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PHOTO | JACKSON FAMILY

Joe Jackson and his autistic son McKaden "Jaxon" Jackson take a swing at a piñata during his seventh birthday party, inside the family's therapy room earlier this year. The Bellefontaine native is hosting the Stand Up for Autism comedy show at the Holland Theatre on Aug. 29 to raise money for Ohio Families Affected by Autism.

Raising spirits, funds for autism

Holland stand up comedy show to benefit area families

BY REUBEN MEES
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER
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IF YOU GO

- **What:** Stand Up for Autism comedy show
- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29
- **Where:** Holland Theatre, 127 E. Columbus Ave.
- **Why:** Benefit for Ohio Families Affected by Autism
- **Cost:** \$17 general seating, \$25 table seating
- **Online tickets:** www.thehollandtheatre.org

Autism is no laughing matter but that doesn't mean that those who deal with it on a day-to-day basis don't deserve a good laugh every once in a while.

That's the thinking of Bellefontaine native Joe Jackson, who is putting on a benefit to raise awareness and funds for a nonprofit organization to help area families with children afflicted by the disease.

"Our ultimate goal is to raise money to buy adaptive equipment, iPads, GPS devices or a night of respite for families with children who have autism," Mr. Jackson, who now lives in the Waynesfield area, said of the group Ohio Families Affected by Autism.

"I never really thought much about autism until my son was diagnosed," the father of 7-year-old McKaden "Jaxon" Jackson said.

He said since Jaxon's diagnosis, his family's life has changed. From carefully selecting what places they visit to converting a garage to a "man cave" to a therapy room or the general stress of the day-to-day care, it is an ever-present facet of life.

"I think everybody knows autism is out there, but people don't know enough about it," the father said.

To that end, the organization, which is primarily managed by his wife Chanda Jackson, is hosting a night of comedy called Stand Up for Autism at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Holland Theatre.

"This is our first event, and we'll see how it goes," Mr. Jackson said of the effort, which began as a Facebook page several years ago and grew to a nonprofit organization more recently.

"I've always liked comedy. I've gone to the Funny Bone to see acts and it's just something I've liked," he said. "For my 40th birthday we had a comedy party in Lima and I thought that night I should have a benefit show right here in Bellefontaine."

See **AUTISM** on Page 5



EXAMINER PHOTO | MANDY LOEHR

From the left, Tiarra Lewis, 12; visiting artist Duarte Brown; and Maurel Wilson, 10; paint a mural Thursday at the Western Neighborhood Outreach Center, 520 Garfield Ave., as part of a LoCo Art sponsored project.

Song of their hearts

Youths work with Columbus artist on outreach center mural

BY MANDY LOEHR | EXAMINER STAFF WRITER
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A number of youth-led outdoor murals have been springing up across Logan County in recent years through projects funded by LoCo Art.

This week, however, youths in Bellefontaine worked on a mural of a different sort that will be featured in a prominent spot inside a place that is close to their hearts — the Western Neighborhood Outreach Center.

"The thought of featuring the mural indoors made a lot of sense here because the kids spend a lot of time inside this building," said Director Chloe Manor of LoCo Art, which was formerly known as the Bellefontaine Cultural Arts Commission.

"They might go outside to play a little bit of basketball, but they're inside each day for lunches in the summer-time. During the school year, they come for homework help after school."

Youths ranging in age from 7-years-old to high schoolers worked Thursday

with Columbus-based mixed media artist Duarte Brown this week on their mural to adorn the walls of the 520 Garfield Ave. location after developing ideas as a group.

Mr. Brown said the painted mural will feature children gathered around a large table, symbolizing all of their shared meals together. It also will include a number of elements important to the youths, including a small basketball court with grass and flowers, along with music notes swirling around the piece with quotes from the youths telling the "song of their hearts."

"It needs to feel like it's their mural. It's their song about the outreach center from their hearts," Mr. Brown said. "The song of the center is all of their ideas and what this place means to them."

