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Fairy Festival

- page 2

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Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. Our mission is to inspire community unification and promote the voices of organizations and individuals in Jackson County through a collaborative monthly publication.

Learn more at
www.jacksfamilyguide.org

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EST. 2015

Fairy Festival Returning to Downtown Jackson

By Claire Fetterman,
Jackson School of the Arts

Jackson School of the Arts is thrilled to announce the return of its beloved Annual Fairy Festival on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 135 W. Cortland St. in Downtown Jackson. This enchanting event invites children and adults alike to immerse themselves in a world of wonder and imagination while supporting a great cause.

Attendees will explore a whimsical Fairy Kingdom filled with fairy lands, characters, and magic. Children can interact with a pirate and mermaid in Mermaid Cove while Dark Mountain offers a place for young adventurers to explore. The Neverland Theater will feature a production that tells a classic

tale. Fairy Guides are available to lead visitors through the magical experience. Guests can also enjoy a delightful tea experience with the Fairy Queen, design a special fairy or dragon craft, get their face painted by experienced artists, and more!

To make the day even sweeter, kids can pick up a free cupcake while parents enjoy a coffee in Cupcake Café. Visitors are encouraged to dress in their fairy or storybook best to fully embrace the magic of the festival.

As the biggest fundraiser for Jackson School of the Arts, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Fairy Festival is essential to raise the funds to provide affordable arts education to children and families throughout

Jackson County. Tickets for Fairy Festival are available in advance for \$20 per child and \$5 per adult, while at-the-door prices are \$30 per child and \$5 per adult. Each attendee must have their own ticket, and all tickets are electronic. Ticketed time slots are available every 15 minutes from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with limited availability in each slot, so early reservations are highly recommended.

To purchase tickets, visit jacksonarts.org/fairy. Don't miss this opportunity to step into a magical world filled with creativity, adventure, and meaningful support for arts education. For more information, contact the Jackson School of the Arts at (517) 784-2389 or email info@jacksonarts.org.



Photos courtesy of the Jackson School of the Arts



2025 3rd Annual
Shamrock Shuffle 5k
Run/Walk
Saturday
March 15 @ 12:30 pm
Little Leprechauns Kid Run @ 12:00pm
Horace Blackman Park, W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI

Early Bird Special
\$25
PER ENTRY

Scan to register or visit
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Jackson/JacksonYMCAShamrockShuffle>

The Jackson YMCA is proud to present the 2025 Shamrock Shuffle 5k Run/Walk! Kick-off St. Patty's Day early with a brisk run or walk through downtown Jackson.

Early bird pricing: \$25 until 2/28, \$30 until 3/14, \$40 on race day (no shirt). Shirts are not guaranteed after March 5, supplies available while they last.
Packet pickup: March 14 from noon to 6pm at the Jackson YMCA, 127 W. Wesley St., Jackson, MI

Proceeds from the Shamrock Shuffle benefit the Jackson YMCA's Strong Communities program. At the YMCA, no one is denied participation due to proven inability to pay. Race proceeds will be distributed to youth, adults, seniors and families to participate in the Y and its programs such as: swim lessons, after-school programs, and chronic disease prevention programs.
OUR MISSION: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy Spirit, Mind, and Body FOR ALL.

New Police, Fire Chiefs on the Job in Jackson

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson
Public Information Officer



The City of Jackson has some fresh but familiar faces leading efforts to keep our community safe. Jackson is welcoming Tim Gonzales as our new Fire Chief and Christopher Simpson as our new Police Chief.

Chief Christopher Simpson became Jackson's top cop in Feb. following the retirement of former Chief Elmer Hitt. The new Chief is a lifelong Jackson resident with extensive experience in local law enforcement. Simpson previously worked for Jackson police for 25 years, retiring as a Lieutenant in 2017. He recently served as Undersheriff for the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, a position he held since 2020.

Continuing the department's outreach work is a priority for Simpson. "Ensuring that citizens of Jackson remain safe and employees of the Jackson Police Department are highly trained, professional, and ethical in all policing endeavors. I plan on coming in and looking at where we are internally and make changes if needed," Simpson said.

With the separation of Jackson's police and fire departments earlier this year, Tim Gonzales ascended to the role of Fire Chief from Deputy Fire Chief. He's a Jackson native who has been with the Jackson Fire Department for 17 years.

