

# It's YOUR BUSINESS

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 7, Issue 5 - May 2022

## THE LAUNDRY ROOM OF LEWISBURG

Pennsylvania SKI  
Play Here Win Here!!!!  
500

THE  
LAUNDRY  
ROOM

FREE  
WIFI

Green Business  
of the Year, pg. 3







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tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

**Jeff Shaffer - Communication Director**

jshaffer@centralpachamber.com

**Jessica Williams - Finance & Membership Director**

jwilliams@centralpachamber.com

## The Inside Scoop



Congratulations are in order for several individuals across the Central PA Region. In particular, I'm referring to our Green Business of the Year Award winners on page 3, as well as the 2022 Class of Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley.

You can read all about why we chose The Laundry Room of Lewisburg this year as our "greenest" member, but our members never make it easy. So many of you are doing great things to help our shared planet (our shared responsibility). Keep it up!

While I didn't get to know this year's BLSV Class very well, since our former Education Coordinator, Michael Porter, spent a majority of the school year with them, they were growing on me quickly.

Students like the ones in our long-standing program are a breath of fresh air and should give all of us great hope in the next generation of leaders! Read more about the closing graduation ceremony starting on page 16.

It appears our new venue for the Legislative Event was a great choice! Many of you had great things to say about the Watson Inn's Moon Room, where state Sen. John Gordner took the podium to talk about a number of local and state issues. Read more on page 11.

There is a lot of excitement and changes happening across our area, and you can get a good glimpse of that throughout this issue, whether its development to strengthen the workforce or bringing new life to familiar sites.

Events and members being recognized for accomplishments is also in no shortage! Check out all of the great things going on in our communities and celebrate alongside your fellow members and friends.

There is much more to read, too, so don't miss a page! Enjoy the issue!

Jeff Shaffer, Editor  
Communication Director  
[jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com)

## The President's Club

Abe's Custom Woodworking	Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company
Backyard Broadcasting of Pennsylvania	NESCO Resource
Century 21 Mertz & Associates	North Central Sight Services
ClearView Asset Protection	North Shore Railroad Company
Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate	On Fire Promotions
Contrast Communications	PenTeleData
Davis, Davis & Kaar	PPL Electric Utilities
Decal Dynasty	Raceway Mobile Storage
Evangelical Community Hospital	RE/MAX Bridges - Ann Hilliard
Fulton Bank	Riverwoods Senior Living Community
Green Ridge Graphics	Safeguard Business Systems
Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning	Service 1st Federal Credit Union
Heritage Springs Memory Care	Service Electric Cablevision/SECVs
Hosterman Creative	Seven Mountains Media
i3 Point-of-Sale	Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation
iHeartMedia	Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company
Interaction Dynamics Group	Susquehanna Valley Limousine
Java Momma	T-Ross Brothers Construction
Jersey Shore State Bank	The Standard-Journal
La Primavera Italiano Ristorante	The UPS Store
Lawton Insurance Agency	The Wealth Factory
Lewisburg Pharmacy	TPS
LIVIC Civil	Unique Inspirations Limited
LMJJ Creative Property Solutions	Watsonstown Dental
MCPS of Central PA	Weaver Wireless Consultants
Meixell Diehl Insurance	

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.

## It's Your Business Deadlines

Below are upcoming *It's Your Business* due dates to help ensure your member information appears in IYB. Every effort is made to include information in a timely manner.  
*Note: Only paid advertisements are guaranteed.*

**June Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by May 13**

**Summer Print Issue\* (released end of June)**  
**Ads due by June 3**

**July Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by June 17**

**August Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by July 15**

\*The Central PA Chamber also publishes *IYB Quarterly* for each of the four seasons. Copies are available at public member locations across the region.

If interested in being a drop-off location, e-mail  
[jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com).



# Clean and 'green'

**LEWISBURG** – Clean and “green” would be one way to describe The Laundry Room of Lewisburg, the 2022 recipient of the Central PA Chamber’s Green Business of the Year Award.

The Chamber notified owners Lyle and Jessica Brouse on Earth Day, and officially presented the award last week at the public laundromat at 325 N. 10th St., Ste. 500, Lewisburg. The Brouses serve multiple communities with their brand, and there are more to come!

“We’re honored,” Lyle Brouse said, while highlighting the efficiency of the washing machines in particular. “(Our 22-pound crossover) is a great machine. They use only 18 gallons of water for the entire cycle.” (Some top-load washers can use 40 gallons.)

He added one of its best features is how efficiently it can extract water from clothes, which shortens the drying time needed.

In particular, their Lewisburg location is equipped with the most energy efficient washers and dryers available in the commercial market, which is 40 percent more efficient than what most people have at home. After using their washers, the bulk dryers can dry six loads of laundry in one cycle in under 28 minutes, according to the Brouses. A typical residential unit could take several hours to do the same.

“This kind of commercial setup saves millions of natural gas BTUs annually and over 3,000,000 gallons of water in that same 12-month period,” the Brouses included in their Green Business Recognition application, which made them eligible for the award this year.

Since their application last year, they more than doubled their total score, improving efforts in: solid waste prevention, recycling, purchasing, transportation, involving others, as well as energy and water conservation.

This is now the 10th year the Green Business of the Year Award. It’s been given to Central PA Chamber members of all kinds that have show their efforts in being “green.”

The past Green Business of Year Award recipients are: United Plate Glass, Sunbury, 2021; Bear Rental, Northumberland, 2020; Columbia County Bread & Granola, Bloomsburg, 2019; Pompeii Street Soap Co., Mifflinburg, 2018; Arrowhead Drive-In Restaurant, Milton, 2017; Lawrence J. Winans, DMD, Lewisburg, 2016; Hometown Disposal, Sunbury, 2015; Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, Berwick, 2014; Warrior Run Petcare Center, Watsontown, 2013.



*Central PA Chamber President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey presenting the Green Business of the Year Award to Jessica and Lyle Brouse, owners of The Laundry Room of Lewisburg. The award itself is recycled from the lid of a 55-gallon steel drum. This photo and cover photo are by Amber G Co. Photography.*

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**green**  
BUSINESS

The Chamber staff is grateful to every member that takes part in the program and/or makes the effort to do their part and help the planet.

Members are always encouraged to apply, or reapply if their “green” efforts have grown. Find the online form at [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com). Click “Green Business Recognition” under the “Membership” tab on the homepage.

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce’s Green Business Recognition Program has been created to showcase the environmental efforts of businesses and individuals. The hope is to encourage green business practices throughout the region. Green Business is good business! In addition to helping the environment, it can save your business money and your customers and employees will value your efforts.

To be considered for recognition, you must be: a member of the Central PA Chamber; Doing business in the region; and Demonstrate green business practices in each of several major areas. For questions, call 570-742-7341.



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P.O. Box 319

Phone: 570-742-8777 Fax: 570-742-6155



# New Members

## Your Building Centers - Milton

635 S. Front St.  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-742-9681  
bcorbin@ybconline.com  
Brett Corbin - Manager  
<https://ybconline.com>  
Building material supplier.

## Evergreen Exteriors

2010 W. Market St.  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
833-927-4398  
ian@theexteriorclean.com  
Ian Kramer - Project Manager  
<https://theexteriorclean.com>  
Premier exterior cleaning services for commercial and residential property. Window cleaning, pressure and soft washing, and fleet vehicle washing.

