

Family

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culus teacher, Ray Obst, Spanish teacher Ike Badger, and English teacher T.J. Belasco.

"I intended to show these are the three best teachers the school has. I guess there was kind of a hidden message there," Vendetta said.

Vendetta used Obst as an example of what he thought made a good teacher.

"One day he had to miss class, so he videotaped himself giving the lesson and the sub played the DVD of him teaching. That made me realize how much he cared, no matter how much of a nerd people thought he was," Vendetta said.

Vendetta himself was probably judged to be a bit "bookish" by his classmates, based on his 4.84 GPA and the fact that he really isn't into pop culture. Vendetta played varsity tennis at Lower and was a member of the ice hockey club team. He said he played roller hockey for several years and thought the transition to ice went rather smoothly. He said part of his

application process to the Naval Academy included a physical fitness test, for which his athletics helped prepare him. He said he also intends to play club hockey at the academy, which encourages participation in sports. He said he was also contacted by the Navy crew coach, who thought his athleticism coupled with his weight might make him a good candidate for rowing.

Vendetta said his participation in sports was not a distraction. On the contrary, he said it relieved stress and kept him motivated.

However, Vendetta's academic record certainly played an important role in his selection to the academy. He said he had a particular interest in math and science in high school, as well as some new engineering course suffered there. He said they definitely influenced his decision to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, where he would study aerospace engineering.

Despite the 18-month application process, which involved being interviewed by a committee from the New

Jersey Congressional delegation, Vendetta received his acceptance fairly early. As a result, he only applied to two colleges – the U.S. Naval Academy and Georgia Tech.

About the application process for the Naval Academy, Vendetta said, "The process showed you what it was like to be there. Acceptance was hard, so the school must be a challenge, too."

Vendetta, an Eagle Scout, said scouting helped prepare him for the discipline and structure of a military academy.

"Even having a uniform was definitely a reflection (of the military). More importantly, I had a great leader in Gene Sole, who shaped all of us in a way," Vendetta said.

Sole, more generally known as the principal of the Teitelman School, served as an officer in the Marine Corps Reserves in Iraq.

Vendetta said he's not much into television, but does enjoy a movie now and again – his favorite probably being "Wedding Crashers." He was hard-pressed to name music

he enjoyed, but finally came up with Jack Johnson and that sort of laid back music inspired by the surf culture. He does not surf himself, but enjoys the beach, where he is trying spend his very limited free time before reporting to the Naval Academy on June 30 for "Plebe Summer."

"They call it an indoctrination into military lifestyle," he said.

Classes at the U.S. Naval Academy begin in mid-August.

Taylor is the son of Joe and Karen Vendetta of West Cape May. Karen has taught at Lower Cape May Regional High School for 28 years. Joe is employed the United States Postal Service in Cape May.

Besides his appointment to the academy, Vendetta received the LCMR Student Council Award (plaque), Kiwanis Club of Cape May (\$1,000), National Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000), and LCMR Education Association Scholarship (\$1,000).



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Postal employee Wesley Wright was recently commended.

Cape May Point Post Office Employee Receives U.S. Postal Inspection Service's 'Letter of Appreciation'

CAPE MAY POINT - On Wednesday, June 1, 2011, U.S. Postal Inspector Bobbie Wade deposited an Anonymous Mail test piece in the letter collection box located at 408 Yale Ave, Cape May Point, NJ 08212. The objective was to determine whether the collector was properly handling anonymous mail when found in the collection box.

Inspector Wade sent a letter to the Cape May Point Post Office's Postmaster, Melissa Lomax, in reference to the Anonymous Mail test piece and stated the following: "Please express my appreciation to Wesley Wright for the proper handling of our Anonymous Mail test piece. The Postal Inspection Service, Philadelphia Division, would like to thank you and Mr. Wright for assisting us in our efforts to meet our safety and security challenges. Your Cape May Point Post Office passed all three reviews. I want to thank Wesley Wright for providing excellent assistance during these reviews."

