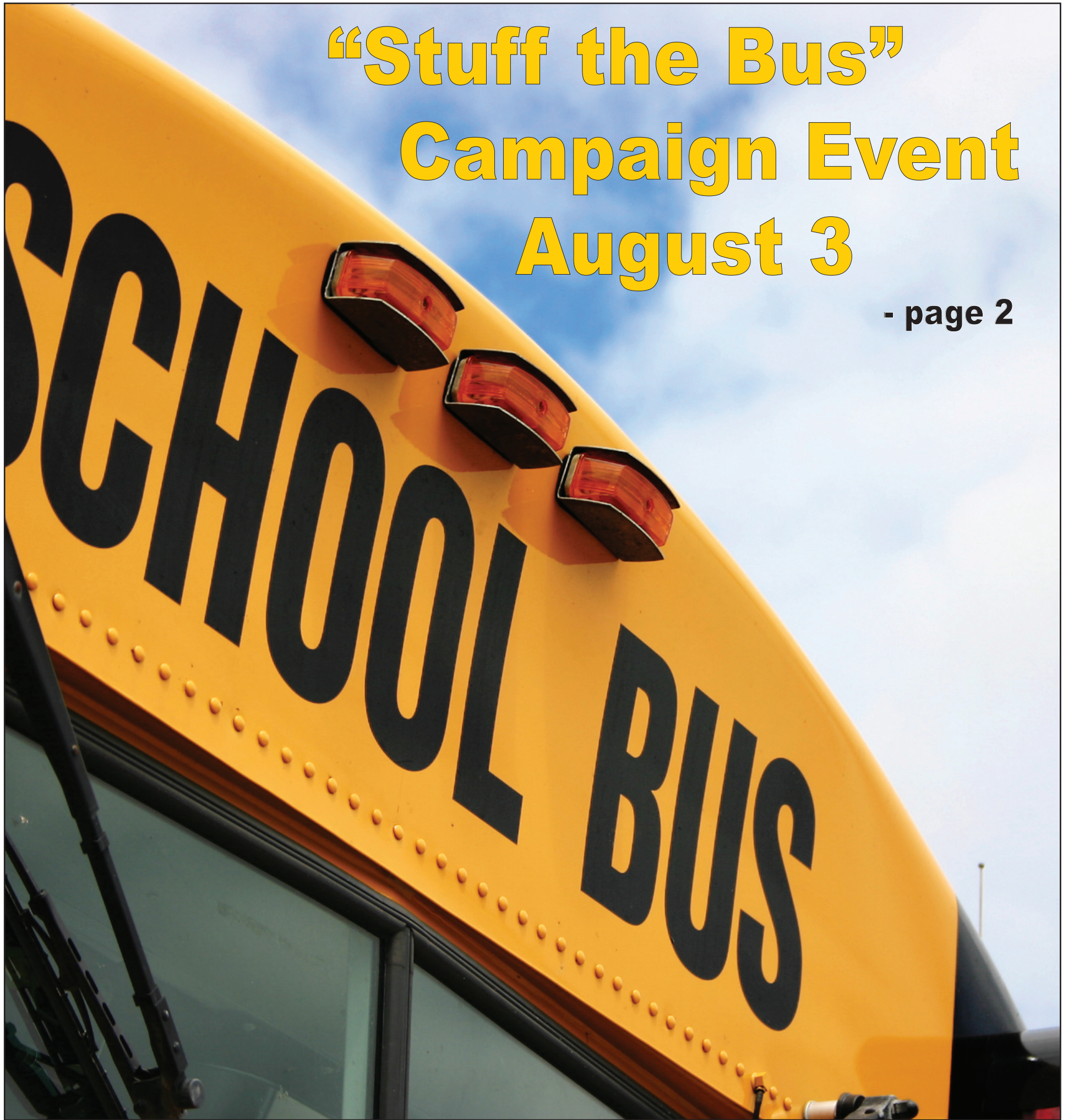




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Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. This community resource guide is designed to improve the lives of children and strengthen families in the Jackson community by providing fun and useful information.

Learn more at
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The Salvation Army Teams Up With Walmart To "Stuff the Bus"



JACKSON, MI – Walmart and The Salvation Army are joining forces to provide new school supplies to 200 local children in need during the "Stuff the Bus" campaign event at The Walmart on W. Michigan Ave. on Saturday, August 3, 2019.

