

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Public Policy Committee to Host 80th District Q&A

The Public Policy Committee of the Blair County Chamber will spend its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 4th learning more about the business priorities of the two Republican candidates for State Representative in the 80th District. Incumbent Jim Gregory and challenger Scott Barger will answer questions from the committee. That Q&A will be videoed and then made available to the public on Altoona Public Access and at least two YouTube sites. "As the most high-profile race of this primary season, our committee felt that it was important to see how each of these candidates prioritize business issues," explained Lisa Hann of Family Services, Inc., who chairs the committee. Initially, the committee discussed hosting a debate between the candidates but felt that a format which brought them in separately would provide flexibility and less possible conflict. "Both candidates will answer the same questions," Hann pointed out. "We've allocated twenty minutes for each candidate and we'll designate a timer to increase the chance that the full slate of questions will be answered." Only members of the Public Policy Committee will be permitted to attend the meeting. Gregory's time slot will be 8:10 to 8:30 a.m.; Barger's 8:40 to 9:00. Times to view the video will appear on the Chamber's social media platforms.



Gregory



Barger

Chamber, Toastmasters Partnering on Workshop

Back by popular demand is a four-part workshop helping business people to raise their speaking skills as they look to become more successful. The Speechcraft program, done through a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and [Toastmasters International](#), will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Tuesday from April 9th through April 30th at the Devorris Center for Business Development. This program was also offered last fall. The cost to participate is \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for non-members.



This includes all four sessions. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at www.blairchamber.com. Class size is very limited. Register today!



All-Stars for March Announced

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 March are: [Arrows Christian Academy](#), [Breezeline](#), [Burchfield & Sons Landscaping](#), [Champion Roofing](#), [HoopsFest](#), [Impressia Bank](#), [Independent Catholic Foundation](#), [Keystone Environmental Health & Safety Services](#), [LeafFilter Gutter Protection](#), [Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania](#), [McCartney's Workplace Solutions](#), [MD Tax Pros dba Jackson Hewitt Tax Service](#), [Shawnee Structures](#), [Smithmyer Plumbing & Heating](#), [Tender Love for Children](#) and [Window World of Altoona](#).



Committee Meetings

Young Professionals Committee

April 2nd, 8:15 a.m.
Devorris Center

Non-Profit Committee

April 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Public Policy Committee

April 4th, 8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Informational Meeting Scheduled for Chamber's Costa Rica Trip

The Blair County Chamber is going back to Costa! The Chamber had a very successful trip there eleven years ago in partnership with [Epic Journeys](#) and [Collette Vacations](#). "It's a very popular trip and somewhat inexpensive," explained Cynthia Watters of Epic Journeys. "We've had a number of people requesting that we return there." That return trip will be from February 20-28, 2025. Among the highlights are: San Jose, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Refuge, Lake Arenal Cruise and Monteverde Cloud Forest. An informational meeting on the Costa Rica Trip will be held on April



10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. If you intend to come to that meeting, please call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 so that we can accommodate you!

Curve's Robby Hammock to Headline Breakfast Club

The new manager of the [Altoona Curve](#) will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for April 11th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Robby Hammock, who spent last season as the manager of the Greensboro Grasshoppers, the High-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, will provide an overview of the upcoming Curve season and answer questions from attendees. Hammock was also a longtime player in the Major Leagues and has the special distinction of catching Randy Johnson's Perfect Game in 2004 while a member of the Arizona Diamondbacks. He was drafted three times; in 1995 by the Florida Marlins, in 1997 by the Tampa Bay Rays and by the Diamondbacks in 1998. 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 online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the April Breakfast Club is [Pinnacle Professional Services](#).

Career Fair Committee Still Looking for Speakers

The Annual [BASICS/Rotary](#) Career Fair will be held on April 24th at the Blair County Convention Center. The committee putting that event together is still looking for speakers for the morning (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.) or afternoon (Noon-2:00 p.m.) or, ideally, both. The career categories that are needed are listed below. More than 1,200 high school sophomores are expected to attend the Fair.

Presenters needed!

Architect/Drafter
Caregiver/Elder Care/
Nurse Aide or Assistant
Chiropractor
Engineer - Electrical
Journalist/Writer
Lawyer/Paralegal (*Morning Only*)
Lineman, Electrical/Utility
Musician/Composer/Lyricist
Occupational Therapist/Assistant
Pharmacist/Pharmacy Tech
Physician Assistant
Pilot
Police/Detective/Criminal Justice
Politics/Government
Teacher, Elementary
Truck Driver/CDL

To register, click on this [link](#).

