

Rome News-Tribune

183rd year ◆ No. 78 ◆ \$1

TUESDAY, April 21, 2026

RN-T.com

Weather: Mostly sunny and beautiful. High 79, Low 48. **A11**

North Rome shooting victim identified

◆ Police are still looking for witnesses to come forward.

By Adam Carey
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The Floyd County coroner's office released the name of the man fatally shot early Sunday morning in front of a Family Dollar store on North Broad Street.

Chancellor Jabez Donaldson, 22, was pronounced dead at 1:18 a.m. at a local hospital. His body will be taken to the Georgia Bureau

of Investigation Crime Lab for an autopsy.

Rome police officers responded to reports of a shooting at approximately 12:42 a.m. Sunday. When they arrived, they found Donaldson with a single gunshot wound to the back of the head and immediately began rendering first aid to the victim.

Officers found Donaldson surrounded by bystanders, with some on top of him trying to help revive him. Police noticed he wasn't breathing and immediately began chest

compressions, with no response.

According to numerous witnesses, several people had gathered in the parking lot after leaving a party at The Vault, a nearby club on North Broad Street.

Police also found a handgun, cell phone and purse near the body. The pistol, a blue Taurus 9mm, was determined to have been stolen.

Police spoke with the victim's sister, who told them she had not been there during the shooting.

SEE SHOOTING, A2



A pair of shoes sits in the parking lot in front of the Family Dollar Store on North Broad Street where a Rome man was shot and killed early Sunday morning.

Adam Carey

Rome will host events, contests for Georgia Cities Week

Staff reports

Rome is hosting a series of free events and contests to mark Georgia Cities Week, which runs through Saturday, April 25.

Sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association, this year's theme is "Love Your City."

"Georgia Cities Week is an opportunity to celebrate what makes Rome special — our people, our history, and the services that keep our city running every day," a release states.

First up is the Rome Youth Symphony Spring Concert, which was held Monday, April 20, at City Auditorium, 601 Broad St. The concert will feature selections from "West Side Story," Van Morrison, Led Zepelin and more.

Another free concert, "Ain't Nothing But the Blues," will be offered Thursday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The Clock Tower Ensemble will present an evening of big band jazz.

A full day of events will be presented Saturday, April 25, along with the annual ROFLO Festival in downtown Rome. The street festival featuring art, music and food runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Georgia Cities Week events include an outdoor tai chi "moving meditation" exercise class at 10 a.m. in Rotary Plaza behind the Forum and an open house with live wildlife exhibits at the Rome-Floyd ECO Center in Ridge Ferry Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There's also a 9 a.m. TRED Walk & Talk along the Mount Berry Trail focused on health and safety. Meet at the trailhead off Coligni Way behind the post office.

Residents will also have opportunities to win prizes throughout the week. There will be contests to win a pair of tickets to a Rome Clocktower Tour, the Rhonda Vincent show at City Auditorium and to see KC & The Sunshine Band at the Forum.

Follow @CityofRomeGA on social media (#GCW26, #romeGA) or visit the RomeGa.us website for contest details and information on services, resources and ways to engage in the community.

SEE WEEK, A3

Thankful Baptist offers motorists Prayers at the Pump



Courtesy of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church

Members of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church minister to hundreds Saturday as a part of the church's Prayers at the Pump event.

Church gives hope, fuel to hundreds

By Mo Burge
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Waves of gospel music could be heard drifting through the air, a sweet melody amid the buzz of activity at the Circle K on North Broad Street Saturday, as hundreds of patrons gathered for the chance to get free gas.

The weekend event, Prayers at the Pump, was an initiative created

by Thankful Missionary Baptist Church to provide people in need a reprieve in the face of rising gas prices. Scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., members of the church provided the first 300 cars at the gas station \$20 in free gas.

Cars lined up well before the giveaway Saturday morning, and by 10 a.m., 65 cars had already pulled away from the pumps.

Someone shouted, "65," and a cheer went up from

those milling about the pumps as a line of cars snaked through Five Points, forming a slow-moving procession towards the station.

All in all, Thankful Missionary Baptist Church's Prayers at the Pump saw 300 cars receive gas — and perhaps a bigger blessing: prayers before they pulled away from the pumps.

Members went from car to car greeting and ministering to hundreds as part of outreach during a time when the community could use a little fuel and a lot of hope, said the church's pastor, the Rev. Chenier Alston.

"We know gas prices are

SEE GAS, A3



Mo Burge

Linda and Shari Whatley beckon motorists to stop in for free gas and prayers at the Circle K on North Broad Street Saturday.



Courtesy of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church

While giving out free gas Saturday, members of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church take a moment to pray with drivers.

Local cooling assistance program opens

Staff reports

The application process is now open for Georgians eligible for a state cooling assistance program.

Low-income, elderly and disabled residents can get

h e l p w i t h c o s t s associated with cooling

their homes through the federally-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program through the Georgia Department of Human Services.

LIHEAP makes direct payments to qualifying residents' home energy suppliers during the spring and summer.

Annual income must be less than or equal to 60% of the median income for Georgia. The single-person household threshold is \$34,549, while the threshold for a household of five is \$77,071.

Georgia residents 65 and older, as well as medically homebound individuals, are eligible to apply now, while the process for all others opens May 1.

Funds are administered through local Community Action Agencies and are first-come, first-served until

SEE COOLING, A2



LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Scarlett Hawkins, a student at Model Elementary School

Email artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com.

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