



# The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 24 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, February 2, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at [Publisher@TiersNews.com](mailto:Publisher@TiersNews.com)

## Vestal High School's Winterguard to host "Emerald Fire" Home Show

Vestal Winterguard presents

# EMERALD FIRE

The Sport of the Arts

Saturday Feb. 3 5:00 p.m. Vestal HS

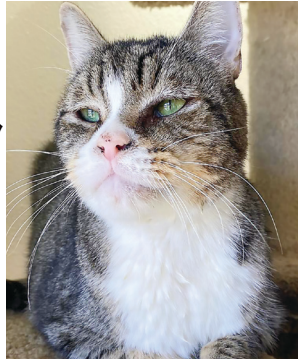
TICKETS: \$10  
STUDENTS & SENIORS: \$8  
UNDER 5: FREE

Vestal's "Emerald Fire" will sweep the pageantry floor for the school's annual Winterguard home show. Doors open at 4 p.m., and the first guard unit will take the floor at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2024. This Mid-York Color Guard Circuit competition will take place in the Vestal High School gymnasium, 205 Woodlawn Drive.

Talented young performers will come from across the state and gather at Vestal High School to compete, including Binghamton DARE, Corning, Horseheads, Johnstown Amethyst Gold, Laurens, Liverpool, Norwich, Owego, Union-Endicott, West Genesee and more. Join these wonderful, dedicated performers and their fans for a professional showcasing of the pageantry arts! There will also be a demonstration by Vestal's Indoor Percussion ensemble.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and can be purchased at the door. Children under five are free.

### PET OF THE WEEK: Wiggles



Hi I'm Wiggles! I'm 10 years old and I have a brother named Tiger! We are the best of friends. My favorite toy is my bell and I roll it all day long. I'm a gentle soul, a bit on the shy side, but nonetheless affectionate and faithful!

Send in a photo of your pet with a short bio to: [kirsten@tiersnews.com](mailto:kirsten@tiersnews.com) to have your pet in the paper!



FEBRUARY

CASINO NIGHT

Page 3

**VESTAL CHEERLEADING COMPETITION PHOTOS ON PAGES 4 AND 8!**

Modified and JV! Varsity Photos Coming Next Week...





# Calendar

**Saturday, February 3rd**

**Vestal Winter Guard Home Show: Emerald Fire VHS; 5PM**

**Tuesday, February 6th**

**Preschool Storytime: "Dogs" 10:30AM; VPL**

**Thursday, February 8th**

**Doug's Fish Fry To Go 11AM - 6PM; more info below**

**Friday, February 9th**

**Casino Night at The Church of The Holy Family 6PM - 10:30PM**

**Saturday, February 10th**

**>The Father Daughter Ball 5PM - 9PM; more info on page 8  
>"The Railroads of The Southern Tier" Lecture VPL; 1PM  
>ACT Exams at VHS; 7:45AM**

**Tuesday, February 13th**

**Preschool Storytime: "Valentine's Day" 10:30AM; VPL**

**Friday, February 16th**

**NO SCHOOL!**



## Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

01/23 08:03	Grippen Hill Road	Wire down across the road
01/23 14:38	West Access Road	Fire alarm
01/23 16:39	Evergreen Street	Odor of gas at residence
01/23 06:03	E. Main Street	Mutual aid to Endwell for smoke coming from room
01/24 10:49	Karin Avenue	Smoke detector activation
01/25 16:41	Vestal Parkway E.	Fire alarm
01/25 18:24	Murray Hill Road	Tank leaking unknown type gas
01/26 01:25	East Access Road	Building fire alarm
01/26 12:29	Wallace Street	Mutual aid to West Corners for a light haze of smoke in a house.
01/27 12:19	Noyes Road	General fire alarm
01/27 15:01	East Access Road	Fire alarm
01/27 19:30	Rano Blvd.	Office smoke detector activation
01/27 21:43	East Access Road	Fire alarm
01/27 23:17	East Access Road	Fire alarm
01/28 08:59	Vestal Parkway E.	Commercial fire alarm
01/29 01:10	Vestal Parkway E.	Fire alarm
01/29 07:17	Fuller Hollow Road	Wire and tree down in driveway
01/29 16:43	Vestal Parkway E.	Fire alarm - smoke detector activation
01/29 19:16	East Access Road	Fire alarm



# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Francisco Strecker, 28, Binghamton, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Refusal of Breath Test and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a motor vehicle accident.

