

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 6, Issue 4 - April 2021



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CENTRAL PA

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The Inside Scoop

If we're honest with ourselves, we all need second chances - if not more. Sometimes, we need another go because of mistakes we've made, and sometimes it's completely out of our control.

Now more than a year removed from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're all looking for a second chance at a better year in 2021. Situations are ever-changing, but things will hopefully continue to trend in a positive direction.

Local businesses are hiring, and there is a strong surplus of jobs. In fact, some Central PA Chamber members have taken a new avenue to fill their job openings. You can read about it starting on the next page, our top cover story.

You'll see our cover also highlights a recent visit by Congressman Fred Keller, who serves many members of this Chamber. Jobs, too, was the main topic of his discussion. You can read more on page 11.

If this last year has upended you personally/professionally, or has put a lot of questions in your mind about your future, turn to page 15 to see if it's time for a fresh start and put an end to "career confusion" as Diane Weller of Diane Weller Coaching puts it.

Otherwise in this issue of IYB, you'll see that great things are happening as we continue into spring. Businesses are opening, moving and returning to a place that's comfortable for many.

Growth has been tremendous, too, for our organization. Turn to page 4 and catch up on 15 of the latest members to join the Central PA Chamber.

And, Member Spotlights, events, Members Recognized and more awaits. Don't skip a page!
Enjoy the issue!



Jeff Shaffer, Editor
Communication Director
jshaffer@centralpachamber.com

It's Your Business Deadlines

May Issue

News/Ads April 16 -- Flyer Inserts April 21

Interested in advertising in this publication?
Contact Jeff at jshaffer@centralpachamber.com or
call 570-742-7341

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Seven Mountains Media

Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation

Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company

Susquehanna Valley Limousine

T-Ross Brothers Construction

The Daily Item

The Standard-Journal

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The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize companies that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. For more information, call 570-742-7341.



At left, a 'client' at the Second Chance Job Fair speaks with Abigail Pitts and Marcie Malaney of USG. On the cover: A client meets with Jill Riley and Tammy Seedor of Cabinetworks Group.

A second chance

LEWISBURG - For businesses struggling to hire employees right now, it may be worth taking a look at an often overlooked or avoided group of people.

The Central PA Chamber recently teamed up with Union County Probation to hold a "Second Chance" job fair at the Union County Resource Center, Lewisburg. Throughout the day, Central PA Chamber members who are hiring met and conducted interviews with individuals looking to re-enter the workforce after several months or a couple of years.

"When (the Central PA Chamber) reached out to me about this job fair, I accepted immediately," said Carrie Hammond, Human Resources Manager for Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes in Selinsgrove. "We previously worked with Snyder County Probation and have hired many individuals who have been on work release or probation, and we have had a lot of success."

Between Icon and fellow job fair participants - T-Ross Brothers Construction, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USG and Cabinetworks Group - there were well over 100 jobs immediately available. For a variety of reasons, finding workers has been no easy task. But, for many, considering individuals who have been out of the workforce because of past criminal offenses, it's a new venture.

"We're growing and our project base is getting larger," said Ellie Kreisher, Marketing Director for T-Ross. "With spring time, we have a lot of positions that need to be filled, especially general laborers. Hopefully, it's a new opportunity to reach out to a new market and find some great employees."

"...we have had a lot of success."

**- Carrie Hammond,
Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes**

The event on March 9 was the second such fair of its kind, according to UC Chief Probation Officer Scott Kerstetter. He believes, despite any troubled history, that many people "still have a strong work ethic."

The Central PA Chamber's involvement this go-around stems from an inspirational moment last summer. While participating in the virtual workforce summit, President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey was impressed by

the story of Craig Poole, General Manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Reading.

"His passion and willingness to work with those less fortunate, to see the greatness in everyone, and work against the odds by doing something others thought was crazy inspired me so deeply," Aikey said. "I immediately reached out to him, and then I opted to reach out to nearly a 100 different individuals looking for someone to give my

See "Second Chance" (on page 11)



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P.O. Box 319

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New Members

Representative David Rowe 85th District

343 Chestnut St., Ste. 1
Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570-966-0052

drowe@pahousegop.com

David Rowe - State Representative

<http://www.repdavidrowe.com>

State Rep. David H. Rowe has served his local community in Snyder and Union counties through numerous roles for more than a decade while being involved with multiple charitable organizations.

He attended National Sun Yat-sen University in Taiwan and participated in its Mandarin Chinese Immersion Study after two years of Christian missionary work as an educator in southeast Asia. For the past nine years, Rowe has been the owner and operator of CrossFit Lewisburg, which employs several local residents. He attends the New Hope Lutheran Brethren Church in East Buffalo Township and is a leader of its music ministry.

As an active leader in the local community, Rowe served as vice-chairman of the East Buffalo Board of Supervisors; secretary of the Union County Republican Committee; a member of the Capital Campaign Council of Evangelical Community Hospital; director of the Central Susquehanna Fire and Emergency Services board; and commissioner of the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department, among other leadership roles. Rowe has financially supported the Expectations Women's Center, a pro-life pregnancy aid center in the Lewisburg area; the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority; Union County Library; local youth sports clubs and more.

As an East Buffalo Township supervisor, Rowe never voted to raise taxes or expand government regulations. These fiscally conservative policies will continue to be his top priorities as a state representative.

On Sept. 17, 2019, Rowe began representing Pennsylvania's 85th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after a special election victory on Aug. 20. He was re-elected on Nov. 3, 2020. The district includes most of Union and Snyder counties, including Lewisburg, Middleburg, Mifflinburg and Selinsgrove.

Rowe currently lives in East Buffalo Township, Union County.

Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union

1536 Riverside Drive
South Williamsport, PA 17702
570-323-5188

bbaker@wyrope.org

Brittany Baker - President and CEO

<https://www.wyrope.org>

Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is fully owned and operated by its members. Because of the cooperative, non-profit nature, loan rates are lower, savings rates are higher, and members benefit from the low-cost, convenient services offered. Since 1957, Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union has provided a complete range of low-cost financial services to thousands of members and their families.

Wyrope is enormously proud of its past and the foundation we have built as it will help propel us into the future. We focus on working within our community to make it a better place to live and raise a family through service and volunteering. This including changing technology that our members need and want. We also take pride in offering scholarships, financial counseling, and an outside the box approach to credit hiccups all to help keep our members on the best financial path for their future. Over the years, Wyrope has grown, adding products and services as the needs of the members has evolved including more online and remote banking services for the digital age.

Additionally, credit union membership is for life. Once you're a member, you're always a member, whether you leave your current employer, retire, or move away. We also invite you to extend the same membership privileges to everyone in your family.

By taking the voices of the members as a driving force behind new initiatives, the Board and Credit Union leadership strive to move forward and upward with everyone we serve.

Preferred Portables LLC

531 Railroad St.
Danville, PA 17821
570-293-4921

preferredportables@gmail.com

Al West - Director of Sales & Operations

Portable sanitation company.

