

KEWANEE HORIZONS



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MISSION STATEMENT

Kewanee Horizon's has adopted the Restorative Justice and community theme. Partly because this has been the fight of our lives, those of us who have sought not only freedom in its many forms, but, also a way to give back, rebuild, and uplift our communities.

We give back because of what we have been given. We rebuild, by restoring back to a state of before our offenses. We uplift, by a conscious and consistent effort to better ourselves as well as those around us.

Kewanee Horizon's will work to highlight the achievements of this community both on campus and off. Whether individually or collectively and no matter the uniform we wear. We're going to look into the daily lives here on campus on a monthly basis. We are hoping to open the eyes to the limitless potential there is in our population, to advocate for more participation in programming, and to give recognition to those who succeed. We want to remain as interactive as possible so Kewanee Horizon's will be picking your brains for ideas and accepting submissions to make this as interactive as possible. This publication is put together for the purpose of uplifting mind, body and spirit.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

KEWANEE LSRC HAS agreed to allow, consistent with COVID protocols, to engage in more Restorative Practices. In the Horizons newsletter you will see the terms **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE** and **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** very often.

The aim of Restorative Practices is to develop community and to manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships. Restorative Justice in general, is a process involving the primary stakeholders in determining how best to repair the harm done by an offense. The three primary stakeholders in Restorative Justice are: the victims, the offenders, and their communities of care; their needs are respectively: obtaining reparation, taking responsibility, and achieving reconciliation.

The Kewanee Horizon team believes creating a better community here is Restorative. By indirectly repairing damages and by giving back to our current community and with greater communities at large, we are engaging in Restorative Practices.



K.H. MEMES



CIVICS EDUCATION



Why Voting Rights is so important for Individuals in Custody

I have taught a few sessions of civic education for individuals in custody here at Kewanee and the level of apathy and indifference that I am seeing is very surprising and sad. It is clear that most of the participants do not want to be there and complain immediately upon finding out what the class is for. Many participants do not come back after the first session for their second or third sessions. The ability of re-entering citizens to vote as soon as their MSR term begins is not something that should be taken for granted or squandered. Unfortunately, that is exactly what too many of us are doing. In Illinois, convicted felons have the right to vote as soon as they are discharged from custody. It does not matter what crime we were convicted of or whether we are on probation or parole. As long as an individual is outside of prison they may register and vote. This is a right that many convicted felons do not have in other states. Many states permanently ban those with violent convictions or any felony convictions from voting. Other states will not allow convicted felons to vote while they are on probation or parole.

As an inmate community we are quick to complain about the conditions of our confinement, truth-in-sentencing laws, lack of programming, etc. but we will not translate that frustration into educating ourselves about how the laws and administrative rules that govern our confinement can be changed through the exercise of the vote. (continued next page...)

CIVICS EDUCATION

This is especially important for the incarcerated African-American community. It is no secret that felony disenfranchisement laws have historically been used to suppress the black vote. In Illinois African-Americans are incarcerated at a rate of 2,128 per 100,000 as compared to 258 per 100,000 for Whites. Blacks are only 15% of the Illinois population but are 54% of the IDOC population. The systemic racism that exists within the criminal justice system can be remedied by returning citizens using the knowledge gained through civic education classes to not only register and vote, but to also advocate and lobby. Returning citizens can educate their family, friends, and neighbors about how the criminal justice system from arrest, trial, incarceration, and even MSR contribute to the statistics above. The policies and practices of law enforcement come from locally elected officials including mayors, city councils, county commissions, and sheriffs. Our judicial system is controlled by elected trial and appellate judges, state's attorneys, and the state Attorney General. Our elected Governor appoints the Director of the Department of Corrections and the members of various panels like the Prisoner Review Board and Administrative Review Board. These entities develop the rules and procedures governing how our correctional facilities operate. The elected state legislature writes the sentencing credit laws that determine how much of your sentence you will have to serve. Through our vote we decide who will be elected to these powerful positions.

