



The Vestal Town Crier

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Vol. 35 No. 31 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, March 22, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

Vestal Student Artists To Receive Recognition In Regional Scholastic Art Awards



We are pleased to share that seven Vestal High School art students and one Vestal Middle School student have been recognized in the 81st Scholastic Art Awards for the Twin Tiers Region.

Congratulations to Alister Barber, Madelyn Bishop,

Amelia Chiu, Madison Lilley, Abril Mendez-Jara, Lora Sarkisyan, Adelaide Smith and Robin Flint on their winning entries! They will receive their awards on Sunday, March 17, during a ceremony at the Clemens Center, Elmira, beginning at noon.

Vestal H.S. Senior Madelyn Bishop and Vestal Middle School eighth-grader Robin Flint both received Gold Key Awards. Madelyn's piece "Remembering Ruby" won a Gold Key in the category of Ceramics & Glass. Robin's Gold Key was awarded in the category of Drawing & Illustration for her drawing "Cozy Living Room."

Story Continued On Page 3!



PET OF THE WEEK:
Ralph



Hi! I am a twelve year old, everybody is my friend, kind of Shih Tzu! I live with my human family and am very protective of my two little brothers. I make it my business to know where every member of my family is at any given time. I LOVE my walks, my naps and I especially LOVE showering my whole family with kisses!!

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



FREE EASTER EGG HUNT SPONSORED BY THE VESTAL ELKS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD
11:00AM AGES 1-10YRS.
ARNOLD PARK, ANDREWS ROAD

Enjoy hunting for eggs by age group and visiting the Easter bunny. Bags are provided. In case of bad weather go to Vestalny.myrec.com or www.vestalny.gov (go to Department - pull down menu and to Recreation) or call the Vestal Recreation Department at (607) 754-3368





VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

Friday, March 22nd
>VHE STEAM Night
Vestal Hills Elementary; 6PM
>Bluey Party @VPL
Ages 3-10, 5:30-7:30PM
Register Online at www.vestalpubliclibrary.org

Saturday, March 23rd
>Free Easter Egg Hunt
11AM; Arnold Park, Ages 1-10
>Last Day of Family Swim at VHS

Monday, March 25th
AR Elementary Science Fair
African Road Elementary; 6:30PM

Tuesday, March 26th
School Board Meeting
Admin Board of Education Conference Room;
6PM

Friday, March 29th
>Town Hall Closed for Good Friday

March 29th - April 7th
SPRING BREAK

Saturday, April 6th
NYS Winterguard Championships
Shenendehowa

Monday, April 8th
VHE PTA Meeting
6:30PM; Vestal Hills Elementary

Tuesday, April 9th
School Board Meeting; 6PM
Admin Board of Education Conference Room

03/05 05:45	Recreation Drive	Commercial fire alarm from pull station
03/05 11:51	Vestal Parkway E.	Pick up truck fire
03/05 12:23	Plaza Drive	General fire alarm
03/05 15:49	Clubhouse Road	Oven fire
03/05 16:10	Vestal Parkway E.	Rear smoke/heat detector activation
03/06 19:19	West Drive	General fire alarm
03/07 03:46	Vestal Parkway E.	Commercial fire alarm in dining room
03/07 15:31	Vestal Road	Person stuck in elevator
03/10 10:48	Almar Drive	Second floor heat detector activation
03/10 11:26	Route 26, Nanticoke	Mutual aid to Whitney Point for a repair shop on fire
03/11 07:13	Vestal Parkway E.	General fire alarm
03/11 11:01	Old Vestal Lane	Tree limb down/wire down in roadway
03/11 16:21	Underwood Road	Line down / tree smoking
03/11 17:04	Tracy Creek Road	Wires arcing / burning in trees
03/11 19:29	Bunn Hill Access Rd.	General fire alarm
03/11 19:40	Underwood Road	Tree on fire
03/12 18:55	Bunn Hill Access Rd.	Heating plant fire alarm
03/13 18:13	W. Sheedy Road	Commercial fire alarm
03/13 19:29	West Drive	Person trapped in elevator
03/14 07:41	Bunn Hill Access Rd.	General fire alarm
03/14 10:02	Route 201 off ramp	Three-car accident - vehicle smoking
03/14 13:51	N. Main Street	Fire alarm activation
03/14 22:14	East Drive	General fire alarm
03/15 10:39	Shippers Road	Car into building
03/16 02:24	East Drive	Commercial fire alarm
03/16 13:56	Town Hall Road	Tree on powerline - tree on fire
03/16 19:40	Belmont Avenue	Smoke detector activation
03/17 15:18	S. Benita Blvd.	Basement broken water line
03/17 15:36	Meeker Road	Smoke detector activation
03/17 21:59	Acorn Drive	Residential fire alarm
03/18 19:44	Vestal Road	Carbon monoxide alarm activation

Matthew Breed, 33, Vestal arrested for Conspiracy 5th Degree for conspiring with others to burglarize a building.

Kevin Russell, 34, Endwell, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise valued over \$1000 from Kohl's.

MD Islam, 43, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, and Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-More than .18 BAC following the investigation of a suspicious vehicle parked in front of a residence.

Gordon Lightfoot Jr., 21, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Abigail Galusha, 20, Whitney Point, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

Laverne Bates, 63, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and Burglary 3rd Degree for shoplifting from Wal-Mart after previously being banned from the location.

Kevin Russell, 34, Homeless, arrested for Petit Larceny and Obstructing Governmental Administration 2nd Degree for shoplifting from Shoe Carnival and walking away from officers when he was told several times to stop.

Chance Outen, 34, Johnson City, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for violating a valid stay away order of protection by being in the same vehicle with the protected party.

Michael Ruska, 40, Endicott, arrested for Disorderly Conduct for using obscenities during a dispute in the presence of children and employees.

Penny Short, 56, Cortland, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Kathi Ellis, 63, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Amanda Lake, 39, Windsor, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Joseph Farrow, 42, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-More than .18 BAC, Following too Closely and Failure to Keep Right after a traffic stop.

Lucas Duffy, 21, Glen Aubrey, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Gabriella Gonzalez, 22, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Azharia Bradley, 20, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.



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 dbergerattorney@gmail.com 301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal



REPORT

Continued From Page 2

Shalexus Crooke, 21, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Andrew Smith, 32, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny and Burglary 3rd Degree for shoplifting from Wal-Mart after previously being banned from the location.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Vestal Town Crier, we will post them here without names listed. The absence of names has a long history in American Reporting, up until the early to mid 1970's. We do so to protect our sources.

WE APPRECIATE ALL STORY TIPS AS WELL
EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

Here Is Some Important Information About The Upcoming Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary for New York State will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you're not sure where your polling place is, contact the Broome County Board of Elections at (607) 778-2172 or visit their website at <https://www.broomevotes.com/>

To view the SAMPLE BALLOTS, please visit: <https://www.broomevotes.com/sampleballots>

DON'T FORGET: EARLY VOTING TAKES PLACE SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - SATURDAY, MARCH 30.

Thanks, and enjoy your day. :)

~ The Town Hall

“Vestal Student Artists To Receive Recognition In Regional Scholastic Art Awards” Continued From Page 1

Adelaide Smith, grade 9, received a Silver Key in Drawing & Illustration for her piece entitled “Disconnected.”

Receiving Honorable Mentions were Alister Barber in Mixed Media (Untitled), Amelia Chiu in Ceramics & Glass (“Nymph Inspired by the Green Man”), Madison Lilley in Painting (“Kinetic Nerves”), Abril Mendez-Jara in Mixed Media (“Vamos A La Esquina”), and Lora Sarkisyan in Printmaking (“Khachkar”).

The winning artwork of all Twin Tiers regional winners will be highlighted at the museum during an artists’ reception following the Awards ceremony on March 17* and will remain on display until April 26. The Arnot Art Museum is located at 235 Lake Street, Elmira, NY.

Gold Key pieces by Madelyn Bishop and Robin Flint will go to New York City for the National Scholastic judging this Spring.

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers celebrates the creative achievement of America’s teens and, in 1923, founded the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in order to offer recognition and scholarships to students based on their artistic talents.

The Museum will be open until 3 p.m. on March 17 for the Scholastic Art Awards Opening Reception.

