

J. A.C.K.S.





JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

Improvements Combrada

Coming to
MLK Equality
Trail this

Summer -man

page 2



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Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

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 www.jacksfamilyguide.com

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Improvement's Coming to Jackson's Main Pedestrian Trail

By Aaron Dimick, City of Jackson Public Information Officer

Jackson's main pedestrian trail is about



to see lots of new investment from the City of Jackson. More lighting is coming to the MLK Equality Trail this summer. The City is installing 62 LED lights along the trail from W. Prospect Street to Weatherwax Drive.

This means the entire length of trail will have lighting. The lights will improve safety on the trail, along with allowing residents to use it more frequently during the darker months of the year. The project is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Federal funds will be used in the coming years to fully replace the trail surface from MLK Drive to W. Prospect Street starting in 2024.

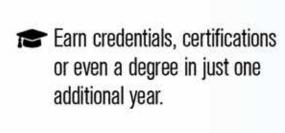
The current trail has lots of uneven surfaces and is not wide enough for safe sharing of the trail. The new trail will be made of concrete to provide a more consistent surface and widened to accommodate more traffic. These improvements will also make the trail more accessible for people with disabilities. The MLK Equality Trail from MLK Drive to Merriman Street will be reconstructed starting in 2025.

Kelli Hoover, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, says she'd like to see the entire length of the 3.7 mile trail resurfaced in the coming years. "The MLK Equality Trail is a big asset for residents when it comes to exercise, but also for getting to school and work. Supporting this kind of infrastructure has a longlasting benefit to the entire community," Hoover said.

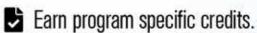
The MLK Equality Trail turns into the Falling Waters Trail at Weatherwax Drive, which can be used to reach Lime Lake County Park and the Village of Concord.







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Three Ways to Have a Stress-Free Road Trip This Summer

(BPT) - Vacationing with your family can be stressful when factoring in the logistics of keeping everyone happy. If you are one of the 60% of Americans currently planning summer getaways. here are a few hacks from Hampton by Hilton that will pave the way for a stressfree summer road trip.

Choose a Hotel That Includes Breakfast

The most important meal of the day kick-starts your mood and energy, especially for the 79% of Americans who say they feel more productive after having breakfast. Yet, with only 19% reporting having breakfast every day, booking a getaway at a hotel with breakfast included jumpstarts your day, makes mornings simpler, and puts an end to the hectic morning scramble.

Travelers can head to the lobby to enjoy breakfast favorites while waiting their turn to shower or grab a plate to bring back to their room. Hotel breakfast buffets also eliminate travel and wait times of eating at a restaurant, getting you on the road faster to vacation fun.

Enjoy Your Stay Close to Where You Want to Be

More than three in four travelers (77%) make relaxing and recharging a

priority while on vacation, and 41% say reconnecting with family and friends on trips boosts their overall wellness. With over 2,300 hotels in the U.S., road trippers are, on average, never more than 30 minutes away from a Hampton by Hilton. You won't have to go out of your way to find high-quality, friendly and reliable accommodations, backed by the Hampton 100% Guarantee, everywhere you want to be and close to those you love.

Families can also enjoy some space to spread out by selecting suite guest rooms, when available, for separate living and sleeping areas. These rooms particularly come in handy for family members with varying bedtimes and provide extra space for active pets and kids to sprawl. Plus, having refrigerators and microwaves allow you to make your own quick meals, reheat leftovers and have snacks at the ready at all hours of the day.

Bring Furry Family Members with You

A recent survey revealed that more than half (55%) of people with pets are likely to travel with their furry family member this summer, and with good reason: Not only do we want to spend time with Fido and Fifi, but we want to avoid the stress of boarding or leaving pets be-

Pet-friendly accommodations, such as Hampton by Hilton, ease the burden. Not only do these properties provide safe havens for our dogs and cats, but they also deliver a seamless experience, leaving you able to confidently focus on the moments that matter most. They also offer additional support through a partnership with Mars Petcare, which provides guests expert advice and tips via on-

hind - for both our pets and line chat or phone, tailored to reduce stress and make the travel experience more seamless from planning through hotel stay.

