IT'S YOUR BUSINESS www.centralpachamber.com BUSINESS Volume 10, Issue 3 - March 2025

Educational Opportunity New Online Learning Partnership, pg.3



Pennsylvania College of Technology A Penn State Affiliate



REGIONAL COLLEGES NORTH 2025

March Mashed Martini Madness,

pg. 4



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The Inside Scoop

Welcome to our March issue of IYB!

Have you heard about our new partnership with Workforce Development at the Pennsylvania College of Technology? Per our members requests, we are thrilled to direct those seeking online learning opportunities to the College's ed2go programs. Check out the available courses



on our website under the "Business & Education" tab.

It is getting very close to the time we need to calculate the results of Green Business applications for this year's award. Make sure YOU have the Green Business distinction on your Chamber Membership Directory listing!

We are also excited to have a fun, non-business event on our calendar to close the month of March. You are all invited to join the Central PA Chamber team for some March Mashed Martini Madness at the Rusty Rail Brewing Co. in Mifflinburg on Monday evening, March 31.

Sign-up for these and more events described throughout these pages. Happy reading!

Myan

Ryan Workman, Editor **Communications Director** rworkman@centralpachamber.com

The President's Club

Thank you, 2025 Members! (Committed as of publishing.)

Asbury Riverwoods **CSIU** The Coup Agency **Decal Dynasty Eight Days a Week Studios Evergreen Wealth Solutions** First Commonwealth Bank **Fulton Bank** Heritage Springs Memory Care **Hosterman Creative** Hot Frog Media iHeart Media Intrada Technologies Jersey Shore State Bank **Keystone Advertising** Lawton Insurance Agency

LIVIC Civil

MC Federal Credit Union Meixell-Diehl Insurance Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company **Milton Savings Bank** North Central Sight Services North Shore Railroad Company Payroc Pennsylvania American Water **PenTeleData Purdy Insurance Agency Real IT Care Riverfront Financial Services** Roto-Rooter / Sorg Inc. Service 1st Federal Credit Union Service Electric Cablevision

Stahl Sheaffer Engineering The Standard Journal Sunbury Broadcasting Corp. Susquehanna Fire Protection Co. Susquehanna Valley Limousine Swift Kennedy & Associates Sync Solutions **T-Ross Brothers Construction United Plate Glass UPMC** The UPS Store **The Wealth Factory** WellSpan Evangelical **Community Hospital**

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize members that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. Learn more at centralpachamber.com/tpc.

IYB Deadlines

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

> **Spring Print Issue*** (released early April) Ads & Flyers due by March 7

April Digital Issue News & Ads due by March 14

May Digital Issue News & Ads due by April 18

*The Central PA Chamber also publishes IYB Quarterly four times a year. Copies are available at public member locations across the region.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS



Online Training – Pennsylvania College of Technology

Chamber Partners with College for Online Training

WILLIAMSPORT – Pennsylvania College of Technology has partnered with the Central PA Chamber of Commerce to provide its membership with hundreds of instructor-facilitated noncredit online courses.

Through Penn College's collaboration with ed2go, the college offers online training for in-demand jobs, professional skills and enrichment courses.

"We are excited to partner with the Central PA Chamber to spread awareness about the extensive training opportunities available through Penn College," said Sara Hillis Ousby, director of workforce training programs. "Chamber members can now easily discover and explore hundreds of online courses – from career-advancing technical certifications to personal enrichment. Whether you're interested in learning a new language or gaining industry credentials in IT, health care or business, we want our community to know these convenient, affordable options are ready and waiting for them."

Training for in-demand jobs is available with flexible, self-paced, noncredit certificate programs for career preparation or advancement. Each course is developed by a team of experts and comes with dedicated advisers to support those looking to train in high-demand fields and prepare for nationally recognized certifications. Upon completing with a passing score, students receive a certificate of completion, and when applicable, a voucher to sit for the certification exam.

Professional skills and enrichment courses are affordable, convenient and offer two modes of learning:

Instructor-moderated courses start monthly and allow students to study and interact with a cohort over a six-week schedule, or self-guided courses provide access to all lessons immediately with up to three months to complete.

Popular topics include business, accounting, computer applications, programming, writing and languages.

Central PA Chamber President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey expressed excitement about this new partnership: "The newly established partnership with Pennsylvania College of Technology is one of many ways that the Central PA Chamber works to continue to identify and bring resources to the over 635 members, their teams and families," she said. "We are grateful for this opportunity to partner with Pennsylvania College of Technology."

The courses can be accessed through a link on the chamber's website. Costs start as low as \$44.

For complete course listings, visit Penn College's Workforce Development site or call 570-327-4775.

