

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Building connections across our rural communities

High-speed internet access is vital for Central Pennsylvania's economic growth, educational advancement, and overall quality of life. In many rural communities across the region, reliable broadband connects residents to remote work opportunities, online education, telehealth services, and global markets. Expanding high-speed internet infrastructure throughout



our underserved communities helps bridge the digital divide, ensuring that Central Pennsylvania remains competitive in an increasingly connected world.

Recently, the Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the new Altoona location of Crowsnest Broadband which has revolutionized internet access to our rural communities. ABCD Corporation is proud to have partnered with Crowsnest on this project. To read more see the article below:

**As appeared in the Morrisons Cove Herald by Cati Keith, editor
Crowsnest Brings New Life to Unused Building**

After years of operating out of multiple rented spaces, Crowsnest has officially moved into its new headquarters at 831 S. Lloyd St. in Altoona. This is giving both the company and a long-vacant building a fresh start.

The building, which had sat empty for approximately 25 years, is now home to a growing telecommunications business that plays a significant role in expanding internet access throughout Blair County and beyond.

"We love to see buildings that were underused come back to having a really positive future," said Steve McKnight, president and CEO of the Altoona Blair County Development Corp. "Congrats to Dwayne and the entire team for having a great business model. We have great technology, and a great business model that is being rolled out that has led to expansion here in Blair County."

Crowsnest CEO Dwayne Zimmerman and his team are focused on reaching underserved areas with reliable, high-speed internet. The company currently serves about 3,500 customers, stretching from Port Matilda to Cumberland, Md., and operates in parts of seven counties.

However their primary coverage is in Blair and Bedford counties. Their service includes high-speed packages offering up to 400 megabits per second across much of their coverage area.

Click [HERE](#) to read the rest of the story.

Register now for September's Breakfast Club



State Senator
Judy Ward



State Representative
Scott Barger

Make your reservations for the next Chamber Breakfast Club on September 18 at the Blair County Convention Center. This informative session, "The State of the State's Budget: Priorities and Challenges for 2026", will feature State Senator Judy Ward and State Representative Scott Barger. This is a great opportunity to gain insight on the state budget issue. Breakfast Club begins at 7:45 a.m. with a full breakfast buffet. The event will be held in the lower level of the Convention Center. Guests are encouraged to take advantage of free parking in the parking garage. Cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Corporate sponsor is [Keller Engineers](#). Register at www.blairchamber.com.



**Anywhere! Any time! Register for events online
www.blairchamber.com**

Networking season is in full bloom

Networking is essential for professional women. It can create a support system of peers that understand the unique challenges women face in the workplace. The Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee invites you to Branch Out & Bloom. This unique event will be held September 18, from 5-7 p.m., at [Kerr's](#), located at 179 S. Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg.

"Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. is an enthusiastic supporter of WE-LEaD events. I'm excited to explore the new space Kerr's has created, where we can gather and build new networks. I encourage companies to promote these events to their employees to help their teams forge meaningful bonds within our community," said Sara Fiore-Gunnett, WE-LEaD Committee Member.



Snacks will be provided. Bring your favorite beverage; it's BYOB. While you're there be sure to take advantage of the Build Your Own Bouquet Bar to create your own take-home arrangement. Cost to attend is \$35 for Chamber Members and \$45 for non-members. Event sponsor is [L.S. Fiore, Inc.](#) Register at www.blairchamber.com.

The impact of community partners

Blair County Chamber representatives attended a recent reception recognizing an impactful investment from long-time Chamber Member [M&T Bank](#) in support of the Central PA Food Bank Hollidaysburg Healthy Hub. The \$100,000 donation, made possible through Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Assistance Program, will support the Hub's work to provide healthy local food sources to neighbors in the Allegheny Mountain region. The Hub works with local partners, including food pantries, supermarkets, farms and others to source nutritious food for residents, filling a need not previously served. The Hollidaysburg Hub is filling a critical need in Blair County and support from organizations like



M&T Bank is crucial to advance the Food Bank's goal of bridging the hunger gap across the commonwealth. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is a nonprofit organization committed to ending hunger in 27 counties across central Pennsylvania serving more than 250,000 people in need each month.

RAILROAD HISTORY MONTH

Two great ways to celebrate

Blair County holds a prominent place in American railroad history, especially because of its strategic location in the Allegheny Mountains. Two events in September will give you a great opportunity to not only celebrate that history, but have fun as well! On Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 5-7 p.m., the Chamber's HD500 networking event will be hosted by Everett Railroad, located at 244 Pullman Dr., Hollidaysburg. Attendees will pick up boarding passes at

registration and enjoy a one-hour train ride including food and beverages on-board. Continuing the line-up of fun events is a Chamber Mixer on Sept. 25, from 5-7 p.m., celebrating 125 Years of Kish at Horseshoe Curve. You're invited to help celebrate 125 years of innovation, industry and railroading and the 4th Rail at the Horseshoe Curve. Join in the fun, food, and entertainment. You can register for both events at www.blairchamber.com.

Kiwanis Club of Altoona

is honoring

JOE HURD

Past President/CEO, Blair County Chamber
with the

Distinguished Citizen Award

September 24

Blair County Convention Center

5:30 p.m. - reception / 6:00 p.m. - dinner
\$35 per person



RESERVATIONS:

Contact Scott Gottshall
814-944-5490



...to the [Pennsylvania Farm Bureau](#) in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

...to [Saint Francis University](#) upon achieving accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This reaffirmation validates the university's continued commitment to academic excellence, student success and institutional effectiveness.

...to Valerie Detwiler of [Reliance Bank](#), and longtime Chamber Farm-City Committee member, upon being elected to represent agricultural societies on the Penn State Board of Trustees.

SAVE^{the}DATE

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

HONORING

Greg Drew

Retired President of
Value Drug Company
Value Specialty Pharmacy

Oct. 6, 2025

BLAIR COUNTY
CONVENTION CENTER

**NEW
NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITY!**



**Thursday
September 25, 2025**
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Horseshoe Curve

2400 Veterans
Memorial Highway
Altoona, PA 16601

Cost to attend
\$15 per person

Celebrating 125 Years of Kish at the Horseshoe Curve

Join the Blair County Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate 125 years of innovation, industry and railroading and the 4th Rail at the Historic Horseshoe Curve. Come see it in action and network, kick back and join in the fun, food, and entertainment!



**To secure your spot
scan this code or visit
www.blairchamber.com**