

Rome News-Tribune

165th year • No. 240

WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2008

Two sections • 50¢

Weather: Scattered showers and storms. High in the lower 80s. 6B

On the Web: www.romenews-tribune.com



United Media to syndicate Mike Lester's cartoons

Mike Lester has an "unabashedly conservative viewpoint that is edgy without being nasty."

Page 2A



4 Eagles awarded

Boy Scout Troop 113 honors four of its own.

Page 3A

No surprise in poverty data

The U.S. Census Bureau reports women and dropouts are more likely to be living below the poverty level.

Page 5A



Plot thickens

Trion's clash with Armuchee is renewed with new meaning.

SPORTS, page 1B

Local SATs top Ga. scores

• And all but one local high school beat the national average. See a score chart on 2A.

By Elizabeth Cady
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With SAT scores ranging from 1478 to 1574, all local public schools were above the state average of 1466, and all but Coosa topped the national average of 1511.

Last year, Rome High School's 1621 was No. 1 in the state for systemwide scores. This year's 1558 put it fifth in the state.

"There is variability in testing from year to year because each class is unique," said Rome City Schools Superintendent Gayland Cooper. "Longitudinally our scores are improving and we did really well when I look at the surrounding state data."

Armuchee's average SAT score was 1574, up 40 points from last year.

"We've been working for a number of years to get those scores up," said Armuchee Principal James Burris. "I can't explain why it's up so much in one year, but of course I'm real proud."

Burris said the school has been implementing the Cambridge Tutoring and Test Preparation program for the past three or four years. The program requires English and math teachers to spend 15 to 20 minutes of their class period focused on SAT preparation.

At Pepperell High School, the SAT average dropped 62 points to 1512 from 1574. Principal Phil Ray echoed Cooper, saying the scores are expected to fluctuate from year to year.



Gayland Cooper, Rome superintendent, said, "There is variability in testing from year to year because each class is unique."

ON THE WEB

Look at this story online at www.romenews-tribune.com to find a link to see the SAT press release.

Please see SAT 2A

Storm remnants bring much needed showers



Ryan Smith / Rome News-Tribune

The Oostanula River level is rising after recent rain. Its official level at Turner McCall Boulevard was 4.95 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday.

5.74 inches takes rain past average for month

By Jeff Gable
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The remnants of Tropical Storm Fay, which battered Florida last week, brought some drought relief to North-west Georgia this week.

On Tuesday, 3.03 inches of rain was recorded through 8 p.m. at Richard B. Russell Regional Airport, according to the National Weather Service. This brought the total for August to 5.74 inches, well above the August average of 3.86 inches.

This marks the second consecutive month that Rome's rainfall topped the monthly average. In July, 4.8 inches of rain was recorded, breaking that month's average of 4.66.

Another wet spell in August has raised Rome's total rainfall amount to 32.59 inches, close to the average of 35.65 inches — and there are still several days left in the month. The rainfall has been a welcome sight to many who have been hit hard by the drought during the past few years.

While Fay dished out a lot of damage on its trek through Florida, and its remnants created heavy storms throughout Alabama and South Georgia, Rome has not had much severe weather relating to the system.

"We've had a few trees and limbs that have fallen, but for the most part it's just been a lot of rain," said Scotty Hancock,

ROME RAINFALL

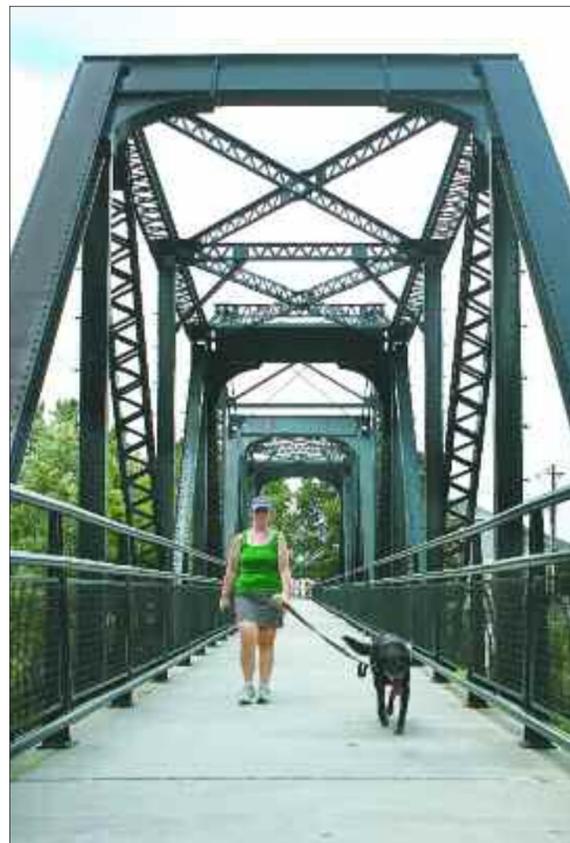
Tuesday's rain:	3.03"
Month to date:	5.74"
*Average for August:	3.86"
Year to date:	32.59"
*Average year to date:	35.65"
*Inches Rome is down for the year:	3.06"

