

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON...

First look at big plans for 2026 PA and Blair 250 Celebrations

Be among the first to learn about an exciting lineup of events celebrating our country's 250th anniversary at the Chamber's Breakfast Club on Nov. 6 at the Blair County Convention Center. The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan and coordinate the commemoration of this epic milestone. Blair County will be joining communities all across Pennsylvania and the United States in helping to plan an E.P.I.C. celebration for our nation's 250-year anniversary – Semiquincentennial – in 2026. The



local America250PA Blair County commission will be planning events, promoting area activities, and highlighting our history leading up to a major celebration on July 4, 2026. The cost to attend Breakfast Club, sponsored by Stuckey Automotive, is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Make your reservations now by clicking [here](#).

Farm-City Dinner set for Nov. 12 at Morrison's Cove Memorial Park

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Farm-City Committee will host its annual Farm-City Dinner on Wednesday, November 12, at Morrison's Cove Memorial Park, 201 South Walnut Street, Martinsburg. The evening will kick-off at 6:00 p.m. with the popular milk-punch reception followed by a full buffet provided by Fredericks Meat Market. The evening is a salute to agriculture which is a huge economic driver of Blair County's economy. Blair County's ag industry produces more than \$110 million in annual value. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Joshua Duff, DVM, General Manager of Production Operations for Country View Family Farms, the hog production affiliate of family-owned Clemens Food Group. Country View is a leader in animal care standards as well as implementation of new technologies and standards within swine production. The highlight of the evening is the presentation of the 2025 Blair County Agricultural Community Excellence Award. This year's recipient is Gary Long of Sinking Valley in recognition of his many years of dedication to the ag community. Cost to attend is \$25 per person. To register, click [here](#).



Dr. Joshua Duff and family.

SEE YOU WEDNESDAY

Food, Friends, and Fun!

Get ready to make some new connections at HD500 hosted by [Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg](#) this Wednesday, October 22, from 5 - 7 p.m., at the Inglenook building located at 201 Jackson Street. HD500 is a laid-back, fun evening focused on the power of networking—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! Even if you can't stay the entire time, stop on by and grab a bite to eat. Cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members. Make your reservations [here](#). Your tastebuds will thank you!

KOOMAN & ASSOCIATES



FEATURING TAYLOR ADAMS
An event to benefit the Altoona Area Public Library

OCTOBER 28 AT 7PM
HISTORIC MISHLER THEATRE

**TICKETS
ARE \$25**

+ \$2 online processing fee

[mishlertheatre.org](#)

Ribbon Cutting



Cornerstone Caregiving

A Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in celebration of the grand opening of Cornerstone Caregiving, located at 110 Jefferson Street, suite 104, Hollidaysburg. Cornerstone Caregiving provides compassionate, personalized home care services to help individuals maintain their independence. Founded in 2020, Cornerstone Caregiving has grown to over 300 locations nationwide. For more information go to www.cornerstonecaregiving.com. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; State Representative Scott Barger; Ashley Rhodes, Staffing Manager; Kayleigh Garrett, Operating Director; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; and Donna Gority, Chamber Ambassador.

Digital catalog to promote small businesses

As the holiday season approaches, it's time to shine a spotlight on our amazing small businesses! We will 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. Each participating business will have a dedicated page in our catalog, making it easy for customers to find you during the holidays. Don't have a graphic for your deal? No problem! We'll 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.



Major Downtown Building Renovation Commemorated

The Blair Chamber and Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation joined with American Chestnut Real Estate officials this month to celebrate the grand opening of the Kress Building in Downtown Altoona. The building features new commercial and residential units under the brand "Lofts on 11th. The units are all open space loft style living along the primary mountain main street community.

"Thank you to the American Chestnut Real Estate team. This project is critical not only for the physical rebirth it brings to a classic building, but also for the housing component which is desperately needed to help attract new talent to our community," said Stephen McKnight, ABCD President and CEO.

The nearly \$5 million project was made possible in part due to several funding programs to include a \$1,500,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant, a \$500,000 Altoona Investment Fund loan, \$500,000 in PA Enterprise Zone Tax Credits, and an ABCD direct

participation loan of \$250,000. State and federal historic tax credits were also awarded to the project for the preservation aspects that the building represents.

"A special thanks to our key partners to include the Department of Community and Economic Development, State Senator Judy Ward, State Representative Lou Schmitt, and all of the City Council members who came together to utilize the programs needed to get this project across the finish line," McKnight added.

At the time of the dedication 4 of the 5 residential units have been leased along with half of the commercial space. "This truly shows the continued demand for quality loft style residential living in our smaller, downtown environments," McKnight added.

To learn more about the building visit [American Chestnut Real Estate](http://AmericanChestnutRealEstate.com).

