

Batavia CTE students spent the year working on the annual building trades project

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The building trades program at the Batavia CTE Center provides practical training in various aspects of the construction industry, with a primary focus on developing skills in building trades and general construction.

Traditionally, the program constructs a new house each year to allow students to apply their learned skills in a real-world context. However, during this school year, they chose to take on a different project by adding an extension to an existing house. This decision is aimed to provide students with a unique construction experience, challenging them to integrate new construction into an already existing structure. The added section measures 880 square feet.

In addition to the Building Trades program, students collaborated with the ElectroMechanical Trades Students. The project involved 85 building trades students, two instructors, and two aides, along with 40 ElectroMechanical Trades students and

one instructor. This collaboration exemplifies a cross-disciplinary approach, where students from different programs work together on specific projects. Building Trades Students focused on the construction aspects, while ElectroMechanical Trades students contributed their expertise in electrical systems and related mechanical components.

Building trades instructor Kelly Mileham fondly shared his favorite memory of the year, expressing excitement when the homeowner visited the house after the walls had been moved in the existing structure, witnessing the realization of their plans in 3D.

The project began in the fall and is still ongoing, providing students with comprehensive experience across various stages of construction, including planning, foundation work, electrical installation, and finishing details. This extended duration exposes them to challenges that arise during the construction process, offering valuable real-world learning opportunities.

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Building Trades continued from page 1

Building a house outdoors exposes builders to various weather elements throughout the construction process. Regardless of climate conditions, constructing a house outside necessitates careful planning, adaptability, and the use of appropriate construction techniques and materials to ensure the final structure's durability and quality. Students gained firsthand experience working in different weather conditions, which provided them with valuable learning experiences.

The building trades program at the Batavia CTE Center offers students a practical education in diverse construction trades. By engaging in projects such as constructing a house or adding an extension, students acquire valuable skills and knowledge to prepare them for future careers in the construction industry.

Pembroke Central School senior Tyler Kulpa expressed his enjoyment of roofing and drywall work, highlighting the collaborative nature of the experience with classmates and the opportunity to learn from one another.

The ElectroMechanical Trades students were responsible for updating the electric service and roughing in the electrical wiring for both the existing house and the new addition. The building trades students took charge of constructing the entire extension. In the existing house, they relocated windows and walls, applied foam insulation to the exterior, and have started work on the soffits and siding.

Caledonia-Mumford Central School senior Cedric Bowen chose building trades program to avoid a desk job and work outdoors. Having been in the program for two years, Cedric emphasized the importance of punctuality, preparedness, and safety, praising the program and expressing plans to join the union after graduation.

Due to a slight delay in the project's start, the homeowners will complete the finishing touches on the house after the school year ends. This year's project stands out as it involves remodeling the existing house, with students removing and repositioning windows, walls, doors, and even a portion of a load-bearing wall.



Auto body students get hands on experience painting golf carts

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The auto body program at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, offers training to students in the field of paint and preparation for vehicle repair. The program provides hands-on experience in repairing damaged vehicles and covers the entire process of auto body repair, including paint and preparation, as well as cleanup. Students learn various techniques such as metal straightening, the use of epoxies and filler, masking, and the application of modern finishes. Additionally, they acquire skills in gas and MIG welding and stay updated with the latest airbrushing techniques. The course emphasizes analyzing vehicle damage, selecting appropriate tools and methods for repairs, and estimating the cost of the repairs. It aims to equip students with both practical experience and theoretical knowledge to pursue careers in the auto body industry.

One of the notable projects undertaken by the program this year involved the students

using their skills and knowledge to paint golf carts. Golf carts are commonly utilized in different settings, including schools, for transportation purposes, particularly during athletic events. In this particular project, the Athletic Departments of Avon Central School and Livonia Central School were the recipients of the students' efforts, as the golf carts were intended for use in their respective athletic programs. The project was a collaborative endeavor between the morning and afternoon students of the Auto Body Program. This project serves as a demonstration of teamwork and coordination among the students in the program.

This project provided an opportunity for the students to apply their skills in auto painting, contribute to their community by supporting the athletic departments of the mentioned schools, and develop teamwork and collaboration skills through the joint effort of morning and afternoon students.



AHERA Notice

AHERA is a federal law enacted in 1987 which requires all school districts to re-inspect facilities for asbestos-containing building materials. All Genesee Valley BOCES facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to ensure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. Activities included training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities by trained personnel. Details of such activities are described in the district's AHERA Management Plan, which is available for your review in the District Office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Matthew DellaPenna, Director of Safety, Security and Operations at mdellapenna3@gvboces.org.

Pesticide Notice

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Genesee Valley BOCES is required to maintain a list of parents, guardians, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you have not registered to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please email [Matthew DellaPenna, Director of Safety, Security and Operations at mdellapenna3@gvboces.org](mailto:Matthew.DellaPenna@mdellapenna3@gvboces.org) to register to receive notices.

NTHS induction ceremonies

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Recently, the National Technical Honor Society Chapter of the Batavia and Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers welcomed 99 new members. These students have demonstrated exceptional skills and academic excellence, and have been recognized by the NTHS for their achievements. The NTHS is a national organization that honors top CTE students and promotes excellence in the competitive, skilled workforce

of today. To become an NTHS member, students must meet stringent criteria, which include demonstrating leadership, scholarship, skills, honesty, citizenship, service, and responsibility. Additionally, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is required, and selection is based on completed credit hours, attendance, volunteer service, and membership in other student organizations. Congratulations to these outstanding students on this impressive accomplishment!



Criminal Justice students from the Mount Morris CTE Center strike a pose at the NTHS ceremony. From left to right: Terry Soto, Criminal Justice Assistant; Kayla Ballew; Taylor Tucker; Lily Morris; Kaiden Ellis; Nate Arend; Colan Eiffert; Loannis Bechakas, and Instructor Judy Essig.



NTHS inductees from the Sports Science program at the GV BOCES Dansville Campus smiled for the camera before the ceremony started. From left to right: Maggie Bacon, Instructor Jeremy Morris, Abby Roelle, Abby Lewandowski



Current members light the candles that represent the attributes students adhere to as members of the NTHS.



NTHS inductees from the Animal Science program at the Batavia CTE Center pose for a picture with their teacher. From left to right: Sophia Moore, Riley Henning, Andrea Bradt, Instructor Shannon Draskowski, Shyann Ruffino, Lily Haacke, Malina Bellos (not pictured, Nicole LiRos)



Utica National Insurance Group Safety Award of Excellence

GV BOCES is one of 156 school districts and BOCES in New York state to receive the 2022 School Safety Award from the Utica National Insurance Group. This year GV BOCES received a titanium award with honors; the highest level presented. This is the 20th year that GV BOCES has received this prestigious award.



Signing day!

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Using a blend of technology, perseverance, and resourceful planning, the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program successfully organized the 2023 Genesee Valley BOCES "Signing Days" at the GV BOCES Career and Technical Education Centers. This event brought together 52 high school students from the local area, along with their families and representatives from 16 prominent manufacturing businesses, at both the Batavia CTE and Mount Morris CTE Centers. Now in its third year, this groundbreaking initiative is run by the Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association (RTMA) and Monroe Community College (MCC), with support from RG&E and Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The program involves a competitive and multi-phased application and interview process that matches accomplished high school students with nearby manufacturing firms for relevant instruction, job shadowing, and paid co-ops. The "Signing Days" event is a momentous occasion that celebrates the successful pairing of these qualified students with their respective employers.

