

The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

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HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

10 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

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.

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.

Community Interest meeting on April 14

Jesus & Jam is having a Community Interest Meeting about the possibility of having a K-5 Christian school. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at Jesus & Jam, 75 Hampton Street in Homerville.

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.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings beind held

Clinch Memorial Hospital is hosting Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. These meetings offer a supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery and community connection. Any interested is encouraged to attend.

Sargent Fire south of Swamp now 50 percent contained

By Len Robbins
Publisher

A wildfire that started in Florida has spread into Clinch County and is now 50 percent contained.

Smoke from the blaze – named the Sargent Fire – filtered into southern Clinch County, nine miles south of Fargo, Friday. It began on Thursday in Baker County, Fla., and later spread into Georgia, on the southern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp. As of Monday morning, the fire is at 2,712 acres and is 50 percent contained, according to the Georgia Forestry Commission.

"Crews worked throughout the day to build and strengthen containment lines—particularly along the western front—and continue mopping up hot spots. Using a mix of heavy and medium dozers, firefighters have established lines around most of

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Johnson sets school record in the 100-meter dash

Clinch County High junior Kamarion Johnson set a school record last week for the 100-meter dash. Tuesday at a track meet in Charlton County, Johnson ran a 10.71 seconds in the 100 meters – which CCHS officials said is a school record. Pictured above is Johnson setting the record Tuesday – Photo by Joy Sumner Photography.



What a day for a Timberland Jubilee!

The annual Timberland Jubilee saw a great crowd all day long on Saturday at the Homerville Municipal Complex grounds. The Jubilee featured shopping by all kinds of vendors, food, live music, and family fun events all day long. Above and below are scenes from the festival, which enjoyed great weather Saturday - Photos by Ben Murray.



Legislative session ends: Last-minute tax cuts approved

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia House and Senate Republicans with competing agendas managed to push through income and property tax cuts as the curtain closed on the 2026 Georgia legislative session after midnight Friday.

The Senate did not get its elimination of income taxes. The House did not get its elimination of property taxes.

But both taxes would become smaller if Gov. Brian Kemp signs the two bills into law.

Owing to the late hour, Senate Republicans had to

repurpose a hemp farming bill to send a property tax cut to the House.

The measure would basically shift money from homeowners' right pocket to their left: the property taxes on their homes could be reduced by the income from a new penny sales tax.

It also would suppress the increase in valuations of owner-occupied homes, limiting the rise of those "homesteaded" properties for tax purposes to the rate of inflation.

Commercial properties — and renters — would not benefit from either provision.

The state House had had a similar idea, but it ran afoul

of the state Constitution. A two-thirds vote was required for adoption, and Democrats opposed it, denying passage of House Bill 1116 in early March.

So the Senate came up with a legal workaround that would allow local legislative delegations to call for such changes, making it politically easier to get the necessary two-thirds vote for each of Georgia's 159 counties. The new sales tax would then go to voters in a referendum.

That income tax revenue would bypass government and go straight to homeowners.

"We think there are about 110 counties and

all the cities within those 110 counties that could pretty much eliminate their homestead property taxes for county and city with that one-time sales tax," said Clint Mueller, deputy director of ACCG, the association for Georgia's county commissioners.

Local governments would see revenue growth constrained by the inflation cap on home values. But when a property changes hands, or when there is new construction, the value would reset to the current market.

So fast-growing jurisdictions and those with a higher proportion of

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LOCAL MATTERS



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