As part of a nationwide effort, the "Stuff the Bus" campaign event in Jackson is one of nearly 3,000 similar events taking place at Walmart stores across the country. In-store shoppers on August 3 will receive lists of supplies needed, and all they have to do to participate is purchase and drop off the requested items at The Salvation Army collection bins located at the front of each store.

"There are many kids heading back to school this year, and 15 percent of them will need assistance to start the school year off right," said Shannon Skarritt, Development Director from The Salvation Army. "By donating school supplies for a child in need, you're easing the burden parents experience at the start of the school year, and helping set the right tone for these kids as they head back to school. It's the boost of confidence they need to have a successful year."

For those unable to make it to the store that day, there is a searchable online registry with all the items needed; each item requires just one click to purchase. <http://bit.ly/StufftheBus19>

Walmart and The Salvation Army have

collaborated for more than 30 years in an effort to meet local community needs. Supporters like Walmart help The Salvation Army serve more than 23 million Americans each year through a range of social services, helping them overcome poverty and economic hardships.

All donations made at "Stuff the Bus" campaign events will remain in the local community and will help The Salvation Army provide back-to-school support to 200 local children in need.

To learn more and find out how you can get involved with your local Salvation Army, visit WWW.SAJACKSON.ORG.

About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 23 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and clothing and shelter for people in need, The Salvation Army is doing the most good at 7,600 centers of operations around the country. In the first-ever listing of "America's Favorite Charities" by The Chronicle of Philanthropy, The Salvation Army ranked as the country's largest privately funded, direct-service nonprofit. For more information, visit SalvationArmyUSA.org. Follow us on Twitter @SalvationArmyUS and #DoingTheMostGood



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Learn to be a Tourist in Your Hometown

Don't Miss the Great Arts & Cultural Scene in Jackson

By Val Herr

With the hype of Hamilton still spreading across the nation now is a good time to capitalize on the amazing arts and cultural scene here in Jackson, MI. While I'm all for going to Chicago or New York to see a great show, we shouldn't overlook what our own hometown and state have to offer. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is celebrating its 25th year. For Jackson to be the hometown of this amazing organization is quite a feat. These professional actors travel the world to perform and chose to work for the The Michigan Shakespeare Festival. While this article is too late for the shows in Jackson you can still make their shows in Canton and it's worth the drive. We re-



MICHIGAN Shakespeare 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON FESTIVAL

cently saw the opening night of King Lear. Over the years we have seen several of their shows. I'll be honest, I wouldn't suggest taking younger kids to King Lear, but their other shows are all family friendly.

King Lear is available in Canton on August 2, 4, 10, 15 and 17.

The Two Gentleman of Verona is in Canton August 3, 10, 16 and 18

Cyrano de Bergerac plays in Canton August 3, 10, 16 and 18

In addition to their performances, they focus on education. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is proud to bring the passion and drama of live Shakespeare Performances to Michigan, Ohio, & Indiana schools as part of the MSF 2019 (our 10th Anniversa-

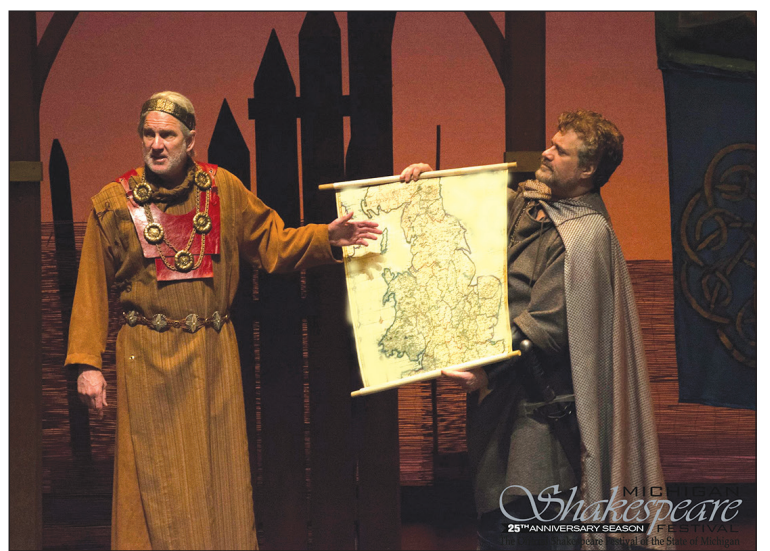
ry!!!) High School Tour.

