

Rome News-Tribune

175th year ♦ No. 227 ♦ Two sections ♦ 75¢

WEDNESDAY, August 15, 2018

RN-T.com

Weather: 10-percent chance of storms. Mostly sunny. High near 93. C6

Juvenile curfew approved

◆ The start time is changed to 11 p.m. and it applies to kids 16 and younger.

Diane Wagner
DWagner@RN-T.com

Rome police will start enforcing an 11 p.m. curfew for unsupervised teens, but Chief Denise Downer-McKinney said they'll get a briefing on how to apply the new ordinance at a training session next week.

"It is not the intent to stop students going to and from the movies or on errands for their parents," Downer-McKinney said. "For those that are having behavioral issues, it will allow us to do something and hold their parents responsible."

City Commissioners enacted the ordinance Monday night. It calls for anyone age 16 and younger to be out of public places and off the streets between 11 p.m. and 5



Denise Downer-McKinney

a.m. unless they're with a custodial adult. The list of banned spots includes parks, parking lots, malls, entertainment venues, school grounds and restaurants.

Police would first issue warning citations — to both the teens and their parent or guardian.

A second violation sends the child to Juvenile Court and the parent to answer a Municipal Court judge.

There are specific exemptions written into the ordinance: An emergency errand, a job, a school-sponsored activity or an activity involving "the exercise of First Amendment

rights of free speech, freedom of assembly or free exercise of religion."

The ordinance passed with a vote of 6 to 2. Commissioner Evie McNiece was not present but Mayor Jamie Doss, who votes only in case of a tie, asked to be recorded in favor.

Commissioners Bill Collins, Milton Slack, Randy Quick, Craig McDaniel and Sundai Stevenson also supported the curfew. Commissioners Bill Irmischer and Wendy Davis were opposed.

See **CURFEW**, A2

Survey: 40 percent of Romans have issues with housing

◆ The Community Development committee wants to increase home ownership.

By Doug Walker
DWalker@RN-T.com

A report for Rome shows 40 percent of residents live in a home with one or more of four issues which are considered to be impediments to fair housing.

The analysis of impediments to housing choice looks at four housing needs: cost burden, overcrowding, dwellings lacking complete kitchen facilities and dwellings lacking complete plumbing facilities.

"It did open our eyes to a few things," Rome Community Development Grants Program Manager Courtney Williams Griffin told Rome's Community Development committee Tuesday.

According to the report, prepared by Mosaic Community Planning, African American, Latino and other non-Latino households are impacted by severe housing needs at disproportionately high rates in comparison to white households in the city.

It indicates 58 percent of white households in Rome own their homes, compared to 43 percent of Latino households and just 33 percent of African American households.

The report suggests that additional homeowner counseling and down payment assistance would expand housing opportunities for these households.

Committee Chairwoman Wendy Davis said that the rental market for the lower income properties appears to be pretty tight in Rome.

See **HOUSING**, A2

Frontline Awards



Redmond Regional Medical Center EMT Jessica Nesbit is handed her Frontline Award by Scotty Hancock, the director of outreach and EMS relations at the hospital and a county commissioner, during a banquet hosted by four local civic groups at Coosa Country Club on Tuesday. / Spencer Lahr

Honoring our first-responders

◆ From firefighters to EMTs to 911 operators — four civic groups host a recognition banquet.

By Spencer Lahr
SLahr@RN-T.com

Members of four local civic groups honored the first responders of Rome and Floyd County on Tuesday, during the third annual Frontline Awards Banquet at Coosa Country Club.

The Rome Noon Optimist Club, Seven Hills Rotary Club, Lions Club of Rome and Rome Kiwanis Club once again put the banquet together to honor firefighters, EMTs and 911 personnel.

The four people honored were: Rome-Floyd County Fire Department Capt. Benjie Smith, Floyd Medical Center EMT Andrew Garrison, Redmond Regional Medical Center EMT Jes-



Floyd County 911 Center dispatcher Becky Dean (left) accepts her Frontline Award from Lt. Brandy Starcher during a banquet at Coosa Country Club on Tuesday. / Spencer Lahr

sica Nesbit and Floyd County 911 Center operator Becky Dean.

Fire Chief Troy Brock said Smith worked up the ranks after joining the department as a firefighter, now serving as a captain, and racking up a slew of certificates, "too many to mention." He has played a large role in the research for new gear the depart-

ment provides its firefighters, as well. Also, a cancer survivor himself, Smith started the firefighter relay team three years ago which raised \$29,000 in T-shirt sales for Relay for Life.

Floyd EMS Capt. Andy Fairrel said if anyone ever finds themselves in a situation of needing emergency medical help, they had bet-

ter hope it is Garrison who is the one there for them. He described Garrison as an "unofficial leader," one who leads regardless of rank or position.

"He's the one you would want to clone," Fairrel said. "He does an excellent job providing care."

In addition to his work on the ambulance, Garrison also serves as a bicycle medic for running events and serves on department committees.

Scotty Hancock, the director of outreach and EMS relations for Redmond, presented the award to Nesbit, who was described as "one of Redmond Regional Medical Center's most compassionate employees."

Nesbit, who is currently working on her bachelor's degree in nursing, is a hard worker who is always the one ready to step in to cover a shift or help in any way she can. She also volunteers on the Region 1 EMS Honor Guard.

See **HONOR**, A3

Early learning center MOU approved

◆ The Rome Board of Education approves a new memorandum of understanding with Berry College and the South Rome Redevelopment Corp.

By Spencer Lahr
SLahr@RN-T.com

Rome Board of Education members approved a new memorandum of understanding with its two partners in the South Rome Early Learning Center on Tuesday, after months of negotiations.

The approval by the board follows a move at last month's meeting to give their nod of approval to the eighth version of the MOU with Berry College and South Rome Redevelopment Corp. for the center at Anna K. Davie Elementary.

One of the two changes to the MOU from last meeting were any of the three partners can opt out of it at the end of a fiscal year, Superintendent Lou Byars told board members during caucus. Also, the SRRC is the only partner responsible for making any decision regarding dropping the number of classrooms or closing the center if there is a lack of funding — they are tasked with fundraising to cover operating costs.

In the MOU, Rome City Schools will provide around \$15,000 to the center to pay for supplies and professional learning. This funding will come from a \$1.26 million literacy grant the system received.

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, A2



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Today's artwork is by Noah Travis, a student at Model Elementary.

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.

INDEX

Classified **C1** Obituaries **A5** Sports **B1**
Comics, Puzzles **C5** Dear Abby **C5** Puzzle solutions **C6** Weather, TV **C6**



@RomeNewsTribune



/RomeNewsTribune



@romenews

ROME NEWS-TRIBUNE CLASSIFIEDS WORK ♦ DON'T MISS AN ISSUE. SUBSCRIBE TODAY - 706-290-5200

Home & Auto.
Save & Smile.

Make sure you brush a little extra today. Because you'll be smiling more when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm®. Just another way I'm here to help life go right.™

CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Dallas, TX • State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL • State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL • State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
1601979



Eldridge Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
Melissa Eldridge, Agent
415 Shorter Ave SW
Rome, GA 30165
Bus: 706-234-5333
Se habla español