Town of Vestal, Town Board Special Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024: 12:00pm

Notice of a Special Meeting of the Vestal Town Board for the purpose of authorizing the Town Board to review proposals and select a Grant Consulting Company to be hired by the Town. If selected, to also authorize the Town Supervisor to sign a contract for Grant Writing Services. The Special Meeting will be held in the Town Board Room, Vestal Town Hall, 605 Vestal Parkway West, Vestal, New York on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM. This meeting will be open to the public.

Empire Saxophone Quartet Performance at Vestal Middle School

By Kaitlyn Hession

As part of ‘Music in our Schools’ month and ‘Woman’s History’ month, the students at Vestal Middle School were treated to a performance by the Empire Saxophone Quartet on the morning of March 11th.

The music that was played by the quartet consisted of songs that were arranged by a female composer. The group, which included members that are from or around Broome County, were able to perform for the 6th-8th grade band students from a grant they received from the Musician’s Union. Along with this, students have also been listening and learning about various female composers during their band practices.

This performance also served as a bittersweet reunion between VMS Band Director Denise Lacey-Corcoran and Tenor Saxophone player April Lucas. Lucas mentored Lacey-Corcoran years ago while she was starting her musical journey. April Lucas was also a Band Director at Susquehanna Valley for decades as she shared her love of music with all her students. Not only is music a great thing to play, but it could also form long-lasting relationships that could last a lifetime.

“It’s important for all students to realize that they can participate in music and so can everyone!” said Denise Lacey-Corcoran, “You don’t have to have a career in it, it’s something that you can take with you through life.”

Photos On Page 8, Courtesy Of Kaitlyn Hession!

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 postentially 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

Foodbank Of the Southern Tier

APALACHIN LIONS WALK-UP MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Wednesday – March 27th; 10-11 AM

St. Margaret Mary’s Church
1110 Pennsylvania Ave. Apalachin, NY 13732

Pre-registration required

REGISTRATION

Tuesday before – March 26th
At 8:30 AM until full (current limit of 125 registrations)

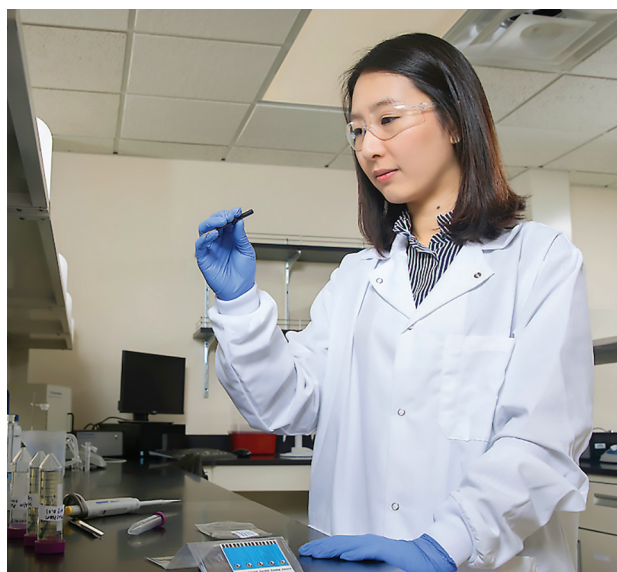
If you register please attend

Phone: 2-1-1 or
Online: www.foodbankst.org/cfd

Walk-up Pantry
Bring a cart or bags to carry food!

10 Stories About Watson College Women Building The Future

By Chris Kocher; Courtesy Of Binghamton University



Associate Professor Ahyeon Koh is a faculty member at Watson College's Department of Biomedical Engineering. Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Women at the Thomas J. Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science are making valuable contributions to research and education. We honor these students, faculty, alumni and staff members on International Women's Day and every day.



