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- page 7



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FIND US AT A LOCAL BUSINESS!

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EST. 2015

Learn to Love Your Hometown

Ensuring Accessibility for All

By Val Herr

The Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn is leading the charge to ensure that kids of all abilities have a place to play and make memories. Swain Memorial Park, located near the corner of Tecumseh Street and River Street just north of downtown Brooklyn, hasn't been updated in years. The equipment is old, un-



safe, and not accessible. This is about to change. Through hard work, community support, and fundraising, this park will receive a complete makeover.

By the time you read this article, Swain Park will have removed all the old equipment, ADA compliant rubber mulch will be laid, and all the new accessible equipment will be installed. The Kiwanis Club was able to raise enough funds to purchase the new equip-



Photo contributed by Val Herr

ment. Their partner, the Village of Brooklyn, received State of Michigan funding to surround the project and create additional accessibility in the park through the addition of the new parking lot and trails leading to the playground equipment, pavilion, and restrooms. The total project was around \$400,000.

That can seem like a great deal of money, but when you put into the perspective of ensuring that all kids, parents and families can come to this park to enjoy themselves and make memories it's absolutely worth it.

This is one of the many reasons I LOVE my hometown. Groups, community members and local government work together to benefit our community. It can be difficult to create change by yourself but by working together we can do anything.

Our fall weather has been perfect, and there is plenty of time to take a drive and enjoy Brooklyn's new park.

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Hayes Development in Jackson Boosted by \$4.5 Million in State Funds

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson
Public Information Officer



A major redevelopment effort in Jackson has been boosted by \$4.5 million from the State of Michigan. The funding support for The Hayes project comes from the 2025 State Budget through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The funding was formally handed over to the City of Jackson by State Senators Sue Shink and Sarah Anthony on Tuesday, Oct. 15 during a check presentation event. \$4.5 million will go to the City to help close a funding gap needed for The Hayes development to move forward. The City sold the former hotel building to J. Jeffers & Co., a Milwaukee-based development company, in 2022. Since then, the company and local officials have worked to secure addition-

al funding for the project. The \$4.5 million allocation is the result of Mayor Daniel Mahoney and local business leaders advocating for additional funding to make the project happen. Mayor Daniel Mahoney says this will help accomplish a long-time goal of redeveloping this vacant property. "This is the icing on the cake of all the transformation that Downtown Jackson has had over the last 10 years. I am very appreciative to be here to witness it and be part of it," Mayor Mahoney said.

The \$40 million investment will rehabilitate the 10 story historic building into a rejuvenated development named The Hayes. Plans call for transforming the building to include 15 short-term rentals and 84 apartments. The market-rate apartments will be a mix of studio, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom units. The Hayes will also feature event, office and commercial space on the first three floors.

The Hayes property is located on W. Michi-

gan Avenue in the heart of Downtown Jackson. Built in 1926, the building functioned as a hotel until 1975. Consumers Energy used the property for office space until 2003. The City of Jackson took control of the building in 2004. For the past 20 years, the City has been preserving the building for future development. Efforts to sell the property

gained momentum in 2021 when the City started collaborating with the Anchor Initiative for economic development.

J. Jeffers & Co. has previously completed sizable rehabs of historic buildings in Milwaukee. Brian Loftin says his company is excited to start this project in Jackson. "The building has a solid core and shell.

Some may see blight, but we see a great opportunity," Loftin said. "One of the things that attracted us to the project was all the work that's already been done in the City, such as the vibrancy that you can see taking shape downtown."

With additional funding secured, renovation work on the property is likely to start in early 2025.



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson
State Senators Sue Shink and Sarah Anthony present Mayor Daniel Mahoney and local officials with \$4.5 million in State funding for the Hayes redevelopment.



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Where Community Comes Together.

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Punch and Hermione

Contributed by the
Jackson County
Animal Shelter

Punch

Meet Punch, an eight-year-old Beagle with a heart as big as his personality! Punch is a friendly, social pup who enjoys spending time with other dogs at the shelter. Beagles are known for their adaptable, curious, and loving nature, and Punch is no exception. He's handsome, house-trained, and low-maintenance when it comes to grooming. Punch loves going outside and taking walks, making him a great companion for someone looking to share in daily adventures. As a senior dog, Punch's adoption fee is reduced, so come meet this sweet, loyal boy and see if he's the perfect match for you! 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.



