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EXCELSIOR

May 2023 · Volume 26, Issue 5

Ready, Set, Read on Literacy Night

(STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 8-10)

SCOTT SPADA

KC baseball
coach elected
to the MHSBCA
Hall of Fame.

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KRESA Millage Vote coming up May 2

pgs. 14 – 15



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Learning About Careers Helps Students Learn About Themselves

IT'S NOT ENOUGH to teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

While we can help students become successful individuals and learn about new concepts, it is important that our schools help students understand that what they learn in school, the way

they learn, the things that they enjoy learning can translate into exciting opportunities after they leave high school.

As the district of The Kalamazoo Promise, it is part of our responsibility to prepare students to take advantage of The

Promise, and to help them develop aspirations beyond high school; that may include post secondary options such as college or trade school. Students cannot wait until they are high school seniors to begin dreaming

— and planning — for their futures.

Career exploration has become an essential part of the work that Kalamazoo Public Schools begins with our youngest children.

Sometimes that work involves members of the community such as the local Pfizer scientists who have been visiting every fifth-grade class to run an experiment in DNA extraction using strawberries.

In middle school, one of the most exciting experiences for eighth graders is MICareerQuest Southwest, an all-day event in which students try their hands at everything from driving virtual bulldozers to checking blood pressure to manipulating robotic arms.

The district's new Kalamazoo Math & Science Institute is a summer learning opportunity in which incoming ninth graders use computer aided design, conduct water experiments, and present scientific findings — all

while earning a half credit in high school science. Interacting with scientists and college professors transforms it into a true exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math careers.

In all of these experiences, you can see a common denominator: We strive to give students a chance to actually try job skills rather than just read about them.

By the time a student reaches high school, the opportunities to learn about careers explodes as students can enroll in Career & Technical Education classes through KRESA, participate in clubs and classes such as the award-winning DECA class at Loy Norrix High School in which students compete in a variety of business-themed competitions, or mock trial at Kalamazoo Central, where students put their best arguments forth as they apply critical thinking to court cases.

An exciting expansion of the concept of career exploration has been a new emphasis on paid apprenticeships. Career Launch Kalamazoo is KPS's effort to place students with area employers for work opportunities that allow them to grow their skills while also exposing them to real-world work environments. That is key, because a business environment that demands professionalism helps transform book learning and concepts into a real understanding of the world of work.

A student may not necessarily know for certain they want to be an engineer, wind turbine technician, teacher, or chef at the end of high school — but each career experience helps them to gain a better understanding of themselves, their interests, and their skills.

It helps them envision the future, their role in it, and the paths they can take to make the dream a reality.

A Message from the Interim Superintendent



Cindy Green



Saturday, May 6

11:30 am–1 pm | Alma Powell Branch Library
Children | Enjoy crafts and activities along with storytime guests and community organizations.



Friday, May 5 & 12

3:30-5:30 pm | Alma Powell Branch Library | Teen
Join Ed Genesis and Gabriel Giron from Speak it Forward and create your own hip hop narratives.

Check out these fun KPL events this spring!
Visit kpl.gov to learn more.



ARTISTS' CORNER

El Sol Elementary School second graders have been studying the amazing portraits of artist Kehinde Wiley. A common theme that students discussed while looking at his artwork was that all people are important enough

to be the subject of art. Students drew self-portraits that included details to make them unique. Students noticed that Wiley often includes botanical backgrounds, so they included plants and flowers in their backgrounds.



Lucille Moon



Gael Hernandez



Mayrin Perez-Cruz



Xavier Sykes





Kalamazoo Public Schools

Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.

POST-SECONDARY

SIGNING DAY

MAY 12TH, 2023


DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO

The Kalamazoo Promise invites every Kalamazoo Public Schools' high school senior downtown to celebrate the continuation of their educational careers. Whether that means attending a 2- or 4-year college, joining the military, attending a trade school, becoming an apprentice or participating in a vocational training program, we want to help students find their path and celebrate it!

www.kalamazoopromise.com/signing-day

Facts on the May 2 KRESA Millage Renewal

ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, voters in Kalamazoo Public Schools and all other districts in Kalamazoo County will be asked to vote on the renewal of a 1.5 mill property tax to help continue to fund operations of our schools.

Q: Is this a new millage or a millage increase?

A: Neither. The original three-year, 1.5 mill property tax millage was first approved by voters May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2020. This is a request whether to renew the millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage they have been since 2005.

