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The Vestal Town Crier

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Vol. 36 No. 16 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, December 6, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

Glenwood Says Goodbye to Their Principal

Yesterday was bittersweet as the students lined the hallways to honor Mrs. Lamphere on her last day as Glenwood Elementary principal. Smiles, signs and hugs made her send-off memorable. Thank you, Mrs. Lamphere for your dedication and leadership. We will miss you and wish you well on your next adventure!



See Rick Marsi Column in Announcements!

RESCUE OF THE WEEK

Wiley



“Returning To Its Roots: Rockefeller Christmas Tree Comes Back To Binghamton To Help A Family In Need”



Wreaths Across America Volunteers Needed

Seeking volunteers for Vestal Park Cemetery this December 14th to help transport and place wreaths on Veteran's graves for Wreaths Across America in the Twin Tiers, special thanks to CAE & Sunbelt Rentals supporting the 2024 goal of 150 wreaths at Vestal Park. The Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Savage-DeMarco Funeral Service, 338 Conklin Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903, Sat. Dec. 14th at 2 PM, with wreath transport and placement immediately following the brief ceremony. We need individuals who can offer their car/truck to transport and then place wreaths at the cemetery on the day of the event.

If you are available and willing to assist, please email us at twintiersWAA@gmail.com.

Oh boy- look out.... I am Big Wiley ! Not really, I am a shrimp of a kitten @ 4mths old, but I am trying to be a big girl so you can adopt me. I have been told I am a snuggle -bug, and have the softest fur- why don't you come down to the shelter & pay me a visit at "Every Cat's Dream" 2101 Vestal Parkway W, Vestal, NY 13850. Call ahead for Josie to give you my personal appointment!




WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

Interested in this week's Kitty? Contact Josie at JosieECDadopt@outlook.com 607-205-1506 Tell them you saw the kitty in the Vestal Town Crier!



www.crimewatch.com

Friday, December 6th

- >Parent-Teacher Conferences:
(Half Day for Grs. K - 5; Dismissal at 11AM)
11AM, ADM BOE Conference Room
- > Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
& Sing-a-long, 6:30PM- 8PM

Saturday, December 7th

- >SAT's- 7:30AM, VHS
- > UPK (Campus Preschool) Pancake Breakfast
with Santa

December 7th and 8th

Pet Santa Photos- Please Leash Pets
11AM- 3PM, Tractor Supply at 4 Corners

Sunday, December 8th

- >Vestal Teachers' Association Craft Fair
10AM- 3PM, Vestal High School
- > Holiday Craft Fair
10AM- 3PM, VHS

Monday, December 9th

- >Parent-Teacher Conferences:
(Half Day for Grs. K - 5; Dismissal at 11AM)
- >VPL Teens: DIY Lip Balm
3PM, VPL Meeting Room, Ages 12-18

Tuesday, December 10th

- >VHS Winter Band Concert
7PM, VHS Auditorium
- >Annual Election Of The Vestal Fire District
12PM- 9PM, Vestal Fire Station #3

Wednesday, December 11th

- >VMS Winter Orchestra Concert
7PM, VHS Auditorium
- >Tech Assistance- Off Site
10:30AM, Vestal Senior Center
- >Board Game Night
6PM, VPL
- >Pins & Needles: Knit and Crochet
6PM, VPL - Meet Up

Thursday, December 12th

VHS Orchestra Concert
7PM, VHS Auditorium

Friday, December 13th

- >VHS- No Activities After 4pm (KB set up)
- >VHE Holiday of Lights Drive
6PM, Vestal Hills Elementary
- >Open Game Day (All Ages)
11AM- 3:30PM, VPL Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 10th

- >Boys Varsity Swimming/Diving v. M.E.
5:30PM- 8PM, Vestal High School Pool
- > Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Lansing
JV: 5:30PM, Varsity: 7:15PM, Vestal High
School Gym

Wednesday, December 11th

- >Boys Varsity Bowling v. Horseheads
3:50PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes
- > Boys 7th/8th Swimming/Diving v. Maine-
Endwell, Johnson City
5:30PM- 7:30PM, VHS Pool

Thursday, December 12th

Boys Varsity Wrestling v. Elmira
6:30PM, Vestal High School Gym

Friday, December 13th

- > Girls 7th (Green) Basketball v. Norwich
5:30PM- 6:30PM, TBD
- > Girls 8th (Gold) Basketball v. Norwich
6:30PM- 7:30PM, TBD

Saturday, December 14th

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Ithaca
JV: 12PM, Varsity: 1:45PM- 3:45PM,
VHS Gym

Monday, December 16th

- > Boys (Green) 7th Basketball v. Windsor (Gold)
5:30PM- 6:30PM, TBD

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

Katie Pittman, 36, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Carlos Gowdy, 51, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Target.

Adam Mittl, 42, Maine NY arrested for Falsifying Business Records 1st Degree and Petit Larceny for altering business records in order to steal money from Lowe's.

Joshua Swinarski, 48, Owego, and Lora Hooker, 42, Endicott, were both arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Meth while rummaging through the Goodwill dumpster.

Deerwar Tahir, 34, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by drugs and alcohol, Moved from Lane Unsafely, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage Motor Vehicle Accident, Refusal of Breath Test, Speed Unsafe for Conditions and No Seatbelt after a motor vehicle accident.

Matthew Baxter, 35, homeless, arrested for Criminal Tampering 3rd Degree and Public Lewdness after defecating on the floor in a business lobby and exposing his private body parts to the victim.

Laquinta Stephens, 29, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated (Felony), Refusal of Breath Test, Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Motor Vehicle Accident and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a motor vehicle accident.

Michael Williams, 50, homeless, arrested for Trespass for being on Kwik-Fill property after previously being banned from the location.

Marcellino Mendoza, 67, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia 2nd Degree, Speed in Zone, Moved from Lane Unsafely, and no turn signal less than 100 feet, for possessing Cocaine and plastic baggies during a traffic stop.

James Thomas, 46, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Sam's Club.

Carlos Gowdy, 51, Endicott, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree and Conspiracy 5th Degree for working with another person to steal merchandise from Wal-Mart valued over \$1000.

Robert Leone, 46, homeless, arrested for littering and violating the NYS Burn Ban by littering and lighting a fire outside.

Kyle Dixon, 31, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx.



Vestal Swimmers & Divers Kick off Season

By Hal Ehrhardt

Coaches Joe Shore and Sara Rostedt aim to continue building the Golden Bear boys' team as once again 2/3 of the team will be underclassmen. Leading the team will be their three senior tri-captains: Harrison Cappellett and STAC All-Stars Ben Elie and Logan Kim. Other seniors who will be expected to provide key depth are Solomon Chen and Jonathan Zheng. Juniors Gavin Hantsch and Luke Sobel round out the upper class.

A strong sophomore class includes five who are included in the pre-season Section 4 Top-10 for the class of 2028: Ben Hutchings (#1 in 100 Free), Finn Hynes (200 & 500 Free), Jayden Kim (IM), Sayum Singh (#3 in IM); and Cameron Smith (Breast). Both returning 8th graders David Cozma and Stephane Zhou are among the Top Ten in multiple events among the Freshman and younger list.

