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Weather: Partly sunny. High 62. **B3**

Officials struggle with COAM solution

◆ Attorney says local action on gaming machines may spark legal challenges.

By David Crowder
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With moratoriums in place, officials in Rome, Cave Spring, and Floyd County are researching ways to address what they termed as significant issues surrounding coin-operated amusement machines.

The gaming machines are regulated by the Georgia Lottery Corporation, so there are limits to what actions local governments can take.

“The reality is, maybe not at every one of these establishments, but oftentimes, in addition to the playing of the games, there is prostitution and drug activity, and that’s the problem,” said Floyd County Commission Chair Allison Watters during Tuesday’s Rome-Floyd Joint



Allison Watters

Services Committee meeting. “So, what are we going to do? We feel we should get some of the money to help solve some of those issues.”

Rome Mayor Craig McDaniel told the committee that his biggest issue with the gaming machines is that there is a lot of money leaving the area, and the local governments get nothing. He noted that gaming machines brought in over \$1.4 billion in gross revenue statewide in 2023.

“The lottery only gets 5% of that money,” he said. “The rest of that money is divided equally between the people who have the

contracts and the operators. If we were to require a stamp, and they to go through an office — I am using the city clerk’s office as an example — where we could go in and charge a fee for each machine, and that stamp had to be renewed every year.”

McDaniel added that the revenue that is raised from the fees could go to address issues in the community such as homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, and lack of transitional housing.

SEE COAM, A3

Berry president announces retirement

From Berry College

Steve Briggs, president of Berry College, has announced his retirement effective at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Berry’s eighth president, Briggs has served since 2006.

Briggs describes his work as “embracing the enterprising spirit of Martha Berry and demonstrating the continuing relevance of an education of the head, heart and hands.”

He has emphasized the value of a vibrant residential campus for providing guided learning experiences so that students make the most of their college journey.

Briggs and his wife, Brenda, a constant on campus, have made Berry their home. “We have had the joy of knowing thousands of students,” he stated, “with each generation forming Berry into its own vibrant and warm-hearted community.”

“The college is thriving, and I am excited about how we are elevating Berry’s distinctive student experience and exploring forward-looking programs and partnerships. The years ahead are full of possibilities,” said Briggs.

According to Berry’s board chair, Rick Gilbert, “Dr. Briggs has radically transformed Berry while deepening its commitment to the ideals of Martha Berry. Throughout the years, he has earned the profound respect and trust of the Berry community, donors, trustees and local leaders. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service

SEE BRIGGS, A3



Steve Briggs



Adam Carey

The new, temporary headquarters of the Rome Police Department on Technology Parkway and Vail Street. The RPD will move over the weekend and be open to the public Tuesday morning if all goes according to plan.

“The most important thing for us is that there are no gaps in service. And we owe a lot to Rome’s Office of Technology Services; they’ve been very focused.”
Assistant Police Chief Rodney Bailey

Rome Police Department preps to move to Technology Parkway

By Adam Carey
ACarey@RN-T.com

The Rome Police Department is in final preparations before they move their headquarters to a new location on Technology Parkway and Vail Street adjacent to Eagle Christian Tours.

“Our official address will be 375 Technology Parkway on Tuesday,” RPD Community Information Specialist Kelly Madden said.

The city had been looking for a new headquarters for the Rome Police Department following the 10-year sales tax agreement between the city, county and city of Cave Spring finalized in 2022.

One of the results of that agreement was that both the Rome and Floyd County police would vacate the



Adam Carey

Employees move records out of the Law Enforcement Center in anticipation of this weekend’s move to the new location on Technology Parkway.

law enforcement center downtown at 5 Government Plaza. The move has been planned for months since the city purchased the Technology Parkway property and office building for \$2 million in November.

“The most important thing for us is that there are no gaps in service,” Assistant Police Chief Rodney Bailey said. “And we owe a lot to Rome’s Office of Technology Services; they’ve been very focused.”

The logistics of moving around 100 law enforcement officers and other staff is a significant undertaking, especially considering RPD has been in the same location for almost 25 years.

“We’re also fortunate that most on-duty officers work in their vehicles,” Bailey said. “They need their technology to work, and where to drop off their reports and vehicle at the end of their shift.”

Bailey said they have kept on schedule, and have been updating staff on the status of the move regularly.

Not everything is immediately moving to the new location. The evidence room and the mechanics who work on police vehicles are remaining downtown for the time being.

SEE RPD, A2

Greene calls for resignation of Ga. GOP vice chair

By John Bailey
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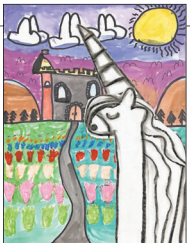
The Georgia Republican Party first vice chair said he will not step down despite calls to resign from people within his own party, including 14th District U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Greene, who also continues to make false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, called for Brian Pritchard’s immediate resignation this past week and stated the



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene

SEE GOP, A2



TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST

Bentley Hartley, a 3rd grader at Alto Park Elementary School

Visit RN-T.com to see Today's Young Artist monthly galleries. Email submissions of student artwork to HKoon@RN-T.com. Include the student's name, grade and school.

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