Graphite Grantworks

4115 Susquehanna Trail
Watsontown, PA 17777
321-298-9843

graphitegrantworks@gmail.com

Jennifer Rempe - Owner

<http://www.graphitegrantworks.com>

Research, grant and proposal writing service. Designed to find community-benefit organizations sustainable grant and funding opportunities.

Tack Room, Inc.

6506 Old Turnpike Road
Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570-966-4999

eva@tackroominc.com

Eva Linke - President

Outdoor casual sportswear store offering higher end quality jeans, shirts, jackets, gaitors, socks, shoes, sandals, boots and work boots. Men's, women's and kid's. And toys!

We also offer horse and rider clothing, equipment and supplies for casual riding to horse shows. Helmets, breeches, shirts, show jackets, boots and everything you need to ride and care for your horse!

Susquehanna Valley Law Enforcement Camp Cadet

50 Lawton Lane
Milton, PA 17847
570-524-2662

mreasner@pa.gov

Mark Reasner - Trooper

<https://svlecc.com>

The goal of Camp Cadet is to introduce participants to the diverse criminal justice system and establish a positive relationship with law enforcement personnel, as well as expose the cadets to many career options, leadership, self-esteem training and team building opportunities. The camp and overall program is designed to provide participants with a better understanding of total law enforcement activities and at the same time learn the need for critical lifelong qualities of honesty, integrity and the quest for personal achievement based on the standards of excellence, trustworthiness and fairness.

Fjord-Land Fisheries Inc.

P.O. Box 1231
Dryden, NY 13053
607-592-7158

spark6987@gmail.com

Samuel Park - CEO

<https://www.fjord-landfisheries.com>

Fjord-Land Fisheries Inc. is a holding company focused on the seafood and aquaculture space within the Northeast United States.

We are currently looking at multiple acquisition targets in Central PA and are very excited to partner with the Chamber and local individuals/businesses.



Doug Bertanzetti, Executive Director

doug.bertanzetti@summitel.org

(570) 966-2845

www.summitearlylearning.org

What makes your organization unique?

Summit Early Learning provides services to over 1,000 children and their families across Northumberland, Union, Snyder and Mifflin counties.

What is your Mission Statement?

"Building the future through early care and education, one family at a time."

How many people do you employ?

Approximately 260 employees.

Advice to those who own a business?

Use the strengths of your employees to build a collaborative team approach to your business.

Finish this sentence – "On a day off I..."

"...would be in the beautiful outdoors of central PA."

What are the top 3 company priorities you focus on?

- Children & Families
- Community
- Employees

What are the characteristics you look for in employees?

Caring individuals who want to give back to

their communities. Caring and engaging teachers who can touch children and family lives. Staff who are dedicated to the mission of the agency.

Want to appear in the Member Spotlight?
E-mail Jessica Williams at jwilliams@centralpachamber.com for details!

Sandy Stone, Marketing Assistant

(570) 935-0129

419 Market St., Lewisburg

www.proveng.com



What makes your business unique?

We are a single disciplinary structural engineering company with expertise in a vast majority of fields from residential to big box warehouse projects. We work as a team using our engineering and leadership skills to ensure building projects are completed on time and under budget. Serving the public is an important mission of structural engineers.

How do you market your business?

At Providence, we recognize the challenges of the marketplace in which our clients operate, and we strive every day to be a true partner who faces those challenges as our own. We put ourselves in the shoes of our client,

and the project owner, and we focus on developing engineering solutions that meet over all project goals.

What is your Mission Statement?

The Mission of Providence Engineering Corporation is to provide reliable solutions that are constructible, affordable, and timely, resulting in our being the Engineer of Choice.

How many does your business employ?

Providence Engineering Corporation has 74 employees throughout our seven offices. We have four full-time employees at our Lewisburg office.

What are the top 3 company priorities you focus on?

- Constructable
- Affordable
- Timely

What philanthropic causes does your business support?

We are grateful for every opportunity to work, and we believe that giving back to the communities where we do business is paramount to our continued success.

- Local Food Banks across the state, including Central PA Food Bank
- Leg-Up Farm
- Ace Mentor Program

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What's Happening

Celebrating the grand opening in downtown Sunbury!
Open house from 10 to 5 with Chi Demos,
Raffles and Free Samples!

Ribbon Cutting

**BIG BAM BOO
TEA ROOM**



12 p.m. Friday, May 7 @ 8 N. 5th St., Sunbury

Year of Recovery

LEWISBURG - The Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau is celebrating 2021 as a Year of Recovery – a time for businesses and communities to come together and help promote each other and this beautiful region in which we live, work and play!

In that spirit, they have launched (or are getting ready to launch) three community initiatives.

Signup for the SRV Spring Shopping Pass to encourage residents, tourists and visitors to shop local in the Susquehanna River Valley. The campaign will run May through June 30. The participation fee for non-members of the Visitors Bureau is \$25. SRVVB Membership is now a \$100 introductory offer. The Board voted to promote a \$100 membership offer which would entitle participants to full membership benefits with the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau through June 2022. That is over a year of marketing promotion for less than the price of a newspaper or radio campaign. Contact Judy Machesic at Judy@VisitCentralPA.org or 570-524-7234 for more information.

And, the SRVVB is currently working on a free "Rise and Shine" promotion. This promotion will allow tourism-related businesses to be listed on the web at www.VisitCentralPA.org at no charge. This is a great no-risk opportunity to learn more about the visitors bureau and to be promoted on one of the best marketing platforms. More information about the Rise and Shine opportunity will follow as details develop.

For more information, call 570-524-7234.

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AND MORE TO COME...**

Central Susquehanna Builders Association

34th Annual
Summer Home Show

New and Improved

June 18 & 19 2021

Celebrating the new location of the STI/STD Health Clinic and
Case Management Office! Food, giveaways and tours until 4 p.m.
*Current COVID-19 guidelines in place

Ribbon Cutting

**Caring
COMMUNITIES**



12 p.m. Friday, May 14 @ 599 E. 7th St., Ste. 1, (Locust Court Building), Bloomsburg



For more information on
participating, call
570-966-0625 or e-mail
centralsusqbuilders@gmail.com





Need a ride to get your COVID-19 vaccination?

United Way is covering the cost of trips for those without a funding source in Snyder, Union, and Northumberland Counties! Call 1-800-632-9063 to schedule your ride.

LET'S RIDE *together*



For more information, visit us on Facebook!



Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority Needs YOU!

VOLUNTEER DAY

- PAINTING
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HELP US PREPARE ST. MARY'S STREET PARK AND POOL FOR THE SEASON:

APRIL 24th
8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Interested to volunteer? Contact us at officecoordinator@bvrec.org or 570-524-4774

CENTRAL PA BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Seminar & Training Series

The Remote Workforce and Microsoft 365

9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 14th
Online Via ZOOM

Cost: **\$5 for Members & \$10 for Non-Members**
Register: www.centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by:



Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
4/13/21	OSHA INSPECTION! How to Handle It - and Prevent It	Webinar	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
4/14/21	Crisis Management - In Case of Emergency - The Aftermath	Webinar	2 to 3 p.m.	Free
4/20/21 & 4/21/21	ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training	Webinar	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	\$495

Lauri Moon
Manager, Training & Outreach
570-329-3200 ext 8085
www.imcpa.com/events

S B D C
PENNSYLVANIA
Small Business Development Center
Bucknell University
570-577-1249
www.bucknell.edu/sbdc

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
4/7/21	Business Roundtable: Engaging Startups and Early Stage Firms	Online	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
4/16/21	Business Startup Basics for Central PA: The First Step	Online	9 to 11 a.m.	Free

Have you dreamed of being your own boss for many years but don't know where to start?...
Start with the Bucknell SBDC!

