

Rome News-Tribune

WEDNESDAY, September 11, 2019

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176th year ♦ No. 254 ♦ 75¢

Weather: Sunny. High near 95. **C4**

Housing inventory on rise

◆ Through the end of August, the department has issued 186 permits for new single-family homes.

By Doug Walker
DWalker@RN-T.com

Building Department reports are indicating that 2019 has been a banner year for the construction of new single family

homes in Rome and Floyd County. Through the end of August, the department has issued 186 permits for new single family homes. That's up from 120 permits issued through the month of August a year ago. Many of the city permits, 62 thus far this year, have been in the Walton Creek subdivision between Wilkerson Road and Burnett Ferry Road in West Rome. Rome Building Department Director Howard Gibson and Community Development Director Bekki Fox indicated five more dilapidated structures will be de-

molished before the end of the month. In his last meeting before joining the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, Gibson told Community Development committee members Tuesday his department had approved the demolition of 60 structures so far this year because of code enforcement issues. The next five to come down will be located at 13 N. McLin St., 110 Cherokee St., 28 Will-



Bekki Fox

ingham St., 110 Ross St. and 212 E. 14th St. City crews will do the demolition work and be reimbursed by the Community Development office from funds that are part of a Community Development block grant. "That will be cheaper and faster than us bidding that out to a private contractor," Fox said. "We expected Monday September 16 to get the final approval from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to move forward."

SEE HOUSING, A2

Coosa Valley Fair to start Oct. 1

◆ Discount armbands are available online through the end of the month.

By Diane Wagner
DWagner@RN-T.com

With less than a month to go before the Coosa Valley Fair, discount armbands for unlimited rides are now on sale online.

The 71st annual event – sponsored by the Exchange Club of Rome – is set for Oct. 1 through 5 at the fairgrounds on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Michael Elliott, president of the nonprofit CVF Association, said the armbands are on sale at \$20 through Sept. 30 on the CoosaValleyFair.com website.

"Most of it will be the same," Elliott said Tuesday about the fair offerings. "Wade Shows Inc. will be doing the midway; we'll have the cattle shows, the fine art and arts and crafts displays ... the cheerleaders and beauty contests."

But three new entertainment performances have been added this year. Chainsaw artist Jeremy Smith, magician Michael Frisbee and Los Moralitos Circus have shows scheduled several times each day.

"We only do this for five days so we try to get as much in as we can," Elliott said.

Once the fair opens, armbands will be available only on site. They'll run \$22 on opening day, \$25 during the week and \$30 on Saturday, Oct. 5. Ride tickets also will be available for purchase individually, at \$5 for four, \$25 for 25 and \$50 for 55.

SEE FAIR, A3

Record crowd at line dance jamboree



John Popham

A record breaking number of over 200 line dancers showed up to the third annual Fall Line Dance Jamboree at the Thornton Recreation Center on Tuesday. The dancers came from all over including some from Tennessee, North Carolina and Middle Georgia.

See more Fall Line Dance Jamboree photos inside on page A5

BOE honors student for stopping a bully's attack

◆ The Rome Middle School student also is recognized by the Rome City Commission.

By John Popham
JPopham@RN-T.com

Rome City Schools met for their monthly meeting Tuesday night where they recognized a Rome Middle School student for stepping in between a bully and another student during an attack on a school bus.

Board Member Elaina Beeman commended seventh grade student Keviyon Lamons for doing something when others laughed or did nothing at all. Lamons stopped another student who was punching his friend.

The school board presented Lamons with a certificate for his act of kindness. On Monday night, the Rome City Commissioner recognized Lamons for his bravery.

"This shows a lot about Rome; it shows that we are a caring community," Commissioner Milton Slack said during Monday's commission meeting. "This young man took care of one of his fellow classmates and we want to thank him for that. So, the City of Rome wants to present you with the Citizenship Award which is one of the highest honors we can give to a private citizen."

Other items to come from Tuesday night's school board meeting was an update on Anna K. Davie Elementary given by Principal Felisha Jackson.

SEE SCHOOLS, A3

Goats to help provide view of river from trail

By Doug Walker
DWalker@RN-T.com

Goats are being used to clear overgrowth in order to provide a view of the river to the picnic areas behind State Mutual Stadium.

A crew of 10 Kiko goats was cut loose near one of the picnic areas spaced out on the trail behind the ballpark Tuesday. Rome Public Works Director Chris Jenkins hopes they will have a large area cleared to provide views of the river, perhaps even access to the riverbank for fishermen.

Ashley Lindsay of Glitzy Goats said the goats will clear any of the aggressive vines, briars and privet.

"They don't eat grass and things like that. They'll clear it out real well. All of this camouflage and treescape

you see will be gone."

Lindsay said they will eat the sweeter greenery first.

"Privet is sweet and honeysuckle is sweet so they kind of like eat the ice cream first so to speak," Lindsay said. "Darker ivy, like English Ivy is a little more bitter for them."

"It'll probably be five to seven days for them to clear the area. It's not an exact science," Lindsay said. "They do know their job and they do work."

The herd of 10 goats – led by mama Aretha – are protected between the trail and river by an electrified fence.

The fence is there just in case a predator, like a coyote, decides to show up along the trail.



Doug Walker

Goats didn't waste any time getting to work enjoying greenery along the trail behind State Mutual Stadium on Tuesday.

SEE GOATS, A2



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Peter Lynn, a kindergartner at St. Mary's Catholic School

Visit RN-T.com to see Today's Young Artist monthly galleries. Email submissions of student artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com. Include the student's name, grade and school.

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School Nights
Sonorville Sept 9, Calhoun Sept. 10
Gordon Central Sept. 12

GATES OPEN AT 5:00 P.M., NIGHTLY • Hwy 53/Rome • Calhoun Georgia