## Edward Jones - Sheri Purdy

1372 N. Susquehanna Trail, Ste. 170  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
570-743-1025  
sheripurdy@edwardjones.com  
Sheri Purdy - Financial Advisory  
[www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/sheri-purdy](http://www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/sheri-purdy)  
Specializing in human-centered complete wealth management. Creating personalized financial strategies to help you and your business achieve what is most important to you: Investment Portfolios, Retirement Rollovers, 401K & SEP/SIMPE IRAs, Roth IRAs, Estate & Legacy Planning, 529 Savings, Annuities & Insurance, including Chronic Illness and Long-Term Care.

## Watson Baptist Church

501 Main St.  
Watson, PA 17777  
570-538-2512  
watsonbaptists@gmail.com  
Pastor Joshua Wallace  
<https://watsonbaptistchurch.com>  
We are a community-oriented, local church that has a small congregation and big ideas.

## Encina

1095 Evergreen Circle, Ste. 510  
The Woodlands, TX 77380  
281-210-0007  
mmarr@encina.com  
Michael Marr - Director of Government Relations & Compliance  
<https://www.encina.com>  
Encina is looking to locate a new facility in Central PA. Our products are circular manufacturing feedstocks derived from waste plastic, which can be used as circular/renewable content in the fabrication of a broad range of new materials in a variety of industries.

## TK Tackle

223 Main St.  
Watson, PA 17777  
570-540-5751  
TKTackle1@gmail.com  
Troy Kitner - Owner/CEO  
<https://www.facebook.com/TK-Tackle-155676961594068>

We are a tackle shop and outdoor store that specializes in custom, quality-made products made by local vendors and manufacturers.

## Endless Mountain Enterprises

14248 State Route 87 Highway  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-360-1384  
marianne@endlessmountainenterprisesllc.com  
Marianne Beane - Owner  
[sites.google.com/endlessmountainenterprisesllc.com/home](https://sites.google.com/endlessmountainenterprisesllc.com/home)  
We are a business consulting service with a heart for conservation, preservation and responsible use of natural resources. We provide advisory and consultation services for small- to mid-size businesses, with a special focus on non-profits and education-related businesses. Of course, as our business continues to grow, so too does the variety of solutions we are able to offer our clients and partners.

## Cinn-Ful Treats

54 S. Front St.  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-238-8806  
cinnfultreats@gmail.com  
Nathan Young - Owner  
<https://www.facebook.com/cinnfultreats>  
A family-owned bake shop providing classic hand-baked sweets, treats and more. We welcome special requests, custom orders for small and large parties as well as cakes and cupcakes.

## Borough of Shamokin Dam

42 W. 8th Ave.  
Shamokin Dam, PA 17876  
570-743-7565  
ehovenstine@shamokindam.net  
Ed Hovenstine - Borough Manager  
<http://www.shamokindam.net>  
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Find "Membership Renewals"  
on page 8.

Find the latest member news on  
our Facebook and Instagram  
pages and  
@ [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com).



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# Member Spotlight



**Shelby Engel,**  
Marketing & Business Development Manager  
570-360-2772

[shelby@rockeyauctions.com](mailto:shelby@rockeyauctions.com)

[www.rockeyauctions.com](http://www.rockeyauctions.com)

**How long have you been in business?**  
Since 2009.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

Complete home clear out and also real estate services.

**What is your Mission Statement?**

Rockey Auctions is dedicated to delivering effective, efficient, respectful service with integrity and accountability using proven and innovative methods.

**What makes your organization unique?**

We offer a variety of auction styles, including online bidding, live auction and on-site auctions. We also specialize in other services, including complete home liquidation, estate liquidation, consignment and real estate auctions.

**Ryan Workman,**  
Marketing/Account Executive  
570-323-0089

[contact.us@sciatwork.com](mailto:contact.us@sciatwork.com)

[www.sciatwork.com](http://www.sciatwork.com)



**How long have you been in business?**

This July marks SCI's 22nd year.

**What makes your business unique?**

We enjoy being big enough to serve our customers' needs while still being small enough to know them, too! SCI's commitment to integrity and ethics, reliability, knowledge, and fiscal responsibility keep us accountable to our team, our industry, and our clients.

**What is your Mission Statement?**

To provide quality customer service along

with innovative technology solutions to meet our clients' needs.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

We often find ourselves telling clients, "if it connects to a network, call us first!" Besides managed IT services and VoIP phone systems, SCI is partnered with Samsung and AXIS to provide the best equipment and software for deploying and managing digital signage and video surveillance, respectively. We also provide financing options to

make sure all the gear we sell is affordable for any size budget.

**What other community organizations does your organization participate in?**

SCI offers our particular expertise for a multi-county volunteer public safety organization, the Williamsport Independent Media Group, and the Williamsport Crosscutters—whom we also partner with to offer a technology prize for the annual Grand Slam Reading Competition.



**Jennifer Hain,**  
Administrative Director  
570-966-1031

[jhain@sun-tech.org](mailto:jhain@sun-tech.org)

[www.sun-tech.org](http://www.sun-tech.org)

**How long have you been in business?**

SUN Area Technical Institute (SUN Tech) will be graduating its 54th class, during the May 2022 commencement ceremony. SUN Tech is housed in two buildings (Main Campus and West Campus) having approximately 100,000 square feet and sits on 43.2 acres of land in a rural setting at the eastern edge of New Berlin. The back wing of the school was opened in 1971 and the front wing opened in 1972. On Oct. 12, 2012, SUN Tech purchased a 45,000 square foot building on 2.25 acres that is now known as the West Campus, which was renovated and opened in Fall 2017.

**What makes your business unique?**

For 40 years, SUN Tech has provided quality career and technical education programs to secondary students from five "sending" school districts: Lewisburg Area, Midd-West, Mifflinburg Area, Selinsgrove Area, and Shikellamy. Approximately 280 students are currently enrolled in our 18 unique, and classified instructional technical and career programs. Secondary students attend full time for one year in their senior year. SUN Tech is a ISO 9000 certified school, following a set of internationally recognized standards for quality assurance and management.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

Many people are surprised to hear that SUN Tech offers adult education programs, which has many different options from PTA, to Ed2Go, and evening instructional certifications. SUN Tech also offers programs to allow the public to come in for services. Two of our classes that allow regular appointments and reservations are culinary and cosmetology. Cosmetology allows the public to make appointments on Thursdays and Fridays for hair and nails. Culinary has the Cherry Street Café, a fully functioning restaurant open from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.



# What's Happening

**10th Annual**

**THE SALVATION ARMY**

**BLOCK PARTY**

**May 21, 2022**

**SATURDAY**

**30 Center St. Milton, PA**

**from: 5pm-8pm**

**FREE EVENT**

**FOOD**

**INFLATABLES**

**GAMES**

**DJ**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**MAGIC SHOW**

**PRIZES**

**The Salvation Army of Milton**  
30 Center St.  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-742-4231

[WWW.SALVATIONARMYMILTON.ORG](http://WWW.SALVATIONARMYMILTON.ORG)

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## Singercise for those with Parkinson's

**LEWISBURG** – The Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA has partnered with Bloomsburg Music Therapy to offer Singercise, a free, therapeutic class for people battling Parkinson's disease.

Singercise aims to improve speech intelligibility, increase vocal intensity, and improve respiration and swallowing, all while providing a source of social support in a fun and engaging setting.