Remember, it's all about having fun and spending time together when it comes to family travel. As you begin to make your plans to hit the road this summer, happy pets, hot breakfast, and finding your space can help keep travel-related stress at bay so you can truly enjoy a much-need getaway together.







Learn to Love Your Hometown

Time to Take a Road Trip Across Your Town

By Val Herr



No one should be surprised now that I love my hometown of Jackson

County.

So much so that I have chosen never to live anywhere else. I have lived in Rives Junction, Blackman Township, Grass Lake, the City of Jackson, and now Brooklyn. Everywhere I have lived, I have found amazing people and local businesses. More than ever, it's vital we build relationships and support each other and our local businesses. When was the last

time you went out of your These two unique local way to show kindness and support?

June means the end of school and the beginning of summer, and it's the perfect time for a road trip across our great county. Here are a few places I suggest you visit and support.

1. Vito's Express and Doughnation Bakery in Spring Arbor. They should be up and running soon.

businesses have come together to share space and



in Horton. Again, they aren't quite open

park. Sounds like a perfect

yet, but they will be very soon. Tiki Sam and his family are not only incredible people, they make truly delicious pizzas. Be sure

Sam's Pizza

stop in and enjoy!

3. Come to my current hometown of Brooklyn and enjoy some local shopping. There is free parking on Main Street. and you can easily spend an entire afternoon visiting our unique shops. Be sure and check out IDK Creative Décor. Four French Hens. Kelsey's Boutique, Village Peddler Gifts, and Kate's Art School.

Our community is only as beautiful and as strong as we make it. Creating a great community takes time, commitment, support, and kindness. These business owners are doing their part to strengthen our community, and we as individuals need to do our part as well. Next time you are driving and see a local business, pull over, stop in and explore!



Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Walden, Barrington & Gary Grey

provide outstanding ser-

vice and products. Stop in,

grab some beverages and

bread, and hit up a local

Contributed by the Jackson County **Animal Shelter**

Walden

This handsome guy Walden, a 1-year-old American Staffordshire mix. Walden is quiet, potty trained, and good with his canine neighbors. He walks nicely on the leash and wants to stay with his human. Walden is somewhat timid and does not present well in the kennel. Once he sees a leash and goes outside, he is a tail-wagger. He also has wonderful manners for a young dog! Walen does not jump or bark, and it wouldn't take long for him to become your best friend.

Dog adoptions require an application, online link https://www.co.jackson. mi.us/DocumentCenter/ View/8193/Dog-Adoption-Application-PDF. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; any necessary medical procedures may delay an adoption. A meet & greet with your dog is mandatory, and a cat room walk-through is available to test reaction. Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/ small dogs, including vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Barrington & Gary Grey

here is a double dose of beautiful, big, male shorthairs. Barrington is 3-yearsold and his bud Gary Grey is 2-years-old. They are friendly, enjoy being petted, and will roll all over. Gary Grey is polydactyl; he has big mitten feet with extra toes. These two are great friends and love to hang out together. They initially may be somewhat stand-offish in the cage but warm up to attention and affection. Won't you come meet this pair today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat Adoption Fees are \$60 for one cat and \$80 for two, including applicable tests, vaccines, and spay/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. Visiting the shelter is always best, but other resources can be found at https:// www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/8194/ Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF, fax to: 517-780-4750 or email to: animalshelter@ mijackson.org. See our website for more information at: mijackson.org/579/ Animal-Shelter. Come find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: M, Tu, W, F, 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4.





The Importance of Setting Limits & Boundaries with Your Children

By Allison Wirick,

Community Action Agency Why should we set limits and boundaries for our children? Setting limits for children teaches them selfto be socially acceptable. It can be difficult for a child acceptable behavior. Set-

tough to set boundaries as

a parent because we must say 'no' to requests and behaviors. However, by not setting limits, we are doing our children a disservice. Parents need to guide their control, which allows them children by establishing to regulate their behavior and enforcing rules. With this, follow-through is key! Setting limits will also help to perform in school, have build the child's respect meaningful relationships, for their parents and assist and more with socially un- them in determining their own limits as they mature. ting limits also helps chil- As a parent, you are not bedren feel safe as young ing mean when you say 'no' children do not like to feel or set those boundaries. out of control. It can be You are teaching your child a valuable life skill!