The purpose of the Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center is to prepare individuals in custody for a successful transition to society. If we do not use the voting rights that our forbearers sacrificed so much for to change our communities for the better then what have we really learned.

PEER LED SHOWCASE

The Kewanee campus along with Kewanee Horizons wants to shine a light on the individuals that have taken it upon themselves and volunteered, not only to lead these classes, but to build the curriculum and advocate for the creation of many of the programs themselves. These men have dedicated themselves to bringing our community some amazing avenues for self-improvement. They have not only taken it upon themselves to invest the time and effort in improving their own prospects for the future, but an equal (and sometimes more so) amount of time in affecting change in the future of the rest of the men who live here on campus. They serve as an example to all of us that with: effort, dedication, hard work and a generosity of spirit, great things can and do happen for us here on campus. Our hats go off to you. We hope to include more Peer Educators from other facilities throughout the state in future editions of the HORIZONS.

Kewanee Strong!



FINANCIAL LITERACY

A.K.A. Cash Flow Club teaches the fundamentals of financial literacy. We are setting the foundation to endless wealth. Our self limiting—belief have to change from the get rich quick scheme, by focusing on self free -belief. It will help us develop financial stability and learn various strategies.

Studies include personal credit, creating a corporate entity properly (LLC, LP, Corporation) Building business credit, budgeting, saving, and investment opportunities



Mr. Jones



Mr. Earl



FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS

By: Byron Jones

Financial Literacy means: being in possession of a set of skills and knowledge that allows an individual to make informed and effective decisions with all of their financial resources...

Being incarcerated for so long, you don't realize how illiterate you are to the basic functions of the financial world, which is why this Financial Literacy class is a necessity before release. Here at Kewanee, aside from you taking Financial Literacy as a mandatory class, we offer a peer led group every week that teaches you the basic fundamentals of establishing and building credit. You will learn about **Personal Credit** (FICO score, credit agencies, APR's), creating an **LLC** (EIN #, how to fill out different types of business forms) as well as **Business Credit** (Vendor Accounts, Paydex score, register to create Experian and D&B profiles properly.)

Through first hand experience, we also provide gems of information that the books, banks, and creditors don't want you to know because face it, those entities capitalize off your lack of knowledge. Our goal is to raise financial awareness toward breaking the stereotype that credit is a way for government to control your finances. Rather, seeing it through the lenses of the game that Warren Buffet and Jay-Z has mastered; becoming financially free through utilizing credit as a way to use O.P.M. (other people's money.) So, follow us, as we take you on a descriptive journey to obtain a good credit score, whether you are a GHOST (someone with no credit), or you simply have a low credit score already... this information is intended to help you RISE ABOVE.

-Until you own your own, you can't be free-



LESSON 1

- 1) **What is credit?**- An agreement between a creditor/lender and a borrower in which a consumer assumes something of value in agreement to repay based on certain terms.
- 2) **What is credit needed for?**- To sometimes qualify for a great job. Also to help you get a loan such as: to buy a home (mortgage), buy a car, to lease a with the option to purchase, and to get credit cards with low rates.
- 3) **What is a credit score; better known as a FICO score?** (Used by most lenders) sometimes called a Vantage score (rarely used.)- The FICO score is determined by the Fair Isaac corporation (FICO's name) and is a way to measure a person's credit worthiness. It's a score that ranges from 350 to 850.

