

# CHAMBER CONNECT

*Pierce County Chamber of Commerce's Monthly Newsletter*



## Regional Commission spotlights P3 program

*Pierce Pathway Portal featured in Workforce Southern GA video interview with Gove*

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sarah Gove recently conducted a video interview with Amy Jones, business services/sector partnership coordinator for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, to discuss our newest workforce development program - Pierce Pathway Portal (P3).

Check out the full video here: <https://youtu.be/0xoAUmV3RZI>

P3 is a collaboration between the Chamber, Industrial Development Authority and Pierce County High School. The program's premise is simple - Connecting students with local industries one career pathway at a time.

Since launching in February, P3 has facilitated three welding tours, two auto mechanic tours and one engineering class tour at Pierce County industries.

In the Fall semester, P3 will be expanded to facilitate tours for students in other Career, Technology, Agriculture and Education (CTAE) pathway classes at PCHS.

### IN THIS ISSUE

---

**CHAMBER'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2023**

---

**LUNCH & LEARN: MASTERING BUSINESS LOAN PROPOSALS**

---

**MEMBER OF THE MONTH: XXXXX**

---

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

---



## 4-H hosts Ag Day event for elementary students

Pierce County 4-H hosted an agriculture education day for all Pierce County fourth and fifth grade students last month.

The event was held at the Southeast Georgia Regional Agriculture Center in Blackshear, and included a variety of vendors from several ag-related industries.

Students were exposed to ag machinery, livestock, produce, timber and more during this event.

Chamber Director Sarah Gove currently serves on the 4-H program's development team.

## Bell, Coffee receive ambassador awards

*Eileen Coffee is Ambassador of the Year; Stephanie Bell is Innovator of the Year*

Chamber ambassadors Eileen Coffee and Stephanie Bell were recently recognized for their hard work and dedication to the Chamber.

"Their efforts really shined during our planning process for the Gala this year," said Sarah Gove, Chamber director. "Both women put in countless hours getting ready for this event."

Coffee was named Ambassador of the Year. Bell received the Innovator of the Year award. Both recipients were recognized at a Chamber board meeting and received a gift card to Farmers & Builders (Ace Hardware).



## our CHAMBER

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit membership organization. Our primary goal is to promote businesses in Pierce County and help create an overall healthy and sustainable business climate throughout the local area.

## our VISION

The vision of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to provide for a competitive and business friendly climate for all of Pierce County.

## our MISSION

The mission of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to foster partnerships for the advancement of Pierce County.





## 4-H hosts Ag Day event for elementary students

Pierce County 4-H hosted an agriculture education day for all Pierce County fourth and fifth grade students last month.

The event was held at the Southeast Georgia Regional Agriculture Center in Blackshear, and included a variety of vendors from several ag-related industries.

Students were exposed to ag machinery, livestock, produce, timber and more during this event.

Chamber Director Sarah Gove currently serves on the 4-H program's development team.

## Ribbon cutting held at B'shear Train Depot

The City of Blackshear recently held a ribbon cutting at the newly restored Train Depot located across from the city park.

"Thank you for prioritizing historic preservation by investing in the restoration of Blackshear's Train Depot," said Sarah Gove, Chamber director.

The renovated depot's most defining feature is the refurbished, original heart pine floors. The depot also features a catering kitchen, two serving windows and spacious restrooms.

The space is now available for rent for parties, weddings, reunions and more. Call City Hall at 912-449-7000 for more info today!



## our CHAMBER

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit membership organization. Our primary goal is to promote businesses in Pierce County and help create an overall healthy and sustainable business climate throughout the local area.

## our VISION

The vision of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to provide for a competitive and business friendly climate for all of Pierce County.

## our MISSION

The mission of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to foster partnerships for the advancement of Pierce County.



## Gove speaks at Georgia HS High Tech luncheon

Chamber director Sarah Gove spoke to a group of students at Pierce County High School during the Georgia High School High Tech program end of the year luncheon.

Gove advised students to "Mind Their P's & R's" during a short speech on traits of a good leader. Successful leaders have good **P**eople skills, **P**erseverance, **R**esourcefulness and **R**esponsibility.

One lucky senior was awarded a laptop from the High Tech program after winning a statewide contest. The student submitted a presentation explaining how a laptop would help her succeed with her future career goals after graduation.

## Blackshear Times hosts political forum

*The Blackshear Times* and Bud Newton Community Center partnered to host a candidate forum for the Board of Commissioner and Board of Education chairman's races last month.

The forum featured BOC Chairman Neal Bennett and challenger Mike Streat, and BOE Chairman Duward Boatright and challenger Morris Pate.

Candidates running for BOC District 2 and Patterson City Council at large also addressed the audience.

The forum drew a large crowd to the Newton Center.

