

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Fall Ag Committee events — Don't Miss Out!

The Blair County Chamber's Ag Committee (Farm-City) has three upcoming events you won't want to miss: Visit to Industry, Down on the Farm, and the Annual Farm-City Dinner featuring the ACE Award presentation. Details and registration links are below. Interested in sponsoring or joining the committee? Contact Matt Fox at mattf@abcdcorp.org.



Visit to Industry – 9/25 • Since 1996, the Farm-City Committee has hosted tours of Blair County industries. This year's visit is to Shirley's Cookies in Claysburg on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. Enjoy a facility tour, meet the family behind this fourth-generation business, and stay for lunch. Cost: \$25/person. Only 25 spots available – [Register Today!](#)

Down on the Farm – 10/2 • Bring the family to Mitchell Family Farms in Altoona on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 5–7 p.m. for fall fun! Admission includes corn maze, hayrides, barnyard games, slides, and more—plus a buffet meal and drink. Cost: \$15/person (kids 10 & under free). Don't miss the farm mascot, Pete the Cow! [Get Tickets](#)

Farm-City Dinner & ACE Award – 11/12 • Join us at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park on Tuesday, Nov. 12 for the annual Farm-City Dinner. Enjoy dinner, networking, the Dairy Princess, FFA students, a milk-punch reception, and a keynote presentation as we honor this year's Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award recipient. Sponsorships and ACE Award nominations are now open—contact Matt Fox at mattf@abcdcorp.org for details. Registration opens soon!

Ward and Barger to discuss budget at Breakfast Club this Thursday

What impact will the state budget impasse have on Blair County? To gain insight on this issue, the next Breakfast Club, this Thursday at the Blair County Convention Center, will feature State Senator Judy Ward and State Representative Scott Barger for a presentation entitled, "The State of the State's Budget: Priorities and Challenges for 2026." The program, sponsored by [Keller Engineers](#), begins at 7:45 a.m. with a full breakfast buffet and will be held in the lower level of the Conven-



State Senator
Judy Ward



State Representative
Scott Barger

tion Center. Cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Register at www.blairchamber.com.

CareerLink to host job fair



CareerLink, in partnership with the Blair County Chamber, ABCD Corporation, and Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board, and The Greater Altoona Career And Technology Center, will host a no cost Job Fair on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Jaffa Shrine in Altoona. With more than 80 employers, post-secondary schools, and military branches, this event offers on-the-spot interviews and career connections. In today's fast-changing job market, job fairs are vital opportunities to meet employers face-to-face, explore options, and take the next step toward meaningful employment.

Chamber Mixer at Horseshoe Curve

On Thursday, September 25, from 5-7 p.m., join the Chamber and [Kish Bank](#) as we celebrate innovation, industry, and railroading, and the 4th Rail, at historic Horseshoe Curve, located at 2400 Veterans Memorial Highway, Altoona. Your host, Kish Bank, is pulling out all the stops in celebration of the bank's 175th anniversary. Join us for food, fun and entertainment. Cost to attend is \$15 per person. Register online at www.blairchamber.com.

Ribbon Cutting



Ember Aesthetics

A Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in celebration of the new location of Ember Aesthetics, LLC, located at 8495 Woodbury Pike, Ste. 3, Hollidaysburg. Ember Aesthetics offers a full line of personalized services including botox, filler, PRP, facials, and microneedling. Each treatment is thoughtfully designed to achieve natural-looking results. For more information go to www.ember-aesthetics.com. Joining the celebration are, from left: Carol Stern, Chamber Ambassador; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Caroline Adams, Licensed Esthetician, Certified Acne Specialist; Karinn Gartmann, Founder, CRNP; Megan Rossman, Program Manager, Blair County Chamber; and Toni White, Chamber Ambassador.

Chamber hosts roundtable to address CNA workforce shortages

The Chamber recently hosted a roundtable discussion with area long-term care facilities and The Training and Education Fund, focusing on workforce development and the critical shortage of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) in Blair County. CNA Training Hubs, introduced through a state grant by The Training and Education Fund, are a proven solution to an industry-wide dilemma in Pennsylvania's long-term care sector.

Recruiting highly trained, certified, and motivated CNAs is often challenging and can strain already limited resources. The Training Hub initiative helps alleviate this pressure by identifying community members with a passion for healthcare and providing them with comprehensive training, certification, and job placement support.

The session, led by Monica Leibal, MHRM, BSN, RN, created meaningful



dialogue among stakeholders. Facilities in attendance expressed gratitude that their challenges were being heard and that actionable solutions were being explored. Several new partnerships were formed during the roundtable, paving the way for stronger collaboration moving forward.

The Chamber is proud to serve as an industry partner in this initiative, alongside GACTC, PA CareerLink, Saint Francis University, SAP&DC, and others, as we work collectively to strengthen the local healthcare workforce.

RSVP deadline approaching

One of the Blair County Chamber's most prestigious events is just several weeks away. The annual Business Excellence Dinner will be held at the Blair County Convention Center



Greg Drew

on Monday, October 6. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner at 6:45. Don't miss this opportunity to congratulate a true business leader, Greg Drew, who served as president of Value Drug Co. for many years and has devoted countless hours to many charitable activities. Make your reservations online at www.blairchamber.com.

Keep them coming!

Leadership Blair County Alumni
Gifts of Hope project

Easter for Eli

LBC Alumni is collecting items to fill Easter baskets for children hospitalized during the Easter holiday. Drop off donations in the lobby at the Chamber office.

-No candy donations-

Congratulations!

...to [Juniata College](#) which ranks among the top 15% of four-year colleges nationwide in The Princeton Review's prestigious 2026 guide, The Best 391 Colleges. Juniata appears on several lists within the guide.

...to [Sheetz Inc.](#) for being named to this year's "Companies that Care" list by Great Place To Work and People Magazine. Sheetz ranks 10th on this year's list, maintaining its top 10 status. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Sheetz has been ranked on the national list.