Q: What would be the impact to Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) if this millage question is defeated?

A: Kalamazoo Public Schools receives \$5 million annually from this millage. These funds are budgeted in the district’s operating budget. If these funds are eliminated, budget cuts would be inevitable.

Q: How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

A: Since it is a renewal, it would not cause an increase in tax rates. Defeat of this proposal would result in a decrease in taxes of \$112.50 annually for the typical homeowner (with a house with an approximate market value of \$150,000).

Q: This is a millage assessed across all Kalamazoo County school districts in the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). Does KRESA keep the money?

A: No. The tax revenues are fully distributed by KRESA to the school districts and charter schools in the county, including KPS, on a per student basis. Each school district and charter school receive the same per student amount.

Q: How has the school funding situation changed since millage was originally approved by the voters in 2005?

A: Local school districts and charter schools are heavily reliant upon the State of Michigan for operational funding. In many respects, the state’s funding of these entities has not improved since 2005. In fact, when considering inflation, school district’s buying power is considerably less.

Q: Who can vote in this election?

A: Any registered voter that resides in a school district within the KRESA service area can vote in this election. This includes all districts in the county: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft and Vicksburg.

Q: How do I register to vote?

A: An unregistered elector (or a registered elector who has moved) has the following options:

- Register to vote in person at a Secretary of State branch office, a designated voter registration agency, the voter’s county, city, or township clerk’s office or by mail no later than the 15th day prior to the election.
- Register to vote during the 14 days prior to the election, including on Election Day, by applying in person at his or her city or township clerk’s office.

Q: How can I find out where I vote?

A: You can find out where you vote at the Michigan Voter Information Center (mivic.sos.state.mi.us) or by contacting the clerk’s office in the city or township in which you reside. For KPS voters, these offices are:

City of Kalamazoo: (269) 337-8793
Kalamazoo Township: (269) 381-8080
Oshtemo Township: (269) 216-5224
Texas Township: (269) 375-1591

Q: Can I vote by absentee ballot?

A: Any registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be requested from the city or township clerk where you reside.

Please vote in this election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

KALAMAZOO RESA

Your Schools are on the Ballot

Vote May 2 or absentee



Correction: Northglade Student Finishes Fifth in County Spelling Bee

A story in the April Excelsior about the Kalamazoo County Regional Spelling Bee that was held on March 4 at Chenery Auditorium, included an incorrect list of Top 5 finishers.

The fifth-place winner was **Adelle Decker**, a fifth grader from Northglade Montessori Magnet School.

Congratulations to Adelle and all of the amazing spellers who participated in the event.



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The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent for
Instruction and Student Services**

Kalamazoo Public Schools

1220 Howard St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources**

Kalamazoo Public Schools

1220 Howard St.

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District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com**Recipe****from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells****Kirsten Strong, registered dietician****Samuel Dunn, executive chef****Wild Ramps and Potato Soup**

WILD RAMPS make their appearance in Michigan in early spring. Ramps are also called wild leeks because of their mild onion taste. If an onion had leaves, they would taste like a ramp. Native to the eastern part of North America, including Michigan, they prefer rich, moist soil under the shade of larger trees and begin to emerge when the soil temperatures increase after the snow melts. With their broad, green leaves and red stems, ramps are a little easier to spot out in the woods than their elusive fungi friends. They can also be found at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market or the People's Food Co-Op. They make a great addition to soups, pastas, casseroles, eggs, or anything you would normally add onion to! This soup is super simple and tasty and a great way to try ramps.

**INGREDIENTS***(makes about 8 cups)*

2 bacon strips, chopped
1 medium onion, diced
1-2 garlic cloves, minced
4 cups ramps, cleaned,
chopped, stems
removed
3-4 cups potatoes,
peeled and diced

5-6 cups chicken or
vegetable stock
½-1 cup cream
Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat a large skillet
over medium heat.
When the pan is hot,
add the bacon. Cook for
about 3 minutes, then

add the onion, ramps,
and garlic. Cook for an
additional 5-7 minutes,
or until the onions are
soft and translucent. Stir
occasionally.

2. Add the potatoes and
stock. Bring to a boil,
then lower to a simmer.
Taste the broth and
season with salt and
pepper to taste.

