

Pineland Road Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

The Pineland Road Fire currently has 184 personnel and 72 resources — including engines, heavy equipment, and overhead support — assigned to the incident, backed by state, federal, and cooperating partners and agencies. Fire behavior remains active, with wind-driven runs, flanking, and isolated torching, according to the GFC.

Sunday evening, Echols County EMA asked that Echols County stay alert to any future potential evacuations.

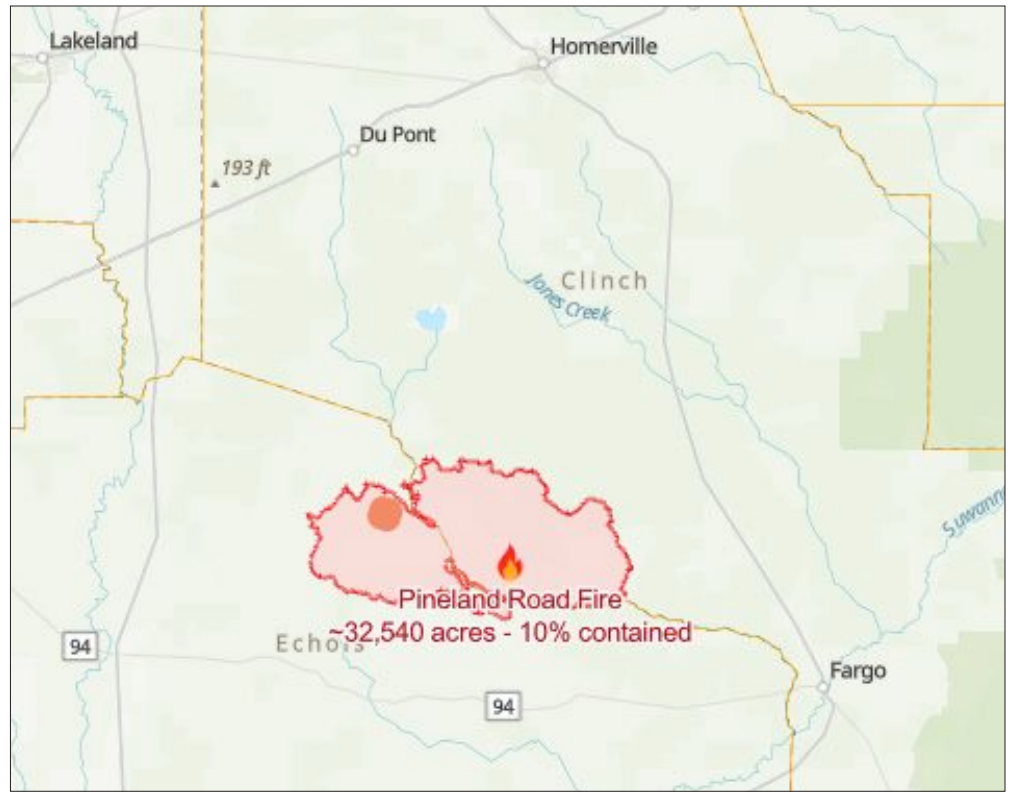
"We are aware of reports stating that the wildfire is threatening homes in the area. At this time, if you have NOT received an official evacuation alert from Echols County EMA, you are NOT under an evacuation order," Echols County EMA stated on its Facebook page. "Fire crews, including the Georgia Forestry Commission, remain actively engaged and are working to protect homes and contain the fire. Conditions can change, and we are monitoring closely. If an evacuation becomes necessary, you will be notified immediately through official alert systems. If you live near an evacuation area, we ask you stay vigilant and be prepared to evacuate if an evacuation order was given."

The fire, reportedly started by a welding spark in Clinch County, escalated quickly last Sunday, April 19. By Tuesday, April 21, it had reached 8,000 acres, with a mandatory evacuation being called for Joe's Lane, Worth Lane, Register Road and the Fruitland area, and later, Will Lewis Road in Echols County. By Wednesday, the spread of the blaze had doubled, to 16,000. By Thursday, the Pineland Road Fire had consumed close to 30,000 acres of forest.

Emergency shelters were opened for those affected by wildfires in South Georgia. Venture of Faith Camp, located at 1309 GA Highway 135 South in Lake Park was opened as a shelter



Above are cash apps (Venmo and cash app) where donations came be made to support local firefighters. At right is a map of where the Pineland Road Fire was located as of Monday afternoon. Below that are photos of Georgia Forestry Commission firefighters and equipment arriving at the fire location last week, and directly below is a place spraying the area of the fire last week.



for those affected by the Pineland Road Fire.

Another large fire, in Brantley County, has destroyed 122 homes and is threatening nearly 1,000 more, as of Sunday evening.

According to GFC, the Pineland Road Fire is threatening 187 single residences and 123 minor structures area, primarily in Echols County. One single residence has been destroyed and 35 minor structures have been destroyed to date. Widespread damage has already occurred and is eminent to industrial timber production, and commercial bee operations in the area are at risk, according to the GFC.

