



## FIRE HITS HI-RISE APARTMENTS

Fire broke out at the Jackson Hi-Rise apartment building Tuesday night, with at least two residents transported by ambulance to Sanford Jackson Medical Center. Details at [jacksoncountypilot.com](http://jacksoncountypilot.com)



# JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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## City hoping to finally wrap up sanitary sewer extension work

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN  
Publisher

City officials are hoping a sewer line extension project five years in the making can finally be wrapped up this week.

Members of the Jackson City Council last week approved a \$75,000 project change order that teams a Watkins-based construction firm with project contractor Svoboda Excavating of Jackson to dig an extension line in across the Des Moines River. Crossing the river has proved to be the project's sticking point, as river levels the past three years have not allowed the crossing to be made.

Jackson City Administrator Matt Skaret said river levels are currently at a point that would allow a crossing to be made and recommended the council bring in the Watkins firm to assist Svoboda Excavating with the work "due to the complexity of the project and the small window of time to get it done." He said if the weather and river levels hold, the river crossing could be done this week, with the final leg of the project completed yet this year.

The project itself was designed to connect 28 properties in Jackson with noncompliant septic systems to the city's sanitary sewer system. The \$1.8 million project was approved in 2015, with work beginning in 2016.

"It's the project that never seems to end," Skaret said.

In other action from last week's council meeting:

### STREET TO CLOSE FOR JCA CONCERT

The council approved a request from the Jackson Center for the Arts to close a block of Second Street in downtown Jackson the afternoon of Sept. 20 for an outdoor concert.

Art center representative Kathy Fransen said attendees will be asked to bring their own chairs for the concert and respect social-distancing guidelines.

See **CITY** on **A3**

# DIRT WORK

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SCHUETZ

Crews from Prinsburg-based Duinick Inc. dig a massive ditch for the new water main along North Highway in Jackson last week. The work is the first phase of a \$5 million street, utility and parking lot improvement project scheduled to take place this year and next.



## More than 400 boxes of books sell next week

Used book sale is largest fundraiser for friends group

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ  
Staff Writer

More than 400 boxes of books are up for sale at the Friends of the Jackson County Library's 14th annual used book sale next week in Jackson.

The sale, the Friends of the Jackson County Library's largest fundraiser of the year, runs Sept. 17-19 at the blue building on the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

"We've been collecting books since June," said Karla Kuipers, the organization's resident bookseller. "We've got over 400 boxes of books this year."

Kuipers said the books were donated by individuals, many doing their spring cleaning, and by the three Jackson County libraries as they purge books periodically to make room for new ones.

"We've got a lot of choices out there," Kuipers said.

The fairgrounds is a good space for the event, she said, especially now.

"We're setting up at the blue building in the fairgrounds," Kuipers said. "It'll be our third year there."

The location is ideal for the social-distancing precautions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, she said.

"We want to maintain social distancing throughout the event," Kuipers said. "People will have to wear masks as well."

Members of the Friends of the Jackson County Library

See **BOOKS** on **A3**

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Miss Rodeo Minnesota royalty for 2021 include Miss Rodeo Samantha Sansevere (from left), Junior Miss Rodeo Sadie Hotzler and Miss Teen Rodeo Tanner Marie Christoffers.

## Local cowgirls ride their way to the top

Christoffers is miss teen rodeo; Sadie Hotzler junior miss rodeo

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ  
Staff Writer

Two of the three members of the 2021 Miss Rodeo Minnesota royal court are Jackson County cowgirls. Sadie Hotzler of rural Jackson was named Minnesota's Junior Miss Rodeo earlier this summer, while Tanner Marie Christoffers of rural Brewster was crowned Minnesota's Miss Teen Rodeo. Samantha Sansevere will serve as Minnesota's Miss Rodeo.

### Learning the ropes

Organized annually by the Miss Rodeo Minnesota organization, this year's competition was a bit different than in years past, as competitors had to navigate virtual showings.

"I had to get ready for it and do patterns with my horse and some other things with an interview," Hotzler said. "I had to do a pattern where you start off with a lope and then take a circle and go left, do a bigger circle, then go right and do a smaller circle."

Like other competitions involving animals, the pageant involves tests of horse knowledge as well, with four different interviews.

"You answer questions about rodeo stuff, and you have to know facts about your horses," Hotzler said.

Hotzler rode her best show horse, "Jake," for the competition.

"We went to get our stuff for the competition, and it

See **COWGIRLS** on **A10**

