

MAY 2022

VOLUME I



K e w a n e e

H o r i z o n s

KEWANEE HORIZONS VOLUME I

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kewanee Horizons 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 as 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 Horizons 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 some 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 Horizons will be picking your brains for ideas and accepting submissions to make this as community driven 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.

Conversation with AWO Carothers

We have been told from the moment we arrive here, “Kewanee is different, unique in all of I.D.O.C.” This may be true in many ways, but in one way in particular. We have the opportunity to communicate with the faculty in a more meaningful way. Now, some communications are better than others, but the opportunity stands nonetheless. One stands out among the rest, our ability to speak with a Warden, and on a regular basis at that.

Kewanee Horizons took advantage of this ability and spoke with AWO Carothers. We are always curious to have other people’s perspectives. So early in this conversation we asked, what is AWO Carothers’s view of how Kewanee is different? He spoke on the points we are used to hearing, but are very true. He says, “Kewanee is different because it is a Life-skills Re-entry center, a title we are proud to hold. We have programming such as: college, G.E.D...” and he touched on all the peer-led groups. We believe one of the most impactful differences here is the communication with faculty. On that topic AWO Carothers touches on the re-entry applicability that lies in these communications. “We separate ourselves from other facilities through building and creating an environment that is conducive to the re-entry of individuals back into society through many avenues. One is the camaraderie between faculty and individuals in custody, along with movement. Movement here is different because the structure of the programming there is a responsibility on the individual to maintain their class, work and personal time schedules. This was all built on the premise of responsibility similar to that in the world or society: a balance of work, home, and family, along with personal needs.”

What are the expectations of new individuals? “The only expectation on a basic level is to participate. Whether we are talking about the opinions of faculty or being contractually obligated, participation is required in this program as a whole.” We have to have accountability in one another in order to keep building on the programing. We have more people coming so it will require working together and a higher level of accountability. It’s a responsibility we owe one another to say, “Hey, we need to be doing this in order to grow not only ourselves but this community as well.”

When asked about new or expanded programs, “We now have the simulators; we have taken our time going to other facilities gathering information on the Sim program they were running, learned from their mistakes and will be able to run a larger, smoother class than they do. Down the road we’re looking at expanding the course to

include both shifts that will allow us to accommodate scheduling of other class and programs.”

We have had three different “Day with Dads.” I would like to have 4 “Day with Dads” a year, whether that’s Day with Son and or Daughter, either way it’s something I want to expand.” When asked about including nieces and nephews or just family day: “We are moving towards that because after all, it’s about strengthening the support system for re-entry. It is being explored, and given time, patience and testing of it, I do think we can move towards a family day.” We have to keep in mind we’re still in the infancy of re-entry so given positive versions with no problems it makes it easier for me as a AWO to push for things like this” He goes on to say, “It’s not about anger management or parenting; it’s about the big total package of family and that is what we work for.”

When asked about John Deer and Caterpillar coming in to talk with us about job opportunities, “John Deer has come in and showed their 3-dimensional goggles, some activities dealing with manufacturing or assembling-type things. As we get into better weather, we are looking in to exploring them coming in.”

Kewanee Horizons asked AWO Carothers if there were a criteria for placement at an A.T.C. on an institutional level. “Yes, and some of things I can tell you about are, when there is a need for exemption to the criteria and part of that is when the administration says an individual has gone through all the behavioral groups, classes and programming that is needed for that particular individual.”

Kewanee Horizons asked the AWO if there was anything else he wanted to say. “Yes, success is absolutely dependent on both the staff and individuals in custody.”



By: Clyde Best

As most individuals in custody get closer to their release date a lot of things are on their minds (finding a parole site, employment, avoiding MSR stipulations, etc.). Voting is rarely a major concern. Most returning citizens do not even realize that they can vote while on parole. In 2019 the Illinois General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the Re-Entering Citizens Civic Education Act (P.A. 101-0441) eff. Jan. 1, 2020. This law, the first of its kind in the United States, mandates that re-entering citizens be given three 90-minute sessions of voter education

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CIVICS EDUCATION

provided by trained peer educators. According to a recent survey of Illinois' individuals in custody, while 93-95% of incarcerated individuals would vote upon release and think that voting is important, only 37% know that they can vote on MSR/parole and only 22% know how to regain their voting rights. That's why these classes are so important. Social Worker Afolabi is the coordinator of the civics peer education program here at Kewanee, and I will be teaching the classes as a peer educator. I've always had a passion for voting rights, government, and the political process, and I hope to inspire returning citizens to exercise their right to vote for the benefit of themselves, their families, and their communities. Individuals in custody must be within a year of their MSR date to take the classes.



KEWANEE VETERAN'S GROUP



Kewanee will be restarting its veteran's group after, like many programs here at Kewanee, COVID shut it down. The veteran's group will be facilitated by Lt. DeCoster and MPH Ross. The group will be meeting weekly on Mondays at 12:10 p.m. in room 61 in West Academics. While the group is only open to veterans, anyone can participate in the many activities that will be planned for the future. The veteran's group will be focused on establishing a sense of camaraderie and fellowship for veterans and fundraising for various charities that assist veterans on the outside. A representative from the Veteran's Administration will be meeting with the group to discuss programs and benefits upon release. Some of the planned activities include a 5K run to raise money, movie nights featuring movies with a military theme, and military-training exercises and games. Many staff members and outside organizations have participated in past events. Lt. DeCoster is a former Marine and started the group in 2019 after drawing inspiration from an individual in custody that had recently transferred from Graham, where there is a very vibrant veteran's group. Kewanee Horizons will be keeping the Kewanee community regularly updated on the activities of the veteran's group.

NEW CLASSES/PROGRAMS

We have had the opportunity to see new classes start here on campus — some of which are peer-led. These classes don't get nearly enough credit. It should be said that the individuals who lead them take it upon themselves to invest their own time to relay the knowledge they have accumulated over the years through trial and error. Thankfully they want to impart this knowledge to those of us who are willing to learn. Keep in mind our mission statement — to give recognition and highlight those who are succeeding everyday here on campus. Take advantage of all programming no matter the uniform.