Tashryha Crowley, 28, Binghamton, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

William Riley, 40, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Fentanyl while patrols were checking his welfare.

James McMiller, 46, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Bradley Gunn, 42, Vestal, arrested for Criminal Mischief, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree, Menacing 2nd Degree and Reckless Endangerment for intentionally driving his vehicle into the victim's vehicle twice, after an argument, while she was inside, damaging the vehicle.

Cory Bulger, 36, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, two counts of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-with Child in the Vehicle, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Failed to Keep Right, Insufficient Turn Signal-Less than 100 feet, Uninspected Motor Vehicle and Driving on the Shoulder after a traffic stop.

Michael Bronikowski, 22, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a motor vehicle accident.

Janique Resimo, 23, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Lisa Resimo, 46, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Kevin Perry, 42, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Lowe's.

Joseph Morgan, 67, Endicott, arrested for Conspiracy 6th Degree for transporting a larceny suspect to a business where the suspect shoplifted.

## Vestal Town Crier

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**NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
The Vestal Town Crier goes to press on Wednesdays. Deadline for news and advertising is the Friday before the desired week of publication.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Subscription rates to The Vestal Town Crier are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside of Broome County, and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
All letters to the editor are welcomed. All letters must be signed and include the phone number of the writer, to be used for verification of authenticity, not for publication. The editor reserves the right to refuse to publish letters which contain potentially libelous or erroneous statements. Also, letters endorsing political candidates are considered advertisements and should be prepaid as is all political advertising. No letters to the editor regarding political candidates will be accepted.

**We are delighted to have your news! Your photos are welcome! Contact us:**  
Call us today: 607 755 0472 E-mail: news@tiersnews.com



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 11:00 AM- 6:00 PM**

**@THE COMFORT INN**

**TO BENEFIT: THE APALACHIN LIONS**

**To call and place orders until 4:00 please call (607)753-9184 ext 2**

# Hawks Splash Past Golden Bears

By Hal Ehrhardt

With the weather forcing another meet delay, missing a few regulars, and facing three meets in a six-day period, Coach Joe Shore decided to let his swimmers try some new events in last Thursday's meet at Corning. The result included several best times along with an easy victory for the Corning Hawks, by a final score of 89-79. That score was made to look close only because Corning swam exhibition in the final four events after dominating early to build an 89-33 lead.

Vestal's first top finish came after the meet was clinched, as Logan Kim had his career best 100 Backstroke time to finish ahead of the field. Earlier in the meet he had the team's season best and his career best time in the 50 Free finishing 3rd. Finn Hynes had a pair of best times in the distance events, as he finished 3rd in the 500 after a tight race. He was edged by team mate Ocean Sun in the 200 Free, who also had a season best in the 100 Free. Harrison Cappellett and Lucas Matt both broke the minute mark in the 100 Free for the first time, while Cappellett had another career best in the 100 Back.

Sayum Singhal was the top Golden Bear in both the 200 IM and 100 Fly. Michael Xue and Cameron Smith both had their best times in the 100 Breast, finishing behind Adi Banerjee. Ben Elie topped the 200 mark, again in the diving while finishing 2nd behind a career high score by defending Class A champion Brendan Jardin-Reed of Corning. That was one of only two 2nd place individual finishes for Vestal, as Banerjee was runner-up in the 100 Free. Newcomer Stephane Zhou earned his first varsity points as he placed in the 100 Back and also swam his first 200 Free. Jayden Kim and Xue turned in their fastest 50 Free times, along with Singhal, Smith, Luke Sobel, Ananta Banerjee, Solomon Chen and David Cozma

The Medley relay team of Cappellett, Adi Banerjee, L. Kim and Elie finished 2nd. Officially Vestal won both Free relays due to Corning swimming exhibition. In the 200 Free it was the B team of Cozma, J. Kim, Sobel and Hynes winning, while Matt, Sun, L. Kim and Adi Banerjee were credited with the win in the 400 Free relay.

