Today 56°/47° · Sunday 58°/45° · Monday 68°/46° · Tuesday 77°/46° · Wednesday 80°/57° · Thursday 75°/60° · Friday 71°/55°

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Your hometown guide to news, events, local businesses, and more!

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

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Let Their Sacrifice 'Be a Guiding Principle'

By BEN BEAGLE
ben@bataviannews.com

Retired Navy Capt. James Ellison reflected on the end of two wars and how they connect to the meaning of Memorial Day during his speech as part of Monday's Memorial Day observances in Trigon Memorial Park.

Ellison, who served for 27 years and wore his Navy service dress blue uniform, noted that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

Ellison said the milestones "offer a powerful lens through which to view the enduring meaning" of Memorial Day.

"While these two anniversaries represent distinct conflicts separated by time and circumstance, they are united by the common thread of sacrifice that underpins Memorial Day," Ellison said, speaking before hundreds who had gathered around the park at Main and Wolcott streets. "... The men and women we honor today shared a common dedication to duty and a willingness to lay down their lives for something greater than themselves. They came from diverse backgrounds with different hopes and dreams, but they were bound by a shared commitment to the ideals that our nation represents."

Ellison, a Le Roy native and 1973 graduate of Le Roy High School, graduated from the state University at Albany in 1977 and was commissioned in 1978 through the Officer Candidate School program. His career in the U.S. Navy

Flags representing Le Roy veterans who have died since Memorial Day 2024 are shown in two large planters.

BEN BEAGLE/DAILY NEWS

Supply Corps that saw three sea tours aboard a destroyer, the USS Manley; and two aircraft carriers, the USS Nimitz and USS George Washington. He retired in 2004.

Of World War II, Ellison noted the more than 400,000 American lives lost and nearly 1 million others wounded in Europe, Japan and the Pacific Islands. He recalled their sacrifice in Normandy, Iwo Jima, the Ardennes and many other places.

"The sheer scale of their commitment and the unwavering resolve in the face of overwhelming odds serve as timeless testaments to the power of courage and the cost of liberty," Ellison said.

The Vietnam War saw more than 58,000 Americans lose their lives in the jungles and rice paddies of Southeast Asia, including Le Roy's Lt. Gary Scott and Harry L. Van Alst Jr.

"For many Americans, this conflict remains a complex and often painful chapter in our history," Ellison said. "The young men and women who served in Vietnam not only battled a determined enemy, but also navigated a deeply divided home front. Still, they answered their nation's call and endured grueling conditions."

Ellison said it was vital that Americans do more than simply acknowledge the anniversaries of the end of the wars.

"We must actively engage with the lessons they offer," he said.

World War II, he said, "reminds us of the fragility of peace and the importance of global cooperation in the face of aggression."

The Vietnam War, he said, "compels us to reflect on the complexities of war and the profound impact that conflict has on those who serve and their families."

Ellison delivered his remarks next to the Soldiers' Memorial, which was dedicated in 1906 and is topped by a Civil War soldier. The monument features two plaques of names of local men who served in the Civil War - noted as "Rebellion" on the east and west sides, and a plaque of names for the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 on the back.

Nearby, memorials for World War I and World War II list the names of fallen servicemembers. The World War I memorial lists 12 names — 11 men and one woman. More than 30 names are listed on the World War II stone.

Benches honor veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Ellison, in concluding his remarks, called on residents to remember all who have lost their lives in service to the country.

"Let their stories serve as a constant reminder of the preciousness of peace and the enduring value of freedom," Ellison said. "They would encourage us all to live in a way that honors the memory of the fallen, whether through volunteer work, support for veterans, or personal commitments. Their sacrifice must not be just a memory; it must be a guiding principle, inspiring us to cherish peace, uphold justice, and never forget the true meaning of Memorial Day."

The Memorial Day observance followed a parade down Main Street to Trigon Park that included veterans and bands from Wolcott Street School, Le Roy Junior-Senior High School and Mighty St. Joe's.

Botts Fiorito American Legion Post 576 Commander David A. Rumsey hosted the ceremony, which he said should "deepen your reverence for our dead."

American Legion Chaplain Gary Bassett delivered an invocation and later a benediction to close the ceremony.

Aubrey Puccio, a senior at Le Roy Junior-Senior High School, performed the national anthem and later "God Bless America," with accompaniment on both by the high school band. Le Roy freshmen Leah Cashin and Alec Bartz played taps, which Alec played from the steps of Memorial Auditorium.

Poppy Girl Brair Eadie and Poppy Ambassadors Noah and Elijah Ford of Cheektowaga were introduced. Noah and Elijah are the grandsons of Richard James Feneran, a longtime American Legion member and recipient of a Purple Heart in Vietnam. Feneran passed away May 12 at age 76.

The ceremony included the reading of 28 names of Le Roy veterans who had died since May 27, 2024. As their names were read, family members of the American Legion Auxiliary placed small American flags in one of two large planters.

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Le Roy Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

BEN BEAGLE/THE DAILY NEWS

Elijah Ford, left, and Noah Ford of Cheektowaga, grandsons of the late Richard James Feneran, a Vietnam War veteran, march in Le Roy's Memorial Day parade on Monday.

BEN BEAGLE/THE DAILY NEWS

Retired Navy Captain James Ellison said the sacrifice of those who have served the United States "must not be just a memory; it must be a guiding principle, inspiring us to cherish peace, uphold justice, and never forget the true meaning of Memorial Day."

BEN BEAGLE/THE DAILY NEWS

Aubrey Puccio, a senior at Le Roy Junior-Senior High School, sings "God Bless America" during the conclusion of Le Roy's Memorial Day ceremony on Monday in Trigon Memorial Park.

BEN BEAGLE/THE DAILY NEWS

Members of the Le Roy American Legion rifle squad offer a gun salute during the Memorial Day ceremony in Trigon Memorial Park.

Caledonia Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

The Caledonia-Mumford Red Raider Marching Band participated in the parade on Monday, playing a selection of songs as they passed through the village.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

Matthew Cleary American Legion Post 255 Ladies Auxiliary places a wreath at the war memorial.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

The Mumford Fire Department had multiple engines in the parade.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

The Matthew Cleary American Legion Post 255 Color Guard.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

Decorated Vietnam War Veteran Robert Rapone, pictured with his dog, was a guest speaker for the Memorial Day ceremony following the parade.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

Matthew Cleary American Legion Post 255 Commander Tim Kemnitz.

