



## Chamber makes donation to Suwannee River Golf Course

At their annual social event Tuesday, the Clinch County Chamber of Commerce presented a check for \$2,500 to the Suwannee River Golf Course in Fargo. The donation is from proceeds from the chamber's fundraising golf tournament. Len Robbins accepted the check on behalf of the golf course. Pictured above are, from left, Chamber President Crystal Godfrey, Len Robbins, Chamber Executive Director Reilly Robbins.



## Fisher Gillis serves as Senate Page

Clinch County's Fisher Gillis recently served as a Senate page at the Georgia State Capitol. While serving under the Gold Dome, Fisher assisted Senators during the legislative session by delivering important information and messages within the Senate Chamber. He had the opportunity to meet legislative leaders and state employees, observe floor votes, and witness firsthand how the legislative process works. He also assisted legislators by passing along messages from key stakeholders outside of the Chamber. Throughout the day, he heard discussions on a variety of issues and listened to speeches from members addressing important policy matters. It was an incredible learning experience and a wonderful opportunity for him to see state government in action. Thanks to Senator Russ Goodman for sponsoring and hosting Fisher during this special day. Pictured above is Fisher with Senator Russ Goodman (left) and Senator Larry Walker. Below is Fisher with Senator Goodman and Clinch Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lori James.



## News from under the Gold Dome

Crossover Day is almost here, which means the pace under the Gold Dome has intensified as we work to move Senate legislation to the House before the March 6, deadline. These final days before crossover are always long, but they are focused on advancing the priorities you've sent me to Atlanta to accomplish.

This week, we sent the Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to the Governor's desk, one of the most important responsibilities we have as legislators. After weeks of detailed review, tough questioning and negotiations with the House, we produced a budget rooted in conservative principles that will protect the rainy-day fund and return excess revenue to the taxpayers who earned it.

We've governed with discipline, and have delivered more than \$1 billion in income tax relief and \$850 million in homestead property tax relief. That is real, meaningful relief for families who are feeling the strain of rising insurance premiums, higher grocery bills, and increased property assessments. Instead of growing government, we are shrinking its burden on you.

The budget also makes a long-overdue investment in public safety and mental health by dedicating more than \$400 million to construct the first new state mental health hospital in Georgia since the 1960s. For too long, county jails have shouldered the responsibility of housing individuals struggling with serious mental illness. This facility will help ensure eligible individuals receive proper treatment while relieving pressure on local law enforcement and taxpayers. Supporting our men and women in uniform means giving them the tools to do their jobs effectively.

We also moved forward on important public safety and education measures. Senate Bill 433, "Rio's Law," passed unanimously and strengthens protections for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. By creating a voluntary special license plate and requiring additional law enforcement training, this bill promotes safer interactions and greater understanding across our communities.

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 513, the "Every Day Counts Act," addresses chronic absenteeism in our schools. Students who miss significant classroom time face

## Russ Goodman

STATE SENATOR



long-term academic and economic consequences. This legislation gives schools clearer tools to intervene early, encourage accountability and reinforce the expectation that education is not optional. If we want a strong workforce and vibrant economy tomorrow, we must insist on responsibility and engagement today.

I've been working hard on legislation to protect students in our schools, and I'm pleased to report that Senate Bill 523 has passed the Senate Committee on Education and Youth. This bill ensures that antisemitism is treated the same as other forms of religious discrimination in our public schools and colleges. Every student deserves to feel safe and respected in the classroom. Unfortunately, we've seen a troubling rise in antisemitic incidents, and that is simply unacceptable. SB 523 takes a clear stand against hate by strengthening protections for Jewish students and requiring the Department of Education to designate a statewide K-12 Title VI Coordinator to help ensure those protections are properly enforced.

I'm also proud to share that Senate Resolution 800 passed out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. This resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms. As a farmer in South Georgia, I know firsthand the pressures our farm families face — from rising input costs

to unpredictable markets and outside regulations. This study committee is about making sure family farms can survive and thrive for generations to come. When our farmers are strong, Southeast Georgia is strong.

We were also glad to welcome members of the Georgia Agribusiness Council to the Capitol this week to discuss the challenges facing agribusinesses across Georgia. These businesses are essential to supporting our farmers and keeping agriculture as our state's number one industry. It was a productive conversation, and I appreciate their continued partnership. We also celebrated FFA Day and had the opportunity to spend time with the next generation of agricultural leaders. Seeing those young men and women reminds us exactly why this work matters.

As we approach Crossover Day, we remain focused on delivering results that strengthen Georgia's economy, safeguard our communities and protect your hard-earned income. Please don't hesitate to reach out with your thoughts or concerns as we continue through the second half of the 2026 Legislative Session.

*Sen. Russ Goodman represents Senate District 8 which includes Atkinson, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Pierce Counties and a large portion of Ware County. He may be reached at 404.656.7454 or at russ.goodman@senate.ga.gov*

**RMC**  
Paint Contracting LLC  
Paint and Pressure Washing  
Residential and Light Commercial  
Major Credit Cards Accepted  
**229-415-5809**

**Metal FX Manufacturing, Inc.**  
Galvanized Steel Frames  
Roofing • Steel Buildings • Shelters  
Professional Installation or Do It Yourself  
  
Hwy 129 5 Miles North Of Alapaha  
**229-468-3146** www.metalfx.net

**Roundtree Funeral Home**  
"Service with Dignity and Honor"  
Since 1982  
240 Dame Ave. • Homerville, GA 31634  
Call: (912) 487-5325 or Fax: (912) 487-2050  
www.roundtreefuneralhome.net

## Pulmonary Rehabilitation

### From Winded to Wonderful

Do you feel short of breath doing simple things like walking to the mailbox, climbing stairs, or carrying groceries? You're not alone—and help is close to home. Our Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program is designed for people who struggle with breathing during daily activities. Whether it's due to asthma, excess weight, COPD, or just feeling winded more often than you used to, our team is here to support you. We offer gentle, personalized exercise plans, breathing techniques and education, and support to help you feel stronger and breathe easier. Talk to your provider today about joining our Pulmonary Rehab Program. **Call (912) 470-2386 for more information.**

We accept most insurances for this service.



Protection your loved ones deserve...

**GUARANTEED**  
Life Insurance  
up to \$30,000.00

Imagine what \$30,000.00 could mean to your family after you're gone – cash to help pay your medical bills or other expenses.

- Guaranteed acceptance for ages 45 to 85
- You cannot be turned down because of your health
- Lock in your rate for life

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company  
Find out how affordable this coverage can be – Call for your FREE Information Kit  
**1-855-548-5112**  
Life55plus.info/Clinch  
Plus – you'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner just for calling!

Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Insurance Policy LTD (DL1707N) 6236-32-0625