



## Commission seeks to aid housing market

Also, Small Business Snapshot focuses on Big Bear's BBQ.

ROMAN RECORD, inside



## CRBI planning canoe trips

The two events will allow people to explore the Etowah River.

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## Dawgs dancing

Georgia was selected as a No. 10 seed to the NCAA Tournament.

SPORTS, page 1B



## Duke reigns again

The Blue Devils beat North Carolina to win their 19th ACC Championship.

SPORTS, page 2B

# Lawmakers prepare for Crossover Day



Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome



Rep. Christian Coomer, R-Cartersville



Rep. Rick Crawford, D-Cedartown



Rep. Barbara Massey, D-Menlo

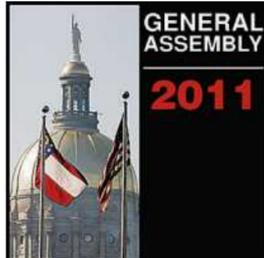
● Legislation broadening the use of 911 fees is expected to make the Wednesday deadline to pass at least one chamber.

By Diane Wagner  
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Floyd County could get another \$100,000 a year or so to offset operation of its new emergency communications system under a bill sched-

uled for a state House vote today. House Bill 280 would broaden the allowable uses of the 911 fee tacked onto monthly phone bills. Separate legislation, HB 256, would set up a way to capture the fee on pre-paid cell phone cards. State Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, who sits on the House Rules Committee, said both bills are expected to pass.

"We've been advocating for them," County Manager Kevin Poe said. "It will add revenue that's undistributed now. And we could pay personnel and maintenance costs related



to the system upkeep, because it ties into our 911 response." The countywide system is be-

ing built with a \$26.7 million earmark from the 2009 special purpose, local option sales tax.

A looming issue, however, is the estimated \$24.4 million over 20 years the various agencies will share in operational costs. Some, but not all, of that amount will be offset by their current communications budgets.

## Crossover Day

Wednesday is Crossover Day, the 30th day of the 40-day General Assembly session.

Any legislation that has not passed at least one chamber by the fall of the gavel is tabled until next year's session. Lawmakers are preparing for a long and hectic day.

"I told my wife I won't be home for supper," laughed state Rep. Christian Coomer, R-Cartersville. Coomer's HB 390 already has passed the House and "crossed over" to the Senate. The measure would give prosecutors in criminal cases essentially the same rights of appeal as defendants.

Please see **STATE 2A**

## World War II memories

# Veterans gather for reunion in Rome

By Ellison Langford  
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Bill Toledo said he didn't know until decades later his buddy was supposed to kill him rather than let him be captured by the Japanese.

Toledo and his radioman, who he refers to as his bodyguard, were meeting for a World War II veterans reunion when he told him.

Toledo served as a Navajo code talker during the war. As such, the U.S. government placed a higher value on keeping his language a secret than they did keeping him alive.

Toledo was one of 40 veterans from across the country gathered for a Pacific theater reunion hosted by Rome's Jake Puryear Detachment of the Marine Corps League. The event started Sunday and ends Tuesday at Berry College's WinShape Retreat Center.

"I was really proud of what I did serving my country and my people," said Toledo, 86, of New Mexico.

Like Toledo, Ed Harrell also didn't know certain particulars of his service until after the fact.

"I was a Marine guard that guarded Fat Man and Little Boy," said Harrell, who served on the USS Indianapolis and now lives in Clarksville, Tenn. Those were the code names of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to bring about the end of the war.

Please see **WAR 2A**

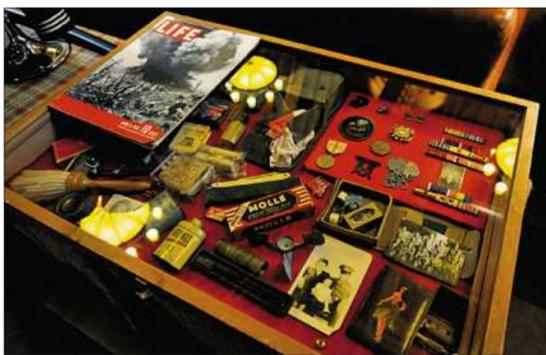


Daniel Varnado / Rome News-Tribune

Sam Burrell looks at a copy of Life magazine and other WWII memorabilia at the WinShape Retreat.

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Read this story online for a link to the "Rome Remembers: World War II" multimedia page.



ABOVE: Jim Stockton (from left), Marines; Leon West, Navy; Clarence Johnson, Navy; and Walt Scott, Marines, share stories Sunday evening at the reunion.

LEFT: World War II memorabilia is on display during the Pacific War Reunion of Honor.

Photos by Daniel Varnado, Rome News-Tribune

# Cowboy days draw thousands to Cartersville

By Lydia Senn  
Staff Writer  
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**CARTERSVILLE** — Decked out in a red vest and cowboy boots, Frank Wood meticulously measured out ingredients for corn bread as he prepared for a Dutch oven cooking contest.

"We got two second place wins this weekend and a third," he said with a proud grin.

Wood has been bringing his family and his chuck wagon all the way from Parrott to Cartersville to participate in the Southeastern Cowboy Gathering for eight years and on Sunday he participated in the Dutch oven cooking contest.

Wood, who carries his 111-year-old Webber wagon to about eight events a year, says the one hosted by the Booth Western Art Mu-

seum in Cartersville, is among the best.

"The Booth puts on an awful good cook-off, plus anything we can do to keep people interested in the western way is great. We are so lucky to have something like this in Georgia," he said.

Tara Curria, director of marketing for Booth, said the four-day gathering of cowboy enthusiasts boasted about 3,500 visitors.

Please see **COWBOY 2A**

RN-T.com

Read this story online to see a photo gallery from the event and for a link to the Booth Western Art Museum website.



Daniel Varnado / Rome News-Tribune

Matt Martin checks on his team's Dutch ovens as they cook cornbread Sunday afternoon during the Dutch oven cooking contest at the Booth Western Art Museum.

# Shoes to aid quake victims

● Girl Scout troops have collected thousands of shoes for the nonprofit group, Soles4Souls.

By Lydia Senn  
Staff Writer  
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Marta Turner's house is busting at the seams with shoes. But it isn't because she is a fashionista. Turner carries donations of footwear to those who need them desperately.

For the past month local Girl Scout Troops have collected thousands of shoes to donate to Soles4Souls, a nonprofit organization that collects new and used shoes and distributes them free of charge to people in need.

The shoes being collected in Rome this month will likely go to Japan where thousands have been devastated and displaced by last Friday's earthquake and tsunami.

Please see **SHOES 2A**

RN-T.com

Read this story online for a link to the website for Soles4Souls.

## TODAY'S YOUNG ARTIST



Today's artwork is by Nolan Kelley, a student at East Central Elementary School.

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