"New Members" (from page 4)**The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum**

598 Green St.

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

570-966-1355

eva@tackroominc.com

Eva Linke - Board Member

<http://www.buggymuseum.org>

From 1883 to 1920, William A. Heiss manufactured carriages, wagons, and sleighs. When his buggy business declined he sought out other opportunities to make a living. Among those occupations were furniture maker, beekeeper, and automobile painter.

After William's death in 1931, the building was used for storage and the contents were forgotten.

Almost 50 years later, the doors were opened to reveal the original shop with tools, machinery, forges, and parts. It was as if William Heiss had simply walked away.

We invite you to visit the Buggy Museum and step back in time. Your visit will begin in our modern Visitor Center, which features an introductory video, self-guided exhibit, hands-on workbench, gift shop and restrooms. We offer guided tours through the Heiss family home, the reconstructed carriage house, the original buggy factory and original showroom.

The Barn At Greystone Farm

106 Welliver Road

Watsonstown, PA 17777

570-971-6334

greystone106@gmail.com

Daphne Bowers - Owner/Manager

<https://thebarnatgreystonefarm.com>

Wedding venue.

Comfort Specialists

6037 Route 15 North

Selinsgrove, PA 17870

570-743-4315

jstoltz@yourcomfortspecialists.com

Jeff Stoltz - Sales Manager

<https://yourcomfortspecialists.com>

Heating, cooling, refrigeration for residential and commercial customers.

Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes, LLC

246 Sand Hill Road

Selinsgrove, PA 17870

570-374-3280

carrieh@iconlegacy.com

Carrie Hammond - Human Resources Manager

<https://iconlegacy.com>

Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes, LLC is a systems-built manufacturer of modular home components and light commercial offerings.

Cabinetworks Group

100 Industrial Park Road

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

570-966-6703

tammy.seedor@cabinetworksgroup.com

Tammy Seedor - HR Business Partner

<https://cabinetworksgroup.com>

Cabinetworks is the largest independently owned manufacturer and distributor of cabinets in the United States. Our facility is a Dimension Mill. We offer good work and good pay, and we're conveniently located in Mifflinburg, PA (nestled between Lewisburg and State College).

Iron Vines Winery, LLC

322 Raspberry Ave.

Sunbury, PA 17801

570-495-4766

drinkwine@ironvineswinery.com

Jessica Reichner - General Manager

We are a small winery offering red, white, rose wines in sweet and dry! Located in Sunbury, PA.

Life Leadership

324 Quarry Drive

Bloomsburg, PA 17815

570-204-2579

freyintl@gmail.com

Dean Frey - President

<https://www.lifeinfoapp.com/default.aspx>

Life Leadership is a company that provides educational material in leadership, literacy, and entrepreneurship. We also have a Super App Platform that contains a broad diversity of merchants, travel options, and personal development information.

Big Bam Boo Tea Room

8 N. 5th St.

Sunbury, PA 17801

260-336-7058

bigbambootearoom@gmail.com

Preston Barden - Owner

We make herbal remedy teas. You are welcome to a free cup of tea when you stop in. Tell us what's bothering you, (headache, stress, blood pressure, etc.) and we'll blend a tea to help you feel better.

We teach Tai Chi and other martial arts. We also have classes in bamboo flute making, tea blending and pressure point self-care. Preston started Kung Fu in 1978. Barbara started when they met in 1987. Together, they have been learning, teaching and helping people feel better. Come enjoy a unique experience and a free personally blended cup of tea.

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Membership Renewals

Breakfast Briefing


(As of March 16, 2021)

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 Barclay M. Wilson D.O.
 Bucknell Golf Club
 Buffalo Valley Fence Supply
 Chickadee eMarketing
 Ciro's Ristorante Italiano
 Custom Container Solutions
 Dwell Orphan Care
 Eclipse Craft Brewing
 Fulton Bank - Lewisburg
 Girls on the Run Greater
 Susquehanna Valley
 Great Hair Day
 i3 Point-of-Sale
 Jeffrey Reber
 Jersey Shore State Bank
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 Shade Mountain Winery
 - Middleburg
 Sunbury Broadcasting
 The Sholley Agency, Inc.
 - Lewisburg
 The Sholley Agency, Inc.
 - Selinsgrove
 Weichert Realtors Premier
 Willow Stone Farm




Thank you to everyone who joined us for the March 12 Breakfast Briefing, including our sponsor, Pinpoint Federal Credit Union! Shawn Hays of Pinpoint discusses how the member-centric credit union has expanded in programs and reach over the years. Their new Milton location is coming soon to 37 Ferry Lane. Learn more about this local credit union at www.PinpointFCU.org. The Central PA Chamber holds Breakfast Briefings monthly at its location, giving members and guests the opportunity to network, learn more about each other and the Chamber. Breakfast included! Register at www.centralpachamber.com.




ADOPT A ROOM

\$5,000 for one of our 17 guest rooms
 \$10,000 for one of our 2 efficiency apartments
 5 year sponsorship

The Adopt A Room program allows you, your company, or organization to be the sponsor of one of the 17 guest rooms / 2 efficiency apartments in the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. Your gift helps offset the cost to operate a guest room throughout the year, and provides families with much more than just a roof over their heads. You are helping provide support, home-cooked meals, and relief from their stressful situations.






5,765
NIGHTS
of lodging

13,111
GUESTS
stayed at the House


\$15
*Suggested donation, 77%
of families did not self-pay*

The 2019 Ronald McDonald House of Danville stats:



For more information on the Adopt A Room Program, or to tour the House, call Ginnetta Reed at 570-271-7937 or email greed@rmhdanville.com

rmhdanville.com • 570-271-6300
 100 North Academy Avenue & Trembulak Way
 Danville, PA 17822



Why do families stay at a Ronald McDonald House? Children whose families stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Danville tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distances for care, and spend the longest time in the hospital. The House allow families to access the best medical care for their child, and being nearby helps children heal and cope better.

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Time with Tea Jay



Thank you for the kind words

I'm on to my next decade with the Central PA Chamber.

Each Thursday during March, our Facebook page reflected on my tenure by highlighting memories and milestones. Reflecting is very impactful.

"Be a reflection of what you'd like to receive. If you want love, give love. If you want truth, be truthful. What you give out will always return." - Kristen Butler, Founder & CEO of Power of Positivity.

Your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card, how you leave others feeling after having an experience with you becomes your trademark. It doesn't matter what your title is or the industry you are in. This is a mindset that will guarantee success and set you apart no doubt.

