

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

And the winner is...

From Hershey Bars to Harley Davidson Motorcycles, Zippo Lighters to Yuengling Lager, Crayola Crayons to Martin Guitars, the Keystone State is king in manufacturing. What better way to celebrate the best of the best than the PA Chamber's Coolest Thing Made In PA contest, a unique, engaging, bracket-style competition that pits 64 made-in-PA brands against each other in matchups determined by public voting. This year was a robust competition that encouraged employers, customers, and brand lovers across Pennsylvania and beyond to turn out the vote. There were a number of local favorites that made it through several rounds. The polls are now closed and the votes have been tallied. The 2025 coolest thing made in PA?...drum roll please...**the Sheetz MTO!** Congratulations!! #BlairCountyProud



Young Entrepreneurs practice sales pitches at trade show

Once again the Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) students had an opportunity to showcase their businesses to Chamber members and Sheetz Center Board members at the recent YEA! Trade Show held at the Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence. The class of 2025 is made up of 20 students from throughout Blair County, representing 19 businesses.

YEA! students are taught by local entrepreneurs, mentors and business leaders. The trade show is a culmination of weeks of hard work of learning how to own, operate and grow their businesses. At the trade show, students took advantage of their sales pitches while handing out business cards and talking to potential customers.

"The trade show was a really good experience to talk to people while promoting your business locally", said YEA! student Amyra Snyder, CEO of Beauty on the Move.



Carol Gensimore, chair of the YEA! Steering Committee commented on the value of holding the trade show. "The Trade Show gives the CEOs an opportunity to market their products and services to a captive audience. Additionally, the event spreads awareness of this tremendous program, further supporting our recruitment efforts," she said.

Closing out another successful year, the YEA! Class of 2025 is set to graduate tomorrow at Liberty Hall at U.S. Hotel.

Unlock your career potential

The Chamber's Young Professionals of Blair County are hosting a panel event on May 8th. The "Growing Your Career in Blair County" event features six speakers who will help young professionals unlock their career potential. Local professionals and industry experts, Carter Cerully, Lea Berkheimer, Joe Harford, Kent Tonkin, Phil Freeman, and Samantha Longenecker will take the stage at 5:45 p.m. at the Curry Innovation Center in Downtown Altoona. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and refreshments will be provided during the networking portion of the evening. At 7:00 p.m., professional headshots can be taken by a photographer. The cost of the event is \$15. The corporate sponsors are [Saint Francis University](#) and [Stuckey Automotive](#). Visit [blair-chamber.com](#) and find our events calendar to get to the [registration page](#).

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JOIN US FOR
RETIREMENT 101
6:00 pm

at the Hollidaysburg Area Public Library
1 Furnace Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Choose from the following dates in 2025

March 26 • April 30 • May 28
June 18 • July 16

Kindly RSVP if possible to let us know on
which date you will be attending: 814-201-2829

Ribbon Cutting



Center City Market

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Center City Market located at 1306 Eleventh Avenue, Altoona. Center City Market is a unique food court featuring seven businesses. The Market is located in the former McCrory's 5-and-10 cent store which opened more than 100 years ago. After a three-year period of extensive renovations, the doors are open once again thanks to the partnership of local developers Jeff Long and Chris Cook. For more information go to www.centercitymarketaltoona.com. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Carol Stern, Chamber Ambassador; Marcus Edwards, Altoona Blair County Development Corporation; Bob Bilger, Kish Bank; State Senator Judy Ward; Jenn and Chris Cook, Center City Market; Jeff Long, Jeff Long Construction; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; and Eva Egler, Chamber Ambassador.

Deadline approaching to submit LBC Alumni grant applications

Leadership Blair County (LBC) Adult, a program of the Blair County Chamber, was established in 1994 with a focus on servant leadership. LBC Alumni remain hard at work through their membership organization. In addition to providing LBC Adult scholarships, Alumni also coordinate Gifts of Hope, which provides assistance to local organizations. In 2014 LBC Alumni started WeCare Blair County...Helping with the journey. WeCare allows LBC Alumni to provide grants to non-profit organizations in Blair County. Award amounts are based on a percentage of the Alumni treasury balance. This year, a total of \$3,900 will be awarded. Eligible 501c3 organizations are those with involvement in the LBC program, either through an alum-



nus or through participation as a speaker or host site for an LBC session. Applications are now available for 2025 grants and can be obtained from any LBC Alumni. Application deadline is 4 p.m., Thurs., May 1. Winners will be notified by May 30, and checks will be presented June 12, at the LBC Adult graduation. Send completed grant applications to chamber@blairchamber.com.

Mark your calendars!

May 8

Breakfast Club

7:45 - 9:00 a.m.

The Casino at Lakemont Park

Your adventure awaits in Alaska



No travel experience says adventure more than Alaska. Now you can cross it off your 2026 travel bucket list when you book your next trip with the Chamber and travel partners [Allegro Luxury Vacations](#) and [Celebrity Cruises](#) for July 30 through August 7. Travelers will depart from Altoona to Pittsburgh Airport then on to Seattle, Washington, where you will board the [Celebrity Edge](#). Breathtaking waterfalls, drifting icebergs, wildlife, and historical locations are all on the itinerary. Learn more about this exciting adventure at a free informational meeting to be held this Friday, April 25, at 11 a.m., at the Devorris Center for Business Development located at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona. There is no cost to attend but let us know you are coming so we can save you a seat. Call the Chamber at 814-943-8151.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to John Moore of [Moore Power Sales](#) upon being recognized for his 30 years of outstanding leadership at the Sandler World Summit in Florida.

...to local favorite, [Ritchey's Dairy](#), for celebrating its 85th anniversary. Ritchey's is the last processing dairy in Blair County. Delivery includes nine counties in Pennsylvania.