A big addition to the campus is the Caterpillar Excavator Simulator. The Cat Sim Class started on May 1st and will enable those who take it to develop hand and eye coordination when working with the controls to position the arm, boom and bucket on this complex piece of machinery. It will also give a better perspective on working with medium-sized heavy equipment and an understanding of the safe operating procedures involved when working with any equipment. This course will surely give anyone who graduates a leg up when it comes to applying for a job operating medium-sized heavy equipment. This class is intended to be two months long. After passing the safety curriculum, you will move on to the 14 exercises on the simulator. Two of our own campus members will walk you through all of the information on the safety and operating instructions.

Lake Land College is another part of the campus that is revving up and set to offer some exciting new opportunities. The campus already has a certified Custodial Maintenance class up and running, and we are looking forward to more opportunities coming soon. As soon as possible, Kewanee Horizons will be ready to offer you as much information on the possibilities concerning educational opportunities.

Another peer-led group, which happens to be near and dear to me is the peer led Law Clerk study group. This study group will enable you to understand how to look up and find information regarding many aspects of the law whether it's your Constitutional or Civil rights, how to understand some of these rights and other aspects of the law such as how to find the proper way the file motions to the court. This peer-led group, as with many others, will give you not only the ability, but the confidence to go out into the work force and succeed while supporting your community here on campus. We here at *Kewanee Horizons* encourage everyone on campus to not only engage in programing but advocate for your own classes, to impart the wealth of knowledge locked inside this community.

One of the newest and most sought-after programs we have are the outside work crews. There are now three crews employing eleven workers in total. This is just the beginning of this program and if all goes well it will pave the way for more individuals to gain employment with these outside employers. This is just another facet of the jewel that Kewanee is becoming. This is a perfect example of what participation in programing, advocating for yourself and perseverance will get you here at the Kewanee campus. Another important aspect that we all need to keep in mind when we receive these opportunities is that when we work these outside jobs, we are the faces of the Kewanee campus. If we are good stewards for this program, the possibilities are limitless! After all, Kewanee is what we make of it. Let's make it the best possible place it can be, right? RIGHT! With that being said, we would like to congratulate the guys who got hired. Keep up the good work guys and make all of us proud! We also would like to congratulate the guys who went through the application process but didn't get hired. Keep your heads up guys, take pride in the fact that you all put in the work and had the courage to put yourselves out there. Keep advocating for yourselves, and doors will eventually open!

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 futures 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 generosity of spirit, great things can and do happen for us here on campus. Our hats are off to you men!

KEWANEE STRONG!





By: Kenyatta Turner

DEEN OF AL-ISLAM

The Deen of Al-Islam is a way of life, the way of peace. Prophet Muhammad said, “You want for your brother what you want for yourself.” Success in this world and the next is goal. Come to prayer, come to success! Join us for Jumah and Taleem here in Kewanee.



By: Alvin Harris

AFRICAN HEBREW ISRAELITES

It is impossible to explain every individual aspect of what Kewanee is offering to those committed and dedicated to doing what is right and good, so I'll touch on what has been the most fundamental in helping shape me into who I am today.

The African Hebrew Israelites classes here at KLSRC is peer-led and we believe and teach that the Bible is to be accepted as an inherent and infallible, historical and spiritual document. We're willing to extend the hand of Brotherhood to all wanting to express Righteous/Positive behavior and conduct and promote the unification in principle and truth of everyone, regardless of race, religion, creed or color.



By: Reginald Spencer

CHRISTIANITY

At some point in life everyone will ask the question...Who are we, what's our purpose in the universe and ultimately is there a God?

Here on the Kewanee campus there is a community of people where these questions and many more can be answered.

I am Reginald Spencer, a man of God with over 30 years of Bible study experience and an everlasting relationship with God.

My life testimony is one that lives witness to the miracles of God. Please join me and my brothers in faith on a Biblical journey I'm certain you will not regret.



GRAPHIC DESIGN

By: Donial Garrett

“Being afforded the right to make it right,” that’s the true meaning behind Restorative Justice. My name is Donial Garrett, and after 16 years of incarceration, I’ve finally been afforded the opportunity to give back to my community and those around me. The best part about it is the fact that I’m able to start giving back prior to my release. I was always into creative artwork in a variety of ways. Through KLSRC’s Media Room, I was able to put in a substantial amount of hours studying several programs. I am now proud to say that I am a self-taught Digital Animator/ Graphics Designer! Here at Kewanee, I facilitate a Peer-led Computer Fundamentals & Graphics Design class. The world is essentially run by computers now. There are so many individuals in custody who have spent so many years of their life behind these walls. I always felt that it was vital to have some type of understanding of how computers operate. What exactly is a computer? What are the ports used for? How do you put one together? How do you operate the programs on them? etc. These are frequently-asked questions. Questions that I provide the answers to along with many more! I understand that everybody has a purpose, and I was sent to Kewanee for a reason. It’s about taking what you learned and passing it along. It’s about making sure the next generation doesn’t make the same mistakes I’ve made. It’s about showing those you love that the growth is evident. It’s about Restorative Justice! First and foremost, we must be afforded the right to do so!

T.R.E.O

TREO stands for Trade Ready Employment & Opportunities. We are a peer-led class that focuses on connecting guys with the knowledge of a trade that they're interested in. Some of the ways we do this is by obtaining info on specific trades and unions, watching educational videos. We also have a book study that participants can do at their own pace, in Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical and Construction. We also speak in groups and share knowledge and experience with one another that helps build each other up in pursuit of finding a career. Please join us **Friday nights at 6-8 PM in the Chapel.**

Facilitators:

Manuel Arevalo (right)

James Gouty (left)



ROOFING CLASS

Mission: For individuals to obtain their roofing license

What to know: It is a peer-led group that studies out of the Carpentry, N.R.C.A. Roofing Manual books, Illinois Residential Roofing Study Guide, and how-to videos.

What's in the works: Obtaining two curriculum from N.R.C.A., which are accredited all over the nation. It will increase our chances of employment and curve the recidivism rate.



