Today 83°/64° Sunday 76°/66° Monday 75°/60° Tuesday 60°/56°
Wednesday 80°/63° Thursday 83°/66° Friday 81°/66°

Inside this week:

Muckdogs Win West!

Late rally sends Batavia to the PGCBL Championship Series.

Sports, B1

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

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Volume 2, No. 40 | www.thedailynewsonline.com/leroyweekendgazette | Saturday, August 1st, 2026 / FREE



MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

In a nod to the semiquincentennial nine marchers wearing tricorn hats march in the 2026 Oatka Festival parade on July 18 in Le Roy. Sam Zerillo carries a 13-star, 13-stripe American flag and Caleb Cone, to his left, plays a wooden drum representative of the Revolutionary War era. Inside each of the hats is the name of a Revolutionary War veterans buried in Le Roy.

Spirit of '76

Marchers honor Le Roy's Revolutionary War veterans

By BEN BEAGLE
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LE ROY — Nine young men in tricorn hats marched in a single line across Main Street near the beginning the Oatka Festival parade.

One marched with a rifle. The center one carried a 13-star, 13-stripe hand-sewn flag. To his left, a drummer banged a rhythm on the wooden instrument, while another held the drum in position as they marched.

Left. Right. Left.

Unknown to many of the thousands of parade watchers lining both sides of the street, each of these "soldiers" had enlisted for this duty — even signing a replica enlistment paper. Inside their hats, a wide-brimmed felt hat with the sides folded or "cocked" up in three places to form a triangle resembling those commonly worn by soldiers and civilians during the Revolutionary War, was the name of a veteran from the war who is buried in a cemetery in Le Roy. In several cases, the veteran was around the same age as the marcher at the time of the revolution.

"It really put me in the perspective of the people who fought for our country," said Caleb Cone, a rising senior at Le Roy Junior-Senior High School, who played the wooden drum.

Caleb, whose hat had the name of 25-year-old Israel Herrick, also represented drummer Edmund Beach, who was 16 when he enlisted in the Connecticut Militia two weeks before the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Beach would experience some of the bloodiest fighting of the Revolution.

The hats, display and behind-the-scenes details were an acknowledgement of America's semiquincentennial, or the 250th anniversary of America's declaration of independence from Great Britain.

About a dozen young men, most members of the Le Roy Junior-Senior High School Marching Band, marched in memory of a veteran of the Revolution, said municipal historian Lynne Belluscio.

"We wanted to make a connection because of the 250th," said Belluscio. "But in addition to being the name of a soldier in 1776, it was also about the years. We didn't expect them to know who the soldier was, but we wanted them to know that they were also young men who fought. It was a name, but it was also about the years of the name."

Parker Nordhausen, 17, a rising senior, carried a rifle as he marched in honor of veteran Jeremiah Haseall, 25. Parker said it was "pretty cool" to walk the parade route representing someone who helped forge a new country.

"The weight they had on their shoulders to fight for this country so that we still have freedom today is honestly really cool," Parker said. "That I was able to do a little bit of that by walking through the parade was a cool experience."

Sam Zerillo, editor of the Le Roy Weekend Gazette, carried the flag in the parade. He marched in memory of John Ganson, Le Roy's first pioneer settler. Ganson was 25 when he fought at Lexington and Concord. Ganson had a finger shot off at the Battle of Bunker Hill near Boston. He was 47 years old when he arrived in Western New York with his two sons in 1897. He built an inn and tavern and welcomed travelers and settlers to what was known as the Ganson Settlement.

The flag that Zerillo carried had been sewn earlier in the spring by Linda Keister, Susan Privitera, Mary Jo Elmore, Lee DeFazio, Shelley Stein, Tasha Sunderland, Melissa Zschoche, and Belluscio.

Wyatt Whipple, 14, a freshman, thought the nature of this year's parade was "very significant."

"I was representing people, not just myself," said Wyatt, who portrayed John Thwing, a 20-year-old rifleman.

