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Busy deer hunting season anticipated in Jackson County

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

The firearms deer season opens Saturday across the state and figures to be popular among area hunters.

"I anticipate seeing the county as active as it has been in the past," Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer Mike Gruhlke said. "Statewide, we suggest

there will be a few less than half-a-million people out."

Gruhlke said the harvest will help hunters, but he's not sure if this weekend's warm temperatures will.

"With the crops all out, essentially, I think that will bode well for the hunters and probably not so well for the deer," he said. "What that does is create less habitat for the deer to hide in so they're going to be more visible."

While the harvest is a positive for hunters, temperatures predicted to be in the upper 60s and into the 70s might not be as favorable.

"I don't know how much that will influence deer and their movement," Gruhlke said. "People-wise, it might have some effect on them as far as how much walking they'd do. Folks might be more inclined to sitting and trying to get in front of

a deer that way rather than doing a push. Most would prefer it to be cooler than in the high 60s."

Because the southwest portion of the state is in a lottery, those who want to harvest an antlerless deer must have already applied for and received a permit. There were 300 available in Area 250, which covers most of Jackson County.

"Most of the hunters know that," Gruhlke said

of the lottery rule.

Youth hunt a success

Youth hunters had a chance to bag a deer before the firearms season and Gruhlke said several did just that.

"There were some folks who had some good luck in that deer hunt," he said. "Those that went and were able to bag a deer are probably a cinch for life as far as being a deer hunter."

That's one of the several positives about such a program.

"It gives them a little jumpstart ahead of the regular season," Gruhlke said. "If we can entice some of the youngsters into the outdoors and shooting sports and hunting, that's what our aim is there."

Safety is important

Gruhlke stressed the See **HUNT** on **B4**

JCC CROSS COUNTRY

Boyum finishes 66th in cross country showcase

Jackson County Central junior Andrew Boyum finished in the middle of the pack in a new race that featured the best cross country runners across the state.

The Twin Cities Running Company Cross Country Showcase took place this past Friday and Saturday, taking the place of the canceled Minnesota State High School League state meet.

Boyum competed in the small-school race Saturday and finished 66th out of 117

runners with a time of 18 minutes, 23.9 seconds.

Boyum ran in the same heat as the winner, Emmet Anderson of Staples-Motley. Anderson covered the course in 16 minutes, two seconds to win by 22 seconds.

Boyum was invited to the race after finishing 15th in the Section 3A meet. That placing would have qualified him — and teammate Evan Paplow, who placed 16th — for the state meet in a normal year.



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Andrew Boyum runs in a cross country meet earlier this season. Boyum completed his season at a special meet Saturday that replaced the state meet.

JCC VOLLEYBALL



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central volleyