BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FIRST FRONTIER - BLAIR COUNTY, PA

October 12, 2026

NETWORKS
DIGITAL NEWS



The office is closed today but will be open for business tomorrow!

Cultivating career dreams beyond the traditional farm



A remarkable event took place on October 7 and 8 at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg as more than 1,300 seventh-grade students from Blair County gathered to explore careers in the world of agriculture. It proved to be an eye-opening experience for many students who quickly realized that modern ag careers reach far beyond the borders of a traditional farm. Through engaging presentations and featured speakers, these young minds discovered a vast field of professional possibilities they never knew existed right in their own backyard.

Ag Career Days, a program of ABCD Corporation, in partnership with the Blair County Chamber's Ag Committee, began in 2015. That year, the event was recognized as the "County of Activities of Excellence" program winner by the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF selected 24 winners nationally from 154 entries.

With each passing year, the program continues to expand. Throughout the two-day event, students visited stations for presentations on career options within the ag industry including lesser-known roles such as Digital Ag and Drones to Accounting and Lending. FFA students from Tyrone, Spring Cove, and Williamsburg school districts assisted in the event. Partnerships like this are exactly what make Ag Career Days the perfect example of community collaboration.







Annual salute to agriculture

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce along with its Ag Committee invite you to celebrate our vital agricultural roots at the annual Farm-City Dinner. The event will be held Tuesday, November 10, at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park located at 201 South Walnut Street in Martinsburg, This special evening honors the agricultural community and the indispensable role it plays in driving Blair County's robust regional economy.

The festivities kick off at 6:00 p.m. with the highly popular Milk Punch Reception, providing a perfect opportunity to catch up with neighbors, business associates and new friends. A delicious buffet dinner will follow promptly at 6:30 p.m. Following a keynote address, the highlight of the evening's program will be the formal presentation of the prestigious Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award, recognizing outstanding local contributions to agriculture. Don't miss this premier gathering where our local farm and city community leaders come together. Cost to attend is $25 per person. Reserve your seats today to show your support for Blair County agriculture. This year's ACE Award recipient will be announced soon so stay tuned!

Welcome New Chamber Members



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome its newest members. Pictured, from left: Carter Cerully, Blair County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Jill Little, **Strong Women Forward**; Brianna Mock and Kayla Kreider, **Village Caregiving**.

Ribbon Cutting



Independent Catholic Foundation

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new location of Independent Catholic Foundation located at 1300 Twelfth Avenue, Altoona. Established in 1990 to grow endowments for Catholic schools in Blair and Cambria counties, ICF has grown to 310 endowments benefitting Catholic parishes, schools, and agencies throughout Central PA. Among the services offered are family endowments, donor-advised funds, and agency custodial accounts. For more information go to www.icfoundation.us. Pictured at the ribbon are, from left: Christie Yingling, Chamber Ambassador; Maria Strohm, the office of State Representative Andrea Verobish; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Chris Ringkamp, President/CEO; Tom McAneny, Foundation Board Chair; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; and Greg Haffling, Chamber Ambassador.

Unwind and dine

Ditch your evening cooking plans this Wednesday. Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg is hosting an After Hours on Oct.14. The food and hospitality at Presbyterian is legendary so be sure to stop by from 5-7 p.m. and enjoy catching up with friends and maybe win a doorprize. Use the Inglenook Building entrance at 201 Jackson Street. Cost is only $5 per person. It's not too late. Register HERE.

Congratulations

...to the Rotary Club of Altoona for presenting grants totaling $14,750 to nine local organizations. The funding was made possible through proceeds raised earlier this year from the club's annual Grapes for Good fundraiser.



Ghost your other plans. Hang out with us this Thursday.

Come out for a spooky evening of trivia, networking and Halloween fun with the Young Professionals of Blair County! Join them on Thursday, October 15th from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Zach's Sports & Spirits, 5828 6th Avenue in Altoona, for the annual Halloween Trivia & Costume Contest. Cost to attend is $15 per person. Register at BlairChamber.com. Special thanks to our event sponsors, Blair School of Martial Arts and Thrivent Financial: Centre Associates.