Hermione

Meet Hermione, a stunning seven-month-old long-haired brown tabby with big, captivating green eyes, a soft pink nose, and a delicate white chin. Originally a stray, Hermione arrived at the shelter timid and frightened, but she's since blossomed into a friendly, affectionate companion. She's made friends with other cats and grown comfortable around people, showing her

sweet and trusting nature. Hermione loves treats, enjoys being held, and is ready to bring warmth and beauty into a loving home. Come meet this gentle girl—you'll fall in love with her charm and grace! Stop by and meet her 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

Meet Flamingo, a playful and rambunctious four-month-old male pup with a stunning brindle coat in rich shades of brown. Always on the go, Flamingo is full of energy and ready to explore, whether he's racing after toys or enjoying outdoor playtime. His lively spirit promises to bring excitement to any home! This little guy is not only passionate about play but also has a big love for treats, making him eager to learn and thrive with positive reinforcement. Ideal for an active household that enjoys engaging play

and adventures, Flamingo is ready to be your perfect companion. His adoption fee is normally \$360, but for the month of November, that fee will be sponsored by Lammers Heating and

with walk-ins prioritized until our last adoption at 5:30 PM. Bring joy, laughter, and plenty of play into your life by adopting Flamingo today!

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 hgolightly@chspets.org.



2023
IMPACT

Cascades Humane Society

1,200 TOTAL ADOPTIONS

384 PETS SAVED FROM HIGH-KILL OR AT CAPACITY SHELTERS

14,938 POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED

900 OWNED CATS OR DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED

Tailless Whip Scorpion

By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet

When we first got our tailless whip scorpion at the Jackson Reptile Show over a year ago, I thought it was a strange whip scorpion, an animal I had cared for before. It was so small that it was easy to lose in the substrate of its small container. I did what I tell people not to do - I made an uninformed buy.

The regular whip scorpion is also known as a vinegaroon and has a long whip-like tail that sprays vinegar! Like our new ambassador, the vinegaroon is a relative of spiders and scorpions. However, the tailless whip scorpion is not a vinegaroon. It does not have a tail and looks more like a spider than a scorpion. It has eight legs and eight eyes, but the two front legs are elongated and look like whips. It also has two crablike pedipalps that are relatively huge and scary-looking. They are harmless to humans, however. You are much more likely to hurt them.

Tailless whip scorpions or whip spiders have even made it into the movies! An amblypygid, the Mexican tailless whip-scorpion was featured in the movie Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. They can be seen in scenes with Mad Eye Moody, if you wish to investigate further.

Also known as ambly-

pygids, the tailless whip scorpions are arachnids (spiders, ticks, and scorpions are also in this group). The leg span of these highly flattened arachnids ranges between 5 to 16 centimeters (2.0 to 6.3 inches). They are nocturnal and are found in caves, basements, tunnels, and under rocks and logs. Most species have only been described since 1994; we just don't notice them. They are found in North and South America, Africa, Asia, Eu-



rope, and Australia, usually in subtropical climates.

They eat small to medium size insects. They capture prey by seizing and holding it with their pedipalps and then killing and eating it with their strong jaws. Although they are Arachnids, they do not have spinnerets (tubular structures used to secrete silk thread) and therefore do not spin webs. Whip spiders do not produce venom and are harmless to humans. Whip spiders fasten their pedipalps together when mating to prevent the female from killing and

eating the male when mating is finished.

Tailless whip scorpions are kept in tall enclosures with arboreal climbing surfaces to allow for two things: enough vertical space for climbing and molting and enough space for heat to dissipate in order to keep the enclosure between 70°F (21°C) and 75°F (24°C). Five centimeters (2.0 in) of substrate at the bottom of the enclosure is generally sufficient to allow for burrowing and also serves as a method to retain water in order to keep the humidity above 75 percent. Tailless whip scorpions live anywhere between five and ten years. Feeding can include small insects such as crickets, mealworms, and roaches. Care and informational videos can also be found on the internet.

We really enjoy our unusual invertebrate friend, Miles. He is big enough to see pretty regularly, and we may start handling him soon. Come check him out!!

Our hours are 12-5 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We will be closed on Thanksgiving (although we still have to come in to feed). Please check the weekend hours on Facebook closer to the holiday in case we need to close further, or call 734-358-9893 for more information.

