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Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. This family 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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If you or your organization would like to submit an article for publication please do so by the third Friday of each month.

Email us for advertising information. Your email will be answered within 24 hours.

It is the responsibility of the submitting business or organization to obtain the proper photo release. The Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source, is a collaborative guide. Stories and articles published herein are not written by us.

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Home Builders Association Gearing Up
for 43rd Annual Home and Lifestyle Show

Contributed by
The Home Builders
Association of Jackson

The Home Builders Association of Jackson was founded in 1955 by several local builders and was chartered as part of the National Association of Home Builders which was chartered in Washington D.C. in the early 1940's. HBAJ is located at 1815 E. High Street, Jackson, Michigan.

Our mission statement is "The Home Builder's Association of Jackson is the voice of the building industry, dedicated to preserving and protecting the American Dream of home ownership. The HBAJ promotes professionalism while providing education and membership support.

The local association has been a part of the Jackson community by furnishing education to the public and to our local members, of good practices including licensing, insurance, and contracts. HBAJ also holds seminars on local and state code requirements, green building designs and verification and national trends as shown by demonstrations at the International Builders Show.

The State and National Associations also try and influence legislation and

regulations to be correct and in the best interest of the consumers, as they are the final purchaser of our products and services.

The HBAJ has been hosting a Home Builders Show to introduce products and

Please join us at the 43rd Annual Home & Lifestyle Show to highlight building and remodeling industry March 22, 23 and 24. Over 60 building industry experts will fill the Fair Events Center at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. If you are planning a new home, a remodel project, or simple home improvements to your existing home, you won't want to miss this event. No matter the size or scope of your project, you'll have an opportunity to talk with the local pros about maintaining and improving your home environment.

Hours are:

March 22 – 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm with free admission for Veterans

March 23 – 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

March 24 – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Admission is just \$5.00 for adults and children 16 and under are free with an adult . Parking is free.

There will be special events during the show including a wood carving demonstration, "PAWS" from the Detroit Tigers with even more and an opportunity to win a flat screen TV. For more information and a discount admission coupon visit www.hbajmi.com





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Learn to be a Tourist in Your Hometown

Counting Down To a Spring Break Staycation?



By Val Herr

I don't even have a kid in school anymore and I can't believe I'm writing about spring break. Haven't the kids have enough days off of school lately? Now, we have to entertain them for an entire week????

If you are hanging out at home this spring break don't despair. In addition to great program offerings by the YMCA and Jackson District Library. Here are a few ways in which I kept my sanity during spring breaks when we were home.

1. Spend at least one day outside. It's Michigan so we all know that it could be 70 degrees and sunny or we could be under several feet of snow. However, after being cooped up all winter I think it's vital for everyone's mental health to get outside. Falling Waters Trail is usually clean of snow and is a great place to take a walk or ride your bike. McCready Park is also a great place to enjoy a walk and don't forget to bring also your dog as they need time outside as well.

2. Not that my kids loved doing this but it did keep everyone busy and it need-

ed to be done. We spent one afternoon spring cleaning. We opened the windows, washed the curtains, cleaned out closets and toy boxes and then took everything immediately to a donation center-so we didn't end up having it in our trunk for a month of two (not that any of us has ever done that).

3. While I am always an advocate for getting outside and trying to new things let's admit it that sometimes it is just fun to stay in your pajamas and binge watch some Netflix. We usually did this the day after we did our spring cleaning-it was our reward for working so hard.

4. If the weather isn't great just pretend that it is. Go to Frosty Boy or Rudy's Drive In (both are now open) and act like it's nice outside.

5. Lastly, start your garden. Buy some seeds and start the planting. Nothing says summer is almost here as much as a garden. Have the kid's help you pick out the seeds and always try something that you haven't grown or eaten before. It's a great way to introduce new foods. The kids can create some garden spikes that identify what is being planted and they can help care for them all summer long.

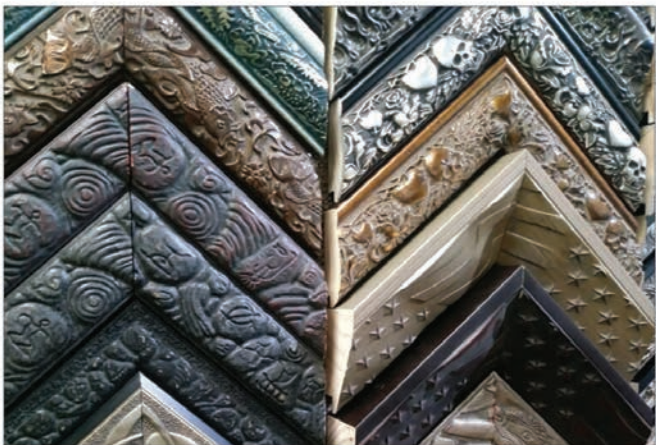


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Habitat for Humanity

The Cotton Patch Evidence - How it All Began

By Wendy Clow, Executive Director Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity



It was 1942, and our country was finding its footing in the 2nd world war. And Clarence Jordan was finding his path to following his heart. His heart wanted to follow Jesus' teachings; Clarence believed the New Testament taught to love everyone and that violence is never the answer. He wanted nothing to do with war and killing people. He wanted to live in a self-sufficient community where families shared everything: money, food, child-care, crop-tending, household needs...

Clarence was a southern Baptist minister and a missionary. He was a scholar and a speaker. He was also a farmer. The two things he did to earn a living were speaking and farming. He spoke to Christian groups (mostly Baptist) all over the country.

In 1942, Clarence followed his vision to create a community where families could live, work, worship and play together. He and his wife, Florence, and

friends Martin and Mabel England raised money and purchased land outside of Americus, Georgia. The land became a small farm community, and they named it Koinonia. The name literally means, "Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians." Over the next 20 years, Koinonia developed and evolved. They farmed and created a business selling things they grew on the land, and they lived "...following the example of the first Christian communities as described in the Acts of the Apostles." (<https://www.koinoniafarm.org/brief-history/>).

When Koinonia needed extra help on the farm, and finances allowed, they hired workers and paid a fair living wage, regardless of color or religious beliefs. They also invited anyone who wanted to join them in their community to become members, also regardless of color. As you can imagine, in southern Georgia in the 1940s and 50s, they encountered great resistance to their unconditional love and acceptance of all people. The people who lived at Koinonia survived through serious threats of violence, shootings, bombings, and KKK-style boycotts and attempts to force them to leave. The

Jordans stood firm in their beliefs, accepted all who wanted to come, and didn't lift a hand to physically defend themselves.

In the 1960s, things began to change, as life does over time, and Clarence started searching for a new purpose for Koinonia. The world's needs were changing. Different kinds of issues were showing up, the biggest of which was housing.

Around this time, Millard Fuller came on the scene. Millard was a 'serial entrepreneur' and had made millions. His money and his drive to always be earning more caused issues in his marriage. He and his wife Linda decided to sell their businesses and find something to give their money to. Millard heard Clarence speak and decided to visit him at Koinonia. From there, an idea was born and a relationship grew. In order to address the growing need for housing, they started a ministry they called Fund for Humanity in 1968.

Clarence died suddenly in 1969 while he was in his "writing shack" at Koinonia. He had been working for years on writing a translation of the bible that he believed would help people understand it from today's point of view. He called his translation, "The Cotton



Patch Version".

The housing ministry evolved into what is now known as Habitat for Humanity and moved its operations into a building in Americus. Koinonia continues to carry on Clarence's legacy. They grow and sell produce, pecans, grass-fed beef, and other livestock. You can read more about them and purchase their products at www.koinonia.com. Find them on Facebook to keep up with their ongoing story.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is now headquartered in downtown Atlanta, GA. Their previous Americus headquarters currently serves to house their affiliate services division. Here in Jackson, MI, Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1989, is a local affiliate of HFHI. We've

built 59 houses to-date in Jackson county and are on course to serve the Jackson area for many years to come. You can learn more about what Jackson's Habitat for Humanity is up to on their website: www.jackson-habitat.org, and on Facebook.

Wendy Clow is the Executive Director of Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity. Her favorite hobbies are reading and fitness. She lives in Jackson with husband, Scott Clow, two step children and two fur children: a beagle named Cletus and a mixed Beagle/Rottweiler named Harley. Wendy also has two adult children: Shelby, who is a CT tech at Henry Ford Allegiance Health, and Jake, who is a Michigan State Trooper in the Ludington area.

