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The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

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Wednesday, April 22, 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.

St. Paul celebrating 105th anniversary

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating their 105th church anniversary on Sunday, May 3, at 10 am. The speaker will be Rev. Marvin H. Smith II of Valdosta. He is the pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church in DuPont. Everyone is invited to come and fellowship with us.

Clinch BOE to hold budget public hearings

The Clinch County Board of Education will hold two public budget hearings to discuss the FY27 budget. The first hearing will be during a called board meeting on Tuesday, May 5, at 5 p.m. and the second hearing will be during a called board meeting on Thursday, May 28, at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting at 6 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Clinch County Board Office, and are open to the public.

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.

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.

Fire threatening southern Clinch County

By Len Robbins
Publisher

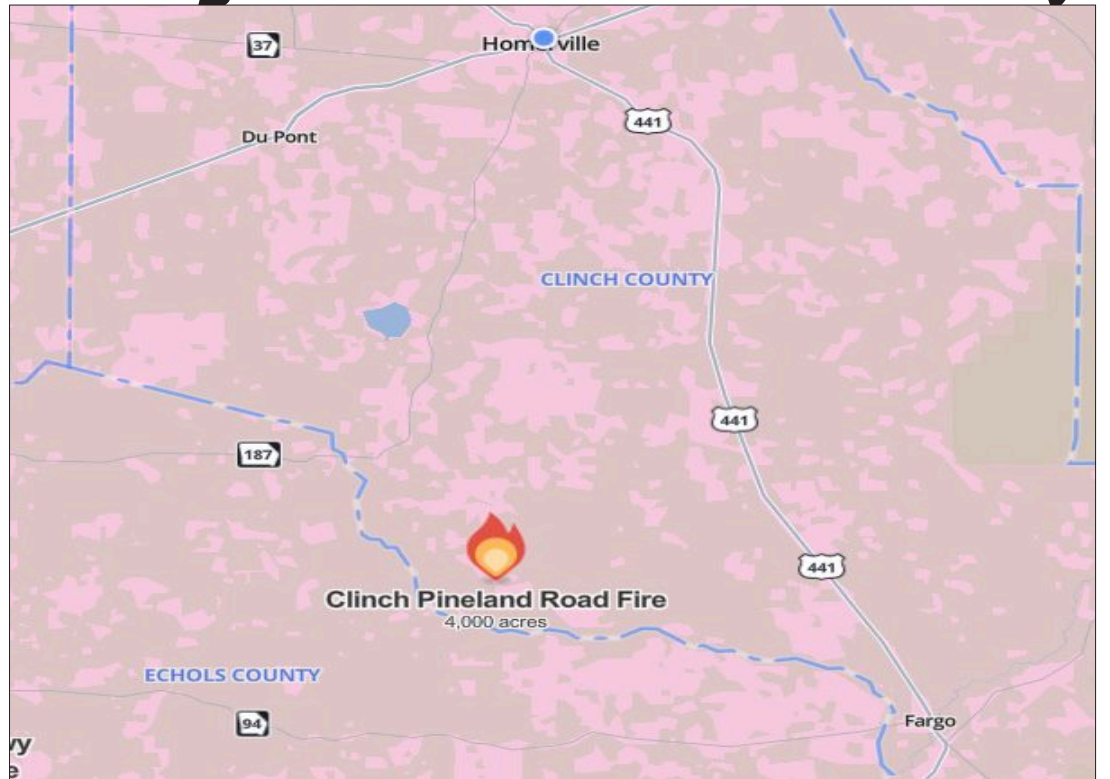
A wildfire is threatening southern Clinch County.

The fire, named the Clinch Pineland Road Fire, started Saturday and was a little over 4,000 acres with 10 percent containment as of Monday morning, according to the Georgia Forestry Commission.

On Sunday, an alert was sent out to those living near Highway 441 between Headlight Road and Tiger Lake Road to be prepared for evacuation if the fire spread to that area.

The Clinch Pineland Road Fire is located near the Clinch/Echols county line, a little northwest of Fargo and west of Highway 441.

Earlier this month, a wildfire started in Florida south of the Okefenokee Swamp, and spread into



Pictured above is a map showing where the Clinch Pineland Road Fire was located as of Monday morning.

Clinch County. That wildfire, named the Sargent Fire, is currently 81 percent contained, according

to the GFC, and burned 2,489 acres.

Updates on the Clinch Pineland Road Fire can be

found on the Clinch County Emergency Management Agency or Clinch County News Facebook pages.



Above, from left, Panther tennis team members include, from left, Pierre Clark, Malik McNair, Colby Daniels, Gavin Day, Garnet Holtzclaw, J.D. Smith, Grayson Daniel, Jake Bruce, Coach Chad Jones.

Panther tennis unbeaten going into playoffs

By Len Robbins
Publisher

The Clinch County Panther tennis team finished their regular season with a perfect 10-0 record.

That secured them the region title, as they beat Irwin County and Lanier County in the Region 2 tennis tournament.

For the playoffs, Clinch will be the top seed from Region 2 and got a bye for the first round. CCHS coach Chad Jones said the Panthers will play either Claxton (Region 3, 2nd seed) or Wilkinson County (Re-

gion 5, 3rd seed) in the second round, probably on April 29.

"The boys have been very dedicated and have played extremely well," said Jones. "I think this group of student athletes has a very good chance of advancing to the state championship, but we are taking it one match at a time."

Team members include J.D. Smith (1st singles); Colby Daniels (2nd singles); Grayson Daniel (3rd singles); Gavin Day and Garnet Holtzclaw (1st doubles); Malik McNair and Pierre Clark (2nd doubles); and Jake Bruce.

Early voting for primary starts on Monday

By Len Robbins
Publisher

Early voting for the May 19 general primary election will start on Monday, April 27, at the elections office in the Clinch County Courthouse.

The early voting period will start Monday and run through Friday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. during the weekdays. There will be two Saturday voting periods - on May 2 and May 9. This election is a primary election, meaning you will have to choose between a Democratic or Republican party ballot. Non-partisan races will be on both the Democratic and Republican ballots.

On the Democratic ballot, contested races include: *(Continued on Page 3)*



Johnson, Causey sign with Clayton State

Two outstanding Clinch County Panther football players signed papers to continue playing football in college Friday. Xavion Johnson and Fred Causey, signed to play for and attend Clayton State this fall in a signing ceremony in the CCHS gym. Causey was an All-State defensive back for the Panthers, and Johnson was an All-Region running back/linebacker/defensive lineman. Above is Johnson surrounded by family, friends and school personnel during the ceremony. Below is Causey signing surrounded by family, friends and school personnel.



LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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