Elie is ranked 2nd in both the 6 and 11-dive events and made the overall Top-10 in the 50 Free. Logan Kim is the top Class A backstroke and is also ranked in the overall 100 Fly Top-25. Singh is ranked in the IM Top-25, while Cozma earned a spot in the 100 Breast Top-25, as did Hutchings in both the 50 and 100 Free. Three swimmers return from each of their ranked relay teams.

Among the team goals will be an improvement on their 4th place finish at Class A sectionals and their 4-4 dual meet record that placed them 3rd in the STAC Metro division behind ME and UE. Improvement will depend on the team hitting the coach's primary goal – improvement on their best performances from last year at sectionals in February.

Vestal Pre-season Rankings in Section 4 (S=STAC Top-25; A=Class A Top-25)

Medley Relay: 1st Chenango Valley (1:37.38); 10th L. Kim, Hutchings, Elie (1:49.18 S-8, A-4);

200 Free: 1st Anderson (ITH 1:47.74); L. Kim (2:04.12 A-14); Cappellett (2:05.18 A-15); Singhal (2:08.36 A-18, #3 So); Hutchings (2:12.64 A-21, #4 So); Cozma (2:13.69 A-23, #4 Fr); Hynes (2:15.59 #8 So); Zhou (2:38.59 #9 Fr);

200 IM: 1st Crisco (COR 2:05.86); 25th Singhal (2:23.24 S-18, A-10, #3 So); Cozma (2:30.05 A-19 #4 Fr); J. Kim (2:39.79 A-25, #7 So); Zhou (2:52.00 #8 Fr);

50 Free: 1st Sadykov (CV 21.22); 10th Elie (23.37 S-9, A-4, #7 Sr); 25th Hutchings (24.39 S-21, A-12, #1 So); L. Kim (24.52 S-24, A-14); Cozma (27.69 A-23);

Diving (6): 1st Jardin-Reed (COR 348.50); 2nd Elie (247.25 S-2, A-2, #2 Sr);

Diving (11): 1st Jardin-Reed (COR 589.20); 2nd Elie (432.75 S-2, A-2, #2 Sr);

100 Fly: 1st Lajza (LAN 51.58); 11th L. Kim (59.19 S-9, A-5, #8 Sr); Singhal (1:04.52 S-20, A-11, #5 So); Hutchings (1:05.12 S-23, A-14, #7 So); Sobel (1:11.02 A-19); Cozma (1:16.50 A-23, #5 Fr);

100 Free: 1st Anastos (ME 48.09); 25th Hutchings (53.89 S-20, A-11, #1 So); L. Kim (55.13 S-25, A-14); Cappellett (58.13 A-23); Singhal (59.49 #8 So);

500 Free: 1st Anderson (ITH 4:47.29); Cappellett (5:47.95 S-24, A-11); Hynes (5:57.74 A-20, #4 So); Cozma (6:06.19 A-24, #5 Fr);

200 Free Relay: 1st Chenango Valley (1:29.46); 15th Elie, L. Kim, Hutchings (1:42.94 S-13, A-6);

100 Back: 1st Lajza (LAN 55.30); 5th L. Kim (59.17 S-3, A-1, #3 Sr); Singhal (1:07.39 A-14, #5 So); Cappellett (1:09.75 A-19); Zhou (1:25.06 #7 Fr);

100 Breast: 1st Shattuck (ME 1:02.98); 24th Cozma (1:13.42 S-19, A-10, #3 Fr); Smith (1:19.61 A-18, #7 So);

400 Free Relay: 1st Chenango Valley (3:15.03); 10th Hutchings, L. Kim, Cappellett; (3:41.90 S-8, A-4);

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 7th, Vestal will participate in the Johnson City Relay Invitational with the diving beginning at 9:30 AM and the swimming starting at Noon. Last year the Golden Bears finished 5th among the seven teams. On Tuesday, 12/10, they host defending Class A and STAC Metro division champion Maine Endwell at 5:30 PM.

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

Weekly services at Unity Of Light Spiritual Center

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for our weekly service at Unity Of Light Spiritual Center at 955 Main St., Vestal, NY (rear). We are the only Christian Spiritualist organization in the area that has been in operation at this location for over 12 years! We include a guided healing meditation and psychic/spiritualist messages after service. See us on facebook for information on events, classes, and more.

Annual Election Of The Vestal Fire District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Vestal Fire District will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Vestal Fire Station #3 located at 2164 Owego Road, Vestal, NY 13850 for the purposes of:

- 1) voting on Proposition Number 1 to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Capital Improvements;
- 2) voting on Proposition Number 2 to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Equipment Replacement;
- 3) voting on Proposition Number 3 to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Apparatus Replacement; and
- 4) voting on Proposition Number 4 to establish a Repair Reserve Fund.

5) voting on Proposition 5, a Resolution approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners pursuant to Town Law Section 176(2-a) to make the office of fire district treasurer an appointive position for

a term of one year commencing January 1, 2025.

There is no election of candidates for office at this election.

Only those persons who are residents of the Vestal Fire District on or before November 12, 2024 and who are registered to vote with the Broome County Board of Elections on or before November 18, 2024 shall be eligible to vote.

Broome County Legislators

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

Stephen J. Flagg
District 1 (City of Binghamton,
Towns of Colesville, Fenton &
Kirkwood)
stephen.flagg@broomecountyny.gov

Scott D. Baker
District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood,
Sanford & Windsor)
scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov

Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds (Dist 5)
daniel.j.reynolds@broomecountyny.gov

Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale Dist 7)
matthew.pasquale@broomecountyny.gov

Min.w Leader Robert Weslar (Dist 13)
bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov

Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)

Jason Shaw jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov
Louis Augostini louie.augostini@broomecountyny.gov
Matthew Hilderbrant matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov
Kim Myers kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov
Mark Whalen mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov

Vestal Town Crier

Vestal Town Crier (USPS 0052-26)
Published weekly by Newspaper
Publishers LLC
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at
Conklin, NY 13748
POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to:
Vestal Town Crier P.O. Box
Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop
607 444-NEWS
Member



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: 607 444 NEWS E-mail: news@tiersnews.com

Vestal Central School District Board Of Education Regular Meeting

NEWSPAPER EDITED, Tuesday, November 19

PRESENT:

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

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 Personnel & Administrative Services Heather Pufky
- Director of Special Education Katherine Mazourek
- VHE Principal Cathy Willis
- VHS Principal Dawn Young
- VHS Asst. Principal Jennifer Bittler
- Approximately 14 visitors

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Board President Eric LaClair in the Board Conference Room of the Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Student Gov't Representative

Student Government President Keith Dai reported that Winter sports have officially begun after a very successful Fall season. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held last evening and NHS members will be meeting as a group on Thursday, 11/21. PSAT scores have recently been released. The Holiday Card Drive has begun and Student Government is still accepting card donations. They have completed 500 of their 2000 card goal to date. A Club Fair will take place on Friday, 11/22. There will be slideshows looping during lunch periods highlighting all the clubs. Keith also praised Mr. Greene for being this week's WICZ Teacher of the Week, joining Mrs. Donlin (September) and Mrs. Restuccia (October) as featured Vestal teachers.

