

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE



## Lammers: 60 Years of Service

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**CHS**  
Cascades Humane Society

*Punchlines for Paws*

Join us for

**Punchlines for Paws**

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**

Commonwealth Commerce Center, City View Jackson, MI

**6:00 to 10:00 pm**

Tickets @ [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Featuring Comedy by John Heffron  
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Dinner, live & silent auctions,  
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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.

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# Lammers Heating & Air Conditioning Celebrating 60 Years in Jackson

*Contributed by*

**Lammers Heating & Air Conditioning**

Lammers Heating & Air Conditioning has been proudly serving Jackson since 1965. This year, they're celebrating the big six-oh — and they're throwing a party to thank the community that made it all possible.

In honor of its 60th anniversary, Lammers will host a customer appreciation event from 3 to 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at their office on North Lansing Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

"We just want to say thanks to everyone in the city of Jackson, Jackson County, and beyond," Lammers Heating & Air Conditioning President Todd Desy said. "It is an honor and a privilege to do business in this great community. We love our customers, so this is just a way to say thanks."

Some highlights of the event:

- **BIG GIVEAWAY:** This will be the final chance to enter to win a new furnace or air conditioner — installation included. (Each valued up to \$5,000.)

- **FREE TREATS:** Enjoy a hamburger or hot dog grilled by the Knights of Columbus and cool off with a scoop of ice cream from Stoyanna's.

- **SAFETY FIRST:** For the Boys — CO Awareness, a local nonprofit, will be there to hand out free carbon monoxide detectors to keep your family safe.

- **FURRY FRIENDS:** The Cascades Humane Society will be on hand with pets in need of homes. Lammers will offer vouchers for \$60 off dog adoptions at the humane society on the day of the event, which will be good through the end of September.

- **MEET LEO:** Leo, the Lammers mascot, will be there spreading smiles and frisbees to kids of all ages.

"This business wouldn't exist without the support of all of our friends and neighbors in Jackson County," Desy said. "We look forward to seeing familiar faces, meeting new ones, and celebrating 60 amazing years serving Jackson. Please save the date and we'll see you there!"

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# Jackson Area Career Center Expands Adult Education Offerings with New Leadership, Fall Classes, and Community Input

*Contributed by the Jackson Area Career Center*

The Jackson Area Career Center (JACC) is launching new initiatives this fall to expand and strengthen its Adult Education & Enrichment program. These efforts include new leadership, the launch of a community survey to guide future classes, an updated schedule of evening healthcare programs, and a part-time job opening for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) instructor.

“We want our offerings to reflect Jackson County’s voice,” said Adult Education & Enrichment Coordinator Vincent D’Ettorre. “Tell us what you want to learn—whether that’s photography, home repair, budgeting, creative arts, or wellness. Your input will guide what we build next.” D’Ettorre joins the Career Center team from Michigan Works! Southeast, where he built strong connections between education and local employers.

Community Survey: Help Shape the Next Workshops

JACC is seeking ideas for short, affordable enrichment and hobby workshops that bring the community together to learn, create, and grow. Potential topics include:

- Creative arts & crafts (drawing, painting, photography)
- Life skills (budgeting, home DIY, basic auto care)
- Language & culture (travel prep, world languages)
- Health & wellness (nutrition, yoga, mindfulness)
- Technology basics (email, spreadsheets, smartphone tips)

Residents, employers, and community groups are invited to submit ideas anytime at: <https://forms.gle/z4Cmz3GhaXUpfjLm7>.

Evening Healthcare Programs Begin September 8 Starting Monday, September 8, 2025, JACC will offer evening healthcare training programs at its campus, including:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Medical Assistant

- Medical Office Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Medical Billing & Coding

Details and registration are available at: <https://www.jacc-mi.net/adult-career-education/adult-career-education>

To support program expansion, JACC is hiring a part-time CNA Instructor. Candidates with clinical experience and a passion for teaching are encouraged to apply at: <https://jcisd.workbrightats.com/jobs/>

## About Jackson Area Career Center Adult Education & Enrichment

The Jackson Area Career Center’s Adult Education & Enrichment programs provide practical, community-responsive learning that helps adults gain skills, earn credentials, and explore new interests. Through strong partnerships and flexible scheduling, JACC connects learners with pathways to employment, advancement, and lifelong enrichment.