Assistance for firefighters and emergency officials is being coordinated through EMA offices

in Echols County and Clinch County.

The Homerville Fire Department and Clinch County firefighters have been working the fire around the clock since it started. They have set up cash apps to make donations (see graphic).

"Chief Danny Strickland, of the Homerville Fire Department would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to each and every person who has supported our department during this time. Whether your contribution was monetary, supplies, or simply keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, it has not gone unnoticed," the fire department stated in a Facebook post. "We have truly been blessed beyond what we could have ever imagined, and the generosity continues to pour in daily. Your



kindness and support mean more to us than words can express, and it helps us continue to serve our community when it matters most. For those still looking to contribute, we have listed our official donation accounts. Thank you again for standing with us. We are

incredibly grateful for this community."

Clinch County EMA Director Andrew Nelson can be reached at 912-487-3700 and Echols County EMA Director Allen Levesque can be reached at 229-559-6538. Updates on the

fire's progress can be found online at the Clinch County EMA Facebook page, at the Georgia Forestry Commission website (gatrees.org), and on the Clinch County News Facebook page. Please see those sites for updated information.

Clinch Memorial Hospital

(Continued from Page 1)

built a record of success in advancing patient care, strengthening clinical teams, and driving operational excellence. Throughout her tenure, she has played a pivotal role in major initiatives, including the facility's EHR transition, and has stepped into critical roles such as infection prevention and employee health when needed. Register has severed the organization as charge nurse, Director of Nursing, and Chief Nursing Officer.

"Register is an exceptional leader whose vision, expertise and passion for patient centered care will elevate the work at Clinch Memorial," said Handley.

"Her track record of building strong teams, improving outcomes and advancing innovative care models makes her the right leader for this role."

Blitch, who joined Clinch Memorial in 2019, has served in several leadership roles across the hospital and brings experience in project management, business development, and operations. She began her tenure at Clinch Memorial as a summer intern in 2019. Since her full-time tenure began in 2021, she has served as the Director of Organizational Development, where she oversaw the public relations efforts, fundraising efforts, grant procurement and project implementa-

tion, and served as the liaison for rehabilitation services. Known as a collaborative and data driven leader, she has advanced key operational initiatives and strengthened support for clinical teams across the system.

"Lily has demonstrated exceptional leadership and an unwavering commitment to our mission," Handley said. "She approaches hospital operations with clarity, compassion and an ability to unite teams around shared goals. I am confident she will continue to elevate the work at Clinch Memorial in her new role. We are fortunate to have her stepping into this important position."

Lutz, Brown, Peagler & Manley

(Continued from Page 1)

Choosing to locate in Downtown Homerville was a natural decision, as the agency was purchased and established right in the heart of town. Being downtown allows the team to stay closely connected to neighbors and clients while remaining an active part of the community. The agency is a member of the Clinch County Chamber of Commerce, regularly donates to local organizations, and makes a point to support fellow

downtown businesses by shopping local.

Like many small businesses, the agency faces challenges in an increasingly digital marketplace. Online competition and constantly changing insurance markets require a careful balance between offering competitive rates and maintaining the personalized, small-town service that defines the business. Lutz believes that customer service remains the most important differentiator and encourages anyone

considering opening a business downtown to make it their top priority.

Looking ahead, Lutz, Brown, Peagler and Manley Insurance Agency continues to expand its offerings by partnering with new insurance providers to bring competitive options to South Georgia. Most recently, the agency has begun writing policies with GEICO Commercial Insurance and Berkshire Hathaway.

One thing many customers may not realize is

just how deep the agency's roots run. Despite changes in name over the years, the office has been part of the Homerville community since 1936.

When asked to finish the sentence, "Downtown Homerville is special because..." the answer reflects the agency's long-standing connection to the area: it's because of the love and support received from a truly neighborly community.

For more information, visit www.LBPMins.com or call (912) 487-5411.

COME SEE US AT YOUR HOMETOWN BUTCHER SHOP

- We've got fresh seafood!
- Best steaks in town!
- All of our 'specialties' - hogshead cheese, BBQ sauces, baked potato topper, pimento cheese
- No need to cook - we have it already prepared daily
- Call us about catering your event!

Richard's MEATS & SEAFOOD
14 PLANT AVENUE • HOMERVILLE • 487-5822

HELP WANTED

Stephen C. Foster State Park in Fargo, GA is now hiring for Administrative Support. Minimum qualifications are a High School Diploma or GED AND ability to perform basic office functions and computer related duties. The entry salary is \$29,020.16. Please go to <https://gadnr.org/careers>. From this page you can view the DNR Vacancy Announcement (pages 14 and 15) and access the DNR Application for Employment. Email applications to Parks6@dnr.ga.gov or bring/mail your completed application to Stephen C. Foster State Park at 17515 GA Highway 177, Fargo, GA. This position is open until filled. Call the park at 912-637-5274 if you have any questions.