Executive Session

Move to adjourn into anticipated Executive Session for approval of CPSE and CSE recommendations

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2024

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Reports

Board President Eric LaClair reported on the following items:

--Liaison Reports - Mark Browning attended the ARE PTA meeting on 11/12 and reported that membership is up. They are in the midst of planning a Binghamton Black Bears fundraiser, as well as a Glow Art Dance. Taste of ARE took place on 11/18 with another excellent turnout. There were 28 families who participated and proudly shared their cultures with the many attendees. Mark also attended

Engineering Day at BOCES with high school students from SV. There were 25 teams represented and he was happy to see 4-5 Vestal teams participating, one of which took 2nd place. He also commended the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team for how well they did this season. They lost in the State Semifinals this past weekend, but it was an exciting season and their sportsmanship has been very apparent. Chadwin Smith attended the VHS PTO meeting on 11/13, with a current membership of 86. A Cookie Exchange is planned for 12/10. As a result of grant funding, a new refrigerator is being installed in the concession stand and the French Club is getting a crepe griddle. A Blood Drive is taking place on 11/21 and they are still in need of volunteers. The VHS Counseling Office is sponsoring 30 families this year for Thanksgiving if anyone is interested in donating. The Building Planning Team met recently and has been discussing the Mentoring Program and how they can build on this. Chad also brought up the presentation of Upstanders that was shared during Freshmen Orientation regarding the effects of bullying. Although this was fully vetted through the Project Golden Bear Committee, Chad and Shoba both voiced that they heard comments that it was very heavy content for Freshmen Orientation and suggested that if it continues to be shared with students, that it be viewed at a different time of year. Kay Ellis attended the THE PTO meeting on 11/6, also reporting great participation and membership. The FUNd Walk, Harvest Luncheon, and Fall Fest all took place in October. A team of 5th grade students will be attending BOCES Engineering Day on 11/21. THE has begun their Annual Holiday Food Drive in conjunction with the Apalachin Lions Club, and 5th graders will also be packaging up personal care items to share with those in need. A Special Interest Fair will be taking place in the Spring. They are thinking of ideas for June, such as a symbolic hand-off between THE Kindergarten students and THE graduates. Amanda Atkinson reported on the GSCA meeting that took place on 11/6. They had a Pumpkin Decorating Contest between classrooms with lots of great talent on display. They have just finished a Cider Mill fundraiser and a Gift Card fundraiser. The Barnes & Noble fundraiser was also a huge success, bringing in \$17,000. Money earned through fundraising has allowed the school to provide a book for all GLE students for summer reading, and also stocked a new 5th grade classroom with books. The One Book, One School Celebration has been combined with Family Bingo this year and will take place on 11/20. Lisa Milkovich attended the Vestal Town Board Meeting last week. She reported that as a result of the Tax Collection Survey, the Town has decided to keep tax collection in-house with the addition of a dropbox and payment by e-check. She also reported that the Town budget is \$984,700 over the tax cap and that they will be going out over the tax levy this year. Josh Mertens reported that the Town is also raising taxes on water, sewer, and fire districts.

Superintendent Clifford Kasson reported on the following items:

--Districtwide Choral Concert - Supt. Kasson attended the DW Choral Concert on 11/14 and reported that it was "beautiful, amazing, and well done." He commended the students, as well as the teachers and musicians.

--Taste of ARE - Supt. Kasson was pleased to attend the annual Taste of ARE event on 11/18 with numerous families proudly sharing their cultures. He commented on what a wonderful reflection it was of the diversity within the Vestal School District.

--National Honor Society Induction Ceremony - Supt. Kasson attended the NHS Induction Ceremony at VHS

last night and was proud of the many students who were selected for induction.

--2022 Capital Project Update - LeChase Construction provided a newsletter update for BOE members to share the current status of the 2022 Capital Project. The State finally came back with approval for all the proposed projects, with the exception of the VMS classroom addition. However, the State will allow the addition of a 1200 sq. ft. STEAM classroom. The District will be looking into this possibility. Projects have gone out for bid and work is scheduled to start at THE over winter break. Work on building roofs and Sammon Field will begin in the spring/summer.

--2024 Proposed Capital Project - The Capital Project Newsletter will be mailed out this week and presentation boards are being finalized. There will be a dedicated Capital Project page on the District website and information will be pushed out via social media, as well. The VMS elevator has been pulled out of the Capital Project, as it has been approved by NYS as an emergency project. We would like to shift those funds to do additional Fine Arts upgrades in the VHS auditorium.

--Emergency Project: VMS Elevator - NYS has approved repair of the VMS elevator as an emergency project. Thus, this will be pulled out of the 2024 Proposed Capital Project. The District will use the Repair Reserve Fund to pay for the cost, and NYS will aid the project over 15 years.

--Electric Bus Demo - Leonard Bus Sales will be bringing an electric bus to the Vestal Transportation Department at 2 pm on Thursday, 11/21. Board members are welcome to take a test ride, if interested. Vestal CSD mechanics will also have an opportunity to look over the bus. Sydney Wade, Asst. Supt. for Finance, Operations, & Personnel, is looking into grants through NYSERDA for the District's planned purchase of an electric bus in 2025.

--Revenue 101 Presentation - Sydney Wade, Asst. Supt. for Finance, Operations, & Personnel, reviewed with the Board the various forms of revenue that fund the District. These include State aid, tax levy and PILOTs, interest income, grants, stimulus funds, etc. Sydney reviewed Vestal's tax levy over the past five years, revealing \$1.5M in lost revenue when the District went out at a 0% tax levy in 2020-21 and 2021-22. She also reviewed the 2011 Tax Cap Law that would require a super majority vote of 60% plus 1 in order to exceed the tax levy. Board President Eric LaClair thanked Sydney for the presentation and helping Board members better understand the implications of the tax levy.

--VHS Course Description Guide 2025-26 - Superintendent Kasson shared that he is very proud of the course offerings at VHS. He asked Board members to please review the VHS Course Description Guide for 2025-26 with the proposed changes. Any questions should be directed to the Superintendent. The Board will be asked to approve the Course Guide at the 12/3 meeting.

-- Student Academic Achievement - Patrick Clarke, Asst. Supt. for Instruction, shared NYS 3-8 test results that were recently released. For the first time, 2024 Math and Science tests were administered solely via computer-based testing (CBT) for grades 5 and 8. ELA tests for grades 3-8 were also administered via CBT. With this change, test scores were noted to be depressed. Vestal continues to rank 1st and 2nd in proficiency regionally, but the trends are either flat or decreasing. Dr. Clarke discussed regional collaboration and looking at other districts to see what we can learn from them. He also suggested reevaluating assessment methods and incorporating more computer-based testing throughout the school year. He stressed the need for more grade level and department meetings, as well as continuous

Returning To Its Roots: Rockefeller Christmas Tree Comes Back To Binghamton To Help A Family In Need

Tree owned by a Binghamton professor will be used in a Habitat for Humanity home
Article by By John Brhel and courtesy of Binghamton University



A tree once owned by Assistant Professor of Social Work Jackie McGinley stands tall and decorated with 50,000 multi-colored LEDs in Rockefeller Center. Image Credit: Matt Ebbers.

