

Corbin Board of Education approves revenue bonds for facility upgrades

■ By Leeann Fragosa

The Corbin Board of Education approved approximately \$3,185,000 in revenue bonds to fund several district facilities upgrades at the Corbin School District Finance Corporation meeting on April 9.

According to Superintendent Travis Wilder, the bonds will be used for renovations to track and tennis facilities, updates to the Corbin High School gymnasium, auditorium renovations and finalizing the auxiliary gym project.

Vice President Bob Tarvin of RSA Advisors, a company based in Lexington, presented information on the issuance of revenue bonds.

"Years ago, there was an issue in terms of a board issuing debt for more than one year," said Tarvin. "The result of solving that back around 1989 or so was to create this concept of having the school finance corporation issue the bonds... it was a legal

way of solving the issue."

Before that change, all debt had to be issued by the city or the county.

Tarvin explained bonds are similar to taking out a loan.

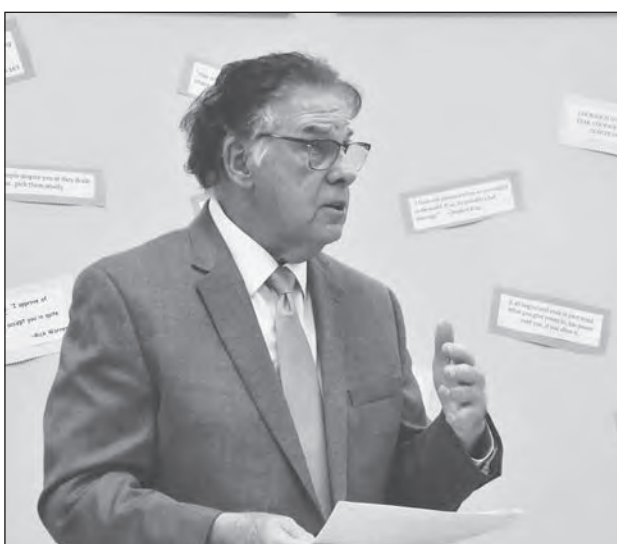
"I always think it's good to understand that if you're going to go into debt, you can pay it off," said Tarvin. "There's nothing mysterious about bonds. It's just a source of money."

Tarvin said the district has an estimated bonding potential of \$18 million.

Wilder said the bonding process is part of a two-step system, where the finance corporation is first established before the board approves issuing bonds for district facilities.

Following the issuance, the district will have approximately \$14,815,000 remaining bonding capacity, or the amount it could still issue in future bonds.

The district will also revisit its District Facility Plan through the local planning committee to determine future projects.



Bob Tarvin
RSA Advisors, VP

WEDDLE: Mayor's arraignment set for April 15 in Laurel Co.

from the front page

limits for reportedly contributing more than \$2,000, indexed for inflation, to the Andy Beshear for Governor campaign during one election.

The grand jury indicted Weddle on two additional counts of campaign contribution restriction/expenditure limits after he reportedly contributed more than \$5,000 to the Kentucky Democratic Party in one year.

The charges are Class D felonies. Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman announced the indictment last month noting it follows an investigation by the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance and the Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations.

The investigations found in December 2022, Weddle reportedly made more than 20 unlawful campaign donations to the Andy Beshear for Governor Campaign and the Kentucky Democratic Party.

Coleman said Weddle used his personal credit card to make the "excessive" contributions and reported other individuals as the donors.

A total of \$18,000 was allegedly improperly donated to the Andy Beshear for Governor Campaign and a total of \$75,000 was reportedly donated to the Kentucky Democratic Party.

Weddle is slated to be arraigned Wednesday morning in Laurel Circuit Court.

Pinwheels in downtown recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Photo by LEEANN FRAGOSA

PINWHEELS: Rows of blue pinwheels are located in the lawn in front of the Corbin Fire Department in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The display was sponsored by the Ossoli Club of Corbin and Diane Mitchell Juniores, which is a junior extension of the Ossoli Club. The display aims to raise awareness for the month of April.

Uni. of Cumberlands students saved \$6.3 million through free textbook program

Textbook affordability remains a major hurdle for college students nationwide. According to the Education Data Initiative, 65 percent of students say they've skipped purchasing course materials because of the cost — leaving them without critical resources for studying, preparing for exams, or completing assignments.

