

The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

\$1
with tax at the newstand

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Wednesday, May 13, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

DOLLAR GENERAL

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Friday is last day for advance voting

The last day for early voting for the May 19 primary election is Friday at the Clinch County Elections Office in the courthouse. The office will be open for voting during this week, closing Friday at 5 p.m.

Baccalaureate service set for May 17th

The Baccalaureate service for the Clinch County High School Class of 2026 will be held Sunday, May 17, at the high school. The graduation service will be held on Friday, May 22, at 8 p.m. at Donald Tison Field.

Faith and Civics Roundtable Saturday

Join Fair Count and Brown's Chapel AME Church at 111 Wilson Street in Homerville for a Faith and Civics Roundtable community conversation. The event will be held Saturday, May 16, from 1-3 pm. Free registration and lunch will be served. Register at mobilize.us/faircount/event/939964.

AARP smart driver class offered on May 21

AARP will be hosting a smart driver class on Thursday, May 21, from 9 am to 3:15 pm at the Clinch County Senior Center. To register call 912-487-2893 or 912-599-0227. The class will cost \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non AARP members. check or cash only. Light lunch will be provided. This course can lead to a multi-year auto insurance discount, depending on eligibility with your insurance.

Women's Day program at Brown's Chapel AME

Brown's Chapel AME Church will celebrate their Women's Day program on Sunday, May 24th at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Gail Brown, pastor of St. Thomas AME Church in Thomasville. Dinner will be served after worship. Contact Chairperson Sister Doris Bilden for more information at 904-214-5103. Everyone is invited.

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. 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

Follow us on:



Above, firefighters work on containing the Pineland Road Fire – Photo courtesy of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Pineland Road Fire in now 87 percent contained

By Len Robbins
Publisher

Weekend rains have helped tame the Pineland Road Fire in Clinch and Echols counties – with containment at 87 percent as of Monday morning.

The fire started April 18 and has charred 32,575 acres, but still remains a threat due to dry conditions throughout South Georgia. A burn ban remains in effect for Clinch and Echols counties and other counties in the area, and will likely remain until later this month.

According to a report from the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Pineland Road Fire continues to burn in heavy southern rough fuels and bays in Clinch and Echols counties. Fuel conditions remain extremely dry and the fire is resistant to control. Crews are working to hold the fire within its strategic containment boundaries: north of Hwy 94, west of US 441, south of Thelma Headlight Rd, and east of Will Rewis Rd. All divisions will continue mop-up and patrol operations and work to improve

and repair containment lines.

A total of 189 personnel and 56 resources are assigned to the incident, including engines, dozers, tractor-plows, aircraft, and overhead from BLM, Georgia Forestry Commission, USFS, and cooperating agencies.

Echols County has lifted mandatory evacuations, but road closures remain in place.

The following roads remain closed to through traffic to support ongoing wildfire response operations:

Echols County: Pineland Road, Gopher Lope Road, Register Road, Worth Lane, Joes Lane, New Barnes Road, Gaddis Road, King Road, Jesse Lane, May Lane, Chauncey Road, Hendley Road

Clinch County: Colon Road, Mud Camp Road, Mattox Ford Road, Headlight Road

A total of 140 civilians have been affected, with no civilian fatalities, injuries, or missing persons reported. One responder injury/illness has been reported; no responder fatalities or missing persons.

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County OKs new ambulance service

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners have approved awarding the county's ambulance service contract to AmeriPro Health, who will be replacing Gold Star EMS.

The move was made at the county commission's regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 4. Before approving the contract, Nick Proenza, the representative from AmeriPro Health, and Charles Bishop, the representative from EMS Survival Flight, were questioned by Commissioner Tanya O' Berry about whether or not they would guarantee keeping on local citizens employed by Gold Star. Both representatives stated that they would.

O' Berry also asked Bishop why EMS Survival Flight did not provide the county with their financials – a condition stipulated by the county for the bid. Bishop stated that he wasn't aware that they had not provided their financials, and that providing financials had never been an issue for them in the past. County Attorney Chad Corlee then read the response in the bid submitted by EMS Survival Flight where it stated that they are a "privately held company and their financial records are not publicly available".

The representatives also fielded a question about insurance and when it would become available. Both companies stated that they would provide insurance, and they would have insurance ready for employees by the time they would take over in August. Gold Star EMS did not send a representative to

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City Council denies Mother's Day event

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Homerville City Council denied allowing a party on Mother's day at Pea Ridge Park at a called meeting Tuesday.

The vote to deny the "Chunky Sunday" community event was 2-1, with council members Amanda Webb and Willie Hardee voting to deny it, and James McBride voting to allow it. Mayor Tom Kennedy and council member Arthur Perry Smith were not present at the called meeting.

Trevor Posley, who was organizing the event, stated that he didn't know why they had to have a meeting over the event – a sentiment mirrored by Anita Ellis, representing the Pea Ridge Park committee. They said there had been similar events there in the past.

The council called the meeting at the request of Police Chief Keith Jackson, who had safety concerns about holding a large event at Pea Ridge Park. The biggest concern for Chief Jackson was that there is only one way in and out of the park, and that could be an issue in the case of an emergency. There was also a concern expressed about having over 500 people at the park, including some from other communities.

Ellis voiced concern with Pea Ridge Park being beholden to the same rules as the recreation park, since they don't hold kids sporting events, and stated that the rules should be different for Pea Ridge Park.

Ellis voiced frustration with the city council overriding the Pea Ridge Park committee's approval of the event, and handed over all materials pertaining to the committee back to the city at the end of the meeting.

Waycross Area Community Theatre presents

WRITTEN BY BILLY ST. JOHN

MURDERS IN THE HEIR

DIRECTED BY COLE HENDLEY

May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Matinee: May 10, 2026 | 2:30 pm

RITZ THEATRE 321 Pendleton Street Downtown Waycross

ADMISSION \$18

Reservations Online: waycrossritz.com or call 912.283.2161

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama

Locals involved in Waycross play

Several Clinch County citizens will be a part of The Waycross Area Community Theaters presentation of *Murders in the Heir* on May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 pm and May 10 for a matinee on May 10 at 2:30 pm. Admission is \$18 at the Ritz Theater at 321 Pendleton Street in Waycross. The play will be directed by Cole Hendly and Garrett Pritchett, and will feature performances from Liberty Prescott and Megan Hendley, all from Clinch County. Reservations can be made online at waycrossritz.com or by calling 912-283-2161.