Today 48°/37° | Sunday 52°/34° | Monday 64°/42° | Tuesday 72°/59° | Wednesday 64°/47° | Thursday 55°/42° | Friday 53°/38°

Inside this week:

Happy 90th B-day! Community celebrates Jane Lord, former WSS Teacher See Page A2

Le Roy NOFA Champs Mini Knights and Youth JV shine in their final games of the season See Page A6

INAUGURAL EDITION!

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

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Volume 1, No. 1 | www.thedailynewsonline.com/leroyweekendgazette | Saturday, November 2, 2024 • FREE

Le Roy Marching Knights Take 1st Place at the NYS Field Band Conference State Championship

By MATTHEW NORDHAUSEN
Le Roy Marching Knights Director

This was Le Roy's 21st appearance in the New York State Field Band Conference state championship show dating back to 1978 when we won our first state title in the Novice division. There was then a 25-year hiatus before returning to the championship show in 2003, where we have competed annually (minus 2020... thanks COVID).

In addition to winning the Novice division in 1978, we have also taken home the state title in Small School Division 3 in 2004 and 2005. We also won the state title for Small School Division 2 in 2007 and 2008, with 2008 being a first-place tie with the Mohonasen marching band.

I was one of the directors for all of those years after starting my tenure at Le Roy as an instrumental music teacher in 2002. I took over as the head director of the marching band in 2018. Since that time, we have taken 4th, 6th, 3rd, 5th, 3rd and now 1st! Since 2018, we have grown the program from 30 kids to 65, making us one of the largest bands in our Small School 3 division.

Preparations for our championship performance begins in November each year as the rest of the marching band staff and I come together to discuss and plan what our show will be and how we will bring it to life. Then during the winter months there is lots of music and drill/visual writing to create the show that we then begin practicing in late spring April/May.

During the summer, we do two weeks of camp instruction from 12-8:30 pm to teach/learn the show. Following the second camp in August, we then rehearse two nights a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 6-8:30pm and perform for home football games on select Friday nights and then compete in NYSFBC regular season competitions on Saturday evenings throughout New York State.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW NORDHAUSEN

Le Roy Marching Knights Take 1st Place at the NYS Field Band Conference State Championship

This season, we competed at shows in Corning, Auburn, West Genesee, Webster, Victor and Phoenix, taking 1st place in those later three shows leading into the championship performance on 10/27 at the JMA Wireless Dome at Syracuse University.

Our show theme this year was Houdini Unchained, which featured Applause by Lady Gaga, Equus by Eric Whitacre, Unchained Melody by the Righteous Brothers and Free Bird by Lynyrd Skynyrd. Visually, we had a couple "Houdini's" disappearing and reappearing through stage doors and false back boxes across the field throughout the show with great effect and impact.

Our students are led by senior drum major, Allison Keller and features these other amazing student leaders:

Samantha Privatera, tenor sax soloist and assistant drum major

Fernando Cacho, baritone soloist and winds sergeant

Daniel Mark, baritone soloist

Hover Boyce, front ensemble captain

Mady Emke, front ensemble captain

Jayce Panepento, battery percussion captain

Caleb Cone, battery percussion captain

Victoria Fetzer, flag, flute and rifle soloist and guard captain

Hanna Gray, woodwind section leader

Evy Sibley, social media & public relations manager

Our adult leadership includes...

Matthew Nordhausen, director

Tasha Dotts, assistant director

Art Graton, visual caption head

Maddie Miller, guard designer and caption head

Brie Farr, guard instructor

Dave Passafiume, marching & battery percussion instructor

Michael Hillman, drill designer and instructor

Kieran O'Halloran, drum major coach & marching instructor

Kevin Bleiler, front ensemble percussion instructor

And all of this and what we do would not be possible without the unending support of our school administration; Merritt Holly, superintendent; David Russell, Jr./Sr. High School principal; Carol Messura, Wolcott Street School principal, PJ Fannon, director of Buildings & Grounds and our amazing Board of Education led by president, Jacalyn Whiting.

