

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

### Leadership Blair County class retreat builds connections at Lake Raystown

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Class recently spent two days at the scenic Lake Raystown Resort for its annual retreat. With the backdrop of vibrant fall foliage reflecting off the lake, the class immersed themselves in activities designed to strengthen teamwork, communication, and self-awareness.



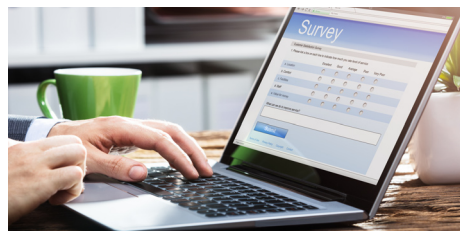
Guided by facilitators Dr. Maureen Dodson and Jeremy Fegert, participants explored DiSC personality styles, the life cycles of a team, and hands-on team-building challenges. The goal? To help class members not only recognize their own communication strengths and blind spots, but also to better understand how to connect with others, both in their professional roles and personal lives.

Between structured sessions, participants enjoyed the natural beauty of the setting, which added an extra layer of reflection and camaraderie. Conversations over meals and laughter during group exercises further deepened relationships among classmates.

By the time the retreat concluded, the group had gained more than just tools and insights, they had built a foundation of trust and understanding that will fuel their work together in the months ahead. The Leadership Blair County Class left Lake Raystown not only inspired but united, ready to make a meaningful impact throughout the year.

### Small Business Credit survey is open

The Federal Reserve's 2025 Small Business Credit Survey is now open. Owners and key financial decision-makers of for-profit businesses, share your recent experiences. In this survey, you can provide insights into your use of debt, the financial conditions you encounter, and other relevant information. Answers to these questions contribute to data that directly inform the Fed, federal government agencies, service providers, policymakers, and others — a common good ultimately benefiting your business. [Take the 10-to-12-](#)



[minute survey now](#). The survey is open to businesses currently in operation, those recently closed, and those about to be established. All responses are confidential. The survey closes November 14, 2025. Questions? Contact Olivia Ness at [olivia.ness@phil.frb.org](mailto:olivia.ness@phil.frb.org).

★ HAPPY ★ ★ ★ ★  
**COLUMBUS**  
★ ★ ★ DAY ★ ★  
The Chamber office  
is closed today.

Be sure to check out our website  
[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)



### Sip, Savor, Socialize!

Networking is one of the most powerful tools for success in the business world. Get ready to make some new connections at HD500 hosted by [Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg](#) on Wednesday, October 22, from 5 - 7 p.m., at the Inglenook building located at 201 Jackson Street. HD500 is an evening focused on the power of networking and building connections—made even better with great food. From savory bites to sweet delights, the culinary team at Presbyterian Village always serves up something unforgettable! Don't forget about the doorpizes! Cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members. Make your reservations [here](#). Your tastebuds will thank you!

# Ribbon Cutting

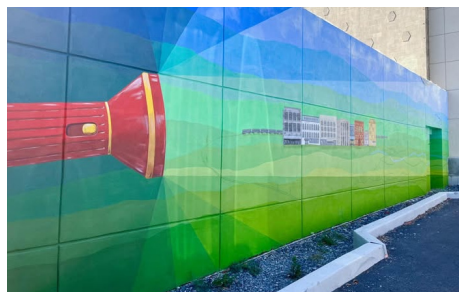


## The Kress Building

A Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in celebration of the grand reopening of The Kress Building at 1406 Eleventh Avenue, Altoona. The Kress Building originally opened in 1922 as a 5-10-25 cent store. Today, following a 2-year full renovation project by American Chestnut Real Estate Group, the building has been restored to its historic beginnings. The building contains 3 floors with over 18,000 total square feet of space. The second floor features Lofts on Eleventh, beautifully appointed loft-style apartments. The first and lower levels offer prime commercial space. L.S. Fiore, Inc. oversaw and completed the renovations. ABCD Corporation and the Department of Community and Economic Development were proud to partner on this incredible project. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Steve McKnight, President/CEO, ABCD Corporation; Kelly Fedeli, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Ron McConnell, Chair, Blair Alliance for Business & Economic Growth; Michael Fiore, L.S. Fiore, Inc.; Ryan McNeely, American Chestnut Real Estate Group; Betsy Garach, T2B Interiors; Peter Folen, The EADS Group; Mayor Matt Pacifico, the City of Altoona; Tom Seasoltz, ABCD Corporation; Rachel Prosser, ABCD Corporation; and Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce.

## Community celebrates art unveiling

Public art brings life to those third spaces and places that often get overlooked. They help to make places feel safe. It creates a purpose and sends a message that we are a vibrant community. This mural is presented by local artist, Sarah Garber. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Kazmaier Family, the Benzel Family, FirstEnergy, the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation, and the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation for their financial support to



make this art installation possible. Special thanks also to Pennsy Properties LLC allowing access for the art installation. *To read more click [here](#).*

**Anywhere! Anytime! Register for events online**  
**[www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com)**

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245 W. Race Street  
Somerset, PA 15501  
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Toll Free (877) 814-4891



## Job Fair

**October 15**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Jaffa Shrine**  
**2200 Broad Ave., Altoona**

- No Cost to Attend
- On-the-spot Interviews

*Sponsored in-part by:*



## Congratulations!

...to **First National Bank**, the largest subsidiary of F.N.B. Corporation, has been recognized by Newsweek as one of America's Most Admired Workplaces for 2026. The company has received the award for the second consecutive year.