For information on credit offerings at Penn College, a national leader in applied technology education and workforce development, call toll-free 800-367-9222.

Online Courses

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

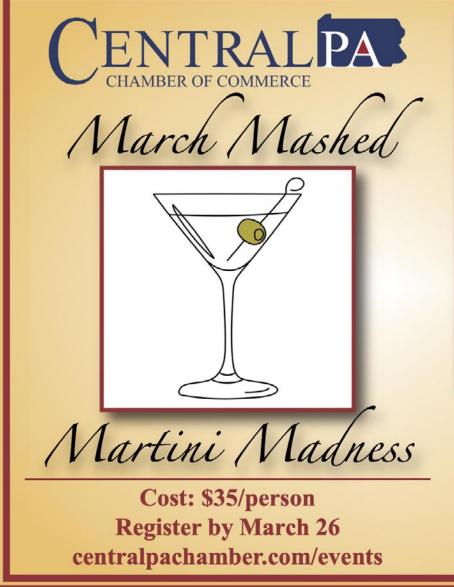
AT PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



Pennsylvania College of Technology A Penn State Affiliate 4-Central PA Chamber of Commerce

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

March Mashed Martini Madness!



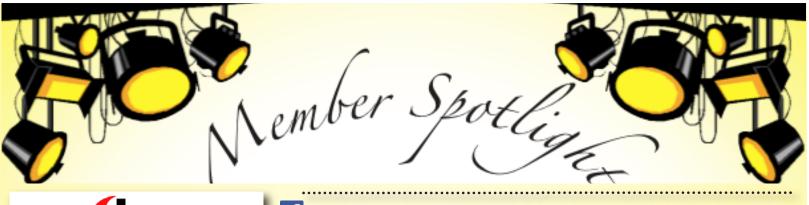
ENTRAL PA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Registration cost includes ticket for One Signature Martini & Mashed Potato Bar: Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes, Bacon, Gravy, Shredded Cheese, Sour Cream, & Chives. Additional food & drinks available for purchase separately. All attendees must be age 21 or older! All sales are final – no refunds.





Christ United Methodist Church

How long has your organization existed?

The Christ United Methodist Church has existed for 234 years!

What makes your organization unique in your industry (i.e. a service people wouldn't think you provide)? The mission of the United Methodist Megan Millard, Pastoral Leader 570-523-7104

Church is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The people of Christ UMC recognize that this mission is not one that comes from simply hearing a sermon on Sunday morning. They know that in order to make disciples they have to show people the same care that Jesus did. Christ UMC is dedicated to caring for the Northumberland community. They offer free practically perfect clothes through their Born Again

Boutique. They offer free meals once a month along with food, books, and pet supplies 24/7 with their Blessing Shed. The people of the church truly act as the hands and feet of God where they are able in their community. mmillard@susumc.org www.christnorry.org 101 King Street Northumberland, PA

Why are you a member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce?

We became members of the Chamber in hopes of growing in connection with the other organizations that are also doing great things in the area.

What benefit/opportunity from your Chamber membership do you utilize or want to utilize?

We hope to utilize a lot of the learning opportunities and make connections with groups to see how we can support each other.

Want to appear in the Member Spotlight? E-mail Jessica Beaver: <u>jbeaver@centralpachamber.com</u>



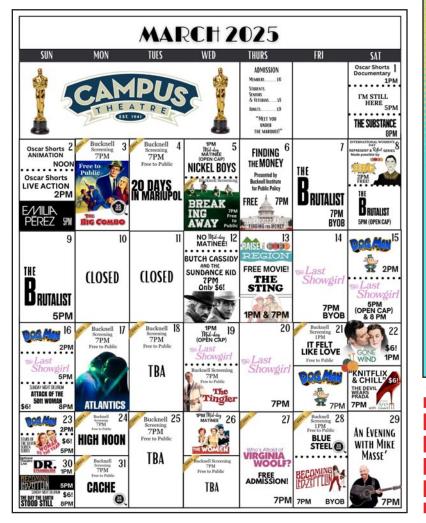


Find New Members & Membership Renewals starting on page 8.

