

Students prep for transition

Scores of area students attent conference at SU

BY KEVIN MERTZ
Staff writer

SELINGROVE — More than 200 students from across Northumberland County learned about such topics as social media safety, drugs and college preparedness during a program organized by the Northumberland County Transition Coordinating Council and held Tuesday at Susquehanna University.

Misty Harris, the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit's (CSIU) educational consultant for Transition, said the Northumberland County Transition Conference was for special needs juniors and seniors.

Students from the Milton, Warrior Run, Shikellamy, Mount Carmel, Shamokin and Line Mountain school districts participated, along with those who attend CSIU's 5 Star and Work Founda-



Kevin Mertz/The Standard-Journal
Warrior Run students and staff to attend Tuesday's Northumberland County Transition Conference included, front and from left, **Angel Mazzeo, Courtney Raup, Jessica Chappell, Kaitylynn Hollenbach**. And rear, Transition Coordinator **Cathy Grow**, and students **Slater Carson, Ethan Stephens, Morgan Reynolds** and **Evan Stephens**.

tions programs.

"The goal of the day is to assist students in preparing for their future," Harris said.

The seminar focused on post-secondary educational opportuni-

ties, training, employment and independent living.

Following a keynote address by Michael Hobbins, students attended

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breakout sessions with speakers focusing on the noted topics of discussion.

Hobbins is blind, the result of being shot in a hunting accident.

Students who attended the conference enjoyed the breakout sessions.

"We just learned about drugs, and not to do them," Dylan Rearick, a Milton Area High School student, said. "I learned about banking, money management, how to use a credit card and what not to do."

"I enjoyed the bullying part, and (learning about) drugs and alcohol," Brandy Taylor, also a Milton student, said. "Lots of kids are taking advantage of drugs and alcohol and not doing the right things."

The students also enjoyed learning about cyber security, particularly when it comes to using social media.

"Use appropriate content (online)," Nathan Hagenbuch, a Milton student, said. "That way you don't get in trouble for using inappropriate content."

Slater Carson, a Warrior Run High School student, also enjoyed learning about social media safety.

"I feel that it was very educational, talking about social media and what the dangers are," he said.

Carson and Milton student Briana Buss were also thankful for presentations on post-high school opportunities.

"It's good to let kids know other (post-high school) opportunities that are available," Carson said.

"There are a lot of different scholarships you can learn about during your high school career," Buss said. "You can also learn more about college."

Cathy Grow, Warrior Run's Transition coordinator, said 25 students from her district attended the conference. She was thankful the students had the opportunity to participate.

"In the high school, we focus on career education," Grow said. "When you hear it from other people, college representatives, it's even more valuable."

"It's an awesome opportunity to do this," she continued. "(The students) enjoy the fact that they get to be with other districts, kids that are learning about what they're learning."

Marissa Jacobs, Milton's Transition coordinator, said 21 students from her district attended.

"We invited juniors and seniors who are ready to go into the real world," she said. "It's good for them to know about opportunities that are out there."

The conference also included the presentation of awards from the Northumberland County Transition Coordinating Council.

Three students received the Dr. Cynthia Schloss Transition Education Award. They were Midd West students Elijah Feltman and Lance Smith, and Shikellamy student Cyrus Ulrich. Other nominees for the award were Mount Carmel student Logan Artman, Milton and SUN Area Technical Institute student Luke Bertanzetti, Selinsgrove and SUN Area Technical Institute student Nicholas Gray and Selinsgrove student Sylvan Kingery.

Hannah Grenell, a student in the

Shikellamy School District and SUN Area Technical Institute, received the Andrew Hergan Transition Award. Other nominees for that award were Mount Carmel student Lorena Barrientos, and Shikellamy and SUN Area Technical Institute student Selena Cameron.

Harris noted that the conference was paid for by donor dollars.

Platinum donors, contributing \$250 or more, were the Watontown Lions Club, Line Mountain School District and the Shikellamy Education Association. Gold Donors were American Legion Auxiliary Unit 323, American Le-

gion Post 201, Brady Fire Association, Goodwill Hose Company, Herndon Lions Club, Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 2110, Loyal Order of the Moose Milton Lodge, Sunbury Motors and the Watontown/Milton Kiwanis Club.

Harris said the Northumberland County Transition Coordinating Council is always accepting donations to cover programs. Checks can be sent to the council, Attn.: Misty Harris, CSIU, 90 Lawton Lane, Milton PA 17847.

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Kiss

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how to separate themselves from being an actor or actress in the late 1940s and then they are putting on a Shakespearean musical production of "Taming of the Shrew," Wagner said. "I think it's been a big challenge for our leading actors to work with the Shakespeare. It's really stretched them theatrically as far as acting and understanding the dialogue."

It is even a challenge for the crew, Wagner noted, as two sets of costumes are needed. But best talents of the community are employed on stage and off.

"You have to know you have a very deep bench of seasoned actors and actresses (which) are not only great singers but also great singers and really good dancers," Wagner added. "It's not just one or two...you have to have a depth six or eight very strong leading kids that can headline the show, and a really strong ensemble to sing it."

Wagner was grateful for the number of experienced seniors and juniors, especially among the boys.

"Our guys seem to like doing this," she said. "That's why we can do the big, old fashioned shows. We have a balanced ensemble of men and women who can carry the vocals and do the...dancing."

Jay Falgo, (Bill Calhoun/Luciento), described one of his characters as a bad gambler but a loyal person.

