

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS



November 27, 2023

Executive Roundtable to Address Educational Challenges

Blair County Schools continue to have challenges that make it difficult to meet some of the expectations of the business community, many related to workforce. To discuss strategies related to those challenges, the Chamber Executive Roundtable will meet on November 29th at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center. A panel of educators will lead the discussion. The panel consists of Betsy Baker, Superintendent of [Spring Cove School District](#); Leslie Estep, Superintendent of [Tyrone Area School District](#); and Brad Hatch, Superintendent of [Altoona Area School District](#). For information on the Executive Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151.



Young Professionals to hold FREE Holiday Trivia Night

The Young Professionals of Blair County will be hosting a night of holiday cheer and trivia at [Greenbean Coffee House](#) on December 5th. There is no cost to attend this event, and guests will have to buy their own beverages. There will be two rounds of trivia – holiday music trivia and holiday movie trivia. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with trivia starting at 6:00 p.m. The entire event will end at 7:30 p.m. and the winning team will get a prize. While there is no cost to attend,



let us know you are coming! The corporate sponsor for this event is [Servello Family Studios](#). Visit [blair-chamber.com](#) to register.

Congratulations...

... to [Allegheny Orthotics and Prosthetics](#) of Altoona which was one of 27 orthotics and prosthetic providers across the nation that were recently honored with the 2023 Freedom Award. That annual award, sponsored by Orthotic and Prosthetic Group of America, recognizes providers who deliver exceptional standards of care for military personnel needing orthotic and prosthetic devices.



Best Practices Forum to Focus on College Partnerships

Partnerships are important in helping non-profit businesses to work more closely with local colleges and for local college students to have access to opportunities provided by non-profit businesses. The next Best Practices Forum, hosted by the Chamber's Committee of Non-profit Businesses, will focus on the specifics of making great relationships take place where they can do the most good. Entitled, "Colleges and Non-Profits: Partners in Progress," the panel discussion format will feature Lauren Priscilla Jacobson of [Penn State Altoona](#), Sara Worley of [Juniata College](#) and Andrew Stopko of [Saint Francis University](#). The event will be held on December 1st at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The cost to attend Best Practices is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Space is limited. Register at [www.blair-chamber.com](#) or call (814) 943-8151.

Committee Meeting

Farm-City Committee
November 29th
11:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Ribbon Cutting



1st Summit Bank



The Blair County Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the 18th location of 1st Summit Bank, at 5812 6th Ave., in the Eldorado section of Altoona. Celebrating its 100th year in business, 1st Summit Bank offers an extensive line of consumer and business banking solutions. For more information go to www.1stsummit.bank. Joining in the celebration are, from left: Carter Cerully, Chamber Ambassador; Matt Finklestine, Advisory Board Member; Jesse Ickes, Altoona City Council; Christa Hines, Vice-President & Relationship Center Coach; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Richard Fiore, Jr., Blair County Chamber Board of Directors; Don Yeager, Senior Vice President, Senior Business Relationship Manager; Eric Renner, President/CEO, 1st Summit Bank; Mozzelle Bowers, Branch Manager; Maggie Hartman, CSR; Becky Carter, Customer Service Supervisor; State Representative Lou Schmidt; Tony Pacifico, Advisory Board Member; and Jessica Sheets, Chamber Ambassador.

Come with us! We're Bouncing Around Blair!



Our member businesses are so important to us, and we want to visit them. How are we doing that with over 1,000 members? Well, we're Bouncing Around Blair! While we are out and about, we are visiting some of our members and filming a one-minute commercial for them. There are so many social media platforms to find the "Bouncing Around Blair" episodes. Visit YouTube and watch our [shorts](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)! Keep up to date with our

members and the Chamber with this fun video series. Are you interested in being a part of "Bouncing Around Blair"? Email Megan Rossman at mrossman@blairchamber.com to schedule a time for Megan and Brittany Mayer to come visit your business and shoot a dynamic video that will get hundreds of views. We're making sure our members are the stars and we want to promote you! Don't forget to follow us on all our social media channels so you never miss an upload.



New Technology Committee Seeking Members

What started as a Data Security Roundtable has morphed into a full-scale Technology Committee that will deal with all aspects of technology as they relate to business. Interested in joining? All Chamber members are eligible. Simply call Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.



2024 Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase Accepting Exhibitors

The planning process has officially begun for the 2024 Blair County Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase which will be held March 1-3 at [Blair County Convention Center](#). Exhibitor packets will be sent to businesses that participated in the Showcase in 2023. Any business that didn't participate in 2023 but would like to exhibit in 2024 should call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151. The Showcase is done as a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and [Blair-Bedford Builders Association](#). This will be the 52nd year of the event.