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The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, June 10, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

DOLLAR GENERAL

Dunham's SPORTS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Juneteenth celebration on June 19th

A Juneteenth celebration will be held at John Cooper Memorial Park on Reddick Street in Pea Ridge, on Friday, June 19 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm. For more information, contact the housing authority, or Tracy Thomas at 912-520-9566.

First Responders dinner on June 28

The New Gospel Tabernacle Church invites all local first responders to a special First Responders Sunday Dinner on Sunday, June 28, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at 59 Virginia Avenue. Community members and local businesses who would like to sponsor the event or donate a dish are encouraged to participate. For more information or to make a donation, please call 912-487-3440.

Manor Community Baptist hosting VBS

Manor Community Baptist Church will be hosting Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 27 from 12 pm to 4 pm. Lunch will be served. All children are invited to join us.

Friends & Family Day at Elizabeth Baptist

Elizabeth Baptist Church in Argyle will be holding a Friends and Family day on Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m. The pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church is Pastor Wallace Mincey.

VBS at New Gospel Tabernacle July 29-31

The New Gospel Tabernacle will be having Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-14 from July 29-31 from 9 a.m. - noon daily. Registration is now open. All children are welcome to join us. To register or for more information, please call 912-487-3440.

Men's fellowship fish fry in Manor

Manor Community Baptist Church will be hosting a men's fellowship fish fry on Saturday, June 20 at 4:30 pm. Come and join us.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings beind held

Clinch Memorial Hospital is hosting Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. These meetings offer a supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery and community connection. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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Study: Clinch Memorial ER wait among shortest in state

By Len Robbins
Publisher

The wait at Clinch Memorial Hospital's emergency room is among the shortest in the state, according to a recent study.

The study reviewed 113 hospitals across Georgia, ranking facilities based on their reported average emergency department wait times. Clinch Memorial's average emergency department wait for a patient was 1 hour, 27 minutes – sixth-shortest among the state hospitals reviewed.

CMH was just 15 minutes behind the hospital with the shortest wait – Jasper Memorial Hospital in Monticello (1 hour, 12 minutes). Other hospitals in our vicinity that appeared on the shortest wait time list include SGMC Berrien Campus in Nashville (1



The average wait time at the CMH emergency room (pictured above) is 1 hour and 27 minutes – sixth-shortest in the state among hospitals reviewed.

hour 12 minutes), Archbold Brooks in Quitman (1 hour 18 minutes), and SGMC Health Lanier in Lakeland (1 hour 19 minutes).

"Clinch Memorial Hospital is proud to be recognized among Georgia hospitals with the shortest average emergency room wait times," said CMH CEO Angela Handley. "For our team, this reflects more than

efficiency. This reflects our employees' commitment to ensuring that every patient in Clinch County and the surrounding communities receives timely, high-quality care close to home. Rural hospitals like Clinch Memorial play a vital role in the overall health care system. We serve as the front line for emergency care, often stepping in when minutes

matter most. Maintaining strong rural hospitals helps prevent unnecessary strain on larger regional systems, which can quickly become overwhelmed if access points like ours are no longer available. Across Georgia and the nation, rural hospital closures have created significant challenges for patients, forcing longer travel times, delaying care, and increasing pressure on urban emergency departments. Clinch Memorial is proud to keep care local, reduce those burdens, and ensure that residents of our rural community are not left behind. We remain committed to serving as a reliable, accessible healthcare resource for our community, and we are grateful for the trust our patients place in us every day."

Most of the hospital ERs with the longest
(Continued on Page 3)



Above is the ribbon-cutting last Monday for Merle Norman's new ownership.

Chamber celebrates new ownership of Merle Norman

The Clinch County Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the grand re-opening of Merle Norman of Homerville to welcome new owner, Marcy Guess, on Monday, June 1.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a new chapter for the downtown business as Guess officially took ownership of Merle Norman

on June 1. Guests gathered to tour the store, enjoy special promotions, and celebrate the occasion alongside Guess and her team.

Guess has been a familiar face at Merle Norman for the past eight years, building relationships with customers and gaining valuable experience within the business. Merle

Norman Homerville celebrated their 10 year anniversary earlier this year.

The Clinch County Chamber of Commerce congratulates Marcy Guess on this exciting accomplishment and wishes her continued success as she leads Merle Norman Homerville into its next chapter.

County Commission OKs list of roads to resurface

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners approved a project list to use funding from a local road assistance funding grant at their meeting held on Monday, June 1.

The list will include repairing several of the bridges across the county, and if there is any money left over, to resurface Zeke Smith Road and Woodlake Drive.

The amount of the local road assistance funding grant will be for \$618,766.

In other action from the meeting, the board:

- Approved the agenda for the June, 1 meeting.
- Approved the minutes from the May 4 regular meeting.
- Tabled a discussion about the electrical hook-

ups at the Robbins Building until they can get an electrician to look at them and come up with a plan for updating them. The upgrades will be paid for by the Timberland Jubilee Committee, according to Commissioner Tanya O'Berry.

- Approved reappointing Kay Hinson and Stephen Bush to the Hospital Authority Board.

- Approved a contract with the South Georgia Regional Commission for congregate and home delivered meals to the senior center.

- Approved renewing their health insurance with Anthem at a 30 percent increase from the previous contract.

- Approved a work detail agreement with Patton Detention Center for fiscal year 2027.



Service to BOE recognized

Two Clinch County Board of Education members were recognized at May's school board meeting for their longtime service. Stanley Thrift (left) was recognized for serving on the board for 15 years, and Charlie Mae Cross (right) for serving 20 years.