

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Judge Kagarise to Answer Questions at Chamber "Breakfast Club"

The Court System in Blair County plays an integral role in the health and safety of the community. It also helps businesses operate more effectively by assuring that lawbreakers are punished for any of a number of crimes that impact the local economy. Recent surveys indicate that how the courts operate is still a mystery to a lot of citizens, particularly in the business community. To unravel some of that mystery, the next Chamber Breakfast Club on February 8th will feature a Q&A with Blair County President Judge Wade Kagarise. Judge Kagarise will answer questions submitted by the Chamber's Public Policy Committee as well as from the audience (time permitting). Blair County's other three judges – Jackie Bernard, Dave Consiglio and Fred Miller are also expected to attend the event so that attendees will have an opportunity to meet them. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. The event begins at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at www.blairchamber.com.



**President Judge
Wade Kagarise**

Reserved Your Booth for the Home Show Yet?

With a little less than a month to go until the 52nd Blair County Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase, details of the event are coming together "fast and furiously," according to the members of the Show Committee. "Three businesses have stepped-up as sponsors," reported Jennifer Fleck of the Chamber. "We're still looking for a couple more. The promotional value of sponsorship is always high for this event." Already signed-on as sponsors are [Breezeline](#), [Champion Roofing](#) and [Smithmyer Plumbing & Heating](#). Exhibitor recruitment is also going well. "There are a number of exhibitors who have been



part of previous shows but some new people as well," Fleck pointed out. "The businesses that have been here before understand that this is more than just a Home Show. It's a full-family event. That's a major reason why it has been popular for so many years." Anyone interested in reserving a booth or purchasing a sponsorship should call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or email jfleck@blairchamber.com.



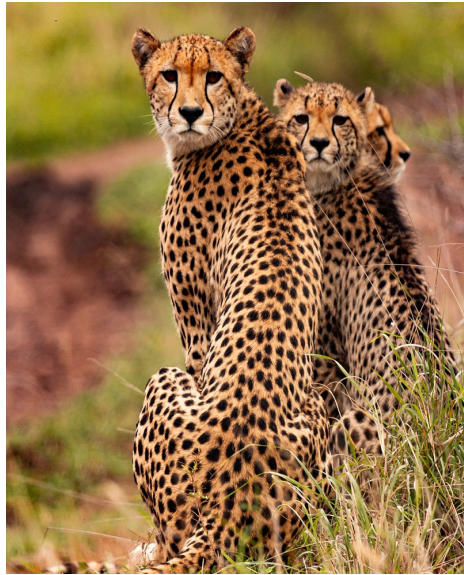
All-Stars for January Announced

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 January are:

1st Summit Bank, Altoona-Blair County Airport, Altoona Curve, Altoona First Savings Bank, Altoona Grand Hotel, American Eagle Paper Mills, Benzel's Bretzel Bakery Inc., Blair Companies, CNB Bank, Curry Supply Holdings, DelGrosso Family of Companies, Everett Railroad Company, Explore Altoona, First National Bank, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Imler's Poultry, Keller Engineers, Inc., Kish Bank, KIZ Resources LLC, Kunzler & Company, Inc., Lawruk Real Estate, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, M&T Bank, McCartney's Workplace Solutions, Mountain Research, LLC, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., New Pig, NPC, Inc., Okonak Lechner & Co, Penelec - A FirstEnergy Company, PennStress, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, PNC, PS Solutions, Reliance Bank, Roaring Spring Family of Businesses, Roberts Oxygen Company Inc., S&T Bank, Sheetz, Inc., Stiffler McGraw, Stuckey Automotive, The Warren A Gingrich Agency, UDNI, UPMC Altoona, Ward Transport & Logistics, Western Edge Seafood, Yeager & Eberhardt Law Office, Young, Oakes, Brown & Company P.C.

Informational Meeting on African Safari Trip is Thursday

One of the Blair County Chamber's most popular trips will allow additional travelers as the result of securing additional dates. The African Safari Trip, which quickly sold out its October 5-19, 2024 dates late last year will now also have an identical trip from October 1-15. The Chamber will hold an informational meeting on the African Safari, which also includes Amboseli National Park, Nairobi and Lake Eyasi, this Thursday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is no cost or obligation to attend but it's requested that you call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 to let us know you're coming.



