

## Breakfast Club to Focus on Psychological Impact of Covid-19

Students in Blair County schools have been stretched to never-before-seen limits, thanks to the challenges of Covid-19. Many have adjusted their schedules and routines to accommodate the challenges, others have not. The incredible psychological damage that the pandemic has done on students and to some extent on businesses will be the topic of the next Blair County Chamber “Breakfast Club,” set for this Thursday, May 13th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Dr. Robert Gildea, Superintendent of the Hollidaysburg Area School District and Dana Melton, RN, LCSW will tag-team on a presentation entitled, “The Profound Impact of Covid-19.” The presentation will focus attention on how the mandates of the pandemic have created delays in the development of young people. The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. A buffet breakfast is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the May Breakfast Club is South Hills School of Business & Technology.



## Chamber All-Stars Recognized for April

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber’s ability to offer great events and programs to members, we recognize sponsors each month as “All-Stars.” The All-Stars for April are: B4 Club Therapy, Holiday Hills, Jersey Shore State Bank, Luther Lawn Service, Manpower Inc. of Altoona, McCartney’s Business Products, Saleme Insurance and Serviam Construction.

## Informational Meeting on French Riviera Trip Set for Wednesday

As Covid-19 restrictions are becoming relaxed throughout the world, people who love to travel are finally getting the thumbs-up to visit various destinations. One of those is the French Riviera which will be hosting a Blair County Chamber trip from October 30th until November 7th. An in-person informational meeting for that trip will be held on May 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is also an opportunity to attend through Zoom.



Call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 to register. The French Riviera trip includes visits to Nice, St. Tropez, Monte Carlo, Cannes and Monaco.

## Highmark/ Chamber Golf Classic is Thursday at Iron Masters

A full complement of 144 golfers will hit the links on Thursday for the Highmark/ Chamber Golf Classic at Iron Masters Country Club. We want to thank the following businesses that have signed-on as major sponsors: Main Sponsor – Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Luncheon/Reception Sponsor – Jersey Shore State Bank, Ball Sponsor – Curry Fluid Power, Photo Sponsor – Park Security, Hole-in-One Sponsor – Gingrich Agency, and Comfort Cart Sponsors – Berry Solutions Group, Blair County Planning Commission and Stiffler McGraw & Associates.



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# Wellness Chat to Highlight Success Stories

The next Wellness Chat, hosted by the Chamber's Workplace Wellness Committee, will take place this Friday, May 14th at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom. The program, which lasts 30 minutes, will focus on Success Stories involving businesses and individuals who have been able to weather the challenges of the pandemic or who can point to ways that they've encouraged employees to maintain healthier lifestyles. There is no cost for Chamber Members to attend. Non-members can attend for



\$10. To register and access the Zoom link, go to [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Anyone who would like to share their wellness experiences with those on the Wellness Chat should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of this Wellness Chat is Appalachian Running Company.

# WE-LEaD to Hold Networking Event

The Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will be holding a networking event on May 24th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on the patio at Park Hills Golf Club. The cost is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. The cost includes two beverage tickets and hors d'oeuvres. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the event is Bella Lucia.



# Leadership Adult Class Raising Money to Benefit Covid-19 Response Fund

The Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult Class held an Easter fundraiser with Bedford Candies. Class member Aaron Lantzy said, "The money raised from this fundraiser will be used as the seed money to cover the costs of our upcoming Day at the Races Around the Bases fundraiser to be held May 22 at the Altoona Curve." The event will begin at 2 pm and will include an afternoon of betting on virtual horse racing, an all you can eat buffet, live auctions, raffles, 50/50's and other games of chance. The 2021 LBC Class is raising money for the



Blair County COVID-19 Response Fund managed by The United Way of Blair County as their class project. All the money raised for the Blair County COVID-19 Response Fund will stay in Blair County. To reserve tickets or for more information, please contact McQuaide Blasko Attorneys at Law by calling (814) 283-2000.

