

J. A.C.K.S.





JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE





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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If your business or organization would like to submit an article for FREE for publication please do so by the 3rd Friday of each month.

Email us at jacksfamilyguide@gmail.com or call 517-474-1422 for advertising information.

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Warner Elementary School

City of Jackson and Ella Sharp Museum Bring Local Black **History to the Community**

By Aaron Dimick, City of Jackson Public Information Officer Black History Month in



was celebrated with a special collaboration of the City of Jack-

Jackson

son and Ella Sharp Throughout Museum. February, artifacts and displays relating Black History from the museum were shared with the community on the City's website and social media platforms.

From an 1893 African American City Directory to a 2020 Black Lives Matter protest sign, social media posts for the 2021 commem-

oration spotlighted a wide array of artifacts important to Jackson history. All posts contained photos of artifacts with interpretation that explained its significance.

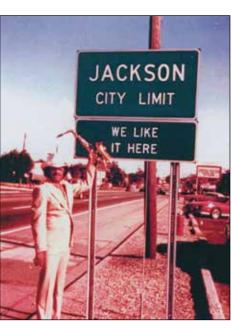
The posts can be 392 shares! viewed on the City's Facebook. Twitter, and Instagram pages. A collection posts is also available on the City website by visiting cityofjackson.org/blackhis-

John Willis, the City's Chief Equity Officer, is grateful for the response on social media. "We thank the community for such a big reaction to these Black

> History Month posts," Willis said. "This collaboration with the Ella Sharp Museum helps increase the understanding of the African American experience in Jackson; highlighting struggles, but also Black excellence."

This was the City's third year celebrating Black History Month on social media. In 2019, the City shared the stories of local African Americans who made an impact in the Jackson community and nation. 2020 had City staff highlighting impor-

tant places that effected the lives of African Americans in Jackson. 2019 and 2020 posts are also available to view on cityofjackson.org/ blackhistory.



tory. The most engagement

happened on Facebook,

with nine posts reaching a

combined total of 71,722

people, receiving 910 re-

actions, 69 comments and **Welcome Neighbor**

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Learn to Love Your Hometown

The Women Who Helped Shape Jackson

By Val Herr

March is one of my favorite months of the



year. Not just because it's my birthday month. I love this month for several reasons: robins start to return, we have more sunny days, spring is around the corner, and March is Women's History Month. Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history and society,

and it has been observed annually in the United States since 1987

Several organizations are celebrating Women's History Month including the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, https://www.jacksonchamber.org/womens-week/.

I want to celebrate a few women and highlight their contributions to our amazing community.

Ella Sharp

As I am the Deputy Director at Ella Sharp Museum, I feel as though I must begin with Ella Merriman Sharp. Ella was generous in life and in death. She worked with the city of Jackson to install women's public restrooms, (up until then there were only men's restrooms), have public drinking fountains and city street cleaners. Upon her death in 1912 she willed her 400 plus acres to the City of Jackson to create a public park and establish a museum. Ella was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

Emma Patton Nichols

Emma was an enslaved American who likely worked as a seamstress on a West Virginia plantation and came to Jackson on the Underground Railroad. Sometime in adulthood, Emma did make a daring and successful escape. Aided by the Underground Railroad, she traveled 400 miles northwest to Jackson. In Jackson, Emma met and married Richard Nichols, a well-known barber and former fugitive like herself. The couple resided on Biddle Street. Marriage marked an important milestone in the life of this selfemancipated woman. Had she remained in West Virginia, she and her intended would have had to ask their owners for permission to marry - a request usually denied. The autonomy that came with living on free soil must have been sweet for

an independent woman, who now had the freedom to choose her own mate. Two years after the Civil War ended. Richard died (1867), leaving Emma a widow. She devoted the rest of her life to her family and occupation. In 1916, the 85-year-old widow who traveled to Jackson on the Underground Railroad took her last journey to Mt. Evergreen Cemetery, where she was laid to rest in the plot purchased by her husband. The marker honoring her grave site was donated by Jackson Monument Works. Emma's story, and others like it, are told in the book, Hidden in Plain Sight, by local author Linda Hass.

