

“CHAMBER NEWS”

*Monthly Publication of the Elbert County
Chamber of Commerce*

www.elbertga.com

February 2010

2010 STAR STUDENT/STAR TEACHER

Christopher Evans, a high school senior, has been named 2010 PAGE STAR Student for Elbert County Comprehensive High School. The announcement was made by Sandra Brown, Chairman of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce, local sponsor of the Elbert County STAR program. Evans, the son of Amy and Luther Evans, of Elberton, selected Karen Hardy, Challenge Teacher at Doves Creek Elementary School, as his STAR teacher.



The PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, in its 52nd year, is sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Education. Since its inception, the STAR program has honored more than 25,000 students and the teachers they have selected as having had the most influence on their academic achievement. Students are selected on the basis of their SAT scores and class standing/scholastic averages.

“We are very proud of Mr. Evans and Mrs. Hardy and the academic excellence they exemplify at Elbert County Comprehensive High School,” said Mrs. Brown.

ART AUCTION

Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation will sponsor an art auction to benefit the Foundation’s “Renovation of Semi-Private Rooms” Campaign on Saturday, March 27th at the Elberton Country Club. The preview of items will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the auction will follow at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. Hors d’oeuvres will be served. For tickets or information call Nancy Seymour at 706-213-2558.

CHAMBER’S NEWEST MEMBER

The Chamber would like to welcome into our membership:



*Family First Healthcare of Northeast Georgia, LLC
A/R Auto Sales, Inc.*

Please call the Chamber office if you know of potential members that we may contact about membership.

CHAMBER 86th ANNUAL MEETING

The 86th Annual Meeting of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, March 25th at the First Baptist Church Recreational Outreach Center, “The ROC”. Ellen Hester, humorist, will be the guest speaker.



The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sit-down dinner. A program will follow beginning at 7:30 p.m. with recognition of special guests, presentation of awards and introduction of new officers and board of directors. Please call the Chamber office if you have names you would like to add to the invitation list. Tickets are \$30 each. Sponsor tables seating 6-7 are available for \$500.



Ribbon Cuttings were recently held at The Hilltop House and Alfa Insurance.

Be sure to stop by and visit these new businesses.



GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY



On Tuesday, February 2nd Elbert County Middle School 8th graders spent their school day in the workplace “SHADOWING” an employee as he or she went through a normal day on the job. This year there were 247 students and 121 businesses that participated in Groundhog Shadow Day.

The local business/education partnership continues to grow and on behalf of the Elbert County Board of Education and the Chamber, we would like to thank each of the businesses that participated. We thank you for your support and we thank you for saying “YES” when asked to take part. Many thanks to Career Connections teacher, Cathy Brady and Elbert County Middle School for coordinating this successful event. Thanks also to the volunteers that helped the day of the event. We look forward to the 2011 “Shadow Day”.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH

The Community Pride Committee selected the following for the month of February:



*Business of the Month
RE/MAX*



*Entrepreneur of the Month
Seymour Electrical & Air Conditioning Service, Inc.*

Congratulations to these Chamber members.

LEADERSHIP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Leadership Elberton Class attended Leadership Day in Atlanta on Monday, February 8th. The trip was enjoyed by everyone attending. Some enjoyed having their photo taken with the Governor and Repre. Tom McCall.



FRESH NEW YEAR... Fresh New Benefit Options!

The start of a brand-new year is a great time to consider your employee benefit plans and ask if yours provide the best value for you and your employees. Most benefit offerings meet the needs of some, but could be disappointing to others.

With Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia's (BCBSGa) Employee Elect plans, every employee can have what they want and do so without costing the employer any more than they are currently paying!