"You attract what you are, not what you want. So, if you want it then reflect it." - Tony Gaskins, motivational speaker.

I was blessed to have received amidst my reflecting several words of congratulations and encouragement. I would like to share a few as telling someone how you feel about them is an amazingly powerful thing. "Please accept my delight at your achievements on this anniversary of your service to our organization! We would not be the treasure of the region without your efforts and enthusiasm."

"Happy Anniversary! You are the best and have contributed so much to make our Chamber the best." "Congratulations on a great accomplishment of 10 years at the Chamber! I have only been a part of the Chamber for a short while, but from what I have seen so far you are a great asset and overall FANTASTIC human. I hope today lets you reflect on the great accomplishments you have made over the past 10 years."

"Congratulations on your 10-year anniversary with the Central PA Chamber! So happy to see you grow and lead this organization!"

"You have done great things, and I know will continue to for the next 10 years and beyond!"

In addition to all of these beautiful words of praise and congratulations, I also received so many sweet cards and the most floral arrangements I've ever received - almost more than my office could accommodate. Thank you to everyone who reached out as it truly meant more than words can say.

A message I received on my 10th anniversary truly hit home. - "You have definitely grown not only yourself through this time, but the Chamber as well. Let me just say one thing with this awesome milestone coming behind you - PLEASE, TAKE SOME TIME OFF. You truly do work hard (and we see it), just remember, you only live once and while you are a cornerstone in the success of the Chamber and our members, there is no benefit to anyone if you burn out. Thank you for all you do and remember, the ceiling of success is only determined by your own limitations. Please, take it from me, don't doubt yourself and your impact. I bet 10 years ago you didn't see yourself going from the bottom to the top of the ladder in under a decade."

I am suddenly realizing that I need to activate my bucket list as we are not living in eternity.

"If there's even a slight chance at getting something that will make you happy, risk it. Life's too short and happiness is too rare." - A.R. Lucas, writer.

Tea Jay Aikey
President & CEO

tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

Board Retreat



Here's your team of all-stars following a friendly (but competitive) game of 'Did You Know?', pitting Central PA Chamber Board Directors against each other in their knowledge of Central PA Chamber history, services, programs and more. It was a fun way to wrap up the annual Board Retreat in March! 'Team 1st Vice Chair Lennea Brown' bested 'Team Chair Ron Mackley' by three points. From left, are: Chris Pinchak, 2nd Vice Chair, Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning; Joel Harris, Director, The Salvation Army - Milton; Cheryl Rheppard, Treasurer, USG; Ashley Parrish, Director, First Commonwealth Bank - Lewisburg Weis; Lennea Brown, 1st Vice Chair, RiverWoods Senior Living Community; and Todd Ross, Director, T Ross Brothers Construction. Learn more about the board at www.centralpachamber.com/board-of-directors.

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“Second Chance” (from page 3)

thoughts a listen and just maybe my idea a chance. I had a few replies with most saying ‘not interested’, but Union County Sheriff Ernie Ritter thought it was worth a shot.”

Ritter shared Kerstetter’s contact information.

More than just an idea, Aikey knows members and businesses, in general, have been struggling to find and/or retain employees, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the Central PA Chamber and similar organizations providing training opportunities, this perspective was different.

“Having worked for a manufacturer that relocated, I know what it is like to find yourself out of work at no fault of your own and having the skills and work ethic, but needing an opportunity,” Aikey said.

Kerstetter said finding “second chance” employers can be “difficult” and “discouraging” considering the stigma around people with criminal records, but he looks at it a little differently.

“Treat them how you would treat someone in your family that is struggling,” he said.

But beyond building trust, there is support already in place and more on the way.

There is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit as well as federal bonding programs, serving as a hiring incentive tool targeting in-

dividuals whose background can pose significant barriers to securing or retaining employment, such as those with a criminal history.

In the future, Kerstetter would like to offer various forms of counseling to employees, including financial and maintaining a proper work-life balance.

His intent is to offer the job fair on a quarterly basis, with the next being planned for June.

“I’ve learned there is a lot of untapped talent out there,” said Abigail Pitts, Regional HR Business Partner for USG. “It’s a good opportunity for people to get back into the workforce. Overall, it would be a great benefit to the community to have people reintroduced to the workforce.”

PA CareerLink also had representatives at the fair, helping people with their resumes, CareerLink accounts and other services.

“I believe we have already started a great relationship, which is going to continue to develop and lead to many outstanding solutions and opportunities,” Aikey said. “It will have a positive impact in so many ways on so many people and businesses in our region.”

If interested in learning more, contact Aikey at 570-742-7341 or tjaikey@centralpachamber.com.



U.S. Rep. Fred Keller (PA-12) answers questions of Central PA Chamber Board Directors and President’s Club Members during a special visit on March 8. Dozens more listened online via Zoom.

Rep. Keller visits

MILTON - U.S. Rep. Fred Keller, representing Pennsylvania’s 12th District - which includes a large number of Central PA Chamber member businesses and organizations - made his first, in-person speaking appearance since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic a year earlier.

In order to abide by health guidelines, only a small number of Central PA Chamber Board Members and President’s Club Members were permitted to attend the March 8 event in The Smith Room. However, several dozen more members were able to listen in via Zoom, a part of the Chamber’s efforts to maximize its reach to members.

Many questions from the audience pertained to government funding related to COVID-19 as well as its immediate and longterm effects.

Alison Hall, a board member and owner of The UPS Store in Lewisburg, told Keller her business has been blessed because her services are needed now more than ever. With that, however, she is in need of additional employees, and the pool of candidates seems to be smaller due to unemployment benefits.

“I know they are beneficial to people, but as an employer, it’s hard to find people,” Hall said.

Fellow board member Todd Ross, President of T-Ross Brothers Construction, could relate. While his company is able to line up interviews with prospective employees, only a small percentage will actually show up for the actual interview.

Keller admits it’s a difficult situation for employers, but is hopeful people will return to work when COVID-19 winds down.

“I don’t fault the worker one bit; they are looking out for their families,” he said. “But, it’s certainly not healthy for the economy.”

There were many more unknowns a year ago, Keller reminded, when people were told to stay home and not work, but he remains confident in a future turnaround because “people like to work.”

Several other questions were raised and Keller planned to follow-up with each one.

The Central PA Chamber thanks Congressman Keller for making the visit as well as everyone who asked/submitted questions for the Legislative Event. The hope is to hold more throughout the year, as a way to help members better connect with their representatives at all levels.

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Members Recognized

Evangelical Community Hospital

LEWISBURG - Ayn Kerber, MD, has been named Medical Director of Hospice at Evangelical Community Hospital in addition to her role as a physician with Family Medicine of Evangelical-Lewisburg.

As Medical Director, Dr. Kerber oversees the care provided by the Hospice of Evangelical team. She certifies eligibility for those entering the Hospice program, serves as a primary care doctor if patients do not have one, and assists Hospice nurses in symptom management.

Dr. Kerber has been an employed physician of Evangelical since 2011. Prior to being named Medical Director, she served as the Medical Designee of Hospice since July 2020.

