



Happy Independence Day

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Rome News-Tribune

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, July 3-4, 2025

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HIM | A vital tradition

100 Black Men answer call to arms with health initiative for 20-plus years offering free screenings, information

By Mo Burge MBurge@RN-T.com

The numbers don't lie. African American men experience significant health disparities that lead to higher numbers

affected by everything from heart disease to prostate cancer. According to the National Institute of Health, the statistics are startling and for the 100 Black Men of Rome-Northwest Georgia, it was a call to arms.

The Health Initiative for Men was started about 20-plus years ago offering free screenings that included prostate exams, which are more prevalent in Black men. Larry G. Morrow Sr. was one of the organizers of that first health fair and said about 32 participants showed up for the free event, at the time held at the Fielder Gym in East Rome.

SEE HEALTH, A6

NOTE TO READERS

Due to the July 4 post-al holiday, there will be no print edition on Friday. Enjoy today's double edition featuring two comics and two opinion pages.

As a reminder, the Rome News-Tribune publishes an e-edition seven days a week.

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Keeping pets safe during 4th of July festivities

By Emily Bradshaw EBradshaw@RN-T.com

As Rome residents begin anticipating fireworks on the 4th of July, officials are advising that we consider the comfort and safety of our four-legged friends. While the 4th of July holiday is a fun one for many, it can be a risky time for pets. Each year, pets go missing due to this holiday's festivities.

The loud noises these events create is the main stressor for animals during this weekend, said Public Animal Welfare Services Director Katy Walters. "Dogs especially are absolutely terrified of the noise that the fireworks make when they explode," Walters said. It is important to keep your furry friends in the forefront of your mind during events this weekend, even if your household isn't shooting off consumer fireworks. Taking simple precautions can go a long way. Keeping your pets safely confined inside is the best way to ensure they do not escape during Independence Day events. "With fireworks, you just want to make sure that your dog is properly contained," she said. "I would highly recommend bringing them inside because when they're



Katy Walters

SEE PETS, A3

GNTC celebrates the Adult Education Program class of 2025



Contributed

Lajuana Deal prepares for GNTC's Adult Education Spring 2025 Graduation Ceremony, which was held June 26.

'You are capable. You are resilient, and you are capable of hard work.'

By Rachel Hartdegen RHartdegen@RN-T.com

Georgia Northwestern Technical College's Office of Adult Education celebrated the High School Equivalency program class of 2025 with a commencement ceremony June 26 for students.

The June celebration recognized students who completed the High School Equivalency, a part of GNTC's Adult Education Program. The program gives an alternative degree for students who didn't receive their high school diploma.

SEE GNTC, A6



Contributed

Ricardo Arteaga displays his diploma at GNTC's Adult Education Spring 2025 Graduation Ceremony.



Contributed

Graduates of GNTC's Adult Education program turn their tassels at the Spring 2025 graduation ceremony.

New laws take effect in Georgia

♦ They include Rep. Katie Dempsey's push to compensate people wrongfully imprisoned.

By Ty Tagami Capitol Beat News Service

A slew of new Georgia laws took effect Tuesday, ranging from limits on transgender athletes to a guarantee to keep in vitro fertilization legal. The General Assembly gave Georgians a new way to say goodbye to loved ones when life ends and addressed technology that is changing how we live. They also passed laws affecting the justice system, food safety and taxes. Senate Bill 1 was the first item on the Republican-led

SEE NEW LAWS, A3

LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST Alana Wilson, a third grader at Alto Park Elementary School

Email artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com.

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