What's Happening



	Ma	arc	h^2	20	25	MILLTO PUBLIC LIBR/ At Rose Hill 541 Broadwo Milton, PA 178 (570) 742-711 miltonpalibrary
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Check out the Artisan Showcase in the lobby for handmade crafts!	Spring Curbside Activity March 18th - April 1st	March Take- and-Creates available in the Kids' Comer				1 Seuss-tival 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Last day to return reading logal
2 Library Closed	3 Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	4 Computer Class* Mobile Devices 2:00-5:00 Mobile Maker Camp* Laser Engraving 4:00 PM	5 Storytime with a Firefighter 11:30 AM ESL Class* 4:30-6:00	6 Craft Club 10:00 AM Baby Playdate 0-24 months 2:00 PM	7 Storytime with a Police Officer 10:00 AM Book Donations accepted 9:00 AM- 4:00PM	8 Book Donations occepted 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
9 Library Closed	10 Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	11 Computer Class* Google/Microsoft Tools 200-5:00 Travels w/ Carlee: Singapore 4:30 PM	12 Pinochle	13 Baby Playdate 0-24 months 2:00 PM	14 The Link 9:30 - 2:00 Storytime for 2-6 yrs 10:00 AM	15
16 Library Closed	17 Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	18 Computer Class* Documents and Spreadsheets 2-5:00 Spring Craft 4:30-5:30	19 Storytime for 2-6 yrs 11:30 AM ESL Class* 4:30-6:00	20 Baby Playdate 0-24 months 2:00 PM	21 Storytime for 2-6 yrs 10:00 AM	22
23 Library Closed	24 Spice Club Kits Available - Cloves Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	25 Craft Club 4:00 PM Trivia Night (ages 10 and up) 6:30 PM	26 Storytime for 2-6 yrs 11:30 AM ESL Class* 4:30-6:00	27 Baby Playdate 0-24 months 2:00 PM	28 Storytime for 2-6 yrs 10:00 AM	29
30 Library Closed	31 Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM					







Find the latest member news and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
3/6/2025	AI-Driven Employee Relations	Webinar	9 to 10:30 a.m.	\$99.00
3/12/2025	Strategic Succession Planning for Supervisors	IMC 1127 W. 4th St., Williamsport, PA	9 to 12:00 p.m.	\$189.00
3/17-18/2025	ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training	Virtual	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$595.00

Lauri Moon Manager, Outreach & Special Projects 570-329-3200

www.imcpa.<u>com/events</u>

New Members

Top Rock Design LLC 1380 Blue Ball Road Watsontown, PA 17777 Phone: 570-939-7278 www.toprockdesignlandscape.com

"Top Rock Design is a Landscaping, Hardscaping Business located in Watsontown, PA and serving the greater Susquehanna Valley."

Ervin Stoltzfus, Owner toprockdesign18@gmail.com

Commonweal Consulting Group, LLC 10 Enterprise Drive Carbondale, PA 18407 Phone: 570-760-6619 www.commonwealconsulting.com

"At Commonweal Consulting Group, we make strategic planning and board development simple, effective, and affordable. We know that time and cost can be barriers, which is why we use cutting-edge technology to streamline the process, saving you time and reducing expenses—without sacrificing quality. If you've ever thought strategic planning was out of reach, think again. We're here to make it work for you. Our expert guidance helps boards and executive leaders strengthen governance, drive collaboration, and maximize mission impact. Let's transform your organization's future efficiently, affordably, and strategically."

Michele McGowan, Co-Founder and Lead Consultant michelemcgowan@commonwealconsulting.com

LIFE Child Care Learning Center 436 West 4th Street Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: 570-322-7141 Fax: 570-322-5204 www.lifecclc.org

"LIFE Child Care Learning Center is a non-profit preschool and daycare center. We enroll children beginning at 6 weeks old up to the end of 6th grade. Our childcare for school aged children includes transporting them to and from school every weekday and assisting them with homework. We are an official site for CACFP, which provides meals to children."

Barbara Reeves, Administrator ccwclife2016@gmail.com

Custom Care Pharmacy 59 South Front Street Milton, PA 17847 Phone: 570-989-0990 www.custompakrx.com

"Custom Care Pharmacy is designed to transform how you manage your prescriptions, eliminating trips to the pharmacy and the hassle of organizing your medications. We believe in a future where your health care is integrated effortlessly into your daily routine. That's why our pharmacy delivery and packaging service is committed to providing you with timely, secure, and personalized medication management solutions. Let us take care of the details, so you can focus on what truly matters—your health and wellbeing."

Mallissa Weaver, Director of Business Development & Client Relations mallissa.weaver@customcarerx.com

Beauty & Bubbles Pet Grooming Salon 321 East Front Street Berwick , PA 18603 Phone: 570-317-8228 www.beauty-bubbles.com

"We are a dog and cat grooming salon."

Primary Contact Nicole Shistle, Owner/Groomer Mallatrattnicole@icloud.com

Go Green!