The program, offered completely free of charge to participants and their caregivers thanks to a community grant from the Parkinson's Foundation, is currently being offered both in-person and virtually. In-person classes meet at the Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center every Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. now through June 27 and virtual classes meet via Zoom every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. now through June 15.

Class is led by board-certified music therapist Alysha Suley, MM, MT-BC, a member of the American Music Therapy Association and the International Association for Music & Medicine. Singercise is open to individuals of all physical ability and fitness levels who are battling Parkinson's disease.

Previous participants have seen marked improvements in their speech and breathing, with one participant saying, "A friend recently commented on how much better I was speaking and sounding." Singercise has also proven to be an excellent outlet for socialization, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Registration is open now, and those interested can register

**Welcome to Singercise!**

Weekly Warm-Ups, Vocal Exercises, and Repertoire

Singercise is led by board-certified music therapist Alysha Suley, MM, MT-BC, a member of the American Music Therapy Association and the International Association for Music & Medicine. Class is open to individuals of all physical ability and fitness levels who are battling Parkinson's disease.

at [gsvymca.org](http://gsvymca.org), or by calling (570)316-1899. Registration is required.

The Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA aims to bring together those in the community who are committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Locations include: Sunbury, Milton, Mifflinburg and Lewisburg.





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**31<sup>ST</sup> Annual**  
**Andrew Schmid**  
**Golf Tournament**

**June 9, 2022**

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# NEVER TRUST A PIRATE



Manufacturers' Association Annual Event  
[www.mascpa.org/annualevent](http://www.mascpa.org/annualevent)

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
5/10/22	Using AI to Assess Risk and Solve Problems in Manufacturing	Webinar	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
5/11/22 - 5/12/22	OSHA 10-Hour Training	Innovation Park at Penn State, 200 Technology Center, University Park	8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.	\$495
5/17/22	Next-Generation Sustainability: Go Beyond Reporting to Drive Environmental, Safety, and Operational Performance	Webinar	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Free



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Manager, Training & Outreach  
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**Bucknell University**

**570-577-1249**  
[www.bucknell.edu/sbdc](http://www.bucknell.edu/sbdc)

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
5/9/22	Hospitality Industry Roundtable & New Opportunities in Tourism Marketing	Online (Live)	4 to 5:30 p.m.	Free
5/10/22	So You Need a Prototype - Your Guide to the Jungle of Product Development	Online (Live)	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
6/3/22	The Creative Entrepreneur	Milton Academy of Art, 38. S. Front St., Milton	2 to 4:30 p.m.	Free



# Membership Renewals

(As of April 25, 2022)

BrightFarms  
 Bucknell Golf Club  
 Carl Jenkins DDS  
 Community Giving Foundation  
 Congressman Fred Keller  
 Eclipse Craft Brewing  
 Edward Jones - Danville  
 Family Care for Children and Youth  
 First National Bank - Lewisburg  
 First National Bank - Watsontown  
 Fulton Bank - Lewisburg  
 Graphite Grantworks  
 Hiller Architectural Group  
 Hoeganaes Corporation  
 James King  
 JSC Advisers  
 Karen Good State Farm  
 KPI Technology  
 Mediastead  
 Mid-State Mechanical Contractors  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Avis  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Clarkstown  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Dewart  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Hughesville  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Linden

Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Montgomery  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Montoursville  
 Muncy Bank & Trust Company - Muncy  
 Phoenix Physical Therapy - Lewisburg  
 Pizza Phi  
 PPL Electric Utilities  
 Preferred Portables  
 Representative David Rowe 85th District  
 Rotary Club of Milton  
 Roupp Funeral Home  
 Shade Mountain Winery - Danville  
 Shade Mountain Winery - Middleburg  
 State Farm  
 Sunbury Broadcasting  
 Susquehanna Valley Limousine  
 Susquehanna Valley Taxi Service  
 The Dip-In  
 The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum  
 The Squeeze-In  
 Tulpehocken Spring  
 Water/Mountainside Coffee  
 Unico Sealing  
 Warehouse Battery Outlet  
 Warrior Run Petcare Center  
 Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union



## Weis Center receives grant

LEWISBURG - The Weis Center for the Performing Arts has received a \$50,000 grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals as part of its new program, APAP ArtsForward, which supports the performing arts field's safe, vibrant, and equitable reopening and recovery.

The grant will be split 50/50 between Micaela Taylor and the Weis Center. Taylor will present her hip-hop and ballet infused contemporary dance works at the Weis Center in October and will also lead residency activities in the community as part of the engagement.

Micaela will use her background in hip-hop dance as the point of entry to connect with local youth to introduce them to dance fundamentals and technique within the performing arts, such as how to be in community through attending a performance; how to use movement as a means of self-expression, and as a therapeutic outlet; and how to connect with others through the arts.

Micaela Taylor's LA-based dance company The TL Collective is known for its fusion of contemporary dance and theatrical hip-hop, including elements of groove accompanied by high-level athleticism that has received rave reviews.

Named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch," Taylor has received choreographic commissions from Rambert2, BODYTRAFFIC, and Carlos Acosta's Acosta Danza, among others. This season, The TL Collective is slated to perform twice in New York City, the International Festival of Performing Arts in Panama, and a national tour. The company has received recent commissions from The Vilar Performing Arts Center, The Getty Museum, and a co-commission from American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow. The TL Collective is now on the rise as one of L.A.'s emerging dance companies.

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## COME JOIN US AT OUR EVENTS

**Every Day** – We have a clothing and shoes **ONLY** bin at the puppet home as a fundraiser. It is a HandUp bin. It is located behind the puppet home at the back alley.

**Miss Curly's Right Hand Club** – Fundraiser for a monthly subscription of \$15 or more to help pay for our monthly utilities and insurances. Go to:

<https://hiskingdomkidz.networkforgood.com/projects/150483-2022-giving>


**Amazon Smile** - If you use Amazon Smile, you can help us while shopping. Go to Smile.Amazon.com click on Kingdom Kidz and we will receive a donation from Amazon Smile. No extra monies taken from you.

**Call Us for Birthday Parties** at 570-838-3133. Come take a look at our facility.

**Flamingo Flocking season is upon us** – Now through Oct. 31. Call us to make someone's day!!

**Saturday, May 14 – Mother's Day Puppet Presentation** at 1 p.m. Admission is \$3. Choice of free Kingdom Kidz items to the first 20 children. Activity rooms will also be open to do crafts, make a puppet, etc. These rooms will be open until 5:30. It's \$7 for the whole afternoon, puppet program and activities. Free Mother's Day surprise for all mothers.

**Sunday, May 21 – FREE Movie "Charolette's Web"** at 1 p.m., with activity rooms open after movie until 5:30. It's \$7 for activities. Free popcorn and drink served after movie.



**CR | Freedom Pathway**

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for HURTS HABITS HANG UPS

**COOK Out**  
**May 31st**  
**6:30PM**

**Free: Registration Tickets at**  
[revtab.com-events](http://revtab.com-events)

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May 27, 2022

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Tee Sponsor - \$125

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[www.ncsight.org/golfforsight](http://www.ncsight.org/golfforsight)

Contact Amy at [amya@ncsight.org](mailto:amya@ncsight.org) or 570-323-9401



## MHS open house

**MILTON** - The Milton Historical Society is holding an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at the Cameron House, 5340 State Route 405, Milton. Tours will be available at no charge, and an exhibit featuring Red Man and other

fraternal organizations of Milton will be displayed. A sale of items will also be held from an estate donated to the society.

