

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

## One Day Remaining to Compare the 80th District Candidates

Tomorrow is Election Day in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The most heavily contested race in Blair County would appear to be the one in which incumbent Jim Gregory and challenger Scott Barger square-off to determine the State Representative in the 80th District of PA. Don't know much about the candidates? Simply visit the Blair County Chamber's YouTube channel to watch a Q&A session hosted by the Chamber's Public Policy Committee. And don't forget to vote!



## Sixteen to Graduate From Young Entrepreneurs Academy

Sixteen local students representing fourteen self-made businesses are set to graduate from the Blair County Chamber of Commerce **Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!)**. Throughout the 25-week program students received the necessary tools to launch their very own IRS-registered business. Sessions included mentoring from industry experts, field trips and an investor panel event in which students pitched their business plans to local investors for financial backing. The graduation ceremony will be held April 23 at noon at U.S. Hotel Tavern Liberty Hall in Hollidaysburg. Members of the 2024 Class are:

John Bauman, CEO of Calibrate, (Hollidaysburg High School); Kenly Bennett, CEO of BunkUp, (Spring Cove Middle School); Ty Burket, CEO of Burket Web Design, (Hollidaysburg High School); Elliot Egan, CEO of 3S Apparel, (Altoona Cyber Academy); Cadence Elick, CEO of C.E. Alterations, (Altoona Area High School); Joey Hofer, CEO of Second Swing 814, (Bishop Guilfoyle



Academy); Adrian Leroux, CEO of Recycled Riches, (Altoona Area High School); Rhea Liss, CEO of im4the-girls, (Altoona Area High School); Miley Naugle, CEO of Remember The Moment Photography, (Altoona Area High School); Leah Petrunak, CEO of Bee Kind Body Care, (Hollidaysburg High School); Torin Robertson, CEO of Second Swing 814, (Bishop Guilfoyle Academy); Daniel Theys, CEO of Encompass Marketing Solutions, (Hollidaysburg High School); Jackson Whitaker, CEO of Whitaker Refit, (Altoona Area High School); Cristian White, CEO of Calibrate, (Hollidaysburg High School); Skyler Wolfe, CEO of Blast-zone Sports, (Altoona Area High School); William Zhu, CEO of TitraTech, (Hollidaysburg High School). For more information on Young Entrepreneurs Academy, contact the Chamber at 814-943-8151.



## Solarshield to Host Wednesday's HD500

The next Chamber HD500 will be held this Wednesday, April 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at **Solarshield Metal Roofing**, 1701 Third Avenue in Altoona. The cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).



**Blair County's future needs a strong foundation.**

Support the Chamber Foundation and its youth programs.



**Please give.**  
[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)

**We want to hear from you!**  
814-943-8151  
[chamber@blairchamber.com](mailto:chamber@blairchamber.com)

## Kish Bank Gives Back



Kish Bank generously donated \$4,000 to the Blair County Chamber Foundation. The Foundation uses funds from donations like this to assist with the Leadership Blair County Youth, Young Entrepreneurs Academy, and BASICS programs. These programs are focused on helping students succeed as leaders and business owners in Blair County. Pictured, from left: Kathryn Stanbrough, Personal Banker II; Emily Sollenberger, Branch Manager; Megan Rossman, Membership Engagement Manager, Blair County Chamber; and Suzy Greenwood, Personal Banker I.

## Not Too Late to Learn More About the 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. If you're interested and



couldn't make the recent informational meeting, simply call Epic Journeys at (814) 266-5070 or pick up a brochure at the Chamber Office.

# BASICS

## BASICS/Rotary Career Fair to Be Held at the Convention Center

Nearly 1,200 high school sophomores from twelve area schools will converge on the Blair County Convention Center this Wednesday as the Chamber's BASICS Committee and the six Blair County Rotary Clubs host the 2023 BASICS/Rotary Career Fair. Sponsors of the event are: [Altoona First Savings Bank](#), [ARC Federal Credit Union](#), [DelGrosso Family of Companies](#), [Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center](#), [Mount Aloysius College](#), [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College](#), [Reliance Bank](#), [South Hills School of Business & Technology](#), [Altoona Sunrise Rotary Club](#), [Claysburg Rotary Club](#), [Hollidaysburg Rotary Club](#), [Morrisons Cove Rotary Club](#), [Rotary Club of Altoona](#) and [Tyronne Rotary Club](#).



## Congratulations...

... to [Spherion Staffing and Recruiting](#) of Altoona which was recently presented with the President's Award during the company's annual meeting. Franchise owners Jay and Don Ruggery were awarded the honor to recognize their "back-to-basics" business strategy to increase sales, marketing and recruiting team efforts.

*Submit Your Nominations*

## Friday is the Deadline For Awards Gala Nominations



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](http://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

## UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic Filling-Up Quickly

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 now! Contact Jennifer Fleck at (814) 943-8151 or email at [jfleck@blairchamber.com](mailto:jfleck@blairchamber.com).



## 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](#).



## Committee Meetings

**Presidents' Forum  
Steering Committee**  
April 22nd  
Noon  
Al's Tavern

**Transportation Committee**  
April 25th  
8:15 a.m.  
Devorris Center

[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)

**Let's Celebrate!**  
Commemorate your milestones with a ribbon cutting  
- available at no cost to Chamber members -  
email Linda at [Lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:Lstotler@blairchamber.com)