engagement

family photos

newborn

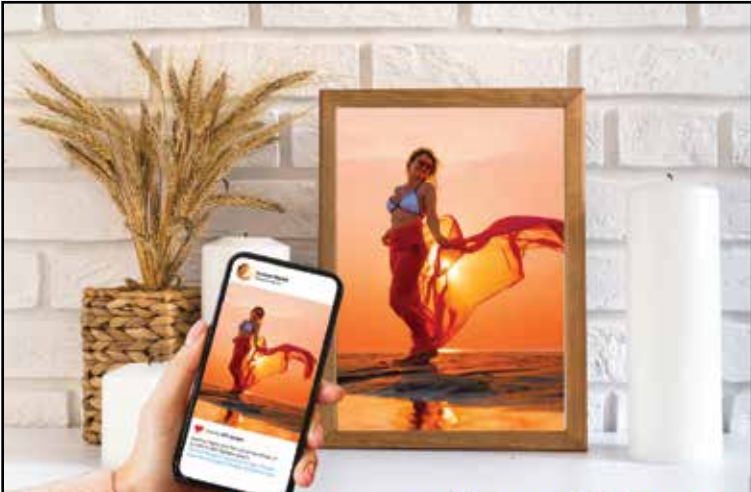
  
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## JACKSON SYMPHONY GUILD NEEDS YOU!

This organization works exclusively for the benefit of Jackson Symphony Orchestra, giving time and talents toward promoting music in the Jackson community. Our volunteers include people with a wide range of abilities who strive to raise funds through dues and proceeds from the Annual Holiday Ball.

For membership and volunteer information visit [jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/](http://jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/).





# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Paws & Gucci

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

### Pawsitive Vibes

Meet Pawsitive Vibes! She is a one-year-old mixed breed. Paws is brindle in color with one blue eye and one brown eye, and she weighs fifty-three pounds. She is not a jumper or a barker and already knows some basic commands. She has done well with children and has ignored cats. Paws is usually playful and friendly with other dogs. She doesn't love going in a crate and is not food motivated, but she absolutely loves people and seeks out their company. Paws is learning to walk nicely on a leash, is housetrained, and is very well behaved in a 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.



### Gucci

Gucci is a one-year-old brown tabby who came in as a stray. Her name suits her perfectly since she is a petite seven pounds, just the right size to fit in a Gucci handbag. She is quiet, sweet, and affectionate. Gucci gets along well with all the other cats where she is housed. She is a calm, friendly girl

who will come to greet you. With her adorable pink nose and eyes lined with white fur, her striking green eyes stand out beautifully. Stop by and meet this gal 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 Nitro, a six-month-old Shepherd mix with a handsome black and tan coat and a heart full of potential. With his short fur and growing confidence, Nitro is a young pup who's already been through a lot of changes in his short life. While he may be a little shy at first, he's shown that with time, patience, and kindness, he begins to open up and feel more secure. Nitro has lived with other dogs and may do well with a calm, confident canine friend to help show him the ropes. He's looking for an adopter who under-

stands that adjusting to a new home takes time, and who's ready to offer the reassurance and love he needs to thrive. With the right support, Nitro is sure to grow into a loyal and lov-



ing companion. Nitro is neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. His adoption fee is \$360. If you're ready to help a sweet, sensitive pup find his place in the world, 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 Returns September 27 with National Comedian John Heffron

*Contributed by  
Cascades Humane Society*

The Cascades Humane Society (CHS) is excited to announce the return of Punchlines for Paws on Friday, September 27, 2025, at the beautiful Commonwealth Commerce Center City View Room in Jackson. The event runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and promises an evening of laughter, great food, auctions, and most importantly, support for animals in need.

Guests will enjoy appetizers, dinner, beer, and wine, followed by live entertainment featuring nationally acclaimed comedian John Heffron. Heffron, who rose to fame after winning NBC's hit show *Last Comic Standing*, has made appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *Comedy Central Presents*, and numerous comedy tours across the country. His relatable hu-

mor, quick wit, and playful storytelling make him one of America's favorite stand-up comedians.

Tickets are on sale now:

- \$80 per individual
- \$150 per couple
- \$850 for a corporate table (includes seating for 8 guests)

The evening will also feature a silent auction, hosted online for maximum convenience, with an array of unique items and experiences up for bid. Adding to the excitement, Tim Bos will serve as the live auctioneer, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the night.

We are grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, O'Harrow Construction, whose generosity helps make this event possible.

Funds raised from Punchlines for Paws directly support the lifesaving mission of Cascades Humane Society. In the past year

alone, CHS:

- Helped more than 1,200 animals find their forever homes
- Provided nearly 1,000 low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to the public
- Distributed over 11,000 pounds of pet food through our Pet Food Pantry to families in need

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, CHS relies solely on donations, adoption fees, surgery fees, and fundraising events like Punchlines for Paws. We receive no government tax dollars or funding from national humane societies. Incorporated 73 years ago, CHS continues to expand its reach to serve more animals and people in our community. Thanks to the generous support of the Faith and James Knight Foundation, CHS recently added a new cat suite, allowing us to care for even more cats in need.

Our work is made possible by dedicated volunteers, and we are always looking for more helping hands. From walking dogs and socializing cats to greeting visitors, doing laundry, landscaping, assisting at events, or helping at our monthly Pet Food Pantry distribution—there's a role for everyone. As we like to say,

the more hands, the lighter the work.