## Vestal 79 – Corning 89

- Medley Relay: 1st Corning (1:48.87); 2nd Cappellett, Adi Banerjee, L. Kim, Elie (1:51.28);
- 200 Free: 1st De Pedro (COR 2:04.89); 4th Sun (2:16.82); 5th Hynes;
- 200 IM: 1st Crisco (COR 2:09.55); 4th Singhal (2:28.71); 5th Cozma;
- 50 Free: 1st J. Sierzant (COR 23.82); 3rd L. Kim (24.52); 5th J. Kim;
- Diving (6): 1st Jardin-Reed (COR 335.80); 2nd Elie (226.00);
- 100 Fly: 1st Reimsnyder (COR 1:00.41); 2nd Singhal (1:07.97); 5th Cozma;
- 100 Free: 1st J. Sierzant (COR 53.31); 2nd Adi Banerjee (55.27); 4th Cappellett; 5th Sun;
- 500 Free: 1st De Pedro (COR 5:48.27); 3rd Hynes (6:04.24);
- 200 Free Relay: 1st Cozma, J. Kim, Sobel, Hynes (1:57.86); EXH COR 1&2 (1:39.50)
- 100 Back: 1st L. Kim (1:00.27); 2nd Cappellett; 3rd Zhou; EXH COR 2-3-5 (1:01.92)
- 100 Breast: 1st Adi Banerjee (1:11.55); 2nd Smith; 3rd Xue; EXH COR 1-2-4 (1:06.20)
- 400 Free Relay: 1st Matt, Sun, L. Kim, Adi Banerjee (4:15.01); 2nd J. Kim, Sobel, Hynes, Cozma; COR 1-2 (3:48.29)

The plan is that the event changes at Corning would allow the Golden Bears to be fresh in the Spartan Blizzard Invitational at Maine Endwell last Saturday and when they hosted Horseheads this past Tuesday. Results of both will be in next week's article. The Golden Bears final dual meet will be Tuesday, February 6th, when they host Binghamton at 5:30 PM and celebrate Senior night to recognize the three seniors on the Vestal team; Adi Banerjee, Ian Chung and Ocean Sun.



# Governor Hochul Details Bold Budget Initiatives

Governor Kathy Hochul recently outlined her Fiscal Year 2025 budget, which is aimed at advancing her bold agenda to make New York more affordable, more livable, and safer than ever before. Gov. Hochul focused on three core areas:

- Making New York safer by cracking down on retail theft, fighting hate crimes, giving prosecutors new tools to go after domestic abusers, and expanding enforcement of our cannabis laws.
- Addressing the mental health crisis focusing on youth mental health and serious mental illness, including establishing a school-based mental health clinic for everyone who wants one and reforming the behavioral health care system.
- Increasing affordability by building thousands of new housing units in New York City, expanding consumer protection laws, ending co-pays for insulin on all State-regulated insurance plans and banning certain medical debt lawsuits.

Governor Hochul also unveiled a broad policy agenda with 204 initiatives that will improve our state and ensure our communities are not just surviving, but that they are thriving.

## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

SIX WEEK SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 9  
**TUESDAYS @ 10:30 AM**

Themes:  
2/6 - Dogs  
2/13 - Valentine's Day

### HIKE SMART NY

**1**

**NAVIGATION**  
map, compass, GPS system, extra batteries

**2**

**INSULATION**  
waterproof/windproof jacket, hat, face mask, goggles, gloves, thermals, wool socks (wear layers, pack extras)

**3**

**GEAR**  
snowshoes, traction devices, gaiters, insulated/waterproof boots, trekking poles

**4**

**LIGHT**  
headlamp, flashlight, lanterns, extra batteries

**5**

**FIRST-AID SUPPLIES**  
pre-made kit or build your own

**6**

**EMERGENCY KIT**  
whistle, signal mirror, flare, duct tape, pocket knife/multi-tool

**7**

**FIRE**  
matches in waterproof container, lighter, fire starters

**8**

**NUTRITION**  
high-protein/high-calorie (pack extra, break into small pieces, pack in center of bag to avoid freezing)

**9**

**WATER**  
plenty of water, a water filtration system, insulators on tubing (pack in center of bag to avoid freezing)

**10**

**EMERGENCY SHELTER**  
space blanket, tent, bivy sack, rope/paracord

## 10 HIKING ESSENTIALS

Carry these essentials on all hikes for a safe and enjoyable experience.

