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The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 36 No. 9 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, October 18, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

Tennis Senior Night Photos



Page 5!

VESTAL BOYS SOCCER



Photos on page 6!

Senior Night



VHS GIRLS SOCCER SENIOR NIGHT



Photos on page 7!

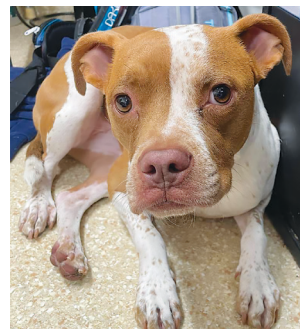
VESTAL RECREATION PRESENTS:
MONSTER MASH
 NOON TO 2:00 PM | ARNOLD PARK
SATURDAY, OCT 19TH

Please join us for our annual Halloween Party!
 Put on a costume and have fun on the inflatables, playing games and enjoying the DJ. Free cider and doughnuts provided by CALTAB. Free treats for all kids!



PET OF THE WEEK:

Frida



Hello, I'm Frida! I'm a 3-year-old terrier with a big heart! I'm chaotic when I'm playing but I'm also very sensitive and gentle. I love to make new friends of any species! My best friends are my mom and the squirrel that lives outside. I like to keep watch over the yard from my favorite window!

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

CRITICAL NEED

Vestal UMC Blood Drive

9AM- 1PM, Saturday, October 19th

The Red Cross has a treat for you: Come to give blood or platelets Oct. 1-31 and get a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. PLUS, be automatically entered for a chance at one of three \$5K gift cards. Book your appointment now!

Visit this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3962023854121224>

to book your appointment!



American Red Cross

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Fun Facts on page 9!



www.crimewatch.com

Saturday, October 19th

- >Monster Mash Costume Party
12PM- 2PM, Arnold Park, Free Treats!
- >Every Cat's Dream Adoption Event
10AM- 2PM, Vestal Tractor Supply
- >Vestal UMC Blood Drive
9AM- 1PM, Vestal United Methodist Church

Monday, October 21st

- >Town Board Work Session, 6PM
- >Read to a Therapy Dog
6PM- 7:30PM, VPL Youth Department
- >How to Succeed at Online Learning
6PM- 8PM, VPL Small Conference Room

Tuesday, October 22nd

- >Teens: Project Runaway Skeletons
3PM, VPL Meeting Room
- >Java Joe Jammers- Live Music
6PM, VPL Meeting Room

Wednesday, October 23rd

- >Town of Vestal Budget Review
5PM- 5:30PM
- >Town Board Meeting 6pm
- >Pins & Needles: Knit and Crochet
6PM, VPL
- >Yoga-tta Calm Down Teen Yoga (Last Session)
Ages 12-18, 3:30PM- 4:40PM, VPL Meeting Room

Thursday, October 24th

- Chakra Breathing Session 5- Registration
Required, Sign Up Online
6PM, VPL

Saturday, October 26th

- >Octoberfest at Vestal Elks Lodge, 3PM
- >Adult Halloween Party
7PM, Vestal Elks Lodge
- >Cub Scouts' Popcorn Fundraiser
9AM- 5PM, Tractor Supply Co. Vestal

Sunday, October 27th

- >Children's Halloween Party
11AM- 1PM, Vestal Elks Lodge
- >Trunk Or Treat Vestal UMC
4PM- 6PM, Vestal United Methodist Church

Monday, October 28th

- Town Board Work Session, 6PM

Tuesday, October 29th

- >Town of Vestal Budget Review
5PM- 5:30PM

Friday, October 18th

- > Boys 7th/8th Soccer v. UE
5PM- 7PM, Vestal Middle School Field
- > Boys Varsity Football v. Horseheads
7PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Saturday, October 19th

- Girls Junior Varsity Field Hockey v. Moravia
3PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Sunday, October 20th

- Girls (Football) Varsity Cheerleading v. TBD
11AM, Chenango Valley High School

Monday, October 21st

- >Girls 7th/8th Volleyball v. Windsor
5:30PM- 7:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym
- > Girls Varsity Tennis v. Ithaca
3PM, Tioga Hills Elementary School
Tennis Courts

Tuesday, October 22nd

- Girls 7th/8th Soccer v. Johnson City
5PM- 7PM, Vestal Middle School Field

Wednesday, October 23rd

- Boys 7th/8th Soccer v. Ithaca (Cardinal)
5PM- 7PM, Vestal Middle School Field

Thursday, October 24th

- >Girls 7th/8th Soccer v. ME
5PM- 7PM, Vestal Middle School Field
- > Boys Junior Varsity Football v. UE
7PM- 9PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Saturday, November 2nd

- Boys JV Football v. Corning-Painted Post
10AM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Sunday, November 10th

- Girls (Football) Varsity Cheerleading v. TBD
12PM



Stephanie Finley, 45, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More .08, No Seat-belt and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a traffic stop.

Mallory Mailen, 25, Owego, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a traffic stop.

Adrian Skarvinko, 70, Endwell, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for submitting the victim to unwanted physical contact.