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My Beautifully Inspired Mess

Follow the Rainbow

By Kelli Schweizer

Happy (almost) Spring! It has been a rough few wintery months, especially with all of those snow days! I'm so excited we are finally in the month that starts to give us a little sneak peek at warmer days ahead! St. Patrick's Day has always been a favorite holiday of mine. Did you know I used to be an Irish Dancer, and would travel all over to competitions? As a kid, I would spend this day performing with other dancers. So many amazing memories! To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, my kiddos and I did activities showcasing two distinct aspects of the day - the rainbow and the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

that has a little bit of an edge around it so the water and Skittles stay in place)

- Skittles
- Water

How To:

Step 1: Place Skittles around the plate. You could make this a learning game by discussing colors, counting them and making patterns.

Step 2: Once your Skittles are how you want them, slowly pour water around them, covering the plate.

Step 3: Sit back and watch your Skittles come to life in a beautiful piece of art - making a rainbow filling up

SKITTLES RAINBOW ART

Materials Needed:

- White plate (I'd use one



the entire plate.

LEPRECHAUN GOLD DIG

Materials Needed:

- Plastic gold coins (I found a bag at a local craft store)
- Shaving cream
- Green food coloring
- Spoon
- Big bowl (I used a clear bowl so you could see the coins in there)
- Bath towels / Paper towel (it can get pretty messy)

How To:

Step 1: Fill bowl with shaving cream. I used two bottles of shaving cream from the dollar store.

Step 2: Add green food coloring to the shaving cream and stir until it is the color you'd like.

Step 3: Add gold coins and mix in.

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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It's a Great Day to be a Viking!

Imagination is the Preview for Life's Coming Attractions

By Amy Fracker,
Assistant Director
Jackson School of the Arts

"Imagination is everything. It is the preview for life's coming attractions." -Albert Einstein



The most impactful and innovative creations have come from imagining something bigger. Something better. Artist, scientists, philosophers and inventors all excel at allowing their imaginations to flow freely. That is how much of things we think of as common today became into existence. Imagination is the key to our world as we know it

Children can teach us so much about the power of imagination. Creative thought turns something so mundane into something so magical. Put a cardboard box in front of a child and watch the magic happen.

Imagination is also critical to successful cognitive skills. We know we can acquire the ability of imagination from reading, and through extensive reading we can enhance that ability. Sven Birkerts says in a School Library

JDL Adds Streaming Service

Contributed by
Jackson District Library

Have you ever cut a check to your cable company or movie streaming provider and asked yourself how great it would be if a service like that was free? Well, the Jackson District Library has you covered.

Kanopy is an on-demand streaming video service recently launched for JDL card holders. It offers viewers a large collection of films and documentaries. It also includes children's programming through "Kanopy Kids."

All JDL card holders have access to more than 30,000 feature films, documentaries, and independent art films. The films can be viewed on a computer, television, or mobile device.

Kanopy joins JDL's large list of digital resources alongside Hoopla, OverDrive, and more. The service can be found on JDL's website.