Community Celebrates 90th Birthday of Former Wolcott Street School Teacher Jane Lord

By SAMUEL ZERILLO
Associate Editor for The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

The community of Le Roy came together to throw a surprise party for the 90th birthday of Jane Lord, a beloved former teacher who taught at Wolcott Street School for 20 years, retiring in the late 80's.

Katie and Bryan, Jane's great niece and nephew, had the idea for the surprise party. According to Bryan, Jane has been very supportive of him and Katie, as she invited the pair to move onto the family farm about seven years ago as she felt it was important to pass the farm onto the next generation of the family.

After all Jane had done for Katie and Bryan, they thought long about what they could do for her to celebrate the milestone of 90 years. One of Jane's favorite things is running into friends and former students while she is out and about, and Bryan thought it would be a good idea to try and get as many people from the community together as he could to surprise her.

Katie and Bryan made a post in the popular Facebook group among Le Roy residents, Le Roy N.Y. Then & Now, inviting all who knew her from the community to come to celebrate with them.

Originally, Bryan and Katie planned to host the party in their garage as they only expected a few people to respond, but after just a few hours of the post being up, they realized they were going to need a much larger venue for all the people who planned on coming.

The post received dozens of comments from friends and former students giving well wishes. With the party now completed, Bryan plans to print out all the comments so Jane can read and enjoy them all.

The party itself was on Sunday, October 20th at the Olive Branch Lodge 39 on Bank St, in Le Roy. Bryan and Katie were able to keep the party mostly a secret from Jane as she doesn't have any social media. Though, when Jane arrived, she claimed that she was "suspicious of a few people."

The party was attended by a very large crowd that included family, close friends, former students, neighbors, and acquaintances she made through farming. There were cupcakes, meatballs, and many kinds of dip available to eat, along with soda and homemade hard apple cider to drink. Many of the food items were sourced from Jane's farm, as well as the beautiful pumpkin and floral centerpieces that her niece Katie had made.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROGER LORD

Jane enjoying cupcakes with grand-niece Lydia.

Going around the party and speaking to guests, many had fond memories and stories of Jane that they wanted to share. Bryan and Katie shared a story about a time when she was still working for the Jello factory in town before the factory closed.

"Jane was a chemist hired by the company, and she was once tasked with designing a new red food coloring for the red flavor of Jello. At the time, there was a labor law that did not allow women to work more than four hours of overtime per week. Despite this, Jane continued to work 40-hour weeks to help come up with the new dye, and Jello would compensate her by spreading her overtime pay across later paychecks to get around the law." Bryan wanted to emphasize through this story and others that Jane was a strong and independent woman that he greatly admired.

Another attendee, Anne Marie Peca Starowitz (former Wolcott Street School teacher), had this to say about Jane: "I met Miss Lord in 1972 my first year of teaching 3rd grade at WSS. By her example and quiet nature, she made every student feel respected, challenged and loved. She was the epitome of an excellent teacher. It was a pleasure and honor to teach with her."

Another friend and fellow farmer, Roz Kramer, wanted to share that Jane is a very kind and loving person, and someone who would do anything to help the people she cares about. Roz also emphasized, too, that Jane was a very independent person, detailing a time when she threw a dinner party and realized that Jane had walked all the way to her house, and refused a ride home, despite the distance.

Speaking to Jane directly, she was very surprised by the party and was so happy to see so many people she cared about in one place. Jane attributes her long life to all the years she spent teaching children and watching them grow up. It was clear Jane loved her time teaching at Wolcott Street School, stating that she loved every one of her students, especially those that needed it most.

Le Roy Newspapers:

