



**Young Romans:**  
Pepperell Primary School is the school of the week. **C1-2**



# Rome News-Tribune

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Weather: Patchy dense fog early. Partly sunny. High 56. **C4**

## Scoggins wins House seat

◆ The retired probate judge beats out three others to replace former state legislator Christian Coomer.

By Diane Wagner  
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Mitchell Scoggins won the Georgia House District 14 special election Tuesday, beating three other Republican candidates to avoid a runoff.

"I'm a happy camper about that," Scoggins said from a celebration party with supporters at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville.

The district covers the western half of Bartow County and five eastern precincts of Floyd County: Barkers, Chulio, Etowah, Howell and part of North Rome.

Scoggins won 2,048 of the 3,179 ballots cast to win with 64.54 percent of the vote. The turnout rate was 9.42 percent of the 33,760 eligible voters.

Ken Coomer came in second, with 893

votes, followed by Nickie Leighly with 155 and Nathan Wilson with 77. All four candidates are from Bartow County.

Scoggins, a retired probate court judge, said he has a large family backing him and strong connections in the county made through his years on the bench.

"I did a lot of things to, hopefully, help people and they came out to support me," he said.



Mitchell Scoggins

Coomer was the favorite in Floyd County, netting 262 of the total 464 votes — 56.47 percent of the 8,979 eligible voters. He is the father of longtime District 14 representative Christian Coomer, who was unopposed for re-election but withdrew to accept an appointment to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Scoggins won 138 votes in Floyd, 29.74 percent. Leighly took 46 votes and Wilson took 18 votes. Turnout was 5.20 percent.

SEE ELECTION, A2

## Local BOE members meet with Georgia legislators

◆ City and county school boards meet with elected officials.

By John Popham  
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Floyd County and Rome City school boards met in a joint board meeting Tuesday morning at the FCS main office on Riverside Parkway to share comments and concerns with recently re-elected legislative officials.

Reps. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, and Eddie Lumsden, R-Armuchee, fielded questions from both school boards and addressed school safety; how the career, technical, and agricultural education programs will be managed; as well as staffing shortages.

"Until the governor is sworn in, announcements can change," Dempsey said, referring to any promises that may have been made or announced in the time since Brian Kemp was elected governor of Georgia.

She added, however, after having discussions with him she feels he will prioritize education.

SEE JOINT, A2

## Heritage Art Day



Above: Alto Park fifth-graders Anyelin Clemente (left) and Dulce Vincente work on their felt creations. Below: Ashley Hernandez (right) makes a tin icicle with the help of Fred Brandes (left) during the Heritage Art Day put on by Alton Holman Heritage Arts Inc. Nyaziah Adams waits her turn.

Photos by John Popham



Above: Fifth-grader Celestina Hernandez weaves reeds soaked in water Tuesday at Cave Spring United Methodist Church.

## International Paper plans to re-invest up to \$150M in Coosa mill

◆ Technology and equipment upgrades are expected to retain in excess of 500 jobs.

By Doug Walker  
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International Paper is once again planning a major re-investment in its Coosa linerboard mill, to the tune of up to \$150 million.

Rather than speaking of job creation, officials spoke of job retention. Technological upgrades to the mill are expected to help retain over 500 jobs.

An inducement resolution for the project was approved by the Rome-Floyd County Development Authority on Tuesday. Authority attorney Andy Davis said the last time International Paper received

bond financing, for a similar amount in 2013, the company pledged to retain 460 jobs.

Since then, he said, 40 new jobs have been created at the mill.

International Paper will receive a 10-year payment in lieu of taxes agreement as part of the bond package. The company has agreed to pay 25 percent of its local tax bill with the remaining 75 percent abated over the 10-year period of time.

The company itself backs the bonds and there is no exposure to either Floyd County or the development authority.



Andy Davis

SEE CITY, A3

SEE MILL, A3

## Downtown River District scenario taking shape

◆ City commissioners get their first look at a long-range development plan.

By Diane Wagner  
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Parking spaces along the Fifth Avenue bridge and a community park in place of the tennis courts are two elements of a pro-

posed development plan for Rome's new River District.

"We looked at how you create a district that's walkable," said Adam Williamson, a principal planner and landscape architect with TSW. "Anybody can do a more suburban district: (put in) a Burger King and it's there. This will be an extension of your downtown."

The draft plan presented to the Rome City

Commission this week covers the area across the Oostanaula River from the Broad Street downtown district.

While focused on revitalizing West Third Street and Fifth Avenue, it takes in the whole area between the river and Turner McCall Boulevard — from Second Avenue on the west to Avenue A and Bale Street on the east.



### TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Today's artwork is by Bear Bridges, a second-grader at the Montessori School of Rome.

Visit [RN-T.com](http://RN-T.com) to see Today's Young Artist monthly galleries.

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