Batavia Students

- Logan Almekinder, Pavilion, Metal Trades, OXBO CO-OP
- Ty Baker Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Justin Ball Alexander, EMT, Turnbull CO-OP
- Colin Bannister Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Daniel Bialek, Attica EMT, Gorbels Shadow
- Bailey Burdett, Attica EMT, Nortera CO-OP
- Bradley Burdett, Attica EMT, Maris CO-OP
- Nathan Burger, Attica, EMT, Norterra Shadow
- Thomas Condidorio, LeRoy, EMT, OXBO Shadow
- Joseph Costa, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
- Jacob Dulski Pembroke, EMT, Gorbels Shadow
- Geoffrie Eisensmith, Attica, EMT TAMBE CO-OP
- William Eschberger, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Gabe Foster, Oakfield-Alabama, Metal Trades, Graham CO-OP
- Ryan Galland, Attica, EMT, Nortera Shadow
- Cory Hanlin, Alexander, Metal Trades, Gorbels Shadow
- Hendrik Haymon, Byron-Bergen, EMT, OXBO Shadow
- Ryan Higgins, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Karli Houseknecht, Pembroke, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Wyatt Kauffman, Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Matthew Kelsey, Attica, EMT, Nortera
- Tyler Kidder, Alexander, EMT, OXBO CO-OP
- Christian Kissell, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Alec Kulikowski, Byron-Bergen, EMT, Pro-Tech CO-OP
- Bryce Lathan, LeRoy, Metal Trades, Turnbull Shadow
- Tyler Marino, Alexander, EMT, OXBO Shadow

- Robert McCarthy, Batavia, Metal Trades, Graham CO-OP
- Hunter Meyers, Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Evan Piechowiak, Attica, EMT, Nortera CO-OP
- Parris A Price, Batavia, EMT, DP Tool Shadow
- Jarad Roberts, Alexander, Metal Trades, OXBO CO-OP
- Evan Schlau, Attica, EMT, OXBO Shadow
- Joshua Schwartz, Pavilion, EMT, Upstate Shadow
- Dominic Scimia, Alexander, EMT, Six Flags Darien Lake Shadow
- Jaden Snyder, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
- Brody Swinehart, Elba, EMT, OXBO Shadow
- Ayden Taylor, Pavilion, Metal Trades, Gorbels Shadow
- Aiden Uptegrove, Attica, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
- Justin Valyear, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
- Gage Wagner, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
- Hudson Weber, Pavilion, EMT, OXBO CO-OP
- Noah Wheeler, Attica, EMT, Nortera Shadow

Mount Morris Students

- Chris Thompson, Avon, MT, DP Tool Shadow
- Eric Book, Letchworth, MT, LMC Shadow
- Anthony Brongo, Livonia, MT, LMC Shadow
- Garrett Phillips, Livonia, MT, SPX Shadow
- Blake Siewert, Perry, MT, SPX Shadow
- Daniel DeBadts, Warsaw, MT, Gorbels Shadow
- Merissa Slayton, Wayland-Cohocton, MT, SPX Shadow
- Kadin Akram, York, BT, CooperVision Shadow
- Tanner Hodges, York, BT, LMC Shadow
- Eric Rowe, York, MT Gorbels Shadow

Key

EMT:
Electro-Mechanical
Trades

MT: Metal Trades

BT: Building Trades

Local seniors attended graduating senior job fair at Batavia GV BOCES campus

By Lyndsay Herkimer



Over 450 local high school seniors had the opportunity to explore their career options at a local job fair held on February 28th at the Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, which is part of the Batavia BOCES campus. The event, organized by the Genesee County Business/Education Alliance (Genesee County BEA) was open to all high school seniors in the area and featured a variety of local businesses looking to hire new talent.

"The Genesee County BEA is proud to partner with Genesee Valley BOCES, Genesee County Economic Development Center, and GLOW with Your Hands to promote future career opportunities for our graduating seniors. Many seniors have not finalized the next phase of their lives post-graduation and the Graduating Senior Job Fair provides students the opportunity to speak with potential employers about their job openings and what training/apprenticeship programs they provide at no cost to the student. The possibilities are endless! Equally as important is introducing employers to CTE teachers who are teaching the technical skills to the future workforce and we witnessed several teachers and businesses exchanging contact information. Hopefully we will see

new business partnerships developing as a result of this event," explained Karyn Winters, director of the Genesee County Business Education Alliance Director.

Erica Gibson, Graphic Arts Teacher, led her class into the job fair, and was excited to see what opportunities were available for her students. "There are a lot of jobs in our area and you don't have to go somewhere else to make money. I saw a lot of students talking to different companies and it made me happy to see them engaging with employers," explained Gibson.

Some of the businesses that attended the job fair included Liberty Pumps, HP Hood, Batavia Downs, OATKA, and Six Flags Darien Lake. These companies represented a diverse range of industries, from manufacturing and gaming to food production and entertainment.

During the event, students had the chance to speak with representatives from the various companies and learn more about the types of jobs available. Many of the businesses had information booths set up with flyers and brochures describing their job openings and requirements. Students left with information from different

companies and were eager to follow up with these businesses in the future.

Senior Rocco Mika from Batavia City Schools is in the Metal Trades program at Batavia CTE Center. Rocco explained he is currently learning Welding and Machining but he is more interested in pursuing a career in Welding. "I was looking forward to the welding opportunities. A lot of students don't get these opportunities, and a lot of kids don't put themselves out there, but it's easier to put yourself out there with these events," said Rocco.

Computer Information Systems Student Donte' Marsceill from Batavia City Schools is only a junior, but he also attended the event to see what it was about. "I think this is a good opportunity to get out there and a step forward for searching for a job after school. As of now I plan on going to college to earn a degree but this is something I now consider as well," said Donte'.

Shaina Snyder, a senior at Attica Central School, who is enrolled in the Medal Trades program, is interested in the machining aspect of her program. "The job fair lets students get a view of what they can do

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after high school. I would like to get a job and go right into the work field. I really want to be a CNC machinist," explained Shaina.

Batavia CTE Center offers a range of programs designed to prepare students for careers in various fields, including healthcare, technology, and construction. The job fair provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn more about the local job market and connect with potential employers.

The job fair was a success, with many students leaving the event feeling more informed and better prepared for their future careers. The BEA plans to continue hosting job fairs in the future, with the hope of providing even more opportunities for local students to explore their career options.

Student Spotlight:

Auston Caryl, a sophomore at Letchworth Central School, and Colby Mcelfresh, a freshman at Letchworth Central School built a hope chest while studying Building Trades at the Mount Morris CTE Center.



New pavilion at Mount Morris GV BOCES Campus

By Lyndsay Herkimer

A pavilion was constructed on the school grounds of Mount Morris GV BOCES campus intended for the use of present and upcoming students for many years. The pavilion was constructed by Building Trades and Conservation students, who worked on the project for a total of three weeks. About 25 students participated in the project, with Conservation students performing a week of prep work prior to the building phase.