Dr. Kerber received her Medical Degree from Temple University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at The Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center. She is board certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. She holds memberships in the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

In other news, Saquib Siddiqi, MS, DO, General Cardiologist, has been named Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at Evangelical in addition to his cardiologist role at the Heart and Vascular Center of Evangelical.

As Medical Director, Dr. Siddiqi is responsible for the safe and effective delivery of high-quality cardiac rehabilitation services to eligible patients. He serves to direct the progress of patients in the program in consultation with the cardiac rehabilitation staff. The medical director is also responsible for overseeing program development to include regular review of policies and procedures, completion of annual competency reviews, and direct oversight and response to clinical issues.

Dr. Siddiqi has been an employed physician of Evangelical since August 2020 working as a general cardiologist at the Heart and Vascular Center of Evangelical.

Dr. Siddiqi received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Master of Science degrees from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Fellowship at Geisinger Medical Center. He is board certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Siddiqi has successfully completed the Examination of Special Competence in Adult Echocardiography through the National Board of Echocardiography.

Dr. Siddiqi also currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cardiology in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine.

Community Giving Foundation

SUNBURY - Community Giving Foundation: Sunbury recently welcomed three new board members to its board of directors - Cory Fasold, Michael Martz and William Roll.

Fasold has been employed at Sunbury Motor Company for 41 years, and currently serves as the corporation's treasurer. He also spent his life owning and managing Brewers' Outlet in Sunbury. He has spent many years working with charitable and civic organizations in his hometown, including a past term on the Community



Dr. Ayn Kerber



Dr. Saquib Siddiqi

Giving Foundation: Sunbury Board.

"I am delighted to be invited back to serve on the Sunbury board! This Foundation has given me many rewarding experiences with charitable giving," Fasold said. "It is so fulfilling to be part of an organization that touches local lives in such a positive way. Giving a helping hand to those in my community makes me feel good!"

Martz is the primary owner of Martz's Game Farm F.L.P. and Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve, Inc. in Dalmatia. He grew up loving the game bird business and has remained employed on the third generation farm in some capacity his entire life. In 2006, he took over as the General Partner of the farm from his father. After learning more about the Community Giving Foundation from a friend and former board member, Martz made the decision to join the Sunbury board to represent lower Northumberland County.

"I have always had a lot of respect for people that serve their country and communities," Martz said. "I am excited to have the opportunity to serve on the Foundation board and help give someone the opportunity to better themselves."

And, Roll is a semi-retired CPA who performs tax work for Herring, Roll & Solomon, PC. He is excited to join the board because he enjoys helping people.

In addition to the three new board members, the Sunbury Board is represented by: Jeff Hollenbach, chair; Craig DeFazio, vice-chair; Steve Engle; treasurer; Steve Dagle; Donna Spangler-Boop; and Robert Zimmerman.

Sunbury is an affiliate of the Community Giving Foundation, which manages nearly 300 charitable funds and makes grant investments throughout the region to improve the quality of life in the Central Susquehanna area. For more information, visit www.csgiving.org or call the Foundation at 570-752-3930.

Lewisburg Pharmacy

LEWISBURG - Brad Gill, owner of Lewisburg Pharmacy, was named the Grand Prize Winner of BeKind Kindness Campaign, organized by the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way and sponsored by Evangelical Community Hospital.

From his nominators: "Brad is the owner and lead pharmacist of Lewisburg Pharmacy, and he is the absolute epitome of kindness and generosity. I have seen Brad absolutely bend over backwards for people, not just as far as their medications go, but in life as well. Brad works tirelessly to get people the best possible price on medications, personally delivers them after hours for extenuating circumstances, and will never let someone go without. I have seen him forgive outstanding bills for people having hard financial times and never expect anything in return. If one of his patients has a major life event, he sends them a personal note. Brad works so hard for his community, often featuring local small business owners in his store.

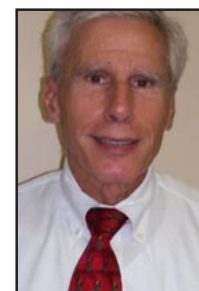
Every month, he allows a different vendor in the store to sell their products, which are often benefiting local charities. Brad and his wife run a non-profit for families who have lost their newborn chil-



Cory Fasold



Michael Martz



William Roll



Brad Gill

dren, called The Smallest Gift, based on their own child loss. This organization gives handmade and embroidered blankets and hearts that weigh what the baby weighed to the parents. They also work to buy special beds for hospital maternity wards so that mothers can spend more time with infants who have passed. I could go on for hours about the endless ways Brad is generous and kind. He is generous with his time, and he takes all the time a patient needs to have something explained or taught to them. He is generous financially to both his employees and the community. He is generous with his resources, knowledge, time and heart. Brad is such an amazing asset to the community and the world around him. Anyone who comes into his life leaves a better person. Brad has gone above and beyond during the pandemic to protect his patients and his employees. I have personally witnessed this on a daily basis as one of his pharmacists. I think one of the most touching things was when I saw a box of food in the pharmacy office. He was sending non-perishable goods to patients he knew were having financial trouble. He also works with his church's food pantry on his day "off" (after coming in and working a few hours at the pharmacy to make sure we are OK) to provide with families in Central PA who are affected by hunger. I have been a pharmacist for 25 years this coming August, and I can honestly say I have NEVER had an employer quite like Brad. He puts others before himself. It's not about profits for him, but about great quality healthcare, customer service and taking care of those around him. For all that you do, thank you, Brad!" Gill won \$300 in local small business gift cards, and thanks to a private donor, his non-profit was awarded a \$2,500 donation.

Villager Realty, Inc.

LEWISBURG - Villager Realty, Inc. President and CEO Tim Karr recently announced 2020 real estate sales achievements for the real estate brokerage firm. "It gives me great pleasure to announce an exceptional year for the agents on the Villager Home Team," said Karr. "Villager, in spite of the challenges that the year 2020 placed in the path of doing business, listed and/or sold 654 units, and assisted Valley families in transferring real estate in really tough and unusual circumstances with flying colors." Villager agents learned new ways to do business, employed methods to keep clients and associates safe, and successfully rose to the challenge to excel and produce over \$118,722,824 in Central Susquehanna Valley real estate sales in 2020, again holding the honor as the number one real estate company in the five-county area. Agent of the Year honors went to Associate Broker Sabra Karr, Office of the Year went to the Danville location, Hero of the Year was Pam Whitenight and Gretchen Bellott was named Rookie of the Year. The top 12 company producers, named to Villager's President's



Sabra Karr Pam Whitenight



Gretchen Bellott Janet Hummer



Stephanie DiDomenico Trish Ruth

Club were: Sabra Karr, Janet Hummer, Stephanie DiDomenico, Trish Ruth, Monica Root, Tiffany Price, Bonnie Trump, Terry McLaughlin, Raymond Beachy, Rebecca Judy, Kristin Varano and Pam Whitenight. Named to Villager's Silver Diamond Club, which includes agents who listed and/or sold homes with values totaling \$3 million dollars or more, include: Sabra Karr, Janet Hummer, Stephanie DiDomenico, Trish Ruth, Monica Root, Tiffany Price, Bonnie Trump, Terry



Karen Lagerman Monica Root Tiffany Price



Kristin Varano Bonnie Trump Terry McLaughlin



Kris Karr Raymond Beachy Rebecca Judy

McLaughlin, Raymond Beachy, Rebecca Judy, Kristin Varano, Pam Whitenight and Kris Karr. The Top Sales Agents by Office were: Janet Hummer, Danville; Sabra Karr, Lewisburg; and Pam Whitenight, Northumberland. Top Listing Agents by Office were: Janet Hummer, Danville; Sabra Karr, Lewisburg; and Karen Lagerman, Northumberland.

