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The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, April 15, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

Dunham's
SPORTS

DOLLAR
GENERAL

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. Format is 4-man scramble. Cost is \$400 per team.

Prayer Garden COG Family & Friends Day

Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ will be having its 2026 Annual Family & Friends Day Celebration on Sunday, April 19, at 3 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Pastor Kenneth Kirksey of Powerhouse of Faith Deliverance Ministries in Waycross. All are invited to attend this celebration.

Regional Library Board to meet on May 4

The Regional Library Board of the Okefenokee Regional Library System will meet at 4 pm on Monday, May 4, at the Waycross-Ware County Public Library in Waycross. For further information please contact (912) 287-4982.

SGRC to meet next on April 21st

A meeting of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 11 am. The meeting will be held at the SGRC Waycross Office located at 1725 S. Georgia Parkway W., Waycross, GA 31503. An Executive Committee Meeting will be held prior to the regular meeting at 10 am. Both meetings are open to the public.

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.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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Homerville 10-year-old sets Suwannee River record

J.D. Smith, 10, of Homerville, landed this 4-lbs., 2.72-oz. chain pickerel (also known as a jackfish) on Wednesday, April 8 and set the new Suwannee River record. The previous record was 2-lbs, 14.53 oz., caught by Jonathan Inman in 2022. The state record for jackfish is held by the late Baxley McQuaig, Jr., who caught a 9-lb., 6 oz. chain pickerel in 1961. J.D. is the son of Erick and Jami Lee Smith of Homerville. The fish was measured and weighed on certified DNR scales.

County Commission to choose from three bids for ambulance service

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners opened up bids for emergency ambulance services at their meeting held on Monday, April 6.

The county received three bids for ambulance service, from Goldstar, EMS Survival Flight, and AmeriPro.

After the county looks over all bids it will choose a provider for the service at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Tanya O' Berry asked

to have some issues brought up on the agenda of next months meeting, including adding extra electrical outlets at the Municipal Complex grounds in an effort to cut down on the need for generators for next year's Timberland Jubilee.

O' Berry also would like for the commissioners to write a letter to CSX about trying to get some work on the railroad crossings, as well as looking into the weight limit for trucks using Chester Mattox Road, since it is already showing wear despite just being repaved.

Part of Homerville Bypass closed for bridge replacement

A part of the Homerville Bypass was closed Monday for a bridge replacement project.

Contractors are replacing the Woodyard Creek Bridge for the project. A detour route has been posted with signage in advance of the closure.

The closure will be in effect until the new bridge is opened to traffic, which is anticipated on October 30, 2026. Drivers who travel the Homerville Bypass as a through-route will need to follow the posted detour, which will utilize US 441/South Church Street, the US 84 one-way pairs of East Dame Avenue and East Plant Avenue within Homerville, and US 84/East Plant Avenue to the east of Homerville. Local drivers who do not need to travel the length of the Homerville Bypass can still use it, as long as they stay away from the closure and construction site.

The lead contractor for the Homerville Bypass bridge replacement project is Griffin Grading & Concrete of Cordele, and the project is administered and funded through Georgia DOT's



Above is the detour route for the the bridge replacement project on the Homerville Bypass.

Transportation Investment Act (TIA) program, which helps regions pay for necessary transportation projects through a voter-approved one-cent sales tax.

Local residents and frequent drivers through Clinch County are encouraged to share information regarding this alert for the road closure and its detour

route with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues, so that all can be prepared for this temporary change for those traveling to and from Homerville.

City denied CDBG grant for drainage project

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The City of Homerville has been denied a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the King Street drainage project due to lack of survey participation from citizens.

This was announced at Thursday's Homerville City Council meeting. The city can reapply for the grant when the next fiscal year begins in June, but in order to get approved for the grant, there will need to be significantly more citizen participation, according to city officials. CDBGs are federally-funded grants administered through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

In other action from the meeting, the council:

- Heard the city was awarded \$48,805.67 for the fiscal year 2026 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant. In addition, they were approved for \$52,692.01 for the Local Road Administration.
- Were appraised on an increase of .83 per cart from Ryland on trash pickup starting on the May 2026 bill.

- Discussed the budget. The city is on schedule with their budget for 2026 at 70 percent of their budget.

- Heard from Chief Keith Jackson about trying to find grants for the city for vehicles, city hall, police department, and waste/sewer.

- Heard from Mayor Tom Kennedy, who said he will be getting with Joe Mizell about getting the sign up for the cemetery after they decide where it will be best put to keep from being hit by drivers.