For more, visit: [www.miltonpa-historicalsociety.com](http://www.miltonpa-historicalsociety.com) and find them on Facebook.

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# Time with Tea Jay

## No secrets here

We all know what a secret is meant to be, and we've all hear the cliché, "the best kept secret." But, is that really something a business owner wants to have?

Do they really want their business to be unknown and unseen by others or not properly understood?

Joining the Central PA Chamber should come with a warning – **YOU WILL NOT BE KEPT A SECRET!**

Here is a recent example...In less than a day, a Facebook post on our page about a member reached more than 7,000 sets of eyes, and the numbers of "likes" and "shares" continue to climb. While on the topic of secrets, I want to let you know that our lending program called PAL (Pledged Asset Loan) is not meant to be a secret. So, please, spread the word and consider it for your business needs, too. We have an excellent page on our website ([www.centralpachamber.com/pal](http://www.centralpachamber.com/pal)) dedicated to this borrower-friendly program that allows you to choose your preferred financial institution. We want to help you continue your business growth, upgrades, new endeavors, and more, become a reality. You can ask Ann Hilliard of RE/MAX Bridges or Lisa Grant of Milton Savings Bank on how easy the PAL program was for them.

Something else that shouldn't be kept a secret per se is your smile! For whatever reason, my natural reaction when seeing another person smile is to smile back no matter the situation, location, or whether or not I know them. I knew the power of the smile was significant when sharing with others, but what I did not realize is how powerful it is for the one initially sharing the smile. According to guest blogger Sarah Stevenson in Psychology Today, both scientists and spiritual teachers agree that the simple act of smiling can transform you and the world around you. Current research (and common sense) shows us that a smile is contagious. It can make us appear more attractive to others. It lifts our moods, as well as the moods of those around us. Each time you smile, you throw a little "feel-good" party in your brain. The act of smiling activates neural messaging that benefits your health and happiness. This not only relaxes your body, but it can also lower your heart rate and blood pressure. We cannot always control what happens to us, but I am 100 percent confident that gracing your face with a grin can seriously change your internal and external experience. The world is simply a better place when you smile. Do not keep it a secret :)



Tea Jay Aikey  
President & CEO  
[tjaikey@centralpachamber.com](mailto:tjaikey@centralpachamber.com)



## YES, to interns!



We have some great news to share! We are participating in the YES to the Future program, a partnership between the CSIU, Advance Central PA and PA CareerLink. That means Antonio Pearson, a Milton Area High School graduate and participant of the YES program, will be spending the next couple of months interning with us and helping us out with a wide variety of tasks. It's very helpful as we continue to find our next permanent Education Coordinator. Interested? Give us a call at 570-742-7341 or e-mail President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey at [tjaikey@centralpachamber.com](mailto:tjaikey@centralpachamber.com).

To learn more about YES to the Future, visit [www.csiu.org/Page/261](http://www.csiu.org/Page/261).  
From left, are: Jeff Shaffer, Communication Director; Pearson; Jessica Williams, Finance & Membership Director; and Aikey.

## Looking to hire or even be hired?

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# Leg. Event served well at Watson Inn

WATSONTOWN - More than 80 people attended the Legislative Event in April at it's new location in the Moon Room of the Watson Inn, Watons town.

Many positive comments were made about the venue, including the location, breakfast buffet and staff. The event was sponsored by T-Ross Brothers Construction and Heritage Springs Memory Care. President Todd Ross and Lennea Brown of HSMC took turns discussing the growth and services of the two businesses.

Following was time for the featured speaker, state Sen. John Gordner, who has been serving in that capacity for nearly 20 years. He spent time on Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal, the Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway Project and ways to be serve the state's economy.

Gordner said the governor's budget next fiscal year calls for a more than 10 percent increase in spending, moving to \$45.7 billion dollars. He and many of his fellow Republican lawmakers call the proposal "unacceptable."

A concern of his is relaying on federal dollars to support it, since the funding can vary year-to-year.

"We do not want history to repeat itself," he said, referring to a \$3 billion deficit more than 10 years ago when former Gov. Tom Corbet took office.

Funding related to COVID-19 is "going away," and "there will be less money in the economy," he said, as the extension on student loan deferments worth trillions of dollars comes to an end.

One area many lawmakers agree that needs attention is lowering the corporate income tax (CIT) rate, which is the second highest in the nation at 9.99 percent. A reduction in the rate could take place over the next few years if approved.

Sen. Gordner did highlight some federal money, including a federal infrastructure bill that could provide PA with between \$400-500 million for broadband Internet access. However, a majority of the money is slated to be spent in largely "underserved" portions of the state.

In regard to local infrastructure, however, Gordner indicated the northern section of the CSVT Project will be completed by the end of the summer. And, there is the possibility that the



The Legislative Event in April at the Watson Inn featured state Sen. John Gordner and was sponsored by T-Ross Brothers Construction and Heritage Springs Memory Care. From left, are: Lennea Brown, Business Manager for HSMC; Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO; Sen. Gordner; and Todd Ross, President of T-Ross Brothers. Ross and Brown took turns discussing the services and growth of the two local business serving Central PA and beyond. Area students are also welcomed at Legislative Events to learn about what's happening at the local, state and federal levels of government. Attending were: Amelia Gainer and Kaleb Eger of Milton Area High School, and Jason Wood and Kaelyn Watson of Warrior Run High School.

public will have a chance to walk the massive bridge over the Susquehanna River before it's open to vehicle traffic. He added it would be a unique and beautiful view of the local landscape. Being two Legislative Events in for the year, there are now two remaining - one is scheduled for Sept. 16, sponsored by Service 1st Federal Credit Union, while the other will be held Nov. 11, sponsored by PPL Electric Utilities.

The cost to attend is \$17 and includes the breakfast buffet at the Watson Inn. Registration is now open at [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events).



More than 80 people turned out for the Legislative Event held in the Moon Room at the Watson Inn in Watons town. There is room for more, so come join us this fall for the next two! Register at [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events).

## Who Represents You?

*Where were you born?*  
Sunbury, PA

*Favorite vacation spot?*  
Any place with sun, water, sand, trees and good friends

*Have any hobbies?*  
Hunting, fishing, boating, flying, ATV riding and traveling

*A fun fact about yourself?*  
I love to spend as much time as possible with family and friends.

*What is your favorite Chamber memory?*  
When we moved into our present Chamber location after spending years looking for a property.

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Todd Ross,**  
T-Ross Brothers  
Construction

Director  
Term ending 2023



# Members Recognized

## Evangelical Community Hospital

LEWISBURG - Kathy Paul, RN, CHPN, has been named Director of Hospice at Evangelical Community Hospital.

Hospice of Evangelical is a comprehensive program that assists patients and their families with the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs that may accompany a life-limiting illness. Paul's leadership was effective on March 20. She replaces former Director Kay Holdren, who retired after 38 years of service.

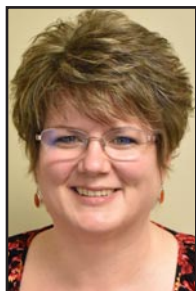
In this role, Paul is primarily responsible for the administration and coordination of all aspects of the Hospice program, including: hiring, training, supervising volunteers and staff, and coordinating total patient care. Other major responsibilities include community relations and education in addition to fundraising.

