

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

YPs team up with OOT for fundraiser

By Marcus Edwards, YP Committee Member

The Blair County Chamber Young Professionals are partnering with Operation Our Town for the 3rd straight year to host a Mini-Golf Fundraiser at Lakemont Park on Monday, September 15th at 4pm. The event will be Western-themed and all participants will be invited to the Operation Our Town Appreciation Night at Park Hills afterwards. For those interested in participating, please reach out to oot@operationourtown.org and/or click [here](#) to register.



The event brings together young leaders and community members for a fun evening with a powerful purpose of raising funds to fight drug abuse and the related crime in Blair County. Operation Our Town plays a vital role in our community by building partnerships between residents, businesses, and law enforcement to reduce substance abuse through proven prevention, treatment, and enforcement strategies. The funds raised from the mini-golf event directly support this mission, including grants to local programs that educate youth, assist those in recovery, and keep neighborhoods safe.

This partnership highlights the importance of young professionals stepping up to support causes that strengthen our community. By aligning with impactful organizations like Operation Our Town, the next generation of leaders is helping to build a safer, healthier Blair County for everyone.

Heading for a white out at the next Chamber Breakfast Club

On August 14, the Blair County Chamber's Breakfast Club at the Blair County Convention Center will surely be a hit with Penn State fans. In anticipation of the upcoming football season, the program will have a great lineup of entertaining speakers and a few surprises thrown in the mix. Known as one of the "Nit Wits" on Nittany Nation Overtime, Neil Rudel will be joined by author and host of Sports Central, Corey Giger, and Steve Jones, the play-by-play voice of Penn State athletics, making up an entertaining panel of Penn State football enthusiasts. There will be a drawing for four tickets with a parking

- BLAIR COUNTY WHITE OUT -
August 14

pass to the first Penn State game of the season scheduled for August 30 at Beaver Stadium. The Nittany Lions will take on the Nevada Wolf Pack. Cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$35 for non-members. Breakfast Club begins at 7:45 a.m. Register at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate Sponsor is [PNC Bank](#). Everyone is encouraged to wear white and join in on the fun. Let's make it a Blair County White Out.

YEA! recruiting for class of 2026



The Blair County Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a groundbreaking and exciting program

that transforms local students in grades 6 - 12 into confident entrepreneurs. As part of a national initiative, YEA! offers an experience-based curriculum that includes guided sessions with guest speakers, instructors, field trips, and mentorship from professionals within the business community. Classes meet weekly during the school day.

"The Young Entrepreneurs Academy empowers students to launch real businesses by teaching essential skills like innovation, financial literacy, marketing, and business planning, while connecting them with mentors and business leaders," said Carol Gensimore, chair of the YEA! Steering Committee.

The application process is easy. Click [here](#) for an online application which is on the Chamber's website at www.blairchamber.com.

"Whether your interest is in construction, banking, insurance, finance, technology repair, or welding, the Young Entrepreneurs program will teach you how to price your work, market your services and pitch to investors," Gensimore added.



AI and energy investments

The Blair County Chamber Public Policy Committee has been monitoring emerging state and federal energy proposals for several months. With several major business expansions and data centers eyeing up the region, ensuring energy generation and distribution is critical to Blair County. Recently, a major energy summit was announced bringing more attention and potential investment to the issue. See below as reported by [Axios](#). The Committee will continue to monitor these discussions and gauge their impact on local business.

President Trump and Sen. Dave McCormick (R-Pa.) used a first-of-its-kind innovation summit in Pennsylvania recently to announce \$70 billion in AI and energy investments for the state, including thousands of new jobs.

The inaugural Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit, at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, aimed to ignite "Pennsylvania's incredible po-

tential to power the AI revolution," McCormick says.

Why it matters: In addition to Trump's attendance, McCormick has drawn energy and AI leaders from around the world, including over 60 CEOs, to showcase the economic and national-security benefits of building AI infrastructure such as data centers and power generation.

Zoom in: McCormick will say the \$70 billion in investment represents the "largest investment commitment in these industries in terms of dollars for the state and jobs created in the history of the Commonwealth," organizers tell Axios in a preview.

"Anticipated investments include new data centers, new power generation and grid infrastructure to meet surging data center demand, along with AI training programs and apprenticeships for businesses," the preview says.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the story.



...to the following Chamber Members that have been selected for the Pennsylvania Business Central's 50 to Follow Women-Owned Business honor:

[Doing Better Business](#)

[Steinbacher, Goodall, Yurchak](#)

[Burke & Company, LLC dba](#)

[S.P. McCarl and Company](#)

...to [Mid Penn Bank](#) for receiving top honors for its financial literacy community service project during the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers INSPIRE Awards ceremony. This is the second year Mid Penn Bank took the top honor in winning the Tom Bailey Community Support and Engagement Award.

Chamber Impact

Improving economic competitiveness

This month, the Blair Chamber team engaged with Pennsylvania's Office of Transformation and Opportunity (OTO) leadership in Altoona to discuss how the Commonwealth can improve over-all operations and economic competitiveness. Both the Chamber and the PA-OTO share the goal of making Pennsylvania a top 10 state for business and all things community development. Topics such as permitting, environmental regulation, grant and loan administration, housing regulations, site development and workforce policies were all on the table for consideration and revamping. This effort



is being guided by the members of the Chamber's Public Policy Committee. For more information, join the Public Policy Committee and become part of this important discussion.

Join a committee

Your feedback is important to us. If you would like to participate on a committee, contact the Chamber **814-943-8151**

chamber@blairchamber.com

blairchamber.com



New address?

New phone number?

New email?

Let us know at

chamber@blairchamber.com

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Chamber of Commerce

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BLAIR COUNTY
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
— **SUMMIT** —
2025

YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED

THE BLAIR COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT WILL BE HELD
ON OCTOBER 1, 2025, AT THE BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER.

TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TOPICS FOR YOUR INTEREST, THE SUMMIT
PLANNING COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. What can we do to help facilitate and prepare your business for an emergency and continuing operations?**
 - 2. What vulnerabilities do you need assistance with for proactive mitigation efforts?**
- **Provide any additional comments/information**
 - **Optional: Business name and contact information**

EMAIL RESPONSES TO: EMA@BLAIRCO.ORG
submit responses by August 6

OCT. 1

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Blair County Convention Center

Scan QR code
to register