Wyatt was, he said, "representing blood lines that fought in the war."

Thwing was born on July 11, 1856, in Mendon, Mass. He enlisted in a Minute Company under Captain Robert Oliver and served from 1775 until 1777.

"It was actually really cool knowing that I represented someone from way back then," Whipple said.

Thwing's name, along with Ganson and Beach, will be included in a Pomeroy Foundation Patriots marker in Macphelah Cemetery later this summer. Two other Patriot's markers are also scheduled to be installed this summer: one at the Buell Cemetery on East Main Road, and another at Myrtle Street Cemetery.

Alec Bartz, 15, a sophomore, said it was an honor to wear a hat with a soldier's name in it. Alec's hat had the name of Hugh Murphy, who was 16 years old.

"It was definitely a little weird to think about it, Hugh being just a little bit older," Alec said. "If I was in a war at my age I think it would have been really scary."

Murphy was born in Ireland in 1760. He was drafted into the British Army and served out his draft, but after serving his time, he came to America and joined the Continental Army and fought against the British at Bunker Hill. When he died in 1826, he was buried in the Episcopal cemetery on Church Street. His stone stands in a clump of willow trees.

Other Le Roy Central School students who were "enlisted" to march in the Oatka Festival parade included Mason Miller, Wyatt Calcote, Jackson Caen, Jace Bartz, Robert Dunn and Aidan Thompson. Among those for whom they marched in memory of were Asa Beull, Nathan Welden, Teunis Smith, Patrick Taggart, Issac Bishop, James Waterman, and Isaac Walker.

Mason, 17, a rising senior, wore a hat with the name of Teunis Smith inside. Smith was 16 years old when he fought in the war.

A vintage drum

Caleb, a member of the drum line in the Le Roy Marching Knights, would

See SPIRIT of '76 A2

ONLINE EXTRA

To view interviews with the marchers and other videos from the Oatka Festival visit our TikTok channel @glowmedia or our Instagram page, @batavia_daily_news.

Red Osier Drops Lawsuit Against Sunny's

Both restaurants stand by their positions

By SOL HAUSER
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BATAVIA — The Red Osier Landmark Restaurant in Stafford on Thursday dropped a lawsuit in which it had accused Sunny's Restaurant in Batavia and two former employees of stealing its secret recipes.

The lawsuit, filed in Genesee County Supreme Court in February, accused Sunny's owner DJ Snyder and employees Nicole Granata and Justin Newmark of stealing secret recipes when Granata and Newmark left their previous jobs at the Red Osier.

On Thursday, the parties filed a motion agreeing to close the lawsuit. There will be no out-of-court settlement, Sunny's lawyer Ted Graney said Friday.

The case comes after several months of discovery, including an April 29 agreement to exchange unspecified "confidential information" for fact-finding purposes.

Graney said the Red Osier's attorney, John Refermat, called him earlier this month seeking "some kind of graceful exit out of the case."

"I told him that Sunny's didn't do anything wrong, they've got no proof to back up any of their claims and they just need to dismiss; they should just discontinue the case," Graney said. "This is what came of it. A few weeks later, they discontinued."

In a statement released by Graney Friday, Sunny's declared that the outcome was a victory.

"Sunny's stood up to defend itself in court against these baseless claims, produced evidence in the discovery process refuting these claims and ultimately made a motion to dismiss the lawsuit," Graney wrote. "Red Osier never provided any evidence to back up their allegations and never submitted anything in opposition to Sunny's motion. As the date drew near for Red Osier to come to court and stand before a judge and support their claims, they dropped case. This is 100% a victory for Sunny's."

In a lengthy post to its Facebook page Thursday, the Red Osier reiterated its complaints, stating that Granata and Newmark had "abruptly walked off the job" — an assertion the former employees contested in earlier court filings — and that Sunny's menu included more than 25 "of our dishes," calling it "at the very least, remarkably coincidental."

