

Kewanee Schools Foundation

ALUMNI UPDATE

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Fall/Winter 2018



KIWANIS PAIRS LOCAL KIDS WITH CAREER PATH

Many kids grow up wanting to be a superhero, a supermodel, a professional athlete or a princess. But by the time they reach high school, most realize those careers are probably out of their reach.

The Kiwanis Club of Kewanee helped 120 local high students get a step closer to a career in the real world with it's 2nd Annual Career Day.

"The goal of the day is for the students to gain knowledge pertaining to particular expectations that each career has to offer, which consist of but are not limited to, educational requirements, skill sets, income opportunities and the possibility of advancements," said Kiwanis member and event chair Angie Burford.

With Career Day, students from Kewanee and Wethersfield high schools were given the choice of taking one of 10 tours at 28 area businesses to consider a variety of possible career paths. The tours contained similar businesses that were bundled into career themes and each tour

was geared toward the student's interest in a specific career field. Choices included manufacturing, food service, business, military, public safety, medical and social/child care.

Some students traveled out of town to manufacturing and dental facilities in Galva, while others spent the day at OSF St. Luke Medical Center learning about health field career options. There were realtors, bankers, lawyers, doctors, chefs and a host of other business professionals. There were even representatives from each branch of the military sharing more patriotic options, as well as an introduction to Kewanee city services.

Burford said the event wouldn't have been a success without the participation of the businesses and an organizing committee that included both school superintendents and their guidance counselors.

She said all of the chaperones who participated said the students took the event seriously and most of them used it to consider their future plans.

"Kiwanis Career Day is a day where the opportunities the city of Kewanee has to offer can

be proudly displayed, as well as promoting a positive future for our students," Burford said.



Area high school students get a tour of the Kewanee National Guard Armory during Kiwanis Career Day.



Mark Washburn discussing the welding program at Black Hawk College.

MEMORY CARE CENTER NAMED IN MEMORY OF BETTY CURRIER '39



Petersen Health Care officials have announced the introduction of a new memory care facility to the Kewanee area opening in December 2018. According to Doug Currier, Vice President of Operations for the Peoria, IL based, Petersen Health Care Assisted Living Division, the new Betty's Garden Memory Care will be the first of its kind to our area.

"Memory Care has quickly escalated its way to the top need in new developments for the healthcare industry", said Currier. "We recognized this need in 2014 and spent a couple of years developing our programming". Betty's Garden Memory Care was first introduced in the newly constructed Courtyard Estates in Bushnell in 2015. It was designed to meet the industry demands to provide a specialized care unit specifically for those suffering from Alzheimer's and other dementia related illness.

Inside of Betty's Garden, the industry leading program called Coming Home has been implemented. Currier added, "Our program is housed in a secure environment located within each Courtyard Estates. For Kewanee however, we will introduce our first free-standing building designed especially for those

facing dementia challenges. "

Currier added that the new Betty's Garden, named in the memory of his mother Betty, who suffered from Alzheimer's for many years, features specialized programming that until now has not been available in the area. Additional technology has been added that will supplement the 24-hour engagement model that features a computer based memory care module that provides person-centered care for each individual.

Betty's Garden Memory Care can be accessed from Acorn Street South off Page Street.

KHS Connections

-Adjustable beds supplied by Hickory Manufacturing will be included in the Premium rooms. Tim Becker. KHS class of '81 is the Vice President of HSM.

- Call lights are being supplied by Ciscor. Sam Youngwirth KHS underclass member '82 is the owner.

-Doug Courier '81 is Vice President Assisted Living Operations.

- Mark Petersen is sole owner of Petersen Health Care since 2002.

- Betty's Garden is named after Doug's mother, Betty Lou Smith Currier KHS '39.

For more information go to www.petersenhealthcare.net



KHS' RILEY HANSEN REACHES STATE FOR THIRD STRAIGHT SEASON

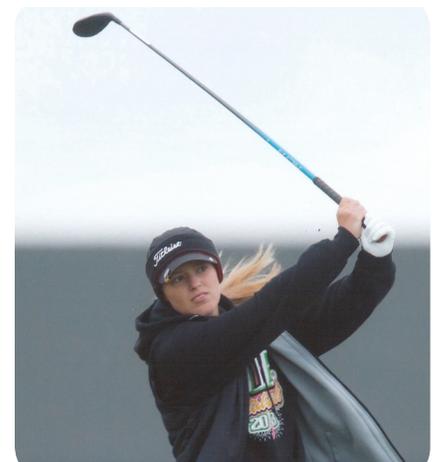
Three conference crowns. Three regional titles. Three trips to state.

Those are the accomplishments of Kewanee High School's Riley Hansen, who concluded her third season of prep golf.

