

RECOVERY

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of students participating in the academy's abatement program. The initiative, funded through opioid settlement dollars, aims to provide job skills and a pathway forward for individuals affected by addiction.

Several students spoke directly to magistrates about their experiences.

Aaron Howard shared his personal journey, emphasizing the role the program has played in his recovery.

"I'm from Middlesboro, Kentucky. I'm a drug addict, and this program has really helped me particularly because last year I was dying in the streets of Lexington," said Howard. "This program has given me new hope, and it's given me a foothold for my life to start doing something that is worth doing."

Benita Smith also addressed the court, reflecting on her struggles and progress.

"I've battled with addiction my whole life. Sometimes a lot harder than others. But, for the last four years, I've had something to look forward to," said Smith. "It doesn't mean I'm perfect, because we all fall sometimes. It just matters about how you get up."

Smith further spoke about the loss of her father and a recent setback, noting she has since regained her footing. Stephens praised Smith's perseverance, highlighting her commitment and work ethic despite personal hardships.

Additional students, including Jada Knuckles, Courtney Earls and student Brooklyn echoed similar sentiments, describing how the program has helped them reenter the workforce while also rebuilding relationships with their children and families.

Stephens emphasized the broader impact of the program, stating, "As you guys can see, this actually opens the door that gives you the opportunity to change. There's

not always a lot of those opportunities. In this, you can walk in, and you can start a different lifestyle all together."

Whitley County Opioid Response Coordinator Darrell Hurst also commended the group's progress and positive environment at the academy.

"If you are ever having a bad day, just go to the academy and hang out. It's really, really neat," said Hurst. "An anti-depressant place, I promise you that."

The program is supported through opioid settlement funds distributed to communities impacted by the over distribution of narcotics, with a focus on workforce development and recovery support.

Judge-Executive Pat White Jr. expressed appreciation to those who shared their stories.

"It's very touching to see you all come today and comment on a new direction you want to head in, and become productive and good members of our community," said Judge White. "Thank



Aaron Howard spoke directly to magistrates about his experience with the program, and his gratitude for those around him. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

you all for coming again."

In other business, magistrates voted unanimously to table a proposed statewide emergency management mutual aid and assistance agreement between Whitley County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The delay will allow additional

review of an "evergreen clause," which would automatically renew the agreement each year unless terminated with advance notice.

"I think Jerry (Rains) was going to try to have a discussion with the state before passing that," Judge White said. "Those

evergreen clauses renew year to year automatically, unless you give a certain amount of notice that you do not want to continue — so then you have to try to remember when 60 days is before the end of the term next year. And then, you end up with an automatic renewal of something that could carry on into future fiscal courts that you don't even know exist."

The court also approved a petition to add Lake Country Cottage Trail, located in the county's 2nd District, into the county road system.

Additionally, Judge White appointed Coty Paul to the Whitley County Library Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term — filling the seat previously held by Glenna Cordell, which expires April 30. Ginger Brashear was also recommended for the position, and while no preference was indicated by the library, Judge White noted that either candidate would have been well-suited for the role.

LEGACY

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influence and character while addressing those gathered.

"Jeff Chadwell was the face of Little League for decades. It's hard to express what he meant to so many people, and he was never one to draw attention to himself," said Razmus. "He was always wanting to be behind the scenes. He probably would not like that we're doing this tonight, but we're gonna do it anyway."

Members of the Corbin Little League organization also spoke, sharing memories and emphasizing Chadwell's lasting contributions. Vice President Mondo Cima, who is also Chadwell's nephew, highlighted his commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all children.

"Jeff worked endlessly to make sure that the less fortunate kids of our area had the same opportunities as the kid that were more fortunate," said Cima. "We, as a board, will continue to work and set the precedents that Jeff left behind."

Current Corbin Little League President Chris Griffin echoed those sentiments, noting the lasting impact Chadwell had on the league and its players.



Members of Jeff Chadwell's family attended the Corbin City Commission meeting in honor of the long-lasting legacy he left in the community. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

"He (Chadwell) gave us time, his energy, and his love for youth baseball," said Griffin. "Every one of us here today can confirm that our league, as we know it today, which is the best youth league in the state, exists in a large part because of the years of selfless service from Chadwell."

Griffin added that the newly named Jeff Chadwell Sports Complex at Miller Park will stand as a reminder to future generations of the opportuni-

ties made possible through Chadwell's dedication. Speaking on behalf of the Chadwell family and the Corbin Little League community, he expressed appreciation to the city for honoring Chadwell in a meaningful and lasting way.

In other news, commissioners also recognized another great Corbin native — Corbin High School wrestler BJ Jackson, who was presented with a Corbin Colonel honor for his achieve-

ments and leadership.

In a letter from Jackson's mother, read aloud by Razmus, he was described as a "strong Christian leader in his

family and in the community."

Razmus also noted Jackson's accomplishments on the mat, including his historic run (plac-

ing 7th) in the state tournament.

"This godly child is leading Corbin wrestling, and he's leading his friends and family to the lord," read Razmus.

Jackson was then presented with his very own Corbin Colonel alongside wrestling coach Chuck Davis, and Mayor Razmus.

In other business, commissioners approved the hiring of Joseph Breeding as a full-time patrolman, effective March 2.

The commission also received bids for a custom ladder truck for the Corbin Fire Department. Two proposals were submitted — one from All American Fire Equipment totaling \$1.7 million and another from Pierce Manufacturing totaling \$1.9 million. The commission voted to take the bids under advisement.

Following the regular agenda, the commission entered executive session. No formal action was taken.

LINE ADS

AUCTION

The following vehicles is at T & H Towing (606-528-9917) located at 109 Taylor Road, Corbin, KY 40701 and will be sold at public auction on March 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. title and not warranted, subject to prior liens. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to bid and seller has the right to accept or reject all bids. Terms of sale are, Cash only or Bank Certified Check. OWNER: Gilbert Auto Sales Vehicle Description: 2011 Nissan Rogue OWNER: Marlana Johnson Lien Holder: One Main Financial Group LLC Vehicle Description: 2006 Mazda 3 S

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PUBLIC NOTICES 3.19.2026

The Sixth Circuit Judicial Council received applications from people interested in appointment to the bankruptcy judge position

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY AT
LEXINGTON

The Sixth Circuit Judicial Council received applications from people interested in appointment to the bankruptcy judge position. A Merit Selection Panel considered all applications received and recommended the following candidates: Adam M. Back, Katherine A. (Katie)

Bell Dames, Ellen Arvin Kennedy, Megan R. Seliber, and David J. Treacy.

Full public notice is available at www.ca6.uscourts.gov. Any person may now submit written comments for consideration by the Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals. Public comments must be received by March 30, 2026. Please contact Marc Theriault, Circuit Executive, (513) 564-7200 for further information.