

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

### Greg Drew selected to receive 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

Nothing carries more prestige than being named the recipient of an award that celebrates a lifetime of dedication, hard work, and exemplary leadership. The Chamber's Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence recognizes individuals who are regarded as a business leader in the region and has positively impacted the Blair County business community. That criteria alone made Greg Drew, retired President of Value Drug Company, an easy selection.

As President, Drew's leadership was instrumental in the rapid growth and success of Value Drug Company. His contributions were instrumental in doubling of revenue, tripling the number of jobs, and expansion of the distribution facility into a state-of-the-art operation.

Known for being a firm believer in community involvement, he has dedicated many hours to organizations such as Operation Our Town as well as many boards and community initiatives.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented on October 6 at the Blair County Convention Center. For sponsorship information contact Jessie Covert at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com). For dinner reservations go to [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).



**Greg Drew**

### Chamber Mixer at Horseshoe Curve in celebration of 125 Years of Kish

The official fall season begins in just two weeks and the Chamber has a great event on the calendar to kick-off the season while celebrating our railroad heritage. On Thursday, September 25, from 5-7 p.m., you are invited to join the Chamber and [Kish Bank](#) as we celebrate 125 years of innovation, industry, and railroading, and the 4th Rail, at the historic Horseshoe Curve, located at 2400 Veterans Memorial Highway, Altoona. The Curve became known as one of the eight engineering marvels of the world. Officially opened for business on February 15, 1854, it has become one of the primary east-west arteries of railroad travel in the nation.



Come see it in action and network at this exciting Chamber Mixer. 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](http://www.blairchamber.com).

### Ward and Barger to discuss budget at Breakfast Club



State Senator  
Judy Ward



State Representative  
Scott Barger

The state budget has dominated news headlines recently. To gain insight on this issue, the next Chamber Breakfast Club, September 18, 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 Convention Center. Cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Register at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

*Branch Out  
& Bloom*  
Networking Event

**September 18 • 5-7 p.m.**  
at Kerr's

179 S. Montgomery St., Hollidaysburg

**RSVP by noon, Sept. 13**

**[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)**

# Be sure to Stroll Before You Scroll

As the holiday season approaches, it's time to shine a spotlight on our amazing small businesses! We're excited to announce that we'll be creating a digital catalog to showcase the best deals and sales for the holiday season and Small Business Saturday!

This is your opportunity to highlight your special offers and gain visibility in the community. Each participating business will have a dedicated page in our catalog, making it easy for customers to find and support you during the holidays. Don't have a graphic for your deal? No problem! We're more than happy to create one for you, so you can focus on what you do best – running your business!

Send your details by email to Brittany



Mayer at [bmayer@blairchamber.com](mailto:bmayer@blairchamber.com) with your holiday deals and any graphics you'd like to share. Let's work together to encourage local shopping and make this season unforgettable for our community!

## Young Entrepreneurs Academy names new program manager

The Chamber has established a solid track record of developing outstanding youth programs that focus on leadership skills, career exploration, and workforce development. A leader in the Chamber's lineup of youth-centered programs is the Young Entrepreneur's Academy (YEA!). Entering its tenth year, YEA! has been instrumental in leading students, in grades 6 through 12, through an extensive educational process that, upon completion, enables graduates to become CEOs of their own IRS-registered businesses.

YEA!, a national program based in Rochester, New York, connects young people with mentors in the business community as well as steers them through the process of developing a business or social movement. In addition to local business mentors and instructors, a program manager guides each class throughout the year. For the past four years that responsibility fell on the capable shoulders of Tim Gildea, longtime educator, who successfully facilitated the program. This upcoming year will see a change in leadership as Gildea retires as program manager.

Stepping into that role is someone not new to youth leadership programs.



*Tim Gildea has served as YEA! program manager for the past four years.*

Tami Chadick, who has facilitated the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Youth program for 20 years, will now also be adding the YEA! program to her list.

"YEA! is a wonderful program thanks to all of the amazing members of the Blair County business community who passionately support it. Tami Chadick comes from this group of people and brings with her a great deal of experience working with youth in our community. You are going to love what she does with YEA!," Gildea said.

Students can still apply for the upcoming class. Click [here](#) to apply online. If you have any questions contact Program Manager Tami Chadick at [YEABlairCounty@gmail.com](mailto:YEABlairCounty@gmail.com).

## England trip meeting this Thursday

If castles, palaces, and historic cathedrals are on your travel bucket list then you will want information on the Chamber's Gems of Southern England trip, May 17-24, 2026, with travel partner [Ketrow KURTZ Travel](#). An informational meeting will be held at the Devorris Center on Sept. 11 at 6:00 p.m. There is no obligation or cost to attend. This is a great opportunity to hear about the exciting itinerary planned for this trip. Let us know you are coming. Call 814-943-8151.

## Congratulations!

...to [UPMC Altoona](#) upon receiving the American College of Cardiology's NCDR Chest Pain—Myocardial Infarction Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2025.

...to [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College](#) for earning a spot on USA Today's list of the Top 250 Vocational Schools in the United States for 2025. Pennsylvania Highlands was one of only 12 schools in Pennsylvania to make the list and one of only three public institutions to receive this recognition in the state.

...to [Holland Bros. Meats](#) for winning national recognition at the 2025 American Cured Meat Championships in Kansas City, Mo. They were awarded reserve grand champion in three categories. This marks the 10th consecutive year Holland Bros. Meats has won national awards at the event.

**New address?  
New phone number?  
New email?**

**Let us know at**  
[chamber@blairchamber.com](mailto:chamber@blairchamber.com)

