

# The Clinch County News

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HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

### Property tax bills will be delayed for 2025

Property tax bills for 2025 are delayed this year due to the property reevaluation 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.

### Citrus workshop to be held February 17

A "Strategies for Citrus Production Workshop" will be held Tuesday, February 17, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lowndes County Extension Office in Valdosta. Lunch will be provided. To register: call 229-333-5185 or email dawsonj01@fvsu.edu.

### 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.

### St. Paul to have Women's Day Feb. 8

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will be having Women's Day on Sunday, February 8, at 3 p.m. The speaker will be the First Lady of Prayer Garden Church of God, Kim Miller of Valdosta. Everyone is invited to attend the service. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church is located at 600 Reddick Street in Homerville.

### Help available for homeless veterans

90Works is committed to helping homeless veterans or veterans at risk of becoming homeless to become stably housed. They offer a 90-day program designed to get veterans back on their feet and self-sufficient. They offer Supportive Services For Veteran Families (SSVF), a program for housing, counseling, referral and linkages with the community and VA resources. For more information, call (855) 90WORKS or visit www.90works.org.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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The Suwannee River Visitor Center, located at the intersection of the river and Highway 441 in Fargo, has been closed for over a decade.

## DNR pulls vote to demolish Suwannee River Visitor Center

By Len Robbins  
Publisher

A plan to demolish the Suwannee River Visitor Center in Fargo has apparently been put on hold.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources had the demolition of the visitor center on their agenda for their January 30 meeting. On the day of the meeting, a revised agenda did not include the item.

The Suwannee River Visitor Center opened

in 2004 on the edge of the river and boat ramp in Fargo. The 7,000-square foot, \$2 million building featured exhibits and information about the Okefenokee Swamp and river. It closed in 2011 due to state budgeting issues.

According to the state, the structure is now extensively deteriorated and was occupied by bats. "Due to these ongoing issues, the facility represents a continuing safety risk and liability to staff, visitors, and the Department," according to the DNR.

## Clinch man sentenced for 2022 meth bust

A Clinch County man was recently sentenced to 25 years in prison in connection with a 2022 methamphetamine bust.

Craig Bernard Harris, 47, of Homerville, was sentenced in federal court last Tuesday to 25 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Federal officials say Harris was involved in a trafficking network connected to a Mexican source of supply operating out of Atlanta. His former wife, Bridget Denise Harris, 53, also of Homerville, (Continued on Page 3)



Pictured above at the Clinch County Sports Hall of Fame ceremony are, from left, Angie Hill (accepting on behalf of Sheena Hill), April Gano and Nathan Bass (accepting on behalf of Jamie Bass), A.J. Rice (accepting on behalf of Jerry Rice), Hosie Williams, Alan Pope, Octavis Johnson, Rachel Morgan, Trezmen Marshall, and Lamar McKnight.

## Sports Hall of Fame inducts 2026 class

The Clinch County Sports Hall of Fame inducted its 2026 class Saturday.

The ceremony was held in the Clinch County High cafeteria prior to Saturday's Clinch County/Turner County basketball game.

Inducted were Jamie Bass, Sheena Hill, Antonio Jefferson, Octavis Johnson, Trezmen Marshall, Lamar McKnight, Rachel Morgan, Alan Pope, Jerry Rice, and Hosie Williams.

Each inductee in attendance received a red Hall of Fame blazer and a plaque during the ceremony. The late Jerry Rice's family accepted his plaque, and relatives of Bass, Hill and Jefferson, who were unable to attend, accepted on their behalf. After the ceremony, the new Hall-of-Famers were introduced to the crowd in the gymnasium in between the girls and boys varsity basketball games.

Biographical informa-



Above, Clinch County Sports Hall of Fame Chair Len Robbins opens the induction ceremony in the Clinch County High School cafeteria Saturday.

tion about the 2026 class of Fame touchscreen kiosks now included in the Clinch County Sports Hall of Fame touched-screen kiosks in the gymnasium lobby.

More photos from the ceremony can be found on The News' Facebook page.