PHOTO BY TIM MCARDLE

Caledonia Boy Scout Troop #4027 participated by marching in the parade on Monday.

Busts, Blotters & Behind the Badge

Local Police Respond to Report of Shooting, Determine No Shooting Occurred

By GREG KELLOGG
Chief of Police for the Le Roy Police Department

At approximately 9:00 AM on Tuesday, the Le Roy Police Department received a report from a female claiming there had been a shooting at a local establishment. She sought shelter at a nearby church, where staff promptly contacted 911.

Officers responded quickly and secured the area. After a thorough investigation, it was confirmed that no shooting occurred, and no one was injured.

The female appeared to be under the influence of drugs. Her vehicle was later located on Bacon Street, where officers discovered a significant amount of a white powdery substance. With assistance from the New York State Police, the substance was tested and safely secured.

We thank NYSP, Trooper Marinaro, and Le Roy EMS for their swift response and support. The female was transported to the hospital for evaluation. The investigation remains ongoing.

Special thanks to Officer Smith and Detective Vangalio for their work on this case.

We appreciate the continued cooperation and vigilance of our community.

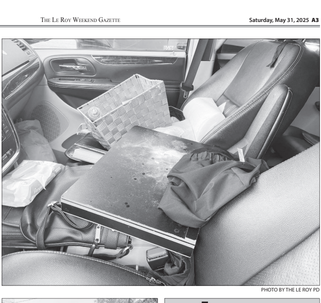

PHOTO BY THE LE ROY PD

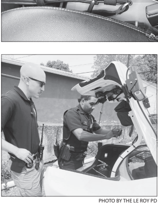

PHOTO BY THE LE ROY PD

COUNTY CONNECTION with Shelley Stein

My name is Rochelle (Shelley) Stein. I am your County Legislator for District 5. In this column, I share announcements and activities within the Genesee County Government. Let us focus on our senior citizens and those preparing to retire soon.

The Genesee County Office of Aging is hosting a Retirement Planning Seminar on June 10, 2025, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 pm. Topics include: Legal, Social Security, Life Balance, Financial, Volunteering, and Insurance Options. Professionals in these fields present the materials, no sales pressure, just facts.

Will you be new to Medicare soon? Medicare 101 class is offered on June 17th, starting at 5 pm. It is recommended to attend about 3 months before eligibility.

There is no cost for either program. Federal funds support these programs.

Call for a reservation to 585-343-1611 for either seminar, held at Genesee County Office of Aging, 2 Bank Street, Batavia, NY 14020. Do not hesitate to get in touch with the Office of the Aging to learn about all the services, educational opportunities, and activities by signing up for their newsletter, GENESEE SENIOR.

The Office of Aging will be at the Le Roy Farmer's Market on July 5th. Farmer's Market coupons will be available to senior citizens. Stop by the booth and ask about other programs available through the office.

The County is modernizing our website. Please take a look at www.geneseeny.org stay connected to what's happening in Genesee County. County activities from park events and senior programs to roadwork, public health updates, law enforcement news, job opportunities, emergency tips, and local government information— our official social media channels keep you informed with timely updates from right here at home.

Stay connected by following Genesee County, NY, on Facebook and Instagram or by scanning the included QR codes!

County Water Supply Project – Phase 3 update, Congresswoman Tenney has selected Genesee County's request for $10 million to the Congressionally Directed Spending program Appropriations Committee. This is the first step in a lengthy process; however, being selected as one of the top projects gives us a leg up on being awarded this key funding. Through our focused advocacy with both NY Senators, we also have their support.

The month of May honors Volunteers, especially Judy Ridley and Sylvia Traxler, from Le Roy Community Pantry. These ladies donated more than 19,726 and 9,534 hours, respectively, to our community food pantry. Congratulations, ladies, and thank you for the care and commitment you have graciously given to our Le Roy residents.

Following up on the National Grid Statewide Upgrade Project of Southeast Batavia - Golah 119 Transmission line, the open house will be held at J.W. Jones Hall, 366 Leicester Rd, Caledonia, NY 14423 on June 5th from 4 – 7 pm. Also on the project website, natgrid.com/southeastbataviagolah on June 3rd at 6 pm.

As your representative in the County Legislature, I always appreciate conversations regarding the work of the County and the benefits to our community. I am interested in hearing your concerns and thoughts. Reach out to me at Rochelle.Stein@geneseeny.gov.

Instagram · Facebook

ROOTED IN CHRIST — LE ROY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Calvary Baptist Church of Le Roy
8703 Lake Street Road, Le Roy
www.calvarybaptistLeRoy.org
Sunday worship service begins at 10:15 a.m.
If you do not already have a church that you attend regularly, we would like to invite you to give Calvary Baptist Church a try. We have Sunday School for all ages at 9am and our Sunday worship service typically includes singing a mix of both traditional and contemporary songs and hymns, a children's message, and a sermon from the Word of God.

First Baptist Church of Le Roy
5 E. Main St., Le Roy
(585) 768-7600
fbcLeRoy1@gmail.com
Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10am.
We have a Wednesday Night Bible Study at 5:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Le Roy
7 Clay St. (on the corner of Main and Rte 19)
(585) 768-8700
All are welcome to attend our weekly service each Sunday at 10:00am, ministered by Rev. David Pepper.
The Thrift Shop is now open on Tuesdays 10:00am - Noon, and 4:00 - 5:30pm, and Saturdays 10:00am - Noon. Donations may be brought to the church on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 9:00am - Noon.