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY

Congratulations...

. . . to William Zhu, John Bauman and Cristian White who received accolades at the recent [Young Entrepreneurs Academy \(YEA!\)](#) Investor Panel Event. Zhu's business – TitraTech was named the Most Outstanding Business; Bauman and White's business – Calibrate was named runner-up.



Who doesn't like freebies?

- attend 3 get one free -
get your loyalty card
at the next HD500

Saluting Our Renewals!

We would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of February.

Celebrating 70 Years

PennCrest BANK

Celebrating 50-59 Years

Kiwanis Club of Altoona, Inc.

Saint Francis University

Celebrating 40-49 Years

Doing Better Business, Inc.

Fiore True Value Hardware & Rental

Galliker Dairy Company

Klesius & Sheedy, Inc.

McLanahan Corporation

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Altoona Area Public Library

American Roofing, Inc.

Blair County Arts Foundation

Boyer Refrigeration, Heating & Air Conditioning

Courtesy Ford, Inc.

Degol Organization

J & O

Logan Valley Mall

Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Altoona Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center

Begin With Us Child Care & Preschool, Inc.

Family Services Incorporated

Hampton Inn Altoona

Holiday Bowl, Inc.

Holland Bros., Inc.

Penn England Farms

Sickler Tarpey & Associates

Small Tube Products

Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art

Wagner & Finn Attorneys at Law

Yeager & Eberhardt

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Barash Media

Blair County Tax Collection Bureau

Blair HealthChoices

Bright Ideas Childcare and Preschool, Inc.

Bryce Saylor & Sons/Altoona Crane

& Rigging, Inc.

Days Inn & Suites, Altoona

Edward Jones Investments - Jeff Smithbower

Edward Jones Investments, J.T. Tidd

John K. Bolger Funeral Home, Inc.

KMS Interior Design, LLC

Lake Raystown Resort

Levine Engineering, LLC

PA CareerLink® Blair County

Prime Sirloin (Vision Restaurant Group, Inc.)

Quaint Corner Children's Museum

& Discovery Center

Roaring Spring True Value

The Ultimate Sub Company, LLC

UPMC Altoona

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Altoona Area Business Community

Beck, Smithbower, Ickes Financial, LLC

Blair County Farm Bureau

East Freedom Surgical Associates, LLC

Edward Jones Investments -

Katlin Webb

Every Life Matters (ELM)

Pregnancy Support Services

Fulton Financial Advisors

Housing & Redevelopment

Insurance Exchange

InspectionGo, Inc.

LAMB Solutions Advertising Agency

Servello Orthodontics

State Representative Jim Gregory

Tussey Landscaping, LLC

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Berry Solutions Group

Burns Excavating, Inc.

C. David Kimmel

Central PA Blinds N Designs, LLC

Full Motion Technologies

Just Play - Slinky

Legacy Auto Worx, LLC

Park Security & Installations, Inc

Solensky Insurance Agency, Inc.

Sorge Funeral Home & Crematory

Spring Cove Container

Vicki's Florist



Job Fair Set For April 17th at Jaffa Shrine

More than 100 businesses will be on hand to greet prospective employees as [Pennsylvania CareerLink](#) hosts a Job Fair on April 17th at the [Jaffa Shrine](#) in Altoona. The Fair will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a special half-hour devoted just to job-seeking veterans. All other job-seekers can attend from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend and some employers will be offering workshops or on-the-spot interviews. The Blair County Chamber and [Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation](#) are among the sponsors of the Job Fair. For more information, call (814) 940-6201.



Reserved Your Spot for the UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic Yet?

Registration is continuing for one of the region's most popular networking events. The [UPMC Health Plan](#) and [UPMC Altoona/Chamber Golf Classic](#) will be held on Thursday, May 16th at Iron Masters Country Club. As always, the Classic will feature great food and beverages, great prizes and, on occasion, great golf. Golfers can register as teams or as individuals. The event has sold out for the past several years so register early. Contact Jennifer Fleck at (814) 943-8151 or email at jfleck@blair-chamber.com.

Anywhere! Anytime!

Register for events at your convenience.

blairchamber.com





COLDWELL BANKER
TOWN & COUNTRY
REAL ESTATE

814-946-4343
 scott-white2011@live.com
 www.centralpennhomes.com

300 Union Avenue
 Altoona PA 16602

Each office is independently owned and operated



Scott White
 Realtor®

814-932-4748 | RS321938
 scott-white2011@live.com