

GO! an events calendar for the Rome area

Local artist shows her talents without a word

Ongoing

- Chieftains Museum and Major Ridge Home will present “**Stand Watie, Cherokee Planter and Confederate General**” through March 15. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and \$1.50 for students. Call 706-291-9494.
- The Berry College Moon Gallery will host “**Boon Dance Baby Pants**,” a correspondence art show, through Friday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Call 706-236-2219.
- **Guadalupe Robinson’s** exhibit is in the Shorter College Arnold Gallery through March 22. Call 706-233-7247.
- During March, the **Lavender Mountain Quilt Guild** will show off their works of art at the Rome-Floyd County Library. There are 68 quilts on display, with antique quilts in glass cases. The quilts may be viewed any time the library is open. Call 706-295-5107 for more information.
- The Rome-Floyd County Library will be showing “**Bad Guys**” films in March at 2 p.m. on Sundays in the Coosa Room. Admission is free, but popcorn and sodas are available for 50 cents each. “The Guardian” will be shown this Sunday; “Superman Returns” will be shown March 18, and “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest” will be shown March 25. Call 706-236-4609 for more information.

Today

- Rome’s Own Music Ensembles will present “**Die Fledermaus**,” an operetta by Johann Strauss, through Friday at the Rome City Auditorium, beginning at 7:30 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating, \$15 for general admission and \$10 for general admission for students. Call 706-233-7285 for more information.
- The fourth annual **Southeastern Cowboy Gathering**, hosted by the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville will continue through Sunday. Highlights include the Southeastern Chuck Wagon Cook-off, a concert by Don Edwards, a fiddle contest, children’s activities, a poetry writing workshop and a presentation by featured artist Donna Howell-Sickles. The gathering begins at 7 p.m. March 8. Prices vary. Call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org for more information.

Saturday

- Rome Little Theatre will continue “Saturday Cinema at the DeSoto” with “**Gone with the Wind**” at the DeSoto Theater at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Enjoy an antebellum fashion show before each showing, and hear the tunes of the Eighth Regiment Band. Admission is \$2 at the door. The funds raised from this promotion will be used for the DeSoto’s restoration project. A viewing and reception are scheduled for Friday as well, but space is limited. Call 706-295-7171.
- Back by popular demand, **Julie Windler** will be at Cobblestone Shoppe, 7 E. Second Ave., demonstrating throw pottery from 1 to 5 p.m. Parking and the entrance are behind the gallery. Visit www.cobblestoneshoppe.com or call 706-378-8848 for more information.

See more on page 3...

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By Severo Avila
Staff

At A Glance:

Who: Rome Little Theatre
What: “Annie Get Your Gun”
When: March 23–25, March 30–April 1, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: DeSoto Theater, 530 Broad St.
How much: \$12 reserved seating, \$10 general admission

“I’d love to be in a play, but I’m too chicken.” So Claire Howard does the next best thing. If she can’t act in a play then she’ll make sure her talents are still visible up on stage.

Howard is painting the set for an upcoming Rome Little Theatre production of “Annie Get Your Gun,” and said if that’s the closest she gets to actually being in a community theater production, then that’s just fine with her.

The semi-professional artist is also a teacher a Berry College Elementary and Middle School and taught art for 10 years for Rome City Schools.

She’s been working on the production’s main backdrop for about three weekends.

“The idea for this main set was taken from the original Buffalo Bill Wild West Show banner,” she said. “But I did some research and found some lettering on original Annie Oakley posters so I’m getting a lot of ideas from that.”

“Annie Get Your Gun” is a musical based loosely on the life of Annie Oakley, a sharpshooter from Ohio, and her husband, Frank Butler.

In the play, a traveling Wild West show visits her town, and Annie enters a shooting contest, wins, and is asked to join the show. She has fallen in love with the star of the show, Frank Butler, and agrees to join, although she has no idea that show business isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

Frank unwittingly becomes enamored with Annie, and their relationship becomes the focus of the musical — which includes the showstopper “There’s No Business Like Show Business.”