3. When potatoes and
onions are cooked
through, add the cream.
Be careful not to boil
the soup after cream is
added. Let soup simmer
for 3-5 minutes. Taste and
adjust seasoning with salt
and pepper, if needed.
This soup is great served
with some crusty bread,
or by itself. Enjoy!

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NEW****Arts Council
of Greater
Kalamazoo****THE EARTH WITHOUT 'ART'
IS JUST 'EH'.**

The most important role of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is to ensure the health and sustainability of our creative sector, from musicians to dancers, actors to artists and all the creativity in between. Yet, nearly two years later, the pandemic continues to impact the arts economy, visitation and jobs.

Please consider supporting the Arts this gift-giving season, so we can continue to promote, create opportunities and support artists and arts organizations through funding, grants and technical assistance. Together, we can amplify the arts and build a vibrant and strong community for all.

Donate today at  arts council
of greater kalamazoo

KalamazooArts.org/donate/

Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute Offers Hands-On STEM Activities, High School Science Credit

RISING Kalamazoo Public Schools ninth graders can get a jumpstart on high school science through the free Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute (KMSI), which offers students the opportunity to learn about the environment through hands-on exper-

es with drones, computer-aided design, water quality analysis, and other activities.
The Kalamazoo Public Schools initiative is a five-week summer program, which allows incoming high school freshmen — this year's eighth graders — to

earn a half-credit in high school science.
The goal of KMSI is to provide students with an opportunity to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts during the summer and to
(continued on page 7)



Kameron Bean collects samples from the Kalamazoo River during a field trip to River Oaks Park as part of the Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute.



Rose Hernandez and Emily Perez Vazquez examine samples through a microscope set up in the pavilion at River Oaks Park.



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community college

Math and Science Institute *(continued from page 6)*

increase interest and awareness of career opportunities in STEM. Students work alongside mentors from Michigan Colleges Alliance (MCA), which includes college instructors and higher education students who are pursuing STEM degrees in college.

Last summer, KMSI students participated in a variety of hands-on learning experiences, culminating in a project that studied the health of the Kalamazoo River. Students worked with animals, drones, Spheros, 3-D printers, and other tools to analyze the water quality of the river and its surrounding environments.

For the summer of 2023, KMSI will enroll up to 40 eighth graders — with an emphasis on registering KPS students who have demonstrated an interest in STEM and are looking to get a head start on high school.

The institute will be taught by KPS teachers and a variety of mentors from the MCA, which is an organization that connects students to Michigan’s private higher education institutions and promotes college affordability and access to Michigan families.



Kameron Bean and Eugene Muckles Jr., sort samples with a student mentor from Kalamazoo College during a field trip to River Oaks Park Morrow Pond as part of the KPS Math and Science Institute.



For more information, contact Kristen Miller, KPS coordinator of mathematics and science, at millerkm@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Kalamazoo MATH & SCIENCE Institute



JUNE 26 – JULY 27, 2023
8:00 – 11:30AM

FREE summer program held at Linden Grove

KMSI provides rising KPS 9th graders with an opportunity to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts

Transportation available

EARN 1/2 CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE!



CURRENT 8TH GRADERS/ RISING 9TH GRADERS INTERESTED IN MATH AND SCIENCE

Questions? Contact Kristen Miller at millerkm@kalamazoopublicschools.net or 269-808-9409 or 269-337-1535

Ready. Set. Read!

READING about science, sports, outer space, barbershops and careers. Those were a few of the themes during the annual Kalamazoo Public Schools Literacy Night held at the elementary and middle schools in March. Here are photos of some of the Literacy Night festivities held around the district. Families explored activities at each school, which helped bring to life the joy of books and reading.



Northglade Montessori Magnet School students share drawings from their Literacy Night event. From left are fourth graders Serenity Bradley and Brigid Brown, and kindergartener Cora Bular.



Staff and volunteers make sure that everyone stays hydrated and keeps their energy up with tasty pizza during the sports-themed Literacy Night at Milwood Elementary School.



Winchell fourth grader Lucas Doud and his mother Adriana Doud participate in some reading fun during Literacy Night.



Barber Paul Frazier of International Profile stopped by Winchell Elementary for Literacy Night to cut students' hair.

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Reese Miller, Alana Anglin, Chloe Recoco and Freddy Thick take a breather during Milwood Elementary's sports-themed night.



Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Officer Dajanick Barlow urges Jordan Schultz to hustle along in his firefighter gear.