Silence D. Blackman

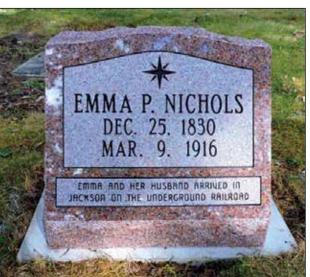
Silence was the daughter of Jackson's founder, Horace Blackman. Silence opened Jacksonburg's (the original name of Jackson) first school in the summer of 1831 in her father's home. The school principally taught her brothers, but was open to all children in the settlement. Silence's school was well received by the settlers, who welcomed an educational institution in the infant town. It moved the next year to the home of E.B. Chapman, and then to a former store building in

At the close of the third term, Silence's school had 30 students. She offered her services free of charge. Her obituary was penned for the Daily Citizen by Charles V. DeLand, who was one of only three remaining members of the original 39 members of Jackson's pioneer party. He recalled his old teacher with genuine affection:

"Miss Blackman had a stool to sit on and a square whitewood table to rest her books on. She was a patient and painstaking teacher. The books we used were the old New England Primer, Cobb's Spelling Book, Daboll's Arithmetic, Murray's Grammar, and the New Testament. Writing was done on the teacher's table, on cap paper with a goose quill pen. We used to speak pieces and sing Methodist hymns for variety and felt just as proud of our teacher as any alumni who ever worshipped at the shrine of his alma mater."

These women helped pave the path for all who came after them. What women do you want to recognize that are currently going above and beyond to make Jackson a better place to live. work and play? Please use this article to tag the women you want to recognize for making a difference.









Meet Tanner, The Laughing Dove, at Imagine Planet

Contributed by Imagine Planet

Wow! It's been almost a year since Imagine Planet has been open to the pub-We will be opening over spring break by appointment - yes, you heard right, we will be open to the public by appointment from March 29th to April 2nd. The reason we are taking appointments is that in my experience, there is nothing worse than a disappointed child and we have to make sure we don't become too crowded. Call or message 734-358-9893 or use Facebook Messenger to schedule an appointment.

Educators, Imagine Planet is also scheduling virtual Zoom outreach science programs for all

grades on topics including animal classification. animal adaptations using live animals, rocks and minerals, designing an experiment and the scientific method, or space. These programs are tailored to your grade level and specific content needs. Please contact Jean McKim at 734-358-9893 by phone or text or message Imagine Planet on Facebook for more information and to schedule a time. At this time, these will be FREE!

Our featured animal friend this month is Tanner, our laughing dove. Spilopelia senegalensis is native to Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent. The more familiar mourning dove (Zenaida macroura) is native to North America and is illegal to keep in captivity in the US. Tanner came to us from our dear friend, Sue, who had a flock of laughing doves a few years ago. Tanner had an injury to his wing and was being picked on, so Sue donated him to us. We use Tanner to illustrate the differences in beaks and feet between perching birds and parrots. He is cooing right now as I write this, a real difference from our parrots.

Like mourning doves, laughing doves are ground feeders and eat primarily seeds. We feed Tanner a commercially made dove and pigeon food. Pigeons and doves are all members of the family Columbidae and the words are used in-



terchangeably. The word dove comes from the Nordic languages and the word pigeon comes from the French. People often use dove for smaller, more delicate birds and pigeon for more robust birds, but this is not a scientific classification. The common pigeon is also called the rock dove.

Lifespan information about laughing doves is hard to find. One source soon at Imagine Planet!

says they can live from 5 to 10 years, with at least one instance of 14 years, another source says 25 years. They grow to about 10 inches, a little smaller than the mourning dove. They are not commonly found as pets here. Diamond doves and ringneck doves are more common and make good pets as well.

We hope to see you all

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Uno, Rocky & Ivan

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter The Jackson County Animal Shelter has pets available for adoption!

Uno

Uno is a 9 month old Staffordshire mix who is mostly white with tan markings. He is your typical puppy, very happy and excited when he comes out of the kennel. Uno is a jumper and fun to watch 'hop' through the snow. His high energy level would be best with someone who has the time to spend working with him and playing outside. Dog adoptions require an application, online link https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/ DocumentCenter/View/8193/Dog-Adoption-Application-PDF. 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. A cat room walk-through is available to test reaction. Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is \$150 medium/large dogs, \$250 puppies/small dogs which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Rocky & Ivan

It is a double package with Rocky and Ivan, they have been together for their whole life. This pair of plump 8 year old male cats are mellow as can be. Ivan is charcoal grey and Rocky is a buff color. Both boys have beautiful green eyes and have been exclusively indoor cats. Their owner left a beautiful letter about how they were the 'love of her life' but now she can no longer

care for them. Won't you come meet them today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat Adoption Fees are \$60 for one cat, \$80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/ neutering.

Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. Visiting the shelter is always best, but other resources include: Online applications: https://www.co.jackson. mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/803, 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. Current Shelter Hours: M, Tu, W, F, 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4.











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With Warm Weather just Around the Corner, the Jackson YMCA is Making Plans for Camp

By Bonnie Gretzner, Director of Marketing & Communication, Jackson YMCA

Spring Break Camp is held March 29 - April 2, and registration is also open for Summer Day Camp, held June 14 - Aug. 20. Parents can save by signing up for both now: Register for a full week of Spring Break Camp and get \$0 registration fees by signing up for at least a week of summer camp. That's a savings of \$34 per child.

"We want to make it Shelter. Campers as affordable as possible for parents to sign up for camp and give their child a fun, safe experience," said Lindsay Wood, the Jackson YMCA School-Age Coordinator and camp director. "It's been a long, cold winter, and everyone is ready for a break. Parents can be

assured that we are following all health guidelines, and our campers will have

a great time doing all the activities we have planned."

While the Spring Break Camp schedule is being finalized, Lindsay said campers can plan on swimming at the Y and trips to the Detroit Zoo, Hurst Planetarium at Ella Sharp and Jackson County Animal visited the shelter during winter camp, and the trip was so popular that the group will return to visit the pup-

pies and kittens and learn more about how the shelter cares for animals.

The team is also hard music/art/dance lessons.

at work on the summer went hiking, learned how schedule, which will include trips to local lakes,



parks, and museums. Last year, an average of 40 campers each week had

to build a fire, practiced archery and much more.

> Along with trips and activities this summer, Lindsay said she is hopeful the annual "big trips" to Cedar Point and Michigan's Adventure will be back on the schedule this year; both parks have already announced they plan 2021 season.

"Last year parents told us how much fun their kids had and how much appreciated they feeling 'normal' and getting a chance

to play with their friends," Lindsay said. "The opportunity to have fun and be a kid will be just as important this summer, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back to camp."

For more information:

How to register: Online at JacksonYMCA.org or in person at 127 W. Wesley St., Jackson, MI 49201. To take advantage of the Summer Day Camp/Spring Break Camp registration promotion, please register in person or contact lindsay@jacksonymca.org.

Rates: Contact the to be open for the Y for more information. Daily and weekly rates are available for Spring Break Camp, and weekly rates are offered for Summer Day Camp. Open to members and the community. Financial assistance is available.

> Contact: Call 517-782-0537 or email Lindsay Wood at lindsay@jacksonymca.org.



Celebrating 125 years of the Jackson YMCA

By Bonnie Gretzner, Director of Marketing & Communication, Jackson YMCA

It began in the First Congressional Church downtown on March 4, 1896. William McKinley was elected President that year, and most Americans still lit their homes with gas light and candles. Thousands of members later, the Jackson YMCA is celebrating 125 years of service to the Jackson community. To mark the milestone, the Y is offering a week of specials, selling commemorative shirts and providing free facility tours.

"We are thankful for the support and care from our members. volunteers, donors, staff and community partners who have sustained the YMCA from our earliest days," said Jackson YMCA CEO Shawna Tello. "We are honored to serve the community and play an integral role in the lives of so many. We treasure the opportunity to be a part of so many more Y stories in the decades to come."

The Jackson YMCA is a nonprofit, charitable organization with close to 6,000 members. Throughout the years the Y has stayed true to its purpose of strengthening the foundations of community by offering a wide range of programs for all ages that focus on Healthy Living, Youth Development and Social Responsibility. The Y has been at its current location at 127 W. Wesley St. since 1962 and has continued to grow and expand, adding the Summit Branch, 2151

Ferguson Rd., in 2014.