Chief Gonzales has been leading Jackson's fire crews since 2023 following the retirement of former

Deputy Fire Chief David Wooden. The City has not had a Fire Chief position since 2010, when the police and fire departments were combined under Police and Fire Services.

Gonzales says he's looking forward to continuing programs that will make the community safer. "Programs like our car seat inspections show how we can help residents take preventative measures if an emergency does occur. Focusing on more risk reduction programs will show that we can assist with different aspects of community safety," Chief Gonzales said.

Former Chief Hitt was with the Jackson Police Department since 1996, working his way up to Chief from starting as a Police Cadet. Under his leadership, the police department greatly expanded its involvement in the community, such as launching the Group Violence Intervention Program, a community-centered approach that is reducing gun violence in Jackson.

"It was truly an honor to serve the City of Jackson as the Director of Police and Fire Services over the course of the past 8 years. Starting with JPD as an 18-year-old kid out of high school, I never expected to make it to where I did. I will forever be grateful for all those in my life that helped and guided me along the way. Law enforcement has been a great career and I will miss it, but I know I am ready to move on to the next chapter of my life," former Chief Hitt said.

The City of Jackson thanks former Chief Hitt for his service to the community and is looking forward to working with our new public safety leaders.



Fire Chief
Tim Gonzales



Police Chief
Chris Simpson

MEET ME AT THE Y

The More, the Merrier! Join the Y with a Friend & Get Perks

March 1, 2025 — April 30, 2025

Members who refer a friend to join the YMCA receive a referral bonus.
For every friend who joins, you'll receive one free month of adult membership.
New Members: Get a free Y swag item when you join!

Bring a Friend & Earn Prizes!

Invite a friend to join & earn rewards!
Invite a friend to visit the Y with you for free!

For more information contact member services at frontdesk@jacksonymca.org or 517.782.0537

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Evaluate your child's readiness for Young 5s or Kindergarten at one of Paragon's assessment screenings.

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April 16 • 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Call 517-750-9500 to schedule your appointment.

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Not enrolled at Paragon? Scan here to apply today!

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Brutus & Biker

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Brutus

Brutus is a four-year-old American Staffordshire mix who arrived as a stray. He is mostly white with an adorable black spot over one eye. Brutus is house-trained and walks well on a leash. He's not a barker or a jumper and can usually be found lounging in his bed, sitting politely just like in his photo. Come meet this sweet boy—he's been patiently waiting for his forever home! Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online here. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; however, any necessary medical procedures may cause a slight delay in the adoption process. A mandatory meet & greet with your dog

is essential. A cat room walk-through is available to test reactions. Dogs will be placed with approved applicants, and the adoption fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.



Biker

Biker is a five-year-old brown tabby with white markings who arrived as a stray. He is calm and quiet, always ready for a good nap. Though he's on the smaller side at just 8 pounds, he perks right up for treats! With his striking green eyes and love for attention, Biker would make the perfect snuggle

buddy this winter. Stop by and meet this guy 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. While visiting the shelter is always recommended, you can also submit an online cat application here, fax it to 517-780-4750, or email it to animalshelter@mijackson.org. For more information, visit our website at mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

This month, we have Buster looking for his forever home! Hi, I'm Buster, a neutered male Heeler mix with a heart full of love and energy! I'm up to date on vaccines, heartworm negative, and microchipped—ready to find my forever family. I'm playful, love adventure, and already know commands like sit, stay, and speak. Fetch is my favorite game, and since I'm food-motivated, I'm eager to learn even more! I get along well with other dogs, but a meet-

and-greet is required—just make sure your pup is up to date on their rabies vaccine. When I'm not zooming around, I love cooling



About the Cascades Humane Society

Organized and incorporated in 1952, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and creating lasting connections between pets and families. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgoightly@chspets.org.





Cascades Humane Society

2025 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 27

BRIDGERTON TEA PARTY

Commonwealth Commerce Center

JUNE 21

PAWS IN THE PARK

Cascades Park

SEPTEMBER 27

PUNCHLINES FOR PAWS

Commonwealth Commerce Center

For More Information: www.chspets.org

Hometown Eats

March 2025 Edition

By Val Herr

Hometown eats doesn't get much better than a local diner. Located at 3405 Brooklyn Road, Jackson 49203, Booher's is exactly what they advertise to be: a local diner with fresh, made to order food. As soon as you step through the door you immediately feel that everyone is welcome there.

