

## Missed the Candidate Forum? Here's How to Catch-Up

The Blair County Chamber's Public Policy Committee held a very successful Candidate Forum last week involved all six of the candidates for the office of Blair County Commissioner. If you weren't able to attend that event, all is not lost. You can find the taped version of the Forum a number of places. It's available on the [Blair Chamber YouTube Channel](#), on Public Access Channel #14 and on the WRTA Facebook Page. With such an important Primary Election on the horizon, there's no good reason not to learn about the candidates. Lots of opportunities to do that between now and May 16th!



## Prijatelj to Keynote Thursday's Breakfast Club



Dr. Charles  
Prijatelj

The next Chamber "Breakfast Club" will focus attention on the important relationship between the business and education communities in Blair County. The event is set for this Thursday, May 11th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino. Keynote speaker will be Dr.

Charles Prijatelj, Superintendent of [Altoona Area School District](#), who is retiring from his position at the end of the current school year. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. 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 [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College](#).

## Congratulations...

... to [Spherion Staffing and Recruiting of Altoona](#) which was recently presented the President's, Franchise Owner and On-Premise of the Year awards during the Spherion 2023 National Meeting. The awards were given to the local company for upholding Spherion's values and for outstanding performance.

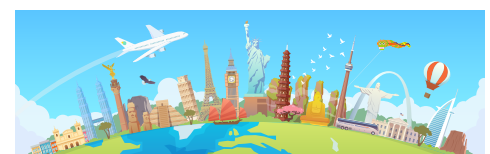
... to [Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Altoona](#) which has been honored for the 7th consecutive year as "Best Of" hotel. The Best Of Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding hotels that truly represent the spirit of hospitality.

## "Teeing It Up" Starts at 5:00 Tonight

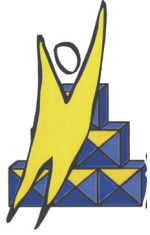
Back by popular demand is an event that was a huge success last fall for the Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee. "Teeing It Up" will be held tonight from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Blair County Golf & Driving Range](#) in Hollidaysburg. John Madey and his staff will provide instruction to women interested in becoming better golfers. The event includes a delicious meal featuring summertime favorites. Bring your own clubs or clubs will be provided by the range. The cost to attend is \$30 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. To register as a last minute golfer, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 by noon today. Corporate sponsor of Teeing It Up is [Blair Companies](#). WE-LEaD is an acronym for Women Encouraging – Leadership, Education and Development.

## Informational Meeting on Peru Set for Wednesday

The Chamber and [Epic Journeys](#) will be offering a trip to Peru from April 27 – May 6, 2024. The trip includes Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca. An informational meeting will be held this Wednesday, May 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. No cost or obligation to attend. Register by calling (814) 943-8151.



# Leadership Blair County Youth Class to Graduate Wednesday



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Youth (LBCY) program will graduate 17 students representing Blair County school districts. The ceremony will be held this Wednesday,

May 10th at the Port Sky Café at Penn State Altoona. LBCY is a Blair County Chamber of Commerce program open to high school sophomores that focuses on servant leadership. The youth program is formatted similarly to the Chamber's adult leadership program. LBCY has been used as a model for leadership youth programs throughout Pennsylvania and the tri-state region. The LBCY curriculum includes monthly sessions on community focused topics and a class project. Members of the 2023 graduating class are:

**MITCHELL BARONNER**

Hollidaysburg Area High School

**BENJAMIN BERNHARTHORTON**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School;

**EMMA BETTWY**

Altoona Area High School

**SARAH DISNEY**

Central High School

**NICK FOOR**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School

**GRACIE GIOIOSA**

Altoona Area High School

**JOHANNA HECKMAN**

Bellwood-Antis High School

**COURTNEY IRWIN**

Altoona Area High School

**LILY PEARL KOELLE**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School

**CONNOR McELHENY**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School

**CLAIRE MURICEAK**

Hollidaysburg Area High School

**ALICE MUSSELMAN**

Central High School

**SAM PARKS**

Williamsburg Community High School

**ANASTASIA RANALLI**

Williamsburg Community High School

**LAURA REED**

Altoona Area High School

**HOLDEN SCHREIER**

Bellwood-Antis High School

**BRODIE SOLER**

Claysburg-Kimmel High School.

