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Lehigh Valley's Economic Success Celebrated at LVEDC Annual Meeting

By LVEDC

BETHLEHEM -Before a standing-room only crowd, Shapiro extolled Lehigh Valley's economic strength and said the region's success is an example of what could happen across Pennsylvania.

"The Lehigh Valley has long been a driver of our economic progress, here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, long been an economic leader. You've got a rich tradition, of course, in manufacturing and innovation," he said during his 21-minute speech. "The worldwide commercial success of Crayola to the cutting-edge medical device manufacturing happening down the street at B. Braun."

He pointed out that B. Braun Medical, which has its U.S. headquarters in the Lehigh Valley, recently unveiled a 310,000-square-foot expansion that will add 200 jobs. He said he marveled at the innovation as he toured the facility last year, and that innovation will have benefits for businesses downstream, he said.

"That's the kind of innovation and growth that I want to see not just more of here in the Lehigh Valley, but also across Pennsylvania," Shapiro said. "This community is rich in both innovation and opportunity creation."

He said he saw that innovation first-hand when he spoke with Jared Isaacman, who founded a tech company called Shift4 that now employs 2,000 around the world.

"Two very, very different companies. Two examples where Pennsylvania is helping lead the nation in innovation and opportunity creation, and the Lehigh Valley is the driving force behind that progress we are making," Shapiro said.

Shapiro said the region's economic success is the result of the strength of its unique partnerships between all levels of government and other organizations

He called for policies that will continue that growth statewide. His appearance came two weeks since the governor unveiled his \$44.4 billion budget proposal which contains key investments in Pennsylvania's workforce and its manufacturing sector.

This speech also marked the first time a sitting governor spoke at LVEDC's Annual Meeting.



Lehigh Valley Economic Update

LVEDC President and CEO Don Cunningham said the Lehigh Valley is experiencing a 21st Century economic renaissance that started when Bethlehem Steel's blast furnaces went silent over 25 years ago and continues today.

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Meeting with Local Boy Scout Troop 76

By Stte Rep Joe Emrick

LOWER NAZARETH - I had the honor to speak to Boy Scout Troop 76 at Dryland U.C.C. Church in Lower Nazareth and help them work toward earning their Citizenship Badge.

In addition, the kids worked on a service project that involved a snack drive for The Children's Cancer and Multipurpose Infusion Center, located at Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital.

I always enjoy speaking with local boy scout troops to hear about their community service and aspirations.

I also reminded the scouts that Saturday, April 1, is the first day of trout season.

If you haven't already, be sure to buy your fishing licenses and permits and get your gear organized. Visit the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) online at fishandboat.com or the FishBoatPA mobile app for more information.

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