CDL CLASS

The commercial motor vehicle industry is the backbone of our economy. Here at Kewanee we offer a peer-led group that teaches the ins and outs of the trucking industry. We have a 10-week program that can be taken repeatedly. Our goal is to provide individuals in custody with the knowledge and steps needed to obtain a C.L.P. (Commercial Learner's Permit) and then go on to receive a Commercial Driver's License upon their release.

Remember, what you put in is what you get out! So let's ride...



One of the things you will learn about **graphic design** is that you will be able to design anything you want. If you can dream it, you will be able to draw it. It may be hard at first, but it will get easier the more you practice. When you first start to design something from the start and see how far you have come, it is a

thrilling feeling! You start with a line and then it becomes a flower for a t-shirt or a decal wrap for a car. Anyone can do graphic design. I know some people that never drew anything and were still able to design awesome things, but it can help to have some artistic background. There are some things you can learn such as composition and color theory. Once you have an idea, then you can start to design all different types of things. You can do this as a hobby or even a career. Once you get your work out there and you become better and better, you will be proud of yourself. If you have the opportunity you should try your hand at graphic design. You never know what you might come up with. I have been drawing and painting for years, and I never thought I would be doing any of this on a computer. I have a good group of people who taught me graphic design, some who have gone home and many who still design even today. You are more than welcome to join the class.



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 beliefs have to change from the get-rich-quick schemes 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.



KEWANEE BAND

By Martell Delgado

Humility, discernment, obedience; willingness to learn and ability to teach. Worshipping hearts and loving spirits. God-given gifts and talents, along with time-honed skills. The imprints of these characteristics and qualities was exactly what God was looking for when, in spite of life's circumstances, He called these men of God to come forward and play and sing their hearts out unto Him. Leading every service in live worship, these men are honored to continually use and grow in and around their callings with the time to do so, which has been so graciously afforded to them by K.L.S.R.C., and those in authority thereof.

GUITAR LESSONS

by Dave McClinton.

Entails an 8-week course that teaches people the beginning stages of guitar chords into reading basic music. These classes are held in the chapel every Wednesday at 5:30PM-7:30PM. This is a very intuitive peer-led class that will show results from the beginning.



Here on campus we have multiple groups focusing on addiction no matter the substance and how to work the 12-step program to stay successfully sober. Our peer-led AA/NA meetings go over material and view videos of former addicts from different backgrounds giving a variety of perspectives on the many struggles that come with addiction. There is also a Big Book Study that goes over the 12 steps of AA to better utilize these steps in our everyday lives recognizing the thoughts and feelings that lead us to use. Both meetings give ample time for reflection and discussion. From time to time there will be guest speakers.



The Law Clerk study group: this study group will enable you to understand how to look up and find information regarding many aspects of the law. Whether it's your Constitutional or Civil Rights, how to understand some of these rights and other aspects of the law such as how to find the proper way the file motions to the court. This peer-led group, as with many others, will give you not only the ability, but the confidence to go out into the work force and succeed while supporting your community here on campus. We encourage everyone on campus to not only engage in programming but advocate for your own class, to impart the wealth of knowledge locked inside this community.

CAT SIMULATOR



A big addition to the campus is the Caterpillar Excavator Simulator. The Cat Sim Class started on May 1st and will enable those who take it to develop hand and eye coordination when working with the controls to position the arm, boom and bucket on this complex piece of machinery. It will also give a better perspective on working with medium-sized heavy equipment and an understanding of the safe operating procedures involved when working with any equipment. This course will surely give anyone who graduates a leg up when it comes to applying for a job operating medium-sized heavy equipment. This class is intended to be two months long. After passing the safety curriculum, you will move on to the 14 exercises on the simulator. Two of our own campus members will walk you through all of the information on the safety and operating instructions.



These proud fellas here are the very first MTM employees from the Kewanee campus. The company they are working specializes 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) Brock Isbil, Leondus Carter and Marlon Peppers.



Here's yet another one of the new outside work programs. These guys are the first group to be hired by Ecology Solutions. They are helping keep the highway clean and the community looking good. These guys made the effort, advocated for themselves, and made the cut. Now they are going out there, working hard and being good stewards for the rest of us here on campus. When you see these guys around the campus, congratulate them on their hard work!

One of the crews we want to mention as well is the ORIGINAL outside work crew — the fellas who work for the Kewanee city department. These guys have been working with the city for nearly a year now. They are the first ambassadors for the outside work crews. They have been doing such a good job that other businesses have taken notice to the untapped pool of excellent employees we have here at the campus. These guys work from 8am-2pm, which makes them hard to catch for interviews and photos. We are currently working on getting some photos of them for our June issue.

NEW GRADUATES

We are not only proud to announce the latest graduates of the numerous classes we've had here on campus, but we want to give our highest congratulations to the hard work and dedication these graduates have exhibited. You are the best examples of the perseverance and commitment we have here at Kewanee Re-Entry, not to mention an example to follow and we hope you will continue to lead with your actions!





“Coming to prison I knew that no matter what I had to leave with my G.E.D. Although it has been a fight through constant obstacles and adversity, I have accomplished this goal. I no longer have to worry about doors being locked or shut in my face, because I have the **Master Keys!** I earned my G.E.D.”

-Tayrod Fields



My experience within the DEFY program was extremely rewarding. Yes, at times it was mentally and emotionally challenging; but still magnificently rewarding. The DEFY program has a unique way of pulling and tugging at your emotional lever of change, while exposing you to an eclectic group of human beings that constantly make it a habit of behaving humanely. Personally I have always believed that as a society “Our potential is bigger than our problems!” And thru human actions, that core belief was reinforced by the DEFY staff. (Teachers, volunteers, coaches). Am I proud of what we accomplished? Absolutely, as a group we identify the power of community, and individually, we embrace the task of marching towards our potential. So if I could speak to those that are contemplating enrolling into DEFY’s program, I would say “thought is the most powerful way of instantly changing a person’s state.” There is an old saying that reads, “if you want to be powerful, pretend to be powerful!” -Our life is what our thoughts make it; let’s be powerful. Warren Hardy is the founder and CEO of Creative Creation, which is a custom card company that caters to the prison population, and creates a bridge that helps keep families connected. Warren Hardy, has a certificate in Business Management from Eastern Illinois Community College and over ten years in sales and budget analysis. Warren Hardy is a person that believes that pain pushes us until we are pulled by our vision; and that through hard work anything can be accomplished.

