

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Honoring exceptional performance

As a Chamber of Commerce that represents a vast majority of businesses from throughout the region, it gives great pleasure when those businesses and community individuals can be recognized for outstanding performance. For many years the Chamber has conferred honors in a variety of categories. That tradition continues.

On June 26, at the Blair County Convention Center, the red carpet will be rolled-out to welcome guests to a social event filled with excitement, awards, fantastic food, and dancing to a live 17-piece band. Guests are encouraged to bring their sparkle and shine at 5:00 p.m. as you stroll the red carpet for a champagne and photo reception. Banquet stations will then open featuring an array of chef-inspired entrees. The awards ceremony will then pay tribute to businesses and individuals that continue to make Blair County proud. The evening will conclude with a dessert and coffee bar and dancing to The Big Band Sound.

The 2025 award recipients are Jamie Stumph, ATHENA Award; Stuckey Automotive, Business of the Year Award; Maureen Dodson, Donna D. Gority Servant Leadership Award; Richard Servello, George Award; Carol Stern, Joseph P. Rosenhamer Chamber Spirit Award; Jessica Hogan, Judith A. Rossi Educator of the Year Award; Girls Night Out Altoona, Inc., Non-Profit Spotlight Award; Mile Level Physical Therapy, Small Business of the Year Award; and Greg Haffling, The Chamber Extra Mile Award.

Reservations can be made online at www.blairchamber.com, by calling 814-943-8151, or by scanning the QR code.



Helping students explore careers

The Blair County Convention Center was a hub of excitement recently as 1,100 high school sophomores filled the hall for the the 12th annual Chamber BASICS/Rotary Career Fair. The students had the opportunity to choose from 75 career categories representing a wide variety of industries. Set in a timed, roundtable format, each student was able to have access to professionals in three specific career fields of their choosing. The interaction provided valuable information on educational requirements, salary expectations and career goals. The mission of BASICS, an acronym for Businesses and Schools Investing in Cooperative Solu-



tions, is to create innovative workforce development initiatives that will improve the match between our region's business needs and the education system's priorities. This annual event takes Blair County closer to that goal.

All-Stars for April 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 April are:

[Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation](#)
[Hampton Inn Altoona](#)
[HoopsFest](#)
[Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania](#)
[Veeder-Root](#)



...to the [Morrisons Cove Herald](#) for celebrating its 140th anniversary. Prior to the Herald officially starting its journey in 1885, area news was covered by the Cove Echo.

...to [Bishop Guilfoyle Academy](#) girls basketball coach, Kristi Kaack, for being selected the Pennsylvania Sports Writers All-State Coach of the Year in Class 1A for the third time in her seven years coaching at the high school level.

Anywhere! Any time!

Register for events online
blairchamber.com

Lunch & Learn Event **How to Know Your Business Has Outgrown QuickBooks or Legacy ERP**

What You'll Learn

- Signs your business has **outgrown QuickBooks or legacy software**
- How **disconnected systems** create inefficiencies and risk
- What a **scalable, AI-powered ERP platform** can do for you
- **Real-life examples** of successful ERP transitions

Details

Date: Friday, May 16th

Time: 11am - 3pm

Location: Innovation Park | 200 Innovation Blvd., Room 243, State College, PA 16803

Who Should Attend

Business Owners, CFOs, CIOs, COOs, and Operations Leaders in manufacturing, distribution, construction, or service-based industries.

Register Now



Creating employment connections

PA CareerLink hosted its annual career fair at the Jaffa Shrine in Altoona on April 17. With more than 85 tables available for in-person interviews and recruitment, hundreds of prospective employees attended the event.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to get out into the community and to meet these individuals," said Kara Hull, marketing director for Altoona Arthritis & Osteoporosis Center.

PA CareerLink is a matching and training service for area employers and a no-cost job seeker for future employees.

"Blair County's unemployment rate sits at 4.3%, and job postings have jumped 50% over the past year," said Gwen Fisher, site administrator for PA CareerLink Blair County. "We're seeing strong demand for local talent, and this event helps connect that demand with real people. It's not just a job fair, it's a turning point. Events like this showcase real opportunities and the strength of our local economy."

Healthcare, manufacturing, retail, education, and hospitality were a few of the industries present at the career fair.

"I love to see all the other businesses here as well," said Hull. "I'd highly recommend coming out."



Job seekers were instructed to bring a resume and dress to impress to meet prospective employers.

"We've had a variety of people stop by (our table)," said Hull. "Some with experience and some without. We've had around 10 people who have shown genuine interest and they've been prepared with a resume. I look forward to reaching out to them."

