

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

### **AWARDS GALA 2025**

#### **Calling all Cool Cats**

Pull out your zoot suits and gowns when you sashay the red carpet at the Chamber's Awards Gala on June 26 at the Blair County Convention Center. Join the fun as we celebrate individuals and businesses that continue to make Blair County great. Not only will you be treated to a champagne toast and delectable banquet stations you will also get to experience the presentation of a full slate of prestigious awards. To top off an exciting and fun evening get your dance shoes ready as you move to tunes from Big Band Sound. This popular 17-piece band has delighted people throughout Central Pennsylvania for over 50 years. The band was started in 1973 by one of Mount Union's most influential music teachers, the late J. Richard Burkholder. The band still counts a number of music educators among its members. The Big Band Sound's playlist is infused with jazz, swing, blues and dance favorites featuring the solid sound of the big band era. No jive, this is going to be a real clambake! What are you waiting for? Make your reservations [here](#) and we'll see you later alligator.



### **PA** Commonwealth of Pennsylvania | **AGRICULTURE**

#### **An essential driver of PA's economy**

This Spring, the Commonwealth of PA, in partnership with Team PA, released a comprehensive study on the impact Agriculture has on our state and regional economy. That analysis will form the foundation for a new strategic approach on how best Pennsylvania can leverage Agriculture through AI, international trade and supply chains for sustained economic growth in the years to come. Simply put, Agriculture is Blair County's largest industrial sector and contributor to our local Gross Domestic output. There is no better time than now for the Blair County Chamber to host PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding. Join us Thursday, June 12, from 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. at The Casino at



**Secretary Russell Redding**

Lakemont Park for Breakfast Club with Secretary Redding. Cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber Members and \$30 for non-members. Register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) or call the Chamber at 814-943-8151.

### ★★★★★★★★

#### **All-Stars for May 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 April are:

ABCD Corp., Altoona Curve Baseball, Arrow Land Solutions, ArtsAltoona, Berry Solutions, Blair Image Elements, Blair County Convention Center, Bovard Heating & Cooling, Cassus Media/Digital Marketing Solutions, Corle Building Systems, Inc., Crystal Springs, Curry Fluid Power, Discovery Wellness Coaching, Doing Better Business, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, Epic Pyrotechnics, Everest Medical Weight Loss, First National Bank of PA, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, InnerPeaceCounseling, Irwin Financial, Keller Engineers, Inc., Ketrow KURTZ Travel, Keystone Environmental, Kish Bank, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., Levity Brewing, Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, McCartney's Workplace Solutions, NPC, P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Park Security, PennCrest Bank, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, PSECU, Reliance Bank, Revive Infusion & Injection Services, Roaring Spring Family of Businesses, Saint Francis University, Sheetz, Inc., Slingers Throw House, Splish Splash Car Wash, Stiffler McGraw, Stuckey Automotive, Sullivan Law Offices, LLC, The EADS Group, The Lung Disease Foundation, UPMC Health Plan, UPMC Altoona, Value Drug and Webber Seltzer Wealth Advisors.

# Ribbon Cutting



## Rural King

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Rural King located at 528 West Plank Road, Altoona. Family-owned since 1960, Rural King provides a broad range of necessities and essential goods for farm and home including livestock and pet supplies, workwear, gardening, housewares, and much more. Services at the Altoona location includes a diesel mechanic for work on tractors and small engines. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday through Saturday. For more information go to [www.Ruralking.com](http://www.Ruralking.com). Taking part in the celebration are, from left: Shelley Clinich, Chamber Ambassador; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Tim Randow, Assistant Manager; John Anzur, Assistant Manager; Nate Shaffer, Assistant Manager; Jordan Blazanin; Vlad Blazanin, Store Manager; Dave Porter, District Manager; Tom McCurtain, Regional Vice-President; Tammy Stiffler, Assistant Manager; Joe Metzgar, Logan Township Supervisor; Jim Patterson, Logan Township Supervisor; and Eva Eagler, Chamber Ambassador.

## Congratulations

...to [Fort Roberdeau](#) on receiving the 2025 Excellence in Parks and Recreation Award for its Bluebird Trail which consists of more than 40 bluebird nest boxes. The award was presented at the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society Meeting.

...to [The EADS Group](#) for being recognized by Engineering News-Record as one of the Top 500 Design Firms in the United States for 2025. EADS has consistently ranked in the top 500 since 1987.

...to Dr. Betsy Baker, superintendent, [Spring Cove School District](#), upon receiving the Woman of the Year award from the Martinsburg BPW. Baker was recognized for contributions to education and community.

The Martinsburg BPW also presented Jo Ellen Mingle of [Roaring Spring True Value Store](#) with the Employer of the Year award. This honor recognizes Mingle's support of women in the workforce and community support.

## 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 May.

### Celebrating 60-69 Years

Union Tank Car Company

### Celebrating 40-49 Years

Black's Home Sales, Inc.  
Kimmen Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  
Minetech Engineers, Inc.  
Ritchey Well Drilling, Inc.  
Sermac  
Tony D. Branda Mustang & Shelby Parts

### Celebrating 30-39 Years

DeGennaro's Used Cars & Service  
Gieg & Jancula, LLC  
Hollidaysburg Manor Apartments  
Horizon Farm Credit  
Link Computer Corporation  
S&A Homes, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Advisors

### Celebrating 20-29 Years

Altoona Water Authority  
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC  
Blair County Golf & Driving Range  
D.B. Mackey Insurance Agency  
First Stop Shop, Inc.  
Lightner Communications  
MBS Keystone  
Penn State Extension, Blair County Office  
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College  
Society of St. Vincent DePaul - Altoona-Johnstown  
The Baltimore Life Companies

### Celebrating 10-19 Years

Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  
Empire Communication Systems, Inc.  
Epic Journeys, LLC  
Griffith Family Foundation  
Liberty Tax Services  
Mountain View Eye Associates  
PennStress  
Scott White/John Hill Real Estate  
Senior Life Altoona  
Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group  
The Good Funeral Home, Inc.  
TRS Roofing, Inc.

### Celebrating 5-9 Years

Allied Mechanical & Electrical  
Blair School of Martial Arts, LLC  
Great Commission Schools  
HealthCare First Credit Union  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites  
Holiday Pools and Spas  
Innovative Technologies, Inc.  
Roaring Spring Paper Products  
The Film Center

### Celebrating 1-4 Years

Appalachian Running Company  
Kish Bank  
Mile Level Physical Therapy  
Monitronics / Brinks Home  
Russell Tire / Central PA Truck  
The 814 Distillery