

Rome News-Tribune

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THURSDAY, June 11, 2026

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Weather: Mostly sunny. High near 93. **B3**

Data center moratorium: 80 days

♦ The Floyd County Commission hopes to adopt a set of regulations in August.

By Baylen Parker
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The Floyd County Commission unanimously approved an 80-day moratorium on permits for new or expanded data centers, after adding the item to the agenda at the start of Tuesday's commission meeting.

The moratorium takes effect immediately and temporarily halts the issuance or approval of permits required for the construction or expansion of data centers, while allowing previously approved permits to move forward.

The resolution came forward after a lengthy discussion in the board's caucus just prior to Tuesday's meeting.

"I would like to add to our previous discussion that we had in caucus," said Commissioner Scotty Hancock. "It's that, as a commission, we have only been aware of a

vote for one data center, and that was in the Coosa area, and that was a rezoning issue. Any other data centers that are even being talked about have not come before this commission. This commission has not taken a vote on them. There has not even been anything filed on anything else that we know of, other than a Microsoft data center. So, that is only two within the county. Of course, the Battey



Scotty Hancock

property is in the city limits, so that is considered action that would be taken by the city commission."

Commissioners said the pause is intended to give the county time to refine a draft ordinance in the Unified Land Development Code, establishing new standards for data center development.

"This moratorium gives us an opportunity to sort of clean that ordinance up ... and have that sent through the process,"

SEE DATA CENTERS, A5

Local finds purpose in her own recovery

♦ Stay HARMless founder Beth Lambert says: "I believe recovery is possible for everyone."

By Mo Burge
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Addiction is a disease that affects one in six people across the country.

It is just as serious as any other medical condition, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or a serious health condition that is beyond the control of those diagnosed.

It's something Beth Lambert battled for years before finding recovery.

She overdosed on drugs — more than once — and barely survived, was in and out of jail and lost loved ones, getting caught up in the cycle of addiction for years before getting sober for good.

There is wisdom in fighting battles that others don't understand, and Lambert said she realizes now that her journey has been part of the process of learning how to best help others and share her wisdom.

"As someone in long-term recovery, I believe recovery is possible for everyone," said Lambert, a lifelong resident of Rome. "I know that because I have lived it. But I also know that people have to stay alive long enough to find recovery. Because at the end of the day, every person in our community deserves dignity, compassion and the chance to recover."

She founded Stay HARMless to help with harm reduction by providing supplies and anti-overdose medications to those not yet ready for abstinence.

SEE RECOVERY, A2

A look inside Qcells



Steven Eckhoff

Qcells cell process engineer Han Wong explains a portion of solar cell formation to a media tour of the company's Cartersville factory June 8.

Cartersville facility moves closer to fully integrated solar production

By Tom Mayer
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Qcells has begun manufacturing solar cells at its Cartersville facility, a milestone the company says moves the operation closer to becoming the nation's first and only vertically integrated solar manufacturing plant — that is, producing major solar panel components under one roof.

The announcement came during a media tour of the Bartow County campus, where company officials guided visitors through the process

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Read this story online to see more photos and videos from the tour.

of turning wafers into finished solar cells and ultimately into completed solar panels.

According to Qcells, the Cartersville facility is expected to reach full production by the third quarter of 2026 and become the largest operating solar cell factory in U.S. history. In addition to starting its cell

production, the company said module assembly operations are already running at full capacity, producing about 16,700 panels per day.

"Producing the first solar cells at Cartersville is a milestone for Qcells and for American manufacturing," said Andy Park, global chief executive officer of Qcells, in a company announcement. "As our ingot, wafer and cell lines reach full capacity, we'll be making the major components of a solar panel right here in Georgia."

SEE QCELLS, A3



Tom Mayer

A wide-angle look at one of Qcells' factory floors in Cartersville during a media tour June 8.

Floyd eyes incentives for CDLs, certified

By Baylen Parker
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Floyd County officials are considering a new incentive pay system that would provide additional compensation to employees who hold commercial driver's licenses and other professional certifications, even when those credentials are not required for their positions.

County Manager Jamie McCord said the idea is part of a broader effort to address pay equity and better utilize employee skills across departments.



Jamie McCord

SEE FLOYD COUNTY, A5



LOCAL MATTERS



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST
Adalyn Radeck, a student at Model Elementary School

Email artwork to Hkoon@RN-T.com.

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

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