

Chamber Recognizes "All-Stars" for January

The Blair County Chamber's ability to offer quality programming, events, recognition and advocacy efforts depends largely on the willingness of sponsors to step up to help underwrite the costs associated those efforts. So at the end of each month, we publish a list of businesses or individuals who sponsored anything Chamber-related during the month. They have helped us to make a difference in the business community. All-Stars for January are: Altoona-Blair County Airport, Altoona Lung Specialists, American Eagle Paper Mills, BB&T, now Truist, Blair Companies, CNB Bank, Fanelli Willett Law Offices, FirstEnergy, Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Jersey Shore State Bank, Keller Engineers, Inc., Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, M&T Bank, McCartney's WorkPlace Solutions, M D Tax Pros, Inc. dba Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., New Pig, NPC, Inc., Okonak, Dean & Lechner, P.C., PennStress, Penn State Altoona, PSECU, Reliance Bank, Roaring Spring Family of Businesses, Roberts Oxygen Company Inc., S&T Bank, Sheetz, Inc., Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group, Stiffler McGraw, Stuckey Automotive, UPMC Altoona and Young, Oakes, Brown & Company P.C.



U.S. Chamber Director to Speak at February "Breakfast Club"

The Blair County business community faces a number of challenges in 2022, particularly at the federal level, and those challenges will be the topic of the next Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for February 10th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Kevin Courtois, Executive Director of Congressional and Public Affairs at the U.S. Chamber's Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago will be the speaker at the breakfast. Courtois will outline the issues that his organization will be addressing including the midterm elections. The cost to attend the Break-

fast 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. Corporate sponsor of the February Breakfast Club is Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.



Kevin Courtois

Congratulations...

... to Levity Brewing Company, which won three awards at the PA Farm Show. Dioecious took first place in the Kettle Sours; It's Hoplicated took second place in the IPA category; and High End Flannel took third place in Mixed Fermentation. ... to First National Bank, which has been named a 2021 winner in the extra-large category of Best Places to Work in Western Pennsylvania. ... to Stacy Roberts who has joined BrandDemon Strategy + Design as a Brand Manager.



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email Jessie Covert at
jcovert@blairchamber.com

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 Development. Interested persons should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

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.

Share With the Chamber Your Unemployment Compensation Story

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 abil-



ity 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.

Committee Meetings

Chamber Ambassadors
February 1st
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Workplace Wellness Committee
February 1st
10:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

Young Professionals of Blair County
February 2nd
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Leadership Blair County
Adult Committee
February 2nd
3:00 p.m.
Devorris Center

Public Policy Committee
February 3rd
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Early Childhood
Subcommittee
February 3rd
10:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Golf Committee
February 3rd
3:00 p.m.
Chamber Office

WATCH HERE!



BENEFact

The 2022 **Brand Enhancement Guide** is now available! Now is the time to secure your 2022 sponsorships and receive the 10% package discount! Tons of opportunities are available exclusively to Chamber member businesses. Something for every budget! Contact Jessie at jcovert@blairchamber.com to get a copy emailed to your inbox.



Home Garden & Healthy Living 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 (and the nice weather that often accompanies it) has already begun. Sponsorships are available as are exhibitor opportunities. This is the first-ever Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase 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. The Showcase is a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.



MARCH 25, 26, 27

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Chamber Offering "Band of Brothers" Tour

The Blair County Chamber and Ketrow KURTZ Travel will be offering a special "Band of Brothers" Tour from September 2-16, 2022. The Tour follows the path of Easy Company from its training bases in Toccoa, Georgia and England

into combat in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and on to final victory at Berchtesgaden, Germany – Adolf Hitler's Alpine Retreat. For further information, contact Ketrow KURTZ Travel at (814) 695- 1100.