It was a magical moment – like something out of a Christmas movie – for Jackie McGinley and the local community. An 80-foot, 80-year-old Norway Spruce that once stood tall at her Vestal home had become the most famous Christmas tree in the world—the official 2023 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree!

McGinley, an assistant professor of social work, and her family followed the tree down to New York City, where they were treated to a dinner overlooking Rockefeller Center, before attending the lighting ceremony and pressing a button to bring the more than 50,000 lights attached to life. Her starstruck daughters even got to meet Kelly Clarkson.

“It still feels a little bit surreal. You sort of question, ‘Did that really happen?’” said McGinley.

But the iconic tree isn’t merely a symbol of goodwill. It’s now a physical embodiment of the season’s spirit of giving and charity. Having brought joy to millions, the tree will now bring joy to a local family in need.

Construction continues at the Habitat for Humanity home on West Street in Johnson City. The house is a shell, but will later include panel shelving made out of the lumber milled from the Rockefeller tree.

Construction continues at the Habitat for Humanity home on West Street in Johnson City. The house is a shell, but will later include panel shelving made out of the lumber milled from the Rockefeller tree. Image Credit: Bella Seastrand.

Every year since 2007, Tishman Speyer, the owner and manager of Rockefeller Center, has donated the iconic Christmas tree to Habitat for Humanity (HFH), a nonprofit that builds homes for families of low-income or disadvantaged backgrounds. Thanks to a new initiative, Rockefeller trees now return to their community of origin, and the tree once owned by McGinley has been milled to provide lumber for a home just over the river in Johnson City.

“That felt so meaningful to us, that the tree would get to come back here to the community that felt so invigorated, enlivened...” said McGinley. “People were so proud that the tree came from their backyard, from their hometown. And

so we were really excited to see that come back here and to continue that tradition.”

This summer, Lateisha Judge, executive director of Broome County HFH, received word that the tree would be returning to the local area – and she squealed in joy. Judge had seen countless Rockefeller trees over the years, but at the time of the call (which she initially thought was a prank!), she didn’t know about the collaboration with the Rockefeller Center.

“That fact in and of itself is really cool. Because that home, wherever it’s used, is going to have a piece of history. It’s really symbolic to know that we were going to be able to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, and partake in this symbolic gifting,” said Judge. “And then I thought it was really beautiful, the whole initiative to return the tree to its roots, trying to make it whole again.”

The wood, a soft spruce, isn’t framing-grade and can’t be used structurally. Instead, it will be used to build pantry shelving and other necessary shelving at a house on West Street in Johnson City. HFH crew are working diligently to get the building “weather-tight” (i.e. externally framed and roofed) before winter weather hits hard. A partner family, yet to be selected, will move in next year.

Some of the wood was milled and used to build shelves for Habit’s on-site warehouse. In addition, a volunteer at the HFH office used a small piece of the available lumber to create a sculpture for McGinley and her family.

This sculpture, created by an anonymous volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, is made out of wood from the actual Rockefeller Center tree.

This sculpture, created by an anonymous volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, is made out of wood from the actual Rockefeller Center tree. Image Credit: Habitat for Humanity.

“It was really exciting, and it was incredibly generous that the volunteer made the item for us, but we were more excited that this gave us another chance to champion an organization in our community that is doing so much

good,” said McGinley. “The story is not about us; it’s not about where we are. It’s really about where the wood is and what good it’s doing in our community.”

And McGinley did some gift-giving of her own. She is still in touch with Erik Pauze, the head gardener for the Rockefeller Center who picked her tree, and he kept her posted on which lucky family’s tree had been selected this year.

“We were also able to send an ornament that we had made from our tree, and a card that actually had the artwork that one of our local community members made on the front of it with the tree depicted to the next family, and just welcome them to this large, totally magical, entirely unexpected group of people that have this shared experience,” said McGinley. “And that’s been very exciting to be able to welcome the next family into that fold.”

The McGinley family poses in front of the tree after workers removed it from their side yard.

The McGinley family poses in front of the tree after workers removed it from their side yard. Image Credit: Matt Ebbers.

While snow falls outside their window this holiday season, the McGinleys will have something new to enjoy. Pauze returned this spring with a crew to ground out the tree stump, re-level the grass, lay new soil – and deliver a gift to the family, courtesy of the Rockefeller Center.

“They planted a number of trees that are 20-feet tall,” said McGinley. “Absolutely gorgeous, and a splurge that we would have never indulged ourselves.”

The McGinley’s holiday season will be slightly toned down from their 2023 adventures but no less fulfilling. The family is back to their regular traditions, spending the holiday at home with family and friends. McGinley likes getting messages and texts about the Rockefeller tree from time to time – but she’s happy to “fade back into the background” this year and let new families enjoy the limelight.

“It’s a joy when we hear a detail about it and we get to remember our experience, but it was never about us,” said McGinley. “It doesn’t feel like something we’re hyper-focused on, because it’s really always just about the community and the people who get to enjoy it.”

As for Judge, she’s happy that the tree has helped put Binghamton more on the map – and served a greater purpose.

“It’s full circle,” said Judge. “It already served its purpose; it grew here. Then it provided the joy of the holiday season to millions of people in the city, and then it comes back to us to provide a family a chance at having a home. I love that.”

Important Reminders For HS Students:

Apply for scholarships at:
<https://www.vestal.stier.org/ScholarshipInformation.aspx>



FUN AT THE VESTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING SESSION

Courtesy of the Vestal Fire Department on Facebook, (Photo credits: Jean Stout)

Who says learning can't also be fun? VFD had a great time at training last week, which featured hose bowling and extrication tool Jenga.



Vestal Volunteer Department Formation and History

Courtesy of Timothy Traver, Department Historian and the Vestal Fire Department



1924 LaFrance-Brockway Torpedo

The Torpedo had no pump on it but rather a three tank chemical system that relied upon a chemical reaction to create pressure that would force water out of a tank and through a hose.

This system consisted of three copper tanks in which there was a mixture of sodium bicarbonate, better known as baking soda, and water. Within the tank, a powerful acid, like sulfuric acid, was held in container. When the firemen were in position and ready with the nozzle, a lever was pulled which tipped the container releasing the sulfuric acid into the tank, causing the rapid expansion of the mixture, forcing it down the hose and out the nozzle at great pressure.

As each tank was depleted the next tank would then be used and the previously used tank would be recharged by hand. With practice a competent crew could maintain a continuous hose stream at a fire with no mechanical pump used.

The Vestal truck had no pump on it when ordered, but provisions were made in it's construction for the removal of a soda water tank so a pump and fire hose could be added to the truck at a later date.