Howard’s work doesn’t end with the main backdrop, however. Since the story’s plot takes the action to several differ-

ent locations, even as far as Europe, smaller drop sets require Howard to paint the inside of a train car, the interior of a circus tent, the deck of a ship and even a palace ballroom.

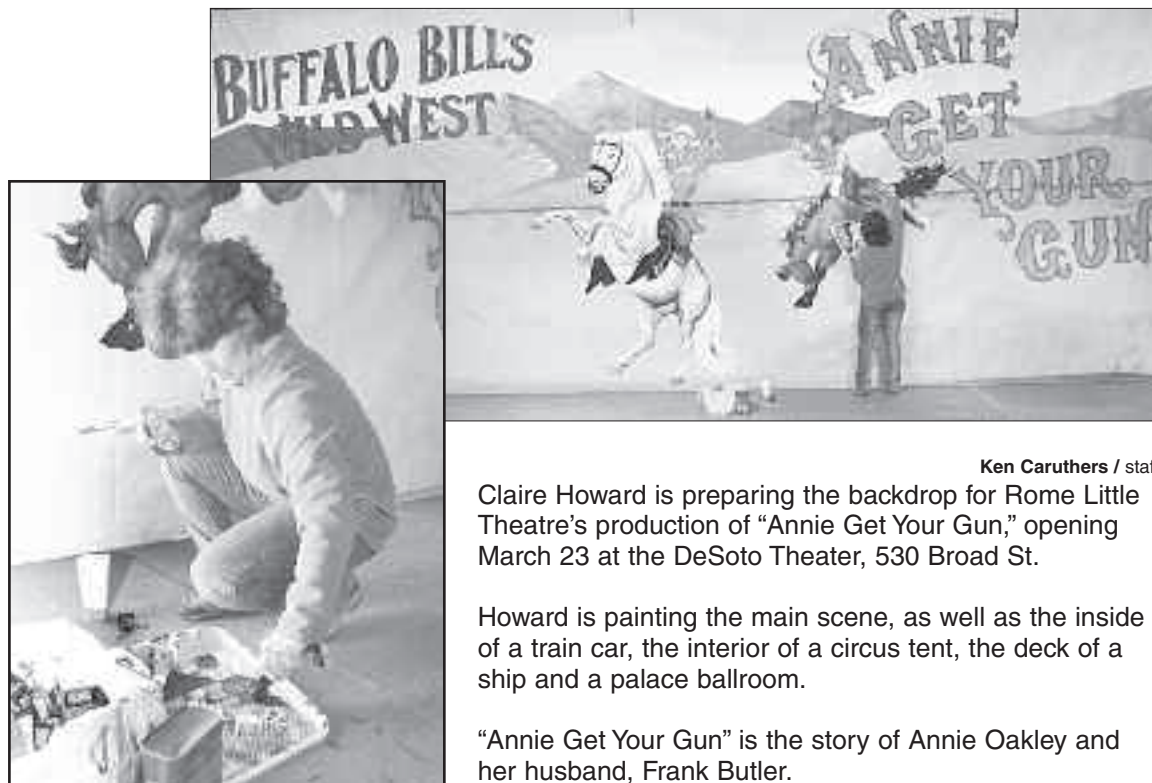
Using interior house paint donated to RLT, Howard creates the sets she hopes will enhance the production and transport local audiences to distance places. And she doesn’t mind that in many instances, sets are an afterthought in a theatrical production, giving the spotlight to the actors.

“I’m fine with that,” she said. “I’ve done a lot of little plays at school, and I know that the set in an integral part of the show. It makes me feel good when the show does well and someone comments that the set looks good.”

“Annie Get Your Gun” takes place at the DeSoto Theater March 23–25 and March 30–April 1.

Show times are 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seating and \$10 for general admission.

Visit online at www.romelittletheatre.com or call 706-295-7171 for reservations or additional information.



Ken Caruthers / staff

Claire Howard is preparing the backdrop for Rome Little Theatre’s production of “Annie Get Your Gun,” opening March 23 at the DeSoto Theater, 530 Broad St.

Howard is painting the main scene, as well as the inside of a train car, the interior of a circus tent, the deck of a ship and a palace ballroom.

“Annie Get Your Gun” is the story of Annie Oakley and her husband, Frank Butler.