



The Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce meets the second Tuesday of each month for its luncheon. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Southern Kentucky Chamber gathers for Sen. Chris McDaniel

CORBIN — The Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly luncheon Tuesday at the newly expanded Corbin Center, now renamed as the Robert Stivers Conference and Convention Center.

The chamber also welcomed new members into Action Behavioral Health and the Fine Arts Association of Southeastern Kentucky, Inc. The luncheon was held in collaboration with the Knox County Chamber

of Commerce and the Manchester/Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Guest speaker State Senator Chris McDaniel discussed Amendment No. 1, which will appear on Kentucky's November ballot.

MARKET

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Turner said that they hope to continue growing the market and its impact on the community. Later on in the meeting under sponsorship requests, the commission approved a sponsorship for the market in the amount of \$2,000. Commission members also reviewed follow-up information from Corbin Pride, which received a \$500 sponsorship for its September event. The report included attendance estimates, visitor survey's and location data showing increased downtown foot traffic compared with an average Saturday. Tourism director Emily Roberts reported that visitors came from several Kentucky communities, with a total of more than 200 people in attendance. Additionally, the commission agreed to partic-

ipate in and sponsor the Baptist Health Festival of Trees, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 20, at the Corbin Center. The event will feature a display of decorated Christmas trees that will

be auctioned, along with family activities, including visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, cookies, games and prizes. The next tourism meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, November 10.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SOLICITATION OF FUEL VENDORS

Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency, Inc. announces that Coal, Wood, Propane, Fuel Oil, and Kerosene Vendors are being solicited to provide home heating fuel in the **SUBSIDY** and **CRISIS** Components of the 2026-2027 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Bell and Whitley Counties. The **Fall Subsidy Component** will begin on November 9th, 2026, and end on December 18th, 2026. The **Winter Crisis Component** will begin in January 2027 and end in March 2027, or until funds are expended. Interested Vendors may pick up a Vendor Packet at the Bell-Whitley Office at 129 Pine Street, Pineville, KY, or 215 N. 4th Street, Williamsburg, KY. Clients will select vendors from an Approved Vendor List. The Bell-Whitley Office must receive all vendor information and fuel quotes no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 30th, 2026. Minority and disadvantaged business owners are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Sandy Hoskins at (606) 337-3044. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability.

HALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection week is Nov. 16-23

BY BRAD HALL
Design Editor

I know for many of you it's still too early to think about Christmas, but if you are looking to reach out to a child in need this holiday season, there is an exciting project you can get started on right now. It is called Operation Christmas Child, and is hosted by an organization called Samaritan's Purse. With Operation Christmas Child, you have the chance to fill up a shoebox with gifts and ship it overseas to a needy boy or girl. This will bring great joy to children who are in desperate situations, while also exposing them — perhaps for the first time — to the love of Jesus Christ. "Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child," said Franklin Graham, the president of Samaritan's Purse.

If you are interested in taking part in this activity, there are a few easy steps to follow:

- 1. Shoebox** — Start with an average-sized cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately. You can use your own shoeboxes or order colorful preprinted ones — available in cardboard or plastic — from the Samaritan's Purse website.
- 2. Get Your Label** — Whichever you choose, use the label to indicate on your shoebox whether it was packed for a boy or girl and which age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. I have included a label with this article if you need it. They can also be downloaded and printed off the Samaritan's Purse website.
- 3. Fill With Gifts** — Select a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then

SEE SHOEBOX, PAGE A10

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