

CMS highlights school's climate, unseen efforts

■ **By Leeann Fragosa**

Corbin Middle School (CMS) students, staff and parents showcased the school's culture and the meaning behind their "Work in the Dark" motto during the Corbin Board of Education meeting on March 12.

The presentation, led by CMS principal Evan Robinson, highlighted the unseen efforts contributing to the school's success as a Blue Ribbon School.

Four CMS choir students, Jozzy Manes, Samuel Ridener, Isabella Steakley and Nolan Baker, opened the meeting by singing the National Anthem.

According to Robinson, Manes is a band and choir student selected for the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) All-State Choir, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) All-State Choir and the Southeastern Kentucky Music Association (SKMA) All-Festival Choir.

Ridener is a band, choir and theater student selected for the SKMA All-Festival Choir. Steakley is a choir and theater student selected for the SKMA All-Festival Choir. Baker was selected for the KMEA All-State Choir, ACDA All-State Choir and the SKMA All-Festival Choir.

Robinson explained that the school's "Work in the Dark" motto represents the unseen efforts that lead to success, illustrated by the roots of a tree. "The tree begins in the ground. It's a space nobody can see," said Robinson.

"There's resistance you have to push through to get past the obstacles underneath the ground, and once you do, that enables you to stand in the light."

Robinson said the concept is meant to help students understand achievement does not happen without effort.

"You can't have a good culture

by accident," said Robinson. "You have to do intentional work that builds systems that sustain the culture."

Robinson highlighted the school's first student council, stating that students and parents should be a part of the decision-making process.

"When you have great people in systems, everything you face, whatever obstacle you come across, there's a solution," said Robinson.

To be selected, candidates prepared and delivered speeches, and eight representatives were elected. The student council's goals included mental health awareness, a student recognition program called "Hounds Heart of Gold," weekly teacher recognition and school safety.

Robinson also recognized the parents' Helping Education and Redhounds Thrive (H.E.A.R.T.) group.

The motto is "Let's be Extra", a nod to parents serving as

an "extra" set of hands in the school.

The presentation also showcased CMS's exploratory program, which allows students to discover new interests and skills, from tying a tie and dancing to playing ukulele and performing in theater, as well as hands-on modules in architecture, cooking and cosmetology. The school has worked to create experiences students would not otherwise have, including trips to the University of the Cumberland and a special performance by teacher Chandler Powell and his band, Three Years Apart, as an attendance reward.

Finally, Media Specialist Jennifer Gordon discussed the culture of reading at CMS. Gordon said she wanted to see students reading more often for enjoyment, and achieved this with reading challenges, incentives, schoolwide expectations and support from staff and lead-

ership.

According to data shared by Gordon, library circulation has more than doubled from this time last year, rising from 8,000 books checked out to close to 19,000 this year. She also stated that library holds have increased by more than 300 percent, showing students are excited and anticipate reading books.

Robinson also recognized head custodian Scott Powers and his student cleaning crew as another example of the "Work in the Dark" motto in action.

"I can't really verbalize how special it is to have a man like this in our building," said Robinson. "He's just incredible."

Robinson closed his presentation by returning to the school's guiding motto.

"That's the work in the dark. Those unseen efforts, the efforts behind the scenes, the intentionality," said Robinson.

Super Bull returns to the Corbin Arena March 20-21

■ **By Leeann Fragosa**

The City of Corbin has a packed weekend ahead. Here's a round-up of upcoming events, courtesy of the Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission newsletter.

The Super Bull returns to Corbin for two nights of professional bull riding, ranch bronc riding, and barrel racing. Both nights kick off at 8 p.m. on March 20-21 at The Corbin Arena. Tickets are available at the Arena Box Office, online at thecorbinarena.com, or by calling (606) 258-2020. For more information, visit the Facebook page Super Bull Bullriding.

Also this weekend, the Cumberland Arts Collective hosts Arts for a Paws, a local art show benefiting the Knox-Whitley Humane Association. All pieces

are priced at \$20 each. Preview Night on March 20 from 6-9 p.m. at Tri County Elks Lodge #2826 (207 N. Main St.) allows you to meet the artists and browse the work before the sale opens. A silent auction will take place. The sale continues 4-9 p.m. on March 21, with purchasing beginning at 4:30 p.m. Find details on the Cumberland Arts Collective Facebook page.

Don't miss the Moonbow at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, a rare natural phenomenon and the only place in the Northern Hemisphere where a moonbow (a nighttime rainbow) can be regularly seen. Viewing times are as follows: 8 p.m. on March 30; 9 p.m. on March 31; 10 p.m. on April 1; 11:00 p.m. on April 2; and 12 a.m. on April 3.

Mark your calendars for next month, as Colonel Fest is approaching faster than you think. The event takes place over the course of two days to honor Colonel Harland Sanders. The event is

free, and will include live music, contests, vendors, food trucks and more. Fan favorites include the Colonel Sanders lookalike contest and the Cluckin' and Struttin' contest. The event is scheduled for 3-9

p.m. on April 10 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 11 in Downtown Corbin.

