

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

BBQ bash to support veterans

The Leadership Blair County Class of 2026 is proud to present the “Together for 250 Bash” on Saturday, June 6, beginning at 4 p.m., at the Jaffa Shrine in Altoona, an evening of food, fun, and fundraising. This special event brings residents together to celebrate our shared history while making a meaningful impact close to home.

Proceeds from the Bash will benefit Sweat for Vets and support the launch of its new homeless veterans program. This initiative is designed to provide critical resources, support, and pathways to stability for veterans in our community who are facing housing insecurity. Funds raised through this event will serve as seed money to help bring the program to life and create lasting change.

The Together for 250 Bash will feature live entertainment, yard games, various ways to win, and a spirited atmosphere that reflects the pride and resilience of Blair County. More than just a celebration, the event is an opportunity for the community to come together in support of those who have served our country. Food and beer is included with your ticket. Cost is \$45 per person.

Join us on June 6 as we celebrate, give back, and take an important step toward supporting local veterans in need. Tickets are available from any LBC Adult class member, at the Jaffa Shrine office, or mkessling@altoonacurve.com.



Don't miss your shot, help Blair County advance to the next round

Pennsylvania is home to the coolest products made in America. Even better, many of those ‘cool’ products are made right here in Blair County!

The PA Chamber annual competition, Coolest Thing Made In PA, is in full swing and includes a number of products made right here in Blair County. This unique bracket-style competition matches made-in-PA brands against each other through public voting. This is where you can make it happen. Go to the PA Chamber [website](#) for ongoing bracket updates and voting links. Be sure to place your vote for Blair County products. The fourth round begins tomorrow, March 31, at 9:00 a.m. and



runs through April 1, at 4:00 p.m.

Encourage your friends, neighbors, and brand lovers across Pennsylvania to turn out the vote. Let's show the rest of the state something we already know—Blair County produces champions!

Time to book your Gala seat

The countdown is on to one of the most prestigious social events of the season—the 2026 Gala and Annual Celebration, April 28, at the Blair County Convention Center. This special evening will highlight the stars that make our community shine. These individuals and businesses will take center stage as they receive well deserved honors. If that's not enough to make the evening exciting, don't forget about the red carpet entrance with a champagne toast and Hollywood-style photo opportunities. The banquet will feature a diverse menu of exquisite chef-selected entrees. Finish the evening with an amazing dessert bar and live music with The Big Band Sound. You won't want to miss this! Register [here](#).



Pennsylvania CareerLinkSM

Job Fair

PA CareerLink Blair County
Wed., April 1

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
9:30 - 10:00 reserved for Veterans

Jaffa Shrine
2200 Broad Ave., Altoona

- No Cost to Attend
- 85+ Hiring Employers
- On-the-spot Interviews

Sponsored in-part by:
Blair County Chamber of Commerce
ABCD Corporation

Building stronger businesses through sustainability

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Blair County Committee will host its annual Pathways to Sustainability event on April 16 at the U.S. Hotel Liberty Hall. This year's program focuses on sustainable energy in our businesses and community, offering professionals a unique opportunity to learn about initiatives and practices that can make a lasting positive impact.

Attendees will hear from several featured speakers throughout the morning. Sohail Anwar, Ph.D., Penn State Altoona, Professor of Engineering, will discuss types of renewable energy systems, energy fundamentals, and the role sustainability plays in shaping our future. Amy Brinton, PA Chamber, Director of Government Affairs, will highlight policy initiatives related to energy, including advancing legislation and public-sector efforts. Eric McCrum, Senior Manager of EV & Energy Programs at Sheetz Inc., will share programs local businesses can utilize to achieve energy reductions and leverage to adopt sustainable practices while also saving money.

The experiences and expertise from the panel of speakers will provide valuable takeaways for organizations look-



ing to strengthen their own sustainability efforts.

Guests will also have the opportunity to explore educational tables featuring organizations sharing sustainable best practices and highlighting the work being done locally to support a more sustainable future.

The morning begins at 8 a.m. with a light breakfast and time for networking with fellow attendees before the program begins. The event, sponsored by [Veeder-Root](#), will conclude at noon. Cost to attend is \$35 for Chamber Members and \$45 for non-members. Don't miss this opportunity to get inspired, informed, and involved in building a more sustainable and thriving community. Register [here](#).

Take a look. You'll be amazed by what we have to offer

The facts are simple--your budget is set, money is tight, and marketing your business is still a must. That combination doesn't always



lead to an easy answer. The Chamber offers a possible solution. Take a moment to check out the [sponsorship opportunities](#) available through the Chamber. There are plenty of affordable options that work for businesses and budgets of all sizes. Add into the equation a powerful digital media reach, and your marketing strategy can reach new heights. So, before you throw in the towel and use the same old strategy, let the Chamber work for you and deliver solutions that provide the results you need. If something catches your eye, and budget, don't wait, contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com. She will go over all the details of how you can expand your brand strategy.

Law Day Essay/Poster Contest

The Blair County Bar Association and America250 PA Blair County Commission have announced their partnership for the 2026 Law Day Essay/Poster Contest. Submissions must be received by the end of business on April 17.

The winning entries from each grade level will be invited to the Law Day Ceremony on May 1 at the Blair County Courthouse to read their winning essay or present their winning poster. The grand prize winner will receive a cash award and will be invited to read their winning essay at various America250 PA Blair events.

All submissions shall interpret the theme "What Does America Mean to You?" and shall be submitted no later than April 17 to 1701 Fifth Avenue,



Altoona, PA, 16602 or P.O. Box 295, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Essay entries may also be emailed to BCBA2026essaycontest@gmail.com no later than April 17.

All submissions must contain the registration form (available by emailing BCBA2026essaycontest@gmail.com). The submission itself must contain no identifying information.

The Essay Contest is open to Blair County students in grades six through 12.

Congratulations!

...to [The Giant Company](#), known locally as Giant and Martin's, for donating 3,000 hams to 14 hunger relief partner organizations. Team members will also volunteer at several food banks over the next few weeks to help organize and restock pantry shelves.

...to [Girls Night Out Altoona Inc.](#) for distributing \$235,000 in donations to organizations providing breast cancer research, screening and patient assistance programs across the region.

Register for events online
blairchamber.com