The safety and security of the mail is the United States Postal Service's top priority. The Aviation Mail Security and Hazardous Materials Programs provide a safe environment for our customers, employees, and the traveling public. By preventing Anonymous Mail from entering our mail system, increases the safety of all U.S. Postal Service employees, customers, and the transportation networks involved in transporting the mail.

Aviation Mail Security Program: Due to heightened security, all mail pieces weighing over 13 ounces bearing only postage stamps as postage must be presented to an employee at a retail service counter at a Post Office. Mail pieces weighing over 13 ounces bearing only postage stamps as postage deposited in collection boxes, lobby drops, or left on counters, in lobbies, or on postal docks will be returned to the sender. Mail pieces weighing over 13 ounces bearing only postage stamps as postage that are left in customer mailboxes will not be picked up by the carrier. Instead, the carrier will return the mail piece to the customer's mailbox.

What is a Hazardous Material?: Hazardous materials come in a wide variety of forms and can be chemical, biological, radioactive, or a combination thereof. If a material or substance can cause harm to someone or something, it can be considered a hazardous material. The Postal Service's definition of a hazardous material includes many common household and consumer products. These items may not be hazardous during normal use or storage in your home but can present a significant hazard when placed in the mail due to vibration, temperature changes, and variations in atmospheric pressure. Other items, such as alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, liquor),

are not considered hazardous but are prohibited and boxes displaying such markings are also prohibited. If you are unsure whether a material is considered hazardous or is prohibited, please contact customer service at: 1-800-ASK-USPS or visit: www.usps.com/aviationsecurity.

Hazardous Materials Program: Mailers are responsible for the following:

- * Ensuring no hazardous material is mailed unless it is permitted under Postal Service mailing standards described in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM).

- * Knowing the physical characteristics of the hazardous materials they wish to mail.

- * Making sure all Postal Service regulations are followed regarding the packaging, markings, labeling, and declaration of hazardous materials placed in the mail.

Reused packaging and boxes are only acceptable when all markings and labels are removed or completely marked out so they cannot be read. Regardless of what is actually inside your package, markings or labels for hazardous or restricted materials may prevent your package from being delivered. For more information, see the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM). Failure to comply with any USPS requirements may result in the delay or non-delivery of your item.

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AND WAVE.

Taste

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examined before being put into the general population. The teens will not actually go through the process, but will be given a detailed idea of what occurs.

Schaffer said the juveniles will also spend 20 to 30 minutes in a cell, eat facility food in similar conditions as the inmates and also spend time in educational courses,

instructed by correctional officers. He said these classes educate the students on drug and alcohol abuse, the negatives of being involved with gang activity and finally, a broader view of life in prison.

"At the end we want to ask them, 'So, do you think you could spend the next two years of your life, like you did today?' – It should be a real eye opener."

Schaffer said a fully

licensed and college graduate counselor, who has had experience with prison time, will be brought in to speak with the young offenders as well. They will then be given a questionnaire about their experience. The survey also makes sure the young offenders know outreach sources for when they need help.

"We want to make this experience as close to a real jail experience as possible and at the same time, bring in counseling and educational sessions," Schaffer said.

Parents and guardians are required to pick the participant up from the facility at the end of the day and must also sign a waiver of liability, which will advise them that there will be no contact with any inmate during the program. Participants are required to sign the waiver as well.

Schaffer said he expects the first launch group of the program to visit the prison during the third week of July. Each program will take a maximum of 10 juveniles at a time. Schaffer hopes to eventu-

ally run two programs per month.

"I anticipate this to take off," he said. "Once we get an interest in it, we'll be running programs more often."

Parents and guardians, juvenile courts, school resource personnel and police stations using station house adjustment and diversion programs can all recommend young juveniles to this program according to Schaffer. He said he believes "Jail – It's not for me" has the potential to reach its goal of preventing many juveniles from committing crimes and participating in criminal activity such as gangs. He said this should also benefit the officers at the prison, enabling them to utilize their skills in a program designed to give something back to the community.

"We'll see how this first test group goes," he said. "I'm hoping it works out well for everyone involved."

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