During the construction process, the students learned a number of valuable skills related to pole barn style construction. They installed metal sheets on the roof and ceiling, which involved measuring, cutting, and securing the sheets to the structure using appropriate tools and techniques. They also learned commercial wiring practices, which involved understanding electrical systems and how to install them safely and effectively.

Additionally, the students learned to work in all weather conditions, completing the project despite cold winds. This likely required them to adapt to changing conditions, use appropriate protective gear, and maintain their focus and motivation even in less-than-ideal circumstances.

The construction of this pavilion provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn practical skills that they can use in their future careers. In addition to gaining hands-on experience with construction techniques and electrical systems, the students also developed important teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability skills that will serve them well in any field they choose to pursue.



LPN program hosted a job fair for student nurses

By Lyndsay Herkimer

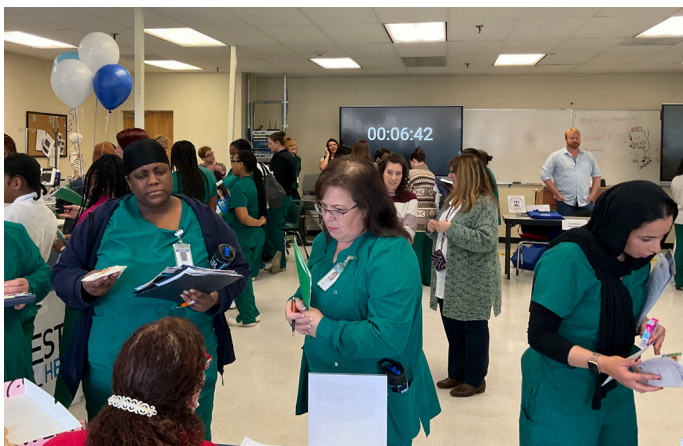
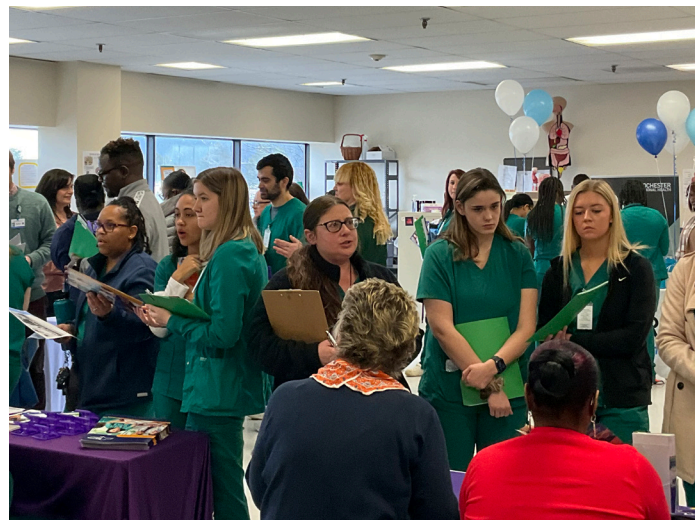
The Genesee Valley BOCES School of Practical Nursing proudly hosted a job fair for 40 nursing students who were enrolled in the LPN program. This event was for students graduating from the LPN program in either March or July 2023.

Nursing student Kychaudia Palmo believes job fairs are very important in person because online when you apply for a job you might not know exactly what you are applying for. "I think these job fairs are important because it gives the student nurses an opportunity to see what is available to them. It gives them a chance to explore different jobs, and meet different recruiters," explained Palmo. Palmo plans to graduate in July 2023, and her goal is to work in Pediatrics at a hospital.

At the event students followed a speed dating format where they spoke to each company for 10 minutes before moving to the next table. A total of 11 healthcare facility recruiters attended from Arc of Monroe, Finger Lakes OPWDD, Highland Hospital, Jewish

Home, Livingston County Hospital, Rochester Regional Health, St. John's Home, Thompson Health, United Way of Orleans County, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Wyoming County Community Health System. This event was a great opportunity for students to ask questions and familiarize themselves with healthcare facilities in the area.

Heidi Mix, Regional Medical Programs Coordinator, shared some thoughts on why job fairs are important for students to attend and why Genesee Valley BOCES hosts them. "Job fairs are so important as they give the student a different look at everything they are able to apply for and the advantages and disadvantages all in one afternoon without having to travel to different facilities. Also it helps to put GV BOCES School of Nursing on the map which means very much to us as I do feel we really try and prepare for this stage of the students path towards their future careers," explained Mix.



Alumni Spotlight: Cathy Bundschuh

Cathy Bundschuh was born in the Philippines. When she was 22 years old, she moved to the United States to marry her husband. They have been together for over 29 years.

When she moved to the United States, she worked at Kodak on the production line and when she was laid off, she wanted to shift to an office setting. Bundschuh attended an adult vocational class in secretarial/word processing at Genesee Valley BOCES (GV BOCES). She chose to attend GV BOCES because the schedule was convenient, the cost was affordable, and the class was completed in a short period of time after 450 class hours.

“As an immigrant who came to this country with very limited work experience & limited educational attainment, GV BOCES provided me with hands-on training, job specific instruction that led to certification and gave me the foundation towards a good high paying job and career,” explained Bundschuh.

After completing the class, she had the foundation needed to work in an office environment. She learned Microsoft Office 97, accounting, filling & bookkeeping, office procedures, and was able to improve on her typing skills. As a student she learned to work collaboratively with others as a productive team member.

On June 1, 1999 just three weeks after she completed her vocational class at GV BOCES she was hired at Sabin Metal Corporation as an Office Assistant and a few years later, she became an Administrative Assistant. Bundschuh has worked for Sabin since 1999, and is currently the Human Resource Manager.

“I enjoy working at Sabin because of its family-oriented environment. At Sabin you are not just a worker, but you are part of the Sabin family. Because of Sabin, I was able to achieve my associate, bachelor, and master’s degree without any student loans. I am working for a company that is operating ethically and responsibly. A company that adheres to the most stringent environmental regulations, and a company that truly cares about the people and the planet,” said Bundschuh.

In 2008 she attended night classes at Genesee Community College while working full time and completed her Associate in Science Business Administration in 2013.

She then enrolled at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for the B.S Management program & spent three semesters, but because of the limited night classes available at RIT for adult students, she moved to Roberts Wesleyan University and enrolled in the 18-month adult accelerated Bachelor of Science Organizational Management program.



In 2016, just a few months before completing her bachelor’s degree she was promoted to Human Resource Manager. After completing her bachelor’s degree, she took almost three years off from academics to focus on her role in HR where she was a department of one.

In January 2020, Bundschuh went back to Roberts Wesleyan University and enrolled in the adult accelerated Master of Science in Strategic Leadership program. During the COVID pandemic her HR role became even more challenging plus she was juggling graduate school. Despite the pandemic and the challenges that came with it, she completed her Masters in November 2021 with flying colors. Bundschuh, together with teammates (Carrie & Katie) earned the Mike Bargmann Strategic Excellence Award

Bundschuh’s advice for current and future students is to always look for an opportunity to grow and better yourself. She says to be resourceful because resources are available and will help you achieve your goals. She also believes it’s important to be flexible and adaptable because in today’s society the only thing certain is CHANGE.

“I am proud to be a BOCES Alumni, and will be forever grateful for all the skills I learned during my time at BOCES that eventually helped me have a successful and fulfilling career,” said Bundschuh.

