



Executive Director Bruce Carpenter welcomes everyone to the Southern Kentucky Chamber Christmas luncheon. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

## CHAMBER

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Donna's Catering before Executive Director Bruce Carpenter opened the luncheon with remarks of appreciation.

"I just want to say how much I appreciate these folks, and all their efforts this year," said Carpenter. "It has been a very successful year here for us as the chamber, as the economic development office, and of course as the Corbin Center. None of that is possible without those folks."

Before festivities kicked off, the chamber formally recognized two new member businesses — Globe Life Family Heritage and Nexis Pro — presenting each with a plaque to commemorate their addition to the chamber.

Following the recognitions, Keyla Cobb with The Job Shop stepped to the podium to emcee the afternoon's games. In a playful twist, Cobb introduced her company, an employment ser-

vices agency that connects Kentucky job seekers with regional employers, by incorporating it into a Crumbl Cookie pass-along game. As she explained the services The Job Shop provides, attendees had to pass a box of cookies to the "left" or "right" each time the respective word was spoken. Whoever held the box at the end took it home.

Dozens of prizes were distributed throughout the event, with gifts donated by local partners ranging from Cinema Social movie tickets to crockpots, Walmart gift cards, holiday décor, and more. Games including musical chairs, a Christmas word scramble, and a challenge where participants attempted to scoop bows into a bowl while blindfolded kept the crowd entertained throughout the luncheon.

This month's luncheon was sponsored by The Job Shop, which provides staffing, recruitment, and workforce solutions for businesses across southeastern Kentucky.

# Community Calendar

## First Christian Church Christmas Services

Join us for one of our services during the Christmas Season at First Christian Church located at 100 S. Kentucky Ave. Corbin.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 — Candlelight Christmas Eve service 6 p.m.

## Health Department Closings

The Whitley County Health Department will close at noon Friday, Dec. 19, for a staff meeting.

The Whitley County Health Department will also be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas Holiday; and Thursday, Jan. 1, and Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, for the New Years Holiday.

## Weekly Veteran Breakfast

Weekly Veteran Breakfast, every Tuesday 8 a.m. American Legion Post 88. 84 East Wentworth Street, Corbin.

## VFW monthly meeting

VFW monthly post meeting,

2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. Meeting at London DAV post. 300 DAV Lane, London.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

## Pre-Parade Family Holiday Event

Whitley County Extension Office, 4275 U.S. 25W N, Williamsburg, KY 40769, (606) 549-1430

3-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 —Registration opens: November 1

—Registration: None required —For Ages: All Ages —Fee: FREE

—Instructor: Cortney Moses, Mawnie Belcher, and Laura Rogers

Join us before the Williamsburg parade! Stop by the Extension Community Arts Center for a fun family event! Build your own gingerbread house while learning visual arts and design thinking and enjoy a festive photo opportunity with the Grinch. Activities are free and open to everyone, come celebrate the season with creativity and cheer!

## Williamsburg Gospel Barn

Williamsburg Gospel Barn presents the Cupps

Homecoming Celebration & Christmas potluck dinner on Saturday, Dec. 13. Doors open 4 p.m. with open mic, singing starts 5 p.m., potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., and the Singing Cupps live band "Sing unto the Lord" concert after 6 p.m. Please bring a covered dish. Come celebrate our 29th anniversary with us!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

## Santa Claus is Coming to Baptist Health Corbin

The holiday season is shining a little brighter at Baptist Health Corbin! Families are invited to join us for a free photo with Santa Claus on Dec. 16, from 5-7 p.m. in the Crystal Garden Dining Room.

Children and adults alike can share their Christmas wishes with Santa, enjoy cookies and milk with Mrs. Claus and the elves, and even sign up for door prizes for all ages. With laughter, holiday cheer, and magical moments waiting around every corner, this is a celebration you won't want to miss.

Let's spread the joy of the season together — we can't wait to celebrate with you!

## GRANTS

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and surveys on housing, collaborate with local officials on property development and lead community economic development planning.

The City of Corbin was awarded \$60,000 to generate a comprehensive, long-term plan to identify and implement strategies for land use, hous-

ing, transportation, community facilities and natural resources to maximize economic potential. Project activities will improve the skills of 14 city employees and launch community partnerships with six organizations.

ARC uses Congressionally appropriated funds to invest in Appalachia's economic and community development through grants. As part of their federal-state partnership,

ARC's grant application process begins at the state government level. All ARC grants align with the investment priorities outlined in their current strategic plan and reflects state plans and strategies.

ARC also issues specific requests for proposals for research and evaluation contracts on topics directly impacting economic development throughout the Appalachian Region.

## COUNCIL

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was presented with the Fire Department's report which included: five structures, nine EMS-related calls, two vehicles and two brush fires.

Police Chief Winston Tye reported 19 wrecks (one with injury), 11 open cases (eight meth, one heroin and one trafficking), 146 citations covering 472 counts, six DUIs, 407 traffic violations, 47 arrests and 416 calls for service. The chief also advised that

the completion of the baby box — allowing for the safe surrender of infants — has been delayed due to an organizer's medical issues.

Toward the end of the meeting, Mayor David Thompson addressed some 500 calls his office has received about the

Christmas tree in front of the Knox County Courthouse — explaining that it belongs to the county.

In other news, council members:

— appointed Jake Nichols to fulfill the remaining term of John David King through

June 5, 2026, on the Board of Adjustments.

— renewed a contract for legal services with Samuel Davies. The one-year contract includes a monthly retainer of \$7.50 per hour.

— approved signing of the deed for the "Boyd Richardson Property" at

208 South Main St.

— heard from Chris Hubbard regarding a Dec. 6 open house for a historic building that's part of an initiative to rebuild Appalachia.

The meeting closed with an executive session to discuss purchase of properties.

## FELONY

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During the initial investigation, Dep. Lindsay and Officer Freeman learned

the suspect had fled the scene before EMS and additional law enforcement arrived.

Dep. Tony Dingess later located White's vehicle traveling on US

25 near the Kentucky-Tennessee state line. Dingess detained the man, who was then taken into custody without incident.

White has been charged

with second-degree assault and second-degree burglary. He was transported to the Whitley County Detention Center, where he was booked under a \$50,000 bond,

according to jail records.

With a not guilty plea entered on White's behalf Monday, he is next scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing next Monday in Whitley

District Court.

Dep. Lindsay continues to lead the investigation, with assistance at the scene from Whitley County EMS and Ofc. Freeman.

## TOURISM

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rebound for November, coming in at \$22,290. Net income for the month was reported at \$13,684.

"It's a little bit lower than prior years, and

one of the big reasons is we had a little bit more advertising expense this November than we had the previous Novembers," Gay explained.

Year-to-date figures also reflected positive progress. Restaurant tax revenue totaled \$812,143

compared to a budgeted \$666,667. "We're about \$145,000 ahead of budget as of November," Gay said.

Transient tax year-to-date was \$90,219, above the \$70,833 budget projection. Net income for the year stood at

\$133,892, well above the expected \$31,442. Gay emphasized that the commission remained in a "very good" financial position overall.

During the director's report, Tourism Director Emily Roberts noted that the Farmers Market

plaque, previously discussed at past meetings, had been sent to DK Media for production. The commission is now awaiting delivery and installation of the plaque at the market pavilion.

Roberts also outlined several upcoming tour-

ism events. Restaurant Week is scheduled for January 12-18, while Finger Licking Chicken Week, typically held in January, will move to coincide with Colonel Fest in April. Colonel Fest has been approved for dates April 17-18.



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