



TVINNEREIM CALLS IT A CAREER

Jackson County Central cheerleading coach Barb Tvinnereim is retiring after 19 years, three state championships and plenty of memories.

Story, B1

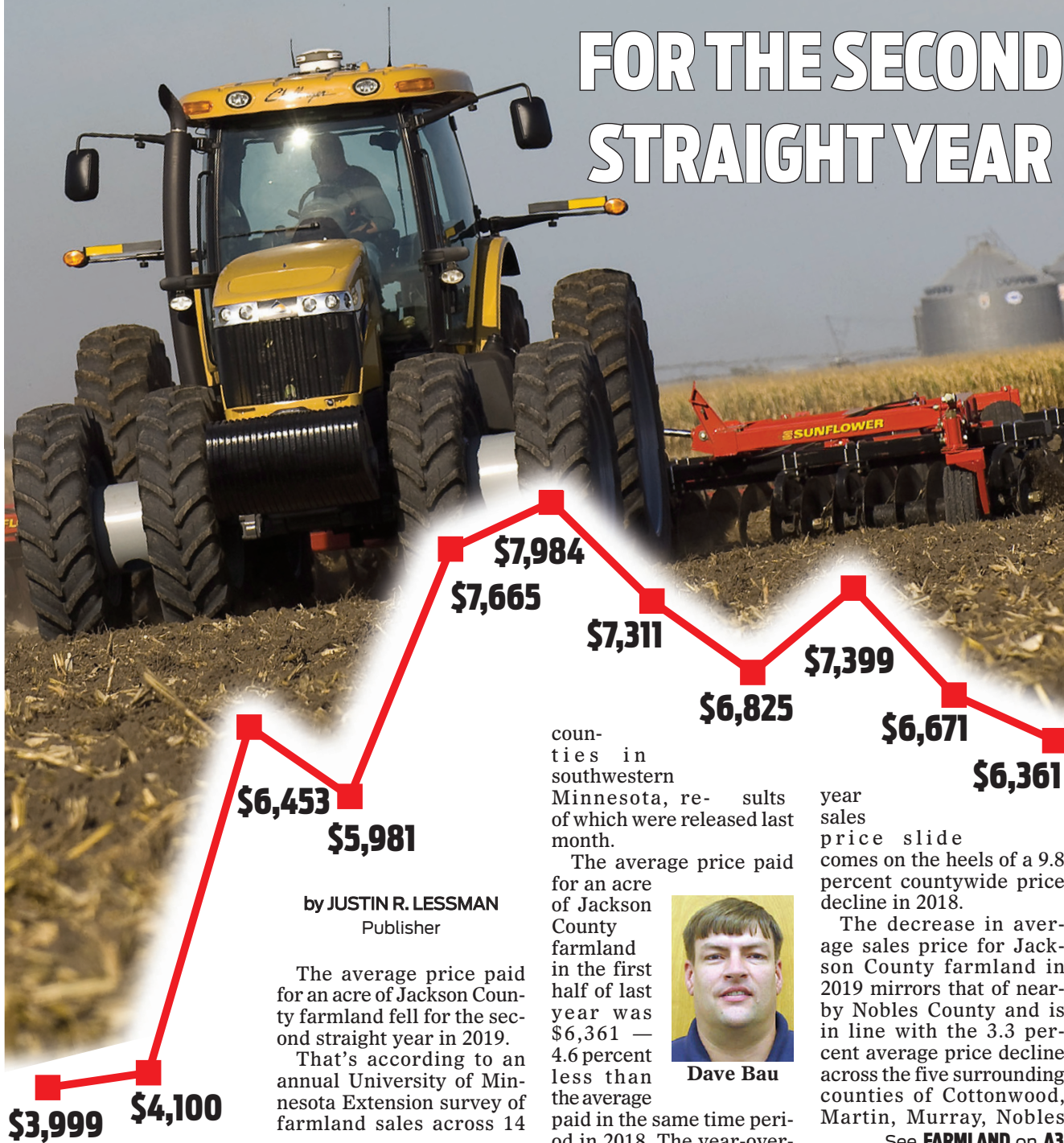


JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

130TH YEAR/ISSUE 7

COUNTY FARMLAND PRICES FALL FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR



by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The average price paid for an acre of Jackson County farmland fell for the second straight year in 2019. That's according to an annual University of Minnesota Extension survey of farmland sales across 14

counties in southwestern Minnesota, results of which were released last month. The average price paid for an acre of Jackson County farmland in the first half of last year was \$6,361 — 4.6 percent less than the average paid in the same time period in 2018. The year-over-



Dave Bau

year sales price slide comes on the heels of a 9.8 percent countywide price decline in 2018. The decrease in average sales price for Jackson County farmland in 2019 mirrors that of nearby Nobles County and is in line with the 3.3 percent average price decline across the five surrounding counties of Cottonwood, Martin, Murray, Nobles

See **FARMLAND** on A3

Animal shelter plans advance

Nonprofit group being formed to run countywide pound facility

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Plans are being laid to construct a countywide animal shelter. Construction and maintenance costs would be funded by the county and participating cities, as well as grants and donations.