Service 1st Federal Credit Union

DANVILLE - Service 1st Federal Credit Union welcomes Matt Defalco to their Retirement & Investment Center team. The Service 1st Retirement & Investment Center provides retirement, insurance, and investment services to credit union members. Defalco joins the team as the Financial Services Coordinator. He assists in planning seminars, events, and provides essential administrative support to the center. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brock University and a Graduate Certificate in Sports Journalism from Centennial College in Toronto, Ontario. Defalco joins four other Retirement & Investment Center colleagues: Gary Surak, Vice President Wealth Management; Charles Martin, Associate Financial Advisor; Ed Moyer, Registered Representative; and Matt Gardill, Registered Representative. Combined, they have over 40 years of experience in the financial industry.



Matt Defalco

Lawton Insurance Agency

LEWISBURG - Tricia Dreese began her insurance career with the Lawton Insurance Agency in 2021. She is licensed in Property & Casualty and able to assist you with

Ribbon Cutting



Congratulations to Mifflinburg Bank & Trust on its new location at 415 Mahoning St., Milton!

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce helped them celebrate the recent opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 17.

From left, in front, are: Thomas Beck, CPA, Sr. Vice President and Chief Risk Officer; Thomas Eberhart, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Robert Pierce, Board Director; John Showers, Board of Directors Secretary; Thomas Boop, Board of Directors Chair; Betsy Robertson (holding the scissors), Board Director; Melissa Jones, Community Office Manager of the Milton branch; Jeffrey Kapsar, President and CEO; and Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO. Second row: John Griffith, Director Emeritus; Thomas Crissinger, Jr., Sr. Vice President and Sr. Loan Officer; Thomas Graver, Jr., CPA, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Lisa Erickson, Vice President of Human Resources; Mandi Ruhl, Vice President of Retail Banking; Demirae Crites, Teller at Milton branch; Michelle Brazil, Customer Service Representative at Milton branch; Carrie Walter, Teller at Milton branch; and Garry Benfer, Sr. Vice President and Chief Credit Officer.

MB&T also made donations with check presentations to four Milton non-profit organizations. The Milton YMCA, T.I.M.E. (The Improved Milton Experience), and the Milton Public Library each received \$500. The HandUP Foundation received \$790 following a 'casual bankers' day fundraiser. Pictured, from left, are: Bonnie McDowell, CEO of the Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA; Ron Marshall, Milton YMCA Executive Director; Terri Locke, Milton YMCA Board President and Corporate Board Member; and Jones of MB&T.



Support in difficult times

MIFFLINBURG - A partnership between Camp Koala and Roupp Funeral Home helps to ensure children are remembered during some of the hardest times in their young lives.

Camp Koala provides support to newly bereaved students through school counselors as well as local funeral directors.

"Our partnership with Roupp Funeral Home has been a great way for us to reach grieving families," said Lisa Street-Liebetau, Executive Director and Founder of Camp Koala. "Andre and his staff are on the front lines of grief and loss, and we are grateful that they share our Comfort Bags with the newly bereaved children of the families they serve.

Roupp said he's proud to be a long-time partner of the program. "No matter how old you are, feelings of grief can be particularly hard to process, and even more challenging as a child," he said. "Through help from Camp Koala, children of families who are making arrangements with Roupp Funeral Home are given opportunities for grief support, including Comfort Bags.

"Lisa and her compassionate team at Camp Koala have provided so many children and young adults with personal grief support. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Camp Koala."



Andre Roupp of Roupp Funeral Home stands beside a family, greaving the loss of a loved one, while holding 'comfort bags' provided by Camp Koala. The non-profit assembles and delivers more than 300 comfort boxes and bags each year, thanks to generous donors.

Camp Koala services are free-of-charge in the hope that they help children in their journey towards healing. To learn more, visit: www.campkoala.org or e-mail Street-Liebetau at director@campkoala.org.

Do you have career confusion?

BEAVERTOWN - In an ever-changing world, do your qualifications and experience keep up? If someone asked you what you've accomplished over the last year, let alone the last 10 years, would you know what to say?

Diane Weller, Founder & Principal of Diane Weller Coaching, said it's important to evaluate and analyze where you are professionally (and personally), because it will make you more marketable and help clear up "career confusion".

The professional speaker and writer specializes in career identity, career transition and outplacement services. In this day and age, no one should expect to work happily in the same place for an entire career. But, not to worry, if you keep your resume recent and relevant.

"After so much time, you forget about accomplishments," Weller said. "You need to treat resumes as a working document - like updating social media."

Long gone, too, are the days of writing an objective and job description at the top of your CV and expecting the true you to come out. Weller helps her clients by conducting a thorough interview about work history, focusing on the results of a person's work and the impact they made on the company.

"In 2017, one of my first clients, she was looking to go back to the Washington D.C. area for employment, and naturally expected a higher salary (compared locally)," she said. "With a rewrite of her professional story, she was offered \$20,000 more. We just added the pop and the truth."

Since then, Weller said she's heard from people repeatedly that the interviews and recreation of their stories leaves them saying, "Wow, I feel more confident than ever!"

Weller desires to make a movement out of this, which will also help



Diane Weller, Founder & Principal of Diane Weller Coaching, was the keynote speaker at the Central PA Chamber's Annual Meeting in February 2020. She is available to help you with your 'career confusion'. Contact her at 570-765-2344, diane@dianewellercoaching.com or www.shopsmol.com/product/diane-weller-career-coaching for a complimentary consultation.

people get out of careers where they are left unhappy or confused. She says it takes the right combination of ability and interest in a job to be fulfilled.

The speaker and writer is happy to help because of her journey of "personal reinvention" after career confusion. She spent decades in the area of information technology and people development, but making the leap toward her nature talent of helping others was "the best exercise for my confidence."

People displaced after years with the same company, those with an entrepreneurial spirit, individuals facing the "hard knocks" in life can all benefit from talking to Weller and ending career confusion.

She's available for a complimentary consultation and flexible with scheduling to help meet your needs. Is 2021 your year?

Contact her at 570-765-2344, diane@dianewellercoaching.com or www.shopsmol.com/product/diane-weller-career-coaching for a complimentary consultation.