With a small dining room, around 30 seats, it was clear this Friday evening that they do as much in take-out as they do in the dining room.

We started off with homemade cheese sticks. Now, I admittedly am a cheese stick snob, so if you are going to tell me that your cheese sticks are homemade, they better be amazing, and YES, they were! With a smaller menu (that's because it's all fresh and made to order), each of us decided to try something different. I opted for the spe-

cial chicken cordon blue, my son chose a burger, and Matt had a handheld sandwich. The portions are generous, and prices are very reasonable. I took half of mine home for the next day. The table next to us ordered the pasta special, and it was easy enough for two people.

With the portions so generous, we didn't have enough room for the pies they are known for, but we did get a slice of peanut butter pie to go. My son, who is a harsh food critic, stated that this was the best peanut butter pie he'd ever had, so I took notice. It was creamy and full of peanut butter flavor.

It's also worth noting that while we were there, two people who own local restaurants came in to dine. I think that says a great deal about an establishment when people who are in the food business choose to come to your place to eat. Booher's hit all the marks with good, quality food and service. It has 1.5-dollar signs and four stars.

Be sure to check out Booher's for either dine-in or take-out.



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Hot Air Jubilee & Dawn Foods Partner to Host 2025 U.S. Women’s National Hot Air Balloon Championship in Jackson, MI

*Contributed by
Dawn Foods*

The Hot Air Jubilee and Dawn Foods are thrilled to announce their partnership to host the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) 2025 U.S. Women’s National Hot Air Balloon Championship, set to take place in Jackson, Michigan from July 14 through 19, 2025. This collaboration reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to empower women, supporting community growth, and elevating Jackson’s role as a leader in ballooning events nationwide.

Angela Madden, Chair of the Hot Air Jubilee, expressed her excitement about the event and the partnership: “We are beyond excited to bring the U.S. Women’s National Championship back to Jackson, MI,” said Madden. “The Hot Air Jubilee has always been about creating an inclusive, family-friendly event, and this partnership with Dawn Foods will allow us to celebrate the incredible talents of women in ballooning. By empowering female pilots, we’re not only showcasing their skills but also inspiring the next generation of female leaders. This event will bring the community together while enhancing our city’s legacy in the ballooning world.”

Cherie Good, Head of Corporate Giving at Dawn Foods, emphasized the company’s dedication to supporting women in leadership and contributing to the local community:

“Dawn Foods is proud to partner with the Hot Air Jubilee to host the 2025 U.S. Women’s National Championship,” said Good. “This event showcases the dedication

and talent of women in the sport while bringing our community together in an exciting way. These pilots embody determination and inspire future generations, and we’re honored to play a role in bringing the community together to witness their incredible skill.”

The U.S. Women’s National Championship is a premier event that will showcase the talent and dedication of female balloonists from across the country. This partnership aims to highlight the power of community collaboration, bringing together local businesses, residents, and visitors in celebration of both aviation and leadership.

The 2025 U.S. Women’s National Hot Air Balloon Championship will take place July 14 through 19, prior to the Hot Air Jubilee’s annual festival, which has become a beloved tradition in Jackson. The championship will take center stage, inspiring both spectators and participants alike with its display of skill and ambition.

For more information on the 2025 U.S. Women’s National Hot Air Balloon Championships and the Hot Air Jubilee, please visit www.hotairjubilee.com or follow us on social media.

About the Hot Air Jubilee

The Hot Air Jubilee is an annual hot air balloon festival held in Jackson, MI. Celebrating the beauty of hot air ballooning, the festival features balloon challenges, family entertainment, and food. The event attracts thousands of visitors each year and is known for its fun atmosphere and commitment to supporting the local community.

About Dawn Foods

Dawn Foods is a global bakery manufacturer and ingredients supplier, dedicated to inspiring bakery success. Headquartered in Jackson, Michigan, Dawn partners with over 50,000 bakers, food service leaders, and manufacturers in more than 100 countries, supported by nearly 4,000 team members. Since 1920, Dawn has been a trusted advisor, delivering the insights, innovations, and products that help customers grow.

