



ANDERSON CLIMBS CHART

Olivia Anderson moved up a spot on the career chart at JCC with her performance at the I-90 Invitational last week in Fairmont. Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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Numbers up at JCC

Enrollment rises for the second consecutive year

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Student numbers at Jackson County Central Schools are up this fall for the second consecutive year.

Official fall enrollment figures reported to the Minnesota Department of Education earlier this month show 1,129 kindergarten through 12th-grade students enrolled in JCC schools. That's seven more than last year and comes on the heels of a dozen-student increase the year prior. Before last year's increase, the district had suffered through four straight years of declining enrollment.

Though less than what preliminary enrollment figures seemed to indicate just ahead of school starting in September, the official Oct. 1 student count is still higher than it was last year — and that makes school administrators happy.

"I'm excited because the high school numbers are up," said JCC High School Principal Larry Traetow.

Ditto for JCC Middle School Principal Chris Naumann.

"We're up a little bit," he said. "Good things are happening at the middle school."

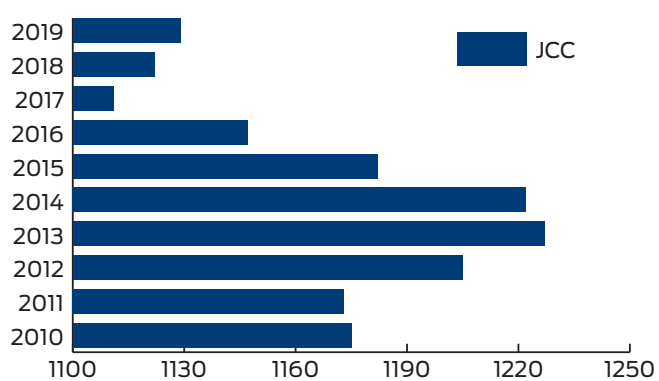
Tammy Timko, principal of Pleasantview Elementary School in Lakefield, agreed.

"It's good to see the numbers increasing," she said.

The largest grade at JCC

See JCC on A3

Jackson County Central 2019 Fall Enrollment



Source: Jackson County Central School District



Expert appraiser Mark Moran gets a closer look at the hand-painted detail on Cindy Albrecht's ceramic dresser box during an antique appraisal event at the Jackson library last week.

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN LESSMAN

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW



Despite what is stated on a certificate of appraisal attached the back of the frame, expert appraiser Mark Moran informs Rachel Landherr her piece of artwork is not worth \$162,700, but rather about \$60.

Expert appraiser takes a peek at local treasures

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The people of Jackson County opened their treasure chests last week to have their most precious items evaluated by a traveling "Antiques Roadshow" appraiser.

Over the course of three hours last Wednesday at the Jackson library, expert appraiser Mark Moran inspected dozens of antiques

and heirlooms, explaining their origin and value while learning a bit about their rich local history in the process.

Some items brought before Moran were purchased for pennies; others have been passed down through the generations. All received Moran's expert — and oftentimes entertaining — evaluation.

Candleholder after all

Judy Hintze brought what she thought was an antique candleholder before Moran, wondering if

See ANTIQUES on A3



Pleasantview Elementary School fourth-grader Madison Censky creates a colorful piece of art on her easel Monday.

PHOTOS BY MIKE JORDAN

Grant dollars enhancing Pleasantview art program

by MIKE JORDAN
Staff Writer

Grant dollars are enhancing art education at Pleasantview Elementary School.

Art instructor Aline Wilking has applied for and received more than \$5,800 in grants from the Robert and Helen Remick Charitable Foundation Trust and the Jackson County Central Education Foundation over the last year. That money has been used to purchase new art studio equipment and hardware at the school.

Wilking, who is her

See GRANT on A7



Pleasantview Elementary School fourth-grader Eric Bouton starts his drawing within the margins after checking out different creative ideas on his iPad while in art class Monday.

Damp spring dampens hunters' chances during pheasant opener

by DAN CONDON
Staff Writer

Winter snowstorms and a wet spring have played a big part in the decrease in pheasants in the area, according to the 2019 Minnesota August Roadside Survey published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

That means fewer birds and what the DNR labels "poor" pheasant hunting prospects for all of Jackson County.

The range-wide pheasant index decreased 17 percent from a year ago and that number is even more dramatic in the southwest part of the state, where the pheasant count is down 32 percent from 2018 and a whopping 46 percent from the 10-year average.

That's in large part to the weather, according to the DNR's annual report.

"Severe late-season winter snowstorms, heavy

Inside...

A12 Check out the state's anticipated hotspots for pheasant hunting this weekend — and see which areas of Minnesota to avoid.

B9 Longtime conservation advocate and former Pheasants Forever staffer Joe Duggan was honored last week at a dedication for new public hunting areas in Jackson County.

spring rains and resulting flooding throughout much of the core pheasant range likely impacted nesting activity during the 2019 breeding season," the report states.

What it boils down to is an indicated "poor" hunting season in Jackson County.

The entire county falls under that distinction according to the August Roadside count, meaning between 10-24 pheasants were spotted per square mile. The only spot in the southwest region receiving a "good" outlook is the northern edge of Lyon

county, but several areas — including almost all of Pipestone County — fall in the "fair category."

The wet spring also meant crops were put in late and many are still in the fields, giving pheasants plenty of places to seek shelter from hunters as the season opens Saturday.

"I look for the weekend to be busy, but I also look for it to be a challenge," said DNR conservation officer Mike Gruhlke. "I say that because much of the crop is still in the ground. That's always a factor in

See PHEASANT on A12

Last month warmer, wetter than normal

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Last month was warmer and wetter than normal.

According to official weather statistics recorded at Federated Rural Electric headquarters in Jackson, average high temperature in September was nearly 3 degrees higher than the historical average and average low temp was close to 8 degrees higher. Total rainfall last month was nearly 2.3 inches more than the historical average. Federated has recorded and maintained Jackson County weather data since 1945.

Average high tempera-

Inside...

A2 See the full weather summary — including daily highs and lows, precipitation totals and historical averages — for the month of September.

C1 This year marks the sixth consecutive growing season with above-average precipitation in southwestern Minnesota.

ture last month was just short of 78 degrees; average low was nearly 89. The historical average high for the month is about 75 degrees; historical average low is close to 51.

Nearly 5.7 inches of rain fell last month; average precipitation total in September is 3.37 inches.

High temperature for

the month was 89 degrees, hit on the final day of the month. Low temp was 48 degrees, hit just two days prior.

Rain fell 10 days in September, with nearly 3.5 inches falling over a five-day period Sept. 7-11. Sixteen of the month's 31 days were classified as cloudy or partly cloudy.