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The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, July 8, 2026

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

DOLLAR GENERAL

Dunham's SPORTS

NEWS BRIEFS

What's going on in your community

Library Board to meet on July 9th

The Clinch County Public Library Board will meet on Thursday, July 9, at the Clinch County Public Library. The meeting time is 4 p.m. For further information, please call 912-287-4982.

Class of 1976 has reunion set for July 21

Join us for the 50-year reunion of the Clinch County High School Class of 1976, on Tuesday, July 21. The event will be held at the Homerville Station #11 Depot beginning at 2 pm. Event will cost \$100 per person, and you must RSVP by Saturday, June 20. For more information, call Charles Cooper 229-548-2587.

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.

Coastal Pines offering adult education classes

Coastal Pines Technical College is offering adult education classes on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Wednesday (10 a.m.-1 p.m.). New student orientation is every Monday and Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Location is Clinch County Public Library. Adult Education Instructor is Heather King-Wilson.

Need for foster homes in the area

There is a great need for foster homes in the area. In Clinch County, there are two approved foster home and 12 children in foster care. Anyone who wishes to foster should call 877-210-KIDS or visit fostergeorgia.com.

Help for homeless veterans available

90Works is committed to helping homeless veterans or veterans at risk of becoming homeless to become stably housed. They offer a 90-day program designed to get veterans back on their feet and self-sufficient. They offer Supportive Services For Veteran Families (SSVF), a program for housing, counseling, referral and linkages with the community and VA resources. For more information, call (855) 90WORKS.

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

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Above, local kids get some hands on experience with a rather large reptile during a Summer Reading Program hosted by the Clinch County Public Library (pictured below) at the city auditorium.

Library continuing to offer services while building is closed for repairs

By Ben Murray
Staff Writer

The Clinch County Public Library building has been closed since January due to a water line break that caused significant damage. But that hasn't stopped the library from offering its services to the community.

The water line break caused damage in a storage area at the library, according to Library Director Erica Stembridge. Stembridge also stated that in the process of repairing the water line, it was discovered that due to the water damage, mold had to be removed as well. Repairs needed to be made to the damaged floors and walls, and the HVAC system had to be adjusted.

Despite these setbacks, the library has continued



to provide its services to the community through operating a pop-up library outside the building, allowing customers to continue to check out books. Customers could also request books that the librarians would look for in the building and hold for them.

Stembridge also commended the efforts of Library Manager Tina Smith, the repairs are close to being finished, and the library should open back up soon.

the City of Homerville for continuing the library's Summer Reading Program and special performances for the children at City Hall in Homerville in the auditorium during the closure.

An opening date for the library has not been announced yet, but according to Library Manager Tina Smith, the repairs are close to being finished, and the library should open back up soon.

Swamp gets key rec for World Heritage Site designation

The Okefenokee Swamp's bid to become Georgia's first World Heritage Site got a boost recently.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently recommended that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee vote to put the wildlife refuge on its prestigious list when it meets in July. The bid is not final yet and must still clear this hurdle. The IUCN is an official adviser to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and evaluates natural sites nominated to the list.

The World Heritage Committee is set to hold a convention July 19-29 in Busan, South Korea, when its members are expected to take a final vote to decide whether the Okefenokee belongs on the list.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for the Okefenokee Swamp is projected to inject an additional \$60 million into the local economy each year. The prestigious status is expected to double the current annual visitation and create approximately 750 long-term jobs in the region – which includes Clinch County, Ware County, and Charlton County. Those three counties surround the swamp and have entrances into the refuge.

There are 1248 World Heritage Site properties in the world, chosen for their historical or cultural significance or

(Continued on Page 3)



Community members, local leaders, employees and ownership of Homerville's Pizza Hut cut the ribbon at a ceremony last Monday for the take-out restaurant's re-opening.

Homerville's Pizza Hut cuts ribbon for re-opening

The Clinch County Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomed back Pizza Hut to Homerville with a special ribbon cutting and soft opening on Monday, June 29, marking the return of one of America's most recognizable restaurant brands to the community.

Community members, local leaders,

and representatives from Flynn Group gathered to celebrate the occasion and welcome the newest business to Clinch County. Guests had the opportunity to tour the restaurant, meet the team, and enjoy a first look at the new location ahead of its public opening.

The newly renovated Pizza Hut, lo-

cated at 548 North Church Street, represents another investment in Clinch County and brings over 20 jobs, convenient dining options, and renewed excitement to the community. The Chamber expressed its appreciation to Flynn Group for choosing Clinch

(Continued on Page 3)

Helms honored with prestigious legal award

On Friday, June 12, the General Practice and Trial Section of the State Bar of Georgia — the Bar's largest section by membership — presented its Tradition of Excellence Award to Cathy Harris Helms of Clinch County. She was honored alongside Justice John Ellington of the Supreme Court of Georgia, Robert Berry of Rome, Georgia who was recognized for his civil defense practice, and Jarome Gautreaux of

Macon, recognized for his plaintiff's practice.

The Tradition of Excellence Award has been presented each year since 1985 and is considered one of the most prestigious honors a lawyer or judge can receive from the State Bar of Georgia. It is awarded on the basis of a career's length and years of service to the public and to the profession. Jack J. Helms, Sr. was among the award's first recipients in 1985, and Charles Rice, also

of Homerville, received the honor in 2015.

Mrs. Helms was recognized for her years of service in both civil and criminal practice, as well as her service to the community. She currently serves as a senior prosecutor with the Southern Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, where she specializes in serious and violent felonies and helps coordinate a federal program with

(Continued on Page 3)



Cathy Helms