

KidBiz offers opportunities for kids to express creativity

Story and photos by Senior Contributing Writer
ALICE GERARD

Overcoming shyness was motivation to start a business for one of the approximately 150 participants in KidBiz on June 20. Katherine said she wanted to “interact with people and be less shy.”

She was selling “seeds and pots, and I have dirt. You can make your own plant right here for one dollar.”

In addition, she had fully grown plants for sale, including coleus and zinnias. Other things she sold included bracelets, earrings, and homemade kettle corn.

“I made everything, including the kettle corn,” Katherine said, noting her favorite thing to make were the earrings.

Katherine, who will start sixth grade in September, said, “I get to meet a lot of different people and a lot of nice people and I can see the good people in this world. I think everyone is just smiling and being so nice to kids and seeing good people. It just makes me happy because there are a lot of bad people in this world who do bad things.”

Faye Tulek, Katherine’s grandmother, said, “She’s very industrious. She’s worked very hard at it. A while ago, she planted the seeds and watered them. I was playing around with kettle corn. She said, ‘I have to do this.’ I said, ‘I think you’re going to burn yourself.’ She came over and did it at my house, all by herself. I was really surprised.”

Tulek said she lives close to Katherine’s family, so she is able to spend a lot of time with her granddaughter.

“She stops over and has breakfast sometimes. I had a wonderful relationship with my grandmother, and I like to have this with my grandchildren, also.”

Tulek said it makes her happy to “watch her blossom. It’s just amazing. I have sales background. I’m watching her and am thinking, ‘Oh my gosh. She’s just



Left: Katherine and her grandmother, Faye Tulek, show off a plant arrangement that Katherine planted. Tulek got the decoration for the plant at the Lewiston Art Festival. • Middle: Teddy shows off a paddle with a design made with pyrography and a piece of embroidery. • Right: Evelyn and her stepsister, Amiah, sell gluten-free treats.

as good.’”

At another area, Evelyn and her stepsister, Amiah, were selling gluten-free baked goods.

Evelyn, who just finished fifth grade, said, “My business is for gluten-free treats because I have celiac disease. I remember, when I first got diagnosed, I didn’t know anywhere I could go to get treats, and I didn’t know what ice creams I could eat and what I couldn’t eat. I wasn’t really eating anything I liked anymore because I couldn’t. When I decided to make these, it made me feel like I wasn’t sad anymore. I could eat all the same treats as before. It was a good feeling that I was able to help other people, too.”

“I just like helping out at craft shows like this,” Amiah said.

Teddy, who was at another booth, had handmade embroidery and wooden objects that had burned, also known as pyrography.

“There are coasters and ornaments,” Teddy said. “You can use them as a paper weight. There are charcuterie boards here. I have some hand-embroidered bags over there. There are key chains. These probably took like five minutes. These took 10-20

minutes. It really does range ... what you want to do and how you want to do it.

“It’s kind of satisfying, burning the wood and how it just all comes up. It’s rewarding to see how nice it comes out. People walk by. Even if they don’t buy anything, it’s nice for them to just look and tell me how cute it is.”

Teddy, who just completed eighth grade – which is the last year students can participate in KidBiz – described this year’s event as “a little bittersweet. I’ve been doing this since third grade. I’ve been doing this for six years. I’m happy to see the community come out and everyone supporting each other.

“The first thing I did was I folded books. I did different designs, different patterns in the books. And I think that year, I did it with a partner, and I made about \$50. The year after that, I painted rocks. Last year, I just did embroidery. In the third year, I sold animal masks and tails.”

Teddy created an entire look for the event.

“My makeup comes from the subculture goth. It’s an alternative style, and it’s just something I fit into,” she said. “I love how



it looks, and it makes me very confident. I wear this to get more people to come to my stand, and so I can feel confident and talk.

“And then my hair. I’ve been dying my hair since third grade. Sometimes I go into my salon. I have no idea what I’m going to do. Just put color on my head. I just trust my stylist so much.”