In regionals at Oak Run, the junior posted a personal best three-under-par 67 to win the regional by 11 strokes. The round of 67 was five strokes lower than her previous best score. She finished in a tie for 9th overall to advance to Decatur and the state tournament.

Hansen is already the only girl golfer in school history to finish in the top 10 at state, and she has a chance to become the school's third golf state champion and the first since Don Skrabulis did it in 1948.

Hansen finished 2nd at state last year as a sophomore, an improvement from placing 8th as a freshman.



Riley Hansen

MONARCHS MAKE HOME IN KEWANEE CLASS ROOM

For many people, nothing says “late summer” like the vivid orange wings of a passing monarch butterfly. Monarchs are so beloved that seven states, including Illinois, have selected them as the official state insect.

Bree Summers, fifth grade teacher at Kewanee’s Central School, has made the monarch her official classroom insect. At the beginning of each school year, Summers collects monarch eggs so that her students can witness the insect’s life cycle, from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis to butterfly.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the monarch butterfly,” said Summers. “It’s so majestic and peaceful.”

Her appreciation for monarchs deepened when she went to college and wrote a research paper about them.

“That summer, I began raising monarchs and giving butterfly presentations to area groups and organizations.”

Summers continued giving monarch presentations when she moved to Kewanee. “I enjoy sharing my knowledge with others and watching the amazement in their eyes,” she said. “All ages, from 5 to 95, learn something new.”

In the classroom, Summers has expanded her hour-long presentation into a weeks-long project that incorporates multiple subject areas, including science, reading, and writing.

“This year’s class has been raising two monarch caterpillars since the first day of school,” she said. “I brought in the eggs, which had been laid



in my milkweed garden at home. The students voted to name the caterpillars Josie and Summer.”

As one aspect of the project, students research the monarch’s life cycle and report their findings in a slideshow presentation. They also help to clean out the caterpillars’ bug box every day and provide the insects with fresh milkweed.

“My students are very involved in the rearing,” said Summers. “The hands-on experience enhances their learning and makes them aware of the importance of preserving the monarch butterflies’ habitat.”

She has good reason for wanting to raise student awareness. The Center for Biological Diversity states that monarch populations have declined by over 80 percent since the mid-1990’s, falling from nearly one billion monarchs to only 93 million (www.biologicaldiversity.org).

Summers has noted this loss personally: “I’ve raised and released well over 1,000 butterflies, but my numbers have dropped significantly every year,” she said. “In 2008, I released

207--this year only 112”.

One reason monarch numbers have fallen is a decline in milkweed. “Milkweed is the only plant on which monarch butterflies lay their eggs--and the only plant for their caterpillars,” said Summers. “Previous classes have written our government, pleading with them to show more interest in the preservation of milkweed. They’ve asked the state to stop mowing along the interstates, highways, and ditches where milkweed grows.” She added that herbicide use, even more than mowing, has been devastating to milkweed.

CROWE AUTO ANNUAL DONATION



Pictured is Lacey DeVenney, Social Worker intern from Henry Stark Special Ed; Sean Terry and Scott Samolinski, Crowe Auto.

Crowe Auto once again outdid themselves with their annual donation of coats, hats, gloves and boots for the students of the Kewanee School District! Thank you Crowe Auto from all of the students and staff!

KHS “PANNED” Adaptation has ‘magical twist’ on origin of the Peter Pan character

*By Jill Bartelt
For the Star Courier*

Calling all dreamers and adventurers, as well as anyone who simply refuses to grow up: the Kewanee High School theater department performed its fall play, “Peter and the Starcatcher.”

The critically acclaimed, Tony Award winning show presents an origin story for the beloved character Peter Pan. The play was written by Rick Elice and is based off a series of Never Land novels by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

Performances were held Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. in Kewanee High School’s Petersen Auditorium.

“This play is meant for audiences of all ages,” said director Johnny Williams III. “It’s a much-needed comical escape that everyone will love. It brings joy and jubilation to the story of Peter Pan and puts a hilarious, magical twist on his origins.”

Even so, Williams noted that “Peter and the Starcatcher” has a serious side, too. “It speaks to current struggles of poverty and class while disguising itself as a comedy to make the ‘medicine’ go down,” he explained.

Along with the comedic elements, a dose of sheer magic makes the show sparkle.

“In this production, I’ve had to find an effective way to show a hurricane, a crocodile attack, two ships crashing on the

ocean, a cat magically floating in mid-air, a child levitating off the stage and a mermaid appearing inside a golden ocean of stars,” said Williams. “The goal was to do this in a unique and creative way that would allow the audience to glimpse a world that is unknown to them, yet still relatable.”

Williams has had lots of help on this journey, starting with the students themselves.

“KHS students are the most adaptive, creative and capable students any director could work with,” he said. “I’ve learned to step back and allow them to create this magical world with me. They are the stars that make this production shine.”

