

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Leading across generations

Participants from the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult and Youth programs recently came together for a combined session designed to build connections and encourage meaningful conversation across generations.

The joint session brought together emerging young leaders and established professionals for a day focused on collaboration, learning, and perspective. Through a variety of team-building activities, participants worked side-by-side to solve problems, communicate effectively, and strengthen leadership skills in a hands-on environment.

In addition to the activities, the groups engaged in guided discussions centered on current community and societal issues. These conversations allowed both classes to share their viewpoints, experiences, and ideas for addressing challenges facing their communities today. Adult participants gained insight into the priorities and perspectives of younger generations, while youth participants benefited from hearing about real-world leadership experiences from local professionals.

Guest speakers also contributed to the session by sharing personal stories and offering valuable insights and education. Their experiences helped bring real-world context to the discussions and reinforced the importance of thoughtful leadership, service, and community involvement.

The combined session is an important part of the Leadership Blair County experience, helping participants broaden their understanding of leadership and community impact. By creating opportunities for dialogue between generations, the program aims to inspire thoughtful leadership and strengthen connections throughout Blair County.

Leadership Blair County continues to develop leaders who are committed to serving their communities and making a positive difference.



Nominations invited for '20 Under 40'

The Altoona Mirror is accepting nominations for its 19th edition of 20 Under 40, which will recognize 20 deserving community members younger than 40 years old in the June edition of Blair Living.



Criteria for nomination include business success, entrepreneurial spirit, and community service of those who have contributed to the betterment of life in the region. Eligibility includes people who either live or work in Blair County and who will not be 40 years old until after July 1.

Send a brief letter in support of the nominee and contact information for both, the nominee and the person making the nomination, to Neil Rudel at nrudel@altoonamirror.com. Nomination deadline is Monday, April 13.

"20 Under 40" is a joint venture of the Mirror and the Blair County Chamber.



Mar. 26 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- ✓ More than 40 vendors
- ✓ Free health checks
- ✓ Food truck
- ✓ Community resources

Station Medical Center
In the common mall area

Take pictures with the Easter Bunny 11 - 1

Open to the public. No cost to attend.

STUDENT TO CEO

WATCH AS STUDENTS FROM
THE CHAMBER'S YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY
MAKE PITCHES TO INVESTORS
SHARK TANK STYLE

PUBLIC WELCOME
NO COST TO ATTEND

MARCH 31 @ 6 P.M.
DEVORRIS DOWNTOWN CENTER
1431 TWELFTH AVENUE, ALTOONA

Pathways to career opportunities

PA CareerLink® Blair County is hosting its Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at the Jaffa Shrine, 2200 Broad Ave, Altoona — and it's shaping up to be one of the biggest hiring events Blair County has seen. With over 90 employers expected, job seekers will have the rare opportunity to walk the floor, speak directly with hiring managers and decision makers, and potentially walk away with a contingent job offer on the spot.

Attendance is completely free. Job seekers are encouraged to bring a resume, dress professionally for their industry, and come ready to talk about their skills and experience. The event runs from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, with 9:30–10:00 AM reserved exclusively for veterans.

"Job fairs are still one of the most valuable employment resources a job



seeker has at their disposal. You get to talk to the decision makers in real time and see if you're a good fit — they're wonderful," said Carter Cerully, Business Services Coordinator at PA CareerLink® Blair County.

Employers interested in participating should contact PA CareerLink® Blair County directly to be added to the waitlist. Job seekers can pre-register by visiting our [Facebook page](#). For questions, call 223-231-9531 or email jrazo@pa.gov.

A true community partner



Operation Our Town recently honored Donna Gority with one of its most prestigious awards, the 2026 Community Partnership Award. Gority has long championed the Blair County region and previously served as a Blair County Commissioner. OOT is a community and business partnership of Blair County PA to promote healthy neighborhoods and protect its citizens from illegal drug use and resulting crime. Representing Operation Our Town, are, from left: Michael Fiore, Philip Devorris, and Greg Drew.

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Email jcovert@blairchamber.com

Community Conservation Partnerships grant program

The annual Community Conservation Partnerships (C2P2) Program grant application period is open through 4 PM on Thursday, April 30.

Your first task when applying is choosing which grant to apply for. Different grant types ask different questions and require different documents. That means starting your application in the wrong grant type can hurt your score. A common example concerns trails. If your project involves a long-distance trail, then "Non-motorized Trails" is usually the best option. But for a loop trail in your local park, it's better to apply under "Park Rehabilitation and Development."

How do you know which grant to apply for? The [C2P2 grant workshop videos](#) are a good place to start. Your [regional advisor](#) can also help you decide — one more reason to reach out to them early in your application process.

To apply for the C2P2 grant or to learn more, click [here](#).



Congratulations!

...to [Home & Harvest](#) for being officially ranked #1 Cafe in Altoona for January 2026 by BusinessRate based on verified Google reviews.

...to Steve McKnight, president/CEO of the Blair Alliance for Business and Economic Growth, upon being named to the advisory board of the [Outdoor Business Alliance of Pennsylvania](#), a non-profit entity dedicated to elevating the needs of the commonwealth's \$19 billion outdoor recreation industry and supporting business development.

SAVE THE DATE:

RISK MANAGERS - EMERGENCY MANAGERS - BUSINESSES - FACULTY - THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY - THE COMMUNITY - SCHOOL OFFICIALS - HEALTHCARE and MENTAL HEALTH OFFICIALS - LAW ENFORCEMENT - FIREFIGHTERS - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - VICTIM ADVOCATES

on ► **May 5, 2026**

Take time to learn about risks to your organization, employees, students, and community, and what you might do about them. The 2026 agenda has discussions on open source (actionable) intelligence, personal security, social media and child safety, the new culture of emergency management, new threats to our kids and communities, and the 2024 Butler County presidential candidate shooting.



SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS REGIONAL TASK FORCE *Annual Homeland Security Symposium*

May 5, 2026 • Registration 8 a.m.
Opening Sessions 8:30 a.m.

BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA. 16602

To register, go here: <https://members.scmrtf.org/events/2026-homeland-security-symposium/register/view>. Sign up soon! Seats are limited!