Le Roy United Methodist Church
10 Trigon Park, Le Roy
(585) 768-8980
office@LeRoyumcny.org
www.LeRoyumcny.org
Worship on Sundays at 10:30am
Watch our livestream on FB: facebook.com/villageofLeRoy/

Living Waters Church
30 Main St., Le Roy
(585) 768-7570
livingwatersLeRoy.org
Sunday service is held at 10:00am each week.
Fully-staffed Nursery and Children's Ministries are available at every service.
Watch live on Facebook: www.facebook.com/livingwatersLeRoyny
YouTube Livestream: www.youtube.com/@livingwaterschurch3612

Our Lady of Mercy & St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Family
44 Lake St., Le Roy
(585) 768-6543
ourladyofmercyLeRoy.org
Mass Times @ OLM:
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 5:30pm
Weekday: 7:30am M-F, 9:00am Sat.
Mass Times @ St. Brigid's:
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Weekday: 7:30am Thursday
Mass times may change in the near future.
YouTube Livestream: youtube.com/@ourladyofmercyLeRoy1890/streams

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1 E. Main St., Le Roy
(585) 768-7200
www.stmarksLeRoy.org
Facebook: stmarksLeRoy
Worship on Sundays at 10:30am
Coffee hour following
Sunday school for children & adults
First Sunday of the month at 9:30 am
All are welcome here!

Updates Coming to Le Roy CSD this Summer

It was announced in an update by Le Roy Central School District Superintendent Merritt Holley last week that construction efforts at both Wolcott Street School and Le Roy Jr/Sr High School will be increasing as part of their ongoing Capital Project this summer.

At the Wolcott Street School, planned renovations include roof & window replacement/restoration in multiple areas of the school, installation of HVAC controls in the Wolcott building, and installation of a new generator. Trenching work for the new generator has already begun.

At the high school, construction will include a new single-use bathroom to replace currently existing bathrooms in the Junior High & the science wing and repaving the transportation parking lot.

Outside the buildings of the two schools, work on the multipurpose turf field will begin in November of this year and will hopefully be completed by summer of 2026.

Due to all the construction happening at the school this summer, Le Roy will not be offering any elementary or middle summer school programs this year.

The Le Roy CSD Summer Food Service will be relocated due to the construction, and more details about the relocation will be announced soon.

The summer school program for grades 9-12 in Batavia, ESY services, and speech, occupational therapy, & physical therapy at the high school will be unaffected by the construction projects and available throughout the summer.

The school has most of these construction projects scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer.

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Local History

Looking Back with Lynne

A Confederate Soldier in Le Roy

By LYNNE BELLUSCIO
Special to The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Dan Fernaays knew where the Confederate soldier was buried in St. Francis Cemetery, and he sent a photograph. The stone reads "Christopher Burns 9th Bat. Vir. H.A.C.S.A. AUG. 28, 1875." He fought with the Virginia 9th Battalion Heavy Artillery in the Confederate States of America. Indeed, he was a Confederate Soldier, but how did he come to Le Roy and what is his story?

In the histories of Confederate soldiers living in the North, he is not mentioned. His story has kept Trish Riggi at the Woodward Library searching files and newspapers for a couple of weeks. Certainly, the story of Philemon Tracy who is buried in Batavia, is better known. It has been said that Tracy was "one of the farthest north of Confederate soldiers in the United States." That is a bit of a stretch. Tracy was raised in Macon, Georgia and educated at Yale University. He spent summers with his uncle, Judge Phileas L. Tracy in Batavia. Tracy joined the Confederate army, 6th Georgia. He was killed at Antietam and was buried on the field. His uncle had the body exhumed and brought to Batavia where he was buried. Only his name, age and date of death was carved into the stone. A Confederate flag has flown on his grave many times. In 2016, Congress voted to ban the Confederate flag from being flown at federal veterans' cemeteries, yet the "stars and bars" are often flown for a variety of reasons.

There is another Confederate soldier, Sergeant DeWitt Clinton Guy, who is buried in Spencerport's Fairfield Cemetery. Guy was born in 1842 in Lockport. His father worked on the Erie Canal, but the family returned to Virginia and Guy was an ardent supporter of succession and it was said that he had a "Confederate heart to the very end." He was true to his colors and never apologized for the part that he played in the lost cause. He enlisted in the 11th Virginia Infantry Company G on April 1, 1861, and was wounded in several battles including Gettysburg during Pickett's Charge. He was buried in Lynchburg, Virginia. After his death, his wife returned to her family in Ogden. She died in 1891 but soon after her death, his body was exhumed and brought north and buried next to her. It was believed by some that this would not have been his choice.

Another Confederate soldier, Simeon Brunson Lyon is buried in Rose Ridge Cemetery in Naples. His story is tragic. He lived most of his life in the South. He enlisted in 1861 and was taken prisoner in 1864. He was confined six months in deplorable conditions. He was released and made it to Baltimore where his wife met him. She was distraught at his emaciated condition and brought him home to Naples, where it was reported that he went insane. The authorities called for his brother and when he arrived, Simeon lashed out, and his brother, in defense, choked him to death.

John Thurman's story is a little different. He was born in Missouri in 1842 and enlisted as a private in the 2nd Missouri Cavalry, Confederate States of America. He was wounded at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. After the war, he came North to East Rochester with his wife Ann Eliza and their six children. He worked at the Merchants Dispatch Corporation and his family was always warmly welcomed in the community. John often marched in his grey Confederate uniform in the Memorial Day parade. The crowd would cheer when he marched by. He died in 1919 and was buried in the Pittsford cemetery.

However, in all the accounts of Confederate soldiers in the North, there was no mention of Christopher Burns in Le Roy. His story has kept Trish Riggi and me searching files and newspapers for a couple of weeks. We had so many questions. Trish found several men by the name of Burns. And I was able to find a list of men who fought with the 9th Virginia, but the list was incomplete and his name did not appear. And then Trish found a newspaper article that appeared in the Buffalo Evening News.

"Christopher Burns was a brother of James Burns. He was in the South when hostilities commenced and like many others was forced into the Confederate service. His sympathies were with the North however, and at the earliest opportunity he deserted from the rebel army and cast his lot with a Union regiment, in which he fought with undaunted loyalty until Lee's surrender. After the war Burns came to Le Roy. He met with a sad fate some 12 years ago, being drowned by the overturning of a boat in Oatka creek, near the Main Street bridge in this village." And so, Christopher Burns lies beneath a stone of the Confederate States of America. Each year, an American flag is placed by his grave. It was pointed out that after the war, in a move to reconciliation, Confederate soldiers were exonerated, but it appears that Christopher Burns' heart was not with the South in the first place. Rest in peace Christopher Burns. Now we know the rest of the story.