Mark Bader, 62, homeless, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for walking up and attempting to contact the victim in her vehicle in violation of a valid stay away order of protection.

Kerrigan Mosher, 27, Vestal, arrested for Burglary 3rd Degree for entering and shoplifting from Wal-Mart after previously being banned from the location.

Ryan Heim, 38, homeless, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for calling the victim and showing up at her residence in violation of a valid stay away order of protection.

Rayna Doing, 21, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Kyya Doing, 22, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Bradley Gunn, 43, Vestal, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for residing in the same residence as the victim, in violation of a valid stay way order of protection.

Joshua Skobern, 38, Johnson City, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Target.

Kristina O'Brien, 32, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Meth during the investigation of suspicious activity.

Kelly Kurtz, 41, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and Uninspected Motor Vehicle after a traffic stop.

Jennifer Harris, 33, Owego, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Samantha Yost, 36, Owego, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Bobby Smith, 32, Vestal, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for engaging in a course of conduct that alarmed and annoyed the victim, by playing loud music and yelling profanities at the victim's family.

Continued on page 3...

VESTAL POLICE REPORT

www.crimewatch.com

Continued from page 2

Tara Thomas, 31, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Kimberly Demkovich, 35, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Christopher Potter, 52, Vestal, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for engaging in a course of conduct that alarmed and annoyed the victim, by throwing balls over his roof towards the victim's vehicles.

Heather Carl, 39, Binghamton, arrested for Grand Larceny 3rd Degree and Falsifying Business Records 1st Degree for altering records to conceal the larceny of money from a business.

Alikunta Griggs, 41, homeles, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Brad Williams, 34, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Weis.

Tamarind Baker, 50, Richford, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled date or within 30 days thereafter.

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2024 Capital Project Town Hall

A Few Important Points:

- The Scope of Work presented tonight is preliminary in nature
- Nothing has been finalized
- Board of Education has not approved a particular Scope of Work
- We wanted to use tonight as an Information Session
- Include the public in our decision-making process
- Gather feedback for consideration
- Schedule
- October 15, 2024 – B.O.E.
- December 10, 2024 – Referendum Vote

Project Planning Process

- Began process in early 2024
 - Investigating potential sites for a new transportation facility
 - Contacted Vestal Township Engineer for recommendations on sites that:
 - Were large enough to house our bus fleet of 60+ buses and a transportation building. Transportation facility requires approximately 8 acres.
 - Had access to public water and sewer
 - Reached out to several property owners
- Continuous ongoing weekly meeting with our Construction Team
- Presented the preliminary scope items to the BOE
 - 8/20/2024
- Board of Education work sessions
 - 9/3/2024 and will meet again on 9/17/2024
- Met with the Capital Project Planning Committee
 - 8/22/2024, 8/29/2024, 9/12/2024

- Clifford Kasson, Superintendent – Community Member
 Angela Rogers, School Business Executive
 Brad Bruce, CAE Principal
 Patrick Clarke, Asst. Supt. for Instruction – Community Member
 Keith Dai, VHS Student – Community Member
 Ryleigh Dando, VHS Student – Community Member
 Jed Frost, Asst. Director of Facilities
 Jim Gana, Director of Facilities
 Josh Gannon, Director of Athletics – Community Member
 Melinda Horn, CAE Paraprofessional – Community Member
 Austin Kiley, VHS Music Teacher – Community Member
 Eric LaClair, BOE President – Community Member

- Kristofor Lanko, Head Bus Driver
 Pete Malejs, VHS Teacher – Community Member
 Eva Michitti, VHE Teacher – Community Member
 Annette Miller, VHE Paraprofessional – Community Member
 Heather Pufky, Director of Personnel & Administrative Services
 Sydney Wade – Future Assistant Superintendent of F.O.P. / Community Member
 Molly Russell, CAE Teacher – Community Member
 Chadwin Smith, BOE Member – Community Member
 Ken Starr, Director of Transportation
 Celeste Stockwin, Community Member
 Carol Wells, VHS Paraprofessional – Community Member
 Cathy Willis, VHE Principal – Community Member
 Dawn Young, VHS Principal
 Highland Associates – A/E firm
 Hulbert Engineering – Civil Engineer
 LeChase – Construction Management
 Fiscal Advisors – Financial Planning

2024 Capital Project Intent

- Q: Why is the Vestal CSD proposing this capital project?
 A: Transportation Facility is in need of major repairs
- Built in 1967
 - Many of the critical systems are original to the building and beyond their useful life
 - Building envelope is failing
- A: To comply with potential future Mandates from NY State
- NY State Hot Classroom Bill
 - Zero Emission Buses

2024 Capital Project Potential Scope Items – Transportation Facility

2020 Transportation Facility 5 Year Plan:

Projects By Year: Bus Garage

2021-	\$1,610,000.00
2022-	\$1,515,000.00
2023-	\$3,080,000.00
2024-	\$962,500.00
2025-	\$1,940,000.00
Totals-	\$9,107,500.00

(Information taken from 2020 Building Condition Survey – 5 Year Plan)

Total Construction Cost: \$9,107,500.00
 Soft Costs (22.5%): \$2,049,187.50
 Contingency (15%): \$1,366,125.00
 Escalation (20%): \$1,821,500.00
 Total Project Cost: \$14,344,312.50

To be continued next week...