Throughout her more than 21 years in nursing, Paul has held various nursing roles from direct patient care, to RN/LPN Program Tutor to up-and-coming nursing students, to management as a Health Services Administrator. Paul has been with Hospice of Evangelical for eight years, most recently serving as the Clinical Team Leader.

In other news, Candi Taylor, RN, BSN, CRRN, ONC, has been named Director of Orthopaedics at SUN Orthopaedics of Evangelical.

In this role, Taylor is primarily responsible for all operational functions of the orthopaedic service line. This includes oversight of the clinical, financial, and administrative operations of the SUN Orthopaedics clinics, including satellite locations, and how those clinics interact with orthopaedic services connected to Evangelical Community Hospital.

Taylor is no stranger to nursing or orthopaedics as a specialty. She has over three decades of experience and has been a member of the Evangelical family of employees since 2003. Prior to that, Taylor worked as a staff nurse with SUN Orthopaedic Group for 13 years before the acquisition that made the practice part of Evangelical Community Hospital. Most recently she served as Director of Nursing of the Acute Intensive Rehabilitation Unit, the Inpatient Center for Orthopaedics, and the Lift Team at the Hospital, a position she's held since 2005.



Kathy Paul



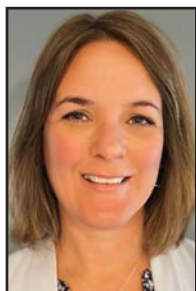
Candi Taylor

## Community Giving Foundation

BERWICK - The Community Giving Foundation Board of Directors announces Kara G. Seesholtz will be the next President and CEO of the foundation, effective Oct. 1.

She will replace Holly Morrison, who has announced her retirement, effective at the end of 2022.

Seesholtz will be the third President and CEO of the foundation. She has a long and fruitful relationship with the Foundation. She started in 2004, and has held various positions in grant making, communication, and development over her 18 years there. Seesholtz has served in her current role of Chief Advancement Officer since 2018, where she has proven herself as a passionate visionary and respected community leader. Dedicated to the Foundation's mission and the trusted relationships she has built with each of the stake-



Kara G. Seesholtz

holders she serves on a daily basis, Seesholtz brings a renewed energy of unity and innovation to the partnerships that continue to grow across the region.

Seesholtz is a native of the area, reflected in her commitment to the advancement of the community and well-being of those who call it home. She is a proud alumna of Bloomsburg University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. She resides in Mifflinville with her husband, Kirk, where they raised their two sons, Ky and Koy.

"Through my years at the Foundation, I have enjoyed building and stewarding positive relationships with donors, grantees, agency leaders, staff, boards, committees, and community members across the region," Seesholtz said. "These relationships and our staff's investment in our mission have been crucial to cultivating the values that set us apart. I look forward to using my belief in personalized philanthropy and community giving to guide the Foundation's growth and success in our region."

In other news, CSG announces that Christine Orlando will serve in the development role of Director of Philanthropy, effective July 1.

Orlando has been with the Foundation since 2009, and has held roles in communication, development, and grant making. She most recently served as Senior Program Officer, where she implemented and facilitated the grant making, Youth in Philanthropy, Non-profit Leadership Series, and scholarship programs at the Foundation. Throughout her professional development, she has established herself as a respected community leader and spokesperson for the growth and advancement of organizations across the Central Susquehanna region.

The Director of Philanthropy role is a key leadership position tasked with fulfilling the mission of the Foundation by establishing personalized and impactful funds, supporting donors and fundholders, strengthening connections to the community, and advancing organizational strategies following a commitment to stewardship and community giving. Orlando's history and established relationships with area donors, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders will set her up to cultivate and grow personalized philanthropy across the region.

"My experience and relationships with non-profit organizations has allowed me to see first-hand the impact of charitable funding in our region. I look forward to working more closely with the generous people who make what we do possible," said Orlando.

Orlando grew up in Nescopeck and has continued to remain committed to supporting the surrounding community, its organizations, and local residents. She received Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Management and Master of Business Administration degrees from Bloomsburg University. She resides in Bloomsburg with her husband, Adam, and two sons, Nico and Isaac. Over the next several months, Orlando will work closely with current and incoming Foundation leadership to ensure a smooth transition for staff and stakeholders.



Christine Orlando

## Manufacturers' Association

YORK - Brett Butler, General Manager of Precision Custom Components in York, was named to the Board of Directors of the Manufacturers' Association at the March board meeting. In addition, Sam Miller, President of Wolfgang Confectioners in York, was elected to a second three-year term and joined the finance committee.



Butler, an IE and MBA graduate of Penn State University, started at Precision Custom Components as an Industrial Engineer in 2008. He evolved in his role within engineering becoming the Director of Project and Industrial Engineering in 2014. In late 2020, Butler was promoted to General Manager of Precision Custom Components and has continued to serve in this leadership role.



Brett Bulter

Sam Miller

Miller is a graduate of Dickinson College and previously worked for Glatfelter Paper and as VP at Anstadt Communications in Emigsville, before joining Wolfgang Confectioners as COO. He became President and minority owner of the company in 2016 and has re-focused Wolfgang's business as a co-manufacturer of confections for some of the largest food manufacturers and retailers in the country.

Both gentlemen will begin their new board roles at the next board of directors meeting in late May.

### SEDA-COG

LEWISBURG - SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) announces that Steve Herman, an 18-year staffer, is the new director of its Transportation Planning program.

Herman began his career at SEDA-COG in 2002 as an intern, rising through to a position as a GIS Technician, then Transportation Planner, and now the Transportation Planning Program Director.

He has led the development of many transportation plans and studies over his career that have resulted in a safer and more efficient transportation system for its eight-county Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region. He's helped identify transportation issues and develop solutions that increase mobility, accessibility, and quality of life for SEDA-COG's residents and visitors.

Throughout Herman's career, he's been especially proud to play a part in advancing the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Project – an over \$800 million project that will improve safety, relieve congestion, and accommodate growth in the region – and in preparing the eight-county MPO region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that regularly invests more than \$100 million per year for key transportation upgrades. He has provided local governments with technical assistance in preparing funding applications and implementing their proposals, as well as coordinated the PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) training and technical assistance offerings for SEDA-COG region municipalities. In addition, Herman has served or been appointed to several statewide work groups and advisory committees that evaluate plans, programs, and trends. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Herman's major goals as director include sustaining the vital working relationship SEDA-COG has developed with both the public and local governments.

"I want to maintain and build on the excellence of our transportation planning program in helping to ensure our region is as safe, strong, and vibrant as it can be," he said. "I would like to continue and boost our internal and external collaboration to leverage available resources and support greater implementation of priority plans and projects. I want to engage in multidisciplinary planning and actively listen to the needs and ideas of planners, transportation industry experts, local governments, business leaders, non-profit organizations, and the general public."



Steve Herman

### First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania

WILLIAMSPORT - The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) recently hired Marsha Lemons as its first program officer. "FCFP is excited for the opportunity to enhance our scholarship program with the creation of a program officer," said Betty Gilmour, Director of Grantmaking. "This position will add a higher level of support for our local and regional school districts and create stronger relationships with colleges and universities."



Marsha Lemons

Lemons will be responsible for the management and implementation of the Foundation's scholastics initiatives. She will focus on cultivating relationships with educational institutions across the region to achieve goals related to scholarship funds. In addition, she will administer the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

She has over 30 years' experience in public and private higher education, working in student affairs, student activities, communication, and event planning. She has worked for universities in Nebraska, Texas and Virginia.