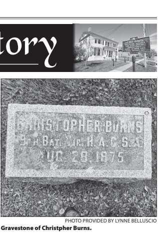

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LYNNE BELLUSCIO

Gravestone of Christpher Burns.

Budget Revote: Cal-Mum to Present Revised Spending Plan to Voters

By BEN BEAGLE
ben@livingstonnews.com

CALEDONIA – The Caledonia-Mumford Central School District will present residents with a second school budget vote next month - this time, with a 0% tax levy increase.

The district's board of education, during a special meeting days after its proposed 2025-2026 school budget was voted down, agreed to use additional reserve funds to present the same $21.66 million budget to voters, but this time without a 2.30% tax levy increase.

"I don't think we shrink the budget tonight, because I don't think we know how the community would want us to do that," Superintendent Rebekah Chenaille told the board at the May 23 meeting. "The minute we start eliminating Advanced Placement or dual enrollment classes, or certain sections of athletics or clubs and activities, we could be cutting things that our community comes and votes down because we cut the wrong things."

Instead, the new proposed budget will use an additional $182,303 in reserve funds, increasing total use of reserves to $1,452,303, or a 28% increase in reserves year-over-year compared to the district's current spending plan.

The district will also revisit a failed bus vote, seeking permission to use a vehicle reserve fund to purchase a new school bus to remain on the district's bus replacement cycle.

Residents will be presented with a proposed 2025-2026 budget that remains $21,660,678, an increase of $1,054,694, or 5.12%, from the current budget of $20,605,984, but with a 0% increase in the tax levy.

"This will make sure we run all our programs with no cuts. The budget will look the same," said Chenaille.

The superintendent had recommended the board go with increased use of reserves over two other options: lowering the tax levy from 2.3% to collect a lesser amount from taxpayers, while still expending some additional reserves; or going with a contingent budget.

The board ultimately voted unanimously to eliminate the levy increase entirely through the use of reserves.

A public hearing on the revised budget proposal is scheduled for June 10.

The budget vote is scheduled for June 17. Two propositions — one for the budget and one for the bus purchase — will be on the ballot.

Chenaille delivered a note of caution to the board of education prior to its action on the proposed budget.

"If go out at 0% next year, that 0% is going to find its way into equations that drive the way our school is funded from here on out," she said, noting that it could affect future state aid calculations and the district's ability to use reserves in the future, which will be reduced.

"We feel very strongly that reserves are for emergencies," Chenaille said. "We currently feel like a budget being voted down by our community feels like an emergency."

Another concern is that changes could be coming in the state aid formula and that uncertainty in federal funds could prompt New York State to pull back some state aid that has been allocated to districts, requiring districts to draw on reserves.

"We wouldn't want to use reserves every year and over time to build our budgets and to take care of the needs of our programs, but we understand we've left the community with more questions than they had," Chenaille said.

The district wants to avoid a contingency budget, which Chenaille said "is going to be the worst case scenario."

"A contingency budget is something I hope we never see in our time here," she said.

However, if the second budget vote fails, the board would have to adopt a contingent budget for 2025-2026, according to state law.

State law mandates that under a contingent budget, a school district must adopt a budget with no increase in the tax levy and eliminate all non-contingent expenses. Under a contingent budget, the district must continue to honor all contracts, all state-mandated items, and all items necessary for the educational program, health and safety of students and staff, and the preservation of district property.

A contingent budget would not allow for equipment purchases, or providing student supplies such as paper and pencils, and no salary increases beyond what was included in collective bargaining agreements.

The district would also not be allowed to provide free community use of school facilities.

A contingent budget, Chenaille noted, "would shut us down in ways our community wouldn't appreciate."

A capital outlay project, which helps generate state aid, would not be allowed in a contingent budget, Chenaille said.

The proposed 2025-2026 budget included funding for library and auditorium updates at the elementary and middle/high schools, and roof work at both buildings. That work remains in the second proposed budget.

The original budget failed in a May 17 vote with a vote of 314 votes against and 220 in favor.

Bus vote modified

In addition to the budget proposition, the board will also reconsider the district's school bus purchase. The proposition to purchase a school bus at a cost of $200,000 raised by the levy of a tax collected in annual installation or financed through an installment purchase contract was defeated with 270 "No" votes and 263 "Yes" votes.

The new proposition will ask residents to authorize the board to expend $200,000 from the 2023 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase the bus.

The reserve fund has about $500,000 in it, according to the district.

Board discussed the consequences of potentially delaying a bus purchase by a year — the district replaces its buses on a regular cycle — and its effects on long-term transportation plans. With delays in the transition to electric buses, board members decided they were comfortable in assuming the risk of using a significant amount of reserves for this purchase and working to build the vehicle reserve fund back up in future years.

Board President Elizabeth Doll said the board must use the year ahead to explore with district residents why the budget failed and learn from that as it works to build future budgets.

"I feel very disappointed in myself that we didn't bring a budget to the community that they could accept and tolerate," Doll said. "I was caught off guard by the vote. We also have to build and rebuild the communication stream with the community so that it doesn't happen again. Clearly we didn't hear part of the community, and they came out and voted that way."

Added board member Michael Balonek: "We're bringing (this budget) back to the community with humility and the understanding we need to look at next year's budget. By the community granting us this opportunity to put this budget back to a vote they're affording us the luxury of having 11 months to do a really good job building something out to them."

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette
Your hometown guide to news, events, local businesses, and more!
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Question of the Week

Question from Le Roy Weekend Gazette Staff

What are you looking forward to most this summer?

HAVE AN ANSWER? SHARE IT WITH US IN THE COMMENTS OF OUR FACEBOOK POST!

Previous question - "Favorite musical performed at Le Roy high school?

ARLENE F.: "The Dastardly Dame of Piddlehinton" going waaayyy back to the 80's.

BOB F.: Going way back..Oklahoma and the King and I (early 60s - Mr. Lane)

JACQUELINE M.: Les Miserables will always have a special place in my heart!

Have an idea for the next question? Send your suggestions to bfunderburk@bataviannews.com

Question of the Week sponsored by:
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EAT MORE BEEF

What's Up Le Roy? Events Coming Up in Our Community!