Vestal Town Crier

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.

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

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

Saturday, October 26th, 9AM-5PM Vestal Tractor Supply Co.

Help support Cub Scout's by buying some delicious popcorn!

When you support a Scout's fundraiser, you're not just buying a product; you're ensuring kids have access to outdoor adventures, community involvement, and life-changing growth opportunities.

It's Popcorn Time!



Fundraiser helps fund:
Pinewood Derby
Campouts
Community events

Blue & Gold
Banquet
Advancements
Equipment

Golden Bears Remain Undefeated

By Hal Ehrhardt

The Vestal Girls Swimming & Diving team defeated host Owego in a 3-way meet that also included a small team from Susquehanna Valley (who did not compete with Vestal). The Golden Bears finished on top by a 60 – 42 score as the meet was competed using only 4-lane (instead of 6) scoring which eliminated Vestal's larger squad advantage

Very few best times were turned in during this meet by the official swimmers, but Vestal won all but two events. Best times were turned in by exhibition swimmers including Sua Choi (200 Free); Maya Stankevich and Cora Richtsmeier in the 50 Free; along with Sophie Ryan and Choi in the 100 Free;

Fran Vallone topped both the 200 and 100 Free, Yih Hui Lim swam a career best winning the 100 Breast and also won the Fly. Yih Xinn Lim won both the 200 IM and 100 Back. Jay Ratterree swam away with the 500 Free while also swimming legs on each of the three winning relays. Mary Sonnen anchored the winning medley relay (with Yih Hui, Yih Xinn and Ratterree) and had a leg in both of the winning Free relays. Sonnen and Ratterree were joined by Vallone and Reagan Young on the top 200 Free relay, and by Charlotte Coker and Ryan the 400 Free relay.

Megan Jones joined Yih Hui for the only 1-2 sweep of the meet to clinch the meet in the 100 Breast. Young was the fastest Golden Bear in the 50 Free, but was touched out by the River Hawk sprinter. The diving featured three of the top divers in Section 4. Despite having her 2nd best score, Olivia Tanton finished 3rd behind a pool record score by Kaelyn Katchuk who holds the Section 4 6-dive record.

Vestal 60 – OFA 42

Medley Relay: 1st Yih Hui, Yih Xinn, Ratterree, Sonnen (2:05.38); 3rd Stankevich, Jones, Jia Parikh, Eva Grenchus;
200 Free: 1st Vallone (2:17.80); 3rd Coker;
200 IM: 1st Yih Xinn (2:28.11); 3rd Ryan;
50 Free: 1st Murphy (OFA 27.72); 2nd Young (27.91); 3rd Sonnen;
Diving (6): 1st Katchuk (OFA 303.15); 3rd Tanton (256.85);
100 Fly: 1st Yih Hui (1:09.23); 3rd Keira DeVantier;
100 Free: 1st Vallone (1:04.31); 3rd Jones;
500 Free: 1st Ratterree (5:32.42);
200 Free Relay: 1st Vallone, Sonnen, Ratterree, Young (1:54.14); 3rd Choi, Ryan, Tanton, Parikh;
100 Back: 1st Yih Xinn (1:08.43);
100 Breast: 1st Yih Hui (1:17.16); 2nd Jones;
400 Free Relay: 1st Sonnen, Coker, Ratterree, Ryan (4:22.60); EXH 2nd Vallone, Parikh, Young, Yih Xinn;

Last weekend the divers competed at the Elmira Diving Invitational. Olivia Tanton improved her 11-dive score while finishing 6th (458.75) and again topped the state meet qualifying score. Finishing on top with a new Section 4 11-dive record of 612.85 was Kaelyn Katchuk of Owego. This was Addie Smith's first time competing in 11 dives and she finished 18th.

The next two meets will test the Golden Bear's undefeated (6-0) record. Earlier this week, they hosted Ithaca on Senior Night and the results will be in next week's Town Crier. This coming Tuesday, October 22nd, they travel to Horseheads to take on the defending Section 4 Class A and STAC West division champions, who are also undefeated in dual meets this season and topped the 14 team field at the Elmira Invitational.

Traffic Safety- The Flashing Red

The traffic signal at the crosswalk on the Vestal Parkway near the Skylark has sparked many questions. When the crosswalk is being used by a pedestrian the traffic signal will turn steady red. In New York State a steady red light means stop and stay stopped. After about 30 seconds the steady red signal will then begin to flash. As with any traffic control device in NYS a flashing red signal means that you should treat the traffic signal as a STOP sign. After ensuring that there are no pedestrians you can proceed through the flashing red signal. Every vehicle is required to stop as they reach the crosswalk when the traffic signal is flashing red.

Aside from this crosswalk, many traffic signals will begin to flash red during or after a power outage. Drivers should treat these flashing red signals as stop signs and assume that traffic in other directions has the right of way.

Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1113 Flashing signal indications

Whenever traffic is controlled by a flashing signal used in a traffic sign or signal, only the colors red and yellow shall be used, and said signals shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles as follows:

A) Flashing red indications. Unless to make another movement permitted by other indications shown at the same time, vehicular traffic facing a circular red signal or red arrow with rapid intermittent flashes shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, then shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or in the event there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

B) Flashing yellow indications. Vehicular traffic facing a circular yellow signal or yellow arrow with rapid intermittent flashes may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

C) Flashing red arrows and flashing yellow arrow indications have the same meaning as the corresponding flashing circular indications, except that they apply only to drivers of vehicles intending to make the movement indicated by the arrow.

D) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules as set forth in § 1170 (Obedience to signal indicating approach of train).

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/traffic-safety-flashing-red>

Yoga-tta

TEEN YOGA

calm down

meeting room
3:30 - 4:40 PM
ON WEDNESDAYS
SEPTEMBER 11 TO OCTOBER 23

For ages 12 – 18

Unwind after school with our 7-week yoga series! Each session will guide you through meditation, breath work, and Vinyasa and Yin yoga poses, helping you de-stress and find balance this school year. Yoga mats are provided while supplies last, no registration is required.



VHS GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS SENIOR NIGHT



Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink





VESTAL BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

Senior Night



Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



Nick Valky #13



Maverick Byrne #18



Nick Driver #8



Nathan Klym #5



Carson Camp #11



Jack Miller #27



Braedon Ryan #1



Aidan Ruhm #15



Ben Elie #10



David Samarsky #7



Tyler Whiting #23




VHS GIRLS SOCCER

SENIOR NIGHT

Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



Addison Stockwin #10



Ava Schmidt #13



Chloe Wirth #7



Kiely Young #2



Vestal EMS- K9 Medical Supply Donation



We are beyond thankful for the generosity of our friends at the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad. They invited K9 handlers Palmer and Schultz to their station and donated medical kits specially equipped for their four-legged partners, Reign and Vaughn. These custom kits were packed with bandages, gauze, splints, Narcan, K9 tourniquets, chest seals, quick clot, peroxide, eyewash, K9 oxygen masks, and shears. This donation from the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad is invaluable and will make a significant difference in ensuring the health and well-being of their furry partners. With these kits, we can provide immediate and effective care in emergencies, giving our K9s the best chance at a swift recovery. Your kindness and compassion are deeply appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for your contribution to our agency. Thank you for being a vital part of our community and for your partnership in ensuring the safety of everyone in the Town of Vestal.

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/vestal-ems-k9-medical-supply-donation>



Officer Of The Quarter- P.O. Wolf

We are proud to announce Officer Wolf as Officer of the Quarter for her tremendous efforts on August 10th of this year. Officer Wolf and other members of the patrol division responded to a domestic incident in the town. After arriving and trying to determine what happened, patrol was confronted and approached by a subject with a large knife. Officer Wolf and her partners were able to retreat to a safe location at which point the subject barricaded himself alone in his residence. After ensuring that all doors to the residence were adequately covered, Officer Wolf began to gather pertinent information about the subject from an acquaintance. With the scene secured Officer Wolf contacted the barricaded subject. After almost 2 hours the subject peacefully turned himself over to patrol and was transported to receive mental health treatment.

We are extremely proud of Officer Wolf for utilizing her training as a certified crisis negotiator during this tense situation. There were numerous points during the early encounter where deadly force would have been justified but Officer Wolf and her partners exercised extreme restraint and utilized proper tactics to bring this situation to a favorable end.

We would like to thank the Broome County Sheriff's Office who sent an additional crisis negotiator to the scene to assist us as well as the New York State Police and SUNY Binghamton Police who also responded to this incident. We always appreciate their support during these critical incidents, and we pride ourselves on having a strong working relationship with our neighboring agencies

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/officer-quarter-po-wolf>



project RUNWAY

Skeletons

"MAKE IT SPOOKY PEOPLE!"

Stop by for a spooky-themed craft afternoon. Design your own fashionable looks for your skeleton model and show off your bone-chilling creativity. Vote for your favorite skeleton fashion – the most popular design will win a gift card! For teens ages 12 - 18.

Tuesday, October 22 | 3:00 pm | Vestal Public Library Meeting Room

VP VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
320 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal NY



Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day: Honoring History, Culture, and Resilience

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It serves as a counter-narrative to Columbus Day, which has traditionally celebrated the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas. While Columbus Day has long been seen as a celebration of European exploration and discovery, Indigenous Peoples' Day aims to recognize the profound impacts of colonization on Native peoples, acknowledging their enduring resilience, contributions, and cultural significance.

Origins and History of Indigenous Peoples' Day

The first official Indigenous Peoples' Day was celebrated in 1992 in Berkeley, California. It came about as part of a broader effort to refocus the narrative around Columbus' arrival and recognize the suffering and displacement of Indigenous populations that followed European colonization. The day has since gained momentum, with many cities, states, and institutions across the United States adopting it in place of or alongside Columbus Day.

