

Rome News-Tribune

Saturday/Sunday, August 23/24, 2025

RN-T.com

Weather: Showers and storms likely, otherwise partly sunny. High 85. **B4**

Ballots set for Rome, Cave Spring

◆ Friday wrapped up qualifying for Rome candidates. Cave Spring qualifying wrapped up Wednesday.

By Mo Burge
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The stage is set for municipal elections in Rome and Cave Spring following a week of qualifying that saw several put in their bids for open seats.

There will be contested races for all three of the Cave Spring City Council posts on the ballot in the Nov. 4 general election.

Cave Spring's qualifying period ended

CAVE SPRING CANDIDATES

**Baker Harbin**

**Greg Webb**

**Kristi Reed**

**Charles Jackson**

**Tom Lindsey**

**Nancy Fricks**

Wednesday, and Rome's qualifying period ended Friday.

All of the seats are nonpartisan and for four-year terms.

CAVE SPRING

Cave Spring City Clerk Judy Dickinson, who handles the city's elections, said six candidates qualified before the Wednes-

◆ See qualifying announcements submitted by candidates inside on **page A4**

day deadline — setting up a full slate of contests this year.

Post 3 incumbent Jason West is not running for another term. The post is being sought by Kristi Reed and Nancy Fricks.

Post 4 incumbent Charles Jackson qualified to run again and is being challenged by Greg Webb.

Post 5 incumbent Steven Pierce is not running. There's a two-way contest between

SEE **QUALIFIED**, A2



Cotton Block gets a little TLC

By Adam Carey
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Although still a featured block on Broad Street in Rome's downtown, the Cotton Block is getting some TLC in hopes of getting more patrons to cross the Second Avenue divide and come see what they have to offer on the other side.

On Friday, Berry College "Berry Impact" students started painting the medians on

the Cotton Block, which is the first of many steps designed to add some luster to one of Rome's famed areas.

"Second Avenue is almost like a moat around a castle," Cecil T's Mercantile proprietor Monica Sheppard said. "There's a psychological barrier to crossing it, although the new crosswalks are really helping."

In addition to painting the median, the Rome Downtown

Development Authority will be adding new lamp-post banners, designed by Sheppard, which will honor the Cotton Block's unique history, according to RDDA Director Suzanne Roberts.

"We're kind of rebranding the Cotton Block," Roberts said. "We will also be adding custom lantern lights for the trees; we're giving the block some love."

SEE **COTTON BLOCK**, A2



Adam Carey

Above: Hannah Aaron Whitmire shows off the tea room Friday at Southern Seasons Tea Room & Emporium. Top: Berry students put some finishing touches on the plants inside the median on the Cotton Block Friday morning.

Director serves final day at shelter

By Emily Bradshaw
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Executive Director Brian Harris served his final day at the William S. Davies Homeless Shelter on Friday, after serving 10 years at the non-profit.

The William S. Davies Homeless Shelter is a local organization dedicated to serving the unhoused community in Rome and Floyd County. Harris served this nonprofit since 2015 and was involved in several of the shelter's milestones, including



Brian Harris

SEE **SHELTER**, A3

Paperback book sale is a success

◆ The Friends of the Library's hardback book sale will begin Sept. 6.

By Emily Bradshaw
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The Friends of the Library's annual paperback book sale was a success this year, raising money to support our local library system.

A volunteer group, Friends of the Library holds two major book sales



Emily Bradshaw

The Friends of the Library paperback book sale raised nearly \$3,000, and the hardback book sale is coming up soon, starting Saturday, Sept. 6.

each year, consisting of donated literature they collect year-round. The paperback book sale ran from Saturday, Aug. 16, to Wednesday, Aug. 20. Prices were cheap and competitive, with many days having themed deals. Proceeds from

SEE **LIBRARY**, A3

Private schools welcome 1st round of Promise recipients

This is first year for Georgia Promise Scholarships

By Rachel Hartdegen
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The 2025-2026 school year began for local schools this month, and for three private schools in the area, the new school year marks the first round of students who have received the Georgia Promise Scholarship.

WHAT IS THE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

The Promise Scholarship, referred to as a voucher by some, is a \$6,500 scholarship awarded to students to attend a private school

of their choice or homeschool.

To receive the scholarship, a student must be attending a public school within the attendance zone of a school named an underachieving school. Three Rome City Schools, Main Elementary, West Central Elementary and Rome Middle were placed on that list.

Students who meet this criteria can apply for the scholarship at MyGeorgiaPromise.org. If approved, they must complete the application and the admission process for their chosen private school.

SEE **PROMISE**, A3



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LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025





TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Estella Tew, a kindergartner at Johnson Elementary School

Email artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com.

Business	D1	Lottery	A3	Roman Life	C1
Classified	R6	Opinion	A8	Sports	B1
Dear Abby, Puzzles	C6	Religion	C4	TV listings	R3

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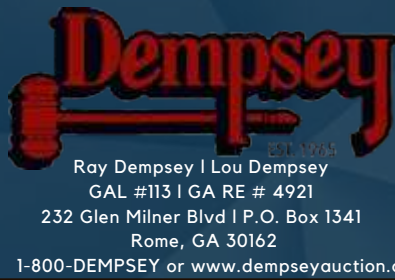
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Also inside: Comics, Roman Record

NO OBITUARIES: Funeral homes submitted no obituaries for today's edition.

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