

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

PA named in Top 20 Overall - Higher for Economy and Innovation

In exciting news for businesses and entrepreneurs, Pennsylvania has secured the 17th spot out of the 50 states in CNBC's "Top States for Business 2025" ranking. This recognition highlights Pennsylvania's favorable business environment, supported by an extensive evaluation of various factors. CNBC assessed each state using 135 distinct metrics spread across 10 key categories, ensuring a thorough analysis of what each state has to offer. These categories include critical areas such as the economy, infrastructure, workforce quality, cost of doing business, friendliness to companies, overall quality of life, technology and innovation, education, access to capital, and cost of living. Drawing from a diverse range of data sources, CNBC meticulously measured each state's performance, providing valuable insights for businesses considering their next move. If you're curious about the specific criteria and how Pennsylvania fared in each category, check out the detailed [CNBC article](#) for more information!



YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Investing in our members

Why is your Blair County Chamber an Investor Level Member of the PA State Chamber? Here's why – Our membership puts us in the front row of some major new initiatives that will ultimately impact local businesses and our Commonwealth's competitiveness. Building upon the recent AI/Energy Summit and investment announcement in Pittsburgh by the Trump Administration, U.S. Senator Dave McCormick and Governor Shapiro, the PA State Chamber announced the forthcoming launch of Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Institute. The PA State Chamber announced that this new entity — part of our long-term Keystone Initiative to improve Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness — will unite the private sector to shape a smarter, faster, and forward-looking energy strategy for the Commonwealth.



The Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Institute will convene stakeholders, host public forums, gather data and research, and create a comprehensive private sector-led statewide energy plan to ensure that the Commonwealth leads our nation's energy future. In partnership with the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute, this will be the first state-level institute of its kind, giving Pennsylvania a dedicated platform to align expertise, drive reform, and highlight opportunities across the energy landscape. Click [here](#) to read about the key focus areas.

A Blair County blizzard is coming

Don't pull out the snow shovels just yet! It's a Nittany Lion White Out coming to the Blair County Convention Center on August 14 at the next Blair County Chamber Breakfast Club. In anticipation of the upcoming football season, the program will have a great lineup of entertaining speakers and a few surprises thrown in the mix. Known as one of the "Nit Wits" on Nittany Nation Overtime, Neil Rudel will be joined by author and host of Sports Central, Corey Giger, and Steve Jones, the play-by-play voice of Penn State athletics, making up an entertaining panel of Penn State football enthusiasts. As a special bonus, one lucky person will receive four tickets with a parking pass to the first Penn State game of the season scheduled for August 30 at Beaver Stadium. The Nittany Lions will take on the Nevada Wolf Pack. Cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Breakfast Club begins at 7:45 a.m. Register at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate Sponsor is [PNC Bank](#). Everyone is encouraged to wear white and join in on the fun. Let's make it a Blair County White Out.



**4-ticket giveaway with
parking pass to the
Penn State season opener!**

Take your pick! Travel options abound for 2026

Couldn't attend the most recent rounds of travel information meetings? No worries. You can still schedule your trip or request information for two of the newest offerings through the Chamber's travel program.

Starting off the list is Best of Austria and Switzerland, scheduled for June 8 - 20, 2026, with travel partner [Epic Journeys](#). Your adventure begins when you arrive in Vienna where you will meet your tour director and enjoy a welcome dinner. Scenic Alpine landscapes and architecture abound as you explore Salzburg, with plenty of photo opportunities as you continue your travels to St. Moritz, Bern, Lucern and more.

If castles, palaces, and historic cathedrals are on your bucket list then Gems of Southern England, with travel partner [Ketrow KURTZ Travel](#), May 17-24, 2026, is perfect for your next trip. Your adventure will include stops in London,



Top: Leeds Castle, Gems of Southern England trip; Bottom: Salzkammergut region, Best of Austria and Switzerland trip.

Portsmouth, Windsor, and Bath as you experience Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, Trafalgar Square, and much more.

For more information on either trip, contact the Chamber at 814-943-8151 or email chamber@blairchamber.com.



All-Stars for July announced

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber's ability to offer great events and programs to members, we recognize sponsors each month as "All-Stars."

The All-Stars for July are:

[CNB Bank](#)

[Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania](#)

Congratulations

...to [AMBUCS Altoona](#) on celebrating 100 years of service. Members donate their time and talents on a variety of service projects. With more than 150 chapters nationwide, the organization is dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities.

...to [Ritchey's Dairy](#) on its 85th anniversary. What began as a modest processing plant and dairy store in 1940, Ritchey's Dairy has become an iconic destination for ice cream and other dairy treats. In its fourth generation of Ritchey leadership, the dairy is the only remaining processing dairy in Blair County.

Saluting Our Renewals

We would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of July.

Celebrating 70-79 Years

Reliance Bank
The EADS Group

Celebrating 60-69 Years

Culligan Water Conditioning
Sales & Service
Tri-State Industrial Solutions

Celebrating 40-49 Years

Blair Mill Outlet
Crystal Springs
Lena's Café

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Advantage Resource Group
American Cancer Society
Austin's Texas Hot Dogs, Inc.
Blair-Bedford Builders Association
Hilecrest Angus
Irwin Financial, Inc.
Knisely & Sons, Inc.
Kooman & Associates, LLC

Labor Specialties

Okonak Lechner & Co.
Preferred Healthcare System
ProCare Physical Therapy, LP
Reilly, Creppage & Co., Inc., CPA
Seven Mountains Media
Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission

Celebrating 20-29 Years

William C. Emeigh Excavation

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Altoona Grand Hotel
Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8
ARM Group Inc.
Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission
Chicago Rivet & Machine Co.
City of Altoona
Evergreen Insurance, LLC
Fairfield and TownePlace
Suites by Marriott Altoona

Freedom Excursions by Scully

Global Live Line, Inc.
Jilco, Inc.
Joshua House, Inc.
Mid Penn Bank
Peter C. Pham, DDS, PC
Sandi Kaminsky
Sheehan Ins., LLC
T2B Commercial Interiors

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Dale Oxygen, Inc.

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Allegheny Orthodontic Associates
Forr, Stokan, Huff, Kormanski & Naugle
Griswold Home Care
Lawruk Real Estate
Rabenstein Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing Inc.
ServiceMaster By Request
SERVPRO of Blair County

What they're saying...



Don't take it from us. Here's what our members are saying about the Chamber's online platform, Glue Up.

"Setting up my Glue Up account was quick and easy. It's a great way to share updates about our organization and stay connected with the Blair County Chamber community."

Aimee Burns
Executive Director, NAMI Blair County

What are you waiting for?
Share your news and
join the community!