"Upon learning of this, the first thing we did was reach out to the other restaurant, in a good-faith effort to understand what had occurred," the Facebook post reads. "After those overtures did not receive productive responses, we availed ourselves of our legal rights, in part to safeguard our recipes and brand, and also because litigation requires, through the discovery process, fact disclosures. We immediately set to work on that. To date, we are satisfied — through fact discovery

See LAWSUIT A2



MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

The Red Osier Landmark Restaurant Food Truck serves customers at the Genesee County Fair. The restaurant's owners have dropped their lawsuit against Sunny's.

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Looking Back with Lynne

The Triangle Tract

The Triangle Tract Historical Society has published a new brochure which includes information about nine museums that are within the Triangle tract. In Hamlin is the North Star School House and History Center. The Clarkson Academy and Schoolhouse is located on West Ridge Road and was built in 1854. In Brockport there is the Brockport Museum and Library located on State Street which was the former home of William Seymour, a prominent citizen of Brockport. Also in Brockport is the Morgan Manning House, on Main Street which was built in 1857 and suffered a horrendous fire last year. It presently is undergoing restoration. The Sweden Farmer's Museum is located at 4988 Lake Road in Brockport and has a barn and a farmhouse which are open to the public. Also listed in the brochure is the Brockport Community Museum which is described as a "Museum Without Walls" with no physical site although it has exhibit cases with artifacts. The Bergen Museum of Local History is located behind the Bergen Library and consists of the 1880 Harford House Barn and Livery. It was originally a two story school house built in 1843. The brochure also includes the Jell-O Gallery and [...] Woodward Library, the Town Hall, the Bank of Castile, the LeRoy House, the Jell-O Gallery, and on the door of the LeRoy Historian's office in the Village Hall, and at Basement to Attic Antiques on Lake Street.

The history of the Triangle Tract begins after the Revolutionary War, when land in Western New York was being divided up by land speculators. It's a complicated story and involves a lot of people whose names remain on maps of Western New York – Mt. Morris, Pultneyville, Gorham, Phelps, Churchville, Ogden, Craigie, and LeRoy. It also should be mentioned that all of the land originally belonged to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy – the indigenous six Iroquois tribes who had lived on the land for generations.

After the American Revolution, the desire for land changed the map of Western New York. Strange as it may be, the State of Massachusetts claimed Western New York as an extension of their western border under land agreements made in the 1600s. New York cited similar agreements. As a result, a convention was held in Hartford, Connecticut on December 16, 1786, to settle the matter. Massachusetts agreed that [...] Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for $1,000,000. Oliver Phelps met with the Indians three months later, on July 8, 1788, at the First Treaty of Buffalo Creek. The Indians agreed to sell 26,000,000 acres in exchange for about $5000, but they refused to sell any land west of the Genesee River on the contention that the Great Spirit told them that the river was the natural border between the Indian and the white man. Never the less, Phelps persisted and convinced them to give up land on the west side of the river and in return he promised to build a grist mill for their use. The tract on the west side of the river was 12 miles wide and extended all the way to Lake Ontario. It was called the Mill Yard Tract and a portion was used by Ebanezer Allen to build a small grist mill. Phelps and Gorham had financial difficulties and their rights to the land west of the Genesee were sold to Robert Morris in 1791.

When the Mill Tract was first surveyed by Hugh Maxwell, a mistake was made. Some historians believe the mistake, which took 87,000 acres of land from the Indians, was on purpose. (Maxwell's field notes were kept in the family for several generations. A few years ago, they were published by the Geneva Historical Society, and they offer some answers and some questions about the surveying mistake that created the Triangle Tract.) Maxwell's survey was taken from the Genesee River at Avon instead of the mouth of the Genesee River on Lake Ontario. As a result, the Mill Tract included 87,000 acres of land which rightfully belonged to the Senecas. Later when the Mill Tract was resurveyed by Judge Porter, a triangular "correction" was made creating the Triangle Tract. On January 11, 1793, the Triangle Tract was sold to Herman LeRoy and his business partner, John McEvers. All of the land transactions [...]