In Bundschuh’s free time, she loves to cook, bake, travel, and go camping. Her and her husband love camping so much that in 2021 they purchased 15 acres of land and developed it into their own small private campground located south of Corning. She says it’s their oasis and a place to rest, unwind, destress, and connect with nature. Bundschuh believes that no matter how busy life gets, always take the time to destress, rest, relax and recharge.

SkillsUSA Competition

Photos by Erica Gibson

The SkillsUSA Regional Conference was held on Tuesday March 7th. Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students who competed this year were:

- Mason Bump** (Alexander): Collision Repair Technology
- Matthew Cecere** (Alexander): Prepared Speech
- Vincent Dickinson** (Batavia): Auto Service Basic
- Devon Grunthaler** (Alexander): Auto Service Technology
- Aidan Harding** (Pavilion): Computer Maintenance
- Colton Ingerick** (Cal-Mum): Auto Service Technology
- Sage Johnson** (Byron-Bergen): Custom Painting & Graphics
- Maria Roberts** (Attica): Collision Repair Basic
- Julian Schrauger** (Oakfield-Alabama): Computer Maintenance
- Owen Strzelee** (Attica): Welding
- Jaclyn Torrey** (Attica): Custom Painting & Graphics
- Emalyn Yates** (Pavilion): Nail Tech

Congratulations to all the BOCES students who competed in the SkillsUSA Regional Conference. Also a huge congratulations to Sage Johnson, an auto body student from Byron-Bergen, who took home the 2nd place medal in Custom Painting & Graphics.



NYS Conservation Contest

The Conservation/Heavy Equipment class from Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Center actively took part in the New York State Conservation Contest held at SUNY Cobleskill on Thursday, May 18, 2023. The students invested significant effort into their preparations for this significant occasion, and their hard work yielded fruitful results. Numerous participants achieved commendable rankings in their respective contests, and overall, the entire class had a rewarding and educational experience.

Equipment Contests:

- 2nd Place Bulldozer Trenching: Jack James (Keshequa)
- 4th Place Bulldozer Backfill: Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)
- 5th Place Skidsteer Rodeo: Team A: Louis Godfrey (Livonia) and Trevor Maylin (Avon)

Forestry Contests:

- Tree Climbing
- 5th place: Elijah Bender (Dansville)
- 3rd Place: Aiden Jubert (Geneseo)
- 1st Place: Jordan Castellanos (Geneseo)

Surveying Contests:

- 3rd Place Compass and Pace: Kaida Arend (Dansville)
- Fish and Wildlife ID:
- 3rd Place: Trevor Maylin (Avon)
- 1st Place: Wesley Sanford (Keshequa)

Woodsmen's Contests:

- 3rd Place Axe Throw: Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)
- Team Peavey Log Roll
- 5th Place: Tyler Hulbert (Avon) and Trevor Maylin (Avon)
- 4th Place: Brandon Foster (Dans) and Luke Gilbert (Livonia)
- 2 Person Crosscut Saw
- 2nd Place: Jordan Castellanos (Gen) and Aiden Jubert (Geneseo)
- Team Pulp Throw
- 5th place: Aiden Jubert (Geneseo), Jordan Castellanos (Geneseo), Evan Earle (Wayland-Cohocton), and Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)

SkillsUSA State Competition

Batavia CTE Center students listed below traveled to compete at the SkillsUSA State Conference to participate in competitions related to their career and technical programs. Julian Schrauger brought home a bronze medal in Technical Computer Applications for his mastery of the Microsoft Suite including programming an Excel file to play the game Battleship.

Auto Body:

Sage Johnson (Byron Bergen) Automotive Refinishing

CIS:

Matthew Cecere (Alexander) Prepared Speech

Julian Schrauger (Oakfield-Alabama) Technical Computer Applications

Culinary Arts:

Navea Bazile (Batavia) Pastry and Commercial Baking

Kyle Hinze (Attica) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Austin Ruston (Alexander) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Ashton Vogel (Attica) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Graphic Arts:

Nicole Schuster (Attica) Photography

Metal Trades:

Owen Strzelec (Attica) Welding

Spencer Broughton (Attica) Welding

Kyle Carpenter (Attica) Welding

Ethan Houghton (Attica) Welding



Welding Fabrication Team with the weld cart that they made.



Julian Schrauger (Right) on stage with the top contestants in the technical computer applications center.



(Left to right) Batavia CTE Center SkillsUSA advisor Jorden Strapp, Kyle Carpenter, Ashton Vogel, Austin Ruston, Matthew Cecere, Navea Bazile, Julian Schrauger, Nicole Schuster, Owen Strzelec, Spencer Broughton, Kyle Carpenter, Ethan Houghton, Sage Johnson



Sage Johnson, uses his auto painting skills during the automotive refinishing contest.



Student is Wayland-Cohocton 7th Grader Ethan Bauer.



The students are from Warsaw. From left to right, Hannah Sonricker, Levi Bennett, Warren Fox.



Students from Oakfield- Alabama are (yellow hair hats) left to right are: Cameron Emerson, Lucas Bak, Connor Burgio, Carson Shelter. Nate Staebell is sitting behind Carson (no hat).



The two students from Dansville are Haylee Rigdon and Bristol Blair.

Genesee Valley BOCES hosted First LEGO League (FLL) qualifier tournament in Mount Morris

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Local students from the region gathered this past Saturday at Genesee Valley BOCES Mount Morris for the First LEGO League (FLL) Qualifier Tournament. The competition tested each team's ability to complete tasks using robots built from Legos. FLL was designed to engage young people through STEM learning and exploration. Students obtained hands-on learning while discovering, exploring, and challenging themselves to apply their skills in an exciting competition.

Students from Dansville, Keshequa, Oakfield-Alabama, Warsaw, and Wayland-Cohocton competed against each other during three rounds that lasted two and a half minutes each. The goal was to complete the most missions and earn the most points.

"The Genesee Valley BOCES Robotics program encourages students to practice real-life engineering skills including computational thinking and iterative design. The social and emotional impact of a program like this is also important as it helps many students find new connections to their

school and classmates," explained Steve Nole, Coordinator of Enrichment Services at Genesee Valley BOCES.

Sixty students in grades four through eighth participated in this event. The first part of the day was the presentation portion. During the presentation competition, teams were judged on three specific areas, one being their innovation project, where they had to identify and research a problem to solve around this year's theme focused on clean energy solutions. Also, teams had to present their robot design. They had to identify their mission strategy and design their robot and programs to create an effective plan, and the last was on the core values, where they had to apply teamwork and respect each other's ideas and work together as a team on their specific challenge.

Ted Smith was the head judge of the competition and is the Senior Crisis Intervention Specialist at Genesee Valley BOCES Mount Morris Campus. Smith explained he enjoys looking for a student's level of interest and looks to see if they had

fun as part of the project. "Events like this are a wonderful opportunity for students to express their creativity, learn how to work together as a team, and think critically about a problem. These are all skills which they will need in their life, so being able to develop them in an event like this is good," explained Smith.

Congratulations to the following teams on advancing to the next round:

The overall champion was the Oakfield-Alabama Hi-Tech Hornets. Wayland-Cohocton Golden Eagles 2 was awarded the finalist. Both of these teams competed at the First Lego League Championship on February 18 in Buffalo, New York. Awards were given to teams for core values; innovation project, robot design, robot performance, and a coach/mentor award.