Membership Renewals

(As of Feb. 27, 2025)

FCCB - First Citizens Community Bank - Winfield Heritage Springs Memory Care Inc. - Lewisburg Heritage Springs Memory Care Inc. - Montoursville Life Leadership Camp Susque Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Custom Container Solutions LLC **PPL Electric Utilities** Sheesley Insurance Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Danville Main Branch Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Lewisburg Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Shamokin Dam Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Bloomsburg Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Danville Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Elysburg Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Mifflinburg Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Milton Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Sunbury Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Williamsport/Loyalsock Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Muncy Larson Design Group - Williamsport Larson Design Group - Selinsgrove Villager Realty, Inc. - Northumberland Villager Realty, Inc. - Lewisburg Jersey Shore State Bank - Lewisburg Jersey Shore State Bank - Danville Norman E Buck Plumbing & Heating LLC Phoenix Physical Therapy - Lewisburg Fulton Bank - Lewisburg Our Best Friends Bakery THriv. LLC Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes, LLC Bucknell Golf Club AGAPE Your Building Centers - Milton Boy Scouts of America, Susquehanna Council Union County Housing Authority Middle Creek Signs Inc. Mifflinburg Heritage & Revitalization Assoc. (MHRA) Union County Historical Society The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum River Valley Builders LLC State Representative David Rowe Borough of Watsontown Heritage Printing & Design LLC WVIA JanWay Company



on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

10-Central PA Chamber of Commerce

Get Yourself Noticed!

Free marketing. Yes, FREE marketing. Have you made use of your FREE MARKETING with the Central PA Chamber?

Why wouldn't you want to increase your exposure, build trust, gain new connections and clients? That is what I keep asking myself.

It is so simple to redeem, takes little time and did I mention it is FREE?

The first thing required is to be a member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce. You have that covered. Now why are you a member of the Central PA Chamber? It is that easy!

It is called WHY US video. The videos are featured on the Central PA Chamber website, featured on social media on WHY US Wednesdays, used as hold "music" on the Central PA Chamber phone system and other marketing opportunities as deemed appropriate.

There is an entire library of WHY US videos to watch and get an idea for your submission. Note that they are all unique as it is to be original and not scripted: https://centralpachamber.com/why-us/

Secondly does your business practice environmental efforts such as recycling, conservation of power, etc.? Have you registered as a GREEN BUSINESS? Simply go online and apply for the recognition now and you just may be the 2025 Green Business of the Year announced on Earth Day and sponsored by our friends at Phoenix Filtration and Plumbing. The application is available here: https://centralpachamber.com/green-businessrecognition-program-application/.

March is loaded with various types of events and services for YOU, the members of the Central PA Chamber. There is the What is the Central PA Chamber seminar with Jessica. This is for existing, new, prospective members alike. Each year the Board Directors attend and always find some new helpful ways to put their membership to work even more effectively. Later in March Ryan will be hosting his Elevator "pitch" NOT speech seminar at the Campus Theatre. If you tend to get nervous or struggle with what to say when you just have a few brief seconds to introduce yourself this is perfect for you. Those attending are all there for the same reason and will make you feel at ease.

Of course, we have the monthly Breakfast Briefing and Inside Jobs Tour which are very close to being sold out so don't wait too long to get registered.

Then we have the Mashed Potatoes and Martini event at the Rusty Rail to close out the month and the first quarter of the year! This is something we did many years ago at the former Purcell's Irish Pub as a NO BUSINESS just fun event and it was a hit. Registration has been coming in steadily and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the game room at Rusty Rail having fun!

If you came to the original Mashed Potatoes and Martini event let me know I'd love to reminisce. I found a few pictures recently too. See you in March and WHY US!

Lea Jay

Tea Jay Aikey President & CEO tjaikey@centralpachamber.com









How 'green' are you'

MILTON – Once again in commemoration of Earth Day, the Central PA Chamber staff will award a member with the Green Business of the Year Award.

How has your business been good to the environment? Do you reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible? Do you make eco-friendly choices when purchasing supplies? The ways businesses can shrink their footprints are seemingly endless!

Applications for the Green Business of the Year Award will be accepted until noon on Monday, March 31. A member will be visited and announced as the winner on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22. If you have filled out the application in the past, we strongly encourage you to do it again, especially if your "green" efforts have "grown." T. Ross Brothers Construction was the 2024 recipient of the Green Business of the year Award on Earth Day. Could your business be the winner this year?

major areas. For questions, call 570-742-7341.

Find the form at 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

TRAL

This is the 14th year of the award being presented. The past Green Business of Year Award recipients are: T. Ross Brothers Construction, 2024; Java Mamma, 2023; The Laundry Room of Lewisburg, 2022; 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.

The Green Business of the Year Award is proudly presented with the assistance of HandyCrafts LLC and Phoenix Filtration & Plumbing.

