Looking Back with John Lyons

Town Hall, Le Roy, N.Y.

The Clock in the Le Roy Municipal Building

Postcard of Le Roy Village Hall before the bell was installed.

Thomas clock. (The barn was demolished many years ago. In the 1990s, the clock was in Ron Jones's wheelbarrow is unknown.) Brighton also worked for Lydia Avery Cooley who owned the huge house on the west hill in Wyoming as well as the Wadsworths in Geneseo.

Eventually the Village and the Town boards agreed on plans for the new municipal building. The building is described as "Colonial, nearly yet subdued, and one that gives the effect of the building having naturally been a part of the center which it will ornament. The proportions are splendid, with the building located among the elms and having that feel up to the sec. The building is also a storage room for voting machines and a jail. The cost was 8% of Brighton's plans for the Municipal building which are over 100 years old and are solely owned by Bob Lathan, the Villlage Commissioner of Public Works. Hopefully a copy of some of the drawings will be framed and exhibited in the Village Hall.

The plans proceeded in 1914, Cora Woodward, J.P.Samson and E.M. Pratt were appointed by Judge Mordecai, a local jewelry store to secure a 4 ft Tower Clock from the Seth Thomas Company for the tower. Eleven hundred dollars were raised by the purchase and installation of the clock. The surplus of $1130 was used to purchase a plaque for the outside of the tower and a brass plaque on the inside dedicated to Cora Woodward. The bell was cast with the words: "Clock and Bell bought by Citizens and presented to Le Roy, N.Y. 1914." The Geneseo Series, Vol. 1 Issue 1 Page 1 Le Roy Village Clock had been accepted. A committee was at the municipal building and inspected the clock and the work of the installation which was done by Albert Wheeler of Thomaston, Connecticut, who was assisted by James Burke, a local carpenter. R.T.J. Smith, the local cemetery superintendent dealer, hoisted the bell into place. The bell possesses a rich and mellow tone and sizzles generally heard in and to some measure, it. Geneseo in Batavia. Rev. Dr. Duffy at the Holland Land Office checked his files and determined that the bell was cast in the year was on Jefferson Avenue. The Genesee Clock in the Batavia bank tower clock was in Geneseo.

On July 4, 1876, to commemorate the country's centennial, a Seth Thomas Clock was installed in the 18th century in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The clock is in the tower of the Bank Building and is driven by heavy weights. But in 1926, the clock was fitted with an electronic mechanism including unit. Special tours led by the National Park Service allows visitors to see the Thomas clock. It is considered a living piece of American history, and like the clock in Le Roy, each tower clock has its own story and is an example of civic pride.

PHOTO PROVIDED: LYNNE BELLUSCO

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Today's Forecast: Today 78°/61° Sunday 80°/57° Monday 84°/60° Tuesday 86°/69° Wednesday 82°/68° Thursday 80°/66° Friday 79°/65°

Inside this week: Le Roy Little League 9-10 Le Roy All-Stars Dominate the Competition Page 16

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

Weekend Gazette

Volume 2, No. 37 www.thedailynewsonline.com/leroyweekendgazette Saturday, July 11th, 2026 / FREE

Betsy Ross Flags Fly in Le Roy

Design is one of the oldest in US

By Samuel Zerillo
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Thirteen stars, thirteen stripes.

The Betsy Ross flag is an iconic symbol of America the founding of our country and in honor of America 250, the Village of Le Roy has started hanging these flags as far as the eye can see.

Le Roy Municipal Historian Lynne Bellusco initiated the idea, with it then being facilitated through the Village Trustees and Mayor Jeremy Jacobson Ajuntamy Tim Tyler.

"Our community is an appropriate way to celebrate America's 250th, and it was an easy sell to the businesses wanted to be included," Bellusco said.

The flags themselves are made in the United States and were placed at about the village about of Fourth of July weekend.

Some of the locations Betsy Ross flags can be spotted include McDonald's, Genesee Valley Post Office, Tops, Dollar Tree, Town Hall and Petraland on Main Street, and other spots such as McPherson Orchards and Le Roy Independent Cemetery.

While the flags were set up by Bellusco and the village plan to keep them was all random, from a reminder of the country's origins and to continue the America 250 celebration.

"It was neat how this was all random, from a reminder of the country's origins and to continue the America 250 celebration.

"I'm really glad people are excited about it."

The Betsy Ross flag was one of the earliest designs of the American flag that featured a circle of thirteen stars, designed at a time following Flag Act of 1776 that set the first official flag specifications for the 13 newly United States of America.

The Flag Act specified that the flag needed thirteen stars and thirteen alternating red and white stripes, it did not specify a specific order for the stars to be arranged.

There are many different designs, such as the thirteen star circle, and the one at the Le Roy Historical Society is a part of the Betsy 250 exhibit that showcases the 250 years of American flag and the historical stars during the centuries.

The shape and design of the stars on the flag is possibly the most iconic in the country is so unique, that the Le Roy Boy Scouts Troop 9 is undertaking an finding out more on its origins.

"We don't know where this style came from because we haven't been able to find any documentation, exactly," Angara said earlier this year. "We just found this in the archives."

See FLAGS &3

Pavement Rehab Work Set For Route 19

LE ROY — A portion of Route 19 will be reduced to one lane between Le Roy and Wyoming starting Thursday.

Crews will be conducting pavement rehabilitation this week, from Exit 48 in Le Roy's southern village limit and proceed north.