Since Spring 2010, the Company has performed for more than 75,000 students in Michigan, northern Ohio, and northern Indiana. We have a client-school base of over 120 schools.

Please contact us with any questions: Hannah Noth, MSFTour@michigan-shakespearefestival.com.

Don't miss your opportunity to support the arts, unplug, and be transported back in time. I highly recommend that if you don't want to drive to Canton (which I totally understand) that you get their 2020 schedule and make a point of attending one of their performances.

As always break out of your routine, try something new, and learn to be a tourist in your own hometown.



Photos contributed by Val Herr



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Have You Met Albert Einspine at Imagine Planet?

Contributed by Imagine Planet

Albert Einspine. What kind of animal gets a name like that? A hedgehog at a science center, of course. Many of you met Sonic, our original hedgehog. Unfortunately, Sonic succumbed to a disease called wobbly hedgehog syndrome. Yes, it is really called that. No one knows what causes it and there is currently no way to cure it, so now we have Albert.

Albert Einspine is 3 months old. Sonic's cage has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and a new running wheel has been added. This wheel or disc is significantly easier to clean, which is valued because he poops in it every night! Al is already used to people, but still needs to be handled carefully.

Both animals were African Pygmy Hedgehogs (*Atelerix albiventris*). This scientific name translates to "ineffective fighter with a white belly". This hedgehog is the smallest of the 16 members of the hedgehog family, growing no bigger than a foot long and averaging one pound in weight, and is also called the four-toed hedgehog. Hedgehogs are not related to other spiny animals like porcupines - which are rodents - and are some of the oldest groups of mammals alive today!

Hedgehogs can be found on the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. *Atelerix* is widely encountered in savanna and steppe zones of equatorial Africa from Senegal to Ethiopia and south to the Zambezi River, and it is sporadically found in drier regions of Africa.

They occupy a variety of habitats, including grasslands, woodlands, bush, thickets, plains, agricultural land, and even suburban gardens (they have also been encountered in stables and food storage buildings in suburban areas and areas where livestock are kept, which attract insects).

In captivity their lifespan is from 3 to 6 years. Hedgehogs are mainly nocturnal and can be quite noisy at night. Hedgehogs are solitary and do not need hedgeie companionship. They need a large cage, at least 4 square feet in area. The bottom should not be wire as their small legs can get broken in it. They need a wheel to run on which also can't be



wire. They do not need more than one level in their cage. Their food should be high protein and low fat and feeder insects like mealworms should be used as treats.

Hedgehogs have poor eyesight and can fall from tables and countertops easily. Hearing is keen as is smell and their sensitive whiskers. They require daily handling to stay socialized and lots of room to exercise.

Hedgehogs aren't for everyone, but if you are intrigued by their quirks and not in a need for a snuggly pet, these nighttime pets will grab your heart. Come visit Albert Einspine at Imagine Planet, open Monday through Thursday and Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm.

Themes for the month of August include Chemistry starting on Saturday, August 3rd, Water on August 10th, Insects the week starting August 17th, Weather on August 24th and Electricity on August 31st. Themes begin on Saturday and run through Thursday of the following week. There are not specific times for these themes, so drop on in!

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My Beautifully Inspired Mess

Tutti Frutti

By Kelli Schweizer



I don't know about you, but one of my FAVORITE parts about summertime is all of the amazing fruit and veggies we can enjoy! My kiddos and I love to go strawberry and blueberry picking. If you haven't done that with your family before, I highly recom-

mend it. There are a few places around town that offer it, it is worth looking into! We also love going to our local farmers market on Fridays to grab some yummy treats for the weekend. Again, check out all of our local farmers markets. All of our fruit consumption during the summer had me thinking about what fun crafts we could do regarding just that - FRUIT! We did several projects this time - which even included using the fruit itself as a painting utensil!

Cherry Painting (perfect for your littlest kiddos. My 2 year old boy LOVED this. And great for fine motor skills as well!)

Materials Used:

- Fresh Cherries
- Paint
- Paper
- Paper Plate

How To:

Step 1: Put your paint onto a paper plate for easy dipping.

Step 2: By holding the stem, dip the cherry into the paint and use it to create your art on your paper! So fun and SO easy!