In 1977, during a United Nations-sponsored conference on discrimination against Indigenous populations in the Americas, a recommendation was made to replace Columbus Day with a day that would recognize Indigenous peoples. The movement gained traction in the following decades, particularly as Native American groups and allies called for greater acknowledgment of the historical and ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous communities. By the 2000s, several states had officially recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day, and in 2021, President Joe Biden became the first U.S. president to issue a proclamation recognizing the day at the federal level.

Why Indigenous Peoples' Day Matters

Indigenous Peoples' Day is an opportunity to reflect on the real history of colonization and its long-lasting effects on Native communities. For centuries, Indigenous peoples in the Americas have faced violence, land dispossession, forced assimilation, and cultural erasure. These injustices are part of a legacy that continues to affect Indigenous communities today, from disparities in healthcare and education to issues of land rights and representation.

The day also serves as a platform to celebrate the resilience and ongoing contributions of Native peoples. Indigenous cultures are rich and diverse, encompassing thousands of languages, traditions, and knowledge systems that have been passed down through generations. From art and music to innovations in environmental stewardship, Native peoples have made countless contributions to society, yet their voices and stories have often been marginalized or ignored in mainstream narratives.

Indigenous Peoples' Day encourages education about the history and culture of Native communities. Many institutions use the day to host events, workshops, and discussions that raise awareness about Indigenous rights, history, and contributions. By fostering greater understanding and appreciation, the day helps to promote healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day

For many, Indigenous Peoples' Day is not just a day of reflection but also a celebration of Indigenous cultures, communities, and their vibrant future. Across the U.S., different communities mark the day in a variety of ways, including:

Cultural Events:

Many cities and towns host cultural festivals, music performances, and art exhibitions that showcase Indigenous traditions and artistry. These events often include traditional dances, storytelling, and crafts that highlight the rich cultural heritage of Native peoples.

Educational Programs:

Schools, universities, and community organizations often use Indigenous Peoples' Day as an opportunity to provide educational programming. This can include guest speakers from Native communities, history lessons focused on Indigenous perspectives, and discussions about the impact of colonization.

Advocacy and Activism:

Indigenous Peoples' Day is also a time for activism and raising awareness about ongoing issues facing Native communities, such as environmental justice, treaty rights, and the protection of sacred lands. It's an opportunity to listen to Indigenous voices and support their calls for action on issues like climate change, resource extraction, and sovereignty.

Personal Reflection:

For individuals, the day is an invitation to learn more about the history and current realities of Indigenous peoples. This might include reading books by Indigenous authors, watching films that highlight Native experiences, or visiting Indigenous cultural centers and museums.

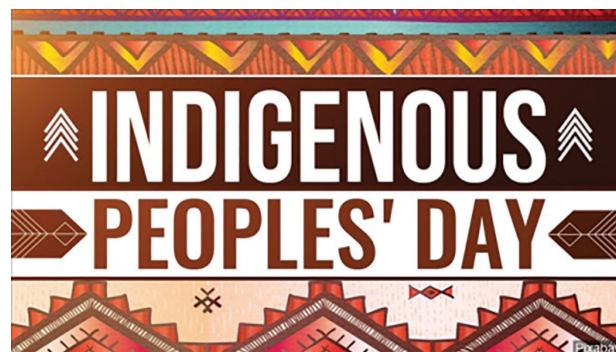
Moving Forward with Indigenous Peoples' Day

As more communities embrace Indigenous Peoples' Day, the hope is that the holiday will continue to foster respect, understanding, and solidarity with Native peoples. It's an important step toward recognizing the profound impact of colonization and acknowledging the rights and contributions of Indigenous peoples. However, it is only one part of a broader effort to address the systemic challenges faced by Native communities.

True recognition involves more than just a day of celebration. It means advocating for policies that protect Indigenous lands, support Native sovereignty, and address disparities in health, education, and economic opportunities. It also means amplifying Indigenous voices in national conversations and ensuring that Native peoples have a seat at the table in discussions that affect their communities.

Indigenous Peoples' Day reminds us of the importance of confronting our history honestly and respectfully while celebrating the strength, beauty, and resilience of Indigenous cultures. It challenges us to create a future where Indigenous peoples can thrive and where their contributions are fully recognized and honored.

Indigenous Peoples' Day stands as a day of recognition, education, and celebration, honoring the rich histories and enduring cultures of Native peoples. It is an invitation to learn, reflect, and work toward a more just and equitable society for all.



Learning Beyond the Classroom is Music to Their Ears

Article Courtesy of the VCSD

This past August, VCSD music teachers Vanessa Snyder (CAE & VHE) and Elaine Laramee (GLE & VMS) attended a special national music conference, the Feierabend Association for Music Education. FAME is a group of music professionals dedicated to promoting and supporting the work of Dr. John M. Feierabend through collaboration, advocacy, training, resource sharing, and more. The goal of the organization is to build tuneful, beautiful, and artful learners throughout the world, ensuring a lifetime of joyful music-making. Vestal's Music Department has been utilizing the work of Dr. Feierabend for the better part of this past decade to enrich general music literacy and performance for students in grade levels from kindergarten to sixth grade.