## CASINO NIGHT

Sponsored by **The Holy Name Society**

**Friday, February 9th, 2023**  
6:00pm-10:30pm

At **Church of The Holy Family**  
3600 Phyllis St. Endwell

Incllement weather date: Sat Feb 10th

**Your \$15 donation provides Food (served until 10pm) and drinks**

Meatballs, sausages with peppers & onions, kielbasa with sauerkraut, pizza, clam chowder, salad, dessert, soda, beer, wine, bottled water, coffee

**Play Games of Chance**

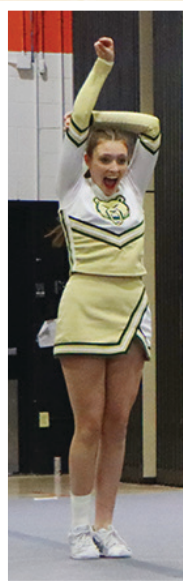
Black Jack, Big 6, Instant Bingo, 50/50, Beat-The-Dealer, Best-Hand Poker, or play your own

Must be 21+ Yrs. ---- Proof Required

\* Benefits various parish ministries and projects \*

# VESTAL GIRLS JV

# CHEER



# VESTAL JV GIRLS BASKETBALL VS M.E.



Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



# Vestal Girl Scouts' Silver Award Project: Grand Opening of Personal Care Kits on February 19

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, INC has awarded Vestal residents and Girl Scouts Madeline Herceg, Lily Medionte and Lilly St. John the Girl Scout Silver Award – the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. The award represents a girl's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and her community as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others. Girls who pursue it look around their neighborhoods and/or schools and develop a project to make their community better in the process.

By earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, Madeline, Lily and Lilly have become community leaders. Their accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set them apart.

Herceg, Medionte and St. John's project focused on providing personal hygiene products to people in need. They chose to collaborate with the Vestal Public Library to house the items.

The Vestal Public Library, formerly the Vestal Free Library, was founded in 1947 and proudly serves an area of more than 26,000 residents. The mission of the VPL is to be recognized as the resource for life-long learning, community involvement, and entertainment.

They met with the library and discovered that there were many individuals living in a local hotel that come to the library seeking help with personal needs supplies. The library has seen an increase in the number of individuals in similar circumstances. During the day these individuals come to spend time at the library and utilize their many resources.

Through research Madeline, Lily and Lilly found that homelessness was on the rise in Broome County. They learned that "Homelessness in the Southern Tier increased by more than 50 percent over the past year, according to new preliminary data from the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition." The coalition runs programs and tracks homelessness in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Cortland, Delaware and Tioga counties. Across that region, 483 people either stayed in shelters or on the street on a single night this year according to data collected in May of 2022.

The three girls volunteered to come out to the library during voting night to inform residents about the local needs and asked for them to help with donations of supplies. Over the span of 2 months the girls collected donations from family, friends, community members and local businesses. The Junior League of Binghamton had recently collected items for a similar project called Showers of Hope and they shared items with the girls as well. They collected cans and bottles from family and friends and used the funds and gift cards donated by local busi-

ness to purchase a bookcase, for the items to be housed, and some other items.

Through their efforts, they built a bookcase to hold all the items, made signage and organized the items as well as boxing items that will be put out for replenishment by the libraries staff. Becky Pineau, Programing support for the library, has been a wonderful liaison for the girls working with the library.

"I learned so much about our community and the needs that people have" says Madeline. While Lily and Lilly shared that they are hopeful that this Girl Scout Silver Award project will "create a useful space that will serve the needs of the people coming to the library for personal hygiene items."