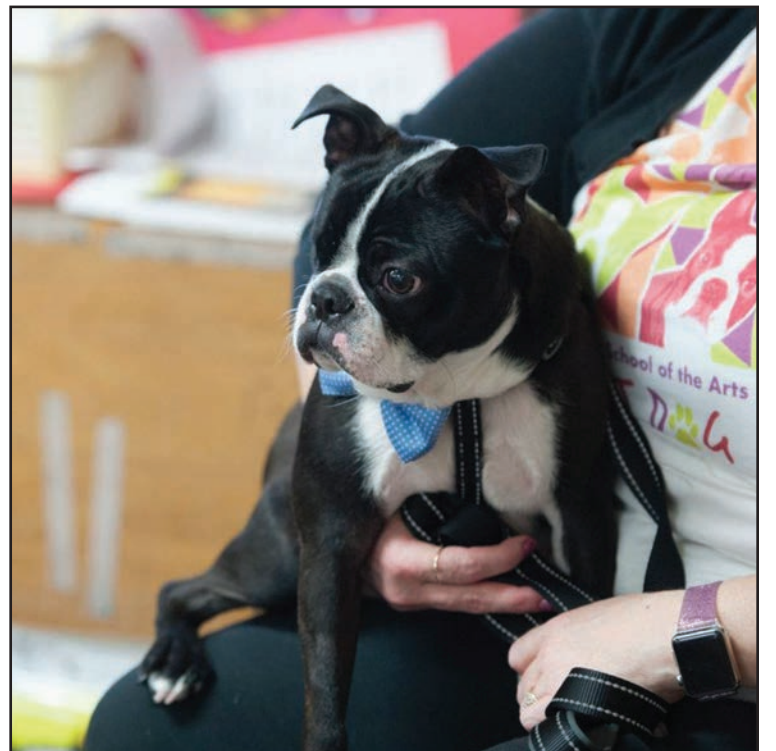
Journal article. We know how important reading is to the development of our children. The month of March is devoted to succeeding at those individual reading goals and I love seeing how creative schools get with encouraging students to read.


Art Dog has become a big hit at Jackson School of the Arts. It's our way to combine reading and imagination. Many schools have been visited by Wilbur, our very own Art Dog. He reads the story "Art Dog" by Thatcher Hurd and then teaches students how to draw a dog, all while providing many cuddle opportunities. We take imagination very seriously at

Jackson School of the Arts. It's also super fun to bring your pet to work and let him bring his own unique type of therapy.

Thank you Imagination! Thanks to imagination problems are solved more quickly, we can build better friendships and have more confidence in our abilities. Thanks to imagination we can determine to make a difference, get more creative with those inventions, artistic works and business ideas. Thanks to imagination life is just a little more fun!


Don't forget - see amazing imagination at work during our annual Fairy Festival. April 13 & 14.





2019

JPS Community Kindergarten & Young Fives Round UP



Join us at one of our JPS Elementary Schools!
Free Class of 2032 T-shirt upon enrollment!
Community family resources available to serve you!






Montessori - April 16th 5:30 p.m.
Cascades (@Frost) - April 17th 5:30 p.m.
Sharp Park - April 18th 5:30 p.m.
Dibble - April 23rd 5:30 p.m.
Hunt - April 24th 9:30 a.m.
Bennett - April 25th 5:30 p.m.





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Tickets on Sale Now for Kids 'N' Stuff Sweet 16

Contributed by Kids 'N' Stuff
Hands-On Museum

Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum is celebrating 16 years since opening its doors, and you're invited to the party! The Sweet 16 Celebration on Saturday, March 23 from 6-9pm will feature wine, beer, local food, more wine at the wine pull, be-a-kid-again activities, and of course cake! The highlight of the evening is a draw down raffle for a seven-night stay in Las Vegas at the Grandview, spon-

sored by the Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce, plus \$500 toward air fare, sponsored by a Kids 'N' Stuff Board Member! Raffle tickets will be sold until 6:30 the evening of the event, then we will begin drawing numbers until there's only one left at 9:00! That last ticket will win the grand prize!

Tickets are on sale now at www.kidsnstuff.org or at the museum's front desk. \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Tickets include food,

wine, beer, and activities. Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each and can also be purchased online or at the museum. You need not be present to win, but it will be a lot more fun if you are!

Kids 'N' Stuff is proud to be YOUR children's museum! Hours of operation are 10-4 Tuesday through Saturday and noon-4 Sunday. Call (517) 629-8023 or visit www.kidnstuff.org for more information. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date programs and info!

Kids 'N' Stuff
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Expires 6/1/2019

JACKS319

Think Spring with YMCA Camp

By Bonnie Gretzner
Jackson YMCA

With snow days from school piling up and the temperature hovering below freezing, it's hard to believe spring break is just around the corner. It is only a few weeks away, however; and for families who will be staycationing in Jackson, the Y has activities to keep the kids busy all week long.

Open to ages 4-14, camp will fill your child's spring break with adventure, games, STEM activities, outdoor fun, swim-

ming, field trips and much more. Kids returning to camp have the chance to reconnect with friends and counselors. Students new to Y camp get to meet new friends and build lasting memories.