Assistant Professor Tracy Hookway from Watson College's Department of Biomedical Engineering. Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Researching The Mysteries Of The Heart (Cells)

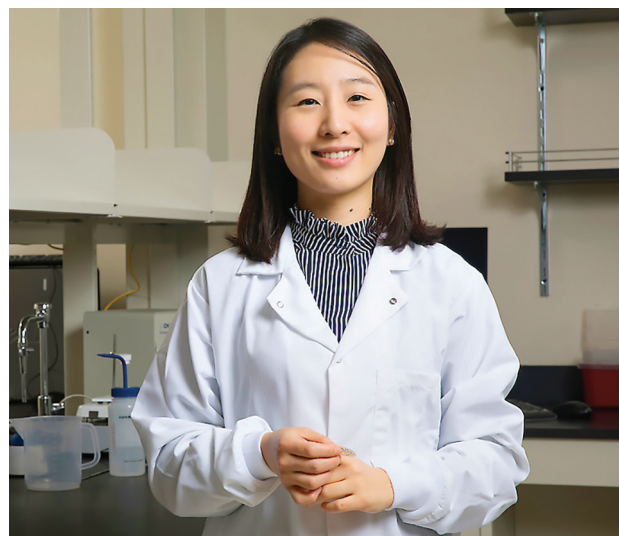
Assistant Professor Tracy Hookway has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources to create 2D and 3D models of human cardiac cells and investigate their functions. In 2023, she received a five-year, \$500,000 National Science Foundation CAREER Award to explore the role of autonomic neural stimulation on the function of engineered cardiac tissues.



Assistant Professor Bing Si from the Thomas J. Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science's Department of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering. Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Helping Young Adults Live Healthier Lifestyles

Assistant Professor Bing Si is collaborating with clinical scientists from Mayo Clinic and Harvard University to develop novel statistical machine models to analyze thousands of young individuals' health data — anonymized, of course — and predict cardiometabolic risks in adolescents and young adults.



Associate Professor Ahyeon Koh has received a five-year, \$500,120 National Science Foundation CAREER Award for her biomedical research. Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Creating Better Medical Sensors To Improve Healthcare

Associate Professor Ahyeon Koh has focused her research on creating better biosensors. From smart bandages and papertronics to sweat analysis and upcycling old CDs, Koh's work aims to offer us real-time data that ultimately could improve our health and well-being. The key is getting that information in a reliable and consistent way. In 2023, she received a five-year, \$500,120 National Science Foundation CAREER Award to fund the next phase in her endeavors.



Nourin Haque '23, at center, worked with other Cadence Design Systems employees on a collaboration with Women in Technology Uganda. Image Credit: Provided.

Sharing Her Knowledge With Women In Uganda

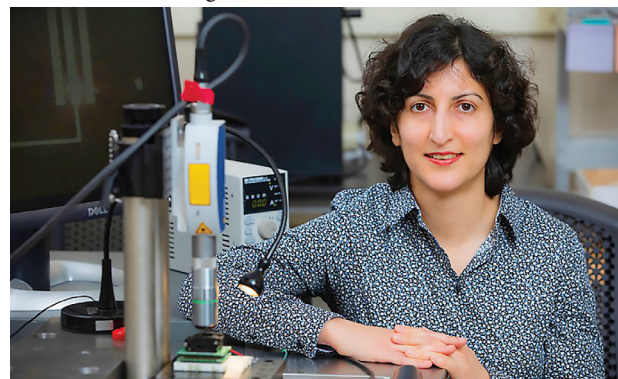
Nourin Haque '23 works at Cadence Design Systems, a leading electronic design automation and intelligent software system design company. The firm collaborates with Women in Technology Uganda (WiTU) as part of its mission to make a global impact in places where "immense talent could be stifled by a lack of resources," as Haque puts it.



Carmen Jones, Watson College's assistant dean for academic diversity and inclusive excellence Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Recruiting Students And Ensuring Their Success

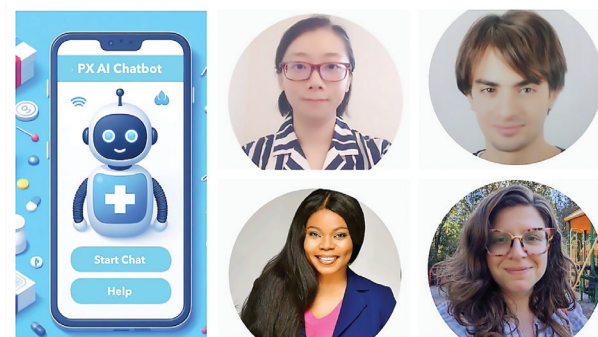
Carmen Jones, Watson's assistant dean for academic diversity and inclusive excellence, has an extensive background in diversity and equity issues in recruitment, and her passion for advising students in STEM fields led to her current role at Binghamton.



