

Rome News-Tribune

183rd year ◆ No. 125 ◆ \$1

FRIDAY, June 26, 2026

RN-T.com

Weather: Slight chance of storms after 5 p.m. Mostly sunny. High 91. **A7**

RCS plans College Send-off event

◆ The Rome superintendent is planning the networking opportunity for graduates of all the local high schools.

By Mo Burge
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Rome City Schools Superintendent Eric Holland is looking to start a community tradition with an inaugural 2026 College Send-off in August.

The vision goes beyond a typical school system celebration, creating a commu-

nitywide support network for graduates from all local schools and their families before they leave for college.

Rome Mayor Jim Bojo discussed details of the event during a Rome City Commission caucus June 22.

"They want to prepare these students that are going off to college," Bojo said. "They



Eric Holland



Jim Bojo

want to draw all these students together. What I think will happen is these kids will get to know each other."

All together, about 1,250 local students walked the stage at the end of this school year and many will head off to colleges both near and far to continue their education.

That number includes students from Rome City Schools, Floyd County Schools, Darlington School and Unity Christian School.

"This is an opportunity for all our local students who are going off to college to network and speak with alumni of the schools from where they are going," Holland said. "Because we can all agree that our children are the future."

The send-off invites graduates from local schools together and the event will take place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 1, in The Forum River Center, according to information from Rome City Schools.

SEE **SEND-OFF**, A3

Make a match: Adopt a cat

By Emily Bradshaw
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June is National Adopt A Cat Month, and there are several furry residents at the Rome-Floyd Humane Society ready to find a home.

"We'd love for every home to have several happy little cats in it," said adoption coordinator Lori Barfield, "and we want to encourage our neighbors to consider adoption and let us help match the right kitty to their home environment."

Adoption not only gives a cat a home, and its owner a new companion, but it also serves as a tool in combating animal overpopulation. With it being kitten season, shelters are overwhelmed right now, Barfield said. The primary solution to fight overpopulation is spay and neuter, but adoption helps significantly as a secondary aspect as well.

"It doesn't seem that kitten season is slowing down and we know that our shelter and every other organization helping animals is overrun right now," Barfield said. "Adoption is our first tool in the box and that helps us make room to care for more.

SEE **CATS**, A5



Courtesy of Rome-Floyd Humane Society, File Noodle relaxes on a blanket.

'A lot of trout, and a lot of smiling faces'



Contributed by Doug Walker

A young angler shows off her first catch Saturday at the 39th annual Coosa Valley Trout Unlimited Kids Fishing Day in Cave Spring's Rolater Park.

Kid's Fishing Day a hit at Rolater

By Adam Carey
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Of all the memorable moments in a child's life — first words, first lost tooth, first time riding a bike and first day of school — the first time catching a fish is right up there. And that's why the folks at Coosa Valley Trout Unlimited are here to help.

Hundreds of parents and children descended on Cave Spring's historic Rolater Park Saturday for the organization's 39th annual Kids Fishing Day.

"The park was packed with families, and a good time was had by all," said Bill Summer, CVTU past president. "I don't know exactly how many people were there, but I cooked 350 hot dogs. So, a lot of people."

Kids aged from 3 to 12 who registered were able to fish and given a free hot dog lunch courtesy of KC's Food Store, Coca-Cola and Kroger.

"It's always nice to see parents who caught their first fish here watch their own children catch their first fish in Rolater Park," CVTU Presi-



Contributed by Doug Walker

Fathers and daughters fish together Saturday in Rolater Park.

dent William Mitchell said. "There were a lot of trout, and a lot of smiling faces."

For the event, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources stocked the pond at Rolater Park with rainbow trout for the kids to catch.

"The DNR has always been great to

us. When they stock the pond, they try to give us the bigger hangover fish from last year," Mitchell said. "Hangover fish are a year older, and so quite a bit bigger, and we appreciate everything the DNR does for us."

SEE **KIDS FISHING DAY**, A2

Calhoun police chief resigns

◆ His decision follows an investigation that cleared him of wrongdoing in Rome.

From staff reports

CALHOUN — Following a lengthy period on paid administrative leave, Tony Pyle has resigned as Calhoun police chief, according to city officials.

"Chief James 'Tony' Pyle has chosen to resign and retire from his position as chief of the police for the city of Calhoun," City Attorney Brandon Bowen said Wednesday. "The city administration thanks him for his long service to the people of Calhoun and wishes him the best in his retirement."

An investigation by city officials regarding allegations made against Pyle has

SEE **PYLE RESIGNS**, A3

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LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Talyn Locklear, a second grader at Alto Park

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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