While activities such as swimming are always a favorite, Youth Education Director Megan Hunt said the Y staff is always looking to add new activities.

"We are excited to incorporate STEM this year in camp," she said. "We introduced STEM last summer in our specialty camp, and

it was a hit! We are working hard to shake things up a bit and try out some new field trip destinations this year." Hunt added that all YMCA counselors are certified in CPR and First Aid.

To register: Visit JacksonYMCA.org or call 517-782-0537.

When: April 1-5; Drop off from 7-9 a.m.; pick up from 4:30-6 p.m. daily.

Price: Members: \$130; Community: \$150.

What to bring: Lunch, swimsuit and a towel every day; please leave electronics at home.



Photo contributed by the YMCA of Jackson

YMCA campers enjoyed a scavenger hunt in downtown Jackson.



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Montessori Education

Open House Planned at North Star Montessori Preschool & Kindergarten

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

North Star Montessori is open year round 7 am to 5:30 pm.

We have two multi-age classrooms with a 1-10 student teacher ratio. Our school is for children ages 2 yrs 9 months-6 years old during the regular school year and our summer care and before and after school classes have children up to 12 years old.

We offer 3 day and 5 day programs. Our focus is on education and parents choose us because they want the best foundation for their child. From morning preschool to full time care parents know that their child will be in a structured, loving environment full of educational opportunities.



North Star Montessori Preschool & Kindergarten is located on two acres, offering woodland trails to explore, and a natural play space where children can run, imagine, and discover. We are a small private school where your child can grow and make friendships in a community of learners.

Our classrooms are well equipped with the finest Montessori materials and our teachers hold Montessori Credentials as well as Michigan teaching degrees and years of experience! North Star began its first school in 2003 bringing excellence in Montessori education to our Jackson community for over 16 years.

Children at North Star Montessori receive hands on lessons in Math, Art, Language, Spanish, Sensorial, Science, Word Culture & Geography, Writing and Everyday Living from certified teachers. Each part of our curriculum is carefully designed to meet your child's individual needs and to progress at

your child's pace. North Star students have lots of opportunities to be decision makers and problem solvers as they learn to move independently throughout the classroom choosing hands-on Montessori activities becoming active participants in their own education.

Teachers at North Star are able to provide consistency in learning as your child progresses with the same teacher and classmates following your child's natural plane of development from 3-6 years old. Working in small groups allows us to give your child individual at-

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Thursday, March 21st

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tention. Our curriculum is specifically designed to engage children's learning by preparing everything in the environment to meet the child's needs and development over a period of three years. We are a community of learners that enjoy collaboration, independence, order, and love of learning. Join us at our open house Thursday, March 21st, to learn more about our Montessori program.

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June 13, 14, 15

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AUTO BODY EXPERTS

How to Tackle Your Dry Skin This Winter

By Victoria Beaman
Owner, The V Spa



We all know that winter can be tough on skin. Temperatures drop, and suddenly our skin might feel less dewy or supple than usual. Dryness, tightness, or discomfort may have already made their grand appearance for you this season, but don't fret. There are plenty of ways to combat dry skin that unfortunately comes with the harshness of cold winters.

Not only can dry skin be irritating, but it also enhances the appearance of fine lines and signs of aging. That's why it is imperative to have a few tricks in your bag as soon as the first few chilly days of the season appear.

A simple, natural approach to skincare is best when forming habits for maintaining healthy skin, and the experts here at the VSpa have crafted facial treatments and at home regimens which replace lost moisture and are easy to follow routines.

Read on to discover our most valuable tips and products to tackle parched skin.

Make water your best friend. Of course, everyone understands that water is important. After all, it's vital for survival. But it's common for many people to not drink enough water every day, simply because it's easy to lose track of. Get a water bottle that measures the amount of ounces you put in it (the bigger the better, so that you only have to fill it up a few times a day; we like a 32-ounce bottle), and drink at least 64 ounces per day—or more if your skin feels particularly dry, you're outside in the elements a lot, or you workout and sweat often.