Medionte says, "I hope this project will help people in need and inspire others to bring better into the world. Even if this project helps one person, or three hundred, I will feel accomplished either way!"

St. John says, "Our goal for the project was to serve people in need and I hope this can both inspire people to help others!"

Herceg says, "Helping people in my own community makes me see that there are so many ways to help people right here where we live. I hope people look around them to see how they can help others."

# Vestal Scholars

## Vestal Alumni Named to Fall 2023 Dean's List

### Le Moyne College

Nicholas Conforti, a Freshman Management and Leadership major from Vestal, NY

Anthony Khadjadorian, a Freshman Nursing major from Apalachin, NY

Carter Ruhm, a Junior Finance major from Apalachin, NY

### Bucknell University

Hannah Barnum, 2024, Environmental Engineering  
Michael Chernova, 2027, Computer Engineering

### SUNY Oneonta

Kyla Burke of Apalachin (13732)

Hannah Gdovin of Vestal (13850)

Carly Kirtland of Apalachin (13732)

Katherine Potter of Vestal (13850)

Peter Sacco of Vestal (13850)

### Seton Hall University

Trina Beckwith of Vestal, NY

### SUNY Morrisville

Quinn Hoover of Vestal, NY

### James Madison University

Addison Kalina of Vestal who is majoring in English - BA.

Braden Strahley of Vestal who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.

### University of Scranton

Anindita Hassan of Vestal (13850), a freshman English major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Alexander S. Kaminsky of Vestal (13850), a freshman biochemistry major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Patrick W. Carlton of Vestal (13850), a sophomore biochemistry major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Daniel T. Harding of Vestal (13850), a junior business administration major in the University's Kania School of Management.

Samuel E. Gates of Vestal (13850), a senior accounting major in the University's Kania School of Management.

## Other Honors Recieved by Vestal Alumni

Natalie Ryan of Vestal graduated Cum Laude with a degree(s) in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in December 2023.

# BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Kelly F. Wildoner  
District 3 (Town of Binghamton,  
Conklin & Vestal)  
kelly.wildoner@broomecountyny.gov

Stephen J. Flag  
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Sanford & Windsor)  
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Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds (Dist 5)  
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Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale Dist 7)  
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Min.w Leader Robert Weslar (Dist 13)  
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## Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)

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Kim Myers kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov  
Mark Whalen mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov



# Feb 27 - Life After A Stroke

**/ STROKE SUPPORT GROUP  
for stroke survivors and care-  
givers. Group will meet at the  
Vestal Library, 320 Vestal Pkwy  
E., Vestal, NY, 1:00 - 3:00. A time  
to laugh, cry, and support each  
other. For information call Sue  
(607) 754-3405.**

# SIU Investigation in Vestal Leads to Felony Drug and Weapons Charges



On January 24, 2024, with the assistance of the METRO SWAT Team and the Vestal Police Department, the Broome County Special Investigations Unit Task Force executed a search warrant at 1 Wakeman Rd. in the Town of Vestal.

The target of the search warrant was Daontay Stephenson, age 34 of Vestal, who was present during the execution of the warrant. Also present was Willie Mims, age 56 of Vestal.

During the search, the following items of evidence were located:

- 175.1 grams of Fentanyl Pills (Approximately 6.176 ounces)
- 24.7 grams of Powder Cocaine
- 3.9 grams of Crack Cocaine
- 17 green pills that were determined to be Oxycodone Hydrochloride, a Schedule II Controlled Substance
- Scales and packaging used to distribute narcotics
- A Citadel Warthog 12-gauge shotgun
- A loaded high-capacity .223 magazine
- Assorted ammunition
- \$1,068 in US currency

Following the search, both Stephenson and Mims were transported to the Broome County Sheriff's Office. While in an interview room, Stephenson tampered with evidence by destroying Acetaminophen/Oxycodone Hydrochloride pills that were secreted down his pants.