At University of the Cumberlands, that's a challenge students don't have to face.

Now in its sixth year, Cumberlands' free textbook initiative continues to lead the way in solving one of higher education's most persistent barriers. As part of the university's ongoing commitment to affordability and student success, Cumberlands provides free textbooks to 100 percent of its students.

The program removes the financial burden of course materials, ensuring every student has access to the resources they need from day one.

The results speak for themselves.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, students at University of the Cumberlands saved an estimated \$6.3 million through the university's free textbook rental program. This figure is based on total student enrollment of 22,120 and the national average cost of course materials (including books), which is \$285 per student annually, according to data from the National Association of College Stores and BestColleges.com.

"When I first saw Cumberlands advertising free textbooks, I thought there was no way," said Jenna Pike, a senior undergraduate student from Payneville. "Turns out they really mean it. I'm so thankful for the money it's helped me save especially after hearing how much my friends pay at their universities."

Cumberlands' program not only reduces costs for

students like Pike, it also simplifies the textbook process entirely.

Here's how it works: Once a student registers for classes, the campus bookstore receives an automatic notification. Staff then gather the correct books and prepare them for pick-up. If a textbook is digital, students receive access instructions via email.

No searching for ISBNs across websites. No rush shipping before a major exam. Just free textbooks, ready when students are.

For online students balancing coursework with work and family obligations, the program's convenience is nearly as impactful as the cost savings.

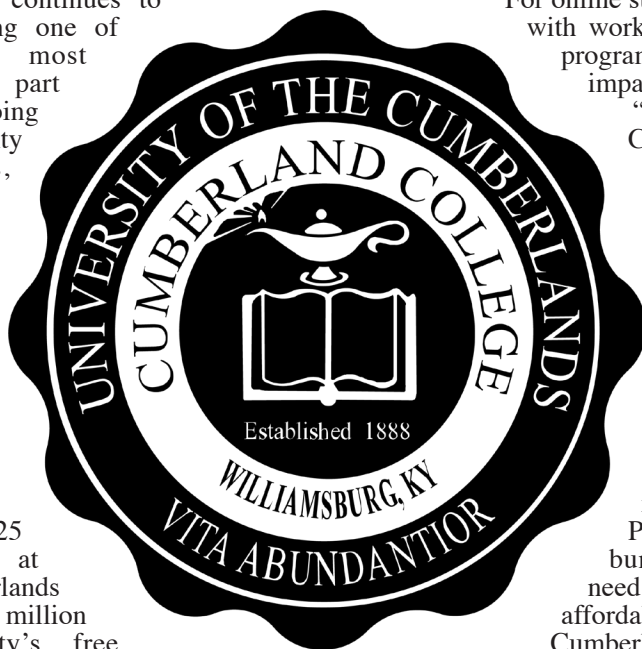
"I really appreciate that Cumberlands provides free textbooks through their One Price Promise," said Ethan Rose '22, MAT '27. "It's taken a huge weight off financially and made getting my materials each semester so much less stressful. I always know where to find what I need."

Free textbooks are just one part of the university's broader affordability initiative: the One Price Promise. This initiative bundles everything students need to succeed into one clear, affordable price with no hidden fees. Cumberlands' commitment to value and access has not gone unnoticed. Most

recently, Research.com named University of the Cumberlands the No. 1 Best Value College in Kentucky for 2026.

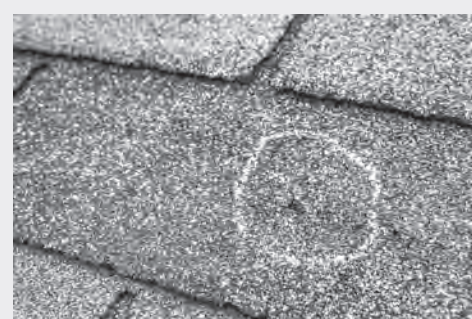
But beyond rankings and data, it's the personal impact that matters most. Cumberlands is making it possible for students like Pike and Rose to pursue their education without being weighed down by extra costs.

"Cumberlands has given me the opportunity to receive a quality and affordable education," Pike shared. "I'll never be able to repay their generosity. I'll always be grateful for my time here."



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