Apply to become a Green Business & consideration for the Annual Green Business Award: centralpachamber.com/membership/green-business-recognition/

Members Recognized

Brent Ramsey Named Assistant Vice President of HRG



LEWISBURG - Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) has named Brent Ramsey assistant vice president, overseeing the firm's civil engineering service offerings. The position was created as part of an ongoing organizational realignment to scale the firm for growth while preserving its commitment to technical

excellence and personalized service. The realignment creates unique channels for client outreach, technical expertise, and operational delivery, ensuring each gets proper focus and attention.

Ramsey's position is part of the channel focused on technical expertise. As such, he will be responsible for driving quality and consistency in project delivery by ensuring best practices are implemented across the municipal, water resources, site development, and planning teams. He will also ensure staff members get the training they need to meet evolving industry standards and will foster a collaborative, results-driven culture among these groups.

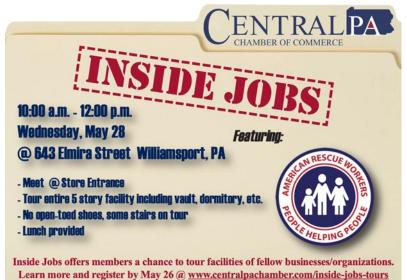
Ramsey is joining HRG with more than 25 years of experience in the AEC industry. His broad-ranging career began with wetland delineations and environmental studies as an environmental scientist and progressed to civil and site engineering for parks,

sidewalks and other public works. He put all these skills to work in supporting the oil and gas industry for over 10 years, with the design of well pads and compressor stations before returning to work in the municipal sector. For more than 20 years, he has served on the Potomac Basin Regional Water Resources Committee and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Erin Threet, HRG's vice president of

services, says, "Brent is the perfect person to oversee our civil staff because he has vast experience working in their shoes, but, more importantly, he fits the culture here at HRG so well. He has a true service mindset, is open and approachable, and cares deeply about quality. It's not easy to come into a new organization and lead, but I know he will build trust easily."



DIG Furniture Bank Launches Campaign in Honor of 5th Anniversary

MILTON - DIG Furniture Bank, a nonprofit dedicated to furnishing homes and restoring dignity for local families in need, is proud to announce the launch of its



"Ensuring Enough" campaign in celebration of its 5th anniversary. This initiative aims to raise \$125,000 to fortify DIG's operational sustainability, ensuring that no family in Central Pennsylvania goes without the essential furniture they need to create a safe and comfortable home.

Since its founding in 2020, DIG has served over 700 families and redistributed more than 500,000 pounds of gently used furniture across Snyder, Union, and Northumberland counties. While demand for DIG's services continues to rise, recent financial challenges underscore the need for a more sustainable funding model. Currently, 80% of DIG's funding comes from grants, leaving the organization vulnerable to fluctuations in grant availability. The "Ensuring Enough" campaign seeks to diversify funding sources, allowing DIG to expand its impact and continue providing essential furnishings for families in crisis.