Winchell Elementary fourth graders Fiona Springsteen, Aarya Tuell, Avery Tate, Jocelyn Hickman and Evelyn Hickman pose in the “J.D. and the Great Barber Battle” photo booth.



Linden Grove teachers Kelsey Westafer and Sam Bailey channel an Oompa Loompa and Willy Wonka during the middle school's Literacy Night.



Milwood Magnet School Principal Mitch Hawkins takes a minute out of promoting literacy to take a photo with Clifford.



Author Twala Lockett Jones shared her book, “Princess Mackie Buys a House,” with families at the Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School Literacy Night.



K-Wings players and Slappy help make the Parkwood-Upjohn Literacy Night fun for families.

(continued on page 10)

Ready. Set. Read! (cont. from page 9)



Third grader Patrick Williams checks in with Dante Hudson at the Spring Valley Center for Exploration Literacy Night. Hudson, who is a mentor at the school, was there representing The Kalamazoo Promise.



Winchell students Brielle Yordy and Samiyra and Janiyah Yepz are all smiles as they make art to celebrate the book "J.D. and the Great Barber Battle."



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KC's Scott Spada Elected to MI High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame

“It is a super humbling experience to be recognized by your peers for such an award.”



Scott Spada

AFTER MORE THAN 800 games and 26 years, Scott Spada can hardly believe how much time has passed since he first joined the coaching team at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Spada has been named one of the 2023 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductees for his work and will be inducted during the Michigan High School Athletic Association All Star Game in Comerica Park in June.

For 25 of those 26 years, he has been KC's head baseball coach with a career record of 407 wins, 390 losses, and a couple of ties (before the start of the 2023 season). In addition to his years as KC's baseball coach, he also coached football for six years, served a couple stints coaching men's and women's tennis, and since 2014 has been the head women's golf coach.

That's a lot of sports, a lot of athletes, and a lot of games.

"I don't feel old enough to have coached that many games," Spada said with a laugh. "Looking back, it's definitely a surprise to see how many games we've played. It's overwhelming to think about how fast time flies.

"My time with Kalamazoo Central has been an extremely rewarding experience. It hasn't always been easy, there have definitely been challenges. But, it has formed me into the person I am today. It made me realize this was something that was a passion of mine and that I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Sports have been a part of his life for much longer than his tenure at KC. His father and mother were both high school coaches and athletic directors. They never held their son back from trying sports. He played tennis and golf at a young age. He also played football and baseball with a passion at Grosse Pointe North High School.

When he came to Western Michigan University, he immediately declared physical education as his major, hoping to follow in his parents' footsteps.

After a four-year career as a pitcher with WMU's baseball program from 1994-97 and earning his degree, he landed a job as an assistant coach at KC working under a fellow WMU player. After a year, the friend left, but Spada stayed.

Spada said he's proud to have built a consistent program that constantly draws fresh talent and



Kalamazoo Central High School coach Scott Spada with the 2022 KC baseball team. Spada had just won his 400th high school game as a coach.

serves the needs of students from a variety of backgrounds. Throughout it all, students have taught him how to become a better coach.

"I think a good coach has to have flexibility, the willingness to change and adapt to modern technology and the current state of student athletes and the

(continued on page 13)

KC’s Scott Spada Elected to MHSBCA Hall of Fame (continued from page 12)

expectations of what they want to get out of sports,” he said.

The things that can hold a student back include dealing with illnesses, being academically ineligible, and family difficulties.

“You have to allow people to live their lives and realize things come up,” Spada said. “Players have to keep things in perspective and understand what is important to you as a human being. Baseball is not going to be the No. 1 thing in every single person’s life and as a coach you have to be able to accept that.”

Kalamazoo Central Principal Valerie Boggan said Spada is a coach who cares about the success of all of his students. “Coach Spada is a great coach who invests in his students and athletes. He is personable and a mentor to many young men. He supports their academics and dreams. You will see him at various sporting events supporting his students and their individual passions.”

Athletic Director Dylan Patterson agreed that Spada’s impact on students is far reaching and that was why the Hall of Fame honor was so well-deserved..

“Coach Spada’s contributions to Kalamazoo Central go far beyond baseball, he is a part of our history,” Patterson said. “As a coach, he has impacted thousands of student athletes during his time here and even more as a teacher. In addition to developing his student athletes, he has worked to improve our facilities and support the development of other athletic programs.”