About the Balloon Federation of America

The Balloon Federation of America is a membership organization dedicated to the art, sport, and science of ballooning, and to providing a unified voice for the purpose of representing U.S. balloonists and ballooning enthusiasts across the United States of America, its territories, and possessions, before the international ballooning community.

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the Y

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8:30 am - 11:30 am OR 1 pm - 4 pm

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AGES 5 - 12

Financial Assistance is available
Contact sam@jacksonYMCA.org for more information

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St. Patty's Green Facial

By Victoria Beaman

Get your St. Patty's fix with an at-home green facial filled with antioxidants and nutrients.



Keep in mind:

Skin is one of our most important armours against environmental pollutants, it absorbs or it can act as a protection, it absorbs everything, good and bad. Lets tip the scales for the good!!!

St. Patty's Green Facial!

You can do a "green facial" at home by creating a face mask using matcha green tea powder, which is often considered the key ingredient for a "green" facial effect; simply mix the matcha powder with other beneficial ingredients like honey, bentonite clay, or aloe vera to create a paste and apply it to your face as a mask.

Key points about a DIY green facial:

- Main ingredient: Matcha green tea powder, known for its antioxidant properties.
- Other potential additions:

- Bentonite clay: Helps absorb impurities and detoxify the skin

- Honey: Provides moisture and soothing benefits

- Aloe vera: Can help calm irritation and hydrate the skin

- Vitamin E oil: Can help with skin repair and protect against free radicals

How to do a green facial at home:

1. Mix the ingredients: Combine matcha powder with your chosen liquid (water, aloe vera gel, or yogurt) until you achieve a smooth paste.

2. Apply to face: Evenly spread the mask over your clean face, avoiding the eye area.

3. Leave on for 10-15 minutes: Allow the mask to dry on your face.

4. Rinse off: Gently wash the mask off with lukewarm water.

Send pictures of your at home facial to ToriB Beauty @ Facebook for a opportunity for a complimentary facial package from VBeauty Skincare.

XXOO

Victoria

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College & Career Access Center, March Scholarships

AMS Freshman Undergraduate Scholarships

Description:
The American Meteorological Society is pleased to announce the AMS Freshman Undergraduate Scholarship program, open to all high school students and designed to encourage study in the atmospheric and related sciences. Serving as a unique example of various sectors of our field joining together to support young, talented minds, the scholarships are being sponsored by partners in industry, as well as through named scholarships either established by an AMS member or in memory of someone. The Society encourages applications from women, minorities, and disabled students, traditionally underrepresented in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences.

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply for this scholarship:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or hold permanent resident status.
- Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants must be entering their freshman year of college in the fall of 2023 as a full-time student and plan to pursue a degree in the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. Marine biology does not meet this requirement.

Award: \$5,000 - awarding \$2,500 each year for freshman and sophomore years

Deadline: March 14, 2025

Jackson Commercial Contractors Association

Description: The Jackson Commercial Contractors Association (JCCA) is pleased to announce that we will award several merit based scholarships between \$1,000 – \$2,000 at our April 9, 2025 JCCA Membership meeting from 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the Cascades Manor. The scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors, graduating this year, who have a sincere interest in a construction-related career.


Eligibility:

- Senior graduating in 2025 from a Jackson County High School
- Student must be enrolling in a 2 or 4 year College or University, a recognized trade school, a formal training program conducted by a construction industry trade organization or an apprenticeship program.

Award: varies from \$1,000 to \$2,000

Deadline: March 21, 2025


For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at jacksoncac.org.




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JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR JPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!

• Cascades Elementary	April 16	5:00 - 6:30 pm
• Dibble Elementary	April 14	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• Hunt Elementary	April 17	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• John R. Lewis Elementary	April 21	5:00 - 6:30 pm
• JPS Montessori Elementary	April 23	5:00 - 6:30 pm
• Northeast Elementary	April 22	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• Sharp Park Academy	April 24	5:30 - 7:00 pm

- Please arrive early as program will begin promptly!
- Prizes & Food!

- Community partners will be available to serve you!
- Free T-Shirt upon enrollment!



For More Information Please Call 517-841-2147