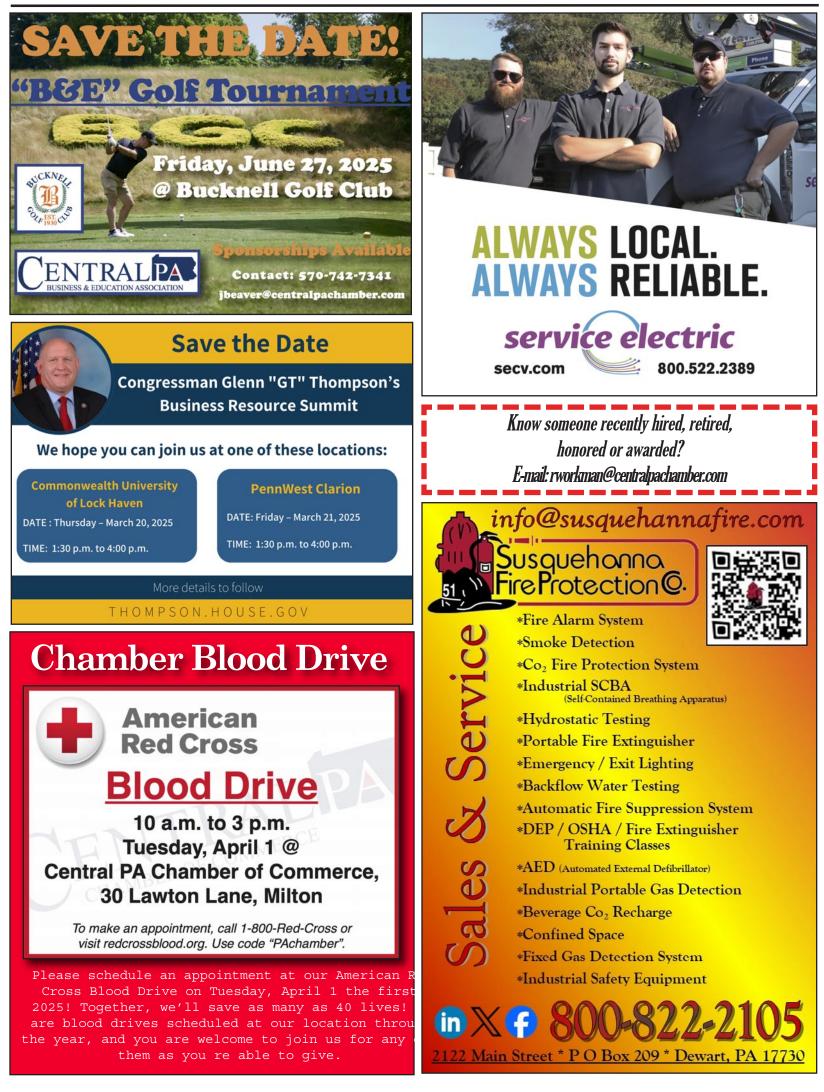
"Our mission is about more than just furniture—it's about creating stability, dignity, and opportunity for families who are working hard to rebuild their lives," said Emily Gorski, Founder & Executive Director of DIG Furniture Bank. "As we celebrate five years of service, this campaign is our commitment to ensuring that DIG remains a lasting resource for our community. We're calling on local businesses, donors, and community members to join us in this effort to secure our future and meet the growing needs of our neighbors."

The "Ensuring Enough" campaign will include multiple giving opportunities, including one-time donations, recurring donor memberships through the 'Homebuilder' and 'Abundance Ambassador' programs, corporate sponsorships, and community fundraising events. The funds raised will directly support furniture collection, warehousing, transportation, and program expansion, all of which are crucial to achieving DIG's goal of serving 600 families annually by 2030.

To contribute to the "Ensuring Enough" campaign and help DIG continue its mission, visit www.digfb.org/ensuring-enough or contact Emily Gorski at emily@digfb.org.

We want to hear your good news! To appear in It's Your Business, e-mail: rworkman@centralpachamber.com March 2025

Central PA Chamber of Commerce-13



Guest Column

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders:

The Foundation for Free Enterprise Education

The Foundation for Free Enterprise Education (FFEE) is paving the way for a brighter future by equipping Pennsylvania's youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed. Through its innovative programs, FFEE fosters a deep understanding of the free enterprise system while preparing students for personal and professional success.

At the heart of FFEE's mission is its flagship program, Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW), which has been inspiring high school students for over 46 years. Each summer, students from across the state step into the roles of corporate executives, working in teams to navigate real-world business challenges. Along the way, they develop critical thinking, leadership, and teamwork skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

But PFEW is more than a business program—it's a life-changing journey. Students leave with newfound confidence, lifelong friendships, and a clearer vision for their future. Many participants describe the week as "transformational," with alumni often calling it the best week of their lives.

In 2025, PFEW will debut a Reality Fair, an interactive simulation that teaches students how to navigate real-world inancial decisions. From budgeting and managing expenses to saving for the future, this hands-on experience equips students with essential life skills to prepare them for adulthood.

FFEE's programming extends beyond PFEW. The Speaker Series connects students with accomplished professionals from various industries and youth opportunities across the state, offering inspiration and practical career insights. The Stock Market Game[™] introduces students to the principles of investing and financial literacy, providing teachers with valuable classroom resources while helping students meet key educational benchmarks. All FFEE programs align with Pennsylvania's education standards, ensuring they are both impactful and relevant.

However, none of this would be possible without the incredible partners who bring these programs to life. Each summer, dedicated professionals, educators, and community members join PFEW as mentors, company advisors, and guest speakers. Volunteering at PFEW is an opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of young people while

FOUNDATION FOR FREE ENTERPRISE

sharing your expertise and enthusiasm. Volunteers often say the experience is as rewarding for them as it is for the students.

FFEE also relies on the support of local businesses, schools, and community organizations. These partnerships empower the foundation to offer sponsorships, guaranteeing that every student, regardless of financial circumstances, has access to the unique PFEW opportunity. Together, these collaborations are shaping the next generation of leaders and innovators who will drive Pennsylvania's economy forward.

