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The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, January 7, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

NEWS BRIEFS

What's going on in your community

Fargo Old School Diner has closed

The Fargo Old School Diner has closed. The restaurant, located in the old Fargo School, is now closed, according to ownership.

MLK Parade set for January 19th

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration parade will be held on Monday, January 19, starting at 2 p.m. The parade will start at the 66 Fuel Center gas station and end at Sessoms Field. An MLK service will be held after the parade at 3 p.m. at Gospel Tabernacle COGIC located at 59 Virginia Avenue in Homerville. Anyone who wants to participate, please call Tracy Thomas 912-520-9566.

Property tax bills will be delayed for 2025

Property tax bills for 2025 are delayed this year due to the property re-evaluation process. They will possibly be sent out toward the end of January. Once they are sent, the due date will be no less than 60 days later, according to the tax commission office.

FMB sponsoring trips to NY, Amish Country

Farmers and Merchants Bank is sponsoring trips to Niagara Falls USA & Buffalo, June 6-14, 2026 and to Shipshewana, Indiana, Amish Country, October 11-16, 2026. Come join the fun and travel with the Farmers and Merchants Bank group to Niagara Falls USA & Buffalo for 9 days and 8 nights, 14 meals and tours of Niagara Falls, USA (No Passport), Cruise on the "Maid of the Mist" and Erie Canal, drive through wine country & tour Buffalo. Amish Country trip is for 6 days and 5 nights, 8 meals and tour Amish Homestead, see the show "Love Comes Softly", visit MENNO-HOF, the Amish & Mennonite Story, a wagon tour and visit DAS Dutchman & Downtown Shipshewana. If you are interested, contact Jo Ann Tomlinson at tomlinson.joann@gmail.com or 912-487-8664.

Brown's Chapel AME celebrating anniversary

Brown's Chapel AME will be celebrating its 141st anniversary on Sunday, January 11 at 3 p.m. Guest preacher for this occasion will be Rev. Dr. Troy Young, pastor of Hope for Today in Macon. A fellowship meal will be served. All are welcome to attend, or donate a love offering if so moved to Brown's Chapel AME 111 Wilson Street Homerville, Georgia 31634 or P.O. Box 361, Homerville, Georgia.

Library board to meet on January 8

The Clinch County Public Library Board will meet on Thursday, January 8 at the Clinch County Public Library. The meeting time is 4:00 p.m. For further information please call 912-287-4982.

Tuesday Night Talks at Clinch Memorial

The Clinch County Public Library Board will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at the Clinch County Public Library. The meeting time is 4 p.m. For further information, please call 912-287-4982.

Follow us on:



Fred Causey



Traviian Miller



Kyiis Mingo

Three Panthers named football All-State

Three Clinch County Panther football players were named All-State by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Senior defensive back Fred Causey was named first-team All-State. Causey had eight interceptions, 58 total tackles, four fumble recoveries, and three defensive touchdowns in 2025. Junior linebacker Kyiis Mingo and sophomore quarterback Traviian Miller were named honorable mention All-State by the AJC. Mingo led the 2025 Panthers in

tackles with 93, while Miller had 1,572 passing yards, and 20 touchdown passes. He also led the team in rushing with 966 yards, and 18 rushing TDs. The Panthers finished 13-1 on the season, eliminated by state champion Bowdon in the semifinals.

Below is the complete AJC All-State team for Class A, Division II:

Offensive player of the year: Kaiden Prothro, Bowdon

Defensive player of the year: Christian Elam, Lincoln County

Coach of the year: Lee Chomskis, Lincoln County

Offense
QB - Joshua Hopkins, Bowdon, 5-10, 175, Sr.

RB - Alvin Ricks, Wheeler County, 5-10, 215, Sr.

RB - Kelby Glaze, Lincoln County, 5-11, 190, Sr.

WR - Kaiden Prothro, Bowdon, 6-6, 218, Sr.

WR - Traeviss Stevenson, Brooks County, 6-1, 180, Sr.

OL - Christon Zanders, Telfair County, 6-2, 310, Sr.

(Continued on Page 3)

Recent auto burglaries under investigation

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement is investigating a series of automobile burglaries that happened around the Virginia Avenue area of Homerville in the final days of December 2025.

Items taken in these burglaries included guns, sets of keys, and cash, according to a report from Clinch County Sheriff Raymond Peterson.

Peterson said law enforcement "doesn't have anybody in custody as of yet," but they are looking for six to eight juvenile males in connection with these burglaries. The Sheriff also stated that they hope to have more information soon.

Law enforcement urges citizens to lock their automobiles during the night, when these burglaries occurred.

New state laws now in effect

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

Most new laws from this year's legislative session took effect in July, but a handful of significant bills became law on New Year's day.

They address shortages in accounting and dentistry, and they increase homeowner protections. They update campaign finance and vehicle licensing requirements. One adds a new look for car tags.

House Bill 148, The Public Accountancy Act of 2025, was brought by Rep. John Carson, R-Marietta, a certified public accountant trying to address a shortage of accountants. It updates a licensing framework established nearly three decades ago by offering new paths to becoming a certified public accountant. It also lets accounting firms do some work in Georgia without having an office in the state.

House Bill 551 by Rep. Jason Ridley, R-Chatsworth, updates rules for owning and operating a motor vehicle, adding numerous new requirements around the issuance of temporary operating permits and setting standards for a new electronic system for issuing them. It also lets permitted property owners install an immobilization device on trespassing vehicles rather than just having them towed.

House Bill 567 by Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, address regional shortages in dentistry, authorizing licensed dentists to practice online, with regulation (Continued on Page 3)



Pictured above are Mr. Dustin Philpot and CCHS students who worked on the "Reading Cottage," now at the Clinch County Public Library.

'Reading Cottage' built at library

Clinch County Public Library now has a "Reading Cottage."

Southern Rivers Career Center Manager Keyara Hamilton and Southern Rivers CEO Jack Warden of Goodwill Industries recently donated \$3000 to help boost youth literacy in our county this past summer. The funding will provide some new furniture for the kids and teen area, a TV for educational programming, and program/STEM supplies.

The library used some of this funding in a partnership with the Clinch County School System. Mr. Dustin Philpot and the students in his construction class built a custom "Reading Cottage" for the children. The library wanted to thank the students, Mr. Philpot, Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Warden for making this project possible.

The Clinch County Public Library is a vital part of the community. It is open Monday-Friday to allow patrons to use the services they offer: such as faxing, copying, notary, printing; as well as, the ability to check out books and DVD's. They also have free wi-fi for patrons to come and pay their bills on



Pictured above is the "Reading Cottage" now at the Clinch County Public Library.

their phones or use a computer.

The library has weekly stories and crafts and special events/programs throughout the year, especially during the summer and around holidays when the children

are out of school to keep the children engaged and learning year-round. It also gives them a safe place to be during the holidays and after school. They are promoting the 1000 Books before Kindergarten program.