# Committee Meetings

BASICS Steering Committee  
May 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Zoom

YEA! Committee  
May 10, 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom

Sustainable Blair County  
May 11, 1:30 p.m.  
Devorris Center



# Help Us Get the Word Out!

If you're receiving this newsletter, it means that you're a member of the Blair County Chamber. Are there other Chamber members that you know who aren't receiving the newsletter? Are there other employees at your business who could benefit from receiving it? All we need is their name and email address. There's no cost involved. We currently have nearly 5000 members who get the newsletter each Monday. We'd love to have more!

# Oh, By the Way . . .

With nearly 5,000 Chamber members receiving the email newsletter, wouldn't it make sense to be able to reach those people inexpensively? Let Jessie Covert of the Chamber show you how. Call Jessie at (814) 943-8151 or email her at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com).

# Only One "After Hours" Hosting Opportunity Remains for 2021

The Chamber's "Business After Hours" is back in a big way. All but one opportunity to host for 2021 has been claimed. That event is scheduled for December. Any Chamber member interested in hosting the December Business After Hours should contact Stacy

at (814) 943-8151 or email her at [shoover@blairchamber.com](mailto:shoover@blairchamber.com). The next Business After Hours will be held on May 20th from 5:00-7:00 at the Blair County Convention Center. To make a reservation call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or [register online](#).

# Leadership Adult Program Accepting Applications for 2022

One of Pennsylvania's most successful adult leadership programs is accepting applications for its 2022 Class. Leadership Blair County will begin its 27th year in August. The program focuses on the concept of Servant Leadership and provides a comprehensive array of informational sessions that also creates exceptional networking opportunities. The class is



limited to twenty-four participants. To apply, visit the Blair County Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). The LBC Adult application deadline is June 30th.

# Congratulations!

... to Mount Aloysius College and UPMC Altoona which announced last Tuesday an affiliation to help people interested in pursuing a career in nursing. Incoming students will be eligible for up to \$54,000 in funding toward their education, plus guaranteed employment and hiring incentives at UPMC Altoona, UPMC Bedford and UPMC Somerset.

... to J.T. Tidd of Edward Jones Investments in Hollidaysburg, who was recently awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Rotary Club of Hollidaysburg.

... to Glenn Elbin of Doing Better Business who was honored by ENX magazine as a "Difference Maker" in the office equipment and document technology industry. Elbin is Senior Vice-President of Service at Doing Better Business.

... to the Blair County Chamber members who were recently honored by Pennsylvania Business Central magazine as 2021 Top Non-Profit Female Leaders. They are Rebecca Aungst of Skills of Central PA, Maria Brandt of The Arc of Blair County, Jodi Cessna of the Central PA Community Foundation, Nicole Germaux of CONTACT Altoona, Cathy Griffith of the Greg and Cathy Griffith Foundation, Lisa Hann of Family Services Inc., Doreen Perks of Bob Perks Cancer Assistance Fund, and Patricia Savage of Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.



## Ribbon Cutting



## Appalachian Running Company

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand-opening of Appalachian Running Company, located at 3415 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona. A subsidiary of Shoe Fly, Appalachian Running Company offers an extensive line of footwear to help you reach your health and fitness goals. For more information go to [www.apprunco.com/altoona](http://www.apprunco.com/altoona). Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; State Representative Lou Schmitt; John Myers, Regional Manager, Appalachian Running Co.; A.J. Kelly, Manager, Appalachian Running Co.- Altoona; Brandon Gripp, Assistant Manager, Appalachian Running Co.- Altoona; Alex Seltzer, Blair County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Senator Judy Ward; Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador.

## BENefact Chamber Membership can save you money.

Did you know that the Chamber works in partnership with ChamberChoice, a health insurance plan offered through the Chambers of Commerce Services Corporation? Chamber members have access to a diverse suite of valuable products and services that can benefit your business. [Click here](#) to learn more.