Sat., May 31
10am
Machpelah Cemetery Plot Owners Annual Meeting
Meet at Lathrop Chapel in the Cemetery
Machpelah Cemetery
71 North St., Le Roy

4 - 8pm
All You Can Eat Chicken Wings
Dine In Only
Open to Public
$20 per person
Brought to you by: Sons of the Legion
Botts Fiorito American Legion #576
53 W. Main St., Le Roy

Wed., June 11
6:30pm
Le Roy Garden Club Free Program: A Rose is a Rose is a Rose
Roses have symbolized love, royalty, beauty, secrecy, and mysticism through the ages. Join us for a presentation by Club Member Dawn Ireland-Monsees about the history of roses and how to cultivate them in your gardens. Stay after the program for refreshments and sit in on the Club's business meeting to learn more about what we do as a volunteer organization. Please register to let us know you're coming: https://bit.ly/june2025roses
First Presbyterian Church
7 Clay Street, Le Roy

Fri., June 13
11am Registration
Noon Lunch, 1pm Start
5:45pm Dinner/Awards
Golf Tournament Benefit
for Jake Hall, who suffered a traumatic brain injury.
$95 per golfer, $30 dinner only.
Caledonia Country Club
smullin9761@gmail.com for registration or info.

Sat., June 14
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Opera on the Oatka presents "Tainted Love"
Opera on the Oatka presents "Tainted Love" on Saturday, June 14th at 6:30pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in LeRoy, NY. Admission is FREE and all are welcome!
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1 E. Main St., Le Roy

Tues., June 17
12:30pm
smartDESIGN Architecture and Habitat for Humanity golfouting
$500 per foursome
18 Holes with cart, lunch, dinner, drinks on course, prizes, games and fun. Benefits Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County NY, Inc.
mbailey@smartdesignarchitecture.com
Terry Hills Golf Course
5122 Clinton Street Rd., Batavia

Fri., July 11
6pm
Bike Parade
Kick off Oatka Fest weekend! Bring your bike, stroller, wagon—or whatever rolls—and decorate it for the parade! Helmet safety checks, and you can grab dinner and dessert from Rob's Kabobs and the Ice Cream & Chill Truck!
Le Roy Police Dept.
3 W. Main St., Le Roy

Sat. & Sun., July 12 & 13
10am - 5pm
Oatka Festival 2025
The Oatka Festival is back and better than ever, bringing a weekend full of hometown pride, family fun, and summer excitement! Kick things off with our epic parade – a community favorite! Shop from unique craft vendors with handmade treasures. Enjoy FREE kids' activities to keep the little ones entertained. Feast on delicious festival food – from carnival classics to local favorites! Live entertainment will keep the party going all weekend long.
Trigon Park, Le Roy

10am - 5pm
Jell-O Factory Marketplace & Distillery
It's ON! We will be opening the Jell-O factory up for vendors on Oatka Festival weekend July 12th and 13th. Hopefully this gives visitors another reason to come to Le Roy and the festival. We have room for 30 - 12'x12' spaces. They will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis. There will be no charge to vendors or visitors. We will be asking for a $50 deposit, but it will be returned if the space is left cleaned up.
The Historic Jell-O Factory Marketplace & Distillery
57 North Street, Le Roy

Mon., July 28
11am Sign In
Noon Start
Stafford Fire Dept. Golf Tournament
$150 per golfer (golf, lunch & dinner)
$40 dinner guest
Stafford Country Club
8873 Rt. 237, Stafford
Dinner at Fire Dept. Recreation Hall by The Red Osier Landmark. 50/50 & Basket Raffle
Contact Susan Mattice (716) 912-2086

ONGOING:

Mondays
Through June 23rd
11:15am - 2:15pm
Homeschool Group
Calling all local homeschool families with elementary age children! We will be hosting a homeschool group every Monday afternoon led by homeschooling parent Matthew Smart. Get to know other families in our community that homeschool, while playing board games from our collection! Sometimes there will be a craft available for participants to make. For any Pokemon fans, you can bring your cards to trade with other group members! No need to register, just stop into the Children's room Mondays at 11:15 AM!
Woodward Memorial Library
7 Wolcott St., Le Roy

Fridays
1 - 7pm
Friday Night Magic the Gathering
People are welcome to come (in pairs or groups) anytime during our business hours (1-7pm) and play free play. Sign up for the event through the WPN event link website. Join the event through the companion app once you're there! Additionally, people are welcome to do this any day (Mon-Sun) between 1-7pm. D&D, Pokémon, YuGiOh, or any other family friendly game play also welcomed in our game room! "Free Pack Friday" Bring a friend and play at least one round logged in through WPN and recieve one free pack per person! Contact us via call or text if you have any questions (585) 356-7579
Dio's Treasures
8 Lake St., Le Roy

MAGIC MAZE — CAKE

R	U	R	O	L	J	G	D	A	X	T	V	T	S	F
P	N	K	I	F	C	A	X	V	D	E	E	S	O	S
Q	O	L	J	H	E	C	A	X	V	V	T	E	R	P
N	L	J	H	Y	F	D	B	Y	X	L	C	R	V	Y
T	R	P	E	T	U	P	S	I	D	E	D	O	W	N
O	L	C	M	T	T	M	K	I	I	V	G	F	E	N
D	I	E	B	A	I	A	Z	P	X	D	R	K	W	H
R	U	T	N	P	R	H	E	R	Q	E	O	C	N	O
L	P	O	U	N	D	B	W	H	Y	R	J	A	I	J
G	F	D	C	A	U	Y	L	A	W	O	L	L	E	Y
X	W	V	D	O	O	F	L	E	G	N	A	B	T	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: 16 OUNCES

Angel food · Black forest · Funnel · Johnny · Layer · Marble · Patty · Piece of · Red velvet · Rice · Seed · Upside-down · Wheat · White · Yellow

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Weekly SUDOKU

					9			
3	7				2	1	6	
		6			3		8	
6	4		3					7
9	3	8			6	2		
5	1			2				
7	6		2			5		8
8			5			1	7	2
	2	5		3	7	9		6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ACRONYMS: What do the acronyms "AM" and "PM" stand for?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the Jack Russell Terrier in the sitcom "Frasier"?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which vice president went on to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007?
4. MOVIES: How many Infinity Stones are in "Avengers: Endgame"?
5. U.S. STATES: In which state would you find the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is Scotland's official national animal?
7. LITERATURE: Which cities are the settings for Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities"?
8. SCIENCE: Which two planets in our solar system have no moons?
9. HISTORY: Who was the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which branch of the U.S. military uses the recruiting slogan, "It's not just a job; it's an adventure"?

