

OBITUARIES

Vergil Q. Dial

Vergil Q. Dial, 87, of Homerville passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at his residence after an extended illness. He was born in Waycross to the late Violus Vester Dial and Ada Strickland Dial. Mr. Dial was a Veteran of the U.S. Army. He lived in Waycross and Jacksonville but spent most of his life living in Homerville.

Along with his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Burkett Dial; two sons, Vergil Franklin Dial and Robbie Allen Dial; two sisters, Shirley Ann Bennett and Linda Dial Jones; six brothers, Vernon, Julian, Robert, Ed, Henry, and Dennis Dial.

Survivors include a grandson, Reese Buckhalter of Homerville; numerous

nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A graveside service was held Saturday morning, May 16, 2026, at 10 am at Shiloh Cemetery. Officiating was Reese Buckhalter.

The songs "Save the Roses" and "Go Rest High on That Mountain" was played.

Sympathy may be expressed online at www.roundtreefuneralhome.net.

Roundtree Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Kelly Jean Propes Paige

Kelly Jean Propes Paige, 37, passed away suddenly Sunday, May 10, 2026, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Mrs. Paige was born in Jacksonville, but had lived in Homerville and Tallahassee. She was a homemaker. She was

preceded in death by a nephew, Michael Propes.

Survivors are her husband, Michael Paige, Lakeland; five daughters, Renee Paige, Lexie Paige, Rylee Paige and Lacie K. Paige, all of Lakeland, and Lili Lopez, Lake Park; mother, Claudia Propes, Homerville; two sisters, Rina Propes and Carmelita Day (Jimmy), both of Homerville; four nephews, Malakhi Smith, Daniel Smith, Tanner Day, all of Homerville, and Colten McDuffie, Fitzgerald; one niece, Daisy Mae Rucka, Texas; and several other relatives.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 2 pm at the Lighthouse Assembly of God with the Rev. Donald Stalvey officiating. Burial was in Pine Forest Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Garrett Hendley,

Bobby Davis, Christian Smith, Benji Smith,

Brian Browning and Malcolm McMillan. Honorary pallbearers were Jimmy Day, Daniel Smith, Malakhi Smith and Henry Lopez.

The songs "Jealous of the Angels", "Dancing in the Sky" and "You Should be Here" were played.

Sympathy may be expressed online at www.roundtreefuneralhome.net.

Roundtree Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

George Raphael Thomas

George Raphael Thomas, 95, passed away May 11, 2026 at The Canopy of Azalea Grove in Valdosta, Ga with his loving and devoted wife of 55 years, Marie Rice Thomas, by his side. Thomas was born on September 5, 1930 in

Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated from De Lassalle Catholic High School where he was a member of the Islanders basketball team. After high school Thomas enlisted in the United States Navy where he served on the USS Coral Sea during the Korean War. He retired from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 1992 after 36 years of service with the rank of sergeant.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Marie Tiencken and daughter, Georgeanne.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Rice Thomas, son William (Eduvige) Thomas of Jacksonville, three grandchildren, Geoffrey Thomas (Kayla), Kevin Thomas and Ashley King. He had three great grandchildren, Grayson

and Nora Leigh Thomas and Atticus Faulkner. He is also survived by his brother-in-law Eurith Rice (LaVell) of Newnan, Ga; sisters-in-law Martha McLaine, Susan King and Margaret Walker (James) of Homerville, a sister-in-law

Katie Rice of DuPont, and numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Wednesday morning, May 13, 2026, at 11 am at North Cemetery in DuPont. Officiating was Elder David Lasseter.

W.G. Smith sang "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be."

Sympathy may be expressed online at www.roundtreefuneralhome.net.

Roundtree Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



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The above photo of a downtown Homerville mural was used in the DCA newsletter announcing Homerville as the Georgia Main Street of the Month.

Homerville is state Main Street program of the month

Georgia's Department of Community Affairs has named the Homerville Main Street program as the Georgia Main Street of the Month. Below is the announcement from the DCA's newsletter:

This month, we're thrilled to celebrate Homerville Main Street as our Georgia Main Street of the Month! With deep historic roots, growing local partnerships, and exciting momentum, Homerville is showing the power of a downtown that knows where it came from and where it's headed.

If you visit downtown Homerville, one stop you can't miss is the Historic Station No. 11 Train Depot. More than a historic landmark, the depot tells the story of Homerville's beginnings. The town grew around the railroad, and Station No. 11 was at the heart of that

growth. The railroad helped shape Homerville into a thriving agricultural and lumber center and played a major role in the community becoming the county seat. Today, the depot stands as a proud symbol of the history that built downtown Homerville.

Homerville also has a lot to celebrate from the past year. In their assessment presentation, the program highlighted major wins including partnership growth, stronger relationships with downtown businesses and property owners, business development, and private investment. And the numbers back it up. In 2025, Homerville Main Street reported \$675,056 in public and private investment, hosted 104 promotional events, and logged 300 volunteer hours valued at \$39,156.

That kind of energy

doesn't happen by accident. It reflects a downtown program that is building trust, creating momentum, and making meaningful investments in the

heart of the community. We're proud to spotlight Homerville Main Street and all the progress happening in this vibrant South Georgia downtown.

SBA announces loan program for those affected by drought

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Georgia and other nearby states who sustained economic losses caused by drought beginning on Dec. 1, 2025.

The disaster declaration covers the Georgia counties of Brooks, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Decatur, Echols, Grady, Lowndes, Seminole, Thomas, and Ware.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs — including faith-based organizations — with financial losses directly

related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills which could not be paid due to the disaster.

The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

To apply online visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is December 10.

Radiology Services

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X-rays and CT scans to ultrasounds, mammograms, and more, our skilled imaging team delivers fast, accurate results in a comfortable, local setting. No need to travel far—get the diagnostic care you need with the personal attention you deserve, right here in Clinch County.

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