The Power of the Press

By LYNNE BELLUSCIO
Special to The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Le Roy's first newspaper was the *Le Roy Gazette* which began publication in May 1826. If people wanted a newspaper before that, more than likely it would have come from Canandaigua. Both the weekly *Ontario Gazette* and the *Western Repository* were published in Canandaigua in 1804. They were brought with the mail by Phineas Bates, who carried the mail between Canandaigua and Fort Niagara on horseback. The *Le Roy Gazette* was published by I. O. Balch who had worked previously in Canandaigua with the *Ontario Gazette*. Interestingly, Balch published a single sheet special edition of the *Le Roy Gazette* in July 1826 which reported the deaths of former Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who both died on July 4, 1826. The early *Gazette* was only four pages, and supposedly printed on a Washington hand press. The entire newspaper was hand set - letter by letter. Once the page was set, it was placed on the press, and inked by hand. This process can be seen at nearby Genesee Country Museum in the print shop. Jacob Le Roy placed advertisements in the early issues of the Gazette. The Gazette also included a letter that Jacob wrote to Joe VanRensselaer in New York City about mineral specimens. The responding letter confirmed that the specimens were iron pyrite, and not of a quality to be valuable. Between 1826 and 1840 the *Le Roy Gazette* had eight editors and owners. This included Henry D. Ward, Richard Hollister, Rufus Robertson, F. Goodrich, Seth Gates (noted abolitionist and politician), Martin O. Coe, and Cyrus Thompson. The *Gazette* was purchased by Charles Thompson in 1840 and he operated it until 1885. He sold it to George Marcellus and G. W. Hand. Marcellus took sole ownership of the newspaper in 1887 and owned it until April 1, 1912.

During this time, there were several other newspapers published in Le Roy and they were usually aligned with a particular political party.

1829 - The *Republican Advocate* was owned by D.C. Miller but little is known about it.

1829 - *The Genesee Republican and Herald Reform* was published by Freeman and Son and edited by Orestes Brownson. During this time, Brownson was publishing a series of letters written by Lydia Lent of Le Roy in defense of being threatened with excommunication by the Presbyterian minister, Rev. Crawford. Brownson also accused the minister if intimidation and scaring women and children. Brownson left Le Roy, and became the editor of a Catholic newspaper in Boston. His life has been chronicled in "A Pilgrim's Progress," a book by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

1831 - Henry and J.E. Freeman published the *Genesee Republic and Advocate for Liberty*

1844 - Edward Bliss published the *Le Roy Courier*. It was only in publication for one year. However, it went back into publication in 1853. It was published again between 1870 and 1900. The editor was George Howe. It was a political newspaper with stories of the Democratic political party with editor Harry House from 1900 to 1914.

1852 – *The Le Roy Democrat* was published by Henry Todd and it moved to Batavia in 1853. The name was changed to the *Batavia Democrat*.

1854 - *The Genesee Herald* was published by William C. Drummond who took the newspaper to Batavia in 1857 and where it was published by A.J. McWain until 1860.

1857 – *Le Roy Advertiser* published by Thomas B. Tufts. It was discontinued in July 1858.

1858-1890 – *The Genesee Daily Herald*

1881 – *The Le Roy Times* began publication by Frank H. Morgan, who was backed by Charles H. Morgan for 12 years. George Marcellus merged *The Le Roy Times* with the *Le Roy Gazette* on September 4, 1894

PHOTO FROM THE LE ROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

The men and boys are not identified. The photo could date from 1884 to 1894. *The Times* **was founded in 1884 and then merged with the Gazette in 1894. The boys are holding tools needed to set type**

1899 – 1911 – *The Le Roy News* was initiated by Charles Woodward in March 1899. He had recently bought the rights to Jell-O from Pearle Wait and was the owner of the Genesee Pure Food Company. Woodward was dissatisfied with the ultra-conservative *Le Roy Gazette* as well as the Village politicians. He wanted a newspaper to represent the citizens. Wilfred Brand was the editor and he was succeeded by Joe Campbell. After Woodward's death, E.M. Perkins was brought to Le Roy as the editor and served as editor until 1911. Perkins consolidated the Le Roy Gazette and the *Le Roy News*. The paper was renamed *The Le Roy Gazette News*. In 1925, a new building was built on Bank Street. It is pictured in Le Roy's 1940 Book. (The building is now the home of the Le Roy Masonic Lodge. Previous the building was a

See PRESS A3

The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

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

General Manager
HEATHER A. ZERILLO
hzerillo@batavianews.com

Managing Editor
BEN BEAGLE
bbeagle@livingstonnews.com

Associate Editor
SAMUEL ZERILLO
szerillo@batavianews.com

How to reach us
438 E. Main St., Batavia NY 14020
PHONE:
585-250-9555
E-MAIL:
gazette@batavianews.com
ADVERTISING:
sales@batavianews.com
© COPYRIGHT 2024 SMG-BATAVIA

Bringing the Heat to Local Drug Dealers

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

Got a neighbor who's acting a little too friendly with late-night visitors? Noticed some strange activity at the same spot day after day? It might be time to introduce your local drug dealer to the Le Roy Police Department.

