

Butts County Chamber News!

August 11, 2022

Butts County Chamber of Commerce News

By Lisa Durden, Executive Director

100 Hour Welding Class Certification

Last fall, the Chamber of Commerce and the Butts County Development Authority partnered with Jackson High School, Heartland Foothills Charter High School, and Southern Crescent Technical College to create a welding program for Butts County. Advanced Tabco and R&B Metals helped sponsor the 100-hour certification class that was offered this summer to 10 local participants. Nine of those students completed the class and obtained their certifications: Luke Andrews, Daniel Couey, Gabe Giovannetti, Nikolas Hampton, Julian Owen, Joshua Michael, Kylan Williams, Zach Mayfield, and Kristen Berry.

Southern Crescent Technical College will be offering a dual enrollment welding class at Jackson High School for the 2022-23 school year.

We are proud of this welding program to help develop the workforce for Butts County.

True Value Hardware Customer Appreciation

On August 5th and 6th, 2022, Jackson True Value located at 124 N. Mulberry Street, held its Customer Appreciation Days. Staff greeted customers and served a grilled hotdog lunch for those in attendance. True Value is your neighborhood hardware store with expert advice, tools, equipment and the products to get your job done.

Gold Lion Farm Bath and Body Care 2nd Anniversary

On August 5, 2022, Gold Lion Farm Bath and Body Care located at 10 N. Mulberry Street celebrated its second anniversary. Owners Cameron and Hannah Thompson have a variety of hand made soap and body care products that smell great! They use flowers, fruits, and vegetables from their own organic garden for their products. They have also embraced the enthusiasm of our Stranger Things tourists who are visiting Jackson every day. In addition to having soap and body care products, they have a lot of cool Stranger Things merchandise including t-shirts, stickers, mugs, and much more.

3rd Street Farmers Market

On August 6, 2022, the Chamber of Commerce and City of Jackson sponsored the 3rd Street Farmer's Market. The market is held on the first Saturday of each month from June – October 2022. This was the third day for the

market. With each day the market is held, the vendors and those attending the market keep increasing. The 3rd Street Farmers Market allows vendors to showcase their homegrown produce and homemade items.

Butts Aglow

On Saturday, August 6th, the Chamber of Commerce held its 2nd Annual Butts Aglow festival. The festival included live performance from the band, Contagious, and numerous delicious food trucks as well as arts and crafts vendors and carnival rides and games. Because of inclement weather that came before all of the hot air balloons were inflated, some attendees were fortunate enough to get a ride in hot air balloon pilot, Peter Griswold's Turtle Balloon.

Butts Aglow is a fundraiser for the Butts County Chamber of Commerce which allows the Chamber to provide scholarships for Butts County students, the Fall Festival, Leadership Butts County, marketing and tourism for our community, and much more.

Thank you to Rivers Ranch for co-hosting Butts Aglow, and thank you to our Butts Aglow sponsors: May & Carter Oil Company, United Bank, GleamPro, Westbury Center of Jackson, Wellstar-Sylvan Grove, Harold's Propane, Rental Solutions, and AWI Trucking, Inc.

Leadership Butts County 2022-2023

On Monday, August 8, 2022, Leadership Butts 2022-2023 had its first class. This year's class includes the following: Melissa Cole from Ameris Bank, Morgan Morris from the Chamber of Commerce, Lyndsay Theado and Alison Buckner from Buckner's Restaurant, Mark Ware from Butts County Fire Department, Megan Kinsey from Butts County Magistrate Court, Adam McDaniel from Central Georgia EMC, Holly Bailey and Sylvia Redic from the City of Jackson, Madelyn Carroll and Sarah Gregory from Dauset Trails Nature Center, Melissa Griffin from Butts County Development Authority, Robert Simoneaux from Edward Jones Investments, Deidra Boan from the Georgia Department of Corrections, Tiffany Sisk from GleamPro, Jonanna Lawrence from Haisten and Johnston, PC, Daniel Conway from Liberty Roofing Group, Joe Hardin from the Dumpster Company, Sabrina Watson from Metro South Association of Realtors, Amanda Rivers from the Rivers Ranch, Amy Fletcher from Smith, Welch, Webb & White, Rubin Beck from the Carmichael House, Tonya Gentle from The Gentle Group, Nadia Graveran from Tim Broyles State Farm, Trevor Hutchins from Trucks, Inc., Kaleb Holton from United Bank, Regina Morgan and Kristie Stodghill-Head from Wellstar Sylvan Grove, and April Freeman from Butts County Sheriff's Office, and Lynn Garrison with Southern Hospitality Underwriters.

