

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

ABCD and Altoona Redevelopment Authority launch six year NAP program

Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation officials and the City Redevelopment Authority joined forces Friday, April 17, 2026, to announce the launch of a six-year community investment program. The \$3.3 million dollar investment was made possible through Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program (NAP) and funded by our private sector partners M&T Bank, Sheetz, Inc., Blair Companies, NPC, Inc., and Curry Companies. "This is a state program that works. It enables public private partnerships that fit perfectly with our local economic and community development goals," said Stephen McKnight, President and CEO of the Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation. "These private contributions will help support various investments such as improvement of streetscapes, signage, facade grants and build management capacity by helping the City hire a Main Street manager; all of which are key objectives outlined in the city's most recent comprehensive plan," McKnight added.



For more on the story as it appeared in the Altoona Mirror, [click here](#).

Blair County's newest CEOs

Fourteen students representing thirteen self-made businesses recently graduated from the Blair County Chamber's [Young Entrepreneurs Academy](#) (YEA!). The 25-week program provided students the necessary tools to launch their very own IRS-registered business. Members of the Class of 2026 are:



Aamir Azad, Co-CEO of pHyra, Hollidaysburg School District; Logan Burns, CEO of Snoozr, Hollidaysburg School District; Tregan Butler, CEO of Vendy-T, Spring Cove School District; MiKayla Claar, CEO of Junk Journal Media, Hollidaysburg School District; Chase Flickinger, CEO of EMLion Industries, State College School District; Kaylee Hawn, CEO of Velora, Altoona School District; Jack Hoyne, CEO of Royal Apparel & Supply Co., Altoona School District; Isabel Middleton, CEO of Spe-

cial Moments Animal Rescue, Altoona School District; Addison Mielnik, CEO of Elevate, Altoona School District; Kerrie Mock, CEO of WalkOff, Spring Cove School District; Riley Piotti, CEO of Heart, Harper Foundation, Altoona School District; Jacob Sidney, CEO of Lock Step, Hollidaysburg School District; Addison Smith, CEO of The Jesus Crate, Hollidaysburg School District; Josie Watt, Co-CEO of pHyra, Hollidaysburg School District.



Red carpet night is almost here

The red carpet is being rolled out and the stage is being set for one of Blair County's most anticipated events; the Blair County Chamber Gala and Annual Celebration. Tomorrow evening will honor the outstanding individuals and businesses that make our community a place we can all be proud of. The Chamber would like to congratulate this year's award recipients:

ATHENA

Sister Paula DelGrosso

**Donna D. Gority
Servant Leadership**
Travis Seymore

George
Heather Thomas

**Joseph P. Rosenhamer
Chamber Spirit**
Toni White

**Judith A. Rossi
Educator of the Year**
Dr. Randy Frye

Non-Profit Spotlight
Easter for Eli

The Chamber Extra Mile
Briana Shriver

Small Business of the Year
Berry Solutions Group

Business of the Year
Primary Health Network

Board Cutting



A Chamber board-cutting ceremony was held as part of a remodel celebration at Ace Fix-It Hardware located at 7565 Woodbury Pike, Roaring Spring. At the ceremony, donations were made to Garver YMCA and Central High School Marching Band. Ace Fix-It offers a wide variety of products and brands for home and garden projects as well as furniture, mattresses, and authorized scouting and gym clothes. Services include UPS drop-off, dry cleaning, key cutting, screen and window repair, and more. For more information, go to www.acehardware.com. Pictured, from left, are: Pete Westwood, Chamber Ambassador; Steve McKnight, President/CEO, ABCD Corporation; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Brian Shillinglaw, Dylan Huches, Anna Orourke, Craig Knies, Julie Lamberton, Jeremiah Delling, Traci Osman, Greg Rush, Mike Kasun; State Representative Scott Barger; Greg Morris; Ben Nixon; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Tracy Worley; and Toni White, Chamber Ambassador.

BASICS/Rotary Career Fair guides future workforce

Nearly 1,000 high school sophomores filled the Blair County Convention Center last Thursday for the 13th annual BASICS/Rotary Career Fair. Students explored 82 career fields while engaging directly with professionals in those industries. While many students have an interest in specific careers, they don't always have the opportunity to speak with someone in the field. These interactions provide valuable insight as they continue their career exploration. Through this experience students appear to be more open to careers that exist in Blair County.

The success of this yearly event requires a great deal of coordination, from scheduling students to the re-



ruitment of 150 career professionals. Most impressive is the business community in its willingness to step-up as presenters. Through that continued partnership, the Career Fair continues to grow and has been successful for over a decade.

BREAKFAST CLUB

SAVE *the* DATE

May 21

FEATURING

Blair County Judges

Blair County Convention Center
7:45 a.m.

-2026 SERIES SPONSOR-
Altoona-Blair County Airport
& Contour Airlines

Register [HERE](#)

Congratulations!

...to [First National Bank](#) upon earning nationwide recognition from Energage for its workplace culture and employee experience. In addition to its sixth consecutive Top Workplace USA award, co-presented by USA Today and Energage, and Top Workplace Financial Services award, the Bank added eight Top Workplaces Culture Excellence awards to its extensive list of honors. FNB also was recognized on Newsweek's list of America's Greatest Workplaces for Entry-Level Employees.

...to [The Giant Company](#), for its Feeding School Kids initiative. In partnership with its customers, the program raised more than \$1.2 million to address food insecurity in local school districts throughout the communities it serves.

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