We plan to meet them soon—and we don't need an invitation to kick down the door, just a search warrant.

We're officially assigned our officers to laser-focus on quality-of-life violations—our primary target? Drug activity. Why? Because we know the ripple effects illegal drugs have on our community: thefts, violence, addiction, and broken families. And trust us, we're not about to sit back and let that happen.

Here's how you can help:

Got a tip? Email us confidentially at info@leroypolice.org

Prefer a chat? Call 585-768-2527, ext. 2024

Want to talk face-to-face? Stop by the station anytime—we're always ready to listen.

Your tip can remain completely anonymous. All we need is a starting point, and we'll handle the rest. The message is clear: If you're dealing drugs in Le Roy, you're next on our meet-and-greet list.

With your help, we'll keep our neighborhoods safe and send a message: Drugs don't belong in Le Roy, and neither do the dealers. Let's work together to build the community we all deserve.

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
5 E. Main St., Le Roy
(585) 768-7600
fbcleroy1@gmail.com
Service time(s) not available at time of printing.

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. *We operate the Thrift Shop in the basement at this address; hours are Saturdays 10:00am - noon, and Tuesdays 10:00am - noon and 4:00 - 5:30. We accept donations (contact the church for more information).*

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.

Our Lady of Mercy & St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Family
44 Lake St., Le Roy
(585) 768-6543
ourladyofmercyleroy.org
Mass Times:
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:15am, 10:45am, 5:30pm
Weekday: 7:30am M-F; 9:00am Sat.
Mass times may change in the near future.
YouTube Livestream:
https://www.youtube.com/@ourladyofmercyleroy1890/streams

Letter *from* the Editor

Welcome to The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

By SAMUEL ZERILLO
Associate Editor for The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Welcome to the first edition of the Le Roy Weekend Gazette. My name is Samuel Zerillo, and I'm the associate editor for this newspaper. I wanted to write a short article for the first edition of this newspaper, explaining who we are and why we are doing what we are doing.

The idea for this project started years ago, when I was helping clean out my grandparents' house after they moved into The Village Green. As I was going through my Grandma Judy Brown's personal library, I came across a few editions of the Le Roy Gazette-News that she had saved from decades ago.

Beforehand, I had no idea that our town had its own newspaper, as the Gazette ceased operations about a decade before I was born. My grandmother, who was a teacher at Holy Family School for several years (and a librarian at heart), had an extensive collection of Le Roy newspapers. She saved them whenever they featured her daughter or one of her students. While we were cleaning out her library, I made sure to save a few of her copies.

Many years later, after graduating from college, I moved back home to Le Roy after living in Cleveland for three years and started working at a local college. A few months went by, and I happened to come across one of those copies of the Le Roy Gazette-News that I had saved from my grandmother's collection. I started to think about how it would be a fun project to do some research into the Gazette and find out more about the publication, and why it shut down operations. However, as I did my research, the idea of bringing a newspaper back to Le Roy became more and more of something I wanted to do, especially after the Pennysaver stopped publishing.

Now, after many months of research, hard work, and pitching ideas around, we are finally able to make this idea a reality. This was far from a project I did by myself, and there were so many people that supported my idea and helped me get to where I am now as we prepare to launch the Le Roy Weekend Gazette.

I'd personally like to thank and give credit to my mother Heather Zerillo, and my co-workers Barrett Funderburk, Jayme Quitermous, Bridget Cassidy-Almeter, Amanda Cragg, Matt Surtel, and Ben Beagle for helping me get this idea off the ground. I'd also like to say a big thank you to Lynne Belluscio, as she did so much to help support my idea of bringing a newspaper back to Le Roy, and none of this would have been possible without her.

