

Rome News-Tribune

TUESDAY, February 10, 2026 **RN-T.com** Weather: Cloudy. High 73. Low 57. **A11**

Floyd man sentenced to prison for threatening President Trump



Jauan Rashun Porter

By Adam Carey
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A Floyd County man has been sentenced to three years in federal prison for threatening to kill President Donald Trump via social media on June 26, 2025. Jauan Rashun Porter,

29, of Rome was arrested in August after he joined a TikTok livestream about Trump captioned “Alligator Alcatraz” about an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades. Porter was sentenced last week by U.S. District Judge William M. Ray II to serve

3 years and five months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. He was convicted Oct. 7, pleading guilty to one count of transmitting interstate threats. According to the indictment, Porter said “So, there’s only one way to make America great and that is putting

a bullet in between Trump’s eyes.” He also threatened to kill federal agents if they came to his door. “The allegations against Porter are serious and required a swift, decisive, and collaborative response,”



Theodore S. Hertzberg

SEE **SENTENCE**, A3

A BIG NIGHT FOR BIG HEARTS

ESP Rome celebrates its members in a magical way

By Severo Avila
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An audience of family, friends and community supporters were dazzled by a display of joy and celebration Saturday evening when ESP Rome hosted its second annual Big Hearts event. The fundraising celebration is a talent show in which Extra Special People members of all ages got to be in the spotlight, showing off their unique talents and being showered with applause and cheers. The event was held at Rome High School and featured several performers in various categories.



Mills Fitzner

Ayden Ely enjoys cheers and applause as he goes down the red carpet ahead of the Big Hearts Talent Show on Saturday.

Participants wowed the audience with a wide range of talents including singing, dancing, basketball skills, playing the piano, American Sign Language, mathematical

skills, foreign language skills, tap dancing and more. Emcees for the event were Indra Thomas, Leanne Cook, Simon Holland and Severo Avila.

The event carried a fairy tale theme and everything from the stage’s backdrop to crowns and

SEE **ESP ROME**, A2



Mills Fitzner

All of the performers are celebrated on stage at the end of the program. This year’s event raised nearly \$80,000 for ESP Rome and its programming.



Mills Fitzner

Nine-year-old Harper is a Pepperell Elementary School student. Her sweet smile touches the audience as she sings the song “Golden.”

Air Force Thunderbirds will host reception at Wings Over North Georgia event in April

By Adam Carey
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The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will host a reception for the public when they’re in Rome in April for the Wings Over North Georgia Air Show, according to the promoter, JLC AirShow Management. Typically, when the Thunderbirds have performed at the air show they were stationed at Dobbins Air Reserve Base because the runway at the Richard B. Russell Regional Airport in Armuchee was not long enough for the General Dynamics F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft they fly. However, the main runway was extended to 7,000 feet in 2024 in a \$5.7 million project funded by the 2013 special purpose, local

option sales tax package approved by voters. The extended runway will allow the Thunderbirds to be stationed here, and allow the team to be more involved with community events before the show, such as visits with local students, hosting a local nonprofit organization and honoring a local “Hometown Hero” for a recognition flight, according to organizers. John Cowman, president of JLC AirShow Management, secured a spring commitment date from the Thunderbirds for this year that has required a quick turnaround. WONG was fortunate to benefit from an open date in the Thunderbirds 2026 schedule, Cowman

SEE **WINGS**, A3



Contributed

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the spring 2026 Wings Over North Georgia Air Show on April 3 and 4. Tickets are now on sale at WingsOverNorthGeorgia.com

Cultural expo set for KAB Center

◆ The event is specially curated for African Americans, organizers said.

By Mo Burge
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Black History Month has typically been a time-honored tradition of celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans and their cultural impact. The Rome Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hopes to do that and more at its inaugural Black History Cultural Expo, coming to the Kelsey-Aycock-Burrell Center, 41 Washington Drive, Feb. 21 from noon until 5 p.m. The event is specially curated for African Americans, their experiences and their needs in a time when their voices are slowly being minimized and sanitized, said chapter president Tatanya Aker Manson. “We just really wanted to do something that would make a mark on our community, and one of the things we discussed during planning was the fact that people are out here trying to erase our history, and we’re not standing for that,” Manson said.

SEE **EXPO**, A3



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LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Jason Angel Gil, a fourth grader at Alto Park Elementary School

Email artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com.

INDEX

Calendar	A5	Comics, Puzzles	A10	Puzzle solutions	A11
Classified	A12	Dear Abby	A10	Sports	A8
		Local	A2	Weather, TV	A11

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

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