Prior to beginning another year of leadership class, the Chamber of Commerce understood the need for the class curriculum to be updated to reflect current trends and needs for the community. Central Georgia EMC and Georgia Power provided funds to help update these materials and facilitation of the new curriculum. The Chamber partnered with the Fanning Institute of the University of Georgia to update the curriculum and facilitate the 2022-23 program. Elizabeth Lutz, Public Service Faculty, with the Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, was the instructor for the first class. She provided a student assessment and delivered a lesson on Understanding Leadership.

Following the morning session, a delicious Zaxby's lunch was sponsored by Lucy Lu's Coffee Café and Buddy Blu's Cool Licks. After lunch, the group was given a tour of the Butts County Sheriff's Office and Jail by Sheriff Gary Long.

Leadership Butts 2022-23 meets again on Monday, September 12, 2022.

Stranger Things Visitors

Stranger Things Season 4 was released beginning in May of this year and has brought 1.15 billion hours viewed since then. The Jackson square and surrounding businesses have been greeting the film fans in search of "Hawkins." We have been tracking the many visitors who have come to the courthouse this summer. Visitors have been coming from all over the United States, including California, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Michigan, Ohio, Nevada, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and several countries including Canada, Denmark, Poland and Germany. The Chamber of Commerce has been posting pictures of some of those visitors on their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ButtsChamber> .

According to the Georgia Department of Economic Development, movie and TV productions brought \$4 billion in direct spending from 366 productions in 2021 to Georgia. Spending highlights included:

- Car rentals, transportation, and airfare: over \$3 million
- Cast, crew, and extras: over \$127 million
- Wardrobe, hair, and makeup: over \$800,000
- Hotel nights: 15,603 days, over \$1.9 million

(Source: <https://www.georgia.org/blog/stranger-things-season-4-how-georgia-economy-benefited-latest-installment-sci-fi-series>)

Postproduction and film release bring even more dollars to locations where Stranger Things and other movies and television shows are filmed. Visitors to Jackson want to see the various places around town where filming of "Downtown Hawkins" took place and they bring their dollars with them. Several businesses have gotten onboard and are providing Stranger Things menu items and/or merchandise including Lucy Lu's Coffee Café, Buddy Blu's Cool Licks, Gold Lion, Roots Outdoors, and The Brickery. It's exciting to meet these visitors, many of them who come in Stranger Things attire, and see them leaving the square with a shopping bag in hand from a food or souvenir purchase.

Fall Festival

The Butts County Fall Festival is scheduled for October 22, 2022. We are accepting vendor applications online at www.buttschamber.com



**Summer Welding Class with
SCTC Pres. Irvin Clark, Dr.
Mark Andrews, and Instructor
Wesley Johnston**



**Jackson True Value
Customer Appreciation Days**



**Jackson True Value
Staff Grilling Hotdogs**





Left: Owner Hannah Thompson at Gold Lion Farm's 2nd Anniversary

Above: 3rd Street Market August 2022

Right: Gold Lion customers peruse handmade soaps and Stranger Things Merchandise



Atlanta's Band Contagious entertained event guests.



Peter Griswolds' Turtle Balloon offered rides while weather permitted at Butts Aglow.



Butts Aglow featured several tasty food trucks with a variety of options this year.



GleamPro crowd enjoying the event.



Turtle Balloon



Rock climbing and carnival rides were some of the enjoyable activities at Butts Aglow.



Leadership Class 2022-23 working on an assignment.



**Elizabeth Lutz,
Fanning Institute Faculty
Instructor**



**Sheriff Gary Long
gives tour at the office and jail.**



**Stranger Things visitors from
Montreal, Canada**



**Stranger Things visitors to
Hawkins.**

Stranger Things visitors.

Stranger Things Courthouse?

Recent weather provided a beautiful background for the courthouse. Photo courtesy of Missy Stewart.

