

J.A.C.K.S.O.N

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

Cascades Humane Society's Trunk-or-Treat

- page 2



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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.

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Fall Fun in Jackson!

By Morgan Riggs

Fall is here! There's no better time to get out and explore all the seasonal wonders Jackson has to offer. From crisp mornings to colorful foliage and cozy treats, here are some local spots you won't want to miss this autumn:

1. Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farm: Love apple cider? How about a corn maze? Meckley's has it all for fall family fun. Don't miss their phenomenal cinnamon sugar donuts, sip on a 3rd Coast peach hard cider if you're of age, or grab a pizza for your crew. This is the perfect spot to soak in some fall sun.

2. Lowry's Little Flock Farm: Adorable animals, sweet treats, and a charming gift shop—Lowry's is a must-see. If you're looking for something truly special, check out their stunning chapel on Saturday, October 5 at 6 pm for the Chapel of Hope evening service.

3. SOAR Cafe: Nestled on Mechanic Street in downtown Jackson, SOAR Cafe is a fall favorite. Try seasonal drinks like pumpkin chai lattes or peach cobbler lattes—or indulge in a coffee flight to taste them all. Their cinnamon rolls are legendary, the breakfast and lunch menu has something for everyone, and the gift shop is perfect for getting a jump on holiday shopping. Add in a sunny patio and a meaningful mission, and you've got the ultimate autumn stop.

4. Cascades Humane Society's Trunk-or-Treat: What's better than a bunch of adorable pets? A bunch of adorable pets in costume! Join Cascades Humane Society for their annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 30 from 6 to 8 pm.

5. Falling Waters Trail: This ten-mile paved trail is especially stunning as the leaves turn. Take a leisurely stroll, go for a bike ride, or simply breathe in the fresh fall air. Bonus: swing by Lime Lake to spot turtles, swans, fish, and other wildlife along the way.

6. Vito's Espresso: Already near Lime Lake? Pop into Vito's Espresso in Spring Arbor. This third-wave coffee shop serves up delicious drinks, soups, sandwiches, and baked goods that will have you coming back for more. Perfect for a cozy fall pick-me-up.

7. Grand River Farmers Market: Fridays and Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm, explore local vendors in the pavilion by Grand River Brewery. Find fresh produce, unique goods, and stunning locally grown flowers from Songbird Blooms—supporting local has never felt so delightful!

Here's to a fall full of crisp air, colorful leaves, and local adventures! Whether you're sipping cider, hiking trails, or wandering charming farms, Jackson is the perfect place to make autumn memories.

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Hometown Eats

October 2025 Edition: Love Pasta

By Val Herr
Jackson was lucky the day family-owned restaurant Love Pasta opened its doors. The charming Italian eatery, located at 2003 Horton Road, offers not only deli-



cious food but also an atmosphere that encourages you to slow down and savor the moment. From the moment we walked in until the moment we left; the service was excellent. In a world that always seems to be in a rush, it was refreshing to step into a space that invites you to stay, relax, and enjoy. Our waitress took

time to explain the difference between fresh pasta and dried, and how it would be served perfectly al dente. The food itself was outstanding—flavorful, filling, and served in generous portions. With prices marked at just one “\$,” the value is unbeatable, and we even had enough leftovers for the next day.

According to their website, Love Pasta was born from a shared love of food and hospitality, and that passion shines through. Our server checked in throughout the meal, engaging with us and ensuring that everything was to our satisfaction. Love Pasta is more than just a restaurant—it’s an experience that blends

authenticity, hospitality, and great value. If you’re craving Italian in Jackson, this spot is well worth the visit.

Love,
Pasta
[heartfelt noods]



Photo courtesy of Val Herr



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Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Adidas & Fiona

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Adidas

Meet Adidas, a five-year-old German Shepherd mix with a tan coat and a gentle 58-pound frame. Brought in as a stray, he's a sweet dog who can be timid at first, but his kind nature shines as he gains trust. He's not a jumper or barker, knows some basic commands, and is learning to walk nicely on a leash. Adidas gets along well with other dogs—he thinks every pup could be his best friend. When introduced to a kitten, he was more scared than anything, likely from lack of exposure. With his gentle personality, Adidas would love a calm home, ideally with a fenced yard where he can feel safe while enjoying the outdoors. Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online. 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 meet and greet with your dog is mandatory. 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.