The FAME conference is a bi-annual workshop-style gathering of music educators from across the country, focusing on best teaching practices and innovative approaches that teachers can use in their classrooms to engage learners and communities in creating music together. The conference, like the work in the classroom, provided opportunities for singing, dancing, playing, and sharing in a collaborative setting.

Reflecting on their experience at the FAME conference, Ms. Snyder says:

“One of our most valued takeaways was being a part of a community of educators who share the same passion for educating young people as we do. Another wonderful gift was gaining experience with and access to the collection of tool and activities we experienced in our workshops. Perhaps the most fun of all was the community folk dancing and singing! Everyone danced to music from around the world and sang songs together. It was a wonderful time and really demonstrated how the joy of music brings people together! We are very grateful to the district for providing us with the opportunity to attend this conference. We are excited to share all of our inspiration and ideas with our music department colleagues and, most importantly, with our students.”

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY FUN FACTS

1. Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the Indigenous Peoples of the United States including American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians. It celebrates the people, their history, and culture.
2. The first city to officially recognize the day as a holiday was Berkeley, California in 1992.
3. In 2021, President Joe Biden officially recognized Indigenous People's day as a holiday!
4. South Dakota was the first state to rename Columbus Day as Native Americans' Day in 1990
5. Today more than a dozen states and the District of Columbia recognize Indigenous Peoples Day, including Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin
6. On the day, there are often events, performances and ceremonies across the country to honor the occasion.

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, October 2

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

Supervisor Maria Sexton
Councilwoman Sue Messina
Councilman Stephen Donnelly
Councilman Glenn Miller
Councilman Robert Greene

ALSO ATTENDING:

Town Clerk Debra Wallace and Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds and 12 members of the public.
Supervisor Sexton convened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- 3. BID OPENINGS
- 4. PUBLIC HEARING

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization of Dissolution of Town of Vestal Fire District

The Town Board of the Town of Vestal proposes to dissolve the existing fire district as required for the formation of the Vestal Fire District, thereafter encompassing all of the territory of the (former) existing Fire District. The proposed formation of the Vestal Fire District shall become effective upon the effective date of the dissolution of the Town of Vestal Fire District.

Supervisor Sexton opened the public hearing for comments.

Member of the public spoke and ask the Town Board not to approve the dissolution until they consider his comments.

Fire District is independent and they have raised their tax levy an average of over 8 percent each year for the past few years. This member would the Town Board to build into these documents a constraint on their ability to raise the levy more than the inflation rate plus one percent. To limit the it some as it's an unlimited taxation.

This member's second concern is that the Fire District has the ability to schedule special elections and this member of the public would like to see those elections held on election days or dates where more votes would know about it and come to vote. This member stated that in January of this year 83 people voted to spend \$2 million of taxes payer's money. This member does not feel that maximum voter participation was achieved.

Supervisor Sexton responded that the Fire District taxation is bound by the same 2% taxation cap as everyone else.

Supervisor Sexton stated that she knows that the Fire District did follow all the rules for the elections.

Another member of the public stated that he would like to thank the Town Board for their patience and trust to get to this point today.

At this time Supervisor Sexton closed the public hearing.

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES

Supervisor Sexton stated that she would like to thank the Governance Committee and the Fire Department for all you do and have done.

- 6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR
- 7. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS
- 8. PUBLIC WORKS (DONNELLY/Greene)
- 9. FINANCE (MESSINA /Donnelly)
- 10. PERSONNEL (DONNELLY/Messina)
- 11. PLANNING & ZONING

(MESSINA/Greene)

12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Resolved to Final Order to Establish New VFD

Resolution adopting a final order establishing a new Vestal Fire District and dissolving the existing Fire District in the Town of Vestal.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint Birdsall

Authorization to appoint Ronald Birdsall as Fire Commissioner for the Vestal Fire District, for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint Harrington

Authorization to appoint David Harrington as Fire Commissioner for the Vestal Fire District, for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint Kirchheimer

Authorization to appoint Daniel Kirchheimer as Fire Commissioner for the Vestal Fire District, for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31,2025.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint McCartney

Authorization to appoint Thomas McCartney II as Fire Commissioner for the Vestal Fire District, for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31,2025.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint Tomko

Authorization to appoint Mark Tomko as Fire Commissioner for the Vestal Fire District for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Authorization to Appoint Butler

Authorization to appoint Marisa Butler as Fire District Treasurer for the Vestal Fire District for the term beginning October 2, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Donnelly) RECEIVE AND FILE:

- 14. PETITIONS & PROTESTS
- 15. OLD BUSINESS
- 16. OTHER NEW BUSINESS
- 17. SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 18. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES
- 19. PUBLIC COMMENTS

On a motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Greene, the Board adjourned the Town Board Meeting and entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following:

- Conduct of Elected Officials
 - Town Litigation
 - Tax Collection Contract
- The time was 6:27 PM



Five Minute Flurry Lifts Golden Bears

By Roger Slawta, Vestal Statistician

In a five minute span covering the close of the second quarter and the start of the third, Vestal mounted four touchdowns to lead the way to their 49-12 victory over Binghamton.

