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New RTS Mircotransit Pilot Program and Pingo App Launched in Le Roy

By DANIELLE DEBLAUD
Senior Writer

Regional Transit Service (RTS) announced the launch of its new microtransit service, and accompanying app, that is going to be available in Le Roy.

RTS Link, provided by RTS Connect, is a new ondemand service that will connect customers within the Le Roy area to their nearest RTS Connect Hub.

The Hub is a convenient location, such as a gas station, where customers can meet a driver who will take them to their destination. The service is available to download on the Pingo App.

Within a Google Maps screen, a map, RTS Link will appear as an option for the service. If the ride is accepted, RTS Link will show the customer's pickup location and estimated arrival.

PHOTO CREDIT: RTS

The RTS transport van arrives at an apartment complex in Le Roy to pick up the first ever RTS Link customer.

Jeremy Evans, director of RTS, said in a recent interview with The Gazette, "RTS will drop off the customer at a virtual stop, which is a location where a van would be programmed to be no more than a five minute walk away."

Customers in Genesee, Orleans, Monroe, Wyoming and Niagara counties can use the app to request a ride. The app is available to download on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The Microtransit pilot service is free to ride during the service. If the ride is accepted, RTS Link will show the customer's pickup location and estimated arrival.

The pilot program will run for 12 months, at which point RTS Connect will launch the service's next phase. This phase will be in the Batavia area. The area would be a geographic area of 25 square miles.

"We did a pilot program with Pingo in Batavia for about two years. We learned we were further along with the technology than the transit partner, so we knew it just made sense for us to partner with RTS Connect," Evans said.

RTS CEO Miguel Velez-Miranda said in a statement that the Pingo app was chosen as the launch platform because it provides RTS regularly ask our customers for feedback on their experiences, and we're confident that this is the app they would benefit from because it's user-friendly and has the capacity to grow with the size of Microtransit in select communities.

RTS Link is Le Roy's effort to provide more transportation options.

"Launch in Oct. 11 Microtransit Service in Livingston County's Le Roy/Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration" The service was a first demonstration, with RTS Connect, to adapt RTS Connect to suit the needs of the community.

The pilot program is for Le Roy residents and visitors. In the next 12 months, it will make a determination to either end or extend the service to other areas in Livingston County.

For those in Le Roy interested in learning about the service, or the other RTS Link services, the pilot program will be launched at the Le Roy Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Residents can also visit RTS Connect's Hub at 3 Main St., Le Roy, NY.

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James Bennett plays the character of Pozzo in the upcoming Nazareth Players production of "Waiting for Godot."

Batavia Players to Wait For 'Godot'

Theater group tackling iconic absurdist play

By SAMUEL EBERLEIN
Staff Writer

Nazareth Players is coming to the Main St. St. Theatre. The Batavia Players will perform a production of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot."

The play is being directed by Jeff Hall, who has worked with actors, Vladimir and Estragon, and their conversations by a roadside as they wait for someone named Godot.

The show comes out of the director's fascination with the way Beckett plays that around with how we interact with time and how we pass the time.

"Beckett describes it as comedy. It really follows us performing the play," Hall said. "It's a series of rituals, they come to it in these and wait, even after Godot tells them not to."

To Hall, Godot, "the man who has never been seen," is a metaphor for the unknown, and people's fear of making a decision.

"There is dialogue, but it almost doesn't matter," he said.

"Throughout the play, so much of what they say supposedly supports the idea that they're going to do it and they don't. I guess I can't see, on some level, why they don't just leave. I think in practice, in general, it's the idea we are living," she continued. "We're all waiting for Godot in some of our dialogue and we're all waiting for Godot in the moment to move the absurdity of the moment forward."

Hall said the play is "an existential existence," is how Beckett described it, and that's something he wanted to explore.

While the play was written to be performed by two actors, Hall decided to perform it with four. Actors Bill Rowe and Jim Bennett will play Vladimir and Estragon, while Jeff Kowalski and Shaun Richard will portray Pozzo and Lucky, respectively.

Hall said he wanted to perform the play with four actors because he felt the play is more interesting with more than two actors.

"I've been a director for a long time, and I've been a performer for a long time, and I've never been in a show with four actors," he said. "I've always been interested in the idea of four actors."

Hall said he was also interested in the idea of Pozzo and Lucky's relationship.

"Pozzo is the one who has power, and Lucky is the one who has been so fortunate to perform for Pozzo for so many years that he's found a role in Mahi Beach McBarker's production of 'Waiting for Godot' at the Nazareth Players Theatre. Pictured, from left, are Jeff Kowalski, Shaun Richard, Bill Rowe and Jim Bennett. Photo credit: Mahi Beach McBarker

Jeff Kowalski and Shaun Richard play the two characters living at the edge of the world in Nazareth Players' production of "Waiting for Godot."

Bill Rowe and Jim Bennett play the characters Vladimir and Estragon in the upcoming production of "Waiting for Godot."

Shaun Richard and Richard Pozzo (back) play the two leading characters of Estragon and Vladimir in the Batavia Players production of "Waiting for Godot."

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A Treasure Returns Home

By KIRSTEN TILLOTSON
Staff Writer

After more than a century, the Livingston County Courthouse Bell is finally coming home to Geneseo. Originally cast in 1824 by Meneely Bell Co. in West Troy, New York, the bell was installed in the courthouse's cupola in 1825. It was replaced in 1858, when the courthouse was rebuilt, and was sold to the Livingston County Historical Society, which moved it to the Geneseo Public Library in 1966. Since then, it has been displayed on the library's front lawn.

Now, the bell is being returned to the courthouse, where it will be mounted on a base in front of the building's entrance. The bell will be rung on special occasions, such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The bell's return is the culmination of a project that began in 2021, when Legislature Chairman Jack Marks and Legislator Jim Bennett visited the library and saw the bell. Marks and Bennett thought the bell would be a great addition to the courthouse's grounds.

"We have an opportunity, as a board, to do something that's going to be here for a long time," Marks said. "We want to make sure that it's here for generations to come. We have been going through a lot of renovations at the courthouse, and it's been a real labor of love."

Marks and Bennett worked with Legislator Rebecca Chamberlain-Mack to secure funding for the project. Chamberlain-Mack said she was excited to help bring the bell back to the courthouse.

"I don't know if there's anybody here that's been in the courthouse that doesn't know about the bell," she said.

The board was asked whether it has considered moving the bell to a more visible location, such as the courthouse's front lawn. Marks said the bell will be mounted on a base that will be raised above ground level, but that it will not be moved to a more visible location.

Residents Bob Carr asked if the board had considered moving the bell to a location where it could be rung more frequently. He also asked about the investment in the bell's restoration.

"We're not preventing anybody to refurbish the cruise.

Looking Back With Lisa
Enjoying an Oyster Dinner on Halloween
By LYNNE BELLUSCIO
Contributor
Parties where they expected to eat oysters were common in the days of Negro Court. Each member of the group would bring a dish to share. Oysters were enjoyed. The occasion was usually a holiday, such as Halloween.
Oysters were plentiful and inexpensive. The youngest elementary school children could afford to buy them for a penny each. One of the iron uses in the Le Roy Foundry was to cast shovels. It was used to cast Rain Makers and Oyster Shells. Rain Makers were used to protect the oysters from their enjoyment of the rain. Oyster Shells were used to shuck oysters. Oysters are now universally scarce!
Oysters were served in many ways. Fried oysters were the most popular. Oysters were also served in stews. Oysters were confined to grand dishes. Oysters were served in the finest restaurants. Oysters were served in the finest hotels. Oysters were served in the finest homes.
Oysters were served in the finest ways