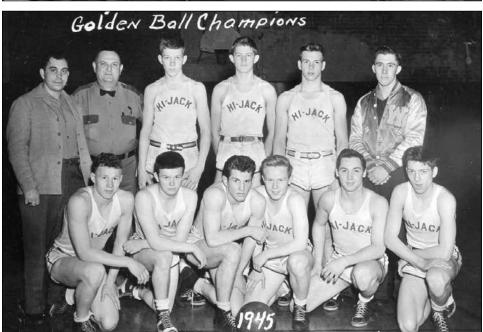
From March 4-11, the YMCA is offering \$1.25 join fees on all memberships, a savings of almost \$100. A variety of T-shirts featuring the Y's 125-year logo are on sale to members and the community for \$15; proceeds benefit the Y Strong Kids Strong Communities annual campaign. Funds raised in that campaign provide scholarships to children and adults to participate in Y programs and services. In addition, Y staff will provide tours to prospective members or community members who would like to learn more about Y programs and safety protocols in response to COVID-19.

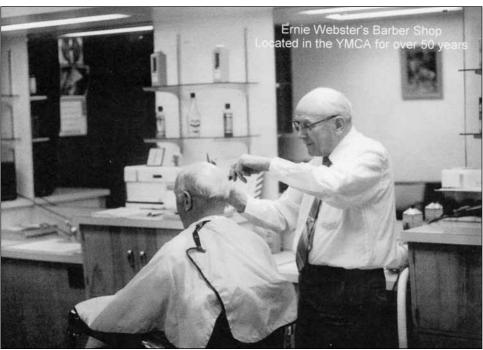
The YMCA is now in a campaign to build a new downtown healthy living campus and has close to \$22 million raised in pledges and contributions. YMCA leaders anticipate breaking ground in the summer of 2021. For more information, visit www. JacksonYMCA.org.

About the Jackson YMCA

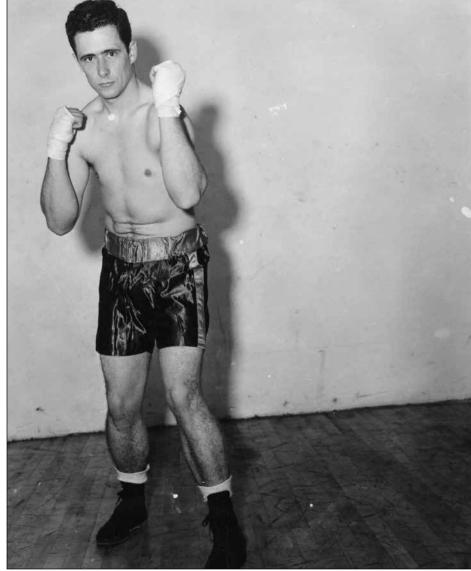
Since 1896 the Jackson YMCA has worked to provide opportunities for individuals of all walks of life. The Y serves men and women of all ages, religions and economic backgrounds through programs focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. A volunteer board of directors provides leadership to the Association, a member of the national organization: The YMCA of the USA. Visit www.JacksonYMCA.org.









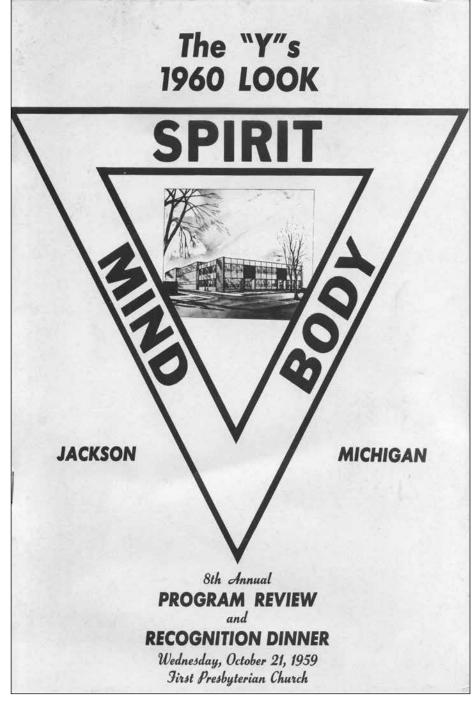
















Jackson District Library Launches Home Delivery Service

Contributed by the Jackson District Library

The Jackson District Library recently launched a new service that makes accessing library materials like books, movies, and video games easier for all its patrons. JDL Delivers allows all patrons to have their library materials mailed directly to them instead of picking them up in person. JDL users can sign up by visiting JDL's website at myjdl.com, clicking the JDL Delivers banner, and filling out the form with their address and other pertinent information.