Most recently, Lemons served in a volunteer capacity supporting the staff and board of trustees at Susquehanna University. She has a deep appreciation for the non-profit sector, serving on the boards of Transitions PA, the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, the Snyder County Library, and the Sunbury Area Community Foundation.

In other news, FCFP recently hired Jessica Guinter as their Development Associate. The vacancy was created by the retirement of Patty McClintock, who served in the role for more than 12 years.

In her new role, Jessica provides administrative support to the FCFP development professionals and is responsible for the processing, management, and stewardship of charitable gifts to the Foundation.

Jason McCahan, Director of Philanthropy, said, "We are pleased to welcome Jessica to the FCFP team. Her years of experience and passion for our community will be an asset and compliments the recent expansion of the development team."

Jessica has over 12 years' experience in administration support, most recently in the health care sector. She has a passion for serving in the community through volunteer work, serving on the committee for the Ronald McDonald House annual Masquerade Ball and serving as the chair of the Taste of the Town event to benefit the RMDH of Danville.



Jessica Guinter

### Graphite Grantworks

WATSONTOWN - Jennifer Rempe, owner of Graphite Grantworks, has earned the Grant Professional Certification mark following a rigorous review and examining process.

The Grant Professional Certification is the nationally recognized symbol of grant professional quality and represents Rempe's ongoing commitment to professionalism and the application of standards of excellence in the grant profession. The Grant Professionals Certification Institute (GPCI) administers the nationally recognized Grant Professional Certified (GPC) credential to grant professionals who meet



Jennifer Rempe



# Ribbon Cuttings

Congratulations to Snappy's! On April 1, we conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its newest location at 18395 Russell Road (Route 15), Allenwood. A day full of activity took place, including food and drink specials, tastings and special visitors, including 'Boomer' of the Williamsport Crosscutters and small reptiles from nearby Clyde Peeling's Reptiland. The new Snappy's features an in-house Grille with a variety of offerings and a rewards program with mobile app.

Learn more at [www.mysnappys.com](http://www.mysnappys.com). Cutting the ribbon is David Stover, Sr. Retail Manager. From left, are: Ann Kaufman, District Director for Congressman Fred Keller; Gregg Township Supervisors Michael Keiser (vice chair); David Masser (chairman); and Arthur Masser; Gregg Township Secretary/Treasurer Jodi Willow; Stover; David Houseman, Food Operations Manager; 'Boomer', mascot for the Williamsport Crosscutters; Logan Hamm, Beer & Wine Assistant Retail Manager; Kim Young, Grille Manager; Union County Commissioner Stacy Richards (secretary); Chris Young Jr., District Manager; Union County Commissioner Preston Boop (vice chair); Ryan Scaife, Marketing Director; Alison Hall, Central PA Chamber Board Director; state Rep. Joe Hamm; Adam Siegel, Project Manager; Union County Commissioner Jeff Reber (chair); Sue Green, Chief Clerk in Union County; Central PA Chamber Board Directors Rob Jones (chair); Genie Bausinger; Ashley Parrish; Lennea Brown (treasurer); and Central PA Chamber President & CEO. Photos by Amber G Co. Photography, Lewisburg.



Congratulations to TK Tackle! On April 14, we conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new business location at 223 Main St., Watsontown, alongside the Watsontown Area Business Association. Cutting the ribbon is Laura Kitner, who co-owns the business with her husband, Troy Kitner, standing to her left. From left, in front, are: Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO; Rene Toro, WABA; Watsontown Mayor Russ McClintock; Ross Rathmell, CR Wilds, who works alongside TK Tackle; the Kitners; and Borough Councilman Ralph Young. Second Row: Jay Jarrett, Borough Manager; Barb Diehl, President of WABA; Borough Council Vice President Dan Folk; Deb Wolf and Nate Wesner, WABA. Back: Cody Reeder, CR Wilds; Cindie Lytle, WABA; Jennifer Rempe, Central PA Chamber Engagement Team member; and Karen Bottdorf, WABA Vice President. Find TK Tackle on Facebook!

Many thanks to the Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary for allowing the Central PA Chamber to conduct a presentation on Raising the Board (RtB) during their meeting in April!

From left, are: Rob Jones, Chairman of the Central PA Chamber Board and a RtB Mentor; Shirley Brough of the Rotary and herself a RtB Graduate; and Jeff Shaffer, the Chamber's Communication Director and RtB Program Director.

Interested in having us present to your non-profit organization or attending RtB? E-mail Jeff at [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com). Learn more, here: <https://centralpachamber.com/rtb>.





# Encina announces \$1.1 billion investment

NORTHUMBERLAND - Encina recently announced plans to invest \$1.1 billion to build a new manufacturing facility in Point Township, which would create 300 new full-time jobs.

This proposed state-of-the-art facility, named "The Point Township Circular Manufacturing Facility", would be the first in the region to use advanced technologies to convert post-consumer materials into feedstock that can be used to manufacture thousands of new products.

"Increasingly, customers are demanding sustainable practices across the product supply chain and life cycle," said David Roesser, CEO of Encina. "The feedstocks we manufacture reduce waste, offset the need to produce virgin materials and help manufacturers achieve carbon neutral goals as we transition to a circular economy."

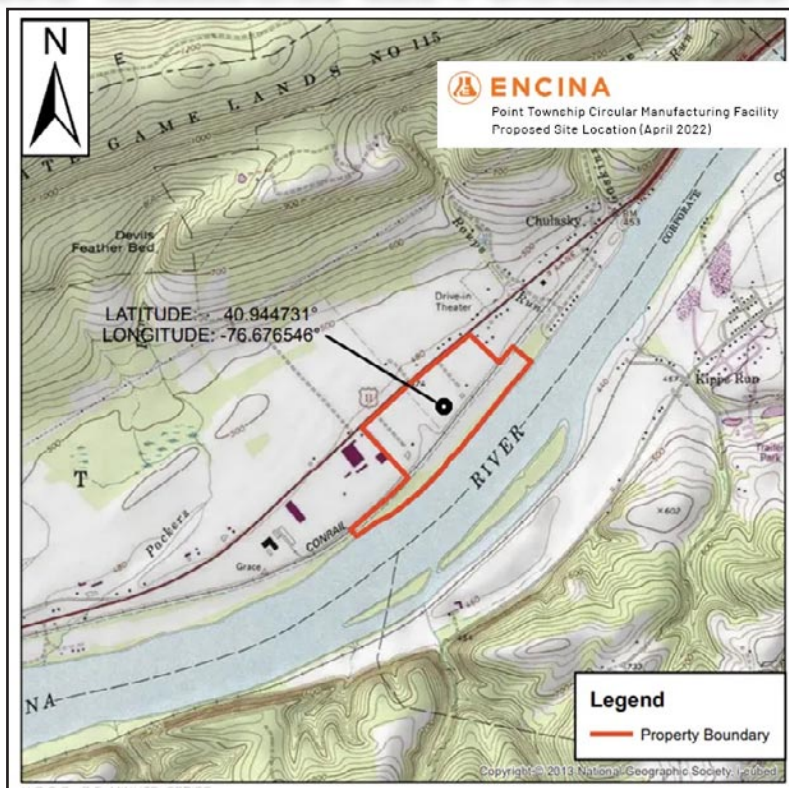
"Pennsylvania's access to markets and skilled workforce presents an ideal opportunity for investment, and we're committed to being an engaged partner as we build long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the local community and businesses."