There are so many others who deserve a thank you as well for helping bring this first edition to you all, and I appreciate everyone from the community that rallied around me and offered to help or contribute where they could. Lastly, I want to say thank you to my girlfriend Orquidia for believing in me and believing that I could get this done, I will always appreciate your support and reassurance.

The entire team and I at the Le Roy Weekend Gazette are so happy to bring you this first edition of the newspaper, and we hope to be able to provide this newspaper to the community for years to come. However, we cannot do it without continued support from the community, and we thank you for choosing our newspaper to read! Be sure to send me your events, photos and story ideas. Every single one has historical importance and should be documented!

In the future I hope to use this spot for Letters to the Editor. If anyone wants to submit a letter to the editor to be published in our newspaper, our mailing address is: 438 E. Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 or you can email me directly at szerillo@batavianews.com.

Le Roy Newspapers:

The Power of the Press

By LYNNE BELLUSCIO
Special to The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Le Roy's first newspaper was the *Le Roy Gazette* which began publication in May 1826. If people wanted a newspaper before that, more than likely it would have come from Canandaigua. Both the weekly *Ontario Gazette* and the *Western Repository* were published in Canandaigua in 1804. They were brought with the mail by Phineas Bates, who carried the mail between Canandaigua and Fort Niagara on horseback. The *Le Roy Gazette* was published by I. O. Balch who had worked previously in Canandaigua with the *Ontario Gazette*. Interestingly, Balch published a single sheet special edition of the *Le Roy Gazette* in July 1826 which reported the deaths of former Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who both died on July 4, 1826. The early *Gazette* was only four pages, and supposedly printed on a Washington hand press. The entire newspaper was hand set - letter by letter. Once the page was set, it was placed on the press, and inked by hand. This process can be seen at nearby Genesee Country Museum in the print shop. Jacob Le Roy placed advertisements in the early issues of the Gazette. The Gazette also included a letter that Jacob wrote to Joe VanRensselaer in New York City about mineral specimens. The responding letter confirmed that the specimens were iron pyrite, and not of a quality to be valuable. Between 1826 and 1840 the *Le Roy Gazette*

PHOTO FROM THE LE ROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

The men and boys are not identified. The photo could date from 1884 to 1894. *The Times* **was founded in 1884 and then merged with the Gazette in 1894. The boys are holding tools needed to set type**

See PRESS A3

STAFFORD PAINTERS
COMMERCIAL — RESIDENTIAL
Established in 1967
* Free Estimates, Fully Insured
* Residential & Commercial
* Interior & Exterior
* Painting, Staining, Pressure Washing, Masonary Work
6319 East Main Rd., Stafford, NY 14143
585.343.2390
www.staffordpainters.com

Encore 2024
Presented by TOMPKINS
Twelve Days of Christmas
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024, 5-9 PM
WILLIAM W. STUART FORUM
GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BATAVIA CAMPUS
The Genesee Community College Foundation cordially invites you to our annual gala, Encore, dedicated to supporting student scholarships. Join us for an elegant evening of fine dining and a special holiday concert choreographed by the GENESEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FOR TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:
https://gccfoundationinc.org/encore/
or call 585-345-6809
SUNY GCC FOUNDATION

Attic to Basement Estate Sale Outlet
65 Lake Street, LeRoy
(585) 301-8346
Thursday - Saturday 10-5
Sunday 10-4

Local Contests • Print & Online Ads
Unique Promotions • Event Marketing Tie-Ins
Special Section Opportunities
& Many More Ways to Grow Your Business!
Call Jayme at (585) 944-7402
or email jquitermous@batavianews.com
We are your local advertising experts!

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
5 E. Main St., Le Roy
(585) 768-7600
fbcleroy1@gmail.com
Service time(s) not available at time of printing.

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. *We operate the Thrift Shop in the basement at this address; hours are Saturdays 10:00am - noon, and Tuesdays 10:00am - noon and 4:00 - 5:30. We accept donations (contact the church for more information).*

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.