Super Crossword — MIXED-UP SINGERS

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It's a Major Award

Broadway actor John Bolton never strays far from Le Roy roots

By BEN BEAGLE
ben@bataviannews.com

He's been a Founding Father, a smooth-talking con man, a gruff and affectionate Old Man, and brought his own flourish to a famous Wizard.

Along the way, he has created roles in the original casts of Tony Award-winning Best Musicals "Monty Python's Spamalot," "Contact," and "Titanic," and starred in such Broadway hits as "Curtains," "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying," and "Anastasia."

You may have seen him playing lawyers, doctors or mysterious figures on television.

But for actor John Bolton, he never strays far from his roots in Le Roy.

"This has been like keeping one foot on solid ground in what can be a very tumultuous business," he said. "I have learned that big cities and small towns are good for each other and can and should co-exist. Although in New York city, meeting at the eagle means something very different."

And with that, the auditorium at Le Roy Junior-Senior High School erupted - much like it did many years ago when Bolton experienced his first comedic stage moment during a high school production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

The always expressive Bolton was back on stage last Sunday afternoon - though not the Memorial Auditorium stage where he first performed - to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The John Bolton Lifetime Achievement Gala, a celebration of Bolton's career as an actor, a friend, and a generous mentor to students, budding actors and the wider theater community.

The event was "a way to show John the importance he plays in the hearts of the people of Le Roy, and the continued gift he plays in the arts community," said Mildred Tomidy, his best friend since seventh grade. "We wanted to give John the recognition he so rightly deserves."

Bolton was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the producers of a Silver Knight from 2023 Le Roy Junior-Senior High School graduates Evan Williams and Nathan Yauchzee.

The Village Board declared through a proclamation that May 18, 2025, would be John Bolton Day in Le Roy and trustees Jim Bonacquisti and Bill Kettle presented Bolton with a plaque that included a key to the village.

"I'm just so grateful to be from such a beautiful town with wonderful people that were family then and are still family now," said Bolton. "Even though I haven't lived here in 40 years, it feels like home."

PROVIDED PHOTO

John Bolton appears as The Scarecrow in Le Roy Junior-Senior High School's production of "The Wiz" during his senior year.

Giving back

A prominent theme of Bolton's career has been as much what he does off stage as on.

Jacqueline McLean, a music teacher at Le Roy, noted "his willingness to give back to young performers wherever he goes and his kindness."

Those characteristics are something Holly Valentine, director of education and community engagement. Had had a front row seat for. Valentine and Bolton first met as camp counselors in high school.

"John's impact in Le Roy is clear, but that impact reaches far greater distances," Valentine said. "He inspires everyone around him, and in particular the next generation of performers."

Bolton has worked with Valentine for about 10 years with BBTL's "Stars of Tomorrow" program. He was in town this week as a judge for the "Stars of Tomorrow NYC Bound" competition, which chose two high school students from the Greater Rochester area to compete at the National High School Musical Theater Awards in New York City.

"It is incredible to be able to watch his work as he mentors so many students with immense generosity, truth, kindness and love. He often gets just 10 minutes with each student, but every single year, these students state those 10 minutes were the absolute best part of the process," Valentine said.

"His infectious energy sets everyone around him at ease. In the case of these young performers, he is able to find ways to help them be honest – telling their story truthfully, in their own way, without trying to mimic others," she said. "And, in fact, he deeply does want to know each of their stories ... He reinforces their uniqueness, celebrates that, and gives them incredible confidence."

PROVIDED PHOTO

The cast of Le Roy Junior-Senior High School's 1980 musical production "The Wiz," which included future Broadway actor John Bolton as The Scarecrow.

Bolton's beginning

Bolton, a native of Brighton, moved to Le Roy when he was around 10 or 11 years old. He acknowledged that he wasn't happy about moving here at first.

"I loved our schools at Brighton. I loved the diversity. I loved the arts. And I came here grudgingly," he recalled.

But he soon fell in love with Le Roy after discovering its own arts program and has remained ever since.

Though, his own story as an actor got off to an unpromising start. He auditioned for his first role at Le Roy as a seventh-grader and failed to land a part.

"I was teeny-tiny, my voice hadn't changed. I was really uncomfortable and awkward, but I thought I would try," Bolton recalled Sunday in an interview with The Daily News.

Beth Ann Hooker, then Beth Ann Lambein, was directing one of her first shows at Le Roy. She let Bolton down easy.

"Beth Ann was really kind about it," Bolton said. "I remember her vividly in the music room, putting a hand on my shoulder saying, 'Not this time. I'm sorry. But please, please, please, promise me you'll try again.'"

Hooker said with more experience as a director she "would've found a way to include John," but at the time "his voice just didn't fit in with the crap-shooting guys."

Bolton finally landed a chorus role in "Godspell" as a ninth-grader.

"I just wanted to be a part of it; I didn't need to be a star or anything like that. I just wanted to help on stage or be part of the teamwork," he said. "Godspell is the best team sport there is."

He later had his first big comedic moment in a school production of "Fiddler on the Roof." While playing oversized cymbals an angry Tevye threw a pillow in Bolton's direction. Bolton caught the pillow with the cymbals and never let go.

By his junior year, Bolton was landing bigger roles and for his senior year he wanted to do "The Wiz." Hooker was also a fan of the show, but didn't think she would be able to cast it in Le Roy. "The Wiz" is Broadway's reimagining of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and featured an all African American cast.

Bolton was insistent and "eventually he wore me down," Hooker said.

Then, as auditions neared the end there was another problem: four guys wanted to be the scarecrow. The deciding factor would come down to a fall test as the scarecrow is clumsy.

"And John fell to the floor as if there was not a bone in his body," said Hooker.

Bolton would also help co-design the set and contribute choreography.

Hooker said she saw the production ignite a passion in Bolton. Though her student was not so sure. It would still be several years before he saw himself as an actor.

"No one from my school had ever done it, so no one ever said do you want to do this?" Bolton said.

'A toe in the water ...'