Fiona

Meet Fiona, a four-month-old solid black kitten who was surrendered by her owner. This sweet girl has a wonderful purr motor and loves to greet you. She's affectionate, playful, and full of personality. Fiona is one of many black cats currently at the shelter, all friendly, fun,

and ready to brighten someone's home. If you've been thinking about adding a feline friend, now is the perfect time—Fiona and her pals are waiting to be adopted, just in time for Halloween! 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 Oreoz, a 2-year-9-month-old pup with a striking black and white coat speckled with charming patches. Weighing in at 80 pounds, this lively boy is full of energy and always ready for fun. Oreoz loves toys, treats, and playtime, and he's eager to please whether you're out exploring or just spending time together at home. With his affectionate nature and boundless enthusiasm, Oreoz is looking for an adopter who can keep up with his zest for life. He would do best as the only dog in the house-

hold, where he can soak up all the love and attention. Oreoz thrives on companionship and will make a loyal partner for someone who enjoys adventure, activity, and plenty of cuddles.



Oreoz is neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and tested negative for Heartworm. His adoption fee is \$310. If you're ready to welcome a fun-loving, affectionate pup into your life, please contact Cascades

Humane Society at 517-787-7387 for more information.

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, volunteering, or learning about other ways to support CHS, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgolightly@chspets.org to learn more.



2024

IMPACT

CHS

Cascades Humane Society

1,187

TOTAL ADOPTIONS

11,247

POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED

990

OWNED CATS & DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED

4,103

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Punchlines for Paws Raises Nearly \$50,000 for Cascades Humane Society

*Contributed by
Cascades Humane Society*

The Commonwealth Commerce Center's City View Room was filled with laughter, applause, and incredible generosity on Friday, September 27, as Cascades Humane Society (CHS) welcomed more than 200 guests to its 2nd annual Punchlines for Paws. By the end of the evening, nearly \$50,000 had been raised—the largest single fundraising event of the year for CHS—helping ensure countless animals in our community receive the care, comfort, and second chances they deserve.

From the moment doors opened, the atmosphere was festive and full of anticipation. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by CCC Catering, lively conversation with friends old and new, and the chance to bid on more than 70 silent auction items and five unique live auction packages. The most hotly contested item of the night was a pair of Adam Sandler tickets paired with exclusive backstage crew-only merchandise—an opportunity so rare it sparked a flurry of bids and plenty of laughter.

Adding to the excitement, long-time supporter M&K Jetting claimed victory in the "Name the Street, Name the Park" contest. With their winning bid, they announced their choice of Bojangles Lane and generously donated \$8,500 to purchase brand-new Rain-tree cat condos for the Faith and James Knight Foundation Cat Suite. Opened in July, the suite is already providing a more comfortable and enriched environment for cats awaiting their forever homes, and this gift will ensure even more cats benefit from the upgrade.

A Night of Recognition and Gratitude

While the comedy and auctions kept the energy high, one of the most memorable parts of the evening was the heartfelt recognition of CHS volunteers. These individuals are the quiet heroes of the shelter, showing up day after day, year after year, to make sure animals receive love, care, and dignity.

Honorees included Stacy Lange celebrating 20 years of service, along with Cody Wertzbar and Ed Hammer, both marking 10 years of extraordinary dedication. Stacy is known for her care of the CHS gardens, creating a warm and welcoming space for visitors. Cody contributes tirelessly behind the scenes, handling the essential chores that keep the shelter running. Ed is a daily fixture at CHS, walking dogs, scrubbing kennels, and helping wherever needed—even walking to the shelter when transportation isn't available.

CHS also recognized Michael Ross for nine years and three terms on the Board of Directors, thanking him for the leadership and guidance that helped shape the organization's success.

The recognition of these volunteers drew heartfelt applause. Their stories embody the spirit of CHS: compassion, perseverance, and a deep love for animals.

Community Support Makes It Possible

Events like Punchlines for Paws would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses and sponsors who believe in CHS's mission. This year's sponsors included:

- Presenting Sponsor: O'Harrow Construction
- Bar Sponsor: TRUE Community Credit Union
- Entertainment Sponsor: Jackson Magazine
- Auction Sponsor: M&K Jetting
- Dinner Sponsor: Lamers Heating and Air Conditioning

Dozens of local businesses also joined as table sponsors, filling the room with community partners dedicated to making a difference. CHS extends gratitude as well to the Commonwealth Commerce Center staff and CCC Catering for their professionalism and care, which helped make the evening both seamless and memorable.

Supporting the Mission

Every dollar raised at Punchlines for Paws goes directly toward CHS's life-

saving work. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, CHS receives no government tax dollars or funds from national humane societies. Instead, the shelter relies on donations, adoption and surgery fees, and community-driven events like this one. Thanks to the generosity shown on September 27, CHS will be able to provide shelter, medical care, spay

and neuter services, and adoption support to hundreds of animals.

As the night came to a close, it was clear that Punchlines for Paws was about more than comedy or auctions. It was about community. It was about celebrating the volunteers who give their hearts and hands, the donors who open their wallets, the staff

who pour their energy into every animal, and the animals themselves—each one waiting for a second chance.

CHS is deeply grateful to everyone who made this event such a success. With your support, we are not only changing animal lives—we are building a more compassionate community for all.

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Stay Ahead of Seasonal Home Costs

Contributed by **TRUE Community Credit Union**

As the seasons shift, so do the expenses that come with keeping a home comfortable and running smoothly. It's easy to underestimate how much utility bills can fluctuate. Add in other expenses—like gutter cleaning in the fall, storm prep in spring, or lawn care during peak growing season—and soon your budget is fluctuating as much as the shifting weather. With some planning, you can stay ahead of these costs and avoid feeling squeezed when these expenses arrive.

Simple Ways to Get Ahead

1. Build a Seasonal Sinking Fund

A sinking fund is just money you set aside for a specific purpose. Start a "home fund" and add a little each month, even in off-seasons. For example, if your winter heating typically runs \$600 total, saving \$100 per month from July to December can make the bill feel manageable instead of stressful. Preventive care can be far cheaper than emergency repairs.

2. Get Smart About Energy Efficiency

- Seal gaps around windows and doors to reduce drafts.
- Switch ceiling fans to rotate clockwise in winter, pushing warm air down.
- Replace HVAC filters regularly for better efficiency.
- Unplug unused electronics—even this small step can help trim costs

3. Time Your Maintenance

- Schedule furnace and air conditioning unit checkups before the busiest season.
- Clean gutters before heavy rains or snowfall.
- Test your sump pump and smoke de-

tectors as the seasons change.

4. Compare Utility Plans

Some providers offer budget billing, which spreads costs evenly over the year. Others may have seasonal discounts or rebates for energy-efficient upgrades. Spending a few minutes reviewing your options could save you real money.

5. Keep an Emergency Buffer

Even the best planning can't cover every surprise. A small emergency fund—ideally \$500 to \$1,000—can give you peace of mind when an unexpected repair or bill pops up.

Making Seasonal Costs Feel Less Stressful

Seasonal expenses are part of homeownership, however they don't have to derail your financial wellness. The key is to build these expenses into your spending plan so you're ready when the seasons change.

Think of it this way: you don't have to solve everything at once. Each small step—setting aside a little extra, tackling one efficiency upgrade, or scheduling one preventive check—adds up to lower stress and smoother budgeting.