Nearly 40 KHS students took part as actors—and at some points during the play, all of them were onstage at once. The crew is even larger, with 15 students and nearly 50 volunteers. Some who contributed were KHS teachers, either current or retired. “Marisa Romanelli designed the props, while Brad DeWolfe constructed the framework and platforms, and Sue Blake painted the set,” said Williams. Students also served in key capacities: “Nathan Derycke worked with Brad DeWolfe on construction and Elijah Davis designed the prosthetics.”

Lastly, Williams benefitted from out-of-town help.

“Monmouth College Music Department is doing the accompaniment for the show, and we rented a large portion of the set from Monmouth College Theatre Department,” he said. “The fight choreography was done by Galesburg’s Lily Blouin.”

Williams emphasized that this list is not exhaustive.

“Countless others have

pitched in,” he said. “A production of this size takes an army.”



*For more pictures and articles go
to:*

www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org

www.kcud229.org

*Facebook at Kewanee Schools
Foundation*

*Facebook - Kewanee Music &
Theater*

CARS AND CAREERS DAY AT BELLE ALEXANDER AND IRVING SCHOOLS

Students at Belle Alexander and Irving Elementary School had a chance to have an up-close, hands-on experience with a variety of cars, trucks, and machinery used in different careers in our community. Volunteers from different businesses and agencies in the community set up their vehicles and machinery as students, teachers, and staff were able to look at, touch, and learn how the different vehicles and tools were used for different jobs.

“I wanted to bridge the gap between community and classroom. This hands-on event allowed for students to learn about and further explore different career options outside of the classroom setting with assistance from community volunteers,” reports Elementary School Counselor, Ashley Mikenas.

“Sitting in traffic this spring led me to this idea of a career day event. As I was traveling next to a huge machine on the interstate, that I later learned was used to dredge and investigate large bodies of water, I started thinking about how I had never seen such a vehicle/machine up-close. From there, I started thinking about my young students, how many different vehicles/machines have they ever been able to see, and how it would be a great idea to expand career awareness with such an event,” states Mikenas.

With the help of MANY community volunteers, Kindergarten through 3rd Grade students learned and asked questions

about different vehicles and careers in their own community. Vehicle volunteers had the students up-close and inside different cars/trucks to see what different levers and buttons do.

“I could’ve spent 2 more hours in the sewer truck! I loved watching the video with the camera in the sewer, it was so cool!” says Ethan, Kindergarten student at Belle. “The big red truck (from Cernovich’s) went really high in the air! I didn’t know trucks went in the air like that! I learned that it can move lots of metal and cars! It was also cool to see the ambulance have to go out and help someone.” adds Annie, Belle 1st Grade student.

This event kicks off a unit on careers, which will further dive into career exploration with the young students.

Many thanks to the community volunteers and especially funds from the Harry Anderson Trust, for without this event could not be possible!



WE BUCKLE UP

Kewanee High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club has participated in the I Buckle Up, We Buckle Up Campaign. This campaign is supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to pro-

mote seat belt use.

The club members observed cars exiting the KHS parking lot and determined that the percentage of drivers buckling up needed to be improved. The campaign began with the club adding a seat belt safety fact to the daily school announcements.

The campaign culminated on Friday, November 30 with FCCLA members stopping each car as they exited the KHS parking lot. Each vehicle was given a goodie bag as a thank you for buckling up.

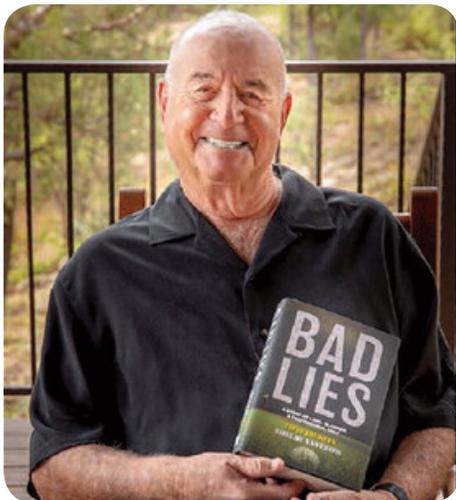
Community partner was the Mike Nichols State Farm Insurance Agency who donated the candy for the baggies. Kewanee police also helped with traffic safety during the event.



Pictured from left to right are Ethan Hernandez from State Farm Rep, Tyra Bond, Taylor Lang, Jersi Warner, Nakia Seals, Cavius Reed, Courtney Jackson, Ailynn Duarte, and KPD Officer John Gearhart.



YASTROW RELEASES THIRD NOVEL, THIS ONE CENTERED AROUND GOLF



From small town boy to general counsel and executive vice president of McDonald's corporation, author Shelby Yastrow has reached a level of career success that many only strive to achieve.

