

Corbin Tourism receives clean audit, discusses possible new initiatives

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

CORBIN — The Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission held a special-called meeting Friday to review the commission's fiscal year 2024–2025 audit and to begin discussing potential tourism initiatives following the completion of its website rebrand.

The auditor who conducted the FY 24–25 audit was scheduled to attend the meeting and present his findings, but was unable to do so while recovering from surgery. Commission members were informed that the auditor plans to attend the February meeting to provide a more detailed overview of the audit results.

According to Tourism Director Emily Roberts, the audit reflected positively on the commission's financial standing.

"There were no problems that impacted the financial

statement," said Roberts. "On the last page, he said that there were no deficiencies noted in the current years."

The commission also considered a sponsorship request from Cumberland River Behavioral Health for its upcoming R&R 5K, an event the commission supported last year. The 5K, held in Williamsburg, raises funds for children's summer programs and for Refugee Ridge, an organization dedicated to wolf rescue and environmental education.

The race is scheduled for May 30 at 8 a.m., with registration closing the day prior. Those interested in registering can find more information on the Cumberland River Behavioral Health Facebook page. The commission voted unanimously to sponsor the event again in the amount of \$250.

Looking ahead to future projects, Roberts shared several ideas aimed at increasing

community engagement and promoting local attractions. One proposal involved

creating a tourism passport program to encourage residents and visitors to explore Corbin.

"I know that quite a few other communities do that where we would create almost like a little booklet, and we would put in it our attractions and our restaurants — things we want to highlight," said Roberts. "And then they can come in, take that, and go to those locations and visit them. Somebody there signs off on it, or scans it, and once they get so many stamps or signatures — we could give them a free swag item or something like that."

Roberts also discussed the possibility of hosting a tourism open house to invite residents and travelers into the tourism center. She noted that in October and November, several long-time Corbin residents visited the office sim-

ply to see what the building offered.

The goal, Roberts said, would be to increase public awareness and education about tourism efforts in the city while allowing the community to better understand how events and promotions are planned.

"I think that would be a cool little kick-off with our re-brand too," said Commissioner Summer Jackson.

The commission is preparing for the official launch of its rebranded website, which is expected to roll out soon. In addition, members announced that Corbin Tourism has launched an official TikTok account to highlight local businesses and events throughout the city. Community members can follow the account under the name CorbinKYTourism to stay up to date on upcoming promotions and announcements.

Criminal abuse and sex offender registration top Whitley County indictments

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

WHITLEY COUNTY — This month's indictments were issued by the Whitley County grand jury this past week, with the most serious cases involving allegations of second-degree criminal abuse and failure to comply with first-degree sex offender registration.

The grand jury indicted James Dinkins, 57, of London, on multiple charges related to an incident alleged to have occurred on July 19, 2025.

Dinkins is being charged with two counts of second-degree criminal abuse involving children under the age of 12, stemming from allegations that he placed two minors in situations that could have caused serious physical injury while at a public recreation area.

Additional charges include first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a minor for allegedly failing to exercise reasonable diligence in the care and control of the children.

The grand jury also indicted Jason William Taylor, 42, of Corbin, on multiple charges stemming from an incident alleged to have occurred on November 17, 2025.

Taylor is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements for allegedly failing to report a change of address, third-degree fleeing or evading police, and resisting arrest.

The indictment alleges Taylor attempted to flee law enforcement and disobeyed directives from officers during the incident, resulting in the third-degree fleeing or evading police charge.

An indictment is an accusation only and does not imply guilt or innocence. Persons are considered innocent until proven guilty under state and/or federal law.

SCHOOL

Continued from page A2

Prewitt.

Following the FFA Land Judging Team's recognition, the district held a white coat ceremony for Whitley County High School biomedical science students completing the program pathway. Students recognized were Johnny Bowman, Jayden Broyles, Haylee Bunch, Macie Carr, Addyson Combs, Anna Croley, Lindsey Elliott, Madisyn Hopkins, Noah Keene, Callie McQueen, Kierra

Mullins, Cassidy Mullins, and Kara Parrett.

Also honored was High School Agriculture Teacher Brian Prewitt as this month's "Above and Beyond" recipient. Prewitt was recognized for his leadership of the FFA program and his students' high rates of industry certification and dual-credit participation.

The Whitley County Board of Education's next meeting will take place Tuesday, February 17, at 5 p.m. due to the Kentucky School Boards Association's annual conference.



Whitley County High School Agriculture Teacher Brian Prewitt was recognized as this month's "Above and Beyond" recipient. |PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

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