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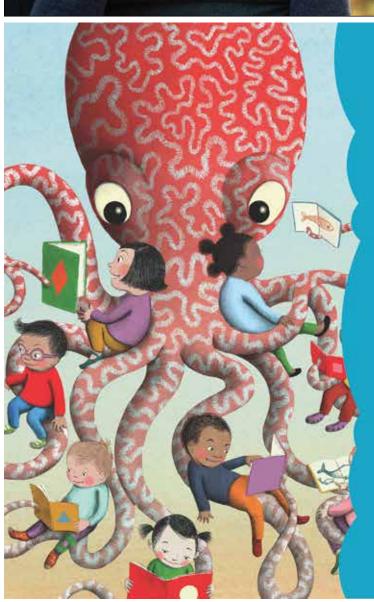
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Top 6 Resources to Help Pay for College

(BPT) - If your child is college-bound, you probably have questions - including how to pay for their higher education. What may surprise you is how many different sources you'll draw from to cover tuition, room and board - plus expenses like books, fees, travel and more. A recent study revealed over a dozen funding sources parents used to help fund their kids' education. According to the College Ave Student Loans survey, 97% of parents said they're currently helping - or planning to help - their child pay for college.

Here are the most common ways to cover the biggest investment you'll make in your child's future.

1. The FAFSA

The first step to obtaining financial aid is filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Filing the FAFSA as early as possible each year is crucial, as some aid is first come, first served. Information you provide on the FAFSA determines your child's eligibility for certain grants, work-study, federal student loans, and more.

2. Scholarships and grants

In the survey, 70% of parents reported their children were using scholar-

ships or grants to help pay for their education. How do you tap into this vital source of funds? First, by filling out the FAFSA to access government-funded grants or school-based scholarships.

However, many scholarships are available from community organizations, your home state or online sources. Your child should ask their high school guidance counselor and their college's financial aid office about other opportunities. Then check out websites like Fastweb, Cappex, and College Board's Big Future. Not all opportunities are scholastic in nature; many are based on things like extracurricular interests, where you're from or even chance. For example, you can apply for \$1,000 monthly scholarship sweepstakes at CollegeAve.com.

Like scholarships, grants do not need to be repaid. Some, like government-funded need-based Pell Grants, will be made available to you by filing your FAFSA. Others may be state-based, so visit your state's Department of Education website.

3. Savings and income In the College Ave sur-

vey, 62% of parents cited regular savings and income as funding sources for their

child's education, with 40% mentioning their 529 savings plan. Use the time now to review your budget and identify where you may find extra money to put toward college expenses. You may also find that you don't have as much flexibility in the budget. Have a candid conversation with your child now about financial concerns which can affect school choice and whether the student must help contribute to their education.

4. Student contributions

Some students may have money saved from working during high school that can help pay for expenses. For many students, holding a part-time job while in college will also help cover costs. Some students also consider working full-time jobs over the summer. As they get older, your child may also look for paid internships in their career field. The study found that 37% of families drew from a student's job to help with finances. Many students qualify for part-time work-study campus jobs by filing the FAFSA.

5. Federal student loans Over half (55%) of parents surveyed said student loans helped pay for their child's education. How do you qualify for a federal student loan? You guessed it: the FAFSA.

"Take out federal loans in the student's name first, as these come with low fixed interest rates and unique benefits, like flexible, incomebased repayment plans," said student loan expert Mark Kantrowitz. "But federal student loans have annual limits, so you may need additional funds if there's a gap between what you can borrow and your total cost."

6. Private loans

Private student loans can help bridge the gap between financial aid your family receives and the amount you need to cover remaining expenses. Use the student loan calculator at College-Ave.com to look at possible monthly payment, private loan interest rates, and repayment terms.

You may also consider private parent loans if you have strong credit and are able to take on the debt. Private parent loans such as those at College Ave, offer a choice of fixed and variable rates and no origination fees, unlike federal parent PLUS loan options.

"When looking for a lender, ask questions about the terms of the loan," said Joe DePaulo, co-founder and CEO of College Ave Student Loans. "Make sure you understand everything from the interest rate to the terms of repayment, so you can get the best option for your family."