Our Lady of Mercy & St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Family
44 Lake St., Le Roy
(585) 768-6543
ourladyofmercyleroy.org
Mass Times:
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:15am, 10:45am, 5:30pm
Weekday: 7:30am M-F; 9:00am Sat.
Mass times may change in the near future.
YouTube Livestream:
https://www.youtube.com/@ourladyofmercyleroy1890/streams

I would first like to offer my congratulations on the first edition of the LeRoy Weekend Gazette. There have been many things happening in the town recently. The Town Board and Supervisor have finished the budget for 2025. I am happy to report that we are reducing the tax rate from $1.09 to $.94 per $1,000.00 of assessed value. This comes as a result in part from the reassessment that occurred in 2024.

Water district 12, (town wide water) project is now in the process of getting all the necessary approvals from various government entities. If all goes smoothly, we should be going out to bid sometime in January. Our hope is to break ground sometime this spring or summer.

Finally with election day approaching I encourage everyone to get out and vote. Exercise your franchise and have your voice heard. Healthy discourse and disagreement are a part of the democratic process. Being disagreeable or demeaning to friends, family and others is not. So please vote your conscience but make sure not to alienate friends and family in the process.

See you at the Polls!

Press

From A2

drug store and office for Dr. Bruce Baker) Avery Perkins succeeded his father and sold the newspaper to Robert Baker and Albine Mc Williams in May 1970. In 1972 the newspaper was sold to Brian Clark of Le Roy and two years later he sold the paper to Sanders Newspapers.

The *Le Roy Pennysaver* began in 1938 as a mimeographed 8-page advertising piece held together with staples. By 1942, the Pennysaver had a circulation of 2450. Eventually the Pennysaver included short news reports, obituaries, sports scores, and Little League schedules. Weegie Pratt was well known for her photographs and articles. Between 1989 and 2023, Lynne Belluscio wrote a weekly history article. The Pennysaver closed at the end of 2023.

Most of Le Roy's newspapers are on microfilm and can be accessed at the Le Roy Historical Society. The Historical Society also has bound copies of the Le Roy Gazette. The New York State Library provides access to newspapers in electronic format. nysl.mysed.gov.

PHOTO FROM LE ROY'S 1940 BOOK

Photograph of the Front of the Office and Print Shop of the Le Roy Gazette News on Bank Street from the 1940 Book. Pictured from left to right Benjamin Donnelly, David Paganin, and J. Francis Blood (second row) Helen Childer, Corrin Childer, Walter Butts, and Amelia Pfeiffer (third row) Frank Wade, Ellsworth Baldwin, Avery Perkins, and Edward Perkins.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PAGE SPONSOR
Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour at 2am on Sunday, November 3rd!
Also, make sure you get out and VOTE November 5!
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
EMPIRE Realty Group
Nancy M. Crocker
Lic. Assoc. Real Estate Broker, Notary
585.314.7982
crocker@rochester.rr.com
EmpireRealtyRoc.com
7133 West Main Road, Leroy, NY 14482
o: 585.502.5250 • f: 585.347.4165
Main Office: 2112 Empire Blvd, Webster, NY 14580

St. Marks Church Hosts Stitch Retreat Fundraiser

By SAMUEL ZERILLO
Associate Editor for The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

On October 19, St. Marks Episcopalian Church in Le Roy hosted the "Schoolgirl Samplers of Western New York: Jane Boyer 1834" stitch retreat fundraiser to benefit both the church and the Le Roy Historical Society.

The idea for this fundraiser started a few years ago, when Leslie Delooze was on the board for the Le Roy Historical Society. The Historical Society had a collection of samplers in their possession, and Leslie suggested selling charts of these samplers.

A sampler is a piece of needlework that a girl stitched to use as a reference or example for future stitching projects. The samplers in the Le Roy Historical Societies possession were made by one girl, Jane Boyer, and were all letters of the alphabet.

Leslie did a lot of research on Jane Boyer and tried to find out as much as she could about her life and her family. Jane and her family lived in Le Roy during Jane's youth in the early 1800's. Her family lived at 39 Main Street in the village, and she attended school in a house that used to be on Trigon Park.

Jane's family also used to be members of St. Marks Episcopalian Church, back when the church was at the old location down on Church Street near the old graveyard on St. Marks Street.

After Leslie charted the samplers for the Historical Society, she and colleague Emily Hill Williams got the idea to host a stitch retreat in the theme of Jane Boyer and her samplers at the church.