Employee Elect is a package of 30 different health benefit plans including HMO, POS, PPO and High-Deductible Health Plan options. The employer decides how much they are willing to spend per employee, notifies the employees of his or her decision, then lets every employee go "shopping" for the plan that best meets their needs. Some employees may choose a plan that costs them nothing and allows premium dollars to be left over for other benefits, such as dental or short term disability insurance. Other employees may choose a more expensive plan with richer benefits that requires them to pay a portion of the premiums, but is the right fit for their family. Regardless, every eligible employee can have what they want or need! The employer's cost is fixed; the employee pays the difference, if any.

And the best news is, all BCBSGa small business plans are available at reduced premium rates to eligible business members of our Chamber of Commerce! Through the group "buying power" of the *MemberCare Alliance of Elbert County*SM, we are part of a statewide network of over 130 Chambers of Commerce offering discounted insurance products to Chamber member businesses. The *MemberCare Alliance of Elbert County* program includes a variety of discounted insurance products, such as: group term, voluntary and dependent life insurance, group dental insurance, group long term and short term disability, accidental death and dismemberment and long term care insurance.

For more information on these insurance offerings, please call the Chamber, one of your participating Chamber-member insurance agents, or Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc., (the company that developed *MemberCare Alliance of Elbert County* program) at 770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254 ext. 3012.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

EXPECT MORE FUN !

Regions is throwing a party in your honor! Join Bubba Foods and your friends at Regions on Friday, March 19, 2009, for a Customer Appreciation Cookout at the Elberton Branch (125 Heard Street).

Drop in from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. to enjoy a Bubba Burger® with

all the fixing's and get to know your Regions team along with the great folks from Bubba Foods. We'd love you to bring a friend, too. Mark your calendars-it wouldn't be a party without you.



PLEASE NOTE

Service Tire is now Granite City Tires

ALFA Insurance/Rick Melton is now Melton Insurance Agency

SAIA Publishing is now Elbertpages

Zaxby's is now under new management - Jeremy and Tanner Thornton

CENSUS DAY - April 1, 2010



The 2010 Census is "a short form" census that collects only basic information. Age, Sex, Race, Hispanic or Latino origin, Household Relationship and whether your Home is Owned or Rented. It's Important - Census data affect funding & political representation for our community. It's Easy - It only takes a few minutes to answer and return. It's Safe - Responses are strictly confidential and protected by law. It is in our hands, Elbert County.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR WEEK - February 20-27

The Chamber and the Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton and Bowman will celebrate National Entrepreneur Week with two events. The first is a **Small Business Resource Seminar** that will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:00 pm at the Elberton Civic Center. This seminar is free, but we do need for you to RSVP to reserve a seat. We have several business resource providers that will be on hand to answer your questions and provide you with valuable information.

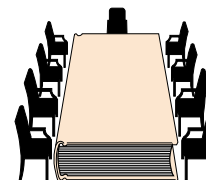
The second event will be **E-Commerce Training** and this will be held on Thursday, February 25th from 9 am-noon at the Elbert County Library Community Room. This seminar is also free but you do need to RSVP to reserve your seat. (706)283-5651 This session is provided by the Small Business Development Center and taught by Mr. Art Brown of LeScot Enterprises.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

UPCOMING EVENTS-DATES

Feb 19-21 - The Music Man, Elbert Theatre	March 4
Feb 23 - Small Business Resource Seminar	April 1
Feb 25 - E-Commerce Training-Library	May 6
Feb 26-28 - The Music Man, Elbert Theatre	June 3
Mar 1 - City Council Meeting	July 1
Mar 4 - Chamber Board Meeting	
Mar 6 - Inaugural REDLEG 5K Run/Walk	
Mar 6 - Chantell Christopher Presents, Elbert Theatre	
Mar 12,13,14 - Driving Miss Daisy, Hart Co. Burns Fine Arts Center	
Mar 25 - Chamber's 86th Annual Meeting	
Mar 27 - EMH Foundation Art Auction, Elberton County Club	

BOARD MEETING DATES 2010



CHAMBER MISSION

The mission of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce is to promote commerce, tourism and growth that enhances the quality of life in our community.