The initial score was set up by junior Michael Hogan when he intercepted a pass on the Patriots third play from scrimmage. Eight plays later Julian Adams ran it in from 6-yards to put Vestal on the board.

Another Binghamton turnover on their next series, a fumble, provided the opportunistic Bears their second score. This time it would be a 9-yard pass from Josh Kweller to J.T. Gannon slicing across the middle.

The Patriots responded with a scoring pass of their own, 35-yards along the right sideline midway through the second quarter to pull within eight, at 14-6.

It was at this point that the Golden Bears took control of the contest, exploding for four unanswered TDs in a 5-minute span. Adams provided the next two scores, a 2-yard run at 4:40 in the second quarter, then a 3-yard blast at 0:41. Following a successful onside kick, recovered by Hogan, Kweller hit Jace Gannon for 21 yards at the right flag with 24 seconds remaining before halftime.

To start the second half, a 40-yard kickoff return by J.T. Gannon along with an additional 15-yard Patriot penalty, set the ball on the Binghamton 21-yard line. Adams ran it in on the next play, extending the Vestal lead to 42-6.

Binghamton's woes continued early in the second half, fumbling the ball away on their first two plays from scrimmage. However, they would rebound early in the fourth quarter with a strong 9-play, 71-yard drive, scoring on a 3-yard run.

Vestal's final score came midway in the third period when Daniel Castro capped a short 4-play drive, scoring on a 6-yard run.

Adams would rush for 121 yards on 18 carries with 4 TDs. Kweller topped the 100-yard passing mark for the sixth straight time, connecting on 12 of 17 passes for 128 yards and 2 touchdowns. Sophomore Preston Antesburger would successfully boot all seven extra point attempts.

J.T. Gannon's touchdown reception in the first quarter marked his fifth of the young campaign and set another Vestal career receiving record. Just last week he broke Conor Talbut's (2000-02) career yards receiving mark. This time he surpassed Matt Gordon's (2004-05) career receiving touchdown record with his 13th TD scoring catch.

Next up: Divisional match-up against Horseheads Friday night at Dick Hoover Stadium.

Vestal Central School District Board Of Education Regular Meeting

NEWSPAPER EDITED, Tuesday, October 1

PRESENT:

- Shoba Agneshwar
- Amanda Atkinson
- Mark Browning
- Kay Ellis
- Eric LaClair
- Joshgua Mertens
- Lisa Milkovich
- Chadwin Smith

ALSO PRESENT:

- Superintendent of Schools Clifford Kasson
- Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Patrick Clarke
- Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, & Personnel Sydney Wade

- School Attorney Michael Sherwood
- District Clerk Michelle Lewis
- Director of Instruction Andy Blaine
- Director of Instruction Keliann Mazikewich
- Director of Personnel & Administrative Services Heather Pufky
- Director of Special Education Katherine Mazourek
- VHE Principal Cathy Willis
- VHS Principal Dawn Young
- VMS Principal Sarah Wiggins
- Approximately 32 visitors

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board President Eric LaClair in the Cafeteria of Vestal Hills Elementary School. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Spotlight Presentation

VHE Principal Cathy Willis gave a warm welcome to those in attendance and acknowledged the contributions of both students and staff in making their school a great place to learn.

Teachers Tracy Burns and Carolyn Pipher work with eight 5th graders with "super powers" who run the Morning Program. They will be focusing on teaching Loyalty, Respect, Responsibility, Determination, Self-Control, Cooperation, Empathy, and Confidence. The students did an excellent role play on how students can show Respect to others, including smiling, making eye contact, and responding when spoken to. The Vestal Golden Bear will choose one of these "super powers" to focus on each month.

Crystal Harvey, PE teacher, then highlighted the Vestal Hills 100 Mile Club. The school began participation in this program back in 2013 through a Let's Move grant. There is a 1/3 mile course on the playground that students can walk during recess. Students have an ID card and can log their miles. This has been helpful to teach students goal setting and achievement, and it has also reduced the number of playground incidents. Students are awarded a t-shirt when they hit 25 miles, a pencil at 50 miles, a bracelet at 75 miles, and a medal when they hit 100 miles. A current 5th grader shared that he walked 175 miles last year and he is aiming for 200 miles this school year. He also shared how it has increased his fitness and that he is much faster doing the "Beeper Test". A high school student also spoke as to how he walked 386.6 miles in the four years he was at VHE and how the program increased his enjoyment of fitness. He currently participates in cross country and track at the Varsity level. Overall, Vestal Hills students have logged 126,562.59 miles since the inception of the program in 2013.

Presentation

Duane Shoen from Inero & Co. CPAs shared Vestal's 2023-24 External Audit findings with Board of Education members. He stated that it was a very strong audit with no findings and no Corrective Action Plan necessary. He gave an overview of the Executive Summary, reiterating that it

was a great audit and a Clean Opinion has been issued to the Vestal Central School District.