For more information and tips about financing your child's college education, visit CollegeAveStudentLoans.com.





Education J.A.C.K.S. page 7

Northwest Student Poetry

Contributed by Nick Gaffney, Northwest Schools

My name is Nick Gaffney, and I teach English Literature and Composition at Northwest High School. Through working and talking with the students at Northwest, I've discovered that there are outstanding poets, storytellers, artists, and essayists at the school. The work of these brilliant students is so outstanding that I felt compelled to share it, and the Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source helps to make that possible each month.

The Love I am Willing to Give By McKenzie Bruce

Do not fall for me, for I will fall for you.

Do not fall for me, for I will write you 1000 poems describing the beauty of your crooked teeth, vivid eyes, and wild hair.

Do not fall for me, for I will paint you in mosaics.

Do not fall for me, for I will spend every dime I have to see you smile.

Do not fall for me, for I will take you to my favorite places so they become our favorite places.

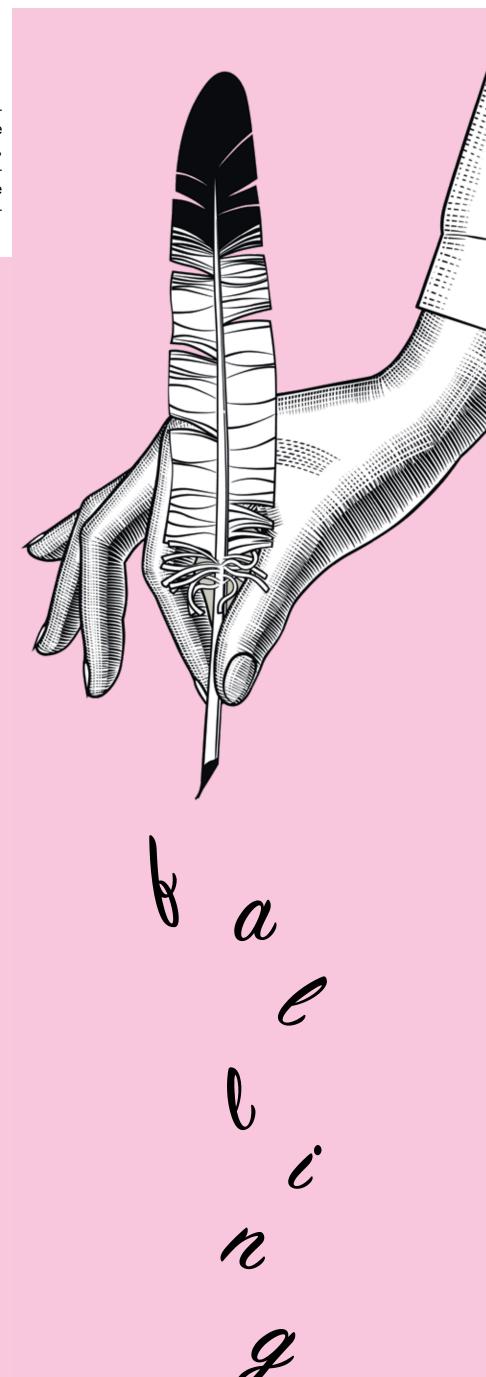
Do not fall for me, for I will tell you all my secrets.

Do not fall for me, for I will give you everything I have and never want it back.

Do not fall for me, for I will paint my god in your image.

Please fall for me, I ... have already fallen for you.

McKenzie Bruce is a junior at Northwest High School. She is also a student at the Jackson Career Center in their Programming course. She is interested in poetry, baking, and tarot card readings. She started writing poetry this year but has been reading poetry for about 3-4 years now and has always been interested in attempting to write her own. She tends to write more spoken words rather than any other type of poetry but she was inspired by someone to write this poem.



Meet Poseidon, the Pueblan Milk Snake

Contributed by Imagine Planet

Our animal ambassador of the month for June is Poseidon, our Pueblan milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli). They are called "Pueblan" snakes because they're native to the Mexican state of Puebla, as well as other dry, arid desert regions throughout Central Mexico. They are striking snakes with bright red, yellow, and black bands.