To support PFEW or to learn more about these vital FFEE programs, visit www.pfew.org or contact VP of Marketing & Development Scott Lee at (814) 833-9576 ext. 8, or scott@pfew.org. Together, we can empower Pennsylvania's youth to achieve greatness and build a brighter future for all.

Support our students at www.pfew.org



"Not only does PFEW help to bring awareness to students about the world around them, but it also prepares them to be the next generation of community leaders."

2025 Legislative Events

WATSONTOWN—The Central PA Chamber of Commerce held its first Legislative Breakfast at the Watson Inn on Friday, February 21.

After enoying the Watson Inn's breakfast buffet, Central PA Chamber CEO & President, Tea Jay Aikey began the program by inviting event sponsor WellSpan Evangelical Community Hospital's Kendra Aucker to give some remarks. Auker informed those in attendance of new technology and patient services available at their Lewisburg facility.

Next, State Senator Gene Yaw (R-23), a new Central PA Chamber member, addressed a capacity crowd on a range of issues involving the Pennsylvania economy, population, and especially energy policy.

The Senator took questions after his address, including inquiries about solar panels, the power grid, farming,

permitting, and the Rural Population Revitalization Commission.

The Central PA Business & Education Association, the Chamber's educational nonprofit, supports the opportunity for local students to attend Legislative Events and interact with their elected officials. Unfortunately, weather delays prevented guests from Meadowbrook Christian School and Milton Area High School from attending, but Addy Ohnmeiss and Alivia Ritenour (pictured below) as well as Ivy Davis and Teresa Rhoads from Lackawanna College were able to attend.

Registration is now open for all Central PA Chamber quarterly Legislative Events. The next breakfast is scheduled for Friday, April 25, when the Central PA Chamber will welcome Pennsylvania's newly-elected Attorney General, Dave Sunday to address our region.



What's Happening ctd.





Whether you need a creative way to stimulate your business with web, print, apparel, or promotional items, allow the dedicated team at AdOne to help increase your brand awareness! We deliver the project with competitive pricing and fast turn times.





Susquehanna Valley United Way

United Way's Annual Day of Action Returns to Make a Difference.

SUNBURY & BLOOMSBURG—Susquehanna Valley United Way (SVUW) will host its annual Day of Action on Friday, April 25, 2025, and is actively seeking volunteers and nonprofit project sites. This regional event unites communities across Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties and provides an impactful way for residents to make a difference.

Calling All Nonprofits and Volunteers! The deadline for nonprofits to register their projects is February 28, 2025, and volunteers must sign up by March 7, 2025. Due to volunteer and nonprofit agency feedback, this year's deadlines have been moved up to allow for more time to coordinate efforts. This change aims to enhance collaboration, ensuring volunteers are well-prepared and nonprofits can maximize the impact at their project sites.

"At United Way, community collaboration is at the forefront of our work," said Steve Keifer, Board President at SVUW. "The Day of Action is a powerful example of community members and organizations coming together to create positive change."

SVUW is collaborating with its funded partners and local nonprofits to identify areas of need. Nonprofits across the region are encouraged to submit projects, including gardening and weeding, spring cleaning and landscaping, painting and small construction projects, data entry, organizational tasks, and more! By participating, nonprofits can receive valuable volunteer support to accomplish impactful projects that benefit the communities they serve.

In 2024, over 260 volunteers supported 31 project sites across our five counties. Building on this success, SVUW aims to make an even greater impact this year by expanding volunteer participation and supporting more nonprofits.

(Continues on page 17)

"There are so many ways to get involved at United Way beyond giving, and volunteering is one of them," said Danielle Velkoff, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications and Chair of the Events and Marketing Committee, the dedicated team that brings the Day of Action to life. "It's through the hard work and passion of our Events Committee and staff that we're able to unite our community to support our incredible Funded and Community Partners. It's inspiring to see the dedication of our volunteers and the vital work done by these nonprofits."

Register Now! Anyone interested in joining United Way's Day of Action can sign up at svuw.org/dayofaction.

•Nonprofits: Register your project by February 28, 2025, to receive volunteer support at your site.

•Volunteers: Register by March 7, 2025, as an individual or group. Simply select your areas of interest, and United Way will match you to a project site. Employers are encouraged to participate as a way to offer employees team-building and community service opportunities.