** We also did this with APPLES! We just sliced them in half and used them like stamps on paper!

Paper Plate Watermelon

Materials Used:

- Paper Plate
- Red Paint
- Green Paint
- Coffee Beans
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- Glue



Photo by Kelli Schweizer

How To:

- Step 1: Cut paper plate in half
- Step 2: Paint red on the plate itself and green along the curved edge to mimic the look of a watermelon
- Step 3: Glue coffee beans onto red area to mimic watermelon seeds

Pom-Pom Pineapple

Materials Needed:

- Yellow pom-poms
- Glue
- Yellow paper
- Green paper
- Scissors

How To:

- Step 1: Cut an oval shape out of the yellow paper. Cut a leaf shape out of green paper.
 - Step 2: Glue the green leaf on top of the yellow oval.
 - Step 3: Cover the yellow oval by gluing yellow pom-poms. We used A LOT of pom-poms. I suggest buying a big bulk size.
- Kelli is a stay at home mom with three children. Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, she was an Account Executive for Mlive Media Group. Now you'll find her enjoying being a mother and photographer.*



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A Child's View of Jackson School of the Arts!

By Amy Fracker,
Assistant Director



One of the best parts of my job is getting to know some of the cutest kids around. I recently sat down and talked with 5 year old Victoria Niecko about her thoughts on Jackson School of the Arts.

"My favorite thing about Jackson School of the Arts is ballet because you get to wear pretty outfits and you twirl and you do all that fun stuff with ribbons." I couldn't agree more. Victoria will be attending St. John's Elementary School in the fall for her Kindergarten year. She has participated in our Kids Create Preschool Experience for the last two years. "I love singing songs in the castle

room." She went on talking more about what she loves. "Going to the meadow and playing with my friends."

Her mom Emily has been incredibly happy with the programs at Jackson School of the Arts. "I love so many things!" "It feels like a family." Victoria's younger sister, Veronica will be attending Kids Create in the fall. "We want to sign up for everything," said Emily. "There are so many opportunities from ages 2 to teenagers." 5 year old Veronica echoed that by saying "I love it here because there are so many fun classes." "I know, I've been coming here since I was a kid"

At that point, I just had to stop our interview and laugh. Again, this is what I love about working for Jackson School of the Arts. I know everyday we make a positive impact on someone. Even the littlest things

make a huge difference.

I recently heard Georgia Fojtasek, the retiring CEO of Henry Ford Allegiance Health speak about the anatomy of a family in Jackson County. Even though I knew these statistics, I was not immune to the impact of her speech. All throughout the presentation, I felt honored to be part of her team. The team of people in our community who try to help those get access to things in life that can make a difference. The arts are so important to a well balanced and healthy life. For the last 17 years Jackson School of the Arts mission is to make a difference and we will continue to hold that mission at the forefront of everything we do.

As Victoria prepares for school to start, she has already signed up for fall classes. She will be taking part in our Jazz/Tap/Ballet combo class. If you'd



Photo contributed by Jackson School of the Arts

like to register for classes, visit Jacksonarts.org. Fall registration is open now. If you'd like to visit Jackson School of the Arts and see what we're all about, you're invited to attend our Fall Open House on

August 14, 5:30-7:00 pm, and there is room for your little one in our preschool experience KIDS CREATE. You never know - you might have the same favorite color as Victoria, "RAINBOW!"

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City of Jackson Starts Employment Program for Local Youth

By Aaron Dimick,
Public Information Officer,
City of Jackson



When you're out and about in Jackson this summer, you're likely to see a group of young people working hard to clean up the city. Micah Cretsinger, a recent graduate of Jackson High School, is one of them. "This is actually my first job," Cretsinger said.

It's all part of the City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Core Program, which hires local high school and college-age people to make sure Jackson is looking its best. "Sometimes we clean

up the streets, pick up cigarette butts, trash, and some days we do big projects like mulching and weeding parking lots. It really depends on what's going on that day," Cretsinger said.

Parks and Recreation Director Kelli Hoover says this is the program's first year. "It is a great first job experience program. We are also going to have people come in and work with you on interview skills, along with how to do a resume, and what it means to be a skilled worker in the workforce," Hoover said.

Hoover says reliable summer employment is sometimes hard to come by for local youth, so she's pleased her department can help people find work and gain important job skills. Jackson Parks and Recreation employs nearly 300 people



Photo contributed by The City of Jackson

for part-time work, with the vast majority of that in the summer. Hoover says this program employs 11 people, and she's already seeing it make a difference. "You're going to see them in all parts of Jackson. They're working on beautifying Jackson. They do a great

job," Hoover said.