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Adults Getting Active and Creative at JSA

*Contributed by
Jackson School of the Arts*

Although known for its kids' arts programming, Jackson School of the Arts (JSA) has offered adult art classes since before 2015. With several one-day events like Coffee & Canvas, Wine & Canvas, or Girls Night Out: Burlesque Dancing, just to name a few, JSA encourages adults to make some time for themselves to relax and get creative. These one-day events often take inspiration from the changing seasons or upcoming holidays. For many, these one-day events are the perfect way to meet new people and learn something new or spend time with a friend and do something fun.

Many adult students even take it a step further, enrolling in multi-week evening dance or art classes. One class, Adult Ballet, teaches students basic ballet techniques and barre work while building strength and promoting relaxation. This

class contains students who have always wanted to learn ballet or who want to dip their toes back in the craft. Adult Ballet is also one of the many dance classes at JSA that allows students to show off their new skills in the annual Dance Recital at the end of the school year. Of course, adult students can always opt out of the show if grooving on stage isn't their cup of tea. JSA prides itself on creating a welcoming environment for its students of all ages, even those who have never danced or been involved in the arts. Students also enjoy other genres of dance classes like Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Aerial Silks and Hoop, or Ballroom Dance, which explores many types of ballroom dance in three-week sessions. Registration for these classes is still open through November for those who wish to join.

More information about Adult Classes at JSA can be found at www.jacksonarts.org/adult.



Photo courtesy of Jackson School of the Arts

Stay Alkaline, Stay Well: Simple Steps to Boost Health

By Victoria Beaman

I would like to say hello to all the wonderful readers. It's been a long time since I have written an article for this paper or anything outside of a grocery list. I have a huge passion for helping humans be a better version, to feel better, to look better, and to be amazing! I want to share my passion with you, and I will. I have many exciting topics to share as we progress into the new year.

I am revisiting an article I wrote years ago. It's a good one and contains great information about wellness, especially during flu season.

Unfortunately, most Americans spend the majority of their lives in an overly acidic state. If you want to truly get healthy, lose weight, and keep it off for good, it's essential that you understand how to get your body into an alkaline state and why it's so important. Acidity in the body has been linked to pain, excess weight, and many other health issues. Excessive amounts of acid deplete oxygen, which is needed by every cell in your body to function properly. It damages the mitochondria—the cells' energy centers—so

your cells won't have enough energy to perform their vital functions properly. If not properly eliminated or neutralized, excessive amounts of acid can even damage brain cells and other cells.

So, you can clearly see that being alkaline is extremely important. I could go on and on about the cells and what happens when they don't function properly, but we will move on to how to alkalize your body.

10 Ways to Alkalize Your Body

- 1) Trade your coffee for green tea
 - 2) Limit or avoid alcohol
 - 3) Snack on raw, organic unsalted almonds
 - 4) Avoid ALL processed foods
 - 5) Start your morning with a glass of lemon water
 - 6) Eliminate as much dairy as possible
 - 7) Eliminate Meat(Beef)
 - 8) Eat all organic and avoid chemicals, antibiotics, and hormones in your poultry
 - 9) Eat LOTS of veggies, especially the green ones
 - 10) Drink plenty of water. If you think you're drinking enough now, then double that.
- And a bonus number 11 would be to drink a


tablespoon of apple cider vinegar daily.

So, let's get healthy and get those bodies alkaline. By doing so, you have a better chance of not getting the seasonal flu or any other bug. I personally do not partake in vaccinations. I typically don't get sick, and the flu vaccine poses more of a threat to my health, in my opinion. I did stumble upon something that I feel is important for everyone to know while being a good option for a safer approach to preventing the flu. If you plan on getting the flu vaccine, there is an alternative that's safer without the added mercury.

The FDA realized in 1999 that mercury or thimerosal is a toxic substance to the human body. They still produce vaccines that contain mercury but claim they are using it less. If you would like the flu vaccine without mercury (thimerosal), you can purchase the toxic-free version at any facility where the traditional vaccine is offered. I find it a tad disturbing that a vaccine is offered without the mercury filler for a price.


If you alkalize your body and do a little detoxing, you will more than likely not need the vaccine. That would be my choice.

Get healthy, Be happy
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Victoria



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Shop Small Saturday: Support Your Local Community

Contributed by Experience Jackson

Shopping locally isn't just a transaction—it's an investment in the people and places that make our community unique. It's a superpower that directly supports the Jackson economy and fosters real growth. If Michiganders shifted 10% of their \$36.5 billion out-of-state e-commerce spending locally, we could generate an extra \$2.6 billion for Michigan!