DEFYING THE ODDS!

“To Err is Only Human,” but to “Forgive Is Divine!” I understand the stigma that comes with being an ex-offender and of the hurdles and hoops we must jump over, in and under, just to be given the smallest of opportunities. That’s why I’m very thankful for the Defy entrepreneurship course.

Defy’s course wasn’t just about teaching us how to become financially viable members of society, but also in believing in the humanity of the “Individuals in Custody,” who have persevered through the worst of circumstances. Defy deals with real-world issues affecting real people’s lives by finding solutions that will benefit everyone.

Defy breaks down barriers that may hinder one’s ability to learn or to be receptive, forcing us to think outside the box and of our comfort zones. I have now regained my sense of self-confidence while being encouraged to trust again through

mutual transparency, respect and honesty. It won’t be easy, but achieving greatness never is.

Thank you for helping me to “Defy the Odds’ and for making a way to secure a life filled with love, happiness and wealth.

Sincerely, Antonio Aguirre



My name is Nicholas Crayton and I am a Defy E.I.T (Entrepreneur-in-Training) . What that means is that I am a part of a community of men and women that believe in the redemptive struggle that involves so many of us be-

hind these walls. Defy is a non-profit organization that takes you through self-development, emotional growth and response training, and finally into business development. We have an extraordinary facilitator named Kira Kyle who truly believes in our ability to change and be better people. This program has reinvigorated some of us so that upon release, we have found that we have an entire network of people that are super supportive of us and our projects.

We recently had our business pitch and it lasted 9 hours. Our families were there, 12 volunteers, and 4 members of the Defy team. When I tell you that for those 9 hours you did not feel as though you were in prison, believe me, this was something totally unexpected.

I sincerely want to thank Matt Warnsing for his participation in ensuring that the event happened without incident. Also to AWO Carothers who saw fit to make an appearance and welcome everyone. If you have not heard of Defy, this is absolutely an event that you need to learn more about.

Nicholas Crayton

THE FIRST GRADUATE OF THE PEER-LED LAW CLERK STUDY GROUP AND RECIPIENT OF THE LAW CLERK CERTIFICATE



One of our newest programs here on campus is the Law Clerk peer-led study group and test.

Our first student and Law Clerk Certificate is

Mr. English. He has had quite the journey in his preparation for the Law Clerk test. Beginning his studies back in October 2021 when he had just arrived on the Murphysboro Life Skills Re-entry campus.

After little success in finding programming at other facilities, he jumped at the opportunity to sign up for the test and immediately began his studies. Shortly after starting, he was unexpectedly transferred to the Kewanee campus. Upon his arrival, he quickly discovered that the Law Clerk test was not approved in Kewanee, but with help from Mr. Warnsing and Mrs. C along with a little persistence from other like-minded individuals was able to see the start of the program here. He then took up his studies again and not only became the first student in the study group, but also became the first to pass the Law Clerk test on campus.



He says after passing, “I felt a sense of accomplishment. It opened up more opportunities for jobs like the one I currently hold here in the library as a law clerk” and about being a co-facilitator of the law clerk study group, “It gives me pride to be able to assist others to not only study and relay the knowledge I’ve gained, but to see the same sense of accomplishment in those who we’ve helped study.”

If you would like to sign up for the Law Clerk test, send a request slip to the Library saying you would like to be added to the waiting list.

THE LIBRARY



This library has all the same resources other facilities have, however the one on this campus offers many more opportunities such as the use of multiple computers with a large selection of programs like Microsoft Windows, Publisher and Excel. There is also the ability to take your practice tests for a drivers license, motorcycle license and even your CDL, or practice your banking ability on the Amalgamated Bank of Chicago program. You can utilize all these programs to help you in your studies, whether it's Financial Literacy or some of our peer-led groups. Your ability to use and navigate these systems will give you a big advantage upon release. We have just begun accepting all donations, and if you don't want to donate then just put it on display for a time. Either way you are building your community, and we all benefit from your contributions. We are always looking for ways to expand accessibility and encourage engagement in the library. One of the programs we are advocating for is a book club to help foster those with a literary interest and possibly for others to discover theirs. Our hope is to extend the club beyond this campus so we can incorporate a more diverse group of backgrounds and perspectives. This will help encourage growth and understanding in turn creating a bigger, broader sense of community. One of the programs we are advocating for is a Book Club to help foster those with a literary interest and possibly for others to discover theirs.

NEW GUYS INTRODUCTION



A few weeks ago we had some new guys transfer in from several institutions. Upon their arrival, some of us escorted them around and showed them the facility. We are trying something new starting with this group of guys that we have never done before. We interviewed and took pictures of these guys on their first day here. We will meet back up with them in 30 days to see in real time the changes in perspective each individual has gone through. We are hoping to make this an ongoing thing for more new guys to help us better understand the psychological impacts we all have undergone since we arrived here. This particular group of individuals is very diverse. They are from different backgrounds, ages, time locked up, as well as being from vastly different areas where they lived on the streets.

REALIZATION/REVELATION

By: Joshua Clark



“Don’t let your past dictate your future”

This is something that a lot of us in prison have problems with. We let things in our past control the way we view our future. It doesn't have to be that way. Of course, we need to learn from our past but that doesn't mean we need to live in it.

Sometimes, we feel that these things we have to get over from our past are these mountain size obstacles. When we realize that we can move the mountain one pebble at time, we will understand that there's nothing we can't do.

We often stress over what the future holds, if we are always living in the past, while stressing about the future, how does that make the present feel for us? We have to focus on the victories we can achieve. When we live from victory to victory we can stay focused. We can prepare for our futures today by focusing on going from success to success. We have to let tomorrow's worries be tomorrow's worries. The past is already gone and can't be changed. Make the best of today, and go from victory to victory.