Work will occur 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Completion is expected by the end of July.

Travel delays are expected, with flaggers directing traffic.

Construction activities are weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

To seek alternate routes if possible.

Construction activities are weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

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Seneca Schools, Gillibrand Announce Federal Funding For Airports Across Western New York

By Samuel Zerillo
szerillo@stonecoast.com

LE ROY — Federal funding is on its way to local airports.

It was announced on Tuesday in a press release from U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Kirsten Gillibrand that the amount of $65,692,917.00 in federal funding has been secured to be distributed to airports across upstate, including Genesee County through the GLOW regional.

The largest local allocation is going to the Le Roy Airport, with $68,000.00 being set aside for the final phase of a project aiming to rehabilitate 4,020 feet of pavement on Runway 9-27.

According to the press release, the construction is meant to "maintain the structural integrity of the pavement and to minimize foreign object debris in runway safety areas."

Also slated for the Le Roy Airport includes a new and allocation of $189,850 meant to fund the replacement of an existing rotating beacon that has "reached the end of its useful life."

MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

The Le Roy Airport was one of three GLOW region airports to receive federal funds for ongoing improvement projects.

The current Genesee County Airport in Batavia also receives federal funds, with $507,982 being given to aid the final phase of a reconstruction project

MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

Genesee County Airport is set to receive more than $500,000 in federal funding for taxiway improvements.

Tuesday, Elmira, which includes replacing lighting and signage.

Outside of Genesee County, the Perry-Warsaw Airport in Wyoming County also received a smaller grant in the amount of $49,000 to aid in a similar project that aims to meet ap

See AIRPORTS &3

36th Annual Oatka Festival
July 18th & 19th, 2026 • 10AM - 5PM
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SUNDAY: 11AM — Car Show
5PM — Duck Derby
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Flags

Fun #1

Flags

like, a month before we put it out for the rabbit, but we're still diving into what it all means.

The Betsy Ross flag specifically is a symbol of a prominent spokesliter and seamstress who is said to have designed, although modern historians often debate the accuracy of this. Regardless, the flag itself arranged the thirteen stars in a circular pattern, symbolizing the new and widespread and popular designs for the American flag and is often flown today as a symbol of early American history.

MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

A 13-star flag is shown displayed at the Le Roy Historical House.

Airports

Fun #1

90 square yards of main apron pavement.

The Le Roy airport also provides a large connection to major international airports in Western NY, with a total amount of $5,487,182 being given to Frederick Douglass/Greater Rochester International Airport for various improvement projects, and then a total amount of $17,211,796 going to Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

According to the press release, the funding was awarded the federal agencies. Regardless, the flag itself arranged the thirteen stars in circular pattern, symbolizing the new and widespread and popular designs for the American flag and is often flown today as a symbol of early American history.

MARK GUTMAN/THE DAILY NEWS

Genesee County Airport is set to receive more than $500,000 in federal funding for taxiway improvements.

or $65 million in federal funding to improve the Buffalo Niagara International Airport's airport GATE and Superior Terminal Project. Elmira Corning Regional Airport will contribute to airport and runway updates statewide, enhancing safety and operations for Cessna Citation Vectors. I will always fight to ensure our airports get the funding they need to operate at the highest standard."

"I am thrilled to announce millions more in federal funding to improve our airports, including Le Roy Airport," said Senator Gillibrand. "This new round of FY26 AIP and AIG funding will contribute to airport and runway updates statewide, enhancing safety and operations for Cessna Citation Vectors. I will always fight to ensure our airports get the funding they need to operate at the highest standard."

Obituaries

John "Zeke" Zastrocky, Jr.

Zeke Zastrocky, Jr., passed away Saturday, in Jacksonville, Florida, on June 24, 2026, at 90, honorable age of 90.

Zeke's remarkable life begins from Lyons, on through his large and deeply loved family. His parents, Zeke and Ruth children: Thomas Zastrocky, Barbara Barnes, Cheryl (Debe) Zastrocky, Donna (Jerry) Zastrocky, Ronald (Nubbe) and Ronald (Barbara) Zastrocky. He was the immensely proud grandfather of 21 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind several close nieces, nephews, and dear, lifelong friends who were instrumental in his life and support throughout his life.

Zeke was predeceased by his wife, Shirley (Lauterbach) Zastrocky, his son, Michael Zastrocky; his sisters, Stella Zastrocky, Mary Hehn, and Catherine Snyder, and three infant children.

Zeke's hometown, N.Y., to the late John and Anna Zastrocky. Zeke attended school through the eighth grade before dedicating himself to working on the family farm.

Zastrocky

Though he never pursued a corporate world — holding positions at Suburban Propane and Jell-O — Zeke's passion was his farm on the side. Family and friends recalled that his true passion belonged to his land.

Over his lifetime, Zeke was a passionate and extraordinary work ethic allowed him to expand his operations to over 2,000 acres of farmland, earning himself the highest standards and proudly instilled that same fierce work ethic into everyone who worked alongside him.

A deeply community-minded man, Zeke was a former Chief and lifetime member of the Bergen Fire Department, and a dedicated member of the Bergen Grange, the Loyal Order of Odd Fellows, the Masons, the American Legion, and the Elks Club. Even after retiring from full-time farming, Zeke refused to slow down. He maintained his active lifestyle by helping local neighbors with chores, firewood, gardening, and mastering woodworking.

Zeke's ashes will be interred at the convenience of the family.

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