The Pueblan milk snake has a resemblance to the venomous coral snake and this similarity in color, known as Batesian mimicry, helps protect the snake from potential predators. Another example of this strategy is the Viceroy butterfly which mimics the colorful but bad-tasting monarch butterfly. There is also a king snake that mimics the coral snake. One rhyme used to tell the difference between the snakes is "red touches black, friend to Jack; red touches yellow, kill a fellow." This rhyme only works in the Western Hemisphere. Additionally, if you see a similar snake in the wild in the Southern United States or Central and South America, do not try to figure out whether the snake is venomous or not. Move away from the snake as quickly as possible.

Generally, the size of a Pueblan Milk Snake, when fully grown, is somewhere between 24 and 48 inches in length. Pueblan Milk Snakes have long lifespans of 20 years or more.

Cages should be escape-proof, complete with water and a hiding area. These snakes are fast and are great escape artists. You would think it would be easy to

spot such a brightly colored snake, but they can get in very small places and often go up. Milk snakes eat mice in captivity but are drawn to and will kill small birds. They are most active at dawn and dusk and otherwise are somewhat shv. Milk snakes must be housed separately because they are cannibalistic. Inexpensive enclosures such as plastic shoe or sweater boxes work well if there are ventilation holes drilled in the sides. Aquariums or homemade enclosures also work well if you want to display the snake. A variety of substrates may be used (aspen shavings, corn-cob-type rodent bedding, or newspaper) to keep the animals clean, warm, and

You can utilize a linear UVB light of 5 to 6 percent, but it's unnecessary. Unlike other reptiles, Pueblan Milk Snakes don't need that UVB exposure for calcium.

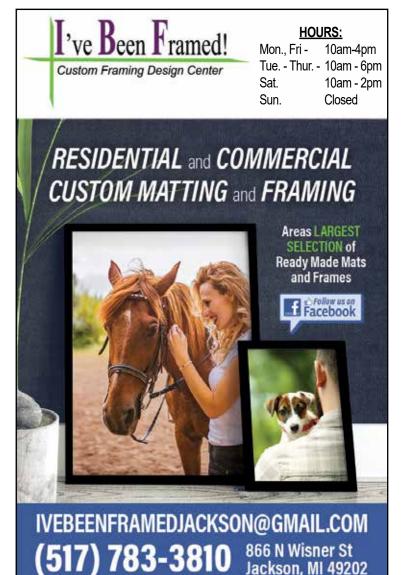
Humidity levels between 40 and 60 percent are optimal for Pueblan Milk Snakes.

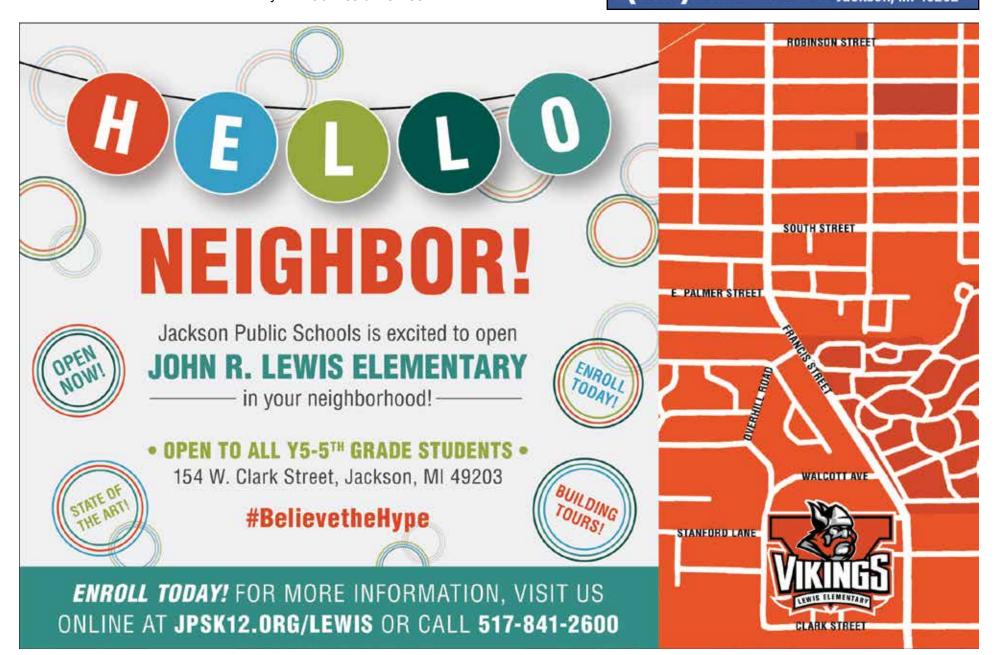
While bites are rare, these snakes do have a rather interesting defense mechanism. They will release a pungent musk that's difficult to eliminate. While not dangerous, the smell is not something you want wafting through your home!