The top two teams, Oakfield-Alabama and Wayland-Cohocton, will move on to the championship competition. Genesee Valley BOCES is pleased the event was a success and looks forward to hosting more FLL Challenges in the future.

Tech wars

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Tech Wars affords GLOW Region students an environment where students and staff work collaboratively to expose and expand knowledge in the disciplines of engineering through fun, hands-on, challenging activities in multiple venues at Genesee Community College. Students in the Electro-Mechanical Trades program from Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students demonstrated their skills to other students at the 2023 Tech Wars. Students from Geneseo Central School learned more about the Electro-Mechanical Trades program from Batavia CTE students.



Dansville BOCES Students competed in Special Olympics Bowling

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Special Olympics Bowling is a program that offers individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in a sport that promotes physical activity, social interaction, and skill development. The program is part of the larger Special Olympics organization, which provides year-round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

Students from the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus recently participated in the Special Olympics Junior Bowling North event held at Roseland Bowl in Canandaigua, NY. This event is specifically designed for younger athletes who are looking to develop their skills in the sport. The participants in the event were students from the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus who were able to showcase their abilities and compete against other students from the region.

Participating in the Special Olympics Bowling program and events like the Junior Bowling North event can have a positive impact on the physical, social, and emotional well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities. It allows them to engage in physical

activity, develop skills, build friendships, and gain a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

It is a great accomplishment for the students of the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus to have participated in the Special Olympics Junior Bowling North event, and congratulations are well deserved for their efforts and hard work.

FM 01 Division

1st place: Anthony C - YORK

2nd place: John B (JP) - DANSVILLE

3rd place: Miley C - WAYLAND COHOCTON

M04 Division

1st Place: Christopher C - MT MORRIS

2nd Place: Jeffrey H - DANSVILLE

M01 Division

2nd Place: Todd C - PERRY

From graphic design student to graphic design teacher

Erica Gibson grew up wanting to help others and planned to attend Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center to study Health Dimensions. In 10th grade, she toured the campus where she felt her career dreams change to Graphic Arts. She was immediately intrigued by all of the Mac computers and wanted to learn more about the design process.

She chose the graphic arts program because she wanted to take outside-of-the-ordinary classes, and learn more about adobe applications and photography. She attended Batavia CTE Center from 2014-2016 and graduated from Oakfield-Alabama Central Schools.

After graduation, Gibson continued her education and attended Monroe Community College, where she studied visual communications. During her senior year at Batavia CTE Center, she received a paid internship and continued to work there throughout college. While attending MCC, she received a call from her former teacher, Doug Russo, who asked her to be a part of the Graphic Arts Advisory Committee. She served on this committee until she moved. Gibson spent the next few years after graduation traveling around the United States capturing the beautiful places she encountered.

A few years passed and Russo called again to tell her Batavia CTE Center had a graphic arts teaching position open, and to see if she would be interested in teaching. "Becoming a graphic arts teacher has been a dream of mine that I did not think was possible," said Gibson. Gibson started her new career as the graphic arts teacher in September 2022. She is excited about helping students the way she feels Russo helped her. She wants students to look back on her class and have nothing but positive and impactful memories. A goal of hers is to teach them motion graphics as well as video editing.

As a teacher, her priority is making a difference in her students' lives. She wants them to experience as much as they can, and plans to add field trips and fun projects for them to participate in. These types of activities are things she fondly remembers as a student and wants her students to have the same experience. "BOCES has changed my life

for the better, so I hope I can have the chance to help other students' lives and encourage them to go further in their education and career," explained Gibson.

One of the biggest lessons she learned as a student was to step out of her comfort zone and try new things. Before attending the Batavia CTE Center she had only taken a few art classes. She didn't feel art was something she excelled in but graphic arts taught her that practice makes perfect. She continued to work on her art skills and stepped outside her comfort zone to perfect the skills she needed to succeed in the design world.

Another lesson she learned as a student that she has taken with her was the time management skills she learned. In the design profession, deadlines and preparation is crucial to being successful. Time management skills help you achieve your goals, and prioritize your work to ensure you accomplish what you need to be successful.

Her advice for current and future students is to use your time in school wisely. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, and you don't want to miss out on any opportunities given to you. By working hard and proving yourself to your teachers and internship leaders, you can have a job offer right out of school. Not everyone is given these opportunities, so don't waste it. She also wants students to know that word of mouth and connections are very important and will help shape your future.

Gibson has a lot of fond memories of being a graphic arts student. She enjoyed exploring different versions of designs and having creative freedom. In her free time, she used her camera to take photos of her classmates and capture the fun adventures she experienced. One of her favorite projects was creating fathead designs for her friends during their senior sports nights.

As a student, she was most proud of being the Student of the Year and the National Technical Honor Society President. Now, as an adult, she is most proud of becoming the new graphic arts teacher. If she hadn't attended the Graphic Arts program, she feels she would not have had the chance to become a teacher in the field she loves. She is living out her dreams of helping people and teaching her love for graphic design.



Spring fling

By Lyndsay Herkimer

At the school dance hosted by the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville campus, students were able to enjoy themselves while dancing and receiving assistance from teachers and staff who helped with their hair and nails. The event, known as the Spring Fling, was organized by the school staff and took place in the cafeteria. With a DJ playing a range of popular songs, there was an abundance of music and

dancing, and the atmosphere was lively and festive as students interacted and danced together. High school dances offer students a great opportunity to socialize and celebrate with their peers, making them a fun and memorable part of the high school experience.