Being out in the heat and sun all day does make this a tough job sometimes, but Cretsinger says he's glad to have the opportunity to improve his hometown. "Every day we just come to work knowing we're doing a good, impactful thing for

our community. I don't think I could have asked for anything better, honestly," Cretsinger said.

The program is well staffed this year, but those who are interested in participating next summer should contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

Alcohol Compliance Checks Slated for Summer

JACKSON, Michigan – Area law enforcement agencies, in partnership with Drug Free Jackson are conducting alcohol compliance checks this summer to ensure retailers aren't selling alcohol to minors. Vendors, such as restaurants, retail stores, and golf courses are all eligible to be checked.

"Retailers have a responsibility to ensure they comply with the rules of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission as well as state and local laws to prevent the sale to those under the age of 21," explains Elmer Hitt, Director

of Police and Fire Services, for the City of Jackson. "Participating in the alcohol compliance checks brings a level of enforcement, awareness, and education that is necessary in order to reduce alcohol use by minors."

A compliance check is conducted in the following manner: An underage individual, under supervision of a law enforcement officer, attempts to purchase alcohol at an alcohol vendor. If the employee making the sale doesn't verify the person's age, and therefore sells to a minor, both the employee and the



business will be cited in accordance with the Michigan Liquor Control Code of

1998. Selling to minors is a misdemeanor, resulting in monetary fines and pos-

sibly loss of the vendor's liquor license.

Join Us For Summerfest!

There's a new festival in the town of Jackson on Saturday, August 3 from noon to 7 pm. Summerfest, is a celebration of the new mural that's been created by four local artists, on the building located where the inner city bike path crosses the newly named Martin Luther King St. (previously named Francis.) The trail is just south of High Street. The four deceased persons whose portraits appears on the mural are Shirley Pitts, Rev. Amos Polk Williams, Teresa Delph, and Carl Breeding. Other marks of a bygone era in Jackson are illustrated in the mural. Local artists Yhosef Ware, Devon Camel, Kimberly Swartz, and Louis Cubille have done a great job in portraying a slice of previous Southside culture. The goal of Summerfest is to celebrate the rich history and culture of the community, especially the south side of Jackson. The event is meant to

bring neighbors together for fun, food, music, a talent show and games for children. The event will kick off at noon with the Jackson College African Drummers as the mural is revealed. Games for children will begin at 12:45. A talent show, featuring youth between kindergarten through 12th grade, will begin at 2 pm.

Local vendors will be selling their food, drinks, and other wares along the inner city bike path, also named the Martin Luther Jr. Equality Trail. Summerfest is sponsored by the Jackson Citizens Advisory Council, which is committed to sponsoring events that foster equity and equality in the Jackson community. Jackson Citizens Advisory Council (JCAC) has been in existence for more than a year. The motto of JCAC is "Leave no Neighbor behind."



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Dry Brushing, The 411 Face & Body

By Victoria Beaman
Owner, The V Spa



FACE:

D r y brushing has been around for ages but is now gaining popularity.

When dry brushing the face it can improve texture, remove the appearance of lines and cellulitis. Gently exfoliating the face is an important trend in Asia that is sweeping its way across the country.

As an added bonus, dry brushing is a great gentle form of exfoliation, so you'll be sweeping away dead skin cells in the process.

As with any skin care routine, begin by washing your face with a gentle cleanser. Pat your skin dry and brush your tool of choice from your chin to our hairline using light, gentle strokes.

BODY:

Dry Brushing is said to 'reduce cellulite' as cellulite is a toxic material that is 'trapped in fat cells under the skin'. The acclaimed rise in circulation thus is meant to help your body get rid of these toxins. ... It does not reduce cellulite, but may cause it to be temporarily less visible.

These actions promote internal detoxification which can aid in weight loss, cel-

lulite reduction and the elimination of accumulated toxins. Brushing your skin when it's dry is the most important part. ... In fact, even after just three minutes of dry brushing, your skin will feel soft and as if it's come alive.

Most experts recommend dry-brushing in the morning, rather than before bed, because they believe it has energizing qualities. "Shower before skinbrushing if you're using an oil on the brush," says Marrone. "If not, shower after skin brushing, then apply oil or moisturizer."

So get your brush and start dry brushing!

Great dry brushing brush-



es can be found on Amazon.

