805 S Main St, Corbin, KY. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Ky. 40601, within 30 days of the date of this legal publication.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-6

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORBIN, KENTUCKY, ESTABLISHING AN ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION CENTER IN DOWNTOWN CORBIN, KENTUCKY; AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF CORBIN, KENTUCKY, TO APPLY FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION CENTER LICENSE FROM THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL; AND FURTHER ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSEES TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE POSSESSED AND CONSUMED WITHIN THE COMMON AREAS OF THE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION CENTER, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS/ PATRONS’ ACTIVITIES WITHIN THOSE COMMON AREAS. THIS ORDINANCE ALSO ESTABLISHES PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE AND DEFINES JURISDICTION AND VENUE FOR ADJUDICATING SUCH VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, KRS 243.030(21) authorizes the issuance of an Entertainment Destination Center (“EDC”) License by the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and

WHEREAS, the creation of an EDC in the downtown will aid in the economic growth of tourism in the City of Corbin, Kentucky, and capitalize on the revitalization taking place in downtown Corbin, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corbin, Kentucky seeks to create an EDC within its downtown area for which it shall obtain a license from the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corbin, Kentucky further seeks to establish the requirements for a licensee to sell alcoholic beverages to be possessed and consumed within the common area of the EDC; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corbin, Kentucky, will establish an EDC Committee for the purpose of reviewing any and all EDC event applications, as well as establishing EDC dates and times per EDC event; and

WHEREAS, downtown Corbin, Kentucky, is a natural host to community festivals and other events which cause fellowship and entertainment for the City of Corbin, Kentucky’s residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CORBIN, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: There is hereby established an EDC in downtown Corbin, Kentucky, and the geographical boundaries of the EDC in the City of Corbin, Kentucky, lies within and adjacent to the following description:

Starting from the south at 6th Street, the boundary runs along Main Street from the north sidewalk to the south sidewalk, reaching the corner sidewalk of Gordon Hill at 303 N Main Street. Continuing from the south at 6th Street, the boundary follows Depot Street from the north sidewalk to the south sidewalk until it reaches the corner sidewalk of Gordon Hill at the edge of the municipal parking lot (GPS coordinates 36.948816, -84.095949). This boundary will extend along Gordon Hill to encompass the sand volleyball courts. It will also extend along Depot Street to include the historic L&N Railroad Depot, reaching the edge of the drip line at the back eave of the roof. Furthermore, the boundary will incorporate the area containing the L&N Steam Engine, Coal Tender, and Caboose up to the wall of that area. From Main Street, the boundary includes portions of 6th Street to Depot Street, 5th Street to Depot Street, 4th Street to Depot Street, 3rd Street to Depot Street, 2nd Street to Depot Street, 1st Street to Depot Street, and Monroe Street to Depot Street. Additionally, on Main Street, the boundary extends from the sidewalk of First Street around the premises of Nibroc Park, encompassing Nibroc Park, and from the sidewalk of Monroe Street around the premises of the Farmers Market Pavilion Property, encompassing the Farmers Market Pavilion Property. From Main Street, the boundary encompasses the sidewalk portions of 6th Street to Kentucky Street, 5th Street to Kentucky Street, 4th Street to Kentucky Street, 3rd Street to Kentucky Street, 2nd Street to Kentucky Street, 1st Street to Kentucky Street, and Monroe Street to Kentucky Street. The south sidewalk adjacent to Kentucky Street is not included.

A map of the EDC is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2: The City of Corbin, Kentucky Board of Commissioners shall establish the EDC Committee, which will consist of the individuals holding the following City Administrative Offices: Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief, ABC Administrator, and Downtown Coordinator. The EDC Committee shall grant prior approval for any and all events conducted or held within the EDC pursuant to this Ordinance, and specify the dates and hours of each event, within its sole and exclusive discretion.

SECTION 3: The City of Corbin, Kentucky shall apply for an Entertainment Destination Center License from the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

SECTION 4: A business that is located within or adjacent to the EDC that sells alcoholic beverages shall hold the necessary alcoholic beverage license or licenses for its premises. A licensee within or adjacent to the EDC may sell alcoholic beverages from one or more non-permanent locations within any common area within the EDC if the licensee holds a supplemental bar license for each non-permanent location.

SECTION 5: During approved events as set forth above, patrons may leave the premises of the licensee located within or adjacent to the EDC and occupy the common area of the EDC with alcoholic beverage drinks and consume those drinks while in the approved geographical area of the approved event. Patrons may carry their alcoholic beverage drink into an EDC Committee-approved and participating unlicensed or licensed premise that is located within or adjacent to the EDC. Nonparticipating premises shall be identified by sign age stating “No Alcohol Permitted” on the front door of their main entrance. Any and all alcoholic beverage drinks removed from a licensed premise for authorized consumption within the approved boundaries of the EDC shall be in cups approved by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Corbin, Kentucky. Licensees participating in the EDC must purchase EDC cups from the office of the City of Corbin ABC Administrator. Further, all cups used herein shall be single-use only.

SECTION 6: The City of Corbin, Kentucky shall place permanent signage designating the boundaries of the EDC at each EDC entry point. Furthermore, the City of Corbin, Kentucky, shall place temporary signage stating “No Alcohol Permitted in parking areas” at the entrances to public parking lots within and adjacent to the EDC.

SECTION 7: No individual and/or patron shall take or possess any alcoholic beverage outside the physical boundaries of the EDC. No individual and/or patron shall carry and/or possess any alcoholic beverage obtained from any premise outside of the EDC into the EDC premises. Any individual and/or patron violating this Section 7, shall be charged with said violation and fined up to \$100.00. Whitley District Court shall have jurisdiction and venue for adjudication of the said violation.

SECTION 8: Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to authorize or allow noncompliance with any law governing vehicle open container laws and/or laws relating to the operation of a vehicle while under the influence or impaired, or any other Kentucky law or other Ordinances.

SECTION 9: Any licensee in violation of this Ordinance may be banned from further participation in events conducted within the EDC, as may be determined by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Corbin, Kentucky.

SECTION 10: This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and legal advertisement.

FIRST READING: 06/11/2025

SECOND READING: 06/16/2025

APPROVED: By: SUZIE RAZMUS, MAYOR

ATTEST: TORI BROCK, CITY CLERK