Join us September 27 for a night of laughter, giving, and community support at Punchlines for Paws. Together, we can continue making a difference for animals who need us most.

Tickets are available now at <https://punchlinesforpaws.eventbrite.com>



Photos courtesy of Cascades Humane Society



# Don't Be Fooled: How to Spot & Avoid Imposter Scams

Contributed by **TRUE Community Credit Union**

Scammers increasingly rely on text messages and phone calls because they are a quick and effective way to reach a wide audience. Text messages often receive immediate attention, making them ideal for smishing (SMS phishing) attacks. Phone scammers are skilled at sounding professional and confident, building false trust that can disarm suspicion and make targets feel comfortable long enough for the scammer to carry out their scheme.

By creating a false sense of urgency or fear, scammers pressure their targets into clicking malicious links, sharing sensitive personal or financial information, or sending money directly. In many cases, scammers pose as someone familiar or trustworthy, such as a major retailer like Amazon or Xfinity, a financial institution, or even a government agency.

These impersonation attempts are known as imposter scams.

## How Imposter Scams Try to Trick You

- Scammers often spoof their phone number and caller ID. This is intended to trick you into thinking the call or text is legitimate and they're actually contacting

you from the government, a financial institution, or a business you recognize.

- Scammers tell you there is a "problem", and it must be solved immediately to avoid consequences.

- Scammers will provide you with a fake employee name or badge number.

- Scammers will send official-looking letters with seals and make up government agency names that sound real but aren't. They will provide you a fraudulent letter on your financial institution's "letterhead" using an image of from the internet.

## How To Avoid Imposter Scams

- Never transfer or send money, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or gold to someone you don't know in response to an unexpected call or message.

- Never provide your personal information, such as your social security number or online banking login, to someone over the phone.

- Don't believe anyone who says you have to quickly move your money to "protect" it. Anyone who tells you that is a scammer.

- If there's a problem with your account or identity, always talk about it with someone you trust — especially if the scammer on

the phone says it's serious, involves a crime, claims to be from the government, or insists that you don't talk to anyone about receiving the call.

- Don't click on links or reply to unexpected text messages.

- Don't call back using contact information provided in unexpected messages.

- If you think the message could be real, verify the story. Contact the organization in question using a phone number, website, or email address you know is real. Don't use contact information left in unexpected messages.

Visit TRUE Community Credit Union at [TRUECCU.com](http://TRUECCU.com) for more tips to help keep your information safe from scammers.



Photo by Tara Winstead on Pexels

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# Imagine Planet's Bug Day on September 27

By Jean McKim,  
Imagine Planet

Our special theme day for September will be on September 27 from 12 to 5 and will focus on bugs. Thank you to everyone who came out for Dino Day and made it such a success! We will be sure to do it again. Keep an eye on these articles and on our Facebook page for upcoming events.

The word bug has many meanings. In biology, the informal use is any insect or small crawling animal, such as a tick or spider. Spiders and ants are often called bugs. We will be focusing on insects, although other arthropods (jointed legs) may also be included. There is also a "true bug," which is a type of insect that has two pairs of wings, with the front or outer pair divided into a leathery bottom part and a membranous top part. These wing covers are held over the back and often partly folded. True bugs have needle-like mouthparts that allow them to extract fluids from plants and animals. True bugs undergo incomplete metamorphosis, with their young looking much like adults but without wings.

It has long been recognized that insects are the most diverse group of organisms, meaning that the number of species of insects is greater than any other group. In the world, some 900,000 different

kinds of living insects are known. This represents about 80 percent of the world's species. The true figure of living insect species can only be estimated from present and past studies. Most experts agree that there are more insect species that have not been described (named by science) than there are insect species that have been named. Conservative estimates suggest this figure is 2 million, while other estimates go as high as 30 million. Insects also probably make up the largest biomass of all land animals. At any time, it is estimated that there are some 10 quintillion individual insects alive.

On Bug Day, you can learn what bugs in Michigan do in the winter, how to tell a moth from a butterfly, the parts of an insect and a spider, make bug crafts, and maybe even catch some bugs outside (depending on the weather). Bug trivia and lots of great bug pictures in books will intrigue older visitors. Come celebrate bugs with us!

Imagine Planet will be closed on Tuesday, September 9, and Saturday, September 20, this year. We will also be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 1. Our normal hours are 12 to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Don't forget to come by on September 27 for Bug Day!



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# College & Career Access Center, September Scholarships

## Youth Free Expression Scholarship

*Description:* The National Coalition Against Censorship and the New York Film Academy are thrilled to present the 2025 Youth Free Expression Film Contest. For over 20 years, we have invited young filmmakers to explore the powerful relationship between free speech and free expression in society. This year's theme is My Art, My Speech.

