

Rome News-Tribune

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Saturday/Sunday, December 13/14, 2025

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Weather: Areas of fog before 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny. High 63. **B4**



Contributed

After a tragic wreck last November, Tim Reynolds is back at work, back at the helm of local Christmas festivities in Lindale and back on his favorite tractor.

'Mayor of Lindale' back at the helm

◆ After recovering from a wreck, Tim Reynolds is hard at work organizing Christmas festivities.

From Atrium Health Floyd

Christmas in Lindale is a little extra special this year, and no one is more thankful than Tim Reynolds.

Reynolds, the unofficial mayor of the former mill town, has led the annual holiday decorating and events for three decades, but a tragic wreck in November 2024 nearly interrupted his king of Christmas presence last year.

The Model Middle School paraprofessional and part-time farmer was driving to work Nov. 8 when another vehicle crossed the median and struck his car head on, taking the life of the

other driver and severely injuring Reynolds. Three men, Brian Minshew, Jeremiah Veillon and Ben Woodall, all acquaintances of Reynolds, pulled him from the wreckage just minutes before his truck erupted into flames.

"It was like having angels there, all three of them. If not for them, I would have burned up in that vehicle," Reynolds said.

SEE REYNOLDS, A2

Nonprofit hosting inclusive Christmas

◆ Special-needs families are invited to the Thornton Center Dec. 22.

By Mo Burge
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The community is invited to celebrate the season with an evening of inclusive holiday activities for those with special needs.

AutistRae, a local nonprofit is hosting the Very Merry Community Christmas Party at the Thornton Center, 102 North Floyd Park Road, on Dec. 22 from 5-8 p.m.

"We want families to come out and enjoy themselves," said Devisha Johnson, who founded the organization in honor of her daughter,

SEE AUTISTRAE, A3



Contributed

Raelynn Thompson, the CEO and the face of AutistRae, is 6 years old. The organization is hosting the Very Merry Community Christmas Party on Dec. 22 from 5-8 p.m. at the Thornton Center.

AdventHealth topping-off



Tom Mayer

The cancer care team who will work at AdventHealth's new cancer pavilion in Rome pose for a photo during a topping-off ceremony for the new facility Wednesday.

Cancer pavilion marks milestone

By Tom Mayer
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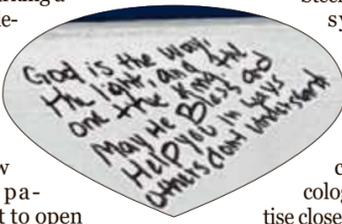
AdventHealth leaders, caregivers and community members gathered Wednesday for a topping-off ceremony marking a major milestone in the construction of the new cancer pavilion set to open next summer in Rome.

Karen Steely, AdventHealth Georgia Chief Operating Officer of Service Line Development, opened the event by calling the

project "a promise and a commitment that AdventHealth has made to serving in the community, providing access and the necessary services to care for those that we serve."

Steely said the system's vision is "to provide world-class oncology expertise close to home, reducing the barriers to access and ensuring that no patient walks their cancer journey alone."

SEE CANCER PAVILION, A3



Tom Mayer

Barry Fielder (middle) and Lincee Powell, representing the Rome-Floyd County YMCA's LIVESTRONG partnership, sign a beam during a topping-off ceremony Wednesday for AdventHealth's Cancer Pavilion. The new facility is scheduled to open July 2026 on Braves Boulevard in Rome.

DeSoto brings Irish cheer for Christmas

By Severo Avila
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Downtown Rome will get a little Irish cheer and local audiences will get to see something a little out of the ordinary Tuesday, Dec. 16, when "Christmas in Killarney" comes to the DeSoto Theatre.

Presented by Kerry, an Irish global taste and nutrition company with operations in Rome, the show is set in the charming village of Killarney in the 1920s and features a high-energy blend of traditional Irish dance, festive music, and heartwarming storytelling to celebrate Christmas through Irish eyes.

Audiences will enjoy dazzling choreography, colorful

SEE KILLARNEY, A3



LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Marlee Ellis, a kindergartner at Alto Park Elementary School

Email artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com.

Business	D1	Obituaries	A5	Roman Life	C1
Classified	R6	Opinion	A8	Sports	B1
Dear Abby, Puzzles	C6	Religion	C4	TV listings	R3

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