Patrons have the option of choosing whether or not they would like to return their materials in person or mail their items back. If JDL patrons choose the latter, a stamped return address is included with their delivery.

Roughly 200 people signed up for the program in its first month, and JDL staff continues to make Postal Service for its deliveries, and the USPS is experiencing windfalls

of mail, packages, and gifts that

Some material may take a couple weeks to deliver, however library staff will automatically adjust due dates so fines won't begin to accrue due to mail delays. Additionally, JDL will only deliver within Michigan, due to delivery times.

Sara Tackett said.

"We may change where we mail to our patrons in the future, but mailing outside the state would likely result in materials being out of stock for much longer than we anticipate," JDL Director Sara Tackett said. "Some of our patrons have retreated to warmer climates this winter, and unfortunately we cannot mail their materials to them if they have moved outside of the state."

Anyone interested in the program can contact the library at 517-905-1358 with any questions they may have.



the program better and more accessible, officials said. "The Jackson District Library utilizes the U.S.

need delivered all over the country. including our patron's books, movies and video games," JDL Director

A Few Self-Coaching Techniques

By Alex Cash, Life Coach

Working with a life coach is a powerful tool to help you make improvements and get closer to your full potential. If you don't like the idea of opening up to another person so intimately or you are not ready to make the investment, you can try some self-coaching techniques first.

- 1. Get used to organizing your thoughts externally. This can come in the form of journaling, making lists, planning things on a calendar, drawing, song writing, etc. Get your thoughts out of your head and down on paper (or digitally). Seeing thoughts written down and organized helps you make sense of and process them.
- 2. Start asking yourself questions. A great life coach gets to the root of people's issues by asking well thought questions. You can ask great questions of yourself too! Mainly if something is bothering you, you need to first start out by asking "is this really a problem?" The human mind loves to create problems. It gives our mind something to work on all the time, rather than just be idle. Sometimes we create problems where there are none and if we reframe what we think is a problem

as an opportunity, we can patterns come up that you grow from it.

3. Practice lots of selfcompassion. When thought

aren't so fond of ask yourself "are these helpful thoughts?" If the answer is no, then work toward stopping those thoughts.

Check out Alex's website for more blogs like

these and find more information about working with her. Cocreativelifecoaching.com



YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

April 13 & 14

More details to come!

For more information contact Michelle at: (517) 513-1205 email: mwhite@nhaschools.com



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

College & Career Access Center, April Scholarships

Contributed by College & Career Access Center

The College & Career Access Center is grant funded; receiving financial support from local, state, and private donors. Each month scholarship information is made available for area students in addition to other services such as advising, outreach initiatives, and one-on-one help with post-secondary planning.

Frame My Future Scholarship Contest 2021

Eligibility:

- Attending a US college or university full-time for the 2021-2022 academic year (including community college, undergraduate or graduate school).
 - A legal US resident Description:
- The original creation must be your own work and must convey the theme, This Is How I Frame My Future.
- Finalists will be selected based on the creativity of the full entry, including the entry image and accompanying description (maximum of 500 characters).
- Your entry piece MUST be in a JPG/JPEG format or PNG file format.

Award: 1 Grand Prize: \$5,000 scholarship and a custom frame. 1st Runner Up: \$1,000 and a custom frame 2nd Runner Up: \$500 and a custom frame.

Deadline: April 1, 2021 @ 11:59 p.m. ET

Application:https://www.diplomaframe.com/contests/frame-my-future-scholarship.aspx

Curtis E. Huntington Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility:
Applicant must:

tution.

- Be enrolled as a fulltime student at a U.S. accredited educational insti-
- Have successfully completed at least one actuarial examination.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale).
- Be nominated by a professor at their school.