Bolton went to St. John Fisher College and studied journalism.

Theater, though, was never far away. Bolton worked with people in Batavia, including Batavia Players, Batavia Rotary and what was then the Genesee Arts Council. In Rochester he was involved with shows in Pittsford, Brighton, Blackfriars Theater and Greece, among authors. He was directing and doing choreography. He was working with high school shows and returned to Le Roy for two productions, including an original show that he wrote.

Then he auditioned "for a summer stock thing in New York City," he recalled.

"And that led to working with the director that hired me for something else, and that led to another director, who led me to a choreographer, who hired me for that," said Bolton. "I had a toe in the water, then a foot in the water, an ankle in the water, a knee in the water and all of a sudden its 40 years later."

There would be a Broadway debut in "Damn Yankees" with Jerry Lewis.

"I knew I was really proud to make my Broadway debut," he said. "When people say 'Oh, you're an actor. Have you been on Broadway?' If you say 'No.' They kind of just go 'Oh.' But when you say 'Broadway.' They all go 'Oooo.' It's like getting your doctorate in a weird way. It legitimizes you in a small way. At least it did to me. I was thrilled."

The roles have continued in major productions and countless touring productions, most recently "Wicked" where he played The Wizard. He's made frequent appearances at Geva Theatre in such shows as "1776" and "The Music Man." His appearances in stage productions across the country and returns next month to St. Louis where he will appear in "Come From Away" at The Muny.

Bolton has had recurring roles on television in "Gossip Girl," "The Good Wife," "The Blacklist," and "Blue Bloods." He played a mysterious stranger in an episode of "Evil."

But ask Bolton when he knew he had made it, and the ever-humble actor defers.

"How did I do it? I still don't know," he said. "But blind enthusiasm for it all, I suppose, has something to do with it."

'A gift for my soul'

At 6 feet, 4 inches, Bolton is a commanding presence on stage. He is also animated, reviews - such as those that accompanied his work in "A Christmas Story: The Musical" — have often compared his physical comedy to such legends as Dick Van Dyke or Ray Bolger, who played the scarecrow in MGM's "The Wizard of Oz."

Hooker saw it from the beginning. She may not have cast him in those first two high school shows — "I think because he didn't know who he was yet at the time," she said - but what she did see was this: "He knew he loved theater. He had such fun."

Bolton still has fun and still remembers his roots.

He took several minutes Sunday at the end of his gala speech to share dozens of memories from his youth - some a bit more adventurous than would be allowed today. He also reunited onstage with the cast of "The Wiz."

Old friends hugged, laughed and joked like it was 1980 again. Bolton even shared the affectionate nickname that Tomidy, his best friend, wrote in their seventh-grade yearbook.

"I am beyond honored and touched by all this. Gobsmacked really," Bolton said in an email a few days before Sunday's event. "I have such fond, happy memories of my Le Roy days. I'm so grateful to have been able to grow up in such a wonderful, beautiful town and to learn all from all the incredibly generous theater folks in both Le Roy and Batavia. To see the arts thriving at my alma mater and to be remembered by longtime - and new - friends all these years later is a gift for my heart and soul I never saw coming."

And as he looks back, he dares to think that maybe if he hadn't found Le Roy he might not have found Broadway.

"I'm not sure I would have found it had I not been in a smaller school district where maybe it wasn't as competitive as a larger school district. It was competitive in that there were many talented people here, but there were certainly a lot fewer of them so it made getting into shows or get onto sports teams easier than at a larger school district where there were graduating classes of 300 and 400; now we were a third of that. So I think it just allow me to have more opportunities in a small district," Bolton said.

"There's not always funding for these activities, but coming from Le Roy where there is funding for these activities and appreciation for these activities, I think, was a definite asset. It was a small school that believes in arts and sports, not just sports, and I was able to take advantage," he said before departing the high school for a private reception. "I'm not sure I was conscious of actually trying to make something work, but I was able to take advantage of what the school was offering. With hindsight now I'm like the older I get, the more grateful I am and I cannot believe that this happened. I'm just flattered and honored. And if I talk anymore I'll tear up."

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Athletics Win in Dominant Fashion Against the Twins

By COACH RICH SIBLEY

The A's move to 5-6 on the season with a 14-3 victory over the Twins. The Twins would open the game with a run in the 1st after Connar Hanley singled and stole the next 3 bases on 3 consecutive pitches. They would add another in the second after Trent Alford doubled and came around to score on a wild pitch. They wouldn't score again until the 6th inning after Connar doubled to left center and came around to score on a wild pitch after stealing 3rd. The A's would score 2 in the first after Chris Costa singled, Ben Biracree would bring him in with a double. Ben came around to score with a sacrifice from Austin Branton. The A's would add 3 more in the 2nd after walks to Axel Pridmore, Aiden Costa and Carter Branton. Axel scored on a wild pitch and Chris Costa would clear the bases with a single to right field. The A's added 3 more in the 3rd after hits by Andrew Sibley, Austin and Dominic DeJesus. The scoring continued with 4 more in the 4th. After a walk to Aiden Costa, big brother Chris would bring him in with another single. Ben would work a walk, and Andrew Sibley would knock them in with a single to left. Andrew would come around to score after Austin doubled to left field. They would add 2 in the 5th after Kyler Farmer worked a walk and came around to score on a single from Everett Torrey. Everett would score after Carter Branton notched his first hit of the season! Ben Biracree would have a solid outing on the mound giving up 2 runs and striking out 14. Pitching for the twins was Trent Alford, Josh Tenney, Connar Hanley and Jason Rapone

PHOTO BY DANIELLE WOJTASZCZYK

Pictured is Athletics player Kyler Farmer, who scored a run in the game.

Tiger's Beat A's After Back-and-Forth Game

By COACH RIC VANGALIO

The Tigers and A's squared off in a back-and-forth game that had multiple lead changes.

The A's got on the board in the bottom of the first inning when Andrew Sibley and Austin Branton both scored.

The Tigers tied the game in the top of the second thanks to a single by Bryce Breemes, scoring Sonny Paladino. Easton Fox score later in the inning as well.

In the bottom of the third, the A's broke up the tie when Ben Biracree singled, scoring Chris Costa and Carmello Condidorio.

