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The Clinch County News

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HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.dec.state.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.

First Baptist Children's Academy registration

Registration for First Baptist Children's Academy will be Monday, Mar 1-31. The office is open 8:30-12 & 1-4 Monday-Thursday. Please bring a copy of your child's birth Certificate, insurance card and immunization record. The registration fee is \$110. This fee purchases curriculum for your child for the year. You may call the church office at 912-487-5532 if you have any questions.

Prayer Garden 90-year celebration March 15

Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ is celebrating 90 YEARS of God's sustaining power. The Anniversary Theme is "Still Standing by Grace: 90 Years of God's Faithfulness." The celebration will take place on Sunday, March 15, at Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

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.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

Follow us on:



CMH, O'Berry honored by Chamber

By Len Robbins
Publisher

The Clinch County Chamber of Commerce announced its Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year Tuesday at its Annual Chamber Social.

Tanya O'Berry was named the Chamber's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, and Clinch Memorial Hospital was named the 2025 Business of the Year at the event, held at the Station #11 Depot.

"Clinch Memorial Hospital has been a long trusted provider of quality care, but what truly sets them apart is how intentionally they connect with the people they serve," outgoing Chamber President Crystal Godfrey said in introducing CMH as the Business of the Year Award winner. "They don't just support Clinch County, they show up for it. Clinch Memorial consistently identifies needs in our community, and takes actions to meet them." Clinch Memorial



Above, Chamber officials present the Business of the Year award to representatives from Clinch Memorial Hospital. From left are Chamber President Crystal Godfrey, Angela Handley, Lily Blitch and Kimberly Ratliff from CMH, and Chamber Executive Director Reilly Robbins.

Hospital CEO Angela Handley accepted the prestigious award on behalf of the hospital.

In announcing O'Berry as the winner of the Outstanding Citizen award, Godfrey noted

O'Berry's leadership as a county commissioner, entrepreneur, and owner of Homerville Feed and Seed, and that she "spearheaded the rebirth of the Timberland Jubilee" in 2025. O'Berry was out

of town on business and not available to accept the award in person.

Prior to the presentation of the awards, Chamber Executive Director Reilly Robbins recognized

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BOE celebrates Leaders Vision award, student Caroline Fulton

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Clinch County Board of Education recognized a Clinch County High sophomore student for her accomplishments at their regular monthly meeting Thursday.

Caroline Fulton has garnered a long list of achievements just in her sophomore year, including being a finalist for the Governor's honor program, being approved for a summer course with MIT on engineering and A.I., first place scholarship at South Georgia Regional Science Fair for an app she created for helping to find out what plastics are recyclable as well as what kind of plastics are common for certain products, finishing several AP classes all with high A's with another AP class in physics coming up. She is also on the student advisory council, launched a robotics club, is captain of the woodwind section in the marching band, served as an attorney in mock trial, is in the drama club, and showed hogs at the school hog show.

The Clinch County School System was also honored at the meeting with a Georgia Association of Educational Leaders Vision Award for the 2025-2026 school year. The award recognizes school districts for exceptional commitment to professional learning, leadership development, and statewide advocacy.

In other action from the meeting, the board:

- Approved Rose Lankford, Joy Sumner, Deborah Robinson, Shantae Sims, Amani Grady, Charlee Brown (Nurse), Marcy Guess, Allison Strickland, Terri Vickers, Judy Smith (Nutrition) as substitutes pending background checks.
- Approved the retirement of



Above, Caroline Fulton with her family at the school board meeting. From left, CCHS Principal JerriLynn Spivey, grandmother Denise Nicholson, Caroline, mother Mandy Fulton, father Paul Fulton, and sister Harper Fulton.



With their 2025-2026 GAEL Vision award are, from left, Jason Bell, Caroline Lankford, Dr. Lori James, Denise Brown, JerriLynn Spivey and Ann Johnson. Amanda Webb and Mary Frances

- Approved substitute and additional pay chart.
- Approved fiscal year 2027 administration staff.
- Approved all financial reports.
- Approved the athletic schedules for Varsity and JV football and mid-

- Approved the purchase of 200 chromebooks for around \$72,000 using SPLOST funds.
- Heard from Superintendent Dr. Lori James about House Bill 1116, which would significantly cut property taxes over time, which means less

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Qualifying is this week for 2026 BOE, county elections

Qualifying for county and school board offices for 2026 is being held this week.

The qualifying period for 2026 Clinch County offices started Monday, March 2, and will end on

Friday, March 6 at noon at the Clinch County Elections Office. Offices on the 2026 ballot will include:

- County Commission
- Post 1 - Currently held by Bob Johnson

Post 4 - Currently held by Debra Thomas

- Clinch County Board of Education
- Post 1 - Currently held by Stanley Thrift
- Post 4 - Currently held by Charlie Mae Cross

Qualifying will be held at the Clinch County Elections office in the Clinch County Courthouse.

This year, the primary election will be May 19, and the general election is November 3.