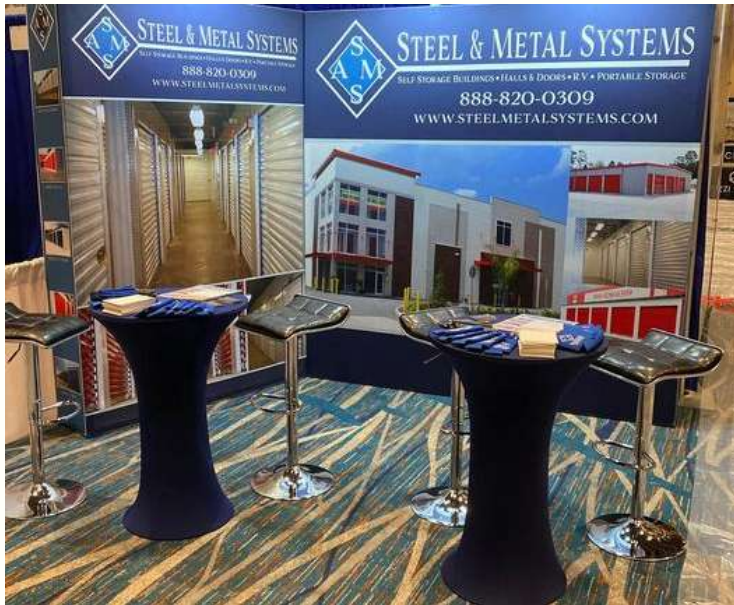


## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I'm excited to announce Leadership Pierce and Student Leadership Academy (SLA) will be resuming in the Fall! We're hard at work planning out the class tours and presentations now. Stay tuned for more info on how you can participate!

Our next membership event will be Wake Up, Pierce hosted by Christi's Downsouth Living Wednesday, June 22, at 8 a.m. Don't miss this opportunity to network, catch up with fellow business owners and get some business security tips from our speaker.





## Member of the Month: Steel & Metal Systems

Steel & Metal Systems (SAMS) is located in Blackshear. The company, owned by Watson and Eileen Coffee, launched in 1993.

SAMS started selling and constructing pre-engineered self-storage buildings. In 2007, SAMS purchased their first metal fabrication equipment and began manufacturing metal components. SAMS continues to design their own unique components for their buildings.

SAMS provides jobs for approximately 80 employees. Check them out at [steelandmetalsystems.com](http://steelandmetalsystems.com).

The Coffees were recognized as Business Leaders of the Year for 2021.

## Kaylee Cravey wins Chamber scholarship

PCHS Senior Kaylee Cravey received the Chamber scholarship for 2022. Cravey was one of three applicants to apply for the \$1,000 scholarship. Cravey is the daughter of Tina Cravey. She plans to attend Georgia Southern University in the Fall.

The Chamber scholarship is awarded to a student who plans to advance their learning in the areas of business studies, education, leadership, political science or specialized skills training. The recipient must demonstrate leadership qualities, involvement in community service, a strong work ethic, and an interest in education, business and entrepreneurship.

Cravey received the scholarship at Honors Day.



### our CHAMBER

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit membership organization. Our primary goal is to promote businesses in Pierce County and help create an overall healthy and sustainable business climate throughout the local area.

### our VISION

The vision of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to provide for a competitive and business friendly climate for all of Pierce County.

### our MISSION

The mission of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to foster partnerships for the advancement of Pierce County.



## Chamber hosts Lunch & Learn

*SBDC, PrimeSouth Bank presented 'Mastering Business Loan Proposals'*

The Chamber hosted a Lunch & Learn last month on the topic of 'Mastering Business Loan Proposals.'

Presenters included Jennifer Lee, business consultant with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Ty Wright and Chris Sinclair of PrimeSouth Bank.

Participants were given tips on how to create a business plan and how to successfully apply for business financing through a local lender.

PrimeSouth sponsored the event.



## Chamber board sets goals for 2022-2023

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce held a board retreat in March where they outlined the Chamber's main goals for the next year.

The retreat was facilitated by Jenny Robbins, community development manager with Georgia EMC.

The Chamber's four main goals are: workforce development, member recruitment, board visibility and partnership with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

**View a detailed report of the Chamber's 2022-2023 Strategic Plan [here](#)**

### our CHAMBER

The Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit membership organization. Our primary goal is to promote businesses in Pierce County and help create an overall healthy and sustainable business climate throughout the local area.

### our VISION

The vision of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to provide for a competitive and business friendly climate for all of Pierce County.

### our MISSION

The mission of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce is to foster partnerships for the advancement of Pierce County.

# Upcoming Events

June 2022

## Pierce County Chamber of Commerce Check Out this list of Events for June

June  
**4**

### ***Daddy, Daughter Dance***

Better Hometown Blackshear will host the 2nd annual Daddy Daughter Dance from 6-9 o.m. at the Blackshear Train Depot. Tickets are \$15. Buy tickets at [betterhometownblackshear.com](http://betterhometownblackshear.com)

June  
**7**

### ***Farmers Market***

The Patterson Farmers Market returns Tuesday, June 7, from 2-6 p.m. at Patterson Park on Hwy. 32 under the pavilion.

June  
**9**

### ***Farmers Market***

Actionpact will hold their annual Farmers Market at the Pierce County Senior Center Thursday, June 9.

June  
**22**

### ***Wake Up, Pierce***

The Chamber will host 'Wake Up, Pierce' at Christi's Downsouth Living in Blackshear at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 22. Come here Dale Wiley give business security tips and catch up with local business owners!

### ***Sign up to host an event today!***

Would you like to showcase your business, a new product line or service? One of the Chamber's networking events may be just the platform you need to get the word out! Email us at [piercechamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:piercechamberofcommerce@gmail.com) today to find out more about hosting a Chamber event in 2022!

Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

912-449-7044 || 912-816-6209 || [piercechamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:piercechamberofcommerce@gmail.com)

200 SW Central Ave. | PO Box 47 Blackshear, GA 31516 || [pcgeorgia.com](http://pcgeorgia.com)