The Tigers would tie the game 5-5 in the top of the fifth with a single by Addy Stella, scoring Jaiden Biletskiy.

In the top of the sixth inning, Tigers went back into the lead after Sonny Paladino singled to right field, scoring Drew Spink.

Addy Stella started on the mound for Tigers. Stella allowed two hits and five runs (one earned) over three and one-third innings, striking out six and walking six. Drew Spink tossed two and two-thirds innings of no-run ball for the Tigers in relief, allowing one hit, striking out five, and walking none.

Leading the Tigers in hitting was Xander Parker with two hits. Addy Stella, Drew Spink, Sonny Paladino, Easton Fox, Bryce Breemes, and Jaiden Biletskiy also got hits. Farrah Fox and Dylan Vogt also got on base for the Tigers.

Andrew Sibley started the game for the A's. The pitcher allowed six hits and five runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out seven and walking two.

Austin Branton pitched in relief for the A's. Branton pitched one inning, giving up two hits, two runs (zero earned), striking out two and walking one.

Ben Biracree led the A's by going 2-for-3 at the plate. Andrew Sibley also had a hit for the A's. Chris Costa, Dominic DeJesus, Axel Pridmore, Carter Branton, and Carmello Condidorio also got on base for the A's.

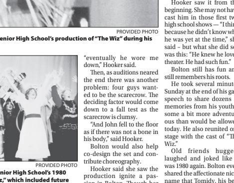

PHOTO BY DANIELLE WOJTASZCZYK

Pictured is Tigers player Bryce Breemes, who hit a single that scored a runner during the game.

Yankees Capture Another Impressive Win Against Orioles

By COACH RYAN MCCLURG

Carter McClurg struck out 12 batters as the righty led Yankees past Orioles 9-3 on Wednesday at Little League Field . Carter gave up one hit and three runs over four and two-thirds innings while walking five.

Yankees got on the board in the bottom of the second inning after Cam Barnhardt grounded out, scoring one run, and Eli Kemp doubled, scoring two runs.

Yankees added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Carter McClurg tripled down the left field line, and Cam Barnhardt walked, each scoring one run.

Logan Garner started the game for Orioles. The pitcher surrendered two hits and three runs over two innings, striking out one and walking three. Brody Wilson pitched one and one-third innings of scoreless ball for Yankees in relief. The right-handed pitcher allowed one hit, striking out two and walking none.

Zack Garner and Ameaus Largeroy each collected one hit for Orioles. Zack and Ameaus each drove in one run for Orioles.

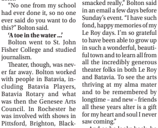

PHOTO BY DANIELLE WOJTASZCZYK

Pictured is Yankees player Eli Kemp, who hit a double that scored two runs for the Yankees.

Re-Elect Legislator Stein for responsible government
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Paid for by Rochelle Stein

Le Roy Little League Night with the Muckdogs

By JAYME QUTERMOUS

Join Us on Saturday, May 31st for Le Roy Little a league night at the Batavia Muckdogs Opening Day! Starting at 6:30 PM vs the Elmira Pioneers at Dwyer Stadium. Doors open at 5:30 PM. All players receive FREE tickets and friends/families are $8.00 ($3.00 Savings). There will also be FREE post-game fireworks!

Players will be able to play catch on the field wine run out during warmups before the game as well. (Be at the 3rd base line by 6pm).

All tickets will be left at the will call window at the stadium and can be picked up prior to the game or day of game. OFFER EXPIRES 5/30 and NOT VALID DAY OF GAME. Register for your tickets here or use the QR code: https://can-usasports.formstack.com/forms/leroyll

Questions? Call the Muckdogs at 585-524-2260.

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LE ROY SPORTS INSIDER

Le Roy Varsity Baseball Advances to Sectional Semi-Finals After Close Game Against Haverling

By COACH KOUKIDES
& THE LEROY SPORTS BOOSTERS

Varsity Baseball faced Haverling in the Quarterfinal round of Sectionals. The teams played at Churchville-Chili HS. It's win or go home time, and your Knights have advanced to the Semis.

Final Score:
Le Roy 3 — Haverling 1

Recap from Coach Koukides:

Alex Spezzano went the distance on the mound tonight, striking out 7 and allowing only 2 hits to earn the victory.

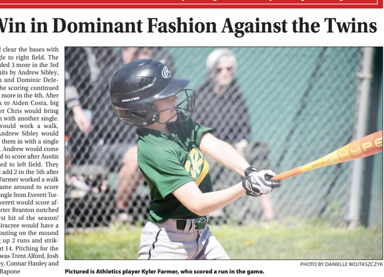
Great defense was played behind his solid pitching performance with Jude Sherman making an ESPN play of the day catch in left field in the 4th inning.

Adam Woodworth got on base twice and scored 2 runs

Jake Higgins had an RBI single and scored a run

Holden Sullivan (RBI)

Jude Christ and Jagger Smith both chipped in with a hit.



PHOTOS BY LESLIE HIGGINS

PHOTO BY LESLIE HIGGINS

PHOTO BY LESLIE HIGGINS

Le Roy Varsity Softball Season Concludes in Semifinals

By COACH BATTAGLIA
& THE LEROY SPORTS BOOSTERS

Varsity Softball traveled down to face Wellsville in Sectional Semifinals on Wednesday. Not the outcome they wanted, but if you're going to go out swinging, it should be against the reigning State Champion.

And having your Pitcher reach a huge milestone in the process isn't a bad way to end it.

Final Score: Le Roy 0 — Wellsville 7

Recap from Coach Battaglia:

Le Roy Softball had their season end tonight with a tough loss to Wellsville.

The Knights played the defending state champs tough, trailing only 1-0 going into the of the 5th, but Wellsville broke through for 5 runs enroute to a 7-0 win.

Sophomore Bryar Biracree struck out 7 batters to finish the season at 200 strikeouts.

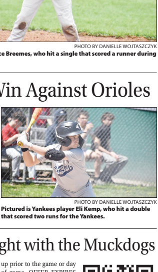
The Knights finish the season with a 14-7 record.

Congratulations to Bryar on reaching 200k! And as a Sophomore!

This young team is going to do some great things!

Thank you again to our Senior Knights Sierra and Ashlyn!

PHOTO BY DANA RESCHKE



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