Annually, the Point Township Circular Manufacturing Facility will process 450,000 tons of post-consumer materials, diverting the vast majority from landfills and away from incinerators. This facility would reduce the need to produce new plastic from oil and gas resources, providing circular solutions to customers committed to reducing their impact on the environment to build a circular economy.

According to an analysis by the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association, the construction and operation of this facility are projected to inject more than \$2.1 billion into the local and state economies over the next five years. Construction is expected to last 24 months and employ 750 local workers. Once fully operational, the facility would have 300 full-time employees. Encina is committed to hiring and utilizing local businesses wherever possible on this project. Construction is expected to begin this fall, and the facility is expected to be fully operational by fall 2024.

Encina is hosting a community open house from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 at the American Legion Post #44 in Point Township.

The open house will be set up as a workshop so attendees can



The proposed site location for Encina's Point Township Circular Manufacturing Facility.

arrive at any time, meet and talk with Encina team members and learn more about the proposed Point Township Circular Manufacturing Facility. To register for the open house, subscribe to receive updates about the project or learn more, visit [www.encinapointtownship.com](http://www.encinapointtownship.com).

Encina Development Group produces circular manufacturing feedstock. Encina's products provide the basic building blocks for customers to meet their renewable content goals and enable the cyclical production and reproduction of products across a broad spectrum of ubiquitous goods, including consumer products and packaging, pharmaceuticals, construction, and much more.

For more information, visit [www.encina.com](http://www.encina.com).

## Breakfast Briefing



Thank you to everyone that joined us for April's Breakfast Briefing, sponsored by Susquehanna Valley CASA! Jennifer Rempe, a fundraiser for the organization, shared the mission of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), standing up for children in difficult home situations. Susquehanna Valley CASA is looking for volunteers! Call 570-988-2200 and learn more at [www.susquehannavalleycasa.com](http://www.susquehannavalleycasa.com). Breakfast Briefings are a great way for business and organizations to network and take place monthly at the Chamber. Register at [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events).

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## Business & Education

# Closing out another great year



Congratulations to the 2022 Class of Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV)! On April 21, a total of 19 students from five area schools graduated from the program during a ceremony at La Primavera, near Lewisburg. Each received a certificate of completion as well as a citation from their respective state senator, either Sen. John Gordner or Sen. Gen Yaw. From, from left, are: Jocelyn (Lyn) Bingaman, Cassidy McClintock and Delaney Kraus of Mifflinburg Area High School; Sage Dunkleberger, Warrior Run High School; Ava Rosko, Southern Columbia Area High School; Penn Patten, Warrior Run; and Emma East, Milton Area High School. Back: Sophie Shadle and Edward (Eddie) Zuber, Southern; Gavin Millett, Meadowbrook Christian School; Grant Waugh, Southern; Christopher Reed, Meadowbrook; Emma Pick, Emma Podobinski, Allie Zaktansky and Audrey Shipman (class speaker), Warrior Run; Amber Birdsong and Rylen Roush, Milton. Not pictured: Maria Darrup, Mifflinburg. Photos on this page by Hosterman Creative.

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Audrey Shipman of Warrior Run was selected as the class speaker, sharing a group perspective of the BLSV year. The students also presented their culminating class projects, sharing their business plans before a panel of 'sharks', who were Maureen Hauck of the Bucknell Small Business Development Center; Tea Jay Aikey, President & CEO of the Central PA Chamber; and Skyler Herb of Skyworks Equipment Rental, and Chamber Board VP. The winning team, 'Shortstacks', was a proposed college town bakery, and included: Reed, Zaktansky, McClintock, Zuber and Podobinski.





A student group with their advisor having a little fun during PFEW last summer.

## 'The next great workforce'

**WILLIAMSPORT** - As a partner in supporting local business, the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education (FFEE) knows how difficult it is to find and keep great employees. Many young people lack the knowledge and skills needed, or they leave to pursue opportunities because they simply don't know about the great local jobs available right here, right now. That's why FFEE supports Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW). PFEW is a youth development program like no other. It teaches high school students about business and the American free enterprise system and helps them develop job ready skills like leadership, communication, work ethic, finance, marketing and more that prepare them for great careers right here at home. There are multiple week-long summer sessions for rising high school juniors and seniors on the campuses of Lycoming College and the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. PFEW made a triumphant return to in-person learning in 2021, educating 1,139 students statewide. This summer, they plan to welcome 1,600 eager students to Williamsport for the 43rd year of this award-winning program. Students attend

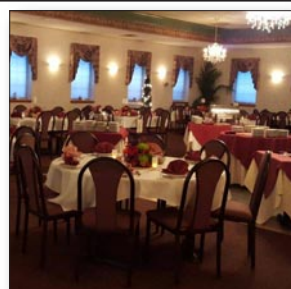
on a fully tax-deductible \$625 sponsorship donated by a business, foundation, organization or individual. FFEE is an approved Educational Improvement Organization through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. They encourage you to provide PFEW sponsorships for local students and, if possible, volunteer for the sessions. FFEE offers two other impactful programs that prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The Stock Market Game (SMG) teaches students in grades 4-12 about investing and financial literacy, and the Speaker Series helps students explore careers and develop the knowledge and skills needed to become great employees. All Foundation programs are singularly focused on promoting the ideals of business and the American free enterprise system and preparing our young people to become great business and community leaders. To learn more about PFEW or their other educational programs, please visit the Foundation's website, [www.pfew.org](http://www.pfew.org), or contact Scott Lee, vice president of marketing & development, at 814-833-9576 ext. 8, or [scott@pfew.org](mailto:scott@pfew.org).

# Spring Career Awareness Fair



Thank you to all of the businesses and organizations that participated in the Spring Career Awareness Fair on April 12 at Warrior Run Middle School. The fair was open to more than 400 students between third and sixth grades. Vendors included: UPMC North-central PA; Edward Jones - Sheri Purdy; CO/Lab Lending; Veterans Health Administration Vet Center; Schlegel Excavating; Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA; NextGen Power Wash; Kinetic by Windstream; Montour Area Recreation Commission; Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association; Albright Studio Photography; Milton Travel Plaza; Girls on the Run of Central PA; Geisinger; T-Ross Brothers Construction; Cup O Code. Event sponsors were Cabinetworks Group, Mifflinburg; kinetic by Windstream and UPMC.

Photos by Amber G Co. Photography.



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## Jessica's Jottings

### Time to grow

After some April showers (including snow!), we are ready for some May flowers.

Just like the plants we see during this time

of year, we also need certain necessities to be able to grow and be a great asset for our job, community and home. The Central PA Chamber of Commerce would like to help you with this growth!

Did you know we have a whole tab on our website dedicated to get you trained on different applications you use every day? We have courses available to you that range from the Microsoft programs (such as Excel and PowerPoint), safety and security procedures for your office, workplace etiquette, and so much more. With the option of completing these courses on your own schedule, there is no reason not to check them out. There are more than 400 courses currently for you and your team to choose from. These online courses could be just the right thing to stimulate growth.