Spada said being successful in coaching relies on many of the same things it takes to be successful in life generally: doing things right, taking time to develop a structure to a program and being organized. He also thinks that one of the keys to building a successful sports program is to teach students to love a variety of things.

“I think we need to promote kids to playing multiple sports and being involved in multiple things outside of school and their sport to keep them busy and to keep them well-rounded,” he said. As a physical education teacher, he keeps an eye out for students with talent and pushes them to try new activities at which they can be successful.

Every year he guides a few students to cross country, a sport they might never have considered. He

“Coach Spada’s contributions to Kalamazoo Central go far beyond baseball, he is part of our history.”

knows golf can be intimidating, but he’s always trying to recruit players because he sees it as a sport that students will be able to play for the rest of their lives.

“I tell them, be a bad player, just play the game and enjoy it,” he said. “I love to go to the golf course and see some of the girls I’ve coached and for them to say, ‘Coach Spada, I’m still playing! I never would have tried it if you hadn’t said to play.’”

Other career highlights have been serving as the head coach in the MHSBCA All Star game at Comerica Park in 2021, having 39 players go on to play collegiate ball — including seven at the Division 1 level, winning the 2012 Comerica Bank/Detroit Tigers \$10,000 facility improvement grant, and having longtime assistant Nate Varnesdeed selected as the MHSAA Assistant Coach of the Year in 2019.

Through it all, his family has been his biggest source of support. His wife Traci, son Joey, and daughter Katelyn have been patient and understanding of all the time he devoted to the game. He has the honor of coaching Joey, a sophomore, on the KC baseball team.

“It is a super humbling experience to be recognized by your peers for such an award,” Spada said. “This is an individual award but it reflects the effort

that has been put in by all of the former coaches, players, administrators and teachers in the building — and my family who have made major concessions to allow me to coach for 25 years.”

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Knight Life: Preparing Students for a Life of Media Literacy

THEY CALL themselves Knight Lifers. The staff members of the Loy Norrix High School Knight Life student newspaper often leave class not just with strong writing and editing skills but with an intense interest in social responsibility and First Amendment rights.

Norrix journalism teacher Tisha Pankop has helmed the program for nearly three decades — not a mission that the Indiana native envisioned when she graduated from a degree in literature from Western Michigan University. She was hired to teach English lit at Norrix, but within her first two years, she was assigned the journalism class.

“I showed up for work and boom, there’s journalism on my schedule,” she said.

She was a few weeks into teaching the class when a secretary said, “Oh, so you’re putting out Knight Life. I had no idea what Knight Life was. The first year, the students in journalism class taught me a lot.”

Pankop said she soon found that she loved the assignment, and eventually she went to Michigan State University to earn her certification in journalism.

“I’m glad that I did that,” she said. “I didn’t know anything about student press law, libel or defamation. The students were writing things that could have potentially landed in court. I needed to learn about that.”

Now, 28 years later, Pankop points with pride to the award-winning journalism that students produce. She has numerous past students who are



Knight Life Social Media Editor Alex Houslander takes a break from updating the Knight Life social media accounts.

working journalists or whose journalism background has helped inspire their careers, including Maxwell Evans, a journalist with Block Club Chicago and law professor Katherine Macfarlane, who works for disability rights.

“Students find their voices here,” Pankop said. “Students have an outlet in Knight Life where they can explore what they care about, not just write



Kierra Walker works on the Tower Talks opinion pieces.

about topics for a grade for a teacher. They will work twice as hard to make sure it’s perfect, because they’re choosing their topics.”

Senior Hannah Locke, who is this year’s editor-in-chief for Knight Life, said that is one of the things that appealed to her when she signed up for her first journalism class as a freshman.

(continued on page 15)



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Knight Life *(continued from page 14)*

She also enjoys the format of publishing daily projects and the spirit of collaboration.

"It's cool to see what people are interested in and to read their work," said Locke, who prefers writing news and features to some of the more social elements of Knight Life, such as reviews and polls.

Although Knight Life used to publish a physical paper, today it operates as an online publication, maintaining a website and several social media streams. Students not only write articles but take photographs, send a daily email newsletter, and share videos.

That's been a huge change and challenge for Pankop, but in those moments when she struggled to keep up with technology, her students lead the way.

Throughout the years more and more technology has been required to stay current and connected with readers.

