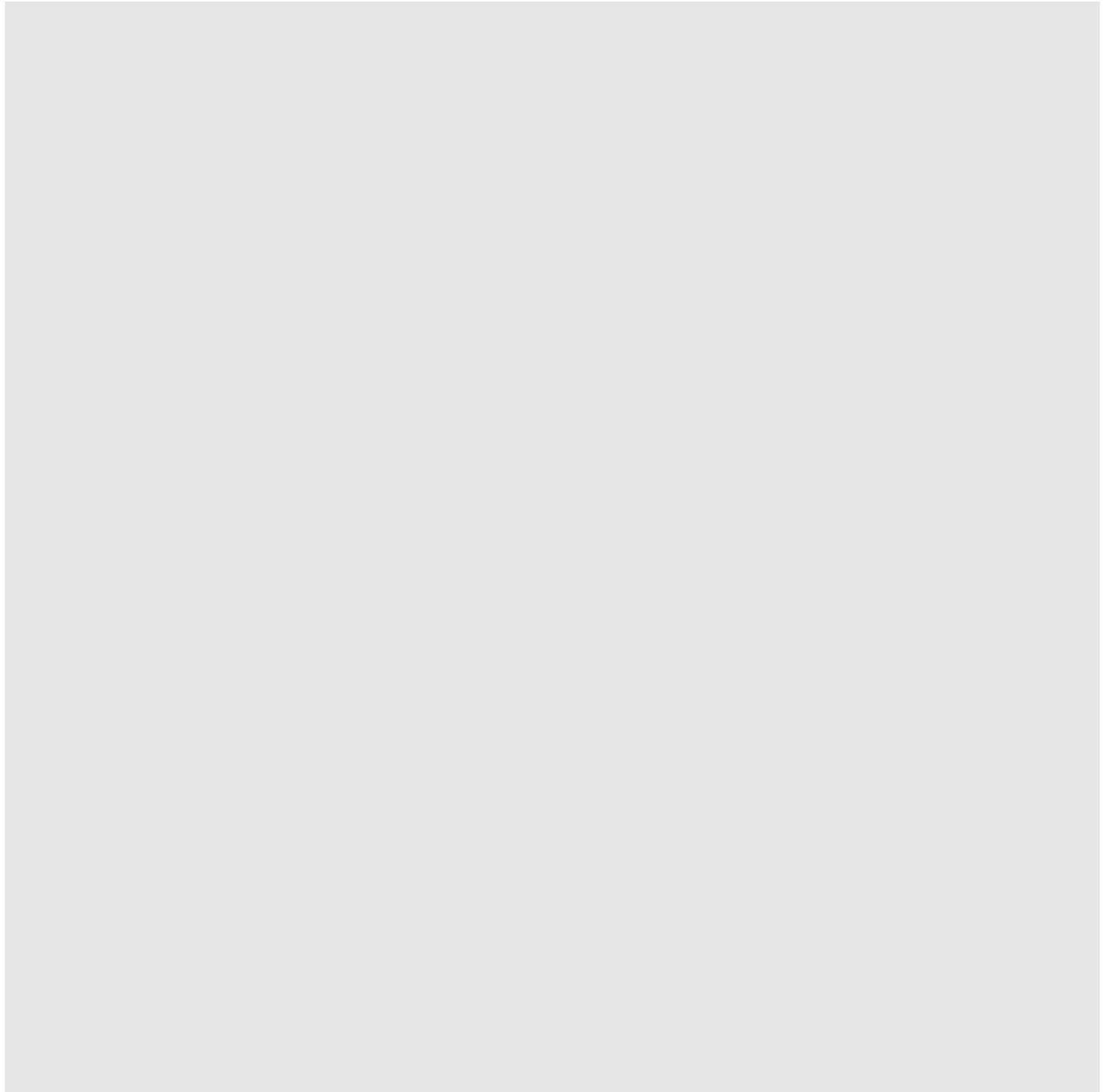


http://www.jcdailyunion.com/news/accord-hospice-hopes-to-make-camp-soar-an-annual-event/article_ef47a12e-c0cb-11e8-9c70-47ec3a2000c5.html

FEATURED

Accord Hospice hopes to make Camp Soar an annual event in Junction City

Shane Ersland Sep 25, 2018



Camp Soar visitors play Nine Square in the Air Saturday at The Bluffs in Junction City.



Members of the Junction City High School J-Stepper Dance Team lead a dance routine Saturday during Camp Soar activities.

Shane Ersland

While many kids who attended Camp Soar have experienced some challenging times, they got a brief reprieve from their grievances last weekend at a special event.

Accord Hospice hosted Camp Soar Saturday at The Bluffs in Junction City. The camp was organized for kids who have experienced the loss of a significant loved one through death, divorce or distance, said Accord Hospice Director Nikki Medaris. Organizers put together a schedule that allowed children to play games, enjoy planned activities, focus on sharing memories, try new things and learn they are not alone in experiencing grief.

A promotional advertisement for GreatLife golf // fitness. The background is light blue with white curved lines. On the left, there are two circular images: the top one shows a woman in a blue tank top running on a treadmill, and the bottom one shows a man in a white polo shirt driving a golf cart. On the right, there is a circular image of a golf course with a flag. The text "Start your membership today!" is written in white on the blue background. Below the images, the logo "GreatLife" is written in large blue letters, with "golf // fitness" in smaller blue letters underneath. At the bottom, the phone number "785-679-6050" and the website "greatlifegolf.com" are listed. A small tagline "Make it a Great day, Make It GreatLife" is visible above the phone number.

“This is a part of the population that is often overlooked when it comes to grief,” Medaris said. “We want them to know it’s OK to have fun and also talk about difficult things with other kids who have experienced something similar.”

Attendees played Nine Square in the Air, Gaga Ball, danced with Junction City High School J-Stepper Dance Team members and learned about fire truck equipment as firefighters from the Junction City Fire Department were on hand.

Accord Hospice is based in Manhattan — and hosts Camp Soar there every year — but the organization covers a 60-mile radius, which includes Junction City. A total of 33 kids attended the first Junction City Camp Soar Saturday.

“Junction City has been very receptive to us,” Medaris said. “We’re going to try to make this a yearly event. And hopefully, when people learn more about it, they will send their kids.”

Event organizers may look at holding Camp Soar at a different location next year to accommodate more kids, Medaris said.