In March, the Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary Club, in conjunction with Sheetz, presented more than 700 Made-to-Order and Sheetz Brothers Coffee specialty drinks coupons to teachers and staff in the Mifflinburg Area School District and at SUN Area Technical School. The coupons entitle each staff member. The coupons, along with a card, were a way to thank the school staff for everything they do to support students and the community during these trying times, according club member and project coordinator Therese Miller. From left, are: Tom Caruso, business administrator at MASD; Robert Pierce, Rotary member; Nikki Freel, Sheetz supervisor in Mifflinburg; and Joe Weisser, School-to-Career coordinator at SUN Tech.

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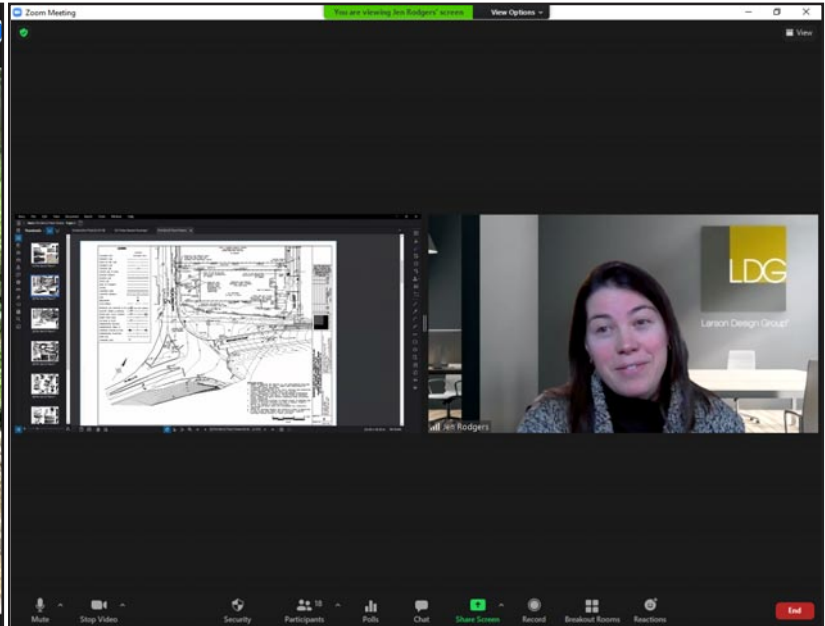
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Business & Education

Economic impact

The Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV) students met in early March to discuss economic development. Neal Fogle (pictured at right) of the local Penn State Extension Office facilitated the discussion and introduced students to many aspects of economic development and its impacts. Students also learned about site development planning from Jennifer Rodgers of Larson Design Group (lower right) and Shawn McLaughlin of Union County Planning & Economic Development (below). The BLSV class even participated in an activity to introduce new businesses into area malls. This month, students will be learning about local government and how to participate in a township meeting. If you would like to get involved in the BLSV program, contact Michael Porter, Program Director, at 570-742-7341 or mporter@centralpachamber.com.



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MILTON - Thank you to everyone who supported the Central PA Business & Education Association during Raise the Region! Because of our 22 donors, B&E exceeded its goal and received \$1,175!

All told, Raise the Region collected \$2,030,674 for 272 non-profit organizations, which includes several Central PA Chamber members!

Since starting in 2013, Raise the Region has collectively received over \$12 million in donations for the benefit of local nonprofit organizations.

"This year's success demonstrates the incredible spirit of philanthropy that exists in northcentral Pennsylvania and is reflective of the extraordinary efforts of our non-profit community," said Jennifer D. Wilson, President & CEO of First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, which conducts Raise the Region with the support of numerous sponsors. "These results represent a 42 percent increase over last year and are the most successful to date. I'm incredibly proud of our team, inspired by the community and grateful for the FCFP Board of Directors' commitment to this fundraising platform that serves area nonprofits."

Congrats to all participants! Together, we make a difference! Thank you to First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania for leading this event and its many sponsors!

Thank you, donors!

Tea Jay Aikey, Lennea Brown
Linda Brown, Chris Coup
Jordan Fetzer, Beth George,
Rob Jones, Jim King
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Jennifer Rempe, Cheryl Rheppard
Ellen Ruby, Todd Ross
Jeff & Beth Shaffer
Tara Sheesley, Jessica Williams
Adam Wolfe, and an anonymous donor

Michael's Minutes



Making the most of it

Now more than a year ago, as we know, the COVID-19 pandemic went into full effect. We as a team started working from home, and there was a lot of uncertainty about when we could go back to working in person. There were times where we had to make a lot of adaptations to things that we were not necessarily prepared for before the pandemic hit us. Going through all of this led me to a question on most days of - What's next? "What does my future have in store?", "What will our economy look like after everything is said and done?", and "Will we ever be free enough to not have this virus control our everyday lives?" are all questions that I had at some point throughout the pandemic. However, I knew that I could not answer any of these under my own power. All I could do was strive to do the best I could in my position with work and life. Due to the circumstances, we needed to turn our programs virtual to be able to accommodate our local school districts and allow students to participate.

Since then, we have been able to work with students to provide great quality programs through both our career fairs and Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV). The Central PA Career Fair last fall was able to impact event more people, since we were able to record our presentations and send the YouTube link to more than 30 school districts! BLSV has had fewer students than normal, but we have still been able to impact them remotely using the Zoom platform. This experience is invaluable as we prepare our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow! Through the help of so many wonderful guest presenters - and students that are willing to work and learn - we have gained so much value from this experience this year!

For me, the main takeaway this past year is that you can only make the most out of a situation when you put "your most" into it. Being able to say that our programs have been successful despite the pandemic has been extremely fulfilling to say the least. However, to think about the impact our students will have on our region moving into the future because of what we are doing is so much more rewarding! I encourage you to keep your faith that things will work out to the questions you don't have answers to, and there will be great successes ahead of you if you work hard and persevere!

Michael Porter
Education Coordinator
mporter@centralpachamber.com



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Jessica's Jottings

More than you hear



I have a scenario for you: A co-worker walks into the office in the morning, and you go to say your normal "good morning" just like every other day. You happen to look away from your computer to say this greeting and notice your co-worker is walking by your office with their head down and what looks like no energy in their body. This is not their typical behavior, so before they have a chance to get past your office you ask the important question "is everything okay?" And, just like that, you open them up to talk to you about what is going on instead of leaving them to sit in their own office stewing over the issue.

Why did I want to share this scenario with you? It's simple. In our lives right now, we are so distracted that we are missing signs around us that could make our environments better. Listening is a skill we learn at a young age, and instead of developing it over the years, we tend to ignore it instead. With advances in technology, this has become easier and easier to do.

There are many different types of listening. Instead of trying to write about all of them in this limited space, I will just give you a brief overview.

Obviously, the first type of listening is hearing sounds, and this can be from people or objects. Most of these alert us to something happening or coming, like the ping on your cell phone when you get a message. The bigger listening skill is listening with your eyes. You might think this is crazy but listening to body language could save everyone time in the end. For example, if someone has their arms crossed, this usually means they are upset or being guarded. Observing this body language can help you in how you approach a conversation.