Professor Shahrzad "Sherry" Towfighian researches microelectromechanical systems (MEMS). Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Making Better Sensors On A Microscopic Scale

Professor Shahrzad "Sherry" Towfighian is leading research on microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), which are microscopic devices with moving parts often produced in the same way that electronics are. They are used in a variety of everyday devices such as accelerometers, gyroscopes, pressure and vibration sensors.



The research team behind the AI hospital chatbot is pictured here: Doctoral students Vision Wang (top left), Samer Abubaker (top right) Grace Babalola (bottom left) and SSIE Assistant Professor Stephanie Tulk Jesso (bottom right). Image Credit: Vision Wang, pictured.

Improving The Patient Experience Using AI

Doctoral students Vision Wang and Grace Babalola worked with fellow student Samer Abubaker and Assistant Professor Stephanie Tulk Jesso to design an artificial intelligence chatbot to improve patient experience at United Health Services (UHS). The patient-facing chatbot recognizes complaints and can respond in natural language.

Continued On Page 5...

“10 Stories About Watson College Women Building The Future”

Continued From Page 4



Sara Aghazadeh, MS '23, and Jessica Abreu '23, are among the latest women graduates of the Thomas J. Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science's mechanical engineering program. They are photographed at Associate Professor Shahrzad "Sherry" Towfighian's laboratory in the Engineering and Science Building at the Innovative Technologies Complex. Image Credit: Jonathan Cohen.

Blazing A Trail In Mechanical Engineering

Sara Aghazadeh, MS '23, and Jessica Abreu '23 are among the increasing number of women who are pursuing degrees in mechanical engineering at Watson College. As more female students pursue engineering degrees at research universities, there is hope that mechanical engineering will continue to be more gender inclusive.



Beth Flippo '99 is CEO of Drone Express, which offers drone deliveries in the Dayton, Ohio, area.

Developing Delivery Drones To Bring Your Orders To You

Beth Flippo '99 is CEO of Drone Express, which utilizes last-mile drones that can pick up an online order from your local store and drop it off at your location in a matter of minutes. Drone Express is currently flying deliveries near its home base of Dayton, Ohio.



Ghazal Mohsenian, MS '20, PhD '22, works for Intel Corp. as a test R&D engineer. Image Credit: Provided.

Keeping Semiconductors Cool And Speedy

After graduating from the Mechanical Engineering Department's doctoral program, Ghazal Mohsenian, MS '20, PhD '22, secured a permanent spot at Intel Corp. working on electronic cooling packaging for semiconductors.



The Empire Saxophone Quartet with Joel Smales, Percussion



IN CONCERT, FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 4 PM
 VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
 320 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850

Many women have made contributions to the **Saxophone Quartet Literature** as both composers and arrangers. Come join us for a concert showcasing their works!

Original compositions chosen from works by Erika Svanoë, Rika Ishige, Grace Dunlap, Elaine Zajac, Clara Schumann, Melanie Thorne, Fernande Decruck, Claire Tomsett, Adrienne Albert, Cecile Chaminade, and Carol Chambers, and arrangements and transcriptions of various works and styles by Cheryl Chun, Audrey Cupples, and April Lucas

This program is brought to you through the Music Performance Trust Fund and Local 380-443 of the American Federation of Musicians.

VP

THE EMPIRE SAXOPHONE QUARTET

WITH JOEL SMALES, PERCUSSION

Many women have made contributions to the Saxophone Quartet Literature as both composers and arrangers. Join us for a concert showcasing their works!

Original compositions chosen from works by Erika Svanoë, Rika Ishige, Grace Dunlap, Elaine Zajac, Clara Schumann, Melanie Thorne, Fernande Decruck, Claire Tomsett, Adrienne Albert, Cecile Chaminade, and Carol Chambers, and arrangements and transcriptions of various works and styles by Cheryl Chun, Audrey Cupples, and April Lucas

This program is brought to you through the Music Performance Trust Fund and Local 380-443 of the American Federation of Musicians.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
 4.00 PM @ VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
 FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrating Women's History Month at Binghamton University

By Kim Mousseau; Courtesy Of Binghamton University

It's HERstory, too.