June 4- July 2- Aug. 6- Sept. 3- Oct. 1



CITY OF JACKSON & BUTTS COUNTY CHAMBER MAINSTREET COUNCIL

3rd Street Market 1st Saturday of Month June thru October

Accepting applications from farmers & crafters for our handmade, homemade and homegrown market

**** Please note special license requirements for some items sold**



9 AM to 1 PM - 1st Saturday of the Month- June-October
3rd St & Mimosa Lane Orchard
Parking at City Lot on First Street

For Applications visit www.buttschamber.com or email

FREE Community Yoga

(Beginners Welcome)

When: 1st Sat. of each Month {June-Oct.}

Time: 8am

Where: Jackson Presbyterian Church
(240 N. Oak St., Jackson, GA)

Instructor: Amy Washington

*Afterwards, grab coffee & enjoy the
Jackson Farmers Market.*





GORDON STATE COLLEGE

CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

AUGUST 2022

<https://www.gordonstate.edu/community-education/>



BACK TO SCHOOL IS NOT JUST FOR THE KIDS!

Now that you have the little ones back into school, you can concentrate on you!

Enhance your current skills while reducing any knowledge shortfalls - gain a competitive edge! Scan the QR Codes to learn more!

CODING AND UX DESIGN

We now offer

technology bootcamps!

In just 12 to 24 weeks, graduates have the skills needed for 30% salary increases. New sessions start in September.

PT-13 Sept; FT- 26 Sept

Multiple Funding Options!



CREDENTIALS+



UPSKILL



CAREER TRAINING

Whether you are looking to expand your skill set, earn professional credits, or learn something new; our online professional development courses and certificates pair perfectly with a busy schedule. Courses are self-paced and online, accessible from anywhere and available on mobile.

CUSTOMIZED CORPORATE OFFERINGS

We offer customized training for small businesses and organizations. We will also be offering group coaching sessions starting in October. Spaces will be limited. Contact us so we can build just the right thing for you and your team.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

CPE@GORDONSTATE.EDU

678-359-5123

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GORDONCOMMED](https://www.facebook.com/gordoncommmed)

2022 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

How Georgia Power will continue to deliver clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy to customers in the future



On July 21, 2022, the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) approved Georgia Power's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which sets forth a proactive, innovative and transformational roadmap for how Georgia Power will continue to meet the energy needs of customers, local communities and the State of Georgia for future generations. The approved 2022 IRP delivers a comprehensive strategy to both transform Georgia's energy sources and help to ensure that the state's network of transmission lines and grid infrastructure continues to deliver reliable energy to Georgians – both today and in the future.

OUR FOCUS



Transforming the Fleet and Investing in the Grid of the Future



Meeting Fast Changing Customer Needs and Strengthening Customer Resiliency



Growing Renewable Energy



Protecting the Environment and Communities We Serve

The plan is a result of detailed analysis, which includes projections of future fuel costs, peak load and energy forecasts, an analysis of available generation technologies, a 10-year transmission plan, a comprehensive environmental strategy and an economic assessment of potential and proposed energy efficiency and demand response programs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSFORMING THE FLEET AND GRID

Georgia Power received approval for its comprehensive strategy to help ensure that the state's network of transmission lines and grid infrastructure continues to deliver reliable energy to Georgians – both today and in the future. This includes approval of the company's 10-year transmission plan and transmission projects necessary to accommodate its generation fleet transition and addresses growing constraints related to delivering renewable resources statewide.

TRANSITIONING FROM COAL GENERATION

As coal-fired generation continues to be less economically viable, the Georgia PSC has approved the retirement and decertification of all Georgia Power-controlled coal units by 2028, with the exception of Plant Bowen. In consideration of the reliability needs of customers in North Georgia, the Georgia PSC indicated it plans to reevaluate potential retirement of Plant Bowen Units 1 & 2 as part of the company's next regularly scheduled IRP in 2025.

GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY

This outcome approves Georgia Power's request to add 2,300 MW of renewable resources as part of its long-term plan to double its renewable generation by adding an additional 6,000 MW by 2035. Additionally, it approves strategic modernization efforts of hydro units at Plants Sinclair and Burton.

