

## Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation Set for Friday

The Blair County Chamber's Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation will be held this Friday, January 28th at the Blair County Convention Center. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a buffet breakfast, followed by the installation of the 2022 Chamber Board of Directors and the Board of the Blair County Chamber Foundation. In all, eight awards will be presented. To register for the Annual Meeting, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).



## Congratulations...

... to Kathleen Rimbeck, who has been promoted by the Blair County Historical Society to executive director of the Baker Mansion History Museum.  
... to Lisa Kilraine, who has been promoted to chief financial officer at Cone-maugh Nason Medical Center in Roaring Spring.

**Video** **BYTE**



CLICK to watch!

## Rails To Trails Request Gets Chamber Board Support

A request by Rails To Trails of Central Pennsylvania has received support from the Blair County Chamber. The request, which had been unanimously approved by the Chamber's Transportation Committee, was for the Chamber to assist in the creation of a countywide trails

organization that would have dedicated staff so that the county's trail presence would be similar to those counties that have made similar commitments. The Transportation Committee will oversee the specifics of the Chamber's involvement.

## Is Your Business Ripe for a Ransomware Attack?

Businesses are increasingly being targeted for ransomware attacks, paying millions of dollars-per-year to cyber-criminals to recover stolen data. Last year, about 38% of businesses globally reported that they were hit by a ransomware attack. Will your business be next? The Blair County Chamber has a Data Security Roundtable that meets each month to discuss ways to help businesses be prepared for all data threats. If you'd



like to join the Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

### Scott Brenneman

With gratitude for your service to our community and students through your dedication as a School Director.

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition for the Donna D. Gority Servant Leadership Award.



# Chamber to Offer Presidents' Forum Opportunities

The Presidents' Forum, a professional development program for upper-management members of the Blair County Chamber, will be creating additional Forum Groups this Spring and will also offer opportunities for interested business leaders to become part of existing Groups. The Chamber will hold an informational meeting on February 23rd at 8:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business De-



velopment. Interested persons should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

## Committee Meetings

Membership Committee  
January 24th  
10:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

Career Fair Committee  
January 25th  
2:00 p.m.  
Devorris Center

## Ribbon Cutting



## Slinky Action Zone

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating a major renovation for Slinky Action Zone located at the Meadows Intersection in Duncansville. The renovations include all new arcade games, menu items, duckpin bowling and a two-tiered laser tag arena. Check out the fun at [slinkyactionzone.com](http://slinkyactionzone.com). Joining the celebration are, from left: Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; Amy Mearkle, Blair County Chamber Board of Directors; State Representative Lou Schmitt; State Representative Jim Gregory; Chris Glunt, The Summit Tennis & Athletic Club; Dr. Alan Kivitz, owner; Dr. Gary Raymond, owner; Shawn Campbell, General Manager; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Loreen Bencie, the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; Carol Stern, Chamber Ambassador.



Be a part of the moment. Watch the video [here!](#)

## Showcase Right Around the Corner!

The 51st Annual Blair County Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase isn't until March 25-27 but the enthusiasm for the event has already begun. Sponsorships are available as are exhibitor opportunities. This year the Showcase will be held at the Blair County Convention Center so don't wait to secure your sponsorship or your booth. For more information, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at [shoover@blairchamber.com](mailto:shoover@blairchamber.com). The Showcase is a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.



## Chamber Board Approves Five New Members

The Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors last Thursday approved five new members. Those new members are: B&L Wholesale Supply of Johnstown, The Brickhouse Bistro of Williamsburg, Spring Cove Notary & Services of Roaring Spring, Studio 3 Twenty One, LLC of Altoona and Terra Boutique of Hollidaysburg.

# Ribbon Cutting



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*Congratulations Sue on this well-deserved award.*

## MD Tax Pros, Inc. Jackson Hewitt

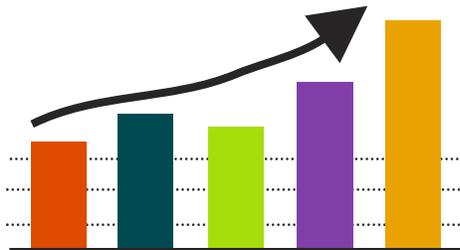
The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for MD Tax Pros, Inc., and independent Jackson Hewitt Tax Service franchise, at its 1523 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona location. Tax experts are on-hand to assist clients with tax preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services. For more information go to [www.jtaxaltoona.com](http://www.jtaxaltoona.com). Joining in the celebration are, from left: Jessie Covert, VP Sales & Membership Development, Blair County Chamber; Adam Replogle, Tax Preparer; David Lattieri, owner; Melinda Fellabaum, owner; Shelly McCaffrey, Tax Preparer; Josie Perkins, Receptionist; and Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce.



**Be a part of the moment. Watch the video [here!](#)**

## Unemployment Compensation Increases Hurting Business Recovery

The harsh reality is that many businesses in our county can't find enough employees and some of those businesses are now faced with significant increases in their Unemployment Compensation cost. Although the state hasn't changed the rating formula, businesses with claims, including fraudulent claims, are seeing the impact of the pandemic in their unemployment comp payments because of their claims experience. To make matters worse, the state has had to borrow money to keep the Unemployment Compensation fund solvent and is expected to raise rates or add surcharges over the next several years.



The impact will further restrict the ability etc. The Chamber is seeking information from its members to determine the level of increases that they are experiencing so that we can reach out to elected officials for some kind of relief. Please send information on how your UC bill has been impacted to Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

**Congratulations**

**BECKY STEVENS**

**Athena Award Winner!**

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