



GYMNASTS EDGE MAGIC FOR TITLE

The Jackson County Central gymnastics team narrowly beat Martin County Area to win a tournament Saturday. Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

130TH YEAR/ISSUE 3



County makes out legislative wish list ahead of session

Tax, watershed district concerns among top items

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Jackson County has made out its legislative wish list for 2020, and it's long and varied.

Among items of interest for the county at this year's legislative session in St. Paul are those related to watersheds districts, wind energy production tax, local government levy

limits, the state's property tax code and various state agencies that affect the county directly, including the embattled Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners adopted the county's local legislative platform last week and had the chance to pitch it directly to one local legislator — state Sen. Julie Rosen — during a special meeting Monday evening in Jackson.

The 2020 legislative session begins Feb. 11 in St. Paul.



Sen. Julie Rosen

Water, water everywhere
Commissioners said they oppose any effort by any watershed district or non-tax, local government levy
See **COUNTY** on A3

A Joyful SOUND

Photos by Justin Lessman



Above: Sid Nestegard (from left), Brad Nestegard, Tim Anderson and Kristen Kuipers sing during the Southwest Minnesota Community Choir concert Saturday evening at Jackson's First Presbyterian Church. Left: Choir member Leo Porter takes up the ukulele for one song.



Left: Special guest performers Lilly (left) and Chloe Nestegard perform a piano duet of "O Christmas Tree" during Saturday's Southwest Minnesota Community Choir concert at Jackson's First Presbyterian Church. Right: Choir director Lori Grote joins choir member Kate Schoeberl on a vocal duet of "Child of the Poor/What Child is This?" See more photos from Saturday's winter concert on A8.



Meeting a chance to look back, set course

Trio of seats on historical society board up for vote

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The Jackson County Historical Society will review the past year and set course for the year ahead at its annual meeting this Saturday in Lakefield.

The annual meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. at the JCHS Museum in Lakefield. Society director Mike Kirchmeier said a short business meeting will take place first, followed by elections to the board of directors.

Incumbent board members John Hay, Delia Emmerich and Gwen Fleace are seeking re-election to the board, Kirchmeier said.

Hay currently serves as board secretary, Emmerich as secretary and Fleace as president.

Current society members interested in serving on the board are asked to contact Kirchmeier in advance so ballots can be prepared. Nominations will also be received from the floor the day of the meeting.

Following the election, Kirchmeier will present a fiscal review, a fundraising update and a program highlighting some of the accomplishments and interesting acquisitions the society has made over the course of the past year. An update on the restoration of Loon Lake Cemetery is also planned.

Refreshments will be served.

Kirchmeier said the public is welcome to attend the annual meeting.

If you go...

What: JCHS annual meeting
When: Saturday Jan. 18, 1:30 p.m.
Where: JCHS Museum, Lakefield

Library, county 4-H partner up for after-school events

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The Jackson County Library System and Jackson County 4-H Program are combining efforts in the new year to offer monthly after-school programming for local youngsters.

The first joint after-school program took place last Wednesday at the Jackson library. A second followed at the Lakefield library last Thursday.

Darcy Reed Lusk, extension educator in 4-H youth

See **AFTER-SCHOOL** on A3



PHOTO BY JUSTIN LESSMAN

Library assistant Mackenzie Schley helps Abby Ackerman get her robot ready to roll during last week's after-school program in Lakefield.

Housing forum set for next week

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Local housing challenges and opportunities are the topic of discussion at a community housing forum scheduled for next week in Jackson.

The forum, which is open to the public, will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Jackson Pizza Ranch.

At the forum, Tom Nelson, Jackson's economic development coordinator

and a community and business development specialist with Chatfield-based Community and Economic Development Associates, will present findings from the community's 2019 housing study, lead a discussion of current housing initiatives and open

the forum up to community input.

If you go...

What: Community housing forum
When: Thursday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m.
Where: Pizza Ranch

Nelson said he will also encourage those present to begin to explore the possibility of locating a Rebuilding Together office in the area. Rebuilding Together is a volunteer-

See **HOUSING** on A3



PHOTO BY JUSTIN LESSMAN

LOADS OF LUTEFISK

Ron Fransen loads up another heaping bowl of lutefisk during last Wednesday's lutefisk dinner at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jackson. For more from last week's annual lutefisk feed, see B6.