During the fundraiser, Leslie gave a PowerPoint presentation about Jane, her life, and her samplers. They also had Lynne Belluscio from the Historical Society come and talk about early Le Roy and the clothing of the time period. Emily Williams then talked about stitching the sampler and also stitched a reproduction of the original sampler herself.

The church had room for about 50 participants for this event, and not only did they fill every seat, but they also had 16 people on a waiting list. Participants weren't just locals, as participants came from all over America. Some traveled in from New Jersey, California, South Dakota, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

Attendees received a kit of supplies to work on projects that were based on the sampler from the Le Roy Historical Society's collection. One project was to make a sampler of the house currently at 39 E. Main Street, and one of what it might have looked like before. They also got a pattern to copy from one particular sample made by Jane Boyer, and a chance to visit the Le Roy House and the Jello Museum.

Leslie noted that her favorite thing about the event was hearing from all the people who traveled from out of town and out of state for the event, and how much they loved visiting Le Roy. She heard many say that they would be back to visit again.

Leslie felt this stitch retreat was particularly special, as they were honoring the work of Jane Boyer, a 10-year-old girl who lived in Le Roy over 190 years ago, and doing so right down the block from where Jane used to live. Leslie believes that this event almost brought Jane back to life after all this time, and that was the fun of the project for her.

This fundraiser was very much a success, and the church and Historical Society hope to be able to do this annually if possible. The chart Leslie made of the samplers is still currently being sold in the Jello Gallery Shop for anyone who is interested. The chart for the sampler for Jany Boyer is also for sale on the website for the Jello store.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE DELOOZE

Beloved Member of the Community, Lynne Belluscio, Will Soon Celebrate 80th Birthday

By SAMUEL ZERILLO
Associate Editor for The Le Roy Weekend Gazette

Soon, Local Historian Lynne Belluscio will be celebrating her 80th birthday. Lynne has been an integral part of our community in Le Roy for decades, and even as she approaches the milestone of 80 years, she continues to be active within her community.

Lynne was born and raised in inner city Rochester by her parents. Lynne's parents instilled in her from an early age a mindset that it is important to be involved in your community, as they were very active around their neighborhood in Rochester, and always tried to give back to their community where they could.

Lynne attended Monroe High School in Rochester, and after graduation she started studying Industrial Arts at SUNY Oswego. Lynne took her degree in Industrial Arts and pursued a career as a shop teacher, which was unheard of from a woman at the time. She taught shop in inner city Rochester, teaching kid's skills such as metal working, wood working, and electrical.

During this time Lynne met her husband Bob at the skating rink at Genesee Valley Park. At the time, Bob was a speed skater who was training to compete in the Olympic Trials. Bob later took a job at Kodak and continued to work there for many years as an executive.

Lynne and her husband Bob eventually found themselves in our town of Le Roy during the 70s, as they wanted to move out of the city, but still be close enough to Rochester to reasonably commute to work. Le Roy was the perfect spot, as it had the small-town charm combined with access to Route 490 to Rochester. Lynne and Bob had a house built in the Village where they raised their two children, and Lynne still lives there to this day.

After moving to Le Roy, Lynne took a job at the Genesee Country Museum before it opened, and was in charge of helping get their kitchens up and running. After the museum officially opened, she stayed in this role for a while, while also taking on the role of Special Events coordinator.

As the Special Events coordinator, Lynne helped create many events at the Museum that are still beloved by many today, such as the Agricultural Fair and their big 4th of July celebration. After her time at the Museum, Lynne moved on to work at the Le Roy Historical Society.

While working at the Historical Society, the building they occupied was just the front half of the Le Roy House. It was always a dream of Lynne's while she was working there to renovate the back of the house. Eventually this dream became a reality thanks to her and her work, and the back of the house was fully renovated and turned into the Jello Gallery & Museum.

Many in the town would agree that the Jello Gallery & Museum helped put Le Roy on the map and has brought a lot of tourism and revenue to the area. This project is one of the things Lynne is most proud of when she looks back on her time with the Le Roy Historical Society.

Lynne's accomplishments during her time as a member of the