*All average statistics are through the end of the month.

Rome's Emergency Management director. "Nothing really major has happened. I know some rivers and creeks have been close to the edges, but we've had no flood issues or bad storms because of all this."

Today's weather forecast calls for scattered showers and storms throughout the day, with a high of around 82 and a 30-percent chance of storms. Tonight should be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers, and by Thursday, the sun will return with mostly sunny skies, a 20-percent chance of showers and a high around 88.

Friday should be mostly sunny with a high around 90 and a 20-percent chance of rain.



Ryan Smith / Rome News-Tribune

Lizzie Moore takes her dog Mason on his daily walk across the Robert Redden Footbridge on Tuesday afternoon. "We usually go in the morning, but it rained all morning," she said.

County denies electric permit

• A crowd applauds commissioners' decision not to allow a substation opposed by nearby residents.

By Diane Wagner
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More than 40 people broke into loud applause Tuesday when the Floyd County Commission denied a permit that would have allowed an electric substation in their neighborhood.

North Georgia Electric Membership Corp. sought to build the substation next to a transmission line on a 2.6-acre tract on New Rosedale Road at Haywood Valley Road.

Commissioners, however, unanimously sided with nearby residents who came out in force to object.

Speakers cited potential health effects from the strong electromagnetic field and the impact on property values in the scenic rural area on the edge of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

"Nobody wants to live next door to an electric substation," said Mike Reynolds, whose house would be 206 feet from the utility.

EMC attorney Henry Tharpe said the company reviewed 18 possible sites but the New Rosedale tract would impact the fewest number of people and was readily available.

A substation is necessary to improve reliability to the EMC's 1,500 customers in the area and provide capacity for growth, he said.

Tharpe presented a petition signed by 278 customers in support of the substation, but two were present at the meeting to speak in opposition.

"They told me it would be between Haywood Valley Road and some Bradford pear trees. ... I wonder how many others who signed didn't know where it was," Armuchee resident Bill Burns said.

The lengthy public hearing was one of several on the board's agenda.

A dozen or so neighbors also showed up to oppose a rezoning to allow duplexes on a landlocked Old Cedar-town Highway tract that is accessed from Conn's Lake Road.

Commissioners granted the applicant's request to withdraw the proposal — doing so "with prejudice," which means it cannot be resubmitted for at least 12 months.



County Manager Kevin Poe reports sales tax receipts for August are up 19.8 percent compared to August 2007, canceling out a July deficit for SPLOST-project revenues.

ON THE WEB

Look at this story online at www.romenews-tribune.com to find a link to a complete agenda action report with Google location maps.

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TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST



Today's artwork is by Esli Hernandez, a student at Alto Park Elementary.

Visit www.romenews-tribune.com and click on our SnapHappy link to see Today's Young Artist galleries online.

Police direct traffic for \$2.99 gas

By Karissa Stewart
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Gas prices dropped to \$2.99 a gallon at EZ Stop in Silver Creek on Tuesday evening, fueling headaches for police as they directed traffic near and on the bustling lot.

About four Floyd County police officers assisted with traffic as about 20 vehicles crowded the convenience store lot, located at the busy intersection of Ga. 101 and Wax Road.

The steady stream of motorists began around 6 p.m. and continued for several hours.

Similarly low gas prices were found at Haney's Gas and Grocery, located nearby, said Silver Creek resident Mike Brown,



Lindy Dugger / Rome News-Tribune

Customers jumped at EZ Stop's \$2.99 gas prices Tuesday night.

who fueled two vehicles.

According to Chad Matthews, Floyd County patrol officer:

Motorists were busy trying

to get on the lot and police were busy managing the traffic snarls.

Please see GAS 2A

Please see COUNTY 2A

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