

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

## YP partnering with the United Way on Stuff the Bus campaign

*By Marcus Edwards, Young Professionals Committee*

The Blair County Chamber Young Professionals are proud to partner with the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies on the Stuff the Bus program. This annual initiative collects school supplies for local students in need, ensuring they start the school year equipped with the necessary supplies to excel. Every donated notebook, pencil, and backpack helps ease financial burdens for families and empowers children to succeed in the classroom. This partnership not only benefits students - it also fosters a spirit of community service among young professionals in our community.



The Blair County Chamber is serving as a donation site for the school supplies with a United Way labeled box in the lobby of the Devorris Center for Business Development located at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona, PA 16602. Feel free to stop by between 8:00am-5:00pm to drop-off school supplies for this wonderful program run by the United Way of Southern Alleghenies. Together, we're helping to fuel futures.

## CareerLink Blair County to host annual community resource fair

PA CareerLink® Blair County will host the annual PA CareerLink® Days Community Resource Fair on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Altoona Area Public Library (Ground Floor), 1600 5th Ave, Altoona. This free, public event will connect residents with essential local services, including housing and utility assistance, mental health and family supports, re-entry services, veteran resources, and much more. Giveaways will be available for community members throughout the event. Community member pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Click here to register.



As always, PA CareerLink® is committed to supporting the community by helping job seekers and employers access the services they need to thrive. For questions, contact: [ccerully@gogoodwill.org](mailto:ccerully@gogoodwill.org).

## Travel meeting this Thursday

On the Chamber list of newly added travel destinations is Best of Austria and Switzerland, scheduled for June 8 - 20, 2026, with travel partner [Epic Journeys](#). Your adventure begins when you arrive in Vienna where you will meet your tour director and enjoy a welcome dinner. Scenic Alpine landscape and architecture abound as you explore Salzburg, with plenty of photo opportunities as you continue your travels to St. Moritz, Bern, Lucern and more. To learn more about this trip, the Chamber has scheduled an informational meeting this Thursday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development, 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona. There is no obligation or cost to attend. Let us know you are coming and we'll save you a seat. Call the Chamber at 814-943-8151.



## reminder

**No HD500 or Breakfast Club in July.**

Watch for information about an exciting Breakfast Club in August.

**You don't want to miss it!**

# Amazon data centers and the regional business community

Governor Josh Shapiro announced that an investment was being made by Amazon to build artificial intelligence centers in Pennsylvania. Many small companies are showing interest in the region for their own data centers. The Altoona Mirror wrote an article featuring the President/CEO of Altoona Blair County Development Corp., Steve McKnight. Read a portion of the story below and click the link to read more.

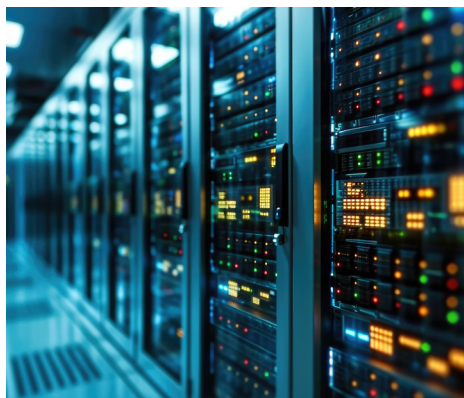
**Story below as published in the Altoona Mirror by [Conner Goetz](#)**

## Regional business leaders weigh in on Amazon data centers

Questions remain amid the excitement surrounding Gov. Josh Shapiro's recent announcement of \$20 billion in new investment from Amazon to build two artificial intelligence centers in the commonwealth.

Statements released by both the governor's office and Amazon explicitly say that Amazon is currently weighing whether to make similar investments in other local municipalities.

Another round of Amazon financing could permanently alter a region's economic future, based on Monday's announcement that outlines Salem Township and Falls Township as the "first" recipients of the investment, which will create over 1,250 jobs.



While "multiple additional Pennsylvania communities are under consideration," according to Amazon, no one knows what's next for the online commerce giant's investment portfolio.

### Smaller companies show interest

Steve McKnight, president/CEO of Altoona Blair County Development Corp., said he has not heard of interest from Amazon specifically, but smaller companies are considering the region as a site for future development.

"There has been interest from data center representatives in Blair County. It is a very active time as they evaluate energy availability, supply and overall site readiness here and throughout the commonwealth," McKnight said, adding that this interest is ongoing.

**Read the full Altoona Mirror story [here](#).**

# WE-LEaD event includes impressive lineup of women in business

The Blair County Chamber's WE-LEaD (*Women Encouraging Leadership, Education and Development*) Committee is continuing with its dynamic series, Women Mean Business, with a powerful panel event, to be held July 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m., at US Hotel Liberty Hall in Hollidaysburg. The panel will feature inspiring women who own and lead businesses across a range of industries. Sharing their stories of resilience, strategy, and vision will be panelists Stacey Krepps of LSI, Kate Kooman Starkey of Kooman &



Associates, Elizabeth Burke of Burke and Company, Michelle Barnes of Michelle Barnes Optometry, and Amy Hite of L&H Realty. Cost to attend is \$35 for Chamber Members and \$40 for non-members. A light lunch is included. Corporate sponsor of the event is [CNB Bank](#). To register, go to [www.blair-chamber.com](http://www.blair-chamber.com).

## membership *Benefits*

As a Chamber member, we already know you're great. But, when potential customers go to the Chamber's website to search for a company to do business with, we want to make sure they can contact you. Has your business relocated? Experienced staffing changes? New email or website address? Let us know! Call the Chamber at 814-943-8151 or you can email us at [chamber@blairchamber.com](mailto:chamber@blairchamber.com). Don't forget, with the Chamber's enhanced website, members can now access their own accounts to update information or even share news with our growing on-line community. To post your news, access your Glue Up account and find "**My Community**" in the menu options on the left side. To access your account information, click on the circle with your initials or profile picture, in the upper right hand corner. Select "**My Organization Dashboard**". These enhanced features are a great way to utilize your Chamber member benefits.



...to the following Chamber Members who were selected as members of the Altoona Mirror's 20 Under 40 class:  
Megan Alwine, [Seven Mountains Media](#)  
Geoff Barton, [Reliance Bank](#)  
Emilie Deffenbaugh, [Fort Roberdeau](#)  
Brenden Goldizen, [Parlor Doughnuts](#)  
Michelle Gravert, [Altoona Curve](#)  
Jordan Griffith, [Hollidaysburg Area School District](#)  
Courtney Homung, [Blair Image Elements](#)  
Colton Kensinger, [M&T Bank](#)  
Ava Kline, [The Summit Tennis & Athletic Club](#)  
Chantal Sisko, [P. Joesph Lehman, Inc. Consulting Engineers](#)  
Dominic Tomatore, [New Pig Corporation](#)  
Alexis Trenger, [Altoona First Savings Bank](#)