Moisturize consistently. "Consistently" is the key word, here. Daily moisturizing will keep your skin looking and feeling fresh and quenched. Our New Rose Firming Moisturizing Face Mask is enriched with hyaluronic acid and floral micro-waxes that help capture and maintain moisture. It revives dull, dry skin and optimizes the elasticity, providing a sense of vitality, smoothness, and freshness.

Protect your skin. Moisturizers are a good long game, but for particularly cold, sunny, windy, or dry days and seasons, more protection is necessary. VicToria's new Prairie Rose Face Balm creates a shield-like effect on the skin that protects against the climate. It acts as a coat for dry or sensitive skin, locking in moisture in even the most intense environmental conditions. This miraculous balm also leaves a radiant glow with a rosy, healthy appearance. Moisturizing Serum is very important to retain moisture from within and deep down. Try our Skin Transformation Serum. This is a fix it all product. Relieves dry skin while promoting cell turnover for radiant skin and refining lines and wrinkles.

Eat nutrient-rich foods. They say you are what you eat. Foods with omega-3 fatty acids (think: salmon, walnuts, and spinach) and healthy fats (such as avocado and olives) can actually provide natural oils for your body to use when it isn't able to keep up with harsh conditions on the skin. A diet that routinely utilizes these food items will help keep your skin supple, moisturized, and healthy.

Make an appt at the VSpa! We have all the pampering you need.

Our super special for the month is an amazing Hydrating Oxygen Facial with our new apprentice esthetician Cairah.



We are offering a \$95 Facial for \$55!!!

We also have a brand new Green Tea Detox Facial! Perfect for coming home after traveling. A good facial that hydrates and detoxes is exactly what your face will need.

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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.

Jackson Baby Pantry Helping Parents in the Jackson Area

Contributed by
The Jackson Baby Pantry

The Jackson Baby Pantry is available to parents in the Jackson area, helping mothers and fathers in with baby and toddler supplies. We operate by donations only. If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact us.

We accept furniture items, bottles, pacifiers, diapers, wipes, formula, car seats (not expired), clothes sizes Preemie up to 5T, blankets, breast pumps and accessories, and more.

We greatly appreciate your donations and any help you can give families in need. You do not need to bring anything or live in Jackson to receive help, just stop by when we are open.

If you would like to help with monetary donations our GoFundMe page can be found at www.gofundme.com/JacksonMiBaby-Pantry19

Our hours are Saturday's 9:30am-11:30am
224 West Wilkins, Jackson, MI 49203

Contact: Regine Khon
Phone: 517-513-4201 text or call
Email: Babypantrymi@gmail.com

Diapers, formula, wipes, and baby toiletries are limited. We want to help, but

we can't be your primary source for these items. Baby Bags for expecting mother's, when items are available. (Must know the sex of your child to receive and proof of pregnancy).



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Meet Our Staff

Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches

Contributed by
Imagine Planet

This month we will be learning about one of the smaller animal ambassadors we have at Imagine Planet—the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach colony. These popular invertebrate pets are commonly seen in movies and TV shows, because they look scary and dangerous but really aren't.

There are over 4,000 species of roaches spread all around the globe, and lots more still unknown to science. In Michigan there are only a couple of dozen species, and about half of them are invaders that came along with European settlers. All cockroaches have three body parts, the head, thorax, and abdomen and have six legs. Their heads point down and are covered

with a shield. Many have wings. Cockroaches have incomplete metamorphosis, meaning the immature roaches look pretty much like the adult.

Gromphadorhina portentosa, the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, is only found on the island of Madagascar, a large island off the coast of Africa. They are primarily found in the tropical lowland rainforest in the dry litter on the forest floor. Hissers eat decaying plant material, dead animals, and smaller insects and play an important part in recycling nutrients in the ecosystem. These cockroaches are one of largest species of cockroach in world. They grow to 2 to 4 inches long,. These roaches do not have wings and can live up to 5 years.

The females carry their

eggs in their body in a structure called an ootheca. Fifteen to forty eggs hatch while in the female's body and she pushes the whole structure out. There are several good videos on Youtube of this phenomenon. The nymphs molt 6 times before reaching adulthood, which takes 6 to 7 months. When the roach has just molted its skin it appears white, which darkens as the exoskeleton hardens. Both males and females reach sexual maturity at 7 months old. Males grow larger than females. Both sexes have hornlike projections on their head shield. The males' horns are bigger than the females'.

Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches hiss through

the breathing spiracles found on their abdomens. The loudest hiss is made to scare off predators. There is a mite which is a common parasite of the hisser which can be seen on the roach's body when disturbed. Four to six are found at the base of the cockroach's leg and the mites share their host's food. Neither the mites nor the cockroaches pose any threat to humans.

Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches make great pets. They can climb smooth surfaces, so a tight lid is important on their enclosure. We use Vaseline around the top of our tank. If they escape, they will not become pests like the German cockroach. They do not bite or fly and



can become accustomed to handling. If they are warm, they can move quite quickly. Our roach colony is now a breeding, self-sustaining colony, something we are very excited about and proud of.

Our annual Earth and Space Science Day will be happening at Imagine Planet on Saturday, May 4th, 2019. Check out our Facebook page for more events, fundraisers, and happenings.

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Visiting Neurosurgeon from Australia Observes Robotic Spine Surgeries

Contributed by
Henry Ford
Allegiance Health

Jackson, Michigan—Henry Ford Allegiance Health (HFAH) and neurosurgeon Amritraj Loganathan, MD, are earning international recognition in the field of robotic spine surgery. On Thursday, February 7, Dr. David Oehme, a neurosurgeon from Melbourne, Australia, came to Jackson for the purpose of observing Dr. Loganathan perform spine surgery with the Excelcius GPSTM Surgical System.

Designed to increase safety for patients and accuracy for their surgeons, the innovative system enables neurosurgeons to perform minimally invasive spine surgery that typically results in a shorter hospital stay and faster recovery time for patients. HFAH is the first in Michigan to offer patients the advantages of this robotic surgical system.

"There is a perception in Australia that robotic surgery is better. I am here to

see the robot in action. I really want to get an appreciation of the robot at work in the theater with an actual patient," said Dr. Oehme, who specializes in the treatment of back pain and degenerative diseases of the spine. He has up to 600 spine surgery cases each year.

Dr. Loganathan explained how HFAH is uniquely qualified to host forward-thinking international physicians like Dr. Oehme. "We are a relatively small hospital with a friendly atmosphere using high tech surgical systems. Our accessible size coupled with advanced technology makes it easier for us to host surgeons who want to get an inside look at the advantages we can offer patients."

One of the advantages of the ExcelciusGPS system is the inclusion of a

GPS 3-D guidance system, designed to improve accu-

efits of robotics with navigation, much like the GPS in a car. This advanced technology allows a neurosurgeon to place screws and implants in a very precise fashion while seeing exactly where to place their instruments in real-time. By preprogramming coordinates, the robotic arm of the ExcelciusGPS can assist in guiding surgeons to

precise locations in their patient's spines. The result is safer, faster surgery with less radiation exposure and less need to reposition the patient.

Dr. Oehme observed three robotic spine surgeries during his visit and was among the first Australian surgeons to see the ExcelciusGPS in use with patients. He anticipates St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne will acquire an ExcelciusGPS at some point in the future to complement its existing technology.

One of the advantages of the ExcelciusGPS system is the inclusion of a GPS 3-D guidance system, designed to improve accuracy...

racy and optimize patient care by combining the ben-

efits of robotics with navigation, much like the GPS in a car. This advanced technology allows a neurosurgeon to place screws and implants in a very precise fashion while seeing exactly where to place their instruments in real-time. By preprogramming coordinates, the robotic arm of the ExcelciusGPS can assist in guiding surgeons to



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- On-site behavioral health care available.
- With a permission slip on file, kids who attend these schools can go on their own – without leaving the school building.
- On-site care limits child’s time away from class and parents’ time away from work.
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 **BONUS** All school health centers serve young adults through the age of 21, and Northeast and Northwest serve adults, too. 

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1024 Fleming Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202 | ▶ Parkside Health Center
Open M – F 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
2400 Fourth St.
Jackson, MI 49203 | ▶ Northwest Community Health Center*
Open M – F 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
R.W. Kidder Middle School
6700 Rives Junction Rd.
Jackson, MI 49201 |
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*Adults are welcome as patients.

CenterforFamilyHealth.org

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