Student Government Report

Student Government President Keith Dai reported that the high school celebrated seven National Merit Commended Scholars who were named in addition to the five National Merit Semi-Finalists. Spirit Week took place last week, leading up to a Pep Rally and Homecoming football game Friday night. There was great attendance at the game and "All-Star" seniors were honored from VHS clubs and sports teams, followed by the "Class Walk" and ending with fireworks after a Vestal victory. Golden Circle of Bands competed on Saturday, 9/28 and finished 2nd in their division. Sixty students have shown interest in participating in the Seal of Biliiteracy program this year. The SAT exam will be administered at VHS on Saturday, 10/5.

Executive Session

Move to adjourn into anticipated Executive Session for approval of CPSE and CSE recommendations, as well as updates on a legal matter, VTA negotiations, and three personnel matters

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith, Amanda Atkinson

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Work Session and Regular Meeting of September 17, 2024

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith, Amanda Atkinson

Not Present at Vote: Mark Browning

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Reports

Board President Eric LaClair reported on the following:
--Board Work Session: The Board determined that they will meet for a Work Session on Thursday, 10/10 at 6:15 pm to discuss the proposed 2024 Capital Project.

--Liaison Reports: Lisa Milkovich reported that she attended the Town of Vestal Board meeting on 9/25. There was discussion that the Town was considering using Broome County for tax collection purposes rather than having Tax Receiver services on site. With the county charging \$2/parcel, plus keeping all penalty fees, this would also adversely affect the Vestal School District, as school taxes are currently collected by the Town of Vestal Tax Receiver. Lisa reported that the resolution was modified to read that the Town Supervisor was granted permission to enter into negotiations with Broome County for the collection of taxes, rather than granted permission to enter into a contract.

--NYSSBA Voting Delegate: Shoba asked if a Board member would be willing to act as the District's voting delegate during the 2024 Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 10. Mark Browning agreed to act as our delegate.

Superintendent Clifford Kasson reported on the following:

--New Asst. Supt. for Finance, Operations, & Personnel: Superintendent Kasson introduced and welcomed Sydney Wade as the new Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, and Personnel. Sydney has extensive business

experience in both small and large school districts, and we are happy to have her in the role of Assistant Superintendent at Vestal.

--National Merit Commended Scholars: Mr. Kasson announced that seven VHS students were named as National Merit Commended Scholars, meaning that they have scored in the top 34,000 students in the US. This is, once again, a testimony to our great school district.

--Homecoming: Superintendent Kasson attended the Homecoming game on 9/27, reporting there was a full crowd of students, parents, and alumni. Youth cheerleaders and youth football players all took to the field with the Varsity players. The marching band also played during half-time. It was a great night, with the exception of some mischief behind the bleachers. Mr. Kasson will be speaking with the SRO's to determine if the area will need to be taped off during future games. Alumni from the Class of 1974 toured Clayton Avenue Elementary School with Principal Brad Bruce and Superintendent Kasson prior to the football game, and Principal Dawn Young gave a tour of Vestal High School on Saturday morning to Alumni of the Classes of 1974 and 1984, all expressing their pride and how the current school building far surpassed their expectations.

--Golden Circle of Bands: Superintendent Kasson attended the Golden Circle of Bands competition on Saturday, 9/28. There were seven bands participating. Despite the rain, all bands were very impressive.

--Enriched/Accelerated Courses at VMS: Asst. Superintendent Patrick Clarke gave an update on the changes that have been made to the entry criteria for enrollment in enriched and accelerated courses in middle school. Enriched courses provide more in-depth study in the Humanities, and enrollment in these courses is based on student interest. Accelerated courses are available in the areas of Math and Science. These courses are very rigorous and, basically, two years of study covered in one year. Entry criteria for these accelerated courses are based on Engagement, as well as Knowledge & Skill. Students must demonstrate that they can keep up, maintaining a 95% average at 30 or 35 weeks, or a 95% test average at 30 or 35 weeks. They must also meet 2/3 criteria for Engagement, consisting of: 1) 90% average attendance, 2) a score of 3 or higher on a 1-4 rubric scale for an on-demand task, and 3) team recommendation. Two other pathways are also available for students to advance in Math and Science if they don't start in 7th grade. If a student has a 95% average in grade 7, they will have the opportunity to take a 5-week mini-course during the summer in order to enter the accelerated pathway in the fall. Students would also have the opportunity to double up and take both Geometry and Algebra 2 in 10th grade. The District has made an effort to publicize these options more clearly on the website, and a letter with these options has also been mailed home to parents.

--Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey Merger: Superintendent Kasson brought up that the District has been asked once again to approve a Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey Merger. The Board of Education approved the merger last year under the condition that the Booster Club made a donation to Vestal CSD in the amount of the expenses billed by Windsor CSD. It was also resolved that this Varsity Merger would require annual approval by the Board. Of note, 12 out of the 18 players on the team were from Vestal CSD last year. This will be brought to the Board for a vote at the October 15th meeting.

Minutes to be continued next week...






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