Description: The Curtis E. Huntington, FSA, MAAA, FCA, MSPA (1942-2013) Memorial Scholarship (formerly the John Culver Woody Scholarship) was established to recognize the remarkably positive impact Huntington had on the actuarial profession. He worked tirelessly to help students receive the financial assistance they needed. Given Huntington's 30 years of service to the actuarial profession and to his students, it is only fitting that the scholarship continues in his name.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to undergraduate Seniors who are enrolled as a full-time student at a U.S. accredited educational institution, have successfully completed at least one actuarial examination, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale) and must be nominated by a professor at their school. Each year, selected students receive a \$3,000 scholarship award. College is expensive. Service 1 FCU can help! The 2021 Calvin J. Peterson Memorial Scholarship application period is open to Service 1 Federal Credit Union members and their families. College-bound high school and current college students can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to help with education expenses for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Award: \$3,000

Deadline: April 1st, 2021 Application: https://theactuarialfoundation. submittable.com/sub-mit/171087/curtis-e-huntington-memorial-scholas-hip

ITW Foundation Scholarships

Eligibility:

- A dependent child (through age 22) of an eligible active, regular, fulltime U.S. or Canada ITW employee.
- A senior in high school, a graduate from high school, or an undergraduate who is currently enrolled or planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited vocational-technical school, junior college, four-year college or university for the entire upcoming academic year.
- * The ITW Calmer L. Johnson/John W. Leslie National Merit Scholarship Program recipients are not eligible to receive an award

through this program.

Description:

ITW Foundation Scholarship Program awards are made on the basis of your academic record, demonstrated leadership and extra-curricular accomplishments, work experience, a statement of educational and career goals, and a recommendation by a counselor, advisor, or

Award: \$3,500

website for full details.

Deadline: April 1, 2021 by 3:00 pm

instructor. * Visit the ITW

Application:https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/ itw/

Kayla O'Mara Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility:

- Be a graduating senior from any Michigan High School entering your first year at an accredited college or university
- Complete all application questions.
- Write a letter explaining why you feel you are deserving of this award and the steps you have taken to achieve your full potential as a student, athlete, and/or teammate during high school.
- Provide a letter of recommendation from one of your high school teachers or coaches.
 - Provide a copy of high

school transcripts for at least your junior and senior years

Description: Kayla O'Mara was an All-State runner at Goodrich High School from 2003 until 2006. She was a dedicated student, teammate, and friend. The Kayla O'Mara Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Kayla's life, her commitment to academic excellence, her passion for running, and her dedication to her teammates. Through the following questions and written essays, please portray for the selection committee how you've lived commitment, passion and dedication to things that are important to you.

Award: Varies

Deadline: April 1, 2021 Application: https:// runsignup.com/Race/MI/ Goodrich/KaylaOMaraMemorialRoadRace

ABA Academic Merit Scholarship

Eligibility:

- Be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student at an accredited university (4-year university/college or junior college).
- Have a declared major or course of study relevant to the transportation, travel, and tourism industry.
 Transportation, travel and

tourism encompass a varying range of professions from accounting to hospitality management and everything in between.

- Submit a short essay which must include a description of how their major or course of study is relevant to the transportation, travel, and tourism industries.
- Must maintain a minimum GPA of a 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Description:

Applicants are judged on their high level of academic achievement, character, leadership, financial need, and commitment to advancing the transportation, travel, and tourism industry. Applicants are required to submit a 500-word essay discussing the role they hope to play in advancing the future of the transportation, motorcoach, travel, and tourism/hospitality industry.

Award: \$5,000
Deadline: April 1, 2021
Application:https://www.buses.org/aba-foundation/scholarships

Visit the College & Career Access Center today in the Jackson Crossing!

For the complete list of February scholarships please visit www.jcisd. org/CCAC.



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Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County & Bright by Text Partner to Help Children Learn from Home

Contributed by the Jackson County Intermediate School District

The Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County announced it has teamed up with Bright by Text, a national parent texting program, to put expert tips, games, and child development information directly into the hands of parents and caregivers. The Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County is proud to offer a unique resource like Bright by Text as children are learning from home and families find it difficult to access the services they need.

The texting service includes topics like brain development, games, and activities. health and wellness. STEM. safety, and more. Bright by Text partners with experts like PBS, Vroom, Sesame Street, CDC, and others to develop content for families with children aged prenatal to age eight.

In addition to expert content, Bright by Text includes informational messages and resources specific to the Jackson County community, such as familyfriendly events, digital library resources, food pantries,

and preschool enrollment. Christina Blackwell, from the Great Start Collaborative, says, "throughout the past few years, we have heard time and time again that parents would like to receive quick, simple, and age-appropriate information on their child, sent electronically. We live in an electronic age and parents are busy. Bright by Text offers what families in Jackson County are looking for, with links sent in texts that lead to additional information that families can review at their leisure. With the addition of community partner messages going out to Jackson County families, this is a definite win for all."