Kyah, Sam (Counselor), Nate

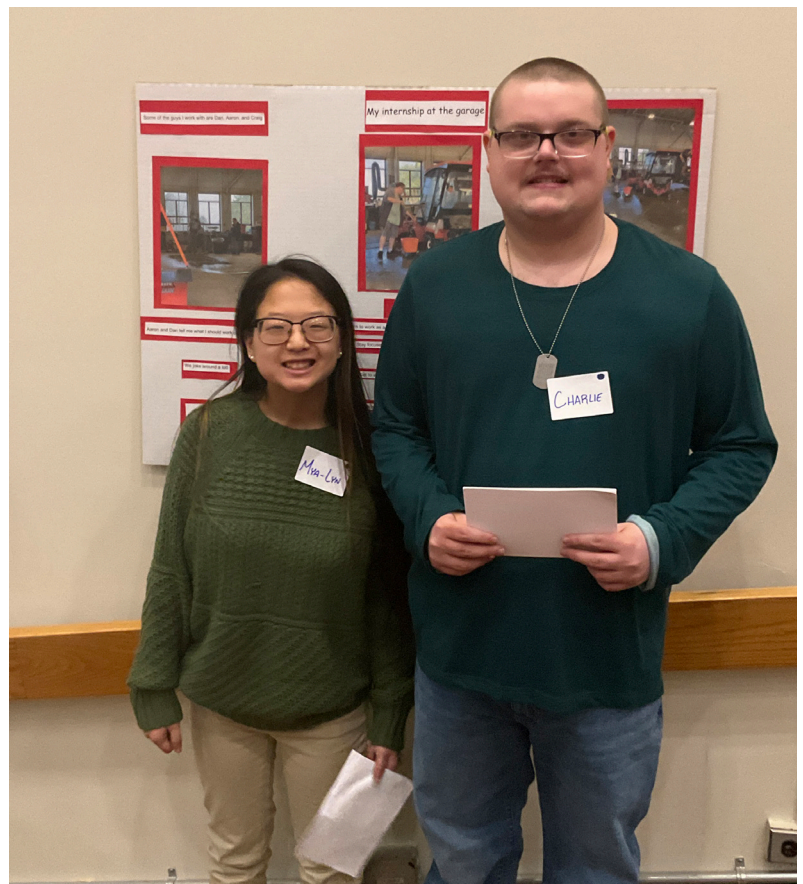


Chandler, Jarred, Tony, Nick, JP, and Edrick

Geneseo LIVES

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The LIVES Program, a unique four-year transition program in collaboration with the Genesee Valley BOCES and located on the campus of the State University of New York - College at Geneseo, provides an inclusive educational community for individuals aged 18-21 with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities. Its aim is to cultivate independent learners who are integrated into the community in various ways. Recently, LIVES students participated in GREAT Day, a campus-wide event that celebrates the creative and scholarly endeavors of SUNY Geneseo students. GREAT Day fosters academic excellence, encourages professional development, and builds connections within the community. The event offers a platform for students to present their research and ideas on topics that are significant to them. During this day, BOCES LIVES students and students from the Arc LIVES Program will share their experiences and insights on the visibility of the LIVES Program on the college campus and highlight meaningful aspects of the program. To facilitate attendance, all classes and activities are canceled on GREAT Day.



Team riggi wins March madness einstein day at Western New York Tech Academy

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The Western New York Tech Academy is a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) that serves 13 regional school districts in Western New York. The WNY Tech Academy created Einstein Days which occur monthly and vary in theme to provide students a variety of unique learning opportunities. So far this year, students have engaged with peers across all grade levels in topics like business, meditation, volunteer work, and STEM.

"Einstein Days are important for our program and students because they offer a full day for students to immerse themselves in team building, STEM activities and exposure to Work Based Learning opportunities. These three areas are a major focus for our school culture. Einstein Days are offered one to two times per month for full days so we can devote our efforts in fostering the importance of that work. It provides students with project based STEM experiences, exposure to our business and industry partners and the career pathways they offer. And each Einstein Day has an element of fun, collaboration and team play so students bond as a tight school community," stated Catherine Bennett, Principal of The Western New York Tech Academy.

On Einstein Day, regularly scheduled classes are on hold and students participate in a variety of different lessons that range from career development to STEM to teambuilding. Through collaboration across courses and grade levels, students develop highly sought after employability skills such as effective communication, creativity, problem-solving teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution.

"What do students get out of this event? Well, students will tell you they get a fun day off from classes. What they really are getting is workplace readiness skills. Our students engage in critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. They have to develop communication skills, collaboration, leadership, and social skills to work effectively as a group. They have to think, be innovative, show confidence, and even a little competitiveness! These are all traits that employers in any industry would look for in potential new hires. You can train for technical skills. The ability to resolve conflict, work effectively with others, take

direction, show initiative... those things aren't as easy to develop on the job," explained Teacher Lindsay Warner.

The March Madness Einstein Days were held over a two day event. Over two days, in teams of five, students developed a P-tech pitch. The pitch was a 10 minute presentation pitching the WNY Tech Academy to a panel of qualified judges. Students had one day in the beginning of March to research, plan, strategize, and develop their pitch marketing materials. On Friday, March 31, they presented their pitches to judges for scoring, and ultimately a first prize winner was chosen. This event taps skills in public speaking, marketing and social media, and entrepreneurship!

Senior David Tetreault from Caledonia-Mumford Central School explained how Einstein Days are preparing students for their future. "Einstein Day isn't just a normal day at Tech Academy. It builds us young adults to communicate, value team bonding and most importantly, leading by example. These days make us prepare for proper management, communicating and how to be amazing workers. I couldn't even imagine a better way to do this. Taking one day out of the month to bring everyone together and put it into a fun-filled, learning environment is the most important and perfect way to do it," said David.

While teams were presenting their pitch to the judges, the remaining teams participated in a March Madness competition, competing in various games, puzzles, problems throughout our school wing, earning points to supplement their pitch scores. At the end of the event the winning team was Team Riggi!



GLOW with your hands

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The success of GLOW with Your Hands coupled with the urgent need for providers in healthcare and related science fields inspired the development of GLOW with Your Hands: Healthcare. The rural GLOW region is especially vulnerable in the post-pandemic era to the attrition of healthcare providers, resulting in diminished access to local healthcare.

Over 600 students in grades 8-12 connected with healthcare businesses, organizations, and post-secondary education and training providers through hands-on activities to learn about in-demand, rewarding jobs in healthcare and science related fields in our region and the pathways into those careers.

Students from the Batavia, Dansville, and Mount Morris GV BOCES campus attended GLOW with your hands healthcare hosted at Genesee Community College. Some of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students spoke about the medical programs they are enrolled in, and other students who attended were able to learn first hand lessons from medical professionals while learning about potential careers.



Special Olympics Track and Field

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The Special Olympics Track and Field event is an inclusive sports competition designed to empower individuals with disabilities by providing them with opportunities to participate in sports and demonstrate their athletic abilities. Recently, the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville students took part in this event, and they made a significant impact with their impressive performances.

The students prepared for the competition with hard work and dedication, and their efforts paid off as they won several medals in the event. Their success in the competition was a source of joy for their families, friends, and coach, and it was a testament to their athletic abilities and perseverance.

Participating in the Special Olympics Track and Field can have a profound impact on the students' lives, not only physically but also emotionally. The event provides an opportunity for the students to build self-confidence, develop social skills, and make new friends. By participating in the competition, the students demonstrated that they could excel in sports with the right support and encouragement. The event also promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, encouraging participants to lead active and fulfilling lives.

The students' participation in the Special Olympics Track and Field event highlights the importance of inclusivity and equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The event is a celebration of the students' hard work, determination, and dedication, and their success in the competition is a source of pride for their school, families, and the entire community.



Garrett Phillips places third at The Scholastic Welding Competition

The American Welding Society (AWS) hosts various welding competitions, including the Scholastic Welding Competition, to promote and recognize excellence in welding among students. The Scholastic Welding Competition is primarily designed for high school and post-secondary students who are enrolled in welding programs. Its aim is to assess their welding skills, knowledge, and techniques through a series of practical tests. Participants are evaluated based on various criteria, including weld quality, accuracy, workmanship, safety practices, and adherence to the given specifications. Teams or individuals representing their schools or institutions compete against each other at local, regional, and sometimes national levels. The competition progresses through qualifying rounds, leading to the final stages where the top performers showcase their skills and compete for prizes and recognition. Congratulations to Garrett Phillips, a junior from Livonia Central School, who earned a third-place finish.



Executive Principal Matt Flowers, Garrett Phillips from Livonia Central School, Metal Trades Teacher Jeff Swift, and Yandel Santiago from Pery Central School.

CollegeVine

By Matthew Leader, Public Relations, Avon and Attica Central Schools

This year, Avon students and families will have access to a powerful new tool to help them navigate the often confusing and always stressful college search process.

CollegeVine is an online platform designed to foster connections between students and colleges so that, prior to graduation, students are in a position to make an informed decision about what comes next.