DEVELOPING ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Georgia Power's McGraw Ford Battery Project – a 265 MW, 2-hour lithium-ion storage device located in Cherokee County – has received approval to move forward. The Georgia PSC also approved an additional 500 MW of battery storage. With the growth in solar energy, energy storage systems will help address solar resources' intermittent nature that can cause gaps in supplying energy – thereby helping to ensure that the grid remains reliable and resilient.

DELIVERING DIVERSE, FLEXIBLE CUSTOMER PROGRAMS

As part of the final 2022 IRP, the company has received approval to continue providing innovative customer programs to promote reliability and resiliency, such as the Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Customer Program. The DER Customer Program was approved as a 250 MW pilot, which will provide system reliability benefits for all customers while supporting commercial and industrial customers with enhanced resiliency needs.

CREATING INNOVATIVE, INCOME-QUALIFIED PROGRAMS

This stipulation approves Georgia Power's 2022 Demand Side Management Plan to help customers conserve energy and save on their energy bills. This includes the Income-Qualified Community Solar Pilot, proposed by the company for the first time, that will provide income-qualified customers access to Community Solar-generated energy at discounted prices.



Football season is almost here, and you know what that means!! The countdown to Red Devil Football at the brand new Red Devil Hill has begun!

WJGA 92.1 FM will host LIVE, play by play, game broadcasting with a potential to reach quarter million people weekly, and we want your business to get in on the action and become a broadcast partner with 92 FM!

Sponsor packages are available for just \$600 and include the following for the season:

- 75 commercials played to a 9 county wide population! (Run at a start date of your choosing)
- Free in-game advertising for all 10 games- meaning EVERY time 92.1 mentions during the game, who the broadcast is being sponsored by, it is a direct name mention of your business!
- Flexible billing options over a 2 or 3 month period are available.
- Cross promotion on our social media platforms (facebook, website, twitter, instagram).
- We will also place your business logo on our website with a direct link to your company website or social media site.
- Half season packages are also available (contact our sales team if this is a better option for your business)

As an added thank you bonus- Your business' sponsorship will be mentioned when we tell listeners to tune in for games all week!

This is an advertising expense that benefits the community in such a way you cannot help but feel great about it!

Please let us commit your business as a 92.1 FM Red Devil football broadcast sponsor!

We look forward to hearing from you! Call 770-775-3151 for questions & information!



770-580-9927

Anthem

GEORGIA CHAMBER

Discover the SMART way to cover your employees

With a health plan designed for
small businesses like yours

Welcome to a health plan for small business that is focused on improving the total well-being of your employees to keep them healthy — while also saving you money. That's SMART.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) to offer you the Georgia Chamber SMART Plan. It lets you:

- Participate in a larger, alternative-funded pool.
- Join with other groups to share in the overall claims risk, with financial protection backed by Anthem.
- Receive fixed, predictable monthly payments.
- Choose from a variety of plan designs.

About Anthem

Local — Serving millions of members in Georgia for more than 80 years.

Established — Drawing on a long history of partnerships with Georgia businesses.

Nationwide — Offering access to care across the country and the world.

Innovative — Connecting a full range of health benefits: medical, pharmacy, vision, dental, life, and disability.

Developing unique solutions that help your employees, and your business, stay in good health.

Make the SMART choice. Contact your local Georgia Chamber of Commerce for a referral to a participating broker.

Thank you, Elite Members!



Central Georgia EMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Tim Broyles

(770) 775-2627

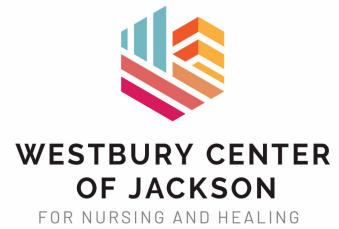
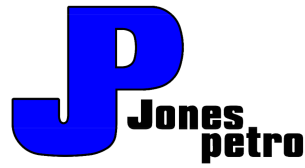
www.tbprotectincome.com



AMERIS
BANK



UnitedBank



**THANK
YOU!**

We would LOVE for you to join us!

[Visit our Website](#)

I WANT TO JOIN!

Great Things are Happening! Connect with Us!



Butts County Chamber of Commerce | 25 Third Street, P.O. Box 147, Jackson, GA 30233 770-775-4839

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@buttschamber.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!