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce and Altoona Blair County Development Corp. are both sponsors of the 2025 Spring Job Fair. The mission is to show people why they should visit, stay and play in Blair County.

For more information on the next career fair, visit PA CareerLink's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pacarierlinkblaircounty.

WE-LEaD is teeing up fun at next event

The Blair County Chamber's WE-LEaD (Women Encouraging Leadership, Education and Development) Committee will hold an instructional Golf Clinic on Tuesday, May 27, beginning at 4:30 p.m., at [Blair County Golf & Driving Range](#) in Hollidaysburg.

Enjoy a fun evening on the driving range to practice your hole-in-one shot or to simply learn the basics. John Madey and his staff will be on-hand to provide instruction. You can bring your own clubs or clubs will be provided for you.

"It can be intimidating attending an event not knowing anyone, but this is a great opportunity to have some fun and meet new people. Everyone is welcome," said Megan Rossman, Membership Engagement Manager for the Chamber.

You don't have to be a seasoned golfer to attend. You can come to simply hang out and have fun or for a chance to sharpen your driving skills.

"It doesn't matter where your skill level is. There are die-hard golfers enjoying the evening alongside those who never held a golf club. It's really a no pressure event," Rossman said.

The event will include light hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to BYOB. The cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. To register, visit the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com. The sponsor of the Golf Clinic is [Value Drug Company](#).

thank  you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Jersey Shore State Bank



A generous donation from Jersey Shore State Bank was presented to the Chamber Foundation to assist with the funding of the Leadership Blair County Youth program which focuses on servant leadership and community involvement. Pictured, from left: Christopher Kirwin, Commercial Lender; Krista Gephart, Regional President; Rachel Prosser, Blair County Alliance; Nicole Zernick, Chamber Foundation; Karen Young, President; Terry Glunt, Commercial Lender; and Carly Cook, Branch Manager.



Ribbon Cutting



Hampton Inn Altoona

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the recently completed multi-million dollar renovation of Hampton Inn Altoona located at 180 Charlotte Drive. The transformation includes a refreshed exterior, as well as an expanded fitness center and fully renovated pool. The lobby, breakfast area, and meeting spaces have been redesigned and all guest rooms have undergone a complete update. For more information go to www.hilton.com. Joining in the celebration are, from left: Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador; Michele Ivory, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Stephanie Hench, Assistant General Manager; Diane Osgood, Partner; Jeff Cipriani, General Manager; Lynnae Lee-Alexander, Director of Sales; Jessie Covert, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; and Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador.

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 April.

Celebrating 40-49 Years

Link & Associates, P.C.
Midstate Tool & Supply, Inc.
United Way of the Southern Alleghenies

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Bishop Guilfoyle Academy
Cove Forge Behavioral Health
Zane Helsel Excavating, Inc.

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Alto Reste Cemetery, Inc.
Bolger Brothers, Inc.
Freedom Rentals
Grannas Bros.
Iron Masters Country Club
Lemme Audiology Associates
New Pig Corporation
Park Home
Pro Active Sports, Inc.
Rosch Visionary Systems, Inc.
S&T Bank
Wessel & Company
Williamsburg Community School District

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Enhanced Eye Care
HoneyBaked Ham & Cafe
Kerr Promotions
Premier Pest Control and Lawn Care
Pyramid Engineering, PC
Shoe Fly Stores

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Alternative Community Resource Program, Inc.
Blair Planning Commission
Champion Roofing
Lexington Clubhouse

Celebrating 1-4 Years

CenClear
Crownsnest Broadband, LLC
J. Ardie Dillen
Journey Center LLC
Levity Brewing Co.
PennTerra Engineering, Inc.
Woody Lodge Winery LLC



15 MAY

UPMC ALTOONA
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC Nearing Sellout

Registration is continuing for one of the region's most popular networking events. The [UPMC Altoona](#) and [UPMC Health Plan](#) /Chamber Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, May 15th at [Iron Masters Country Club](#). As always the Classic will feature great food and beverages, great prizes and, on occasion, great golf. Golfers can register as teams or as individuals. The event has sold out for the past several years and is close to hitting the mark again. Don't delay! Contact Brittany Mayer at bmayer@blairchamber.com.



Join a committee

Your feedback is important to us. If you would like to participate on a committee, contact the Chamber
814-943-8151

chamber@blairchamber.com
blairchamber.com

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Volunteers
Needed!



PLEASE SIGN UP AT
LOVEALTOONA.COM

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MAY 4PM TO 8PM

RENEW
CHURCH



Burgmeier's
Hauling Inc.

 **overflow**
Church