FLAMING HOT CHEETOS CRUNCH COMPETITION AT TRIVIA NIGHT



It's been over two years since COVID hit and stopped almost everything dealing with programs, activities, or anything to do with gatherings of any size. Until April 1st, where we had the chance to see the clash of minds during TRIVIA! It was an epic battle of useless knowledge and little known facts. Not to mention the music that no one would listen to if they could hear a tune. But knowledge in all these areas would get you to the prize.

At first it seemed to be a sparring match between the eight teams, each trying to pick away at the others façade. Gradually, it became somewhat evident that this was a clash of just three titans. *Christians with Attitude* appeared to be the favorites with the *Aristocrats* close behind; however, both teams playing their “doubler” before points were tallied seemingly pulling ahead (prematurely, it turned out). When the dust settled and winners were revealed *The Flaming Hot Cheetos* had outdistanced the competition by a large margin. However, the real winners were the 80+ people who showed up making this the largest gathering in years. The ones who showed up not only exhibited enthusiasm for competition, but, also the readiness to take part in activities. This success was compounded by the faculty's approval and participation in this contest.

A special thanks goes out to our very own **GAME MASTER**, Mrs. Rowan who planned the event with Mrs. Wilson tabulating the scores and Mr. Downey selecting the different categories. Of course we cannot forget about Mrs. Scott and Mrs. W who enjoyed all too much stoking the fires of competition. Also, to the Wardens who approved the event. We are greatly appreciative to have the opportunity to assemble, and we are all eager to get things back to “normal.”



**HEADS OR TAILS? WHO KNOWS?
MR. ENGLISH DOES!**

BY: Joseph Gensel

While waiting for the results of the Trivia Contest to be counted the competitors passed the time by playing a little game. A coin was flipped and we were all asked to place our hands on either our heads or tails based on what we thought the result of the coin toss would be. After several rounds, one man stood tall, having guessed correctly each time. Mr. Da'Sean English proved himself to be nearly clairvoyant in his ability to guess the outcome.

Congratulations Mr. English from those of us at the Kewanee Horizons. We all hope you enjoyed your special bag of candy.

CINCO DE MAYO

By: Manuel Arevalo



What do people think when they hear someone say “Cinco de Mayo”? When I asked people recently they said things like “I don’t know, but I do know it’s when Mexicans turn-up and have parties.” Some think it’s Mexi-

can Independence Day. Would it surprise you if I told you that in some parts of Mexico it isn’t a big deal and goes unnoticed? Yet in 2005 Congress declared “Cinco De Mayo” an official U.S Holiday. It’s also celebrated in a few other places around the world like Brisbane, Australia, Malta and the Cayman Islands.

Cinco De Mayo is often confused with Mexican Independence Day which falls on September 16th, and was established in 1810, 50 years prior to the *Battle of Puebla*. The Holiday, “Cinco de Mayo”(5th of May) represents the anniversary of the *Battle of Puebla*. On May 5th 1862, poorly equipped Mestizo and Zapotec forces under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza defeated French troops at the *Battle of Puebla* who were being led by Napoleon III, although fighting continued and the French didn’t withdraw for another 5 years, the *Battle of Puebla* became a symbol of Mexican resistance to foreign domination. Now Cinco de Mayo has become a way of encouraging pride in our Mexican Heritage.

INTERVIEW WITH CHAPLAIN YORK



One of the people behind the scenes here at Kewanee that coordinates many of the events is Chaplain York also known as “Chap”. I spoke with him and got some insight into his thoughts that I would like to share with everyone.

Off top, Chap would like you to know: He is a die hard Green Bay Packers and L.A. Dodgers fan! MOVING ON...to some of the upcoming events this Spring/Summer/Fall:

We had a big Cinco de Mayo celebration set for the 6th of May in the West Gym. There was an amazing amount of support and interest shown for this fiesta! There were games, music, karaoke, and loads of fun!

We have “Day with Dads” coming up in June. There will be a guest Christian speaker. We also have some other events this summer and fall that are still in the process of being finalized.

I asked Chap what things he would like to see happen here on campus and what can we do to help facilitate those events to come to fruition? Simply put, he would like to see campus life get back to normal, what we think of as pre-COVID. He would like to see more activities such as peer-led groups, more excitement and participation in those that are already running and ideas from the men here.

That leads me to my next point: If you have an idea for an activity or peer-led group, get your thoughts together, come up with a plan, and pitch your idea! Write to Chap and/or AWO Carothers (or speak to them when you see them!). They will review it and if it is a plausible idea, it will happen. I actually did this recently with the showing of “The Passion of the Christ” on the big screen in the West Gym and it was awesome! I am excited to say that it was such a big turnout that we have received permission to show another movie in mid-May! (More info to come soon on that).

Hopefully this will give you an insight on some of the events and shed a little light on one of the key playmakers behind the scenes here on our community campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some of the upcoming events here on the Kewanee campus...

Starting this month, we will be showing movies every other week. You will need to put your name on the sign up sheet that will be placed on your wing. Bring your own snacks and drinks and be ready to enjoy the show in a theater-like experience! Looking forward to seeing you there!

We also have Day with Dad coming up in June. This is one of the most awesome programs we have here at Kewanee! It's a great chance to get to spend time with your kids and not have to just sit at a table and talk. We are able to truly bond and interact with our kids and feel more like actual parents rather than the normal visits we are used to. We are able to take pictures and play games as well. If your child is vaccinated and they are able to make the trip, I would urge you to participate. It's an awesome bonding time and something you or your child will never forget!