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce also offers in-person trainings throughout the year on various topics. Our Seminar & Training Series is presented by the staff and/or fellow Central PA Chamber members depending on the topic. We currently offer marketing and elevator pitch classes. If you have an idea for a seminar or training that you would like to see offered, do not hesitate to contact us to help set it up. We have multiple members we reach out for their expertise on various topics. Be sure to check out the events calendar on our website to see upcoming seminars and trainings and register to attend. Visit [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events). Are you currently serving on a non-profit board or are thinking about it? Our in-house program Raising the Board is just what you and/or your organization needs. This four-week class is designed to help non-profit leaders learn more about the fundamentals of running an organization at its highest potential. The mentors for this program will walk you through fundraising, financials, vision and mission statements and much more. You can schedule a private class for your entire board or sign up individually to one of the open classes. Feel free to contact Jeff Shaffer here at the Chamber for more information. E-mail [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com). Our vision is to "Help Our Region Grow", and by offering the above resources, it certainly helps! If you are interested in learning more about any of these resources, do not hesitate to jump on our website or give us a call.

"The quickest way to grow the sales of your business is to grow your people." – Robin Sharma, self-help writer.



Jessica Williams  
Finance & Membership Director  
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## Service 1st sends support to Ukraine



Service 1st's Corporate Center near Danville.

Service 1st Federal Credit Union recently donated \$25,000 to support two initiatives to help Ukrainian credit unions and Ukrainian citizens affected by the ongoing conflict with Russia. 'Credit unions worldwide were built on the fundamental belief of people helping people,' said Bill Lavage, President/CEO. Service 1st donated \$20,000 to the Ukrainian Credit Union Displacement Fund established by the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions. This fund will support Ukraine's credit union system, those it serves and citizens in need. Service 1st's donation was matched by Vizo Financial. Vizo Financial is a state-chartered corporate credit union that serves credit union service organizations, leagues, chapters and more than 1,200 credit unions in the United States and Canada. To date, the Ukrainian Credit Union Fund has raised over \$500,000. To help fulfill the medical needs of those affected in both Poland and Ukraine, credit unions are joining together to support a relief account established with Poland's National Association of Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions. These funds will be used to help purchase two ambulances. Service 1st contributed \$5,000 to this ambulance fund. For more information, visit [service1.org](http://service1.org).

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classes now @  
[www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events).*



### "Members Recognized" (from page 13)

eligibility requirements and successfully demonstrate proficiency in the required nine competencies.

The credential is designed to identify individuals with broad-based knowledge and real-world experience in the field of grantsmanship. The GPC provides widely recognized affirmation of the GPC practitioner as a person of integrity whose broad interest is in building social capital and helping guide less knowledgeable stakeholders to become truly professional and altruistic practitioners.

GPCs must also maintain CEU's throughout their grant professional careers in order to retain the credential.

Rempe has been in the field of fundraising, marketing and sales her entire career, and founded the Graphite Grantworks consultancy in 2016. Specializing in small to medium-sized non-profits, Jennifer has helped many non-profits and county governments grow and diversify their funding streams across the state. Jennifer has a passion for helping people become better grant professionals by teaching group and one-on-one workshops and trainings. Learn more at [www.graphitegrantworks.com](http://www.graphitegrantworks.com).

### Villager Realty

LEWISBURG - Sabra L. Karr, the general manager of Villager Realty in Lewisburg, announces the real estate company's "Agent of the Quarter" Awards for the 1st Quarter of 2022.

The award recognizes the contributions of the agents by their production, personal and professional growth, and their community involvement.

"Villager Realty is proud to announce Pam Whitenight of our Northumberland Office as the Agent of Quarter for the 1st Quarter of 2022," Kaar said. "Pam is experienced, organized, and fully capable of juggling the many responsibilities and the opportunities that come her way. A trusted advisor, her clients and customers give her rave reviews. She is involved in her community and her indus-



Pam Whitenight

Terry Conrad



Bonnie Trump

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try, and is one of the top salespersons in the office.

Nominated for the honor from the Lewisburg Office this spring was Terry Conrad, while veteran Bonnie Trump took the nomination in the Danville Office.

"Available inventory remains a challenge," said Karr. "But, these nominated agents have shown that hard work, knowledge and dedication is a winning combination."

### Swift Kennedy & Associates

WILLIAMSPORT - Jerry Calistri, President and CEO of the insurance brokerage firm Swift Kennedy & Associates, has been designated as a Certified Self-Funding Specialist by the Health Care Administrators Association.

To earn this certification, Calistri completed comprehensive courses about alternative funding and third-party administration, which highlighted the advantages of using self-funded health care plans, such as level-funded policies.

Calistri is a Senatorial Member and PAC Board Member of Health Agents for America, a member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, and a member the National Association of Health Underwriters, as well as past President of its former Mid Penn chapter. In addition, he is a Certified Healthcare Reform Specialist.

He has over 30 years of experience in the employee benefits industry, including working at the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund in Harrisburg and at Geisinger Health Plan as Regional Sales and Operations Manager for the Western Region.



Jerry Calistri

## Guest Column

### Retain employees with affordable health plans

With inflation rates at a 40-year high, most business owners are trying to cut costs in every way possible. But, even though group health insurance rates have increased dramatically over the last year, employers realize they must continue to offer high quality benefits in order to retain workers in this labor market.

So, how can employers walk the tightrope between cutting their health insurance costs and satisfying employee expectations? I suggest that business owners consult with an insurance brokerage firm to help solve this quandary.

To help companies strike that balance, we offer clients multiple-year strategies that can include both traditional benefit plans and alternative options, such as level-funded plans.

In addition, we provide clients with data analyses, as well as Benchmarking reports showing what similar companies offer their employees. In addition, the firm works with many different carriers

in order to negotiate highly competitive quotes for clients.

Since motivated employees usually seek the best medical care available at the lowest price, we also provide clients with educational seminars to inform workers about their benefits and promote employee engagement. Many of the benefit plans that Swift Kennedy offers clients also feature services that incentivize employees to participate more fully in their healthcare decisions, while keeping their costs down.

More and more plans now also include telemedicine, which allows employees to have online medical appointments instead of in-person doctor visits for certain medical conditions. These popular programs are convenient for workers and highly cost-effective for employers.

In addition, some policies offer prescription benefit management programs, which incentivize employees to select less expensive generic and mail order drugs instead of brand name ones.

- Jerry Calistri

President and CEO

Swift Kennedy & Associates



# BY THE NUMBERS...

\*As of press time

This was the **10<sup>TH</sup>** year a member has been given the Green Business of the Year Award.

To date, more than **1,000** students have graduated from Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley.

There are nearly **50** members with job opportunities listed on our website.

## Join us at these upcoming events!

### **BREAKFAST BRIEFING**

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, May 20 @  
the Central PA Chamber of Commerce,  
30 Lawton Lane, Milton.

Free to Attend - **Registration is Required**

Sponsored by:  **Intrada**  
TECHNOLOGIES

### **CENTRAL PA** BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION **Seminar & Training Series**

#### **Small Business Cybersecurity 101**

10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 26  
@ Central PA Chamber of Commerce,  
30 Lawton Lane, Milton

Cost: \$15 Member/ \$20 Non-Member

Register: [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

Presented by:



### **CENTRAL PA** CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **INSIDE JOBS**

12 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 8  
@ Snappy's  
18395 Russell Road (Route 15), Allenwood

Featuring:



- A behind-the-scenes look of the new store
- Try free food from the popular Grille
- Meet the Snappy's team

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

### **21st Annual "B&E" Golf Tournament** Friday, June 24 @ Bucknell Golf Club



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