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Vestal High School Senior Illustrates Children's Book

Vestal High School art student Dan Gaylord has illustrated a children's book by Auburn author, Tom Adessa. Gaylord and Adessa will be on hand for a press conference at 3 p.m. on February 12 at Vestal High School, 205 Woodlawn Drive. They will also sign copies of their book, "*Butternuts for Rexford*" at this time.

The author, Tom Adessa, was having trouble finding a professional artist who shared his vision of what the title character, "Rexford," and his friends looked like. His brother, Brian Adessa, a social studies teacher at Vestal High School, recommended one of his students, Dan Gaylord. After seeing some sample drawings that Gaylord created, Tom Adessa felt he had found the right artist to illustrate his book. In all, Gaylord created 32 illustrations for the book, 11 of them are full-page drawings.

Gaylord is currently enrolled in four art electives during this, his senior year, which include advertising & illustration, ceramics, International Baccalaureate (IB) year 2 art and senior portfolio. He has participated in many state and regional art exhibits, including the Albany Legislative Show, the Phelp's Mansion Art Show, the National Scholastics Art Show and the ART 09 Cooperative Art Show. As his next professional endeavor, Gaylord is illustrating fantasy gaming cards that are scheduled for publication.

The book, "*Butternuts for Rexford*," was released at a special signing event at the Auburn Public Theater in December. Barnes & Noble in the Town Square Mall will be carrying the book locally.