We also have a Christian speaker set to come in sometime in the next few months. This is just one of the many events planned for this summer and fall. These events are always meant to be inspirational and used to better ourselves, as well as giving us a different experience than most other places we have been, along with giving us that sense of community.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN MAY

L.T.S. SCHEDULED EVENTS

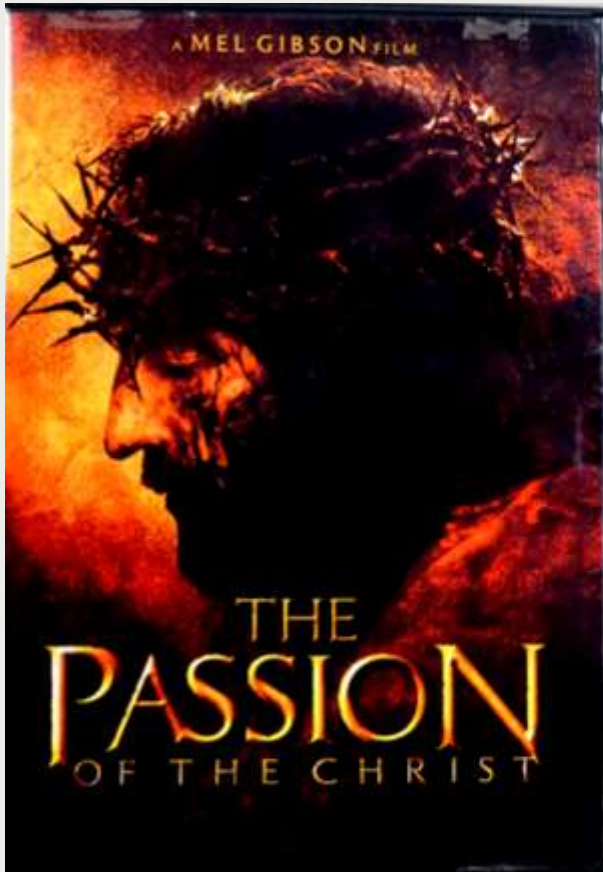
Thursday, May 19th, 26th there will be soccer league on the east ball field.

Saturday, May 21st, 28th there will be softball league on the east ball field.

Memorial Day, May 30th there will be an obstacle course.



MOVIE NIGHT HUGE SUCCESS!

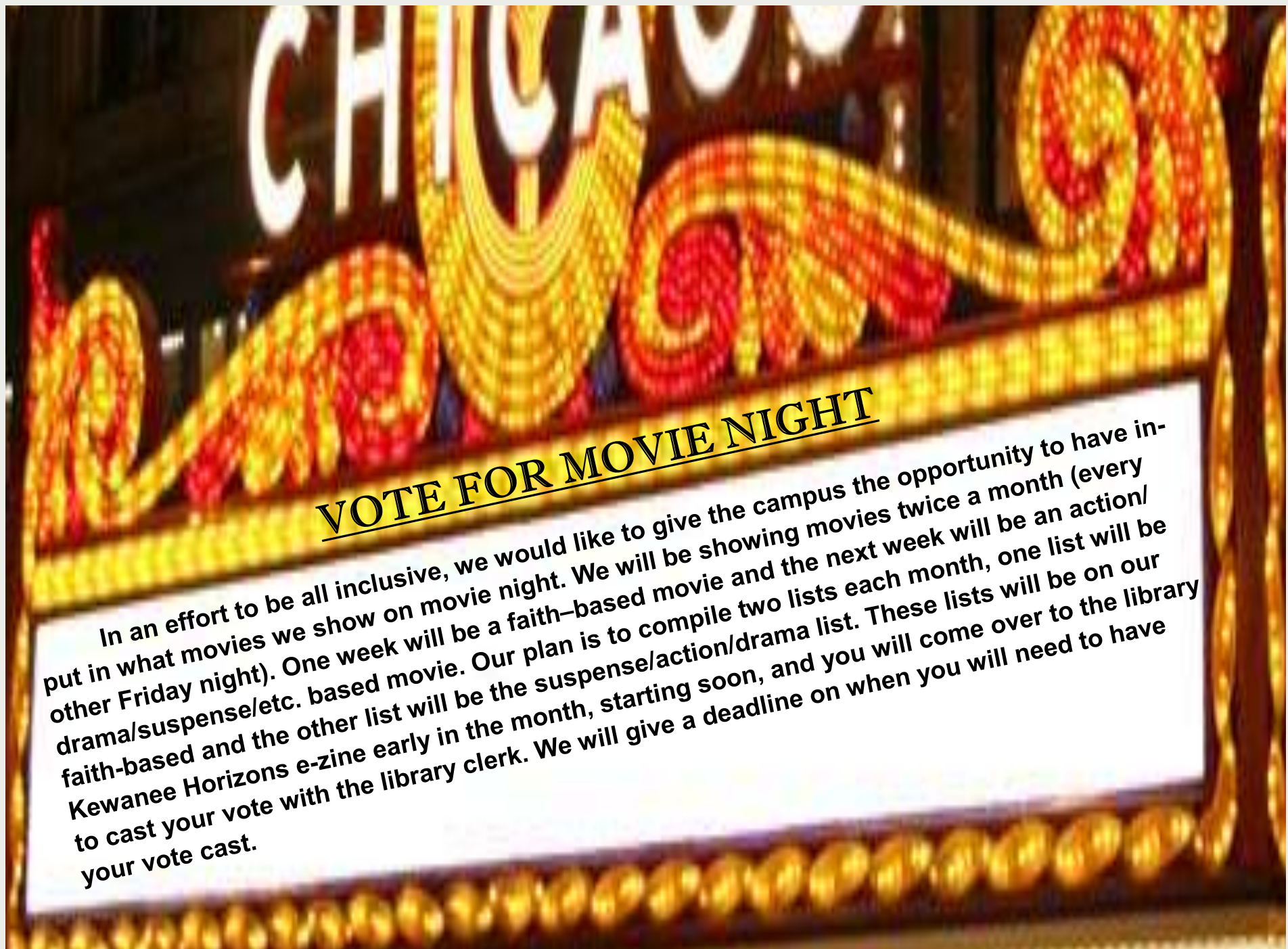


On April 15th at 6:00pm a major step was taken towards opening the Kewanee campus to levels not seen since COVID-19 began:

On that night, which was a Friday, around 45 individuals gathered in the West Gym to watch “The Passion Of The Christ”. It was the first showing of a movie in the West Gym since pre-COVID. The turnout was amazing and the atmosphere was something that many of us have never experienced while being incarcerated. Everyone brought snacks and drinks. There were three big tables full of popcorn, chips, candy, etc. There was a very real sense of **community** being felt.