For more information on Leadership

Blair County Youth, contact Brittany

Mayer at the Chamber at 814-943-8151

or [bmayer@blairchamber.com](mailto:bmayer@blairchamber.com).



*Congratulations*  
**Leadership Blair County Youth Class of 2023**

# Next Chamber Trip Combines Scotland, Ireland

If you're not into Peru, how about Scotland and Ireland? The Chamber and [Ketrow KURTZ Travel](#) will offer a "Taste of Scotland & Ireland" from August 7-16, 2024. The trip includes reserved seats for the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Among the locations on the trip are: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Killybegs and Bunnah. An informational meeting will be held on May 31st at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. No cost or obligation to attend. Register at (814) 943-8151.



**NEW episode!**

**Getting REEL**



a recap of your Chamber at work

**STREAMING MONTHLY TO YOUR EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA FEED**

**WATCH HERE!**

## Committee Meetings

**Young Entrepreneurs Academy**

**(YEA!) Committee**

May 8th, 10:30 a.m.

Devorris Center

**BASICS Steering Committee**

May 8th, 2:00 p.m.

Devorris Center



# Non-Profit Committee to Host Annual Legislative Breakfast

The Chamber's [Committee of Non-Profit Businesses](#) will hold its Annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, May 19th from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., a buffet breakfast follows at 8:00 and a Q&A session featuring [State Senator Judy Ward](#) and State Representatives [Jim Gregory](#) and [Lou Schmitt](#) goes from 8:30 to 9:30. The cost to attend is \$25



COMMITTEE OF  
Non-Profit  
Businesses

Living, Giving, Serving Together

for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. Corporate sponsor is [Central PA Community Foundation](#). To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

Only **6** Spots Remain

## for the UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic

The 2023 [UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic](#) will be held on Thursday, May 18th at Iron Masters Country Club. [Registrations](#) for golfers and sponsors are still being accepted although only 6 of the 144 spots remain. Call [Stacy Hoover](#) at the Chamber at (814) 943-

8151 to register a foursome (only one left!) or just as an individual (two of them left!). If you'd like to be a tee/green sponsor for the Classic, call [Jessie Covert](#) at that same number. All other sponsorships have been secured.

## Leadership Blair County to Hold "Casino Night"

Every year the Chamber's [Leadership Blair County](#) class creates a project to benefit a local non-profit. This year, the 2023 class have created a casino-themed 200 club to benefit the [Booker T. Washington](#) project. [Casino Night](#)

[200 Club](#) takes place on June 10th at the [Bavarian Aid Society](#) and tickets can be purchased at the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. Help support a great cause and the [LBC Class of 2023!](#)

**SPECIAL EDITION**

Reserve your Hall of Fame congratulatory ad space!

**NETWORKS**  
DIGITAL NEWS

Ads will run in the June 12 special edition newsletter

Contact Jessie Covert at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com)

Healthy Workplace Committee



**FITFACTS**

There are SPIES  
in Your Business!!

Keeping the employees of our Chamber businesses healthy is an ongoing battle. The team members and the opponents have a number of things in common as the battle for good health moves forward. Beginning next Monday you'll learn the first step of how the "SPIES" in your business influence how you can start and maintain a healthy workplace. Stay tuned!



**EXCEL  
BOOTCAMP**

## Chamber to Partner With Saint Francis on Excel Bootcamp

The Blair County Chamber and [Saint Francis University](#) are partnering on a bootcamp event entitled, "Excel Bootcamp: Master the Essentials & Advanced Features of Excel." The three-day event will be held on May 22-24 at the [Curry Innovation Center](#) in Downtown Altoona. The instructor will be Dr. John Miko. The cost to attend for all three days is \$495. Chamber members, however, get a 20% discount. For more information or to register, contact Lianna Weir at (814) 472-3087.

Subscribe to our channel!