Don't just shop local, EXPERIENCE the difference for yourself at these fine locations:

Fashion in Jackson: Discover the Boutique Charm of Our Local Businesses

Jackson is home to a vibrant collection of boutiques that enrich the city's history and business community. From fashion-forward finds to unique home décor, these stores offer something special for every visitor.

HMN Style

HMN Style is a local fashion haven where individuality shines. Located in the heart of Jackson, this boutique curates a diverse collection of clothing and accessories for women, men, and plus sizes. With a blend of the latest trends and timeless pieces, HMN Shops is a go-to for those looking to elevate their wardrobe. The store's commitment to fashion excellence is matched by its role in enhancing Jackson's shopping scene.

The Blessed Nest

The Blessed Nest offers an inviting atmosphere to Downtown Jackson, where customers can explore an array of home décor, gifts, and apparel. Featuring beloved brands like Vera Bradley and Brighton, this boutique blends local charm with recognizable quality, making it a perfect decor destination for both residents and tourists.

Nevermore Decor Store

Looking to add a bit of whimsy and creativity to your home décor? Nevermore Decor Store in downtown Jackson is a treasure trove of unique and carefully curated home décor, gifts, and more. With its eclectic mix of vintage-inspired items, modern art pieces, and quirky gifts, this store is a must-visit for those looking to add a bit of personality to their space. Owner Briston Bamm has created an at-

mosphere that celebrates creativity and individuality, with products ranging from seasonal décor to specialty gifts like baby items. The store also hosts interactive events such as tea parties and cocktail classes, making it a true community hub. Recently relocated to a larger, more accessible space, Nevermore is thriving as a vibrant destination for locals and visitors alike.

IDK Creative Decor

For those who love bold, artistic home décor, IDK Creative Decor is a must-visit. Located a jog away in Brooklyn, MI, this boutique is a creative haven filled with upcycled and repurposed home accents that spark the imagination. Owner Liza Czubko's passion for transforming everyday items into works of art is at the heart of IDK's eclectic collection.

Expect the unexpected—from furniture with vibrant, retro flair to décor pieces that blend whimsy with practicality: Lisa and local artists' love for repurposing means that many of the items you'll find here are truly one-of-a-kind. The boutique also offers custom services, so if you have an idea or a vision for a unique piece, Lisa can bring it to life.

Beyond the stunning selection of décor, IDK Creative Decor is known for being a welcoming, creative space where you can find inspiration for your own DIY projects. It's a perfect spot for those looking to make their living spaces reflect their personal style with something a little different.

Eat and Drink like a Local at These Jackson Favorites

After a day of boutique shopping, there's nothing better than refueling with some of the best local flavors Jackson has to offer. From craft breweries to comfort food, these eateries are a must-visit for anyone looking to experience the heart of Michigan's culinary scene.

Ogma Brewing Co.

If you're a fan of craft beer, culinary curiosity, and straight-up good vibes, Ogma Brewing Co. is a Jackson gem you don't want to miss. Located downtown, this brewery is known for its inventive brews, cultural-fusion cuisine, and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're enjoying a crisp IPA

or indulging in a seasonal stout, the passion behind each pint is evident. It's the kind of place where the community comes together to celebrate great beer, amazing food, and even better company.

Pay attention to events taking place on Ogma's patio such as their Silent Disco parties!

Grand River Brewery

A classic favorite in Jackson's brewery scene is Grand River Brewery, a hub for craft beverages and locally inspired dishes. Not only does this brewery produce some of the best beer in Jackson, they also offer an extensive wine selection, making it a one-stop shop for all things crafted and local. Their farm-to-table menu boasts fresh, seasonal ingredients, and you'll find everything from gourmet burgers to house-smoked BBQ. The atmosphere is rustic yet modern, giving you that true Jackson experience while enjoying the best local food and drink.

The Dirty Bird

For fans of comfort food with a twist, The Dirty Bird is your go-to spot in Jackson. Famous for their hearty, flavorful dishes, this restaurant specializes in chicken but goes beyond the basics. With creative spins on classic comfort foods; from their legendary fried chicken sandwiches to southern-

style sides like mac and cheese and cornbread, The Dirty Bird offers the kind of food that warms your heart and fills your belly. Perfect for a casual meal with friends or family, this local favorite brings a familiar yet flavorful touch to the dining scene.