Thus, the Vestal Volunteer Fire Department was formed, by the people and for the people of the Town of Vestal. It is a proud and wonderful accomplishment that still stands today over 100 years later. All four Vestal Volunteer Fire Companies, as independent, separate organizations, combined on July 14th, 1952 to form the Vestal Volunteer Fire Department as we know it today.

(All information above taken from the internet, period Broome County newspaper articles and personal knowledge)

Timothy Traver
Department Historian

The Vestal Fire Company was formed in a meeting of 25 men on October 24, 1921 in Eldredge Hall on Main Street. They had no money, no equipment and no firefighting experience.

The Fire Company was incorporated in January 3rd, 1922 and membership grew to 75 men.

The Fire Company Directors were: N.R. Stoddard, Clair M. Potts, George M. Diehl, Charles Barnes, Grover Brooks, Henry Taylor, Leo Frey, and Elliott King.

In January of 1922 the first Fire Officers elected were: N.R. Stoddard as Fire Chief, Theodore Loveless as Assistant Chief, Henry Taylor as Foreman and Fred Michelbach as Assistant Foreman.

In 1923 a building lot was purchased for \$700 and "a large stucco firehouse with an assembly hall on the second floor" was built, this being the first Vestal Fire Company firehouse. This building once stood where the parking lot of the current Station One is today in the Four Corners.

The cost of the original firehouse was \$11,114, after the purchase of additional items the cost of the firehouse project rose to \$13,000. Much of the money was raised by the Fire Company members, their families, and citizens through various fundraisers such as dinners, dances, community fairs, and donations from the community and from local businesses.

In 1924 "a three-tank chemical truck, built by the LaFrance Company of Elmira, was procured at a cost of \$3,500". This fire truck was a "LaFrance-Brockway Torpedo", which was state of the art in 1924. The whole community contributed in some way to the purchase of the new truck, with several prominent citizens donating sums of \$100. When the truck fund fell short by \$500, Mr. George F. Johnson, forever the community philanthropist, donated the money to finish the purchase, much to the delight of the townspeople.

Vestal Hills Young Artist Showcases

Talent At Local Gallery

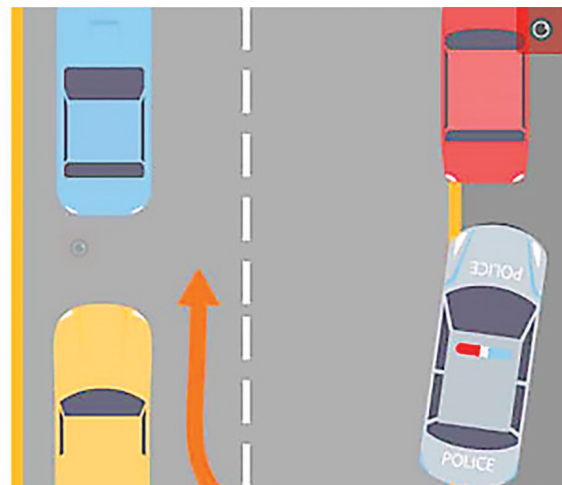
Vestal Hills second grader Max Zietsman is showing his artwork at an exhibition "Scrap Paper," at the Artisan Gallery in Binghamton! His artist reception is December 7th from Noon-1pm and his artwork will be on display through the end of December.



AT THE VESTAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

Traffic Safety- Move Over Law

MOVE OVER & REDUCE SPEED FOR STOPPED EMERGENCY VEHICLES



From 2016 to 2020, 37 individuals were killed outside disabled vehicles in New York. The Move Over Law was enacted to prevent those tragedies and make New York's roadways safer for all. New York State has expanded the Move Over Law to include all vehicles that are stopped on the shoulder of any parkway or controlled access highway. An example of exercising due care would be moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where such motor vehicle is parked, stopped or standing to another lane. This ensures that the stopped motorist or emergency responders can safely exit their vehicles as needed. Having an empty lane between the stopped vehicle and flowing traffic on a parkway or highway could be the difference between life and death given the higher speed limits on the Vestal Parkway, SR 26, SR 201 and SR 17.

§ 1144-a. Operation of vehicles when approaching a parked, stopped or standing authorized emergency vehicle, hazard vehicle, vehicle displaying a blue or green light or certain other motor vehicles.

(a) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with an authorized emergency vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder or any portion of such highway and such authorized emergency vehicle is displaying one or more red or combination red and white lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph two of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) or is displaying one or more blue, combination blue and red or combination blue, red and white lights pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph b of paragraph four of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment). For operators of motor vehicles on parkways or controlled access highways, such due care shall include, but not be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where such authorized emergency vehicle displaying one or more red, blue or white or any combination of red and white lights or blue or combination blue and red or combination blue, red and white lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph two or subparagraph b of paragraph four, as applicable of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) is parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies with the requirements of this chapter including, but not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven hundred ten of this title and eleven hundred twenty-eight of this title.

(b) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a hazard vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder or on any portion of such highway and such hazard vehicle is displaying one or more amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) or, if such hazard vehicle is designed for the towing or pushing of disabled vehicles such hazard vehicle is displaying one or more amber lights or one or more blue or combination blue

and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or subparagraph b-1 of paragraph four, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) or, if such hazard vehicle owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village is designed for the removal of ice and snow such hazard vehicle is displaying one or more amber lights or one or more green or combination green and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of

paragraph three or subparagraph (c) of paragraph five, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment). For operators of motor vehicles on parkways or controlled access highways, such due care shall include, but not be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where (i) such hazard vehicle displaying one or more amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) or (ii) such hazard vehicle designed for the towing or pushing of disabled vehicles displaying one or more amber lights or one or more blue or combination blue and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or subparagraph b-1 of paragraph four, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) or (iii) such hazard vehicle owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village is displaying one or more amber lights or one or more green or combination green and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or subparagraph (c) of paragraph five, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment), is parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies with the requirements of this chapter including, but not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven hundred ten and eleven hundred twenty-eight of this title.

(c) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a vehicle displaying a blue light pursuant to the provisions of paragraph four or a green light pursuant to the provisions of paragraph five of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder or any portion of such highway. For operators of motor vehicles on parkways or controlled access highways, such due care shall include, but not be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where such vehicle displaying a blue light pursuant to the provisions of paragraph four or a green light pursuant to the provisions of paragraph five of subdivision forty-one of § 375 (Equipment) is parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies with the requirements of

this chapter including, but not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven hundred ten and eleven hundred twenty-eight of this title.

(d) Every operator of a motor vehicle on a parkway and on a controlled-access highway shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a motor vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder or any portion of such parkway or controlled-access highway. For the purposes of this subdivision, such due care shall include, but not be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where such motor vehicle is parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies with the requirements of this chapter including, but not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven hundred ten and eleven hundred twenty-eight of this title.

What Are the Penalties for New York's Move Over Law?