Not to mention it was like an actual movie theater in there! There is a professional sound system, complete with surround sound, which makes it that much more of a cool viewing experience. Along with the huge projection screen, it’s just an awesome privilege to be able to participate in. Where else would something like this be able to be proposed, set up by us as individuals in custody, *and* encouraged as well? Only here in Kewanee!

I am super excited to announce that the first movie night was such a huge success that we’ve gotten permission to set up another movie night in mid-May. There will be sign up sheets on the wings soon. So, if you are interested, sign up and come check it out, any and everyone is welcome! Bring your snacks and drinks and come enjoy the show!



VOTE FOR MOVIE NIGHT

In an effort to be all inclusive, we would like to give the campus the opportunity to have input in what movies we show on movie night. We will be showing movies twice a month (every other Friday night). One week will be a faith-based movie and the next week will be an action/drama/suspense/etc. based movie. Our plan is to compile two lists each month, one list will be faith-based and the other list will be the suspense/action/drama list. These lists will be on our Kewanee Horizons e-zine early in the month, starting soon, and you will come over to the library to cast your vote with the library clerk. We will give a deadline on when you will need to have your vote cast.

PATHWAY TO ATC



It is a goal of many of us here at Kewanee LSRC to make it to A.T.C. I would like to take this opportunity to do my best to lay out a solid plan and a path for those interested in submitting for A.T.C. in the fu-

ture to have yourself in the best possible position to gain approval. Starting off, from the time you get here, the best thing to do is PARTICIPATE! The first thing everyone will do here is go through Orientation, the next step is to take all **3 months of your mandatory classes. Don't stop there though,** sign up for as many classes as you can, as well as Clinical Services and Mental Health groups.

All of these classes and groups are easy to get into. It is all about advocating for yourself. If you show interest and initiative, that will get you far in getting into classes and groups. **(For instance, if you see that a class isn't full, ask the teacher to put you on the list.)**

Another aspect of working your way to ATC is to just have patience and trust the process. As an example, we have awesome folks from Heritage Church come in on Monday evenings, Tuesdays we have Mike, Chris and Joyce come in for a non-denominational Bible study and more! There are groups everyday (see some other articles about what is happening for more on this).

Getting a job assignment should be a goal **you can accomplish as well. It's relatively** easy to get a job here (unlike many of the places we have come from). Sometimes you may have to be on a waitlist for a specific job, however, you will get a job if you advocate for yourself. Once you do get an assignment, do your best to be a good employee. **After all, if you're trying to go to work-release shouldn't you be demonstrating how great of a worker you can be?**

If you take as many classes/groups as possible and work, along with attending some (or a bunch!) of the nightly groups offered, you

PATHWAY TO ATC (PART 2)

will have put yourself in the best possible position to gain approval for a transfer to ATC.

Your counselor will meet with you at the time that you hit your year of being at Kewanee to discuss ATC options with you. If you are applying to ATC you will be submitted at your year mark. To be eligible for *Permanent Party* you need to reach your year at Kewanee and have 24-30 months left to MSR, other than that the timeframes are 12-24 months. The following crimes are NOT eligible for ATC placement: Arson, Aggravated Kidnapping, Kidnapping and Predatory Sexual Offenses, Aggravated Criminal Sex Offenses or Indecent Liberties with a Child.

Applicants are required to be on A grade, have no active Order Of Protection and have no Escape or Attempted Escape in the last 5 years.



HOW DO YOU LIKE KEWANEE?

It's a question I've been asked repeatedly since touchdown. Sometimes there are variations, i.e. the food? The rec? The patio? etc. But, the point is the same— how do you like it here? My responses have varied but were mostly generic. Basically, “so far so good, thanks for asking” or “I'm looking forward to the programs, thanks.” I've done some time in a few places so I am a bit leery and cynical about the motivations for those questions. A life skill I have acquired in Max Joints is to ignore the superficial and look to what people's underlying premise is to their question and statements. Why are you asking? What are you asking? Yesterday a nurse asked me, and I put on my auto pilot: “How do you like Kewanee?” “It's good, I appreciate the opportunities.” “That's great. We like it, but then again, it's ours.”

WAIT. WHAT? That's when it clicked for me. The people who work here have a pride of ownership. Pride in the physical state of the campus (It's clean, stuff works). Pride in a personal job well done. (The quality of food, clinical services and education, staff knowing your name and situation, how to help immediately) But most importantly— pride in the purpose and mission of Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center. Everyone should understand this: that pride requires a fundamental belief in that mission. A belief that drives them everyday. Everywhere else I've been the staff's feelings towards the institution is akin to being locked into a broken marriage, lots of resentment and an inability to divorce and start over. I would bet that at other facilities most of the staff couldn't even begin to quote the D.O.C.'s mission statement. Here on campus they seemed to have internalized it.

Things are not perfect, but if they (the staff) have that much buy-in, we (individually and collectively) need to meet and exceed that investment. It is our lives that are being invested in, we can help build on the foundation of community here. At its heart a sense of community, a sense of togetherness is healing. It is restorative in the best sense of the word. I need that, you need that, they need that— we, all of us, need that. I'm here for it, I'm accountable, I'm invested to the fullest. Let's build together. Let's find solutions, if you see something lacking, a missing piece of our community, by all means speak on it. Then, let's work on an answer! Let's fix it as a community. The same way we can be proud of a drawing, a pair of clean jumpers, a well-cooked meal, a job well done, let's also be proud of the legacy we can leave behind for the next group of men coming thru here and the next and the next... They believe in it, and so should we! Each one teach one, it takes a whole community. In solidarity— Kewanee Horizon's. Let's strive to see beyond them.