"This is such a nurturing



EXAMINER PHOTO | MANDY LOEHR

Keziah Howard, 7, of Bellefontaine, paints tulips on the mural at the Western Neighborhood Outreach Center.

place for the kids," Ms. Manor said. "It's neat because a lot of the older kids started coming here at a young age. Now they'll have this mural to reflect on their experiences at the outreach center."

Prior to working on the large 7-foot-by-16-foot mural canvas, Mr. Brown and fellow Columbus artist Donte

Woods provided mini canvases so that the children could practice painting techniques such as blending and washing layers of paint.

Then the artist pair mapped out some of the main mural features before the youths added various details.

See **HEARTS** on Page 5

National challenge of leaking mines dwarfs Colorado spill

BY MATTHEW BROWN, MICHAEL BIESECKER and P. SOLOMON BANDA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SILVERTON, Colorado — It will take many years and many millions of dollars simply to manage and not even remove the toxic wastewater from an abandoned mine that unleashed a 100-mile-long torrent of heavy metals into Western rivers and has likely reached Lake Powell, experts said.

Plugging Colorado's Gold King Mine could simply lead to an eventual explosion of poisonous water elsewhere, so the safest solution, they said Thursday, would be to install a treatment plant that would indefinitely clean the water from Gold King and three other nearby mines.

It would cost millions of dollars, and do nothing to contain the thousands of other toxic streams that are a permanent legacy of mining across the nation.

Federal authorities first suggested a treatment plant for Gold King more than a decade ago, but local officials and owners of a nearby mine were reluctant to embrace a federally-sponsored cleanup.

"They have been not pursuing the obvious solution," said Rob Robinson, a retired abandoned mines cleanup coordinator for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. "My hope is this has embarrassed the hell out of them and they're going to finally take it seriously."

See **SPILL** on Page 3

Warm Clothes for Kids provides shoe vouchers

BY THE BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER STAFF

Instead of offering coats and warm winter items this year, Warm Clothes for Kids is changing up its efforts and is providing \$45 shoe vouchers to assist children as they head back to school.

The vouchers that have been distributed to approximately 1,100 school-age children may be used anytime through Oct. 1 at Shoe Sensation, 1750 S. Main St.

The shoe vouchers are offered in a partnership effort with a school clothing voucher program offered by Logan County Department of Job and Family Services.

Clothing vouchers were made possible by \$300,000 in leftover government assistance funds. Each eligible child received a \$175 shopping voucher from Job and Family Services, as previously reported in the *Examiner*.

Deborah Ellis, Warm Clothes for Kids vol-

unteer coordinator, said the organization gathered its resources to assist with the back-to-school effort this year.

"Our intention is to avoid duplication and to be more efficient. Issuing a shoe voucher will enhance our efforts to provide children with basic clothing."

"Typically Warm Clothes for Kids reaches 500 students each year. Now by joining forces with Logan County Job and Family Services, we can serve over 1,100 students. Working together we can definitely put our best foot forward to help our community."

The local Warm Clothes for Kids program has been touching the lives of Logan County children for 36 years, and will likely go back to its typical format next year, Mrs. Ellis said. It is a 100 percent volunteer program.

As an agency of the United Way of Logan County, all donated money goes directly to purchase clothing and shoes for children in need.

Hearts

Continued from Page 1

Tiarra Lewis, 12, was charged with painting a butterfly, and her quote also will be included on the mural as well: "The butterfly is beautiful and everyone is beautiful on the inside."

"This is pretty fun," Tiarra said of the project. "I've never done anything like this before, and I'd like to do this again sometime."

"This is going to be better than I ever imagined," agreed Robert Baum, 10, while painting an image of a globe onto the mural. "Duarte is like the world's greatest artist."

With a spray bottle of water in hand, Mr. Brown explained that the blending and washing the paint will add a more playful and fun vibe to the overall

"It needs to feel like it's their mural. It's their song about the outreach center from their hearts. The song of the center is all of their ideas and what this place means to them."

Duarte Brown
Columbus-based mixed media artist

Painted piece. Some decoupage elements also will be incorporated into the mural.

"We want some fun in there. We'll have some bold forms, but overall we're staying away from stiff, rigid lines," he said.