- **Fines:** A conviction for violating VTL 1144-a(a), New York's Move Over Law, can result in a fine of up to \$150 for a first offense. A second offense within 18 months of the first means a fine of up to \$300. A third offense within 18 months means a fine of up to \$450.
- **Points:** New York's Move Over Law is a 2-point offense.
- **Surcharges:** Like most moving violations in New York, drivers are obligated to pay a state surcharge of \$88 or \$93 upon conviction for New York's Move Over Law.
- **Driver Responsibility Assessment (DRA) fee:** Receiving 6 points within 18 months requires drivers to pay an additional fine called the Driver Responsibility Assessment (DRA). This is separate from the fine and is paid directly to the DMV. A DRA costs \$300 for the first six points. Each additional point adds another \$75.
- **Auto insurance increase:** New York's Move Over Law is a moving violation and can have an impact on one's insurance premiums. Studies have shown that a conviction for a moving violation can result in a hike in rates of up to 20%, sometimes more.

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

Article and photos
courtesy of the
Vestal Police
Department on
crimewatch.com



instructional improvement in order to help both students and teachers continue to be successful.

Acceptance of Schedule F - Travel & Conference

Acceptance of Schedule F - Travel & Conference
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Approval of Schedule P - Personnel

Move to approve Schedule P - Personnel
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

**The following changes were made under
Schedule P:**

SCHEDULE IP2

RETIREMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL RETIREMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, TENURE AREA, EFF. DATE)

- Moyer, Robert, Physical Education Teacher, Special Subject Tenure Area: Physical Education, 7/1/25
- Padavona, Teresa, World Language Teacher, Academic Tenure Area: World Language, 7/23/25

SCHEDULE IP4A

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS:
INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SUBSTITUTES):

(NAME, INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL, CERTIFICATION, DEGREE, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)

- Edwards, Danielle, Science, None, BA, 11/20/24
- Hampton, Brian, Social Studies, None, BA, 11/20/24
- Lichtman, Karen, Elementary, None, Ph.D, 11/20/24
- Martin, Autumn, English, None, BA, 11/20/24
- Staneva-Dimitrova, Biliana, Science, None, MS, 11/20/24
- Wagner, Adrian, Music, None, BA, 11/20/24
- Whiteman, Gabriel, Physical Education, None, BA, 11/20/24

SCHEDULE IP4B

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS:
ABOVE CONTRACT**

There is a master list of above contract positions for the 2024-25 school year. We are asking for approval for the person, position, and stipend.

(AREA OF APPOINTMENT, AREA/SEASON/BLDG, STIPEND, POSTED, NAME, APPROVED, INTER-SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS)

- JV Basketball B Coach, Winter, \$5,062.00, 9/25/24, Whiteman, Gabriel, 11/19/24
- Modified Basketball B Coach, Winter, \$4,276.00, 9/25/24, Spalik, Jacob, 11/19/24
- Modified Basketball B Coach, Winter, \$4,276.00, 9/25/24, Roma, Corey, 11/19/24
- Basketball: Volunteer, Winter, Cherevko, Jeremy, 11/19/24
- Varsity Basketball G Coach, Winter, \$8,007.00, 9/25/24, Anderson, Nicholas, 11/19/24
- JV Basketball G Coach, Winter, \$5,455.00, 9/25/24, Anderson, Michelle, 11/19/24
- Modified Basketball G Coach, Winter, \$5,043.00, 9/25/24, Burghardt, Baylee, 11/19/24
- Varsity/JV Bowling B&G Coach, Winter, \$5,801.00, 9/25/24, Crunden, James, 11/19/24
- Varsity Swimming B Coach, Winter, \$6,862.00, 9/25/24, Shore, Joseph, 11/19/24

- Varsity Swimming B Asst Coach, Winter, \$4,669.00, 9/25/24, Rostedt, Sara, 11/19/24
- Modified Swimming B Coach, Winter, \$4,331.00, 9/25/24, Harnan, Patrick, 11/19/24
- Cheerleading: Volunteer Winter, Carter, Autumn, 11/19/24
- Cheerleading: Volunteer Winter, VanGorden, Kylie, 11/19/24
- Modified Cheerleading Coach, Winter, \$3,516.00, 9/25/24, Ewing, Nicole, 11/19/24
- Varsity Wrestling B Coach: Volunteer, Winter, Musser, Chris, 11/19/24
- JV Wrestling B Coach, Winter, \$5,455.00, 9/25/24, Giacche, John, 11/19/24
- JV Wrestling B: Volunteer, Winter, Sacco, Peter, 11/19/24
- Modified Wrestling B Coach, Winter, \$5,043.00, 9/25/24, Faughnan, James, 11/19/24
- Indoor Track Asst. Coach (co), Winter, \$2,334.50, 9/25/24, Nemecek, Joseph, 11/19/24

ADVISORS

- History Club (co), MS, \$382.00, 6/21/24, Spierling, Jeffrey, 11/19/24, *CHANGE*
- History Club (co), MS, \$1,377.00, 6/21/24, Fey, Jesse, 11/19/24

MUSIC

- Winter Color Guard, HS, \$1,586.00, 6/21/24, Tyler, Kimberly, 11/19/24, *CANCEL*
- Winter Color Guard (co), HS, \$793.00, 6/21/24, Tyler, Kimberly, 11/19/24
- Winter Color Guard (co), HS, \$793.00, 6/21/24, Cardone, Michelle, 11/19/24
- District Accompanist, DW, \$1,500.00, 6/21/24, Apicella, James, 11/19/24, *CANCEL*
- Musical Support - Marching Band, HS, \$700.00, 6/21/24, Gale, Erin, 11/19/24
- Musical Support - Props Master, MS, \$1,400.00, 6/21/24, Kreidler, Kathleen, 11/19/24
- Musical Support - Props Master, HS, \$500.00, 6/21/24, Kreidler, Kathleen, 11/19/24
- Marching Band Support - Drumline, HS, \$700.00, 6/21/24, Darpino, Ashley, 11/19/24

SCHEDULE IP6

TENURE APPOINTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL TENURE APPOINTMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, TENURE AREA, CERTIFICATION (EXP. DATE), PROB. PERIOD, EFF. DATE)

- Faughnan, James, Science Teacher, Academic Tenure Area: Science, Professional, 11/16/20-11/15/24, 11/16/24
- Webster, Mary, Elementary Teacher, Elementary Tenure Area, Permanent, 11/29/21-11/28/24, 11/29/24

SCHEDULE NIP 1

RESIGNATIONS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL RESIGNATIONS:

(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/SCHOOL, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)

- Taylor, Carleen, Teacher Aide PT/S, DW, 11/8/24, To accept sub clerical position

SCHEDULE NIP 2

RETIREMENTS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL RETIREMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/SCHOOL, EFF. DATE)

- Simons, Lynne, Teacher Aide, VMS, 6/30/25

SCHEDULE NIP 4

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS:
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BUILDING, PROB. PERIOD SALARY, REMARKS)

- Smales, Mariah, Teacher Aide, CAE, 11/20/24-1/28/26, \$16.10/hr, 52-week probationary period