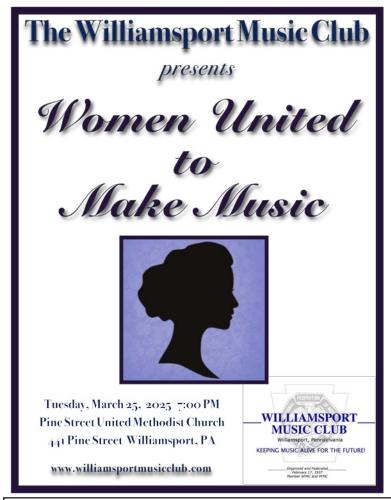
Every volunteer will receive a commemorative T-shirt and a goodie bag with snacks, water, and safety gear as a thank you for participating. Children under 14 years of age are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

"It is always a rewarding experience to give back to the community with some hands-on work," said a 2024 Day of Action participant. "It was fun and enjoyable, and great to connect with others in the community. I felt like I helped make a difference."

United Way's Day of Action is made possible in part through the generous support of our Community Champion Sponsors: Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, McCann School of Business, and UPMC. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Visit svuw.org/dayofaction or email info@svuw.org for more information.

For more information about the Day of Action and other United Way initiatives, visit svuw.org or call (570) 988-0993.





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Go Green!

Spring is right around the corner, and I believe we are all ready for warmer and sunny days! With the raised costs of keeping a business or organization running, have you been making improvements to run more efficiently? If so, the Central PA Chamber of Commerce wants to hear about it.



Every year we award a business or organization the Green Business Award. This award is given to the business that shows the "green" practices they are doing throughout the year. Examples of green practices include recycling, automatic lights, cleaning procedures, automatic faucets or hand dryers, and so many more!

If you do any of these practices or have your own ways of being "green", we encourage you to apply for the Green Business Award. Simply go to the Central PA Chamber website, click on the Member Benefits tab, then click on Green Business Recognition. Fill out the application and submit it. To be considered for the award you need to score over 20 points on the application.

After the staff reviews and calculates all the applications we receive, we will decide on the winner. Once the winner is chosen the Central PA Chamber will surprise the business on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22nd with their handmade award to display in their office.

Remember even if you have filled out the application in the past, you can still fill it out this year to see if you win! After you fill out the application, we will update your listing to reflect that you are a green business.

To see past winners and fill out the application, simply follow this link, https://centralpachamber.com/membership/green-business-recognition/. Complete your application before March 31st!

I hope we will surprise your business/organization with this award this year!



Jessica Beaver Finance & Membership Director jbeaver@centralpachamber.com



Join us at an upcoming event! Visit: centralpachamber.com/events CENTRALPAD Did Nou Know?

Green Business Award:

An annual award to highlight the conservation efforts of Chamber members.
 Beautiful, custom-made "Tree of Life" display made by HandyCrafts LLC presented on Earth Day.
 Free publicity!

Helps encourage sustainable business practices in the region.
Helps educate other organizations on cost-saving measures.
Any Central PA Chamber member can participate.
Adds "Green Business" distinction to your Chamber Membership Directory listing.
Apply online!

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Pennsylvania Tax Differentiators.

Pennsylvania is continuing to take bold steps to accelerate business attraction and increase its tax competitiveness. Cutting the corporate net income tax rate in half is just the tip of the iceberg.

	Pennsylvania	Other states	
Corporate Net Income Tax Rate Phasing down to 4.99%	 Decreasing 0.5% annually from 7.99% in 2025 to 4.99% in 2031 Places Pennsylvania in an extremely competitive position regionally and nationally 	 Lower than all neighboring states' corporate net income tax rates, which range from 6.5% (WV) all the way up to 11.5% (NJ) Only 7 states (AZ, CO, IN, MO, ND, OK and UT) will impose corporate net income tax at lower rates in 2031, ranging from 4.0% to 4.9% 	
Personal Income Tax Rate 3.07%	 Applies to businesses operating as partnerships, limited liability companies, and S corporations Places Pennsylvania among the lowest in the nation Very attractive for small and medium-sized businesses operating as pass-through entities 	 Neighboring states have rates ranging from 3.99% (OH) all the way up to 10.75% (DC and NJ) Only 2 states — AZ (2.5%) and ND (2.9%) — impose personal income tax at lower rates 	
Personal Property Tax 0%	 No tax on machinery and equipment or inventories Pennsylvania does not tax or penalize capital investment 	 27 states tax business personal property, including CT, DC, MD, VA and WV 	
Allowable Net Operating Loss Deductions Increasing to 80%	 Pennsylvania legislation will be increasing 10% annually from 40% in 2025 up to the federal limit of 80% in 2029 Aligns Pennsylvania with other states and supports investments in start-up, technology, and life sciences businesses 	 Neighboring states generally follow the 80% federal limitation 	
Broad Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Manufacturing and R&D Purchases	 Exemption reduces acquisition costs for business upgrades and expansions Supports investments in new businesses and production lines 	 Some differences in exemptions and application to R&D 	



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