MAP PROVIDED BY LYNNE BELLUSCIO

Red Jacket, Cornplanter, and Handsome Lake. The Seneca relinquished almost all of the land west of the Genesee River.

In 1801, a road from LeRoy to Lake Ontario was surveyed. Mr. Deemling, who helped lay out the road in 1801 was later interviewed and his remembrances were publihsed in the LeRoy Gazette. In 1969, the LeRoy Historical Society reprinted Deemling's account in their annual report. "I want to say that I was one of the six men who opened Lake Road in 1801 -- Stoddard gathered a group of men for his surveying team and on the last day of August they assembled at the tavern in LeRoy. Stoddard treated all hands to a drink. It was recorded: "Nearly all the settlers came to see us off. Three of the men had wives. They came to bid their husbands good-bye, hardly expecting them to return from the 'black north,' as the northern country was then known by that name." The narrator goes on to explain why the Lake Road going north from LeRoy was so crooked: "Just as I shouldered my ax and all were ready to start, Stoddard cried out, 'hold on boys, you must take another drink before you go to keep your courage up and drive away [...] ed that we had better take an observation through the bottom of the bottle in order that we might keep our bearings. Of course, no one objected. The Captain would set up his compass and we would work away until someone would sing out 'Cap, the way we are going, we shall find ourselves at the mouth of the Genesee River." Deemling's account follows he surveying team's trip all the way to Lake Ontario, with stories of wolves, geese, and tall tales. "Mr. Fletcher explained that the water on the lake was soft on the south side and hard on the northern Canadian side. I have no reason to doubt his word as he is a Methodist minister and a reliable man." Having blazed a trail to the lake, the men head back home. "The next morning we turned our faces toward the south – well filled with fish, fowl, and venison and slightly moistened with Tanglefoot, which now owing to its scarcity we were obliged to use sparingly – no tavern every other mile then. We made for what is now Bergen Corners. You will see that the road from the creek to the ridge is not as crooked as south of the creek to LeRoy. The reason is that the bottles through which we took the observations were nearly empty. Consequently, [...] home is more than I know."

Once the land was surveyed, settlers could come and purchase property. The early land office for the Triangle Tract was built on the site of the LeRoy House. Nothing is known about the building, but examination of the foundation of LeRoy House indicates that a smaller brick building was on the west side. When Jacob LeRoy arrived in 1822, he enlarged the building for his residence and the land office was located west, perhaps to the corner of Church Street. There is mention that the back of the old Kellogg house on the corner of Church Street and East Main Street was the land office. The Kellogg house was damaged by a fire and was demolished. The site is now the parking lot for St. Mark's Church. Land transactions were recorded in large "Indenture" books. The first two books are at the County Historians office in Batavia. The third indenture book is displayed on Jacob LeRoy's desk in the LeRoy House. Also on exhibit is 19th century surveying equipment and a complete length of surveying chain used to measure land in "chains and links." These chains were often called "the devil's guts." Recorded deeds [...]

Le Roy Rotary Volunteers Fire Up Fundraising

By JIM ELLISON
Past President of the LeRoy Rotary Club

Our Hot Dog stand was a big success at the Oatka Festival, with Larry Boylan manning the grill for the 36th year. This year, Larry had a perfect grilling day with no sacrificial hot dogs hitting [...]

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Previous question - *"What's your favorite aspect of the Oatka Festival?"*

