

# Corbin putting building funds into CD before money is spent

■ **By Mark White**

The City of Corbin is hoping to make a little bit of extra money on part of the funding that has been secured for expansion and renovation of the Corbin Center.

Corbin Economic Development Director Bruce Carpenter told the Corbin City Commission during its regular monthly meeting Monday that a \$3.5 million chunk of the funding, which the city has already received, probably won't be needed for at least six months if not longer.

Corbin City Collector Skye Hedrick said that she checked with three local banks on interest rates for a six-month certificate of deposit and Cumberland Valley National Bank offered the best rate at 4.25 percent interest. The city commission voted place those funds in a certificate of deposit at the bank.

Carpenter noted that the city still has \$2.5 million available, which it can use to start the project.

The city commission ratified Mayor Suzie Razmus' signature on an invitation to bid for the construction of the Corbin Center addition, and, at the urging of Corbin City Attorney Bob Hammons, authorized Razmus to sign any and all construction documents related to the project. Hammons

noted that many of the documents are time sensitive.

The Corbin Center expansion will more than double the size of the facility. Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers has secured much of the funding for the project.

Carpenter said that last week he started advertising for bids on construction of the Corbin Center addition, and bids are slated to be opened on June 3. He sent out bid specifications to about 70 contractors, and he has reserved a portion of two days this week if any contractors wanted to come in and look over the facility.

"I have had several calls about that," he said.

In addition, the city commission authorized Razmus to sign a quitclaim deed for a piece of city property adjacent to the Corbin Center where the new hotel is being built.

The city sold the property where the Fairfield Inn & Suites and Townplace is being constructed to 2Over LLC last year.

Hammons said that when 2Over LLC began plotting the footprint for the new hotel, the company inadvertently encroached on some city property.

Carpenter noted that property in question is not even one-tenth of an acre in size.

The city agreed to deed

the small sliver of land over to the company at no cost.

In other business, the city commission:

- Authorized Razmus to sign a quitclaim deed to the Corbin Independent Board of Education for the sidewalk adjacent to Corbin football stadium on Roy Kidd Avenue. Hammons noted that the sidewalk was torn up during the football stadium renovation work, and the school board is willing to pay to redo the sidewalk, which could cost up to \$60,000. However, the property has to be in the school board's name before it can expend funds to work on it.

- Approved the reappointment of Terry Joe Marin to the City Utilities Commission and approved the appointment of Victor Patel to replace Mitch Patel on the Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission. Mitch Patel's term in office expired on June 30, 2025.

- Authorized Razmus to sign a lease agreement with Volunteers of America for office space in the old city hall. Razmus said that the program had been upstairs at Corbin City Hall but is being moved downstairs to where Whitley District Judge Cathy Prewitt's old office used to be.

Razmus said the program was needing more space, and the new

office is adjacent to the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting rooms. She said the only difference between the new deed and the old deed is that the program will now be paying \$600 per month rent instead of \$400 per month rent. "They are thrilled with it," Razmus added.

- Approved a pay increase to \$12 per hour for long-time Corbin Arena employee Anthony Phipps. Phipps will remain a part-time employee. Williamson noted that he is a very good and dedicated employee.

- Heard a presentation from the Cumberland River Behavioral Health Greendot Program concerning the results of its recent community survey.

- Approved a \$122.50 refund to Pam Jones. Hedrick noted that Jones bought a business license for her ice cream truck, but has since sold the truck, which will be moving to Harrodsburg.

- Discussed roof work for the old Corbin Civic Center, which is located off Gordon Hill. The city set aside \$100,000 for the roof replacement in last year's budget. Corbin Parks and Recreation Director Jacob Roan noted that Hacker Brothers is working to determine whether a total roof replacement will be needed.

## Obituaries

from page A-8

### Henrietta Esther Duke

Henrietta Esther Duke, born February 1, 1930, in Gainesville, Florida, was a beacon of light to all who knew her.

As Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Henrietta embodied this sentiment throughout her life, making everyone she encountered feel special and loved.

Henrietta, a devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, touched countless lives as an educator for 40 years within the McCreary County School District and the University of the Cumberlands.

She was passionate about her work, imbuing every lesson with wisdom and care. Her legacy lives on in the many students she inspired and the family she cherished.