XXOO Victoria

As one of Michigan's premier makeup artists, Victoria has brought a wealth of knowledge about natural beauty to the Jackson area.

With all genres of work under her belt, she continues to enhance her given talent with on-going education, as well as guest teaching at local aesthetic and cosmetology schools.

Fighting Lead Exposure with Nutrition

By Claire Hayes

U of M SPH Dietetic Intern

When lead is consumed, research shows it can cause learning and behavior problems; as it accumulates, it can cause lasting problems with growth and development. Infants and children are at a higher risk because they absorb lead more quickly than adults, in addition to being more likely to put non-food items that might contain lead in their mouth.

Eat a Healthy Diet to Help Decrease Lead Absorption

Follow the 2015 Dietary Guidelines to include a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, protein foods and dairy products. When there is healthy food in the body, it is more difficult for lead to be absorbed. Make sure your diet is rich in important nutrients such as calcium, iron and vitamin

C.

Calcium keeps your bones strong and the lead out. Calcium-rich foods include:

- Milk and milk products, such as yogurt and cheese
- Green leafy vegetables, including kale and turnip, mustard and collard greens
- Calcium-fortified foods, such as orange juice, soy milk and tofu
- Canned salmon and sardines

Iron also blocks lead from being absorbed. Try these iron-rich foods:

- Lean red meats
- Iron-fortified cereal, bread and pasta
- Dried fruit, such as raisins and prunes
- Beans and lentils

Vitamin C helps the body absorb iron better, but also may help with getting rid of lead. Foods rich in vitamin C include:

- Citrus fruits, such as oranges and grapefruit
- Other fruits such as kiwi,



- strawberries and melon
- Tomatoes
- Potatoes
- Peppers

- free yogurt topped with fruit
- Dinner: Chicken with brown rice, a spinach salad and a glass of low-fat or

- fat-free milk
- Snack: Peanut butter on whole-grain crackers

Sample Menu

- Breakfast: Iron-fortified cereal with low-fat or fat-free milk, topped with raisins
- Snack: Orange slices
- Lunch: Lean hamburger on an iron-fortified bun with red bell pepper strips
- Snack: Low-fat or fat-

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Volunteering for a Better Jackson

Salida San Miguel
Program Coordinator
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Did you know that when you help others, you are in turn helping yourself? Throughout the years, numerous studies have shown that volunteering can have a positive effect on both your mental and physical health.

Volunteering allows you to grow your network by meeting others and developing new relationships. You meet new people and develop a whole support system with similar altruistic missions. Helping others can give you a sense of purpose.

Volunteerism can also teach you valuable skills that you may have otherwise not developed. If you have to learn to knit a shawl for the elderly, or delivering a lesson to students, it is making you learn. Volunteering may cause you to develop better professional skills, and

can result in better time management practices. Depending on the type of volunteer work, it can keep you active mentally and physically. Learning new skills will keep your mind sharp and your muscles will thank you after you help an organization weed their lawn.

Volunteering can reduce stress levels. It can decrease your risk of depression. You may find after volunteering you have boosted self-confidence. This is because of the "Happiness Effect". Volunteering can trigger a dopamine release in the brain, literally making you happier. No matter which

way you look at it, volunteering just feels good!

Many non-profit organizations in the Jackson community depend on volunteers. They are the lifeblood of what we do. From walking dogs, to building a home, to teaching our youth, there is a perfect fit out there for you!

Will you have five hours to spare this school year to make a difference in the lives of local students? Junior Achievement is looking for classroom partners to be a positive role model for students in Jackson County! We have openings in different schools, Kindergarten through 7th grade. Teach topics like financial literacy and career development using hands-on activities and fun games. The time commitment is only 1 hour a week for 5 weeks. Schedules are flexible. Work with your teacher to find the best day and time. You can take on a class-

room on your own or you can co-teach with a colleague or friend. The lesson plan is already laid out, with five easy to follow lessons. All training and materials provided by JA. No experience is necessary- just a desire to help kids achieve. And the best part is that the students will keep you young!

Ready to get into the classroom and start making a lasting impression on the future generation? Want to inquire if you can volunteer for Junior Achievement in your child's classroom? Call (517) 782-7822 ext. 10 or email at ssanmiguel@jamichiganedge.com for more information.