A graduate of Northwestern University Law School, early in his long law career, Yastrow found himself working in a large Chicago law firm where he represented McDonald's in a major lawsuit against a competing burger chain called Sandy's.

It wasn't until later in the case that he realized he had cad-died for the owners of Sandy's back when, as a child, he worked at Kewanee Dunes, then a nine-hole course called Midland.

That case helped him build a relationship with McDonald's where he was later hired on and from where he eventually retired. Since retiring, Yastrow hasn't slowed down.

He quickly turned his down-time hobby into a new career, writing, so far, three novels

and a non-fiction business book, and he attributes much of his success and drive to his upbringing here in Kewanee.

Having been raised by a working family, he learned to be independent and fend for himself. Yastrow says he never felt disadvantaged when faced with college and law school classmates who had attended private prep schools as they had "never built a treehouse, or caught catfish, or swam across the Illinois-Mississippi Drainage Canal."

His hometown education was "solid" and he can still remember all of his teachers from Central Elementary School through Kewanee High School, but gives special recognition to his Senior English teacher, Katherine Johnson, who he says "paid special attention to [his] writing." She helped and encouraged him to continue. He made sure to tell her how impactful she was when she asked him to sign his first novel for her.

Now on his third novel, and fourth book, *Bad Lies*, Yastrow teamed up with professional golfer Tony Jacklin to write a novel that blends his two loves, law and golf.

The pair met quite serendipitously shortly after Yastrow had come up with his golf-centered courtroom thriller. Serving on the board of directors for a Minneapolis-based company, Yastrow visited the 7th Hole chalet where the company had hired Jacklin to be a host for the week. They quickly became friends, and Yastrow decided to ask Jacklin for assistance on his book.

Together they authored *Bad Lies* which centers on a successful professional golfer, who

while at the top of his career is suddenly struck with accusations of cheating. While the title itself is a play on words, using the dual meaning associated with lie as a golf term for determining how a ball is sitting before it's struck and lie as the basis for a defamation lawsuit like the one at the heart of the story.

Yastrow notes that neither knowledge of the courtroom or golf isn't needed to enjoy the novel.

"In short," Yastrow says, "the book offers a peek at how the First Amendment to the Constitution can be used as a sword as well as a shield."

AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

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PASSINGS:

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Violet M. (Charlett) Thompson –
6/30/18

Class of '40

Ralph E. Karau, Sr. – 7/26/18

Class of '42

William J. Krauser – 5/22/18
Virginia Lee (O'Bannon) Puskar –
8/18/18

Class of '43

Anna (Stuhlsatz) Blake –
9/28/18

Class of '44

Sister Marie Amanda Allard –
10/7/18
John J. Gruszczyka – 7/11/18

Class of '45

Raymond O. Carlson – 7/26/18

Class of '46

Eugene G. Carlson – 7/11/18
Bernita C. (Heinrich) Vancil –
7/9/18

Class of '47

Thomas E. Deem – 1/27/17
Donald G. Hogeboom – 8/26/18
Martha Frances (Boley) Olin –
11/20/18

Class of '48

George Fuller – 7/1/18
Ralph LaCroix - 2017

Class of '49

Barbara (Crawford) Lee –
11/18/16

Class of '50

Phyllis A. (Harris) Reece –
10/6/18

Class of '51

Janet (Downey) Spears –
11/4/18
James H. Throgmorton –
11/16/16

Class of '52

Mona (Peck) Kubiak – 8/20/18

Class of '53

Walter Anthony “Tony” Ruthey –
10/7/18

Class of '54

Marie (Frank) Purdy – 7/30/18
Donald M. Tomsic – 9/13/18

Class of '55

John T. Blazier - 11/30/18

Class of '56

Karen (Smith) Hosman –
5/13/17

Class of '57

Michael (Mickey) Jackson –
7/15/18
Ron “Chiefy” VanDeRostyne –
6/23/18
Virginia A. (Tuthill) Peed – 7/3/18
Anna (Rounds) Worlow –
10/21/18

Class of '58

Martha Sue (Dean) North –
2/17/18

Class of '59

Joyce (Currier) Horack –
10/30/18

Class of '63

Joyce L. (Goodman) Esser –
9/19/18

Class of '65

James W. Little – 8/26/18

Class of '68

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10/11/18

Class of '70

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Sue Ann (Mahnesmith) Hostetler
– 9/1/18

Class of '72

Toni (Moss) Quick – 10/28/18

Class of '74

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Class of '75

Michael L. Larson - 11/27/18

Class of '77

Algird Kapacinskas – 8/25/18

Class of '79

James L. Jackson – 7/23/18

Class of '81

Todd A. Jennings – 7/28/18



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts in memory by individuals and families are always appreciated by the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

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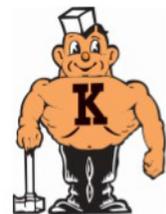
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