March is Women's History Month, and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is celebrating with educational, timely and fun events throughout the month. All events are free and open to the entire campus community (except where noted).



Friends of DEI Social Mixer

In honor of Women's History Month, DEI will host our annual spring social mixer. From 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 22, we'll be at the SUNY Broome Culinary & Event Center in downtown Binghamton. This year's mixer is in partnership with SUNY Broome Community College and is open to all faculty and staff. Join us for food, drinks, prizes and live music from Rhythm & Blues and Jazz band Top Shelf.



Empowerment Brunch

Join us at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 27, for networking and table topic discussions about women's empowerment. At noon, we will welcome keynote speaker Toni Forge Esq. for her presentation, "She Cann," about entrepreneurship and women in the burgeoning cannabis industry. The Empowerment Brunch is an annual event hosted by the Q Center and sponsored by Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies in honor of Women's History Month. Refreshments provided.

Location: University Downtown Center, Room 220, 67 Washington Street, Binghamton

Solar Eclipse at VPL

VPL will host a Solar Eclipse watch event from 2:30 - 4:30 on Monday, April 8. Solar glasses will be included for attendees while supplies last. Solar glasses are available for pick up for personal use for those who cannot attend the event. Limit of two pairs of glasses per family. Please note that the peak solar eclipse will be around 3:20 PM on Monday, April 8.



Fireside Chat

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, we will reconvene with Empowerment Brunch (see listing above) speaker Toni Forge Esq. for an informal chat and mixer in the SUNY Broome Culinary & Event Center in downtown Binghamton. Snacks and beverages provided. The Empowerment Brunch and Fireside Chat are presented in partnership with SUNY Broome Community College Offices of Student Development and Diversity and Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

Location: SUNY Broome Culinary and Events Center, 78 Exchange Street, Binghamton



Culture Chat: Women's History Month

Join us this month for a screening of the animated Marvel series What if...? In season two, Marvel introduces the first-ever Native American superhero, the Mohawk woman Kahhori, in episode six, "What If...Kahhori Reshaped the World." After the viewing party, we'll talk with the series translator, writer and Mohawk community member Cecelia King. King will talk about her experience working for Marvel as well as her experience as a First Nation Indigenous woman. The event begins at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 28.

Location: Multicultural Resource Center Lounge, LS-G500.



APALACHIN LIONS

69th Annual

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Behind BOCES WEST SCHOOL on Penn. Ave.

Come and see the Easter Bunny.

Free New Digital Vision screening for kids

Free Kids ID's Tioga County Sheriff Dept.

Free Children's books give away by O/A Family Reading Partnership

All except the hunt are inside the TLC-BOCES School from 12:00PM-2:00pm

the EASTER EGG HUNT is at 1PM

Please HELP! Bring a non-perishable food

item for our local food pantry.

Hope to see you there!! Rain Date: March 30

Everyone is Welcome



Friday, March 22nd @7PM

Doors open at 6:30; @VHS

Entry - Donation of any amount

Basket Raffles, team performances,

Parent Jump off and MORE!!!!

SPRING FUN FACTS!

1. Spring fever is a real syndrome. When the temperature rises during the warm spell after a long winter, there is a dilation of the blood vessels so blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. People experience an energetic feeling when this happens.
2. Baby birds learn to sing during spring. Although they are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the specific songs of their species. They often learn their songs within two months of being born.
3. The first spring flowers are typically daffodils, dandelions, lilies, tulips, iris and lilacs to name a few.
4. The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. What does that stand for you ask? 'Vernal' is Latin for spring while 'equinox' is Latin for 'equal night'.
5. Why does it rain so much in spring? The air gets warmer, and warmer air holds moisture better than colder air.
6. Thunderstorms are also more common in the spring because temperatures can change so quickly.
7. The Eiffel Tower can expand by up to 6 inches in the warmer temperatures of spring. This is because iron expands when it heats up.