Now you may be asking, "Where she is going with this?" So, I have a challenge for everyone reading this column. Since we are starting to get reintroduced into society after long periods of time away, I want you to challenge yourself to be more active listeners. In your personal and professional environments, take the time to drop your distractions, or look away from them, and engage your eyes and ears to the people around you. Not only will you improve the conversation, but you could quite possibly gain a new understanding with that person.

Good luck and may the spring season bring new life into your relationships!

Jessica Williams
Finance & Membership Director
jwilliams@centralpachamber.com

"Members Recognized" (from page 13)

your homeowners, auto, renters, or business & commercial policies.

Born and raised in PA, Dreese had relocated to Virginia Beach, VA and Corpus Christi, TX, returning to PA in 1997. The joys of her life include her daughter Katelinn, son Nathan and boyfriend Olu. She currently resides in the Mifflinburg area and enjoys walking/biking on the trail, traveling, repurposing glass and slate, participating in Bible studies, plus attending art & music festivals.



Tricia Dreese

Lackawanna College - Sunbury Center

SUNBURY - Lackawanna College was recognized as one of The 10 Most Innovative Corporate Social Responsibility Companies of 2021 by Fast Company.

They were named alongside very well-known companies including Microsoft, Capital One, Logitech and Verizon.

Fast Company is known as the world's leading business media brand, with an editorial focus on innovation in technology, leadership, world changing ideas, creativity, and design. Written for and about the most progressive business leaders, Fast Company inspires readers to think expansively, lead with purpose, embrace change, and shape the future of business.

Lackawanna College received the recognition based on its abilities to ease the burden of the cost of higher education on students seeking to further their education.

"We do this through our Dual Enrollment program. In schools, where we have agreements in place, a dual enrollment credit costs only \$100, making most classes and affordable \$300 per class," said Philip Campbell, Sunbury's Center Director. "In some cases, students can earn up to 30 credits while still in high school. Imagine, a year of college for only \$3,000 completed before you graduate from high school. How many people do we know who would benefit from that? We then take that a step further, if you take dual enrollment courses through Lackawanna College, we will award you a scholarship based on your investment. So, a student who paid \$3,000 on dual enrollment courses, when they graduate high school and enroll at Lackawanna College, we will award them a scholarship of \$3,000 per year towards their education, making

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"We are very proud of the work that we have done already and there are more projects we are working on for the future."

The Squeeze-In

SUNBURY - The Squeeze-In, in Sunbury, was recently tapped as one of the 30 smallest restaurants around the world by cheapism.com.

In its description, the web site said, "This little dive in central Pennsylvania is almost impossibly narrow (stretch your arms out and you'll almost be able to touch both walls). It slings hot dogs for just five customers at a time, all of whom sit at a single worn counter. Try the specialty, called the Squeeze Dog: It's topped with mustard, ketchup, relish, onion, sweet and hot chili, sauerkraut, and baked beans. Wash it down in true Squeeze-In fashion with a cold chocolate milk."

"We are honored to be included as one of the 30 smallest restaurants in the world," said Chris Snyder, The Squeeze-In's COO. "The Squeeze-In has a long history in Sunbury, and we encourage everyone to come and see us to experience all we have to offer."

Birch & Beam Custom Homes

MIFFLINBURG - Tara McGuire was recently hired by Birch & Beam Custom Homes.

She graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor's degree in marketing and her career, until 2018, included applying and expanding her knowledge of marketing in the broadcast, video, digital and social media fields.

After designing their custom-built home in 2018, McGuire discovered a talent and love for home design and at that point began helping clients locally with their kitchen and home renovations. Nothing is as satisfying to her as transforming blank, empty spaces into something not only aesthetically pleasing and fitting for one's style, but also functional. She is grateful for the experience of building her home own custom dream home as it led her to where she is today, designing well thought out homes with passion and integrity. McGuire lives in Selinsgrove with her husband, Ryan, and their two little boys. Together they enjoy raising their boys to appreciate



Tara McGuire

the great outdoors, as well as traveling, reading and exercising, often running together as a family. McGuire feels most inspired when decorating their home and dabbling in DIY projects. "Using her creativity and eye for detail to drive both marketing and design for Birch & Beam, Tara is a strong asset to the team," said Birch & Beam owners Delmar and Junita Bender. "Her open, friendly personality will make you feel heard when you sit down to discuss bringing your dream home vision to life!"

Help for HR, benefits

WILLIAMSPORT - The proliferation of vaccinations and recent easing of restrictions on some Pennsylvania businesses are giving hope to many local employers that they may soon be able to jump-start their businesses and hire new employees or rehire old ones. However, many business owners have learned a valuable lesson from this crisis – namely, that to operate successfully in a world of unpredictable lockdowns, they need to update their Human Resources and Benefits Administration systems.

That is one reason that so many companies are now turning to insurance brokerage firms, including Swift Kennedy & Associates, to help them streamline their systems and manage HR issues ranging from onboarding and employee education to terminations and COBRA administration.

Swift Kennedy offers employers a virtual HR/Benefits platform that enables them to hold digital open enrollment meetings and to keep track of how far each employee has advanced in the enrollment process through an enrollment progress dashboard.

This system also streamlines a company's absence management and enhances both its benefit communications and employee education. In addition, employers have access to Swift Kennedy's benefit support team via webchat, video conference, phone, and e-mail. Employees appreciate the fact that this platform lets them use virtual plan comparison tools when selecting benefit packages and enrolling online. They also like being able to view their benefits digitally 24/7 on both their computers and mobile devices.

Swift Kennedy's other HR/Benefits services include day-to-day benefits administration (including claims assistance, billing support, enrollments, and terminations), COBRA administration, and access to a comprehensive digital library of HR and benefits information.

The agency also helps businesses find affordable medical, dental, vision, life, and disability insurance plans, as well as alternative funding options.

"We pride ourselves on helping employers manage their HR and benefit needs from start to finish," said Jerry Calistri, Swift Kennedy's President and CEO, who is a Certified Healthcare Reform Specialist.

Swift Kennedy, which specializes in group employee benefits and senior insurance plans, works with all health insurance carriers in Pennsylvania and has offices in State College, Williamsport, Scranton, DuBois, Johnstown, and Virginia Beach.



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Join Us at these Upcoming Events!

All events are tentatively scheduled and may change depending on the COVID-19 situation

BREAKFAST BRIEFING

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, April 9 @
the Central PA Chamber of Commerce
30 Lawton Lane, Milton.

Free to Attend - **Registration is Required**

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- Wendy Weaver, RTB Graduate

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Spring 2021 Session (in-person)
9 to 11 a.m. April 21 & 28, May 5 & 12
Contact Jeff Shaffer at
jshaffer@centralpachamber.com
or visit www.centralpachamber.com/rtb
to learn more!

Raising the Board is a program of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce.

CENTRAL PA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INSIDE JOBS

2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29
@ Whispering Oaks Vineyard
1306 State Route 61, Sunbury

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Inside Jobs offers members a chance to tour facilities of fellow businesses/organizations. Find tour details and register @ www.centralpachamber.com/events.

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