

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Chamber Announces First-Ever

Awards Gala



The Chamber is rolling out the Red Carpet at a new event this June. The Awards Gala will be held at the Blair County Convention Center on Thursday, June 20th. The event will include a Red Carpet Reception, recognize the award recipients and end the evening with a live band and dancing. "We value the opportunity to recognize people and businesses who are making an impact in the community," explained Jennifer Fleck of the Chamber. "The nomination process is now open and we've streamlined the process. You can find the award criteria and the nomination form on the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com." The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 26th. Among the awards to be presented are:

- ATHENA
- Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Non-Profit Spotlight
- Judith A. Rossi Educator of the Year
- Donna D. Gority Servant Leadership
- Joseph P. Rosenhamer Chamber Spirit
- George Award

Altoona Curve Manager to Address Thursday's Breakfast Club

The new manager of the [Altoona Curve](#) will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for this Thursday, 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 Diamond-

backs. 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](#).



Informational Meeting is Wednesday for Chamber's Costa Rica Trip

The Blair County Chamber is going back to Costa Rica! 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 this Wednesday, 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!



Compare the Candidates:

Watch the 80th District Q&A Program

The Public Policy Committee of the Blair County Chamber spent its regularly scheduled meeting on April 4th learning more about the business priorities of the two Republican candidates for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Now our members can learn it too. The Q&A session with incumbent Jim Gregory and challenger Scott Barger will run on Altoona Public Access (Breezeline Channel 14) as well as the [Chamber's](#) and [City of Altoona's](#) YouTube Channels. Here's when to find that session on Breezeline Channel 14:



Gregory



Barger

Tune-in
Channel 14

Friday, 5 April @ 8:00pm
Sunday, 7 April @ 8:30pm
Tuesday, 9 April @ 6:00pm
Thursday, 11 April @ 7:00pm
Saturday, 13 April @ 5:30pm

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!

Congratulations...

... to [PSECU](#), Pennsylvania's largest credit union and a longtime member of the Chamber, which was recently named to America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions for 2024. This is the second time that PSECU has received this honor.

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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
- Chiropractor
- Engineer – Electrical
- Journalist/Writer (only PM needed)
- Lawyer/Paralegal (only AM needed)
- Lineman, Electrical/Utility
- Musician/Composer/Lyricist
- Occupational Therapist/Assistant
- Pharmacist/Pharmacy Tech
- Physician Assistant
- Pilot
- Police/Detective/Criminal Justice
- Politics/Government
- Truck Driver/CDL

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





Chamber Partnering on **Homeland Security** **SYMPOSIUM**

The Blair County Chamber will once again partner with South Central Mountains Regional Task Force on a Homeland Security Symposium that focuses attention on Safety, Security and Health. The event will be held April 30th and May 1st at Blair County Convention Center. There is no cost for Chamber members to attend. To register or learn more, click [here](#).



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@blairchamber.com.

We're Bouncing Around Blair!

We are visiting some of our members and filming a one-minute commercial for them. Find the "[Bouncing Around Blair](#)" episodes when you visit YouTube and watch our [shorts](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)! Interested in a "Bouncing Around Blair" for your business? Email Megan Rossman at mrossman@blairchamber.com.



Committee Meetings

Young Entrepreneurs Academy Committee
April 8th, 10:30 a.m., Devorris Center

BASICS Steering Committee
April 8th, 2:00 p.m., Devorris Center

Experiences and Lodging Roundtable
April 10th, 8:15 a.m., Fairfield and TownePlace Suites

Anywhere! Anytime!

Register for events at your convenience.
blairchamber.com



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.



Call for nominations!

Altoona Mirror

Making It Happen For You

Deadline has
been extended
through April 12

20
under
40

[Click here to nominate](#)