Chamber Signs-on to Support Small Businesses

The Blair County Chamber has signed-on to a letter that encourages legislative action to strengthen the meaningful input of small businesses in federal regulatory processes and ensures that the intent of the Regulatory Flexibility Act is fulfilled. That act was signed into law in 1980 to confront the dangers of imposing burdensome red tape on American small businesses. The letter, sent to the leadership of the [U.S. House of Representatives](#) by the [U.S. Chamber of](#)

**WE SUPPORT
SMALL BUSINESS**

[Commerce](#), was signed by several hundred local chambers of commerce. "We remain committed to take any action at any level of government to support the efforts of small businesses," explained Chamber President/CEO Joe Hurd. "We're extremely happy for opportunities like this one."

Come with us! We're Bouncing Around Blair!

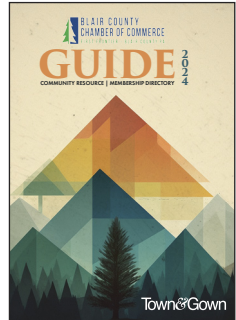
Our member businesses are so important to us, and we want to visit them. How are we doing that with over 1,000 members? Well, we're Bouncing Around Blair! While we are out and about, we are visiting some of our members and filming a one-minute commercial for them. There are many social media platforms to find the "Bouncing Around Blair" episodes.



Visit YouTube and watch our [shorts](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)! Are you interested in being a part of "Bouncing Around Blair"? Email Megan Rossman at mrossman@blair-chamber.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.

Great Marketing Opportunities for Chamber Members

The Blair County Chamber is teaming up with Town&Gown again to produce the #1 marketing and recruitment tool for Blair County, as well as the region's top business-to-business resource! The 2024 Community Resource Guide/ Membership Directory. Interested in advertising? Contact Jera Harter at Jharter@barashmedia.com or 814-880-9601. Click this [link](#) to find out more!



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic

Registration is officially open for one of the region's most popular networking events. The [UPMC/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.

MAY 16
Iron Masters Country Club



Thank you!

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 January.

Celebrating 100-109 Years

Goldstein, Heslop, Steele,
Clapper, Oswalt & Smith

Celebrating 50-59 Years

WTAJ-TV
Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate
Mount Aloysius College

Celebrating 40-49 Years

Morefield Communications, Inc.

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Encompass Health Rehabilitation
Hospital of Altoona
Fox 8 /ABC 23 - Peak Media
New Look Uniform & Embroidery, Inc.
Greenwood Pools & Spas
Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc.
G. B. Wineland & Son, Inc.

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Durbin Companies
Altoona Community Theatre
Quality Corrections & Inspections

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Kretina Builders, Inc.
Britz & Associates
Allstate - The Gibson Agency
American Eagle Paper Mills
PHN - Altoona Community Health Center

Creative Kids Education Center, LLC
Gallagher Insurance Agency
CCS Custom Building & Remodeling Inc.
Forsheys Ag and Industrial
1st Summit Bank
DelGrosso's Amusement Park
Mamie's Cafe and Bakery
Donna D. Gority
RT Contracting, Inc.
US Renal Care of Altoona
Mighells Brothers Excavating, Inc
Coldwell Banker Town & Country
Real Estate/Sandra A. Kurtz
Central PA Physicians Group

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Quality Inn
Nason Foundation
Fiore Brothers Management, LLC
Roof Works USA, Inc.
Hampton Medical Direct Primary Care
Escape Altoona Co.
Jersey Mike's Subs
State Representative Louis C. Schmitt, Jr.
Sweat For Vets, Inc.

Celebrating 1-4 Years

The Bark Side Pet Spa
Center City Church
Howard Hanna Bardell Realty
Executive Barberz 2 Hair Salon
Cook's Kitchen
Central PA Truck And Equipment Sales
Sullivan Law Offices LLC



Congratulations...

... to [Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center](#) whose practical nursing program achieved a 94.87 pass rate of graduates who completed the National Licensure Exam during the past eighteen months. The pass rate is well above the required pass rate for practical nursing programs in Pennsylvania.
... to [Sheetz For the Kidz](#), an employee-driven charity supporting underprivileged children, which raised \$1.7 million during 2023, including \$807,328 in December alone.

... to the [Kish For the Cure Campaign](#), supporting local cancer-related non-profits, which raised \$74,800 in 2023.



Committee Meetings

Young Professionals Committee

February 6th
8:15 a.m.
Devorris Center

Healthy Workplace Committee

February 6th
3:00 p.m.
Devorris Center

Committee of Non-Profit Businesses

February 7th
11:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

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5,000 inboxes!**

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