She was a beloved mother to Melinda (Steve) Clark and Grant Duke. She was also a doting grandmother to David Earl (Christen Bohl) Carmack III, Taylor Duke, Lea Duke, Lydia Renee Karyl (Charles) Howard, Amy Dubai, Laura Dubai, and Ricky Dubai. Her great-grandchildren, Matthew Howard, Rachel Howard, Sylvia Howard, Brianna Randle, Addy Monhollen, and Harlow Poor also held a special place in her heart.

Henrietta was a cherished member of First Baptist Church.

Henrietta's life was seasoned with the joy of deep friendships and bonds that transcended blood. Her nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends were a source of happiness and strength to her.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, John Duke; her son, Robert Duke; her parents, Carl Stengel Sr. and Ethalinda Pietrasanta; her brother, Carl Jr.; and her best friends, Mavis Broome and Annette Feaster.

Despite these losses, Henrietta's spirit remained undaunted, a testament to her resilience and capacity for love.

Funeral service was Sunday, May 4, at the Croley Funeral Home. Interment followed at Whitley Memorial Gardens, in Williamsburg.

As William Penn stated, "For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity." Henrietta may have made this turn, but her influence continues to shape our world in beautiful, meaningful ways.

We encourage friends and loved ones to share memories of Henrietta and upload photos to the memorial page, as a way of celebrating her remarkable life. In this way, we may ensure her legacy of love, education, and family lives on.

Croley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.



# Grand jury indicts Corbin man for strangling his wife, girlfriend

■ **By Mark White**

The Whitley County Grand Jury indicted a Corbin man Monday morning for allegedly strangling his wife and his girlfriend and threatening them in addition to firing a gun into an occupied home with multiple people inside.

The grand jury indicted Wyatt I. Taylor, 22, of Bee Creek Road, on five counts of first-degree wanton endangerment (discharge of a firearm), two counts of first-degree strangulation (domestic violence related), two counts of third-degree terroristic threatening, tampering with a witness and violation of a Kentucky Emergency Protective Order (E.P.O.)/Domestic Violence Order (D.V.O.), according to his indictment.

On Feb. 6, Taylor allegedly discharged a firearm into a residence occupied by the two strangulation victims along with one other woman and two children inside, according to the indictment.

On Feb. 10, he allegedly threatened to kill or cause serious physical injury to the two strangulation victims. On March 25, he allegedly violated the provisions of the E.P.O./D.V.O. by communicating via telephone with one of the strangulation victims after being served or given notice of the order, according to his indictment.

On Feb. 10, Whitley County Sheriff's Major Tony Dingess was called to Taylor's home in reference to an alleged physical domestic violence assault. When police arrived, they spoke with two victims, who stated that Wyatt allegedly had physically assaulted his girlfriend on Feb. 10 by pushing her down and getting on top of her and attempting to choke her about her neck, according to the warrant.

"The victim reported the offender was also armed with a handgun, and during the assault, the offender held a gun to his girlfriend and threatened to kill her," Dingess wrote.

The victim is Taylor's live-in girlfriend. Taylor's current wife, who also resides at the residence, witnessed the alleged assault of the girlfriend, Dingess wrote.

"Both females allege the offender discharged the same handgun last week after a physical domestic assault where the offender had physically assaulted and choked his wife. Both the offender's girlfriend and wife and multiple children were inside the residence when the offender discharged the handgun while on the front porch of the residence the week prior," Dingess wrote in the warrant.

The grand jury also handed down

indictments against a Rockholds couple, who are accused of drug trafficking out of a home where three children live.

The grand jury indicted Christopher L. Jones, 33, and Michaela K. Sullivan, 31, both of Delmar Sergeant Road, charging them with two counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first-degree criminal abuse, two counts of first-degree criminal abuse (child 12 or under), drug paraphernalia and three counts of endangering the welfare of a minor.

The grand jury also indicted Jones on an enhanced charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine while in possession of a firearm), convicted felon in possession of a firearm and convicted felon in possession of a handgun.

Sullivan was also indicted on an additional charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

On March 18 and March 21, the couple allegedly sold a quantity of methamphetamine to a Corbin Police Department confidential informant. On March 21, there were allegedly three children inside the home, whose ages ranged from six to 13 years old, according to their indictment.

Corbin police and officers from five other agencies arrested Jones and Sullivan on March 21. At the time, Jones was a federal fugitive, who was wanted for allegedly absconding federal parole supervision. He was believed to be armed with multiple firearms in a residence in the Rockholds community, a Corbin Police Department release noted.