Earlier this summer, Mr. Brown visited Logan County for a weeklong mixed media workshop offered by LoCo Art for students ages 8-16. Ms. Manor

said she invited the artist back to the county so that even more youngsters would have the chance to be mentored by him.

"He has a lot of experience working with youths at community centers and at after school programs," she said.

"Part of our goal at LoCo Art is making art accessible for the kids and at no cost to them. For some of the kids at the center,

transportation is an issue, so offering the project right here at the outreach center where they just walk over every day works out well."

Another local outreach center benefited from a LoCo Art mural installation last year, the Chippewa Neighborhood Outreach Center at 13976 Ironwood Ave., Lakeview, where youths at that location assisted with the creation of the outdoor mixed media piece.

In addition, other LoCo Art commissioned murals are located at the Logan County Juvenile Detention Center, 104 S. Madriver St., and the Allstate Insurance building at 207 S. Main St.

For more information about the non-profit youth arts organization, visit www.lococartspot.com.

DA: Theater shooter's life sentence came down to 1 juror

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — A jury's refusal to sentence Colorado theater shooter James Holmes to die for one of the worst massacres in U.S. history doesn't mean the public is growing wary of capital punishment, because only a single juror blocked his execution, the lead prosecutor said Friday.

The lone holdout felt just as strongly that Holmes should get a life sentence as the 11 other jurors believed he should die for the 2012 shooting, District Attorney George Brauchler said, based on prosecution interviews with some of the panel. Twelve people were killed and 70 others injured in the attack.

"They were surprised, shocked that this juror held this view, and this view, this adamantly," he told The Associated Press in an interview one week after the jurors said they could not reach a unanimous verdict on each murder count. Their indecision automatically eliminated the death penalty for Holmes, who blamed the attack on schizophrenia and psychotic delusions. He will instead be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

The holdout hasn't come forward to speak with prosecutors, but other jurors have said testimony about Holmes' mental illness persuaded her to show mercy.

DEATH NOTICES

Moss, Christina N., 27, of Lima, died Friday, Aug. 14, 2015, at Lost Creek Health Care Center, Lima; arrangements pending at Eichholtz Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, Bellefontaine.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

BRENTLINGER, Jacqueline M. — 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, celebration of life, West Mansfield Conservation Club.

LARRY, Charles Lincoln "Doc" — Memorial service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, Quest Community Church, West Liberty.

NOLZE, Mary L. — Graveside service, 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, Greenwood Union Cemetery, DeGraff.

RISNER, Imogene Louise — Visitation, 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, Schindewolf Stout Crates Funeral Home, Kenton; funeral, 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, Abundant Life Assembly of God, Kenton.

SCHNEIDER, Eric Michael — Memorial service, 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, Bellefontaine Apostolic Temple, 500 Lawrence St., Bellefontaine.

WREN, David I. — Visitation, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today, Aug. 15, Eichholtz Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, Bellefontaine; graveside service, 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at Rae Cemetery.

Autism

Continued from Page 1

He recently worked at the Holland through his employer Thompson Electric and began discussing the possibility of a stand up comedy show.

"It was just a fluke that I happened to be doing work at the Holland Theatre two months ago," Mr. Jackson said.

Eleven regional and local

comedians have agreed to perform at the benefit show for little to no compensation.

The sets will range from five to 10 minutes for some performers to a longer 30 to 45 minute act by the headlining act Homer Shadowheart, an American Indian stand up comedian from the Cincinnati area.

The local talent includes, Mr.

Jackson, Darren Meadows and Lucas Williams. Others who have signed on to perform include Dorian Vasquez, Archie Wiseman, Dan Dean, Dan Sebree, Brandon Miller and Wendy Ferguson.

The show will be appropriate for most ages but the environment may not be ideal for moderate to severely autistic children, Mr. Jackson said.

"Ideally we would like to have a bunch of families with autistic children but a comedy show might not be the best place for that," he said.

Tickets for the event are \$17 for theater seats or \$25 for table seating, which includes one beverage. Advance tickets are available online at www.theholllandtheatre.org or at the 127 E. Columbus Ave. theater office.

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This weeks answer, as well as another question, will appear
in next Saturday's Bellefontaine Examiner.

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