When asked about encouraging kids to participate in future KidBiz events, Teddy said, “One hundred percent, do it. It is such a fun experience. No matter if it’s hot or if it’s raining. It’s always been super fun for me.

“I’d really like to thank my father. He’s helped me a lot. He signed me up. He’s always done a lot for me with this. And I want

to thank my mom because she’s also helped me a lot, and she helps me stay on task. This is all super fun for me.”

Teddy, who has played the flute since fourth grade, plans to continue playing the flute in the concert band in Grand Island High School in September.

“This is my forever flute. I got her in the summer of sixth grade. I will never need to upgrade unless it breaks. I named it Ocean,” Teddy said.

Check Us Out
ONLINE!
WNYPAPERS.COM

Garden Walk participants enjoy experience

Continued from Page 1

blooming at this point, so I’m just really excited to be a part of it this year.”

Visitor Nicole Ziots said, “I love the house on Fix. they have a lot of information about their unique plants. I always learn something. They also are very welcoming to the kids.”

“I love the houses that have quirky whimsical art, too. So many talented gardeners. We go every year. This year had much fewer participants.”

Barbara Minton said she liked “the creativity ... lots of funky repurposed stuff and art.”

Tito the Turtle, who was found at Vincent and Rachel Corulli’s garden, was one of the more unusual of the garden features. The large turtle oversaw all of the activities in the garden.

“I bought Tito, and a few years back, myself, Jenn Pusatier and Neil Gallagher ran a barbecue event at Beaver Island,” Vincent said. “We had a turtle race to raise money for the event. People were adopting turtles for the turtle race.”

Rachel added, “This is our fifth or sixth year doing (the Garden Walk). We usually get about 120-130 people. We enjoy it. We like

meeting all of our neighbors and letting everybody take a look around our yard.”

“We took a couple of years off,” Vincent said. “COVID was one year. We were under construction with our pool, so we didn’t do anything that year. We’re back up and running now. We’ve been doing it for the past two or three years.”

Logan Benjamin, who toured the gardens with his girlfriend, Joelle Randell-McCann, said, “It’s always nice to check out Eco Island and feel that nostalgic, fun-fueled learning feeling again. Places like that always bring back so many memories, and it’s important to see alternative educational centers on this biodiverse island. Every gardener we visited was very knowledgeable and happy to share their secrets to a successful and beautiful garden. The weather was beautiful; driving around the island was nice. I even saw gardens that weren’t on the list; more people should join next year.”

Justin Karcher said, “I enjoy this every year. We have some very talented gardeners in our community. I especially love getting new ideas for our own yard. It’s a goal of ours to share our yard someday.”

Bob Zielinski commented that he “enjoyed the new participants,” but that “lack of publicity,” which he said is “common to everything on Grand Island (and) almost caused us to miss going around. Nothing on the town website. We might open our gardens next year if we have some notice.”

Suzanne Tomkins said, “I so enjoyed the house in Ferry Village. I have a lot of native plants and got great ideas for more from her garden. She provided a great map with names of plants.”

Gardeners said they were grateful for the opportunity to be part of the event.

Pierce said, “I definitely want to thank Jan Freedman for letting me be part of the Garden Walk this year and telling me about it. I look forward to being able to visit other people’s gardens next year.”

Rachel Corulli added that she wanted to thank “the garden committees and everyone that sponsored the maps. We get a nice little mug out of it. Everybody’s so nice. We talk about dirt and plants. It’s so simple, and you meet your neighbors and it’s a nice day out.”

There was a total of 11 gardens that were open to visitors for this year’s version of the Grand Island Garden Walk.

Since 1944

Dispatch

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Dispatch subscribers:

Did you know?

You are entitled to:

FREE announcements

• Engagements (\$50 value)	• Obituaries (\$125 value)
• Weddings (\$50 value)	(No word limit/ photo restriction)
• Birth (\$50 value)	• Anniversary (\$50 value)

Plus:

You also receive

- ✓ Home delivery
- ✓ 4 free classified ads, including garage sales! (\$52 value)

Offers apply to existing Dispatch subscribers only