"Jones fled from officers through a hole in the floor of the residence and was located inside of a crawl space beneath the floor. Jones eventually complied with officers' commands, exiting the crawl space and was taken into custody without incident," according to the release.

Jones was arrested and served with a federal arrest warrant for absconding parole supervision.

A subsequent search warrant was executed on the residence stemming from a drug investigation initiated by Patrolman Jarrett Carr and Patrolman First Class Chris Brown, the release stated.

Police alleged that Jones' girlfriend, Sullivan, had been present during two controlled drug buys where methamphetamine was sold to a confidential information source, Brown wrote on her arrest citation.

The citation noted that she was

allowing a federal fugitive with violent tendencies, who allegedly sold the illegal narcotics, to live with her and her minor children.

Officers located a 12-gauge shotgun and a 9mm Ruger handgun in Sullivan's bedroom. In addition, they allegedly found a large quantity of suspected methamphetamine, digital scales, individual baggies and glass pipes, Brown wrote on the citation.

"Officers observed the residence to be in deplorable living conditions. Sullivan has three minor children living in the residence with limited walk space, dirty beds, a large amount of trash scattered throughout the residence, and little food inside of a refrigerator covered in mold. In one of the juvenile's bedroom officers observed a Budweiser beer bottle on the nightstand," Brown wrote.

According to its monthly report and indictments, the Whitley County Grand Jury also indicted the following other individuals Monday, including:

- Allen Ball, 40, of Williamsburg — two counts of second-degree terroristic threatening (threatened to kill or cause serious physical injury to a school resource officer and one other person while on the property of Whitley County Middle School).

- Brandon Barton, 40, of Williamsburg — two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance (alleged sold fentanyl to a Williamsburg Police Department confidential informant on Nov. 5, 2024, and Nov. 30, 2024) and second-degree persistent felony offender. He has a prior felony conviction in Whitley County in connection with a 2018 case.

- Daniel H. Chansler, 50, of Williamsburg — third-offense driving on a DUI suspended license and first-degree persistent felony offender. He has prior felony convictions in Whitley County in connection with 2021, 2022 and 2023 cases.

- Joey A. Thomas, 20, of Williamsburg — first-degree wanton endangerment (engaged in conduct, which created a danger of death or serious physical injury to motorists) and second-degree fleeing or evading police (failed to obey signals from a Williamsburg police officer to stop a vehicle he was driving in an attempt to elude law enforcement officials).

- Chase Saylor, 30, of Barbourville — theft value at least \$10,000 but less than \$1 million (Caterpillar D3BZ Bulldozer).

- Jonathan Tyler Curnutt, 21, of Williamsburg — tampering with physical evidence.

### Edward (EJ) Haar

Edward (EJ) Haar, 76, passed away on May 16, 2025, at the age of 76.

He was born in Woodbine, Kentucky on April 14, 1949, to his devoted parents, Edward Haar Sr. and Lorene Maiden Haar.

His early life in Woodbine laid a strong foundation for a life marked by hard work, dedication, and a deep love for his family. Edward was a proud US Air Force veteran and a successful business owner of Haar Wood Products for 50 years. His diligence, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedication to his craft were mirrored in every aspect of his life. EJ's love for his work was only surpassed by his love for his family, which was always at the center of his heart. His love, guidance, and unwavering support have left an indelible mark on his loved ones' hearts.

Edward is survived by his loving wife of over 32 years, Wilma Haar of Williamsburg, KY; his cherished daughters, Paige Haar (Chad McKiddy) of Williamsburg, KY. and Lori King (Eric) of Williamsburg, KY; his beloved son, Wilbert of Williamsburg, KY; his adored grandchildren, Kannon, Maverick, and Kyson; his devoted sisters, Fran of Williamsburg, KY and Deborah Thomas (Johnny) of Williamsburg, KY; his nephew, John Thomas; his niece, Rebecca Michael; and his special cousin, Doug Woods (Lois).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Sr. and Lorene; his niece, Polly Garman; his nephew, Edmond Kalko; and his brother-in-law, Eddie Kalko.

A graveside service with military honors performed by the American Legion Post 88 will be held on Thursday, May 22, at 3:00 pm at 2000 Maiden Bend Road, Williamsburg, Kentucky.

Croley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.





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