These colorful and nonaggressive snakes are a beautiful and exciting addition to any snake collection. We adopted Poseidon from Cascades Humane Society about five years ago!

Imagine Planet is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Come by and visit and check out our Facebook page! As always, admission is free.







Education J.A.C.K.S. page 9

College & Career Access Center, July Scholarships

Contributed by College & Career Access Center

Maple Flooring Manufacturers

Association Scholarship Eligibility:

- Recipient must be a legal resident of USA and must attend school in the USA
- Applicants must be accepted into one of the following fields of study: Architecture, Athletic Administration, Athletics, Boiler Inspection, Biological Conservation, Biomechanical Sciences, Building Construction, Civil Engineering, Coaching, Commercial Driving, Construction Sciences or Management, Dance Education, Forest Science, Forestry Studies, Engineering Technology, Environmental Resource Management, Exercise Science, Industrial Technology, Kinesiology, LEED Training or Certification, Mechanical Drafting, Machine Technologies, Natural Resources, Conservation, Physical Administration, Physical Education, Physical Rehabilitation or Therapy, Park & Recreation Administration, Small Engine Repair, Sports & Fitness Management, Sur-

veying, Trucking, Wood Sciences.

Description:

For this, 2022-2023 academic year and in celebration of the MFMA's 125th Anniversary, Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association offers five scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each for secondary, advanced, or trade school education. Applicants will be considered based on academic achievement, field of study, and written essay responses.

Applications must include the following:

- Copy of the applicant's high school or college transcript
- 500 word typed essay on one of the topics listed on the application website
- Acceptance letter from college, university
- MFMA scholarship application

Award: 5 Awards of \$1,250 Deadline: July 8, 2022 Application: https://www. maplefloor.org/Programs-Services/Scholarship-Program.aspx

Baron and Budd Attorneys Mesothelioma Cancer Victims Memorial Scholarships

Eligibility:

- Open to entering Freshman only, any major field of study, or undecided major
- Must be entering a USbased four-year university or college or a two-year college
- Must provide two letters of recommendation
- You may submit either a written essay or video
- Written essay must be between 800-1,250 words
- Video essay must be a 2-3minute YouTube video
- YouTube videos must link back to https://www.baronandbudd.com/mesothelioma-lawyers/scholarships/
- Cannot be an employee or family member of an employee of Baron and Budd Essay and Video Topics: How has cancer impacted your life? (cancer of any form)

Mesothelioma cancers, as well as other terminal cancers, have an impact well beyond the victim alone. How has a type of cancer of your loved one impacted your life? How did it impact you while you or your loved one was fighting their illness? What hardships did you or your family experience? How will this scholarship help you to reach your academic goals? Award: \$2,500 Top Essay -

academic goals?
Award: \$2,500 Top Essay
\$2,500 Top Video
Deadline: July 8, 2022
Application: https:/

Application: https://baronandbudd.com/mesothelioma-lawyer/scholarships/#rules

American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Eligibility:

The player must:

- Attach a copy of his official high school transcript.
- Have graduated from high school.
- Be on a current roster (American Legion National Baseball Electronic Registration Form)
- with National Headquarters.
- Be part of a team affiliated with an American Legion post.
- Have three letters of testimony attached to application

Description: Each Department Baseball Committee

may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund. Award: \$500 - \$5,000 Deadline: July 15, 2022 Application: https://www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball

Annual Financial Empowerment Scholarship - Sponsored by BankMobile

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Attend an accredited institution
- Submit a complete 3-part application:
- 1) Application
- 2) Transcript
- 3) Creative Video (30-60 Second Video) explaining the importance of financial empowerment in your life and career. Special consideration will be given towards those who are demonstrating an active role in promoting financial empowerment within their community. We highly encourage creativity! Suggested Format: MP4.
- If you are not in college, you must provide Proof of Enrollment/Acceptance
- Meet a minimum score of 3.0 GPA.