For more information on any of these events, contact the Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission at info@

corbinkytourism.com or (606) 528-8860. You can also visit corbinkytourism.com, follow the Corbin Tourism Facebook page, or stop by their office at the historic L&N Train Depot.

Warranty covers Corbin playground equipment repair

■ **By Mark White**

The Corbin City Commission got some good news and bad news Monday concerning playground repairs at Rotary Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Jacob Roan noted parts on playground equipment damaged by recent vandalism are all covered under the warranty.

These parts are being

replaced at no cost to the city. Replacement of poured rubberized surface around the broken slide is another matter.

Roan noted this will be astronomical to repair, and he said he would get a recommendation for the commission next month.

Previously, the city commission discussed the rubberized surface floating the idea of possibly replacing it with rubber mulch.

Corbin hires new full-time employees

The Corbin City Commission approved the hiring of two full-time employees during its regular monthly meeting Monday. The city commission approved the hiring of Joseph Breeding as a full-time patrolman in the Corbin Police Department effective March 2, 2026.

The city commission also approved the hiring of Rebecca Stroyk as a full-time employee at the parks and recreation department. Parks and Recreation Director Jacob Roan said Stroyk was already a part-time employee. She had been working full-time hours filling in for others who had left.

Commission meets in executive session

The Corbin City Commission met in executive session during its regular monthly meeting Monday to discuss personnel but took no formal action as the result of the executive session.

The commission entered executive session at 5:16 p.m. and returned to regular session at 5:34 p.m. After the commis-

sion returned to regular session, Mayor Suzie Razmus announced the commission had met in executive session but took no formal action.

City Manager Scott Williamson confirmed that the commission discussed personnel during the executive session but said he could not comment further.

—24TH ANNUAL—

"People's Choice" AWARDS

DEADLINE FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

Area's #1 Reader's Poll 2026

—OFFICIAL BALLOT—

Vote for your favorite businesses and individuals!

Two separate polls - one for Williamsburg and one for Corbin. Select the area in which you live.

CASH PRIZES

Send your ballot in for a chance to win - A drawing will be held to determine the winners

1ST PLACE — \$100

2ND PLACE — \$50

SHOPPING & SERVICES	PEOPLE	DINING, FOOD & FUN
Accounting Service	Automobile Salesperson	Barbecue
Air/Heat Repair	Bank Teller	Breakfast Spot
Antique Dealer	Barber	Buffet
Appliance Dealer	Bartender	Catering
Attorney Office	City Official	Chicken
Auto Body & Repair	Dentist	Chili
Automobile Dealer	Eye Doctor	Chinese
OIL CHANGES TUNE-UPS, ETC	Financial Advisor	Dinner Date Restaurant
Auto Services	Funeral Director	Drive-In
Auto Parts Store	Insurance Salesperson	Family Dining
Bank	Medical Doctor	Family Fun Place
Barber Shop	Orthodontist	Farm to Table Restaurant
Beauty Salon	Pediatrician	Fast Food
Building Materials	Pharmacist	Fish/Seafood
Cabinets	Photographer	French Fries
Chiropractor		Hamburgers
Child Care		Home Cooking
Check Cash Advance		Hot Dogs
College/University		Ice Cream
Dentures		Italian
Dry Cleaner		Locally Owned Restaurant
Event Rental Facility		Lunch Spot
Eye Wear		Mexican
Farm Store		Pizza
Finance Company		Produce Stand
Fishing/Tackle Dealer		Recreation/Activity
Flooring/Carpet Dealer		Salad
Florist		Sandwiches
Formal Wear		Steak
Funeral Home		Trivia/Game Night
Garden Nursery		Wings
Hearing Aid Center		
Health & Rehab Center		
Hotel/Motel		
Home Health Medical Supplies		
Home Improvement Store		
Hospital		
Insurance Agency		
Jewelry Store		
Landscaping		
Laundromat		

VOTES ARE FOR

WILLIAMSBURG CORBIN

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please Note: Only entries with name, address, phone number and votes in at least 15 categories will be counted and eligible for cash prize.

ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON - MULTIPLE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

SEND WILLIAMSBURG ENTRIES TO: PEOPLE'S CHOICE, PO BOX 418, WILLIAMSBURG, KY 40769

SEND CORBIN ENTRIES TO: PEOPLE'S CHOICE, PO BOX 1524, CORBIN, KY 40702

ENTRIES MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT 215 N. MAIN STREET, CORBIN, KY

DEADLINE IS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2026

AT 5 PM

— CONTEST RULES —

You must be 18 years of age to enter. Only signed entries with votes in at least 15 categories will be counted and eligible for cash prize. Only one entry per person. Multiple entries from same household may be mailed together - please make sure you have the correct postage on your entries (any entry that comes postage due will not be accepted). Cash prizes will be payable by check. PHOTO COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Employees and agents of the News Journal are not eligible for prizes. All entries must be in our office by 5 pm, Friday, April 3rd, 2026