SCORES

640- ↓ **BAD**

641-680 **FAIR**

681-720 **GOOD**

721- ↑ **EXCELLENT**

There are many things that determine your score, and then that score is used to determine everything from mortgage rates, to car loan and credit interest rates;

3 Credit Bureaus

Equifax

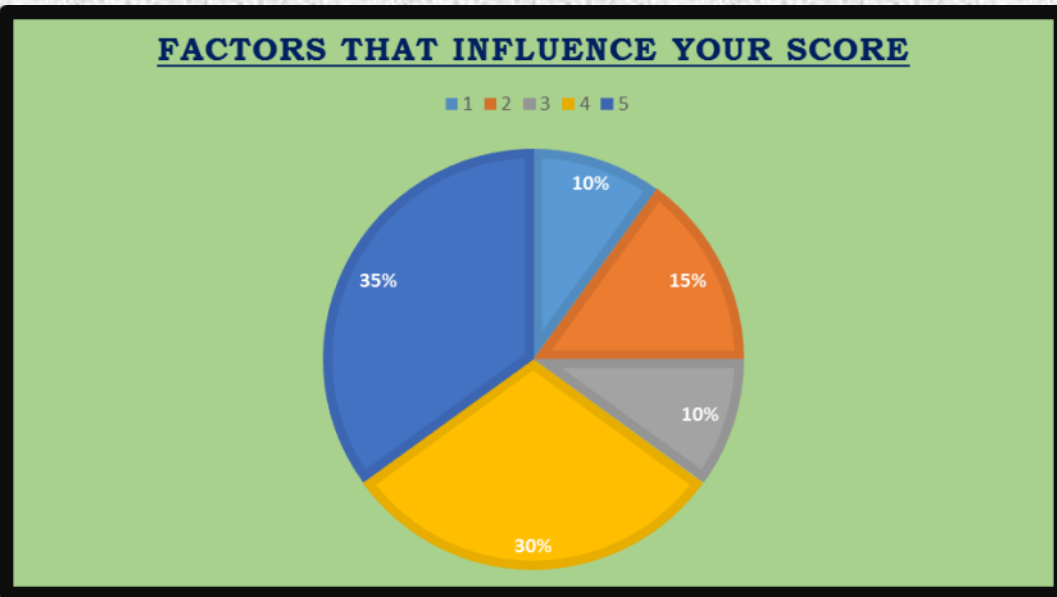
Experian

Transunion

Do you know what your credit score is?

Check your credit score through these sites:

- AnnualCreditReport.com
- CreditKarma.com
- CreditSesame.com
- CreditCheckTotal.com



- 1) **MIXED ACCOUNTS(10%)**
- 2) **LENGTH OF CREDIT HISTORY(15%)**
- 3) **NEW DEBT(10%)**
- 4) **BALANCE VS. LIMIT(30%)**
- 5) **PAYMENT HISTORY(35%)**



Investing Versus Trading



By: Robert Kennedy

There are two main strategies to create wealth in the stock market. You can invest in stocks, holding them for many years while pocketing the dividends. You can also trade stocks, holding them for a few hours, days, weeks or months. Investing is taking a long-term position in the market, while trading allows you to take a short-term position. The choice is yours.

There are thousands of stocks to choose from, but many investors like to buy shares of a company that provide a dividend every quarter (3 months). A dividend is a specific cash amount determined by the Board of Directors of a company to be paid to each shareholder, for each share of stock the shareholder owns.

The company is essentially distributing a portion of its profits in the form of a dividend.

Coca-Cola for example, currently pays a dividend of \$0.44 for every share owned. Therefore, if you own 10 shares of Coca-Cola, which, at the time of this writing, is \$62.50 per share, Coca-Cola will pay you $\$0.44 \times 10$ shares or \$4.40 in cash directly deposited into your brokerage account every three months. Over the course of a year you will receive 4 payments of \$4.40 each quarter, for a total of \$17.60 annually. This creates a dividend of 2.8%. While this may not sound like much, consider the fact that the average yield on a savings account bank's offer is less than 1%. In addition, the stock price will fluctuate with the market so your investment could generate an even greater profit. A dividend yield is calculated by adding the four dividend payments of \$0.44 per share which is \$1.76 and dividing it by the current price of the stock, \$62.50. so, $\$1.76$ divided by $\$62.50$ equals $.02816$ ($\times 100 = 2.8\%$) annually.