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Magical Fun Awaits at Kids 'N' Stuff

Contributed by Kids 'N' Stuff

Downtown Albion is getting magical! On August 9th and 10th, Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum will be celebrating the magical world of Harry Potter! The museum will be transformed into Hogwarts, Hogsmeade, and Diagon Alley for two magical events: A Night of Magic and Muggles and A Very Harry Day. Conjure up your costume and come on down!

A Night of Magic and Muggles, on Friday, August 9 from 6 to 9pm is for fun-loving folks 18 and up, but you must be 21 to partake in the magical potions brought to you once again by the Slytherin Alchemist! The Three Broomsticks is back with tasty treats! Sit in on Hogwarts classes, show your Quidditch pro-

ess, have tea with Madame Puddifoot, and face your boggart! Magical mayhem worthy of Weasleys awaits! Admission is only \$15, and \$12 if you have a membership to Kids 'N' Stuff. Get your tickets now online at www.kidsnstuff.org or at the Kids 'N' Stuff front desk.

A Very Harry Day is our family friendly event on Saturday, August 10 from 10am through 4pm. Witches, wizards, and muggles alike will love creating their own Harry Potter painting, finding their Patronus, enjoying high tea in the Hogwarts Great Hall, meeting characters, and marching in house parades. Admission is \$2 per person at the door. Some activities have a small upcharge, or purchase a VIW (Very Important Wizard) package, and pay the discounted



price of \$15 to enjoy all the event has to offer!

Follow Kids 'N' Stuff on Facebook for the most up-to-date news about the events, vendor profiles, and all the magical mayhem! Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum is located at 301 S. Superior Street in Albion, MI.

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Get in on the Summer Fun at the YMCA

By Michael Chavous
Jackson YMCA

Summer will be gone in a snap, but there is still time to sign up for summer camp. Open to kids ages 4-14, YMCA Summer Day Camp runs through Aug. 16.

Looking to go fun places all week long? Then choose the travel camp! The last two weeks still have many exciting trips planned, such as:

- Upcoming trip to the Jackson County Fair (week of Aug. 5).
- Somerset Lake
- Ella Sharp Park
- And the summer finale field day!

Another option is the half-day swim camp, which is held the week of Aug. 5.

Joining the YMCA this year as camp coordinator is Tarin Emberton. Her former roles as a nanny, substitute teacher and volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters have prepared her for this new position. Her love of exercise, travel, baking,

family and the great outdoors fit well with YMCA camp, and the Y is special to her because, "It's a place for the community to come together and build connections."

Even kids who have not yet been to YMCA summer camp this year can sign up for one or both of the last weeks.

"We're having a great time this summer, and we still have a lot of fun things planned," said Michael Calderone, who joined the YMCA earlier this year from Jackson High School. In addition to working with camp, Michael is also in charge of youth sports.

To Register: Register



ter in person or online at JacksonYMCA.org or call 517.782.0537. Financial assistance is available.

"It's a place for the community to come together and build connections."



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Montessori Education

Can Do Attitudes Increase Children's Learning

By Barb Barnes
North Star Montessori
Founder, Director, and
Montessori Educator



Montessori kids are If we only had to say things one time to children for them to learn raising children would be easy. However, anyone interacting with children knows that children learn through repetition and it is our job as their first role models to guide the child as they grow, which will take time. Our approach can mean the difference between a happy, healthy child open to learning or a child who never reaches their full potential. Young children depend on the adults around them to show them how to master skills for everyday living. Everything is new for children and the expectations we set and the language we use can have a positive effect on children's learning. If there is one simple change you can make today it is to stop saying "don't do this" and use a "Can Do" attitude and start asking children to do what you would like them to do.

As Montessorians we are trained to consistently ask children what we would like them to do. For example, one of our classroom ground rules in that we walk inside. As teachers we model the desired behavior by walking conscientiously setting a calm tone for our classrooms. If one of our friends begins to run around the classroom, or seem to have only one speed, fast, we ask them to walk. It's not that we are afraid to say the word no, we find that it is more effective to ask the child to

do what we would like them to do. This not only helps the child who is running to understand the classroom expectations, but it also reinforces that expectation to all of the rest of their classmates. When they hear the phrase "walk please", or "we walk inside", it reaffirms the ground rules we have set for our class.

Everyone in our classroom community can identify with this and work to regulate their movements. Many children will nod their heads and repeat the phrase saying, "yeah we walk in class". Children are adopting a "Can Do" attitude that we are modeling to reach clearly stated expectations. Some children only need a couple of reminders while others make take a week or two to adjust, but by consistently using positive reminders children are able to master the beginning steps of moving through the classroom safely.