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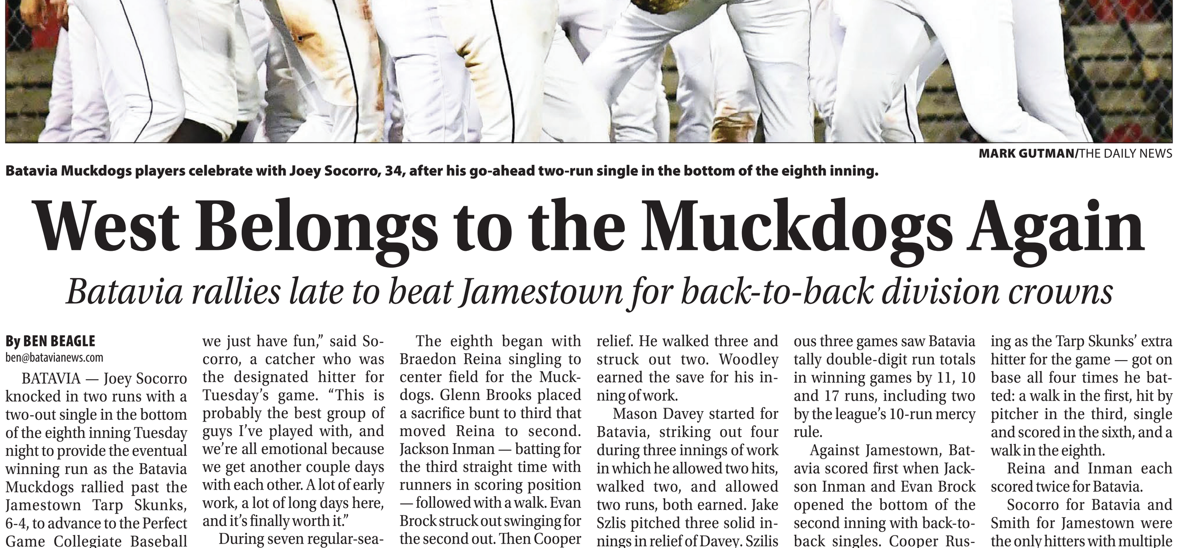
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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1. GAMES: What is the goal space in the board game Candy Land?
2. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries and territories border Spain?
3. TELEVISION: What are Captain Picard's two favorite catchphrases in "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What is brioche?
5. CHEMISTRY: Which metal has the highest melting point?
6. LITERATURE: Who is credited as the author of "The Odyssey"?
7. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Acadia National Park?
8. MOVIES: What is the name of Dottie's team in "A League of Their Own"?
9. COMICS: Who is the archenemy of the Fantastic Four?
10. SCIENCE: What is the thickest layer of Earth?

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LWG SPORTS INSIDER



MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

Batavia Muckdogs players celebrate with Joey Socorro, 34, after his go-ahead two-run single in the bottom of the eighth inning.

West Belongs to the Muckdogs Again

Batavia rallies late to beat Jamestown for back-to-back division crowns

By BEN BEAGLE
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BATAVIA — Joey Socorro knocked in two runs with a two-out single in the bottom of the eighth inning Tuesday night to provide the eventual winning run as the Batavia Muckdogs rallied past the Jamestown Tarp Skunks, 6-4, to advance to the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League Championship Series.

Socorro's hit gave the Muckdogs breathing room [...] we just have fun," said Socorro, a catcher who was the designated hitter for Tuesday's game. "This is probably the best group of guys I've played with, and we're all emotional because we get another couple days with each other. A lot of early work, a lot of long days here, and it's finally worth it."

During seven regular-season games, Batavia and Jamestown combined for 111 runs, or nearly 16 runs per game. Tuesday night's [...]

The eighth began with Braedon Reina singling to center field for the Muckdogs. Glenn Brooks placed a sacrifice bunt to third that moved Reina to second. Jackson Inman — batting for the third straight time with runners in scoring position — followed with a walk. Evan Brock struck out swinging for the second out. Then Cooper Russell singled with a hit that ricocheted off the pitcher's heel and behind the shortstop. Russell beat the throw [...] relief. He walked three and struck out two. Woodley earned the save for his inning of work.

Mason Davey started for Batavia, striking out four during three innings of work in which he allowed two hits, walked two, and allowed two runs, both earned. Jake Szlis pitched three solid innings in relief of Davey. Szlis struck out two while scattering three hits and allowing a single earned run.

