

NOW
\$1
with tax at the
newsstand

The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

131st YEAR, ISSUE 14 © 2026 The Clinch County News

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

10 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

Dunham's
SPORTS

NEWS BRIEFS

What's going on in your community

Pre-K registration starts March 6

If your child will be 4 by September 1, 2026, then it is time to sign up for Pre-k. The following is required for registration; copy of social security card, copy of birth certificate, eye ear dental and nutrition exam (Form 3300) due within 90 days of start of school, immunization records (Form 3231) due within 30 days of start of school, proof of residency, proof of Medicaid Snap or TanF. Call or contact Misty McQuaig if you have any questions 487-5385 or mmcquaig@clinchcounty.com. Registration forms can be picked up at Clinch County Elementary or at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/ChildRegForm.pdf>.

North Cemetery cleanup on March 7

A Cleanup Day is being planned at North Cemetery on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m.-Noon. Looking for volunteers. Please bring gloves, rakes, etc. Any questions please call Kim Sutton at 912-599-0133.

Timberland Jubilee set for April 4th

The Timberland Jubilee is set for April of this year. The community festival will be held from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, April 4. The Jubilee will host a forestry contest, sponsored by R & R Swamp Loggers. There will also be live music from Two River Station and The County Line Band, with opportunities for other interested artists during the day. Vendor applications will be available by email at timberlandjubilee@gmail.com. The Miss Timberland Pageant will be held on Saturday, March 21, for interested contestants up to the age of 19.

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.

Tuesday Night Talks at Clinch Memorial

Join Clinch Memorial Hospital on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. for our Tuesday Night Talks series. Each session features a guest speaker with professional experience on a prevalent health topic relevant to our community. A light supper is provided, and all are welcome to attend.

Follow us on:



Back-to-back region crowns for Panthers

Clinch County Panther players and coaches celebrate Friday after defeating Turner County in Charlton County for their second straight basketball region championship. The Panthers will start their state playoff run Wednesday at home vs. Marion County.

READ MORE ABOUT IT INSIDE on PAGE 10

Hardee honored for 50 years on Homerville City Council

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

Willie Hardee's 50 years of service as a Homerville City Council member was celebrated Thursday.

The City of Homerville hosted a celebration of Mr. Willie Hardee's 50 years of service to Homerville and the community Thursday at the Station #11 Depot.

Hardee first became a member of the Homerville City Council in 1976, and has served continually ever since, including acting as

(Continued on Page 3)



Willie Hardee and his family at the event held to honor his 50 years of service to the City of Homerville. From left, Mae Cooper, Marie Wright, Diana Hardee, Willie Hardee, Jeanette Hardee, Ann Wells, and Smiley Wells.



This year's STARS are, from left, STAR Teacher Deprise Tomberlin, STAR Student Annalee George, STAR Student Alex Goodman, and STAR Teacher Liza Stalvey.

Four STARS for CCHS this year

By Len Robbins
Publisher

Clinch County High has double the STARS for 2026.

There are two STAR Students for CCHS this year, and two STAR Teachers as well. Annalee George and Alec Goodman are this year's STAR Students for CCHS. Goodman chose Liza Stalvey as his STAR Teacher,

while George's STAR Teacher is Deprise Tomberlin. The STAR Student is the senior with the highest SAT score who also is in the top 10 percent of their class in terms of grade-point average. Goodman and George had the exact same SAT score, prompting the tie.

The STAR Students and Teachers were honored Thursday by the Clinch County

(Continued on Page 2)

Rhodes pens new book

A former Clinch County resident has published his latest book.

"Half Wit-Half Wisom" is Roy Rhodes's third book. It is a collection of humorous and/or poignant essays. Rhodes's two previous books were the fictional "In My Father's Generation" and "Those Smoke Filled Rooms," a biographical non-fiction book about Wallace Jernigan's political career, which Rhodes co-wrote.

Rhodes is a former Clinch County teacher and longtime Lee Container employee who is currently

(Continued on Page 3)

Let's Talk Local

Dre's Snack Shack brings heart – and wings – to downtown Homerville

(Editor's Note: This feature is the second in a series by Homerville Main Street about Downtown Homerville's small businesses.)

In the heart of Downtown Homerville, Dre's Snack Shack is serving more than just great food — it's serving love, community, and hometown pride.

Owned by Dondre Lacey, Dre's Snack Shack has been a downtown favorite since opening in 2021. Located at 17A West Dame Avenue, the restaurant has quickly built a reputation for its welcoming atmosphere and crave-worthy menu featuring wings, burgers, hot dogs, and more. It's no surprise that the wings have emerged as the most popular item among customers.

For Lacey, the inspiration behind the business was simple and deeply

personal: a love for cooking and people. That passion has translated into one of his proudest moments as a business owner — cooking for the Clinch County Panthers, an experience that perfectly blends his love of food with his commitment to the local community.

Giving back is a core value at Dre's Snack Shack. Lacey says the business enjoys donating and supporting the community whenever possible, reinforcing the idea that downtown businesses are about more than profit — they're about people. "We wanted to spread love through our food everywhere," he shared when asked why he chose to locate downtown.

One of the things Lacey enjoys most about being part of Downtown Homerville is meeting new people every day. Still, like many small business owners, he

(Continued on Page 3)



Front, from left, Kassie King and Sakeitha Foster. Back from left, Desmond McCutchin and Owner Dondre Lacey.