Description: BankMobile Foundation is offering this scholarship to one excellent undergraduate or graduate student who is blazing a trail and shaking things up in the world of financial empowerment. The scholarship is to be used exclusively for school tuition and related expenses. A check for \$1,500 will be made payable to the award recipient's university or college to cover educational

expenses.
Award: \$1,500
Deadline: July 15, 2022
Application: https://www.bankmobile.com/scholarship

2022 Platt Family Scholarship Prize Essay Contest

Eligibility:

 The scholarship essay contest is designed for students who are full-time, undergraduate students attending

an American college or university during the Spring 2022 semester. The July 31 deadline is designed to give these students time to finish their essays, if necessary, after final exams.

- You do not have to be an American citizen, but you do need to be attending an American college or university during the eligibility period.
- The scholarship is not open to high school students. Key question to consider; when we contact your college or university registrar will they be able to confirm that you were enrolled as a full-time college student during the Spring 2022 semester? If the an-
- gible.The eligibility of entrants will be confirmed by the Lin-

swer is no, you are not eli-

coln Forum prior.
Our Topic for 2022:

The year 2022 is the anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. How has the whole question of memorializing leading figures of the Civil War, including Lincoln, changed in the hundred years since then?

- Entries must contain a minimum of 1,500 and a maximum of 5,000 words.
- The essay must be typed and include a works-cited page or bibliography. End notes are suggested but not required.

Award: 1st Prize \$1500 | 2nd Prize \$750 | 3rd Prize \$500

Deadline: Essays may be submitted via regular mail (postmarked before July 31, 2022) or via e-mail (time stamped before midnight July 31, 2022)

Application: https://www.thelincolnforum.org/platt-family-essay-contest

2022 NBCC Foundation Military Scholarships

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be enrolled, full time in a CACREP-accredited counseling master's program.
- Applicants must be veterans or active-duty U.S. military service members or spouses of a veteran or activeduty U.S. military service member. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge.
- Applicants must be cur-

rently enrolled full time for the fall 2022 semester and be in good standing in a CACREP-accredited counseling master's-level program. Applicants must have taken courses during the spring 2022 semester. Applicants may not have a pending status, deferred status, or other future start date for coursework.

- Applicants are expected to graduate by December 31, 2025
- Eligible applicants must not have an anticipated program completion date before September 1, 2023, which will be verified in writing by their academic department.
- Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and experience with military personnel and families.
- Applicants must commit to becoming board certified by applying for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation and to completing the application process.
- Applicants must commit to providing mental health services to service members and/or veterans within one

year of graduation and for the duration of a minimum of at least two years postgraduation.

Description: These scholarships provide financial support to students who are currently enrolled in a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)-accredited counseling master's program, live in a rural area, and commit to serve rural populations within one year of graduation for the duration of a minimum of at least two years post-graduation. Award: Five scholarships in the amount of \$8,000 are available.

Deadline: July 31, 2022 Application: https://nbccfoundation.sub-mittable.com/submit/b66fc8d2-43f9-444b-86e7-6c6dde54dd8f/2022-nbcc-foundationmilitary-scholarship

Visit the College & Career Access Center today in the Jackson Crossing! For the complete list of scholarships please visit www.jcisd.org/CCAC.

Health page 10 J.A.C.K.S.

Go Take a Walk

By Theresa Horne, CPT No, really, it's good for you. Walking might be



one of the most underrated types physical activity around. In our hard

go-home culture, walking provides an accessible, affordable, and achievable form of physical fitness ready to make a comeback. Best of all, walking has three significant benefits that you may be overlooking.

Walking Can Improve Your Sleep

It has been found that walking is relaxing and can promote a good night's sleep. I asked my Facebook readers what they do to unwind, and an overwhelming amount of them ercise, walking can release responded, "take a walk." In one study specifically aimed to improve sleep, researchers found that walkers increased sleep quality

over four weeks.