"I remember teaching students how to save their files to discs," she said. "Now, I have students teaching me how to get on the web to post our stories



Journalism teacher Tisha Pankop consults with Foster Neve-Jones, the assistant web editor.

and how to auto post to our social media. It's more collaborative now."

Even as the technology changes, the basics of journalism remain the same for Pankop and her stu-

dents. She strives to have them master good writing that can convey their message clearly to the readers.

She also helps them understand the media that bombards every day and to look at it with a critical eye.

"We are inundated with 'news' that may or may not be news. It might be sponsored or biased," Pankop said. "I'm teaching the kids to look at both sides of the story, whether or not they become journalists, I can help open students' minds to understanding the perspective of both sides."

Locke said that is one of the lessons she values from her years in journalism class. She works hard to eliminate bias in her writing and to incorporate differing perspectives in her stories.

"I think we've seen how important unbiased journalism is when it comes to political discourse," she said. "If we have more unbiased information going out, then Americans will be able to make better decisions on the information they're given, rather basing their decisions on information that's meant to sway them one way or the other."

An advertisement for Harding's Rewards. It features a woman and a young girl in a grocery store. A yellow oval logo with the text "Harding's REWARDS" is at the top. Below it, a black box contains the text: "EARN MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL, CHURCH, OR FAVORITE NON-PROFIT EVERY TIME YOU SHOP AT HARDING'S! Plus....earn FREE products and receive money saving digital coupons! Visit Harding's.com".

Harding's
REWARDS

EARN MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL,
CHURCH, OR FAVORITE
NON-PROFIT EVERY TIME YOU SHOP
AT HARDING'S!

Plus....earn FREE products and
receive money saving
digital coupons!

Visit **Harding's.com**

An advertisement for Air Zoo Summer Camps. It features a group of children in a classroom setting. The text "Ignite CURIOSITY Discover SCIENCE Have FUN" is at the top. Below it, the text "2023 summer camps PreK-12th Grade" is displayed. The Air Zoo logo is in the center, with the tagline "Aerospace & Science Experience". At the bottom, the address "6151 Portage Rd. | 269.382.6555" is listed. A purple box at the bottom right contains the text "REGISTER TODAY! airzoo.org/camps".

Ignite **CURIOSITY**
Discover **SCIENCE**
Have **FUN**

2023
summer
camps
PreK-12th Grade

AIR ZOO
Aerospace & Science Experience

6151 Portage Rd. | 269.382.6555

REGISTER TODAY!
airzoo.org/camps

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



EXHIBIT

NOW - JUNE 18 | FREE

MENTAL HEALTH: MIND MATTERS EXHIBIT

This exhibit creates a safe space for important conversations about mental illness. It was produced for North America by the Science Museum of Minnesota in collaboration with Heureka, The Finnish Science Centre.

EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 20 | 1 - 3 p.m. | FREE

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

Meet a real-life therapy dog, engage in unique self-care, and learn about some of the amazing mental health programs and services available in our community.



AGES 0 - 5 | FREE

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

NEW THEME: *My Feelings Matter*

Explore emotions and how to handle big feelings. Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for Children's Landscape days, times and special programming.



MINI EXHIBIT NOW - JUNE 25 | FREE

50 YEARS OF SERVICE, SCHOLARSHIP, SISTERHOOD & SOCIAL ACTION: The Kalamazoo Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta

The sorority's local chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary of service to the Kalamazoo area with a mini-exhibit. Join the public celebration on Sunday, April 23, 1 - 3 p.m.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

MAY SHOWS | THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS | \$3

One World, One Sky | Preschool - Grade 1 | 1 p.m. | 30 min.

Join Big Bird, Elmo and their Chinese friend, Hu Hu Zhu, exploring the sky they share. Discover the Big Dipper and North Star, and take an imaginary trip to the moon.

The Sky Above Us | Grades 4 & up | 2 p.m. | 40 min.

Within this live, season-focused program, learn about "celestial wonders" like constellations, planets and meteor showers that can be seen overhead in Michigan.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | \$3

Perfect Little Planet | Grades K & up | 11 a.m. | 35 min.

Discover our solar system through a different set of eyes — an alien family from another star system.

Weather Wonders & Mysteries Revealed | Grades 5 & up | 2 p.m. | 30 min.

A gaseous blanket of air surrounds our planet. Learn how our atmosphere is affected by the sun and the Earth, causing phenomena that we call "weather."

PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990