Not all companies offer dividends. You need to watch CNBC and do your homework to find out which companies do. Most profitable companies usually offer the shareholders dividends. On the other hand trading is more of a short term strategy. Traders aren't concerned with a company, or whether or not the company is profitable. A trader is interested in the price of the stock. Trading involves more technical analysis and a lot less fundamental analysis. Traders can profit not only when stock prices go up, but also when the stock and shorting prices go down. Options contracts and shorting stocks are a couple of tools traders use to build wealth. A successful trader can make money in the best and worst market conditions. So, the question is which one are you? An investor or a trader? In my opinion, one isn't better than the other. It's up to you.





I recently spoke with Eric Ziarko who works in the L.T.S. department and got some insight to some of the activities and responsibilities they have here on the campus working for L.T.S. The most recent event they hosted here on the campus was the Memorial day obstacle course. There were two different weight classes. There was a under 200 lbs. and an over 200 lbs. division. There was a big turn out for the competition with everyone giving their all and some really good efforts, which consisted of bench presses, pull ups, dips, burpies, tire flips, farmer carry and a 1/3 mile run, all done under time with the winner being the one with the fastest time. The winner for the under 200 lbs. was Leondus Carter. The winner for the over 200 lbs. division was Mario Bolden. Congrats to the winners!

The L.T.S. recently held a handball tournament as well with the winner of that event being Pedro Mercado. There is a second handball tournament scheduled also.

There is also a flag football league coming soon, a soccer league and there is currently a softball league going on. Some of the other activities they are responsible for facilitating are the pictures taken in the chapel every Tuesday and Thursday, the programing and playing of movies on all the institutional channels , cleaning and sanitizing all the weight equipment, as well as the weekly yoga class on Thursdays at 12:15 in the west gym. There is a volunteer that comes in and instructs the yoga class as well.

Most of the L.T.S. activities are all peer led and if you have an idea for an activity or event, find one of the L.T.S. workers and maybe they can help you make it happen. One of the responsibilities of us as a community here on the campus is doing our part to keep the gym and yard looking good. It hasn't happened in awhile but in the past, when guys have left the weights all scattered around the gym or yard they would shut the gym and yard down for a whole day. So, please put the weights away when you are done using them so we can all continue to enjoy the gym and yard. As well as throwing your candy wrappers and trash in the trash cans. As long as we all do our part, we can have more and more events, privileges and activities.



Mr. Tewell



Mr. Isbil, Mr. Carter, Mr. Peppers

Mr. Pressley



These proud fellas here are the very first MTM employees from the Kewanee campus. The company they are working for is just up the road, and they specialize in welding and fabrication. These guys worked hard and stayed patient to secure their jobs at MTM. They will be the ambassadors and the face of the Kewanee campus. And with these three stellar individuals, they will be a great representation of the workforce that is here at the campus. By these guys being good stewards, hopefully the good folks at MTM will be hiring more people from the campus soon! Pictured here are (from left to right) Mr. Tewel, Mr. Isbil, Mr. Carter, Mr. Peppers and Mr. Presley.

OUTSIDE WORKERS: WELDERS INTERVIEWS

We recently had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Carter, Mr. Brock and Mr. Peppers about their work at MTM as employees. This is one of the most visible and successful day release job opportunities afforded to our campus. It has been so successful that more positions are forthcoming, in fact Mr. Tewell and Mr. Montgomery were recently hired to augment the work force there. We tried to keep our interview questions short and to the point in order to be able to allow for their wide variety of outlooks and takes to be contained in this short article highlighting their experiences. The following 8 questions are what we decided would give us interesting insights into their thoughts:

1. How did it feel being selected for the interview process?
2. What was the interview like?
3. How did being hired feel?
4. How is the work? How are you treated at work?
5. What is it like out there?
6. How does it feel to come back each day?
7. Thoughts about the job?