As a result of the investigation, Daontay A. Stephenson and Willie C. Mims were arrested and charged with the following:

## Daontay A. Stephenson, age 34 of Vestal, NY

- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, a Class A-II Felony
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony
- 2 Counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree, Class D Felonies
- 2 Counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, Class D Felonies
- Tampering with Physical Evidence, a Class E Felony
- Promoting Prison Contraband in the 1st Degree, a Class D Felony
- Two Counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree, Class A Misdemeanors

## Willie C. Mims, age 56 of Vestal, NY

- Three Counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, Class B Felonies
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, a Class C Felony
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, a Class D Felony
- Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor

Stephenson and Mims were transported to the Broome County Correctional Facility for processing and to await arraignment at Central Arraignment.

The Broome County Special Investigations Unit Task Force is comprised of the Broome County Sheriff's Office, the City of Binghamton Police Department, and the Village of Johnson City Police Department.



## Leave No Trace — Hiking with Dogs

If you're bringing your canine companion along for the hike, make sure you are aware of how you both can produce as little of an impact as possible.

While your dog may not be able to wear matching snowshoes with you, you can try to keep them to the side of the trail to avoid "paw post-holing."

We recognize this isn't always easy to do, but there are other ways to practice Leave No Trace™ with your dog that are more in your control.

For example, bringing plastic bags to pack out your dog's waste is a great way to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect the natural environment.

Stay mindful of your impact and have a paw-some time outside!

# Consequences of Feeding Deer in the Winter

Now that white-tailed deer hunting seasons have ended throughout most of New York State, it may be tempting to begin feeding deer to "help" them through the winter. However, feeding deer during the winter or other times of the year is unnecessary, prohibited in New York, and can have very negative consequences for deer, your neighbors, and surrounding wildlife habitat.

During the winter, deer primarily rely on woody and evergreen vegetation for their daily nutritional and metabolic needs. The digestive enzymes in a deer's stomach change in the winter to better digest this vegetation. If deer are provided with unnatural food sources such as corn or hay after this change in diet has occurred it can result in deer becoming ill or even their death. Deer will attempt to utilize the unnatural food source, but can develop acidosis (i.e., grain overload disease) or enterotoxemia (i.e., Clostridium overgrowth) disease because they can't digest the food properly. Both diseases occur acutely and can result in the rapid illness and death of deer in winter even though their stomachs are full.

Deer also congregate around food sources in winter which can increase the risk for disease transmission. For example, if a deer infected with chronic wasting disease visits an artificial deer feeding site it will shed CWD prions in its saliva directly on the food, which can infect any other deer that feed from the same site. Congregations of deer around artificial feeding sites can also increase the risk for deer-vehicle collisions and deer related damage to landscape plantings, orchards, and tree farms. Inflated deer densities resulting from deer feeding can also exceed the carrying capacity of the surrounding habitat, resulting in wildlife habitat degradation.

Habitat improvement, especially the creation and promotion of early successional habitat, is the best way to ensure that deer and other species of wildlife have plenty to eat all year and avoids the negative consequences of deer feeding. Anyone interested in improving wildlife habitat on their property can contact their regional DEC deer or wildlife habitat management biologist.

The following is a partial listing of tree and shrub species that are eaten by deer in the winter, arranged in order of quality and preference.

### Preferred or Best Liked

Cedar (white or arborvitae), sassafras, wintergreen, alternate-leaved dogwood, yew, mountain maple, witch hobble, basswood, apple, maples\*, flowering dogwood, and staghorn sumac.

### Second Choice

Elderberry, highbush cranberry, silky dogwood, nannyberry, wild raisin, red-berried elder, highbush blueberry, red osier dogwood, cucumber tree, arbutus, mountain ash, willow\*, honeysuckle, and hemlock.

### Readily Eaten

White ash, black birch, American chestnut, spicebush, black walnut, butternut, wild grape, sugar maple, yellow birch, black cherry, choke cherry, shadbush (winterberry), black ash, bush honeysuckle, oaks\*, hickory, witch hazel, elm, lowbush blueberry, hazelnut, and leatherwood.