Bright by Text helps parents and caregivers make the most out of time at home with their children by illustrating fun and easy activities, providing positive parenting tips and resources, and even video content to guide a child's development. The program is proven to build nurturing caregiver-child relationships, and positively impact a child's healthy development and school readiness.

Parents and caregivers can feel assured that they are receiving important local announcements and information in Jackson County thanks to the Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County and its partners.

To sign up, parents and caregivers with children under 8 can text the word GREATSTART to 274448. They will receive 2 to 4 text messages per week, and each message includes a link to a landing page with more detail, short modeling videos, and links to related resources.

Schedules & Routines: Why are They Important?

By Allison Wirick, Community Action Agency

Every morning, I wake up and have the same routine. Turn off the alarm, make coffee, let the dogs out, shower, drink coffee. We like routines becuase they provide comfort in difficult and uncertain times. The same is true for children. Schedules and routines allow children to feel more confident and secure in their daily lives and activities when they are predictable and familiar. A consistent daily schedule and step-by-step routine give children that predictability throughout their day. Schedules and routines in

help children:

- Feel in control of their environment
 - Feel safe
- Know what is happening now and what is coming next
- Know how to complete and activity or task
 - Engage in learning

When children are part of familiar activities and routines, they develop relationships with people they interact with and gain a sense of belonging and self-confidence. As children get older, they can follow routines allowing them to grow more independent and adjust to

school and at home can change more easily. When creating a routine at home:

- Keep it simple
- Break down your scheduled tasks into steps to create a routine
- Let your children help
- Keep the schedule and routine as similar as possible each day

Some of the benefits children gain from a consistent routine are increased confidence and independence, greater self-control and stress reduction. Also, while routines are important and benefit you and your child, it is important to remain flexible.





Five Reasons to Refresh your Outdoor Living Space for all Seasons

(BPT) - Last year, many people took a fresh look at their outdoor living spaces, as life outdoors became of renewed importance as spaces to gather together. Backyards transformed into stay-cation retreats, and front entries were revamped into spaces for social distancing reminiscent of old-fashioned porches.

No matter where you live, your outdoor space can be enjoyed all season with simple upgrades using hardscapes, such as adding a fire pit for warm gatherings or an outdoor kitchen for the taste of summer all year. Whether you do it yourself or hire a landscape professional, hardscaping materials including natural stone, interlocking concrete pavers and retaining wall systems - can add value to your home and help set the stage for a heated hot tub, cozy seating around a fire, wood-fired ovens for pizza parties and more.

1) Add a fire feature for chilly days and nights. A fireplace, fire table, fire pit, chiminea or patio heater will enhance any outdoor space with warmth and ambiance. "One of our most popular hardscape installations features a fire ring surrounded by a seat wall," said Scott Arnold, manager of Villa Landscapes in St.

Paul, Minnesota. "A fire feature is a useful and beautiful addition to any outdoor space that you can enjoy all year." Fire pits and fireplaces also are available in kits including all materials

says. "Easily accessible grills, wood-fired ovens or outdoor kitchens built with hardscapes are essential in outdoor spaces."

3) Create easy access from indoors to outdoors. A

installed. "We often vary paver shapes, colors and textures to define space and create distinct outdoor rooms," says Arnold.

4) Consider yearround seating, such as of a YouTube channel on landscaping, "Dirt Monkey University." Says Genadek: "Because of its versatility and ease of installation, VERSA-LOK is the gold standard in retaining wall systems." Use it for retaining walls, freestanding and seat walls, couches, tiers with bermed seating, planters, columns, curves and more.

5) Accessorize with functionality in mind. Lighting, pergolas, shades, awnings, screens and yearround furniture should be considered in an outdoor space all-season refresh. Low-voltage LED lighting can be installed between courses of retaining wall units, under capstones and along paving stone patios and paths. Look for furniture, such as Comfort Craft Outdoor Furniture, that's durable against the elements and doesn't need storage or maintenance other than cleaning.

Outdoor living is an essential part of everyone's health and well-being, and hardscaping materials help you create an outdoor space that adds value to your property and keeps you outside longer into the night, earlier in the spring and later into the season.



that are popular with do-ityourselfers.

