

Rome News-Tribune

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Weather: Mostly sunny. High near 79. **C4**

Public servants recognized

◆ Officers are honored for saving lives and preventing deaths.

By Doug Walker
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Seven law enforcement officers in Rome and Floyd County were honored Tuesday during the annual Respect for Law luncheon at Coosa Country Club.

The event started out under the banner of the Rome Noon Optimist Club but has been co-sponsored with the Seven Hills Rotary

and Rome Kiwanis clubs since 2013. The Rome Rotary Club joined the celebration this year for the first time.

The special honorees this year included Lt. Steven Cable from the Floyd County Prison, officer David Maguire with the Rome Police, Deputy Adam Cook with the Floyd County Sheriff's Office, Tfc. Jeremy Battle of the Georgia State Patrol, Community Service officer Chad Scoggins with the Georgia Department of Community Supervision along with Sgt. Rusty Williams and Pfc. Josh Ward with the Floyd County Police. Floyd County police Public Information

Officer Jerome Poole said the Respect for Law program was born out of discord and unrest across the nation in the mid-1960s and has been celebrated in Rome for more than 40 years.

Cable received recognition for his work at the prison, which includes supervision of all outside work detail opportunities, a program which involves close to 250 inmates on any given day. Deputy Warden Frank Cro-



Jerome Poole, FCPD

nan also explained that Cable was instrumental in some flood rescues in the Cave Spring area this past winter.

Maguire was recognized by Sgt. Steven Smith for his work in keeping Operation Safe Seat alive.

The program has helped install child safety seats in countless numbers of vehicles in Rome and Floyd County. Smith said Maguire had taken a personal interest in the program and even taught classes in how the child seats should be installed.

SEE RESPECT, A2

Board approves energy savings proposal

◆ The project will outfit every school in the city system with LED lighting.

By John Popham
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Rome City Schools' board of education met Tuesday night to conduct its first public hearing of the 2020 fiscal year budget as well as approve a Georgia Power energy savings proposal.

A proposal to retrofit all of the schools in the system with energy efficient lighting was presented to the board by Tim Williams, chief operations officer for RCS. Williams said the project will require no upfront capital since the energy savings will offset most of the cost of the project. Georgia Power will subcontract out the installation of the lights, which the system will pay for through monthly payments. Williams estimated the school system will have to pay an estimated \$2,231 a month for 10 years, which will make up for what the savings do not cover each month. Superintendent Lou Byars said that once the system has paid for the cost of installing the lights — which comes out to around \$1.7 million — the school system will be able to keep the 50-80% savings it will be getting from its electricity bill compared to the old lighting costs.

This project includes replacing lights in all of Rome City Schools with LED lights including parking lots and gymnasiums. This update will improve safety and security, Byars said, since lights in some parking lots are currently prone to flicker on and off at night.

SEE BOARD, A3

Making math fun



Above: Armuchee Elementary School third-grader Hunter Thrasher (from left) competes with Jennifer White, math specialist for Floyd County Schools, and Shaelie Hall in strike-out dice. The game was designed to promote students to do math in their head as they try and roll their way to 100 points, math teacher Elisha Lindner said during the school's first Math Celebration on Tuesday.

Photos by John Popham

Read more about the Math Celebration inside on page A3.



Above: Little sister Ellie Forrester (from left) and mom Sarah Forrester help Armuchee Elementary School third-grader Christian Armstrong-Forrester guess the weight of objects in grams. Left: Third-grader Markus Wallace (center) ponders a difficult crayon puzzle no one else had been able to solve during the Armuchee Elementary School Math Celebration. His grandparents Debbie (left) and Ken Gladden watched and offered help as the three pondered over the puzzle.

New retail center to bring 400 jobs

◆ Work is slated to start in August on redeveloping the old Kmart site.

By Diane Wagner
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Ledbetter Properties expects to close July 1 on its purchase of the old Kmart tract on Hicks Drive. Demolition is slated for Aug. 1.

"We're going to raze everything," Wright Ledbetter told the Rome City Commission just before their final vote to create a tax allocation district on the 19.74-acre site.

Ledbetter said plans include tearing up the pavement and ripping out all the water lines and utilities. The idea, he said, is to "rebalance the site" with new utilities, paving, landscaping and buildings.

"There's a high cost to this, which is

why we're asking for TAD financing," he said. "It will be about \$650,000 an acre to redevelop."

With TAD financing, tax increases due to improvements on the property will be funneled back into the project to help offset costs. It's a mechanism approved by local voters more than a decade ago to encourage re-use of vacant and blighted areas.

SEE PLANS, A2

Rome city officials: Graduation parking unchanged

◆ Though Broad Street hour restrictions will extend to 8 p.m.

By Doug Walker
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While the city plans to begin a slow roll of its new parking enforcement plan downtown next week, there will be no changes to downtown parking rules for graduation ceremonies at the Forum River Center on May 25.

Parking will be free in both the Fourth Avenue and Sixth Avenue parking decks. There will be a \$5 fee at the Third Avenue deck which will be staffed with people collecting the fee so guests won't have to deal with kiosks.

"We haven't changed anything as opposed to what we've done in the past," Assistant City Manager Patrick Eidson told members of the city Community Development Services committee.

There will be one change — but only as it applies to graduation attendees who choose to park on Broad Street. Beginning next week, the hours of enforcement of the two-hour daily limit on Broad Street parking will be extended from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Floyd County Schools have inquired with Parking Services Manager Becky Smyth about leasing the deck for all of the county school graduation exercises, one on Friday night and the other three on Saturday.

The fee for leasing the deck is \$300 per day, so if the school system decides to offer free parking for all four ceremonies it would cost \$600.

SEE COMMUNITY, A6



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Today's artwork is by Khloe Cox, a third-grader at Pepperell Elementary School.

Visit RN-T.com to see Today's Young Artist monthly galleries.

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