### Starvation or Poor Food

Scotch pine\*\*, red pine\*\*, mountain laurel\*\*, paper birch, spruces, grey-stemmed dogwood, raspberry, blackberry, sheep laurel, buckthorn, pitch pine\*\*, beech, rhododendron\*\*, muscledwood (blue beech), alder, red cedar, sweet fern, tamarack, hawthorn, white pine\*\*, aspen (poplar), gray birch, ironwood (hop hornbeam), black locust, balsam\*\*, gooseberry\*, currant\* and pin cherry.

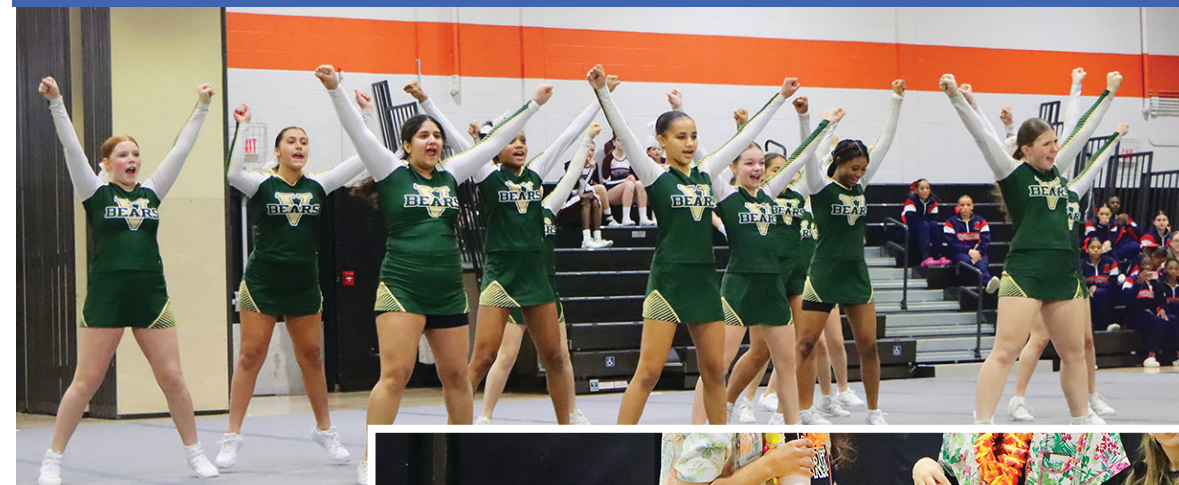
There is considerable difference in palatability and preference of the different species of this genus.

This species is often browsed heavily enough to appear to be second choice food in areas where winter food is inadequate.

## FEBRUARY FUN FACTS!

1. "February" is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.
2. If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flower is a primrose.
3. If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flower is a primrose.
4. The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification. February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.
5. In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach," which means "little month."
6. February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.
7. The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."
8. Weatherperson's Day is celebrated on the birthday of John Jeffries, one of America's first weather observers, born on February 5, 1744.
9. February 9 is National Pizza Day!
10. The dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh on February 18, 1930.
11. February 18th is National Drink Wine Day!
12. February's famous birthdays include that of George Washington, Abe Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Steve Jobs, Michael Jordan, Harry Styles, Thomas Edison, Jennifer Aniston, and Rihanna!

# Modified Cheering Competition



Photos Courtesy Of Maryesther White-Brink



# THE FATHER DAUGHTER BALL

**Saturday, February 10th, 2024**  
**5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**The Doubletree by Hilton, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY**

Fathers and daughters, join us for a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing. The buffet will include flank steak, breaded chicken fingers, gourmet macaroni and cheese, garlic mashed potatoes, glazed baby carrots, salad, cookies, and brownies.

All seating is assigned and tables will hold a maximum of ten. We will do our best to honor seating requests. Complete tables of ten are guaranteed.

List all the names of the adults and children that you wish to be seated with on the registration form under "table requests". If you do not have a seating preference, leave it blank and we will seat you with another family.

All ages are welcome. **Open to Town of Vestal and Apalachin residents only.**

**Cost for Vestal residents: \$50.00 adults, \$35.00 daughters**  
**Cost for Apalachin residents: \$60.00 adults, \$45.00 daughters (non-resident fee).**

**Deadline to register: Friday, January 26th at 4:30 pm, unless it fills earlier.**