The platform connects high schoolers with advisors, current college students, peers and admissions officers in a secure, online setting and generally helps streamline the process of searching for and selecting a college.

Avon and York Central Schools are piloting the service this year with the help of Genesee Valley BOCES.

Through CollegeVine, students also have access to the platform's college rankings lists and extensive archive of how-to livestreams, essay prompts and blog posts - many of which feature currently enrolled or recently graduated college students sharing about their own admissions journeys. On the platform, students can also create a profile detailing their high school accomplishments and interests for college recruiters.

The platform even allows users to chat,

1-on-1, with college admissions specialists who can recommend colleges and universities that align with a student's interests and goals, give feedback on admissions essays and even help apply for scholarships.

"I've got two kids in college right now, so I know how hard the process of choosing a school, applying to it and obtaining financial aid information can be," said Superintendent Ryan Pacatte. "I hope families take advantage of this free resource and am confident CollegeVine is going to be a real help for our students as they prepare for life after graduation."

Avon is working with CollegeVine to coordinate the rollout of the service to students. More information about how to access CollegeVine will be shared on the district's website and social media platforms in the coming weeks.

Other college and career readiness tools available to Avon students include:

- Naviance, a web-based college and career readiness platform that connects learning in school to life outside of school. Students can explore colleges and careers, and store documents like recommendations and resumes. Naviance helps provide students

with resources to prepare for life after high school. Students can access Naviance through their Clever account at school.

- Pathful Connect (previously known as Nepris) is an online resource that helps create career exploration opportunities for our students and instructional opportunities for our staff. The service connects classes with local, national and international experts in all industries for live and recorded chat sessions. Students can also complete an interest profiler to identify careers that match their interests. The purpose of the resource is to widen students' interests and help them envision themselves in careers they might not otherwise be aware of or consider as an option.

- Paper, an online, chat-based tutoring service that students can access 24 hours per day. Paper employs a large team of highly-qualified tutors in a range of academic disciplines who students have access to through their school accounts. The service can be used for individualized support with classes or, in some cases, writing assignments.

More information about existing resources for students can be found online at AvonCSD.org/page/student-resources/.

Batavia Academy took a step back in time

The Genesee Country Museum, located in Mumford, New York, is a living history museum that focuses on the history and culture of the Genesee region during the 19th century. The museum offers visitors a chance to step back in time and experience life as it was in the 19th century. It features a vast collection of historic buildings, artifacts, and interactive exhibits that provide insight into various aspects of daily life during that era. Batavia Academy students took a field trip to the Genesee Country Museum. High school students in grades 9th to 12th experienced an exciting and educational experience. The Blacksmith Shop, Schoolhouse, and the Woodworker Shop were the most popular stops on the field trip.



The Digies Winners!



Even Vetter, Caden Montesano and Keaton Griffiths, whose stop-motion video, "The Booner's Solve," won first place in the video grades four through six category in the 2023 Digies, pose for a photo with classroom teacher Ian Smith and Art Teacher Nicole Rowley at the Digies awards ceremony at Genesee Community College in May.



Audio

PreK-3

1st **Ares Kohlerman**, The Pika Podcast, Geneseo CSD

7-9

1st **Megan Kinney, Tori Halpin**, Concerned about Political Polarization?, Avon CSD
2nd **Aydan VanDekken, Elisha Swift, Panagiotis Kolokouris, Nick Fries, Ryan Diddio**, US Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities Podcast, Avon CSD

10-12

1st **Gadge Savastano Feilde**, Mount Morris CSD
2nd **Matthew Domzalski**, Island Breeze, Orchard Park CSD
3rd **Earl Kipler III**, Evolution, Orchard Park CSD

Graphic Arts

PreK - 3

1st **Layla Price**, Layla Price Self Portrait, Avon CSD
2nd **Rayna Marciniak**, Rayna Marciniak Self Portrait, Avon CSD
3rd **Wyatt Vetter**, Wyatt Vetter's playground, Avon CSD
3rd **Ashley Dechau**, Ashley Dechau's Playground, Avon CSD

4-6

1st **Alice Szustakowski**, STEAM Award, Alexander CSD
2nd **Christy Succes**, Aurora Shadows, Livonia CSD
3rd **Andrew Klancer**, Emoji Art, Pavilion CSD

7-9

1st **Isabella Ehrman**, Self Portrait, Southwestern CSD
2nd **Bennett Antonucci**, Andy Warhol style Self Portrait, Geneseo CSD
2nd **Olivia Mower**, Portrait of Ellie from the Last of Us, Alexander CSD
3rd **Madeline Ingraham**, Rush-Henrietta District Calendar Cover, Rush-Henrietta CSD

10-12

1st **Skylar Wilson**, Hands With Water, Pittsford CSD
2nd **Molly Chittenden**, Fleeting Time, Pembroke CSD
3rd **Lukas Ladd**, Enduring Issues, Alexander CSD



Wyatt Vetter from Avon Central School achieved the third-place position for his graphic arts submission titled "Playground."

Interactive

PreK-3

1st **Jace Jordan, Scott Solis Berger**, Dogman the Video Game, Letchworth CSD

2nd **Donnie Anderson, Layla Bailey, Amelia Braley, Norah Chesnes, Cash Coyne, Arianna Crotser, McKenzie Cullinan, Andrew DeCarlo, Connor Freeman, AJ Heeres, Anthony James, Remington Knapp, Desire Maynard, Olivia Miller, Addie Nardi, Westley Paganin, Gracelyn Potter, Coltin Ranalli, Chole Ventura, Zack Walworth**, Habitats and Animal Adaptations, Avon CSD

3rd **Brooklyn Bannister, Bailey Granger, Briea Moore, Emah Powers, Ariana Sardina, Abby Stephens, Kendall Tucci, Lincoln Bowes, Maxon Logsdon, Grant Mead, Zack Moon, Jase Osterman**, Monster Story Writing, Pavilion CSD

4-6

1st **Teagan Heeb**, One Wild Space Adventure, Letchworth CSD

2nd **Owen Lugo**, Road Dodger video game, Alexander CSD

3rd **Maria Kipphut**, Meow Machine, Livonia CSD

7-9

1st **Alexander Haywood**, Masked (Demo), Town of Webb UFSD

2nd **Ayden Midkiff**, Steam Tractor, Pembroke CSD

3rd **Brenna-Lynn Marleau**, Jupiter's Quest, Town of Webb UFSD

10-12

1st **Mya Button, Wes Morrell, Morgan Moses, Kyle Worden**, Student Media Arts Collective, Wayland-Cohocton CSD

2nd **Karli Hy**, Photo Web Portfolio, Geneseo CSD

3rd **Christopher Doody, Evelyn Northrup, Kylie Conway, Liam Campbell, Kean Cummins, Lauren Kingsley, Karley Zinkievich**, Pavilion Gopher Pride Instagram, Pavilion CSD

Video

PreK-3

1st **Annie Tuttle**, Dog Stuffy Commercial, Geneseo CSD

2nd **Paisley Emerson-Kunes**, Polar Bears, Livonia CSD

3rd **Nathan Sedore, Henni Baughman**, Fiestas Patrias in Chile, Livonia CSD

4-6

1st **Caden Montesano, Evan Vetter, Keaton Griffiths**, The Booner's Solve, Avon CSD

2nd **Gracie Stroud, Gianna Zidanich, Emelia Honan**, Santa's Delivery, Avon CSD

3rd **Noah Wheeler, Ethan Heeres, Dylan Jimenez-Rodriguez**, The Corn Escape, Avon CSD

7-9

1st **Ari Arnold**, How to Build a Fire (featuring Harry and Ron), Avon CSD

2nd **Benedict Lickona**, Noah Lantz, Albert James Parker, Daniel Aforismo, Hayden Long, Break and Build, Rush-Henrietta CSD

3rd **Keith Giardina**, Animated Cart Wheel, Rush-Henrietta CSD

10-12

1st **Adriana Ochoa**, Fetch, Pittsford CSD

2nd **Charlie Ritter**, Dots, Pittsford CSD

3rd **Ethan Taft**, Rotoscope GIF, Dansville CSD

Mount Morris campus college & career fair

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Over 750 local high school students had the opportunity to explore their career options at the College & Career Fair held at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. Students had a chance to meet with a variety of local employers, unions and colleges.