Art is a universal language. It's how we communicate our deepest thoughts, process emotions, and share the stories that shape our lives. Through art, we express our identities, challenge societal norms, and spark critical conversations about politics, culture, and the world around us. Art has the unique ability to push boundaries, raise awareness about important issues, and speak truth to power.

How do you use art to express yourself? Consider the following ideas when choosing a subject for your

short film.

- Art is a vital tool for self-expression in a democratic society! How does art help express beliefs, challenge the status quo, and provoke thought?

- Art has the power to raise questions and provoke discussions on important issues. How can art raise questions that society might avoid or find uncomfortable?

- What role does art play in reflecting and shaping personal identity and societal views on politics, culture, and norms?

- How does art help us confront difficult or controversial topics and express unpopular opinions?

- What happens when art is censored, and how does that impact the freedom of expression we all rely on?

Create a video (up to 3 minutes) using film, animation, photographs, music, or any creative tools at your disposal to explore what "My Art, My Speech" means to you as a student, an artist, an advocate, and a hu-

man.

*\*Warning:* your video should NOT be created using A.I. While you may include examples of A.I. as part of your narrative or discussion, films generated entirely through A.I. will be disqualified.

Be thoughtful. Be creative. Be original. Be uncensored. Your voice, your art, and your perspective are powerful tools. Don't hold back. We want to see how you can use art to speak out and spark conversation about the issues that matter most to you. You can also check out our workshop on filmmaking at home, the most recent winners, Resources for First-Time Filmmakers, and a Filmmaker's Guide to Copyright and Fair Use.

*Eligibility:* Upload your film to the YFEP Film Contest page on FilmFreeway and include an artist's statement articulating your film's message. Any genre of film is accepted, including but not limited to, documentary, music video, narrative, and

animation. The contest is free to enter.

Contestants must be either living in the U.S. or its territories (but need not be citizens) and must be age 19 or younger on the day the film is submitted. Films will be judged on content, artistic and technical merit, and creativity. Judges will be drawn from a panel of renowned filmmakers, writers, artists, and activists.

*Award:* \$1,000

*Deadline:* September 8, 2025

## Gates Scholarship

*Description:* Scholars will receive funding for the full cost of attendance\* that is not already covered by other financial aid and the expected family contribution, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the methodology used by a Scholar's college or university. \*Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, and transportation, and may include other personal costs.

*Eligibility:* To apply, students must be...

- A high school senior
- From at least one of the following ethnicities: African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native\*, Asian & Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American

- Pell-eligible
- A US citizen, national, or permanent resident

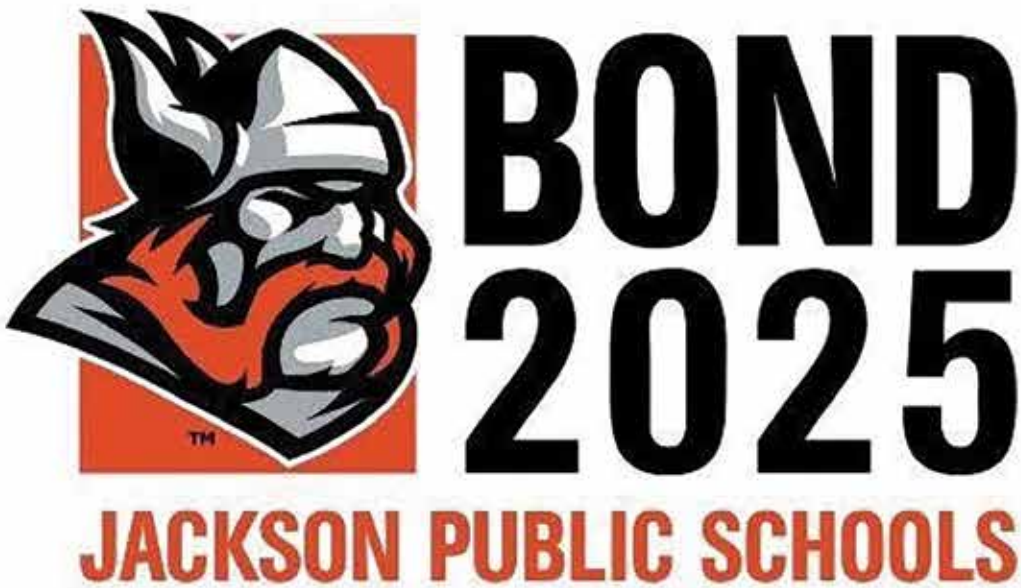
- In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

- Additionally, a student must plan to enroll full-time in a four-year degree program at a US-accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university.
- For American Indian/Alaska Native, proof of tribal enrollment will be required.

*Award:* Award is Situation Dependent

*Deadline:* September 15, 2025

*For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at [jacksoncac.org](http://jacksoncac.org).*



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