Jeff Gay

The plan is the product of a month-long effort by a committee headed by Jeff Gay, a member of

the Jackson City Council. Over the course of several meetings, committee members discussed numerous options for animal control, Gay said, including implementing a trap-neuter-vaccinate-release program, though the conversation always seemed to return to the need for an animal shelter.

"There is no clear fix, but there can be a solution to manage the issue by having a place in our county to bring the animals, house them and prepare them for adoption," Gay said.

Gay said Jackson County is the only county in southwestern Minnesota without any type of animal shelter. Most area shelters are owned and operated by nonprofit entities, he said. To that end, articles of incorporation have been filed with the Minnesota Sec-

See **SHELTER** on A3

County's bridge situation better

Six more will be addressed in '20

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The bridge situation in Jackson County is better. A lot better, in fact. That's the word from Jackson County Engineer Tim Stahl, who said, at present, Jackson County has no noncompliant bridges or fracture-critical bridges within its boundaries.

"That's the first time in a while," Stahl said of the fact.

That's a marked improvement from just five years ago, when a study of U.S. Federal Highway Administration data conducted by Transportation for America found around 7.5 percent of bridges in the county were "structurally deficient," a federal classification for bridges not meeting minimum safety ratings. At the time, Jack-

See **BRIDGE** on A3

Online...



Check out the 2020 Jackson County Bridge Map online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

Getting REAL ID-ready requires additional documents and time

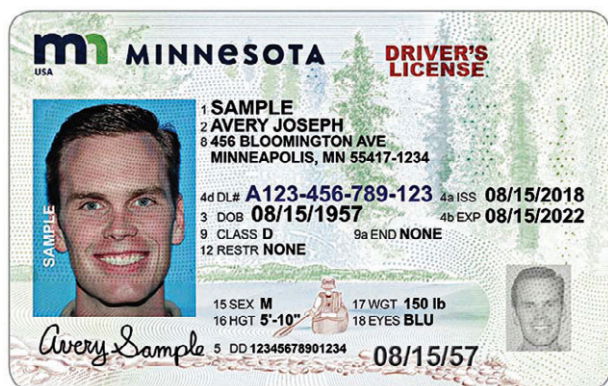
More than 14% in compliance as deadline looms

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Locals planning to apply for a REAL ID or enhanced driver's license or identification card ahead of this year's deadline to do so should be prepared to bring a lot more documentation with them and to spend a little more time at the county driver's license office than normal.

That's the word from Betty Hunt, Jackson County driver's license official, who said more and more locals are becoming REAL ID-ready as an Oct. 1 deadline approaches. Beginning that day, Minnesota residents will be required to have a REAL ID or enhanced driver's license or ID card to fly within the United States or enter federal buildings, unless they are in possession of a passport or other acceptable form of identification.

"Applying for a REAL ID takes a bit longer than applying for a standard driver's license," Hunt said. "People applying for one should allot a bit more time. And applying for an enhanced license or ID card



TIME TO GET REAL

Documents needed when applying for a REAL ID:

- One proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States
- One proving Social Security number
- Two proving current residency in Minnesota

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

—an acceptable North American border-crossing document — takes just a bit longer beyond that, as there is one more form that needs to be completed."

Much of that extra time requirement is due to the need to copy more required documents, Hunt said. Among documents required to be provided at time of application are one proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States; one proving Social Security number; and two

proving current residency in Minnesota. Hunt said applicants may also be required to present additional documentation related to name changes. Documents must be original or certified by the agency that issued them, she added.

While a number of local applicants have been tripped up by the new document requirements, Hunt said, she cannot pinpoint one dominant document issue.

"Some people are not

See **REAL ID** on A3



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN LESSMAN

THE WINNER IS...

Above: Renae Hemingway and Tom Nelson, masters of ceremonies at Sunday's Jackson Center for the Arts-hosted Oscars Party at the Historic State Theatre, present a round of local awards during a commercial break. Left: Hemingway presents the award for best Jackson promoter to Mike and Nikki Schwartz, theater owners. Other local winners were Dave Schmidt, best supporting promoter; the Coffee Nest, best supporting business; Kat's Hog Heaven, best business; Justin Lessman and Michelle Scheepstra, best supporting Opry Christmas Jackson Style performance; and Kerri Henderson, best Opry performance. The event was a fundraiser for the local arts center.

