

The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

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HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

12 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Governor to visit Homerville Monday

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp will be in Homerville on Monday, March 16 at 3 p.m. for the campaign event for U.S. Senate candidate Derek Dooley. The event will be held at the Station #11 Depot in Homerville. Prior to that, at 2 p.m., another campaign event, for Lt. Governor candidate John F. Kennedy, will be held at the Depot.

Pre-K registration has started

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>.

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.

Lions Club holding golf tournament

The Clinch County Lions Club will hold its annual John E. Hughes Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, May 8, at 11:30 a.m. at Okefenokee Country Club. Contact Len Robbins (912-218-2255) or Brent James (912-520-0753) to sign up a team.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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Next Stop: Macon!

Panthers advance to hoops state championship

For the first time since 1989, the Clinch County Panther basketball team will be playing for a state title. Terrence George's Panthers (28-3) defeated Class A, Division II's top-ranked Chatahoochee County (27-2) Friday at Fort Valley State, 53-44, to advance to the finals. They will play Portal (25-5) Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Macon Coliseum in the championship. To get to the semifinals at Fort Valley, the Panthers went to Alamo and defeated Wheeler County 65-59 on Wednesday. Pictured at right is Coach George providing instructions while Panthers Shane Burns and Fred Causey celebrate at the end of Wednesday's game at Wheeler County - Photo by Joy Sumner Photography.

SPECIAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW SECTION INSIDE



Fuji's now open in Homerville

Fuji Bar and Grill is now open in downtown Homerville. The restaurant officially opened Monday at 31 East Dame Avenue in the old Hoagies/Big Daddy's location. Their hours of operation are: Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., and Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.- 11 p.m. Pictured above is the inside of the Fuji dining area, and at right is the outside on Highway 84.



County OKs marketing for swamp

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

With the Okefenokee Swamp likely to be named a World Heritage Site later this year, Clinch County is participating in a regional marketing effort.

At their regular monthly meeting Monday, the Clinch County Board of Commissioners heard from Okefenokee Regional Development Manager Alyson McCullough about regional branding for the swamp.

McCullough has been attending meetings in Clinch, Ware, and Charlton counties to not only solicit contributions, but to urge cooperation between the counties for the good of the region. She said this will be accomplished through destination marketing with visitor guides, itineraries, social media marketing, and coordinated print and media ads.

McCullough stated that this will give "long term positioning for the region around the swamp," as well as "leverage on a state level" for funding. Commission Chairman Henry Moylan mirrored this statement saying this gives the county a "greater opportunity for us to get funding that normally we wouldn't get."

The commissioners
(Continued on Page 3)

Qualifying produces no contests, new county commissioner

There will be no contested local elections in 2026, but there will be a new county commissioner in 2027.

Qualifying for the 2026 election cycle was held last week, with two county commission seats and two school board seats in the offing. For Post 1 on the Clinch County Board of Commissioners, incumbent Bob Johnson qualified for re-election, and for Post 4, JoAnn Lacey was the sole qualifier, and will assume office

in 2027. Incumbent Debra Thomas did not qualify for re-election.

On both of the Clinch County Board of Education seats, the incumbent qualified without opposition. Stanley Thrift will return to the board to represent Post 1, and Charlie Mae Cross will return representing Post 4.

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