“Culture is a democracy, how you act is your vote”-Mr. Warnsing



INTRO TO STOCKS



BY: ROBERT KENNEDY

How would you like to be part owner in a fortune 500 company such as Nike, Apple, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, MasterCard, Wal-Mart, Amazon or even Tesla? Welcome to the stock market, which is, in my opinion, the greatest wealth creating opportunity machine in existence. Trillions of dollars are transferred through millions of accounts literally everyday. This is *not* a get-rich-quick scheme. Like anything else worth achieving, it requires time, effort and commitment to learning how the stock market actually works, but it can be done. The stock market is not just for the rich and privileged. It's an opportunity for guys like us to access the same businesses as billionaires such as Warren Buffet own. Many people think that the market is not for them, that it's too risky or complicated. What they fail to realize is that they are already in the market. They are just on the consumer spending end and not the

company's earnings end. When we spend money at Wal-Mart, we use our Visa or MasterCard to purchase goods and services, buy a burger & fries at McDonalds, use our Apple iPhone to text our friends and family, buy a fresh pair of Nike sneakers or even fill up our gas tanks with fuel, we are helping to increase the profits of all these companies, which is not the problem at all. The problem is, why wouldn't you want to share in some of the profits of these companies as well? Be a part of the earnings half instead of just the spending half of the business deal. Makes sense doesn't it? You can share some of the profits if you own some shares of stock in these companies from being invested in the stock market. I would like to talk to you about investing and trading stocks for long term and short term share of the profits that you so rightfully deserve. Welcome to the stock market!

CHECK OUT 2 ROADS!

Kewanee Horizons wants to send our best wishes and a big Happy Mother's Day to all the MOMS in the world, especially the ones in the faculty here on campus. You have stuck with us through all the rough times and good, we can only look forward to the future and many more good days.

Kewanee Horizons wants to make sure everyone is on the look out for our brothers' special "Mother's Day" issue of the **TWO ROADS e-zine**, as well as their feature about **Juneteenth**.



UPCOMING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION



There is a proposal currently being considered for a Juneteenth celebration. If approved, it will be held on Friday, June 17th. Some of the activities planned include an authentic BBQ cookout, movies, as well as many other group activities. This is an all inclusive event, which means that any and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. This will be a an event where we can all come together and learn about our culture, someone else's culture, each other and even about ourselves. These are the type of pivotal interactions that we as a community need to have to be more connected to each other. It will be a time when we can look past the ghosts of this country and become more aware of what we can do as a whole to better our outlooks towards each other and hopefully be more compassionate toward one another. Most of all, it will be an AWESOME time! The event is planned to be taking place on 1st shift, with everyone being given the ability to participate.

CALLING ALL CREATIVES!

We need YOUR help to come up with a logo and color scheme for Kewanee Horizons. You **DO NOT** need to be an artist to submit an idea. It can be a colored, detailed drawing, or a simple sketch. All ideas are welcome. Kewanee Horizons is meant to highlight the achievements of our community, and we want our logo/color scheme to be something positive and uplifting. You can place your submissions in the **Library Book Return Drop Box**. We thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing your entries!

CINCO DE MAYO PARTY!

Special thanks to Manuel Arevalo, Victor De Vila, Luis Diaz, Nicholas Crayton and Russell Villanueva for coordinating the event. And thank you to all KLSRC Staff for allowing us to celebrate.



CINCO DE MAYO PARTY!

We were fortunate enough to have had the awesome opportunity to gather as a community on the night of May 6th for the big Cinco de Mayo bash in the west gym. There were over a hundred people who attended. It really was an awesome sight to see that many individuals of our community all gathered in support of the celebration of Cinco de Mayo. That's what community is all about. Supporting each other in any endeavor that is positive and betters the community. The night was filled with a lot of laughs and fun. There was a piñata filled with authentic Mexican candy. As well as everyone receiving a bag of their own Mexican candy when they arrived. There were also several raffle prizes, and a Mexican version of bingo called Loteria where prizes were given to the winners. We learned about the meaning of Cinco de Mayo as well. The highlight for a lot of people was the lip singing and karaoke contest. Hats off to all the guys who had the guts to get up on stage and put themselves out there! There also was a 3 point shoot out, a penalty kick contest and a corn hole contest with prizes given to each winner. It was a good opportunity to come together as a community and learn about a holiday that most people don't even know the real meaning of. I'm sure as we look back years from now and think about the most memorable times we shared here on the Kewanee campus, Cinco de Mayo 2022 will be at the top of that list. I know for me it will be!





SHOUT OUT...

A thank you to the entire Kewanee campus for all the support, contributions, advice, input and well wishes! Thanks to all of you who had parts in organizing the events we all got to enjoy such as the Cinco de Mayo bash and the obstacle course, and movie night. Keep up the good work guys!



This fella here is our editor in chief Mr. Black. If it weren't for him, Kewanee Horizons e-zine wouldn't be possible. So we here at Kewanee Horizons would like to give a shout out and a giant thanks for helping us help each other with this e-zine. Another big thanks goes out to the entire campus for all the input and support. This e-zine is made by the campus and for the campus, please keep the ideas coming at us guys!



So this is the last page of our first issue, again, we'd like to express just how appreciative we are of all of the submissions, the work, the advice, the art, the writing, and other kinds of help we have received in getting this thing together. The thing that is of the utmost importance to us in working on this issue is trying to convey to everyone that we spoke to: this is not our newspaper, this thing that is **KEWANEE HORIZONS** belongs to the campus of KLSRC. We have been truly humbled by the amount of work that our fellow campus members have been doing and continue to put in to make KLSRC what it is every day, the things that are available here are amazing and we feel that we have only touched the surface of the talent here. We can do more and this is the message we'd like to share here, there is so much potential here and this is a place that we can all make an impact. We want to know your ideas, we need to hear from you, this is your paper: do you have something that should or could be happening here? If you do, talk to people, talk to us, talk to the staff about it, talk to the administrators about it! Don't come with a complaint, come with a solution, pose the question and then supply the answer! Do the work, get a plan together and let it be known what you are trying to make happen, if it's something positive you will get support and help from so many places and people. We want to help you succeed in your vision because when one of us succeeds, we all benefit from that success. That's what being in a community is about, working together and helping make the whole of a place so much more than the sum of its parts. We need to see your pictures on these pages here with the next peer-led class or group, we need to see what your thoughts are to make this place even better than it is now...