Walking Can Improve Heart Health

When looking at the current research and articles on walking, I found several excellent write-ups. One article in American Heart Association News quoted Barry Franklin, Director of Preventive Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation from Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. "[Walking] lowers your risk factors for cardiovascular disease, decreases body weight and fat stores, decreases blood sugar levels, modestly improves your lipid profile, and reduces chronic stress."

Walking is not a magic bullet, but there is data to back up that is helpful.

Walking Can Reduce Stress

Like many forms of exchemicals like serotonin and dopamine that lift your mood during and after a workout. If you are walking outside and it's sunny, you get the added benefit of fresh air and vitamin D.

Wherever you are in your day, try to stand up, take a walk, and drink in the benefits!

References:

https://health.clevelandclinic.org/5-great-reasonsyou-should-take-a-walktoday/

https://www.mayoclinic. org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/walking/art-20046261

https://www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/pmc/articles/ PMC3098122/

As she approached 40 years old, weighing 330 pounds, she had weight loss surgery. It led her on a journey of seeking wholeness and healing: body, mind, and soul, as she learned her weight was not only about the food.

You can follow Theresa @sisterhoodofstrong on Instagram, TikTok, and You-Tube or facebook.com/sisterhoodofstrong.







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It's Time to Focus on Whole Person Health

(BPT) - The COVID-19 pandemic has shed action. much-needed light on "whole person health" by highlighting the correlation between behavioral health and overall wellness. Many people with behavioral health challenges experienced worsening symptoms throughout the pandemic, while others struggled with conditions for the first time and didn't know where to turn.

Understanding whole person health - and where to find resources that can help you support both your mental and physical health

- is key to protecting and improving your overall well-being.

Whole person health is the recognition that our mental and physical health are interconnected and that an illness rarely affects a single body part or system. When you consider that nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness, and six in 10 adults in the U.S. have a chronic disease, it's easy to consider how one might impact the other.

Benefits of Whole Person Health and How to Take Action

According to Dr. Rhonda Randall, D.O., Chief Medical Officer at UnitedHealthcare, implementing integrated health care approaches has positive outcomes for patients, physicians and caregivers. By exploring health behaviors (like smoking, physical activity and eating habits), the community and environment where we live and work, genetics, behaviors and socioeconomic influences on our health, physicians and patients create a comprehensive picture of the patient's goals and create a comprehensive plan of care.

Here are three key ways this approach can help you, or someone you love - and how to take

1. Improve one area, improve the rest. Research shows that improving one area of a person's physical, emotional and mental health can benefit the others. For example, we have long known that gut health is directly linked to mental health, but whole health argues these connections run throughout the entire body.

Take action: Take a moment to reflect on your health - what are you missing, and what



are your goals? Make a list, then talk about it with your care team. Together, you can make a plan to address the changes you'd like to make.

2. Make mental health checks part of your regular health routine. As we age, chronic, or ongoing, conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic pain and others, tend to surface more frequently, but research suggests mentally healthy adults reported the fewest chronic diseases of all ages. By starting to care for your mental and behavioral health as soon as possible, patients can help safeguard the body for its future.

Take action: Just as we make yearly visits

to our primary care physicians, it's essential to prioritize regular mental health maintenance checks, whether with your physician, a specialist, or free self-assessment tools. It's no secret that, for many, the pandemic has intensified and worsened mental health issues. The silver lining? Broad recognition has reduced the stigma and more than ever, virtual tools are available to help maintain treatment plans, improve access and remove cost barriers.

> 3. Prioritize preventive care to reduce health care costs. Chronic conditions, frequent trips to specialists and prescriptions are key drivers behind expensive out-ofpocket healthcare costs. By investing in whole health - examining diet, exercise and mental health, in conjunction with regular primary care visits - you can improve your health as well as your long-term financial

> Take action: As you build your health team, look for professionals who subscribe to the whole health model and will proactively seek to coordinate care with other providers supporting your physical and

mental health. When physician teams communicate effectively, patients become centered in their care.

Taking Charge of Your Whole Health

More and more, patients can be the drivers of their own health care journeys. Minor changes such as investing in self-care, improving lifestyle choices and early behavioral intervention if needed are key steps in ensuring overall wellness.

For more health and wellness information, visit UHC.com.



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