SCHEDULE NIP 8A

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS/SUBSTITUTES:
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following TEMPORARY NON-INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS/SUBSTITUTES:

(NAME, POSITION, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)

- Kakusian, John, Cleaner PT/S, 11/20/24
- Taylor, Carleen, Typist PT/S, 11/20/24
- Webster, Wendy, Typist PT/S, 5/1/25

SCHEDULE NIP 9B

**PART-TIME NON-COMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS:
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following PART-TIME NON-COMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BUILDING, PROB. PERIOD SALARY, REMARKS)

- Akhtar, Shahrin, Teacher Aide PT, VHE, 11/20/24-1/28/26, \$16.10/hr, 52-week probationary period
- Begum, Mahamuda, Teacher Aide PT, VHE, 11/20/24-1/28/26, \$16.10/hr, 52-week probationary period
- Jones, Nyrobi, Teacher Aide PT, VMS, 11/14/24-1/22/26, \$16.10/hr, 52-week probationary period

SCHEDULE NIP 11

CHANGES IN STATUS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGES IN STATUS:

(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BLDG, CHANGE, EFF. DATE)

The following employees have achieved satisfactory completion of District probationary period:

- Hines, Kyliera, Nurse, VHE, 10/23/24

**Declaration of Emergency Project -
VMS Elevator**

WHEREAS, the Vestal Central School District (the "District"), in compliance with applicable New York State laws, finds that the elevator at the Vestal Middle School has been breaking down and is considered obsolete, and parts are not readily available to repair it. When the elevator is down, there is no practical way to move students with mobility issues between floors of the building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The District finds that the state of the Vestal Middle School elevator requires immediate attention to address ADA accessibility issues which render it unsafe to be used to move students with mobility issues between floors, thus creating an ongoing health and safety risk to students and staff. Therefore, the proposed repairs, remediation, preservation, and replacement of property of the District must be undertaken without delay ("Emergency Project").

2. Based on the above, the Board of Education hereby finds that the need to undertake the Emergency Project constitutes an emergency within the meaning of General Municipal Law Section 103(4) and is essential to prevent

Continued From Page 9

imminent danger to, and promote the protection of, the life, health, safety and property of students and staff.

3. The Board has reviewed preliminary estimates for the work. The maximum estimated cost of the Emergency Project, as determined by the District's architectural firm, is approximately \$400,000.00 and the District is hereby authorized to expend up to \$400,000.00 to undertake and complete the Emergency Project. The funding source for the Emergency Project will be any state building aid, Repair Reserve funds to the extent applicable, unencumbered monies from the General Fund, as well as any other legal source of funds.

4. The Superintendent of Schools and all officers and employees of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to complete the Emergency Project, to carry out the intent of this Resolution, to apply for any eligible state building aid, and to recover any available insurance proceeds.

5. In accordance with General Municipal Law Section 103(4), the Board hereby grants a waiver of the competitive bidding requirements in order to expedite such purchase.

6. The Superintendent of Schools and his designee are hereby directed to undertake the Emergency Project at the lowest possible cost in a manner which is practicable under the circumstances in accordance with applicable District policies.

7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Highland Associates Revised Proposal - Pre-Referendum Services

WHEREAS, the Board of Education accepted the proposal from Highland Associates to provide architectural design and building engineering pre-referendum services for the 2024 Capital Project on September 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS the scope of work was reduced from \$48M to \$39,435,000 prior to acceptance by the Board of Education on October 15, 2024;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the President or Vice President to sign the updated agreement with Highland Associates in accordance with the attached document, not to exceed 0.5% of the total project anticipated cost based on \$39,435,000, or \$197,175.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Certification of Return of Tax Warrant

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 1332 of the Real Property Tax Law, the account of the school tax collector of the Vestal Central School District of unpaid taxes for 2024 has been compared with the original list of taxes and found to be a true transcript, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certification of the Board of Education be added to the returned list and such lists be transmitted to the enforcement officers as provided for in Section 1332 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Town of Binghamton \$ 15,180.02

Town of Owego \$ 106,940.91

Town of Vestal \$ 1,316,417.76

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Clinical Placement Agreement - BU Division of SLP

RESOLVED, that the President or Vice President of the Board of Education be authorized to sign a Clinical Placement Agreement with Binghamton University - Division of Speech & Language Pathology for provision of therapy and evaluations for Vestal students as needed for the period January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, according to the terms of the attached agreement, at a cost not to exceed \$35,100.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Personal Services Agreement -**District Accompanist**

RESOLVED, that the President or Vice President of the Board of Education be authorized to sign a Personal Services Agreement with James Apicella to act as a District Accompanist as indicated for the 2024-25 school year, in accordance with terms outlined in the attached agreement, through June 30, 2025.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Approval of Student Counseling Internship

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the individual listed below is hereby granted an internship with the Vestal Central School District for the time frame indicated and supervised as described.

(Name, University, Internship Period, Bldg/Area, Cooperating Teacher)

- Danielle Champion, William & Mary University, 1/22/25-5/13/25, GLE/Counseling, Stephanie Mitsakos

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Single Election District for the Vestal Central School District

WHEREAS, the Vestal Central School District had previously been divided into five election districts for purposes of school district elections, and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the safety of students and staff at the district elementary schools and of facilitating more efficient school district elections, it is appropriate to officially establish a single election district for all school district elections.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, effective immediately, that there shall be a single election district for all Vestal Central School District elections, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the polling place for the single election district for all Vestal Central School District elections shall be at the Central Junior Building at 201 Main Street, Vestal, New York.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Second Reading and Acceptance of Policy Amendments

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts amendments to the following District policies as written:

1600 - Procedure for Public Referendum

1700 - Negotiating Units Defined

4211 - Organizational Chart

5676 - Data Privacy and Security

6121 - Sexual Harassment

6130 - Evaluation of Personnel: APPR

6170 - Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires)

7622 - Provision of Services to Homeschooled Students

8340 - Textbooks/Workbooks/Calculators/Instructional Computer Hardware/Library Books

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voice of the Public

Jessica Groves, VTA Vice President/VHS Social Studies Teacher - Addressed the Board regarding the VTA being without a current contract. Voiced support for release time for the VTA President.

Allison Weisel, VHS Math Teacher - Addressed the Board regarding the VTA contract. Stated her opposition to any additional meetings required of teachers with undefined work.

Stephanie Daino, VHS Social Studies Teacher - Addressed the Board regarding the VTA contract. Shared that she does not support any additional meetings required of teachers with undefined work.

Future Board Meetings

Special District Meeting TUESDAY December 10, 2024
Capital Project Vote, 12-8 pm, Central Jr. Building, 201 Main Street, Vestal

Regular Meeting TUESDAY December 17, 2024 6:00 pm,
Admin Building, 201 Main Street, Vestal

Adjournment

Move to Adjourn

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Michelle Lewis, DISTRICT CLERK

DAYS IN DECEMBER

12/6: National Microwave Oven Day

12/7: National Cotton Candy Day

12/8: National Crossword Solvers Day, National Brownies Day, National Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day

12/9: National Christmas Card Day

12/11: National Stretching Day

12/12: National Poinsettia Day, Gingerbread House Day, National Ding-a-Ling Day

12/13: National Hot Cocoa Day

12/14: National Wreaths Across America Day

12/16: National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

12/18: National Twin Day, Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day

12/19: National Hard Candy Day

12/20: National Go Caroling Day, National Ugly Sweater Day, National Underdog Day

12/21: National Flashlight Day, National French Fried Shrimp Day

12/21-12/23: The Winter Solstice!