Excerpts from Mr. Carter's answers...

2) It felt new; nervous, I knocked it out of the park in my second interview: I came in confident, energetic and prepared.

3) I felt like a major master over my life-this is my first job, first paycheck, first interview. I have been incarcerated for 23 years, I have been incarcerated from the age of 18 to 41, let me put that into perspective... I have been incarcerated for my entire adult life and developing years.

5) Very rewarding. Like a human being.

6) You'd have to contrast prison with free society. It feels like a relief, a long awaited, earned relief.

7) Very educational

- Because I am given the freedom and encouragement to learn and develop my welding skill set and more
- I understand that my positive performance with this opportunity is encouraging to the administrators to support rehabilitative programs like this. Therefore I take my employment opportunity serious with a high level of professionalism and dedication.

Excerpts from Mr. Peppers answers...

1)I was very grateful for the opportunity to be interviewed. I knew I had the skillset that was needed for the job and that I would be one of the best workers they had ever hired, I just wanted to be able to show that in person. I put the rest in God's hands.

3) Being hired was the fulfillment of my expectations, that hard work and my faith could carry the day. It was also a relief that I would be able to really build a solid foundation for a successful re-entry to society as far as work history and a bit of a nest egg financially.

4) At work I am treated just like anybody else. My appreciation for normal work colleague interactions is beyond anything I could have expected to achieve during my incarceration.

5) It is such a blessing to experience freedom in any form like this, both physically and spiritually.

Excerpts from Mr. Isbil's answers...

- 1) I did a lot to get to where I was at-It felt like hard work paying off.
- 2) It mimicked real life, I've had interviews before, so it was pretty much like that- a bit stressful.
- 4) Physically and mentally demanding! I also really love welding so it is enjoyable, it is fast paced and hotter than hell's kitchen.
- 5) Like just another member of the team.
- 6) 100% different, like night and day. You still know you are in prison, but it is amazing.
- 8) It is a great way to get skills for life to carry you the rest of the way, especially for guys who are too short or too long for work release. It is an amazing way to learn to be around regular people, in a real work environment. It is an awesome program.

There are two new hires for the welding employment opportunity: Mr. Tewel and Mr. Pressley, we are going to try and interview those guys and get their perspectives in an upcoming issue. We are just really proud of everybody who is associated with this program and the tremendous opportunity it is offering to us. The men who are selected have shown how seriously they are taking their responsibility to reflect well on all of us here at the Kewanee campus.

There are also a few more day release employment opportunities here and we are going to highlight those jobs in future issues.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT By: Josh Clark

One of the most frustrating things in prison is all the negativity we face. Most of us have had to deal with all of the negativity of being in other institutions for decades. For a lot of us, that is a hard thing to get away from. When we come to a new place we are already expecting the usual nonsense we are used to. For me, Kewanee is far different than any other place I've been. It's the opposite. For example, everywhere else I've been it was mostly all negative all the time with the exception of a few decent c/o's. Even the individuals I had to live around were negative most times. Here it's the exact opposite. Most everyone I come into contact with are respectful, polite and positive, staff and individuals alike.



I learned a long time ago that negativity is like a disease. If it goes unchecked it will spread quickly. So when I hear someone being negative, I ask them the same question I ask myself when I'm feeling like that. What is the solution to the problem? How can we fix it? Just complaining about it is just that.....complaining. If there's nothing that can be done about it, the only option is to just accept it and move on. Our energy is better used on things we can actively do to better our situations.

Try asking yourself this simple question the next time you're in a negative mindset, "what is the solution to this problem and what steps can I actively take to get to that solution?"

YOU'RE JUST SAYIN'

Freedom of speech is one of the most talked about topics in society.

What is okay to say? What isn't?

It's hard to know what's going to offend someone or not. Whether it be a particular person, group, race, gender or political party. I feel conversations can be held if both parties are willing to be respectful and stay true to the facts. Opinions are fine to have if the person has the right information to back up their point of view.