Emma Zechman (Lilli Vanessi/Katharine Minola), was cast in a guarded but vulnerable role.

"(Lilli) really loves Fred (Graham)," she said. "But does not want anybody else to know about that."

Kiley Aikey (Lois Lane/Bianca Minola) said she is not loyal to her counterpart Bill Calhoun, and does what she can to get what she wants.

Aiden Bomgardner (Fred Graham/Petruchio) described his role as a talented but egotistical male.

"Kiss Me Kate" was written by Samuel and Bella Spewack, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. The students cited "It's Too Dam Hot," and "From this Moment On" among their favorite musical numbers.

Much of the cast has dual roles. They include Falgo, Zechman, Bomgardner and Aikey as well as Carter Abraham, Ryli Amabile, Nolan Beck, Catie Bergmueller, Hannah Blyler, Mollie Bomgardner, Brahm Buoy,

Benjamin Chambers, Alec Chappell, Emily Criswell, Ryan Darup, Caleb Davis, Chris Day and Dylan Doebler appear in two roles. As do Lily Eberhart, Jillian Fee, Kaylin Foss, Olivia Hackenberg, Benjamin Haines, Dakota Heintzelman, Braden Hurst, Sarah Koch, Daylin Leon, Tom Lichtel, Brandon Linn, Erin Lower, Cody Mabus and Declan MacPherson.

Nicole Maxfield, Madison Nachtway, Kolby Noaker, Seth Plechter, Alaina Post, Melanie Rakerd, Christopher Rapson, Megan Reid, Amanda Reid, Jenna Ritter, Max Rodichock, Hunter Reigle, Cameron Roush, Lynzee Ruhl, Erin Rute, Jason Schank, Denise Seebold, Levi Showalter, Evan Smith, Noah Stetler, Allison Stup, Abigail Snayberger, Clarissa Styer, Thomas Styer, Robert Swartzlander. Danielle Underhill, Elijah Yoder, Olivia Young, McClenason Wagner, Kiana Wenrick, Thomas Wagner and Riley Wolfgang also appear in dual roles. Elijah Yoder and Issac Ilgen appear as stage hands.

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Matt Farrand/The Standard-Journal

Ravi 'Saxman' Evans led a Mardi Gras-style procession of young people at the Donald Heiter Community Center with "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Diverse Gold Rule session online

BY MATT FARRAND
Staff writer

LEWISBURG — Social media will be used for a discussion of The Golden Rule.

The Rev. Ricky Phillips and persons of other faiths will gather online at 7 tonight. Viewers may log on to www.gulmakai.com to see the discussion live.

Phillips, pastor of the Mazeppa Union Church and St. John's Church of the Dry Valley, noted the site was founded by Gulmakai P. Saleh, an anti-bullying activist. Saleh, a mom and author of books on the topic, has sought to become a voice for victims of bullying at all levels.

Phillips plans to bring a Christian perspective to the problem of bullying and the solution. Phillips and Saleh, a Muslim, will be joined by persons of other faiths, also via video.

"(Martin) Luther said The Golden Rule is to put yourself first in the shoes of the other person," Phillips said. "Then you'll find out what they need and can help them."

Phillips was hopeful that children would join in the online discussion and they would see other persons of many backgrounds communicating amicably.

"They can see all different faiths can work together and treat each other with respect," Phillips said. "(They) can work together on projects and help



Matt Farrand/The Standard-Journal
The Rev. Ricky Phillips will offer a Christian perspective of The Golden Rule during an online discussion planned to include people of many faiths.

other people."

The discussion, Phillips said, will be welcoming to persons of all faiths and persons of no identifiable faith.

Saleh, a mom, educator, speaker and author who has taken on an objective to stop bullying. She was the victim of bullying when she was younger.

Her message is that practicing The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," helps a person develop resiliency.

In addition to keeping a blog, Saleh has also published books for young readers titled "The Goodness Soup" and "Princess Diversity and the Golden Rule."

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DHCC hosts 'carnival' for kids

Mardi Grad in miniature
BY MATT FARRAND
Staff writer

LEWISBURG — Mardi Gras may have concluded a month ago, but its spirit remained on display recently at the Donald Heiter Community Center.

The center hosted a re-enactment of the pre-Lenten festival for young people, complete with beads, costumes and music. A talk by Joanna Skucek, a board member, explained the traditions as practiced in New Orleans and elsewhere.

"(Lent) is the time that I am not going to eat sweets, I am going to fast a little bit and just think about my religion," Skucek said. "But before the fasting begins, everyone wants to have a good time and party."

Skucek noted that Mardi Gras is celebrated all over the world, notably in Germany and Brazil, where it is called "carnival."

Beads, masks and decorations were handed out to more than 20 children, who paraded to "When the Saints Go Marching In" performed by Ravi "Sax-

man" Evans. Sweet cake with Mardi Gras-colored icing of gold, green and purple was served afterward.

A New Orleans native son was also in attendance.

Harry Garvin, 101, now of Lewisburg, lived in the Crescent City for a period which included his school days through receiving a masters degree from Tulane University. Garvin attended many Mardi Gras parades, often dressing in the traditional costumes.

Garvin said children, as they do at parades in many places, collect items thrown from floats. He recalled being quite adept at catching those items.

Garvin did not identify solely with any of the traditional New Orleans social clubs and considered himself a citizen of the city.

He has dressed as a "duke."

Garvin concluded that Mardi Gras is a happy day for both tourists and natives. A call he received from New Orleans during Mardi Gras 2018 also indicated the weather was nearly perfect this year.