The fair included military branches, colleges, unions, and local businesses with over 60 tables for students to visit. Students in grades 8 through 12 who are enrolled in BOCES programs attended the event to learn more about future career opportunities.

"Our annual College & Career Fair provides students with the opportunity to make connections with military branches, colleges, unions, and businesses in our communities. Students engage in professional conversations about their interests and consider different pathways for their future. Students are able to learn about employment opportunities they haven't considered before with businesses they may not be familiar with. There is excitement in learning about potential careers in the industries they are passionate about and it increases their motivation to dedicate themselves to the career paths they are seeking," explained Michelle Caton, Coordinator of Student Services, at Mount Morris CTE Center.

Some of the representatives that attended the job fair included Electrical Union Local 86, U of R NOYES Memorial Hospital, Milton CAT, Alfred State College, Barilla America, NY Air National Guard, Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning, Livingston County Sheriff's Office, Sabin Metal Corporation, NYS DEC, SUNY Cobleskill, and West Wildlife LLC. The companies represented a diverse range of industries including military, criminal justice, manufacturing, food production, medical, and construction.

"I just love seeing the kids and working with them. I love their inquisitiveness and engaging with them. I want to educate our youth on the different trades that are



out there. We struggle finding maintenance technicians to fix the machines we have and when speaking with the students I let them know the skill set we are looking for. We also have entry level positions but it's the trade skills we struggle to fill, said Lori Farley, Recruitment and Retention Specialist at Barilla America. Farley attends a few events with GV BOCES each year including GLOW With Your Hands.

During the event, students had the chance to speak with representatives from various companies and learn what they are looking for. Each business had a table set up, and students went from hallway to hallway learning about different fields. Students had the chance to talk to a variety of companies with the comfort of being surrounded by their teachers and peers. Hosting a College & Career Fair at the school allows students who wouldn't normally

go to these events to succeed at speaking to future employers.

"I thought that the students were very engaged this year. It was exciting to see so many students engaging with so many of the representatives. Some of our students have appointments with some of the vendors for interviews already. After the fair was over, the vendors in my area were surprised and excited that our students spent time listening and asking questions. Some of them said this was the best show that they have had because of the interaction," explained Keith Standera, Building Trades Instructor, at Mount Morris CTE Center.

The Mount Morris CTE Center offers a range of programs designed to prepare students for careers in various fields, including Criminal Justice, Health Care, Cosmetology, Animal Science, Metal Trades and Culinary Arts. The job fair provided students with a valuable opportunity to connect with potential employers and a chance to learn more about college programs.

Sylvia Kostraba, a junior at Avon Central School, is currently enrolled in the Cosmetology program at Mount Morris CTE Center. "I was looking for information about owning and running a business. I want to do something with my cosmetology license and I want to own my own cosmetic brand or salon," stated Sylvia. Sylvia was able to speak to different colleges that have entrepreneurship programs and learn more about making her career goals a reality.

Pearl Walker, from Wayland-Cohocton Central School, is a junior in the Human Services program and already knows what she would like to do after graduation. She is planning to take a gap year to work as a teacher's aide and then go into college for primary education. "My favorite part of the College & Career fair is seeing all the different options that we have and how many different doors there are for us to go through if that's what we choose," said Pearl.



Genesee Valley BOCES crowns scholastic bowl winner

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The Scholastic Bowl hosted by Genesee Valley BOCES gives students in grades 9 through 12 a forum in which to demonstrate their intellectual excellence and to receive recognition. Students are given the opportunity to interact with academically talented students from other districts.

This year's teams that participated in the competition were Elba, Byron-Bergen, Pembroke, Alden, Pavilion, Alexander, Akron, Attica, LeRoy, and Oakfield-Alabama Central Schools as well as Batavia City Schools and Notre Dame High School. Teams competed against each other for six weeks, and then the top three teams advanced to the finals.

"One of the reasons we run programs like Scholastic Bowl is we want to give kids a way to connect with other classmates and be ambassadors for their school in ways beyond athletics," explained Steve Nole, Coordinator of Enrichment Services at Genesee Valley BOCES.

During the competition students were asked questions which demanded quick recall of facts from all academic areas, as well as general knowledge, current events, sports and the arts. Each competition consisted of three rounds, and all questions had a 10 point value.

This year teams from Elba, Batavia, and Pavilion met for the final competition. Round one consisted of a 9 minute toss-up, round two a one minute lightning round, and round three was a six minute toss-up. This year the winner with a score of 300 was Elba. Pavilion came in second with a score of 290, and Batavia came in third with a score of 240.

Ian Keberle is one of three seniors who competed for Elba. Ian explained that the preparation for the competition is a lot of fun and he enjoys all the work that goes into it. "My favorite part is the pace of the event and I had great teammates too," said Ian.

The coach of Elba Central School is Aaron Balko who has been coaching for six years and helped rebuild the program in recent years. "I really enjoy spending time with everyone and the comradery they develop as a team is what I enjoy. I feel like a lot of focus is put on athletics which is great, but academics should be celebrated as well," explained Balko.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated this year! The hard work paid off, and Genesee Valley BOCES looks forward to next year's competition.

CTE tours allow sophomores to learn about the vast score of programs offered at BOCES

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Throughout the month of February local high schools sophomores were given the opportunity to tour the Mount Morris Career Technical Education (CTE) Center to learn about the programs that are offered to juniors and seniors.

Around 400 students toured the different programs and spent time in program classrooms of their choice. Each student picked their top two, and were given 45 minutes in each classroom setting. This allowed them to speak to current students and see first hand what the program entails.

Allie Saryna from Perry Central School chose Animal Science as her top choice. "I picked Animal Science because I've always been a really big animal lover. I also want to get to work with different species and get to know them more, explain Allie.

Mason Herman from Perry Central School picked Building Trades as his top choice. "Ever since I was a little kid I've liked making things with my dad. We always work on little projects together so building trades made me think about my future and what I want to do with the skills I've learned already," said Mason.



Students interested in the Health Dimensions program learned how to use a lift with help from current students.



Cosmetology was a big hit with sophomores from Wayland-Cohocton and Perry Central Schools.

Check out the latest news and information on the GV BOCES website



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The Mission of the Genesee Valley BOCES is to lead collaboratively in creating quality solutions to emerging educational challenges.

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