I came up with my idea to show that we can possibly have more in common than we think. I wrote down some random questions and passed them out among my peers here on campus. I wrote the questions on sheets of paper, mixed them up and let the person choose. The only instructions were to be open, honest and respectful (so we can print it), and to place it in the book drop off box outside the library. The submissions can also be anonymous if you would like. Questions were passed out to all ethnicities and ages so a wide variety of answers can be given. Without fear of retaliation or retribution for saying how you feel. We aren't even keeping track of the questions asked or who the answers came from. That way it can remain completely anonymous. The questions range from, "if you were warden for a day" to "what's your first meal the day you get out?" if you participated, thank you for your input. Or if you just think it's a dumb idea, that's fine too. Although, If you read the column and feel like you agree with it or not, let us know and we will be happy to put your answers in the column as well. Peace, Curt.

On the next page please find a random sampling of questions and answers:

Q: What change would you like to see happen at Kewanee and/or IDOC?

A: More staff, more programs, more re-entry.

*straight to the point I guess!

Q: What change in yourself are you most proud of?

A: The change I am most proud of in myself is that through trial and adversity I have been able to free myself mentally and in doing so I have learned perseverance. I have found motivation, strength, determination, leadership and self-love.

*Right on my friend, pursue that peace and joy!

Q:What would you consider the best advice you were given by staff, family, or peer that has helped you during your incarceration?

A: The best advice given to me was by a staff in the county jail, right when I was sentenced. She told me, "Stay strong, stay focused, get smart and keep my head held high." In doing that I was able to let go of the pain and hatred I had in my heart, I stopped blaming my faults on others and 17 years later, close to 20 years, that advice and me staying accountable allowed me to do this time easily.

Q: Since arriving at Kewanee, what difference have you seen from your previous facility?

A: I have seen the staff be more respectful and I have seen a difference in the way the brother talk and act with one another. I'm starting to see brother if they are okay and if they are having health issue and I think that's a good look for all of us.

Q: How has your incarceration changed your outlook on life from the start of sentence?

A: I was 18 when I was first incarcerated and I have spent all of my 20's and 30's in prison. I no longer take for granted all those seemingly mundane aspects of life like taking a walk, going shopping, or riding a bike. I realize how precious life is and I take the time to thank God for all of my blessings.

Q: What class/program at Kewanee would you say has helped you prepare for your return to society?

A: I would have to say Mr. Estes class (Critical Thinking) when you have been programmed to think a certain way, this class allows you to broaden/open your mind to thinking in different ways. This being very important for individuals in custody who are getting close to leaving Kewanee (IDOC) and transitioning back into society. It also helps you reflect on who you are and what areas you can repair/change.



CELEBRITIES BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| M. Night Shyamalan | August 6th, 1970 |
| David Duchovny | August 7th, 1960 |
| Gillian Anderson | August 9th, 1968 |
| Sam Elliot | August 9th, 1944 |
| Ian Anderson | August 10th, 1947 |
| Kylie Jenner | August 10th, 1997 |

LANGUAGE:

EPONYMS: Words named for people

Boycott: to avoid trade or dealings with

- The term 'boycott' is named after Charles C. Boycott, an English land agent in Ireland who was ostracized for refusing to reduce his rents in 1880.

Luddite: one who opposes new technology

- The term comes from the name of Ned Ludd, a leader of textile workers who destroyed machinery in the early 1800's.

RANDOM INFORMATION:**WORLD INFORMATION:**

- Liberia's capitol city is named Monrovia, after former U.S. President James Monroe. It is the only capitol city outside of the U.S. to be named after a U.S. President.
- The country of Georgia has a population of 4.9 million people; the U.S. state Georgia has a population of 10.3 million people, more than double the country.
- The U.S. has an estimated 40.5 million Spanish speakers, while the entire population of Spain is only slightly larger at 49 million people.
- The state of New Mexico has an estimated population of 2.1 million people while the capitol city of Mexico, Mexico City has an estimated population of 21.3 million people, more than 10x the population of New Mexico.

