

Rome News-Tribune

RTD to test route changes

◆ The city department also plans to test a micro transit service, with pick ups and drop offs.

By Mo Burge
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The Rome Transit Department is moving forward with plans to roll out changes to their current fixed routes and test micro transit feasibility through a proposed Saturday service.

The major differences between fixed routes and micro transit are that traditional fixed routes follow the same path at scheduled intervals and micro transit offers pick ups and drop offs, much like services such as Uber and Lyft. Consultant Jim Moore of Moore and Associates Inc. presented findings from a feasibility study to the Rome City Commission during caucus Dec. 8. He detailed a framework for making the department more efficient and expanding service to areas that have a need. The study shows some routes are too long

and overlap bus stops with others, causing service delays that often top more than the desired hour, Moore said. “The routes have just grown too long,” Moore said. The idea is to improve performance and safety and be reactive to needs of those using public transportation, he added. Transit Director Courtnay Griffin said the changes are ambitious but workable, and a part of their overall mission to pres-



Courtnay Griffin

ent transit as the first choice for alternative transportation. “It’s a tall order but we are excited,” Griffin said. “These are not huge changes for the department, but they are huge changes for the community.” The study also recommends expanding the paratransit service area in Garden Lakes and growing community partnerships with local businesses and colleges to market to those who could benefit from modified routes.

SEE **TRANSIT**, A3

Still time to donate for Christmas with a Cop

◆ The program has been making kids’ holidays special for more than 20 years.

By Emily Bradshaw
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December is marching by, and our local law enforcement is gearing up for their annual Christmas with a Cop event. There’s still time to donate and help make this Christmas a memorable one for someone less fortunate. Throughout the year, the Coosa Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 14 raises funds for Christmas with a Cop, a program that allows kids in need to spend their morning shopping to their hearts’ content with a local police officer. The program has been going on for more than 20 years, said coordinator Chris Fincher, a deputy for the Floyd Sheriff’s Office. “Our lodge is designed to help police officers in need, but this is something extra that we do every year on top of what we already do for our police officers,” Fincher said. “We’ve been doing this for a long time, and our community has been super supportive.”



Chris Fincher

SEE **DONATE**, A2

’Tis the Season in Lindale: Christmas Parade brings community together



The annual Lindale Christmas Parade made its way through the community on Dec. 6. There were colorful floats, classic cars, lots of motorcycles, a vintage fire truck and, of course, Santa Claus. Here are just a few snapshots from the beloved local tradition.

Photos by Mills Fitzner

Above: Santa waves to spectators at the annual Lindale Christmas Parade, a community tradition. Right: This festive pink float bears an image of the Nativity. It reminds us all to “Love God” and “Love People.”



Above: There were lots and lots of motorcycles in this year’s parade. Right: The Pepperell High School band leads the parade through Lindale.



Schools earn math, literacy honors

By Rachel Hartdegen
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Nine local schools within the Floyd County and Rome City school systems were named 2024-2025 Literacy and Math Leaders by the Georgia Department of Education. The Literacy Leader and Math Leader awards go to schools that demonstrate growth and achievement in the respective subjects. The titles are awarded based on average growth or achievement in Milestones or high school Algebra or American Literature end-of-course exams. For the title of Literacy Leader, third and sixth grades are designated “gateway grades” and are awarded the title based on their Milestones scores.

SEE **LEADERS**, A3

Reynolds Funeral Home accepting hospice donations


By Emily Bradshaw
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The holiday season is a hard time for many, especially for those in hospice. Reynolds Funeral Home, at 5865 New Calhoun Highway, is serving as a drop off location for the Holiday Hospice Donation Wish List, to better serve locals facing end-of-life

care during what is traditionally a festive and cheerful season. Megan Bauer, who handles marketing for the funeral home, said a collection box can be found inside the building during business hours, 9 a.m. to around 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Donations will go to Traditions Health Hospice, she said. Those in this type of situation are often ones who need the most sup-

port, she said, and donations can help make their days a little brighter and their holidays a bit warmer. “Being in the business we are in, we do like to build that relationship with the community,” Bauer said. “We just wanted to give back to those in need.”

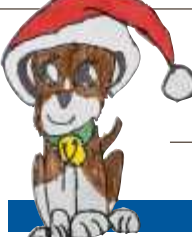

SEE **HOSPICE**, A3



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LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY’S YOUNG ARTIST

Ava Leverette, a student at Model Elementary School

Email artwork submissions to HKoon@RN-T.com.

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

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