12/23: National Roots Day, Festivus Day

12/24: Christmas Eve, National Egg Nog Day

12/25: Christmas Day, National Pumpkin Pie Day

12/25-1/2: The Days of Hanukkah

12/26: National Thank You Note Day, National Candy Cane Day

12/26-1/1: The Days of Kwanzaa

12/27: National Fruitcake Day

12/28: National Card Playing Day, National Chocolate Candy Day

12/30: Falling Needles Day, National Bacon Day

12/31: New Year's Eve, National Champagne Day

Vestal Teachers' Association Craft Fair

Date: December 8th

Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Vestal High

School

Proceeds benefit the Dollars for Scholars program, helping us award scholarships to graduating seniors.

*basket raffles donated by the Vestal Teachers' Association.

*concessions

*vendor donation raffles called every 10 minutes

Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list, including:

• Face Painting

• Local honey

- Beautiful jewelry
 - Handcrafted woodworks
 - Exquisite pottery
 - Cozy scarves
 - Personalized Items
 - Delicious cookies and cupcakes
- And so much more!

Admission is FREE! Bring your family and friends for a fun day of shopping and community spirit.

Don't miss out on this fantastic event—it's the perfect way to support local artisans and get into the holiday spirit. We can't wait to see you there!



LETTERS TO SANTA

Monday, November 25 - Sunday, December 8



Would you like to receive a letter from Santa? Santa would love to hear from all the children in Vestal! You can write your letter and drop it off at Santa's Mailbox located on the Front Porch of the Recreation office. The address is 516 Front St., Vestal. You can also bring your letter to the Tree Lighting and give it to Santa in person.

Don't forget to write your name and address on the letter so Santa knows where to send the letter!

Christmas Word Search

H	S	G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G	S	W	O	W	C
F	U	Z	Q	Q	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
P	R	P	F	Z	L	G	B	G	G	K	R	U	H	X
J	S	U	F	B	L	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	P	A
E	J	J	I	R	O	Z	F	X	J	C	T	Y	R	N
L	F	H	J	T	H	N	T	H	F	A	S	C	C	G
C	C	S	V	R	C	U	V	A	M	N	P	A	G	E
I	Y	H	P	E	N	A	T	W	D	D	X	N	O	L
C	V	P	H	T	L	H	K	A	H	L	Y	D	N	U
I	D	O	S	O	T	V	S	E	A	E	L	Y	G	G
R	K	E	Z	S	L	H	E	C	P	S	I	K	G	R
A	H	R	I	G	E	I	E	S	P	F	M	E	E	E
C	W	R	T	R	B	M	D	B	Y	Y	A	C	O	E
Z	H	F	R	O	S	T	Y	A	O	W	F	K	K	N
C	K	R	V	Y	H	A	Q	B	Y	R	K	Y	P	F

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ANGEL | FROSTY |
| CANDLES | FRUITCAKE |
| CANDY | GREEN |
| CHESTNUT | GREETINGS |
| CHRIST | HAPPY |
| CHRISTMAS | HOLIDAY |
| DASHER | HOLLY |
| EGGNOG | ICICLE |
| ELVES | SNOWMAN |
| FAMILY | STAR |



GAME NIGHT

At The Vestal Public Library

December 11th

DISCONNECT FROM YOUR SCREEN AND CONNECT OVER BOARD GAMES. ALL AGES CAN JUMP IN TO LEARN A NEW GAME OR AN OLD FAVORITE LIKE

- CATAN
- TICKET TO RIDE
- UNO | DIXIT
- WHAT DO YOU MEME?
- UNSTABLE UNICORNS
- TACO CAT GOAT CHEESE PIZZA
- EXPLODING KITTENS
- THIRD WEDNESDAYS

GAME ON!



A Thousand Words Photography

PRESENTS

PET SANTA PHOTO'S

\$20 donation
Per digital image
to benefit
Danimal's Help
And
Every Cat's Dream

December 7 & 8
11AM - 3PM

Tractor Supply, Vestal NY

** All welcome, please leash your pets **

Saturday
December 14th
9am-10:30am

BREAKFAST

with Santa

Vestal United Methodist Church
328 Main St. Vestal, NY 13850

607-785-3367

office@vestalumc.org

Suggested Donation

\$5.00 per person, 5 & under free
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage
Crafts & Visit with Santa

Vestal

Teachers' Association

Craft Fair

DECEMBER | 08 | 10-3

Vestal High School

HANDMADE ITEMS,
BASKET RAFFLES, 50/50
TASTY TREATS



SEE YOU THERE!

JOIN US FOR OUR POP UP EVENT

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

- ✿ Saturday 14th of December. 1pm → 3pm
- ✿ \$25 (includes gingerbread kit and candy)
- ✿ Hot Coco, Music, & Potential Special Guest....
- ✿ Pre-Registration is required, online.
- ✿ Vestal Town Hall, Board Room
605 Vestal Pkwy W.

Limited Spots Available

vestalrecreation.com



ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com

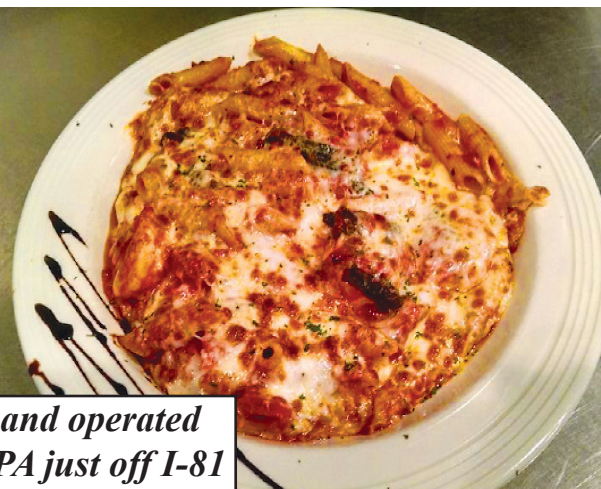
TEDESCHI'S

ITALIAN EATERY

ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com

For 30 Years, we welcome you to Tedeschi's Restaurant!

Proudly serving VALUE with house specialties & delicious cuisine entrees. Order online to go or relax with family & friends in our welcoming setting.



Restaurant Hours

Mon - Thur: 11:30am-8:00pm
Fri & Sat: 11:30am-9:00pm
Sun: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Visit
Tedeschi's
Mountain View
Plaza
25066 State
Route 11
Hallstead, PA
18822
Call Us -
(570) 879-5056

*Local family owned and operated
Located in Hallstead PA just off I-81*



ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com
EAT/ ENJOY
EARN POINTS