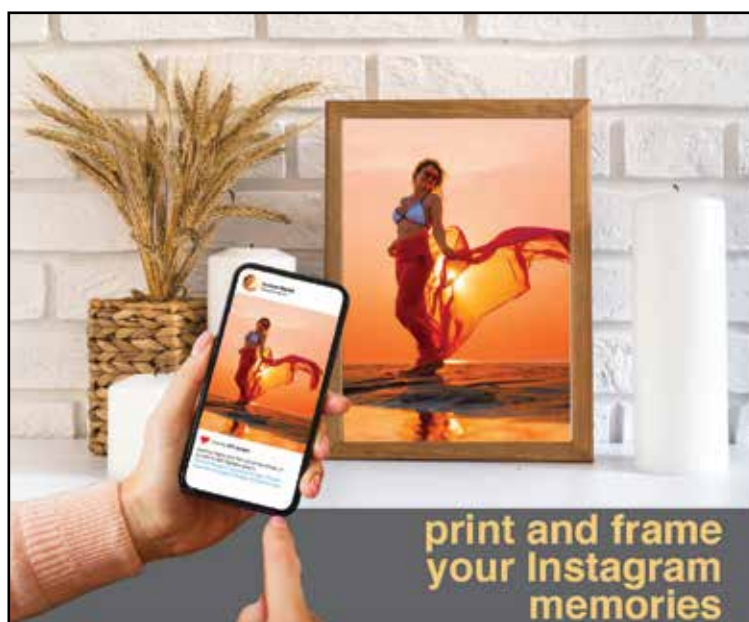
You're Not Alone

If seasonal costs or other expenses are weighing you down, remember that support is available. Budgeting resources through your financial institution can help you create a personalized plan. Free financial counseling is also available through our trusted partner, GreenPath Financial Wellness. Homeownership comes with surprises, but your finances don't have to be one of them.

For more free financial tips, visit TRUECCU.com.



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Autumn in MI

By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet

Autumn. For humans, it means breaking out the heavier clothing, going back to school, and preparing for the holidays. But what does it mean for the animals of Michigan?

Some animals and humans head to warmer climates. People travel to Florida, and so do our Sandhill Cranes, gathering at Michigan's largest crane gathering spot, Jackson's Phyllis Haehnle Bird Sanctuary, with as many as 8,000 cranes in one place. If you haven't seen this amazing sight, it is well worth a visit. The cranes spend the winter in southeastern Georgia and Florida before returning early in the year. Monarch butterflies also fly south to Mexico, where they overwinter as adults in large clusters in trees before beginning the long journey back. They never make it all the way back to Michigan, but their descendants do.

Robins migrate more in response to food than to temperature. Fruit is their primary winter food source, and as the ground thaws in spring, they switch to earthworms and insects. While robins may arrive when temperatures reach 37 degrees, it is because their food becomes available, not because they need warmth.

During winter, robins wander in search of food. As temperatures drop and fruit becomes scarce, they move to areas with more abundant supplies. If all robins stayed at their breeding latitude, there would not be enough fruit

for them all. Most settle where food is plentiful, while a few take the risk of staying farther north where smaller amounts remain.

Geese also migrate, though in Michigan they may overwinter or make shorter migrations than those living farther north. They are searching for food and open water. Our Jackson peregrine falcons, Big Red and Chayton, likely migrate as well, since we do not have a large pigeon population to sustain them through winter.

Many amphibians, reptiles, and insects hibernate during the winter, some underwater, some huddled together, and some as juveniles or eggs in the case of certain insects. Be sure to leave some leaf litter for insects like fireflies. The many adaptations animals have for surviving the cold are fascinating, and we have some great books here on winter survival for all reading levels.

October, our theme day is Spooky Science on Saturday, October 18 from 12 to 5 pm. We will have skulls, animals in jars, creepy curiosities, our plasma ball, and dry ice. It will be an eerily good time. In November, we will explore space exploration with our knowledgeable friend Dominic. Join us on November 15 to learn what is happening in the solar system and see if you have what it takes to go to space.

We will also be at the Family Fun Halloween event at the Hanover Historical Society from 2 to 6 PM and at the Salvation Army Trunk or Treat on October 17.



Photos by Chris (Robin), Dave Hoefler (Crane), and Christopher Paul High (Monarch) on Unsplash





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College & Career Access Center, October Scholarships

Chris Jackson Computer Science Education Scholarship

Description: Chris Jackson was an amazing human being who was smart, insightful and had a razor-sharp wit. What most people don't know about Chris is how much he struggled to afford his degree in his early years. That degree ultimately helped him build a rewarding and impactful career in technology.

Sadly, Chris passed away in the fall of 2020. To honor his spirit and legacy, the Chris Jackson Computer Science Education Scholarship will support undergraduate students who are pursuing a computer science degree. The scholarship will be awarded twice a year.

Eligibility: Applicants will be required to discuss their interest in pursuing a computer science degree, their career aspirations, and why they think they should receive the award.

Award: \$5,000
Deadline: October 15, 2025

American Trucks Student Scholarships

Description: At American Trucks we are passionate about our mission to Serve the Community that supports us. We've recognized a growing trend in the building trades industry. Educational programs are receiving a lot of attention from national leaders and it's our goal to be involved in a meaningful way.

With that in mind, we are pleased to offer 2 x \$2500 scholarships to students pursuing a career in the traditional building trades such as HVAC, carpentry, electrical, or related fields of study.

One scholarship will be awarded for the fall semester, and one scholarship will be awarded for the spring semester each year.

Eligibility:
• Currently enrolled full-time in an accredited United States technical institute, 2/4 year college/university with a program in construction management, secondary vo-tech school or tuition bearing apprenticeship program in the traditional building trades(e.g. carpentry, HVAC, electrical or related fields of study). Students pursuing certificate programs or apprenticeship programs are welcome to apply.

Award: \$2,500
Deadline: October 15, 2025

• Currently attending high school and will be attending an accredited school in the next academic year to one of the aforementioned programs.

• Note: All scholarship applicants are required to submit proof of enrollment* when submitting applications with the button on this page.

Award: \$2,500
Deadline: October 15, 2025

Northern Michigan University Presidential and Leadership Awards

Description: Our Fall 2025 competition will have two in-person competitions and a virtual competition option. Students choose one to attend. * See host site for competition details

Eligibility: Our Fall 2025 competition will have two

in-person competitions and a virtual competition option. Students choose one to attend. * See host site for competition details

Award: Depending upon individual scholarship, awards vary – up to 'full ride' (tuition + room and board)

Deadline:
• Virtual registration deadline: October 16 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time (for October 27-28, 2025)

In-person, on campus registration deadlines: October 21 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time (For Nov. 3-4, 2025) and October 28 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time (For Nov. 10-11, 2025)

Central Michigan University Centralis Awards

Description: Our competitive scholarships for incoming freshmen are awarded based on a variety of factors, including academic success, community engagement, leadership, enhancing diversity, multiculturalism and inclusion, and more.

These require a separate

application and have application deadlines different than our merit awards. Once you submit an application for admission, the competitive scholarship applications you qualify for become visible in your applicant portal. Applications for students entering Fall 2025 open on August 1, 2025.

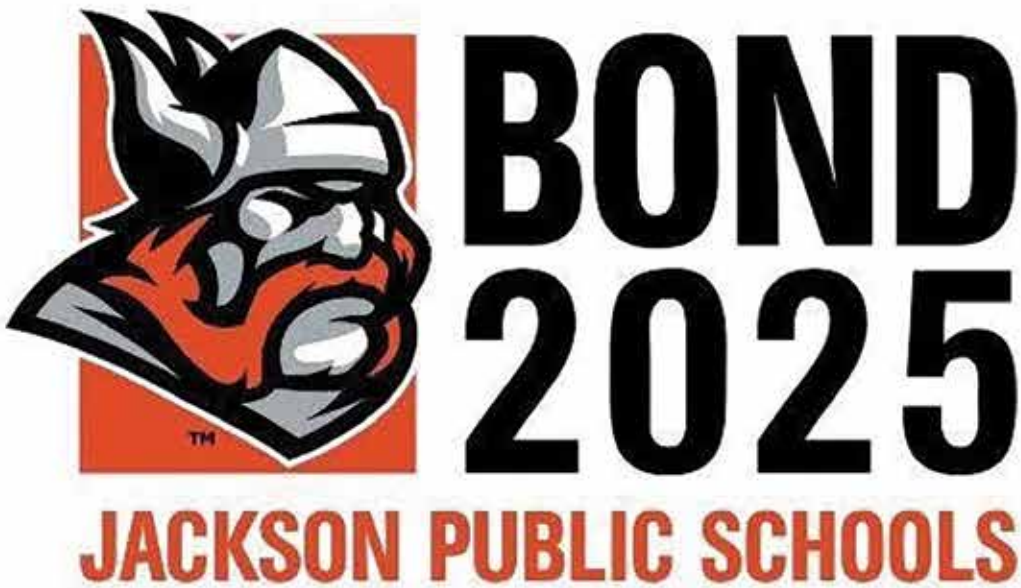
Eligibility:
• High School Seniors, currently enrolled or who have applied to Central Michigan University.

• Must have a 3.7 GPA or higher when applying.

Award: Covers 100% of tuition (up to 33 credits per academic year) and \$5,000 to study away OR Covers 100% of tuition and fees (up to 33 credits per academic year), housing and food, \$250/semester book allowance, and \$5,000 to study away.

Deadline: October 31, 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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