For Jamestown, Jake Boy- [...] ous three games saw Batavia tally double-digit run totals in winning games by 11, 10 and 17 runs, including two by the league's 10-run mercy rule.

Against Jamestown, Batavia scored first when Jackson Inman and Evan Brock opened the bottom of the second inning with back-to-back singles. Cooper Russell followed with a fielder's choice, with Brock out at second as Inman advanced to third. Russell stole second, [...] ing as the Tarp Skunks' extra hitter for the game — got on base all four times he batted: a walk in the first, hit by pitcher in the third, single and scored in the sixth, and a walk in the eighth.

Reina and Inman each scored twice for Batavia.

Socorro for Batavia and Smith for Jamestown were the only hitters with multiple runs batted in. Both players had two.

Batavia had gone 4-2-1 against Jamestown during [...]

LWG SPORTS INSIDER

A New Era: Buffalo Begins Championship Chase

Bills open first training camp under Joe Brady

By MIKE ROSE
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PITTSFORD — The first training camp practice of the Joe Brady era commenced on Wednesday at St. John Fisher University in what the Buffalo Bills hope will be the beginning of the team reaching its Super Bowl aspirations.

Things were different than the Sean McDermott era, including an earlier start time for practice, a new-look defensive scheme under first-year defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard and a lot of new faces on the roster. For Brady, the message of this being a new era with a new way the team would approach things is something he wanted to get across to the team at the opening of camp.

"Just be myself, right. I'm not trying to be anybody, that's all I know, right? This is year one for everybody. Like I told the team, we've never been here before, right? There is no like, you know what training camp's like or we you know that you that's when you fall back into the assumption of like, okay, then you start thinking like we've always thought, right? And so, but I can't be anybody that I am not," Brady said. "I am going to act a certain way, there is standards, and there is a personality that I want us to be about. And then that's what we handle in team meetings. If I see things that is not the [...]



MIKE ROSE/THE DAILY NEWS

Josh Allen (right) talks with coaches after practice including new head coach Joe Brady (left).

[...] len said. "I'm not saying it's better, it's worse. It's different. As a new head coach for a team, I think that's a smart decision to make things different. This isn't the same place, and you have to make it feel differently because doing the same thing obviously didn't work, so you gotta change it up and find new [...] what we plan on doing when we are here at camp, and throughout the season."

Brady, who holds a unique position as a first-year head coach on a Super Bowl contender, embraced the idea of expectations.

"Yeah, I like to think that there's not a head coach in the league that buys into a [...] year's playoffs. Shavers was placed on the PUP list on Tuesday, and while his recovery has gone well, general manager Brandon Beane did indicate he would likely open the season on the PUP list.

"Yeah, I think he's doing really well," Beane said. "This guy's been in the building [...] extremely thin, it was less than ideal to see the Bills down two of their top linebackers.

"He (Bernard) was just, some things in his training. He's fine. We're just trying to ramp him up properly and make sure he's good to go. So you guys will see him over the next week or so gradually [...]

[...] injured or not, it takes time to kind of get back on the bike and get going, so I think he'll be getting his legs, getting his feel, and all that. I think we'll all continue to see him get up, get better, get into games. We'll try to hopefully keep him healthy and get some preseason action, just to get the rust off there, decide what he needs to be prepared, and hopefully he's good to go for Week 1. That's what we believe it'll be, but time will tell."

On the field, the wide receivers were as focused as they often are. DJ Moore and Keon Coleman connected with Josh Allen early on in 7-on-7s, despite an early drop from Coleman on the first play of the day. Joshua Palmer also was in the action as he looks to make an impact in his second year in Buffalo.

The league's leading rusher from a season ago, James Cook, looked sharp in his limited touches. He took one carry in 11-on-11 drills untouched for a touchdown.

The secondary and fronts continued to evolve defensively with many of the new faces rotating in throughout the day. With the scheme change this season to a 3-4, many players' roles on the defensive side are ever evolving.

"Yeah, I mean, I think some of the things is we've got some guys in slightly new positions," Beane said of the [...]