Letter to the Editor(s) Continued From March 15th

Anonymous Letters Protect Against Reprisal Editorial Board

The practice of publishing anonymous letters to the editor in newspapers has a long history, dating back centuries. The concept of publishing letters to the editor anonymously can be traced back to the early days of newspapers in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the early days of journalism, letters to the editor were often the primary means for readers to express their opinions and engage in public discourse. Some writers may have chosen to remain anonymous to avoid potential backlash or persecution for expressing controversial or dissenting views. Then in colonial America, newspapers played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and mobilizing support for various causes, including independence from British rule. Anonymous letters were commonly published in colonial newspapers to debate political issues, advocate for social reforms, and criticize government policies. Later in American history during the Nineteenth Century, publishing anonymous letters to the editor continued to be common throughout the century. Newspapers served as platforms for citizens to express their views on a wide range of issues, including politics, social justice, and economic policy. Anonymous letters provided individuals with a means to participate in public debate without fear of reprisal.

Anonymous letters to the editor have historically also played a significant role in various social movements throughout history, including women's suffrage, civil rights, and labor rights. Activists and advocates used newspapers as a vehicle to disseminate their ideas, share personal experiences, and mobilize support for their causes. In modern times, many newspapers continue to accept and publish anonymous letters to the editor. While some newspapers have policies requiring writers to provide their name and contact information, for verification purposes, which Newspaper Publishers does, other papers may allow anonymous submissions under which current circumstances indicate jeopardy, such as concerns for personal safety or privacy.

Overall, the practice of publishing anonymous letters to the editor has been a longstanding tradition in journalism, has been affirmed by the US Supreme Court in multiple decisions and provides individuals with a platform to express their opinions, share their experiences, and participate in public discourse anonymously. While it has its critics who argue that anonymity can be abused to spread misinformation or harassment, recently the lack of anonymity has been shown to increase abuse and harassment which can stifle opinions. It also serves as an important tool for fostering open dialogue and promoting democratic engagement. Like it or don't like it, that opinion is also accepted. We, NPP, has been attacked extensively this year for protecting others, we accept the honor.

Reader submission:

For any who would like to complain about this local newspaper not only accepting and printing this negative, propagandist March 15, 2024 piece of excrement (more than likely authored by "Incorrect name removed"), but also printing it ANONYMOUSLY without any attribution as required by any responsible news agency, the name of the new owner/publisher of The Town Crier is a "person" by the name of "Incorrect name removed".

Many of us had hoped "The Crier" would finally include well researched, hard news content which it has avoided for years. But "Incorrect name removed" just took over as "Incorrect title removed" a year ago and apparently intends to use the paper as a means to promote personal views and opinions and to use your bank accounts to do it....

For those paying good money to subscribe to this piece of toilet paper, your money is being poorly spent. In the name of responsible journalism, I urge you to cancel your subscription and share your reasons with "Incorrect reference removed" at Editor2@tiersnews.com

Letters to the Editor at the Press & Sun Bulletin are edited for content, grammar and accurate attribution. I also strongly urge you make your opinions known, there.

Editorial response to writer:

With the contentious and dangerous nature of politics today, we will protect any free speech that is needed, anonymous letters were the standard in United States publications for a hundred years, feel free to see Supreme Court rulings.

Letters to the Editor are verified. Opening individuals to danger from those with a psychosis issue will never be ok. We will support anyone that wants a voice and does not want to be censored as long as we can verify.

Letters to the Editor are an additional source of leads for stories many times. AS for the Publisher, which does not have control over the Editorial Board. We would leave if that were the case.

Free Speech is exactly that, sorry you feel that opinions should be silenced, but that is the current thought process for some.

Reader response:

Assistant Editor, Town Crier, The below article was downloaded "unverified position and name removed" Instagram site last Friday in an apparent attempt to attribute your non-attributed piece, to themselves "preposition neutralized."

"Name removed" is not an 8-year, "low level" town employee as the author describes themselves "preposition neutralized." So, if "name removed" is the author, either you have allowed them "preposition neutralized." to lie in the piece, or if they "preposition neutralized" are not, you have allowed them "preposition neutralized." to co-opt someone else's work as their "preposition neutralized." own. Either way, this is what happens when you irresponsibly publish anonymous content.

Let's see if you're equally as willing to be "fair and balanced" in publishing the attached...