SPORTS TRIVIA...(ANSWERS NEXT WEEK)

- 1) Who was named Sports Illustrated greatest female athlete of the 20th century in 1998?
- 2) In the 1969-70 NCAA Basketball season, who scored 1381 points and averaged 44.5 points per game?

Signs of the Zodiac

Constellation

Aries
Taurus
Gemini
Cancer
Leo
Virgo
Libra
Scorpio
Sagittarius
Capricorn
Aquarius
Pisces

English Name

The Ram
The Bull
The Twins
The Crab
The Lion
The Virgin
The Balance
The Scorpion
The Archer
The Goat
The Water Bearer
The Fishes

Symbol

Aries
Taurus
Gemini
Cancer
Leo
Virgo
Libra
Scorpio
Sagittarius
Capricorn
Aquarius
Pisces

Dates

Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Apr. 20– May.20
May. 21-June. 21
June. 22-July. 22
July. 23– Aug. 22
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Sept.23-Oct. 23
Oct. 24-Nov. 21
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

In your future I see some Horoscope predictions...



WHO ATE ALL THE CAKE FOR TONIGHTS DINNER?!

WASNT ME THIS TIME MS. Z.

I DUNNO

WASNT ME MS. ZORIL.

UT-OH

HUH?

HCU 5 TRAYS

TOM

© SPAH 7-27



BY: JAIME HERNANDEZ



STATE WIDE REQUEST FOR UPDATES

Kewanee Horizons' guiding principles include Restorative Justice practices with an emphasis on community building. This is the second issue that we have produced, the first was limited to the Kewanee campus itself. I would venture to say that it was a proof of concept kind of situation because we specifically had never participated in creating a newspaper, newsletter, e-zine or however you'd like to define what this is. We remembered how important the Statewide Informer was to us during some of the darker stretches of the on going COVID lockdowns around the IDOC and we wanted to create something like that. We really wanted to make our own thing though, based on what drives us, something we could be passionate about ourselves, namely community. Our unique community of the incarcerated men and women of the IDOC. Our thought is to try and encourage each other through highlighting some of the most positive achievements of members of our community. In this issue you will see our efforts in that direction, however, what is missing are the updates from all of the things that our fellow brothers and sisters around the state are doing! We want to give a huge shout out in recognition to the amazing achievement to the Master's Degree recipients from Stateville! You are awesome! You are an inspiration to so many of us. (If you haven't read the pieces written on the Feather Bricks document you are tripping! It is really good, get to it.) So, we are pretty sure you can guess where this is going... send us your updates! Let us know about the things you or others are doing in your facility. We are working out a way for these submissions to be submitted to us here at Kewanee so that we can put them together and show the immense talents and drive that our community has. The ability to see each other's accomplishments can only serve to inspire each other to reach for more. At least that is the belief that we have. And so, we are asking for you to let us know what's up. Of course there are guidelines that will have to be followed, for example the first thing we'd ask to hear about are any graduations or certificates earned or anything in that space. We welcome all submissions and we reserve the right to edit for clarity, grammar, spelling etc. the main idea though is to be able to put your work on the tablets and kiosks to share with the rest of the community at large here.



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Danville, Taylorville, Centralia, Big Muddy, Dixon, Stateville, Sheridan, East Moline, Illinois River, Jacksonville, Graham, Menard, Pinckneyville, Shawnee, Mount Sterling, Vienna, Robinson, Lawrenceville, Pontiac, Hill, Lincoln, Southwestern, Vandalia, Logan, Decatur, Murphysboro...

This is a call to you, think about some things you could write about. We want to here from you, all across the state, we know you are trying to do some amazing things and any successes you achieve need to be highlighted!