Be Proactive

Each new skill you would like a young person to learn requires a first lesson. While learning how to paint with watercolors we orientate the child on how to use the materials correctly. We say phrases like "these are for painting on paper", "we keep everything on our tray" or "we use a little bit of water" as we demonstrate how to paint. We are using specific positive language to set the child up for success. Investing time in the first lesson can set the foundation for lots of happy painting experiences in the future. Infact, in our classrooms at North Star watercolor painting is an activity that the children can choose on a daily basis and complete independently.

Whether the new skill is



Photo contributed by North Star Montessori

painting, or putting on their shoes remember to keep your words short and sweet. Using phrases like, "these are for...", "we use...", "it is time for...", can let children know your expectations. Adults are the child's first teacher and they are looking to us for guidance. Challenge yourself to see things from a child's perspective

and as you approach each new learning opportunity. Ask yourself what sequence of skills does the child need to master to do the activity and what words and tone will encourage them to learn? Having clear, intentional language can be a powerful teaching tool. Children are listening and watching everything we do

and each positive interaction sets up a safe, nurturing atmosphere for children to be open to learning new things. Young children are capable of doing and enjoying many activities independently if the adults in their lives take the time to teach them new skills step by step and use positive words to guide them.

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Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Exploring What is Inside Popular Everyday Devices Coming to Ella Sharp Museum

Jackson, MI – A quarter-inch-thick smartphone can be used as a watch, a camera, a theater, a map and even a mobile bank. “Things Come Apart,” a traveling exhibition circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and featuring the works of creative photographer and tinkerer Todd McLellan, looks inside the evolution of the smartphone and dozens of other everyday technologies. The traveling exhibition will open July 20 at Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, MI, and remain on view through January 26, 2020 before continuing on a 12-city national tour. The community is also invited to meet the artist during the museums, First Friday Series, on August 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets for the First Friday Series can be purchased on the Ella Sharp Museum website.

Through more than 40 captivating photographs, videos and objects encased in acrylic, “Things

Come Apart” displays the complex parts that have spurred revolutions in product design and functionality across multiple industries and the staying power of classic designs, from the ever-changing navigational systems to the evergreen bicycle. McLellan spent countless hours disassembling objects of all sizes and functions—from a watch to a laptop and a Walkman to an upright piano—with painstaking precision into hundreds or even thousands of pieces. With each object fully stripped to its bare parts, he methodically worked backwards, laying out each item in reverse order from the protective case to the smallest circuits until the true scope of each design was captured. The resulting images, grouped alongside other items built for similar purposes, provide a visual history lesson of mechanical innovation and highlight the contrast between old-world craftsmanship and sleek modern

engineering.

Technological advances have increased with exponential speed since the second half of the 20th century. Consumers have demanded that their gadgets be increasingly capable and reliable while also being sleeker and more portable. The resulting devices are smaller and more complex than ever before while having the life cycle of a fruit fly.

“We don’t always think about the tools we use, but working on this project has given me a greater respect for engineering of newer technology,” said McLellan, who also disassembled bicycles, compasses and power drills, among other things. “It’s remarkable how much modern design packs into so little.”

Younger visitors to the exhibition will also have the opportunity to become part of the experience through the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center’s Spark!Lab activities. These collaborative, hands-on challenges offer

hypothetical situations that allow critical thinking and team creativity to flourish and provide fun skill building in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). The Spark!Lab activity kits are provided through a grant from the Smithsonian Women’s Committee.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu.

McLellan is a photographer who specializes in conceptual work. He nurtured his love for conceptual photography at the Alberta College of Art and Design, where he received

his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2002. He released the book *Things Come Apart* in 2013 and continues to make inspired visuals in his Toronto studio and on location which can be seen at <http://www.toddmclellan.com/>.

About the Ella Sharp Museum

The Ella Sharp Museum, founded in 1965, offers programs, exhibits and experiences preserving community history, advancing art appreciation and understanding, connecting children with science and, through the Cell Block 7 Museum, explores Jackson’s prison history. Our 10 acre campus includes the Hadwin Center with exhibit galleries, program spaces, rental facilities, and offices; the Merriman Sharp farmhouse, a one-room schoolhouse, a log cabin, barn and other historic structures; and the Hurst Planetarium. Our mission focuses on providing opportunities to connect our community with history, science, and the arts.

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