2) A dedicated outdoor cooking space lets you grill in any season. Along with multifunction grills, compact wood-fired outdoor ovens are popular choices, and hardscape designs can make the perfect countertop or grill island. "Cooking outside isn't just for summer," Arnold

raised patio, built with retaining wall units and pavers, is a low-maintenance solution as compared to a deck. Its surface absorbs heat and may help keep ice at bay. Pavers come in many styles, textures and colors, and require little to no maintenance if properly seat walls created with segmental retaining wall units. "VERSA-LOK is the one block I do 90% of my projects with; it can do it all," says Stan Genadek, owner of Genadek Excavating and Landscaping in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, and creator and host



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Partnering with Parents to Keep Student-Athletes Safe

Contributed by **ORS**

As a parent of a student-athlete, you are likely already aware of the benefits of sports. Studentathletes are generally more physically fit, more socially engaged, and more committed to staying in school.

A parent's worst nightmare is to see his or her child in pain and taken away to an emergency room. Injuries during sports-related events and practices seem inevitable but there are steps that parents can take to help reduce that risk for their child. Parents teaming up with athletic trainers can help provide those safe conditions.

They also experience a clear advantage later in life. They are more successful in their careers, more attuned to teamwork, and more committed to seeing tasks all the way through. But involvement in high school sports can also mean experiencing certain risks.

High school athletes can face a variety of challenges due to their involvement in sports.

- 90% of student-athletes report some sort of sports-related injury in their athletic careers
- 54% of student-athletes report they have played while injured
- 37% of high school athletes say they have experienced sprains
 - 12% report they have sustained concus-

sions and head injuries from their time on the field

The stakes are alarmingly high. This is why parents of a student-athlete must do his or her part to help keep their child safe.

What can you do as a parent? Plenty. Let your child know the statistics. Encourage them to never play injured. Remind them no game is so important that it's worth endangering a student athlete's well-being. But the most impor-

tant thing a parent can do is become an advocate for sports safety by ensuring that your student-athlete has proper medical support during games and practice, supporting sports safety legislation, and knowing the signs and symptoms of injury or illness.

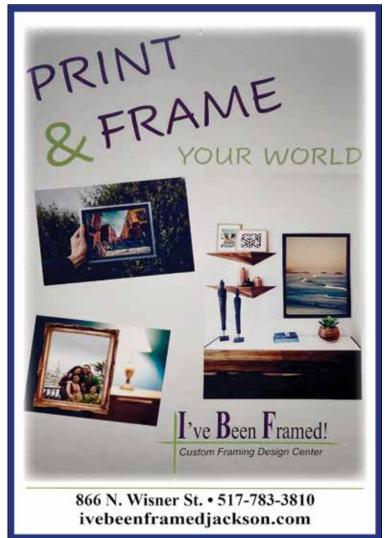
Athletic trainers are equipped to provide student-athletes a multitude of services. Athletic trainers provide medical care and supervision during games and practice and develop injury prevention programs to keep athletes healthy and on the field. Additionally, athletic trainers are able to assist with injury prevention education during practice and one-on-one time with athletes and through regular communication with parents.

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists is

a local, privately-owned physical therapy business that partners with local schools to provide licensed athletic trainers to protect the studentathletes in our communities. Ask your school's athletic department if they have a Licensed Athletic Trainer on the sidelines.

March is National Athletic Training Month. Learn more about ORS Athletic Training at orsmi. com/athletic-training.





When the Center Gets the Vaccine, We are Ready to Go!

Contributed by Center for Family Health

The Center for Family Health is poised and ready to start putting the CO-VID-19 vaccine in patients' arms.

In fact, the Center has been approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as a vaccination site.

The Center will follow the MDHHS guidelines and first offer the shots to its 65-andolder patients, said Dr. Rose frontline health workers their Johnson, the Center's Chief Medical Officer.

"We have the processes in place to give the vaccine to patients," she said.

Depending on the availability of the Covid vaccine it could be extended to essential workers, Dr. Johnson

"Our plan is to keep ordering," she said. The Center received an initial shipment of 100 doses of the It was Moderna vaccine. used to give the Center's first of two vaccine doses. The second dose is due 28 days after the first.

"We are very excited about helping the community during this pandemic," Dr. Johnson said. "Once we get enough vaccine doses, we can offer it to the community in an office visit."

An individual could come in, request the vaccine and get it immediately, she said. For more information, visit www.CenterforFamily-Health.org.



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