And I would like to know your editorial decision, once made. (Editorial Board, Made, see below)

Reader "Debasement" response

This letter references an anonymous Letter To the Editor published in the March 15, 2024 issue of your paper which was critical of newly elected Vestal board members. In it, this unnamed author claims those members have, injected doubt, disharmony and outright falsehoods throughout all departments. Because the author of this 5 paragraph smear campaign is apparently unable to make his point any other way, he resorts to hyperbole, embellishment, deception, misrepresentation, inflammatory remarks and propaganda in a not-so-veiled attempt to damage the reputation of new Town Supervisor Maria Sexton and discredit those forming our new town government. My advice to this person is, "get a life or another job," whichever comes first.

Our ex town supervisor whom this naïve soul refers to as "winning," actually lost by roughly 70% of the vote. With that handwriting on the wall well before November, the prior administration began a fearmongering campaign causing Vestal employees to believe their jobs would be at risk under Sexton. Nothing like that ever happened. The only people who left their positions were those who did so willingly. Yet, even when one of those, the Chief of Police, changed his mind after resigning and decided to stay, Sexton went out of her way to accommodate him - even turning away a newly hired candidate - to facilitate his

return. While your author-in-hiding states that Sexton's actions dismantled a superb police department the truth is the exact opposite: VPD remains a cohesive and functioning unit today, solely due to her actions. Ironically, even Mr. Confused-but-still-Critical must apparently agree since he too, still remains in his job.

Finally, I want to address this paper for printing such egregious, anonymous content under the excuse that politics today is contentious and dangerous and this supports free speech. Interestingly, you also refer to the rest of your readership as those with a psychosis issue. Seriously?

Clearly, the decision of your editorial staff to print this unattributed piece is not made with the welfare of that readership in mind. Instead, it is made only with the welfare of the writer in mind. You allow him to hide behind your publishing skirts claiming he needs protection from contention and danger. But in so doing you lose sight of the fact that requiring him to demonstrate the courage of his convictions by placing a name to his thoughts and ideas would more greatly benefit all by helping to reduce contention and promote thoughtful understanding. THAT would indeed be free, respected and responsible speech. Instead, you print content in the style of an algorithm-based social media site wherein unnamed persons throw rocks to gain "clicks" and "likes" while hiding behind a screen. That is not free speech...that's a free-for-all...and it is THAT which is so contentious and dangerous.

There is a difference. You're not a social media site. You're a newspaper. Granted, one that openly debases and disrespects it's own readership, but still a newspaper.

In closing, I quote from the editorial staff of the 133-year-old, The Michigan Daily which debated this same issue almost exactly one year ago in April, 2023. In their decision, which speaks precisely to the elements of this argument, they write,

There is value to being named as an author of a piece - it encourages writers to be more honest and thoughtful when writing on contentious topics by adding accountability.

If you are interested in writing a piece about an issue, and are not interested in being identified, we would encourage you to connect and collaborate with those who are comfortable being named. We are hopeful that making this change publicly will only strengthen the quality of content being published from guest writers while helping to defuse tension between nameless and faceless adversaries striking at each other through the curtain of anonymity.

Name removed, Vestal resident since 2020

Editorial Board response

"Readership" was not referred to as having a "Psychosis" issue, triggering a person with is dangerous.

There may be "value" naming an author, agreed, required, disagree.

Authoring, with or without assistance, and submitting for the "record" is also accepted. Note:Time is required for confirmation.

Letters to the Editor will not be named, and may not be printed. Cathartic just the same.

When approached to voice an opinion on the Letters, Vestal Town Board Member and representative Stephen Donnelly responded, 'It's unfortunate that certain select individuals focus on hate rather than truly understanding our local government and the importance in keeping it honest. That is what we as elected officials are sworn to do, and regardless of any hate or ridicule thrown my way, I will continue to fight for the town, its employees and its residents.'



Empire Saxophone Quartet Performance at Vestal Middle School

Photos Courtesy Of Kaitlyn Hession



The Empire Saxophone Quartet perform



Tenor Sax player April Lucas



Alto Sax player Crystal Fisher



Baritone Sax player Nicole Mushalla



Soprano Sax player Dan Miller speaks to the students