Discover Unique Finds at Jackson's Novelty Stores

Beyond boutiques and eateries, Jackson is home to an array of specialty stores that bring a quirky, one-of-a-kind touch to your shopping experience. Whether you're a comic book fan, antique lover, or treasure hunter, these stores offer endless opportunities to find something truly special.

Nostalgia Ink

For comic book enthusiasts and collectors, Nostalgia Ink is a haven of all things geek culture. Specializing in comic books, graphic novels, and collectibles, this downtown store has been a fixture in Jackson for years, catering to fans of all ages. Whether you're hunting for the latest issues, vintage comics, or rare memorabilia, you'll find it here. The staff's passion for the comic world shines through, making it a welcoming spot for longtime collectors and newcomers alike. Step into Nostalgia Ink and lose yourself in the world of superheroes, sci-fi,

and fantasy.

Jackson Antique Mall

If you love hunting for treasures from the past, the Jackson Antique Mall is a must-visit. With multiple floors filled with unique antiques, vintage décor, and collectibles, this store offers an eclectic mix of history and charm. Whether you're looking for a specific item or simply browsing, the Antique Mall is a place where you can spend hours uncovering hidden gems. From antique furniture to rare curiosities, this store embodies the spirit of rediscovery and offers visitors a tangible connection to the past.

This Weekend in Jackson: Shop Small, Shop Local. Join us for Shop Small Saturday, where Jackson, Michigan, is coming together to champion local businesses and see firsthand the impact of our shopping dollars. Explore the city's rich tapestry of boutiques, specialty stores, and local dining as you shop and dine with purpose.

By shopping and dining locally, you're doing more than just enjoying great food and unique finds—you're helping ordinary people live out their dreams in our community. Each purchase supports a local business, strengthens the economy, and helps create a more sustainable future for Jackson.

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College & Career Access Center, November Scholarships

James Alan Cox Foundation Scholarship For Student Photojournalists

Details: Must be at least a high school sophomore or older and have taken at least one photography or related art class. College or technical applicants must have completed at least one year at a recognized college, university or professional school and have taken courses in photography or photojournalism. Graduate students can apply if they are enrolled in a journalism or photojournalism program.

Submit: Completed application, 250-word essay, 2 letters of reference, school transcript, financial data, and your portfolio (5 images or 2 videos).

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: November 15, 2024

Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program

Eligibility:

- Graduate from a U.S. high school in spring 2024
- Intend to enroll full-time in an accredited four-year

college beginning in fall 2024

- Earn a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.5 or above
- Demonstrate unmet financial need. We will consider applicants with family annual gross income up to \$95,000. During the selection process, the Foundation will conduct a full financial review, which will take into account all income and assets of the student and the student's parents.

If you have questions about the program, please direct them to scholarships@jkcf.org

Award: Up to \$55,000 per year

Deadline: November 16, 2024

For a complete list of monthly scholarships, visit www.jacksoncac.org/financial-aid/monthly-scholarships. You can also subscribe to receive the latest scholarship opportunities directly in your inbox each month. Don't miss out on valuable funding options—sign up today and stay informed!

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NOVEMBER 11-17, 2024

BURGER EDITION

1 EAT

Purchase a \$15 burger + side menu item from a participating Jackson County restaurant between November 11-17, 2024.

2 GET STAMPED

Pick up a punch card from any participating location and get a stamp for your restaurant week meal purchase (one stamp per card, per meal, per person). Share a photo of your food with #TasteOfJackson.

3 WIN

Repeat steps 1 & 2 at a handful of locations and turn in your punch card at any participating restaurant to be entered into final prize drawing.

\$15 BURGER + SIDE

experience **jackson**



PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

- Baby Bear Burger
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- Bone Island Grille
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- The Crazy Cowboy
- Doll N' Burgers
- Eagle's Nest Bar & Grill
- Fawzi's Sports Bar & Grill
- The Five Forks
- Flavorz
- GG's Parma Café
- Grand River Brewery
- The Horton Hop
- Lucero's Mexican Bar & Grill
- Mama's Mercantile & Eatery
- Nite Lite
- Ogma Brewing Co.
- RJ's Metropolitan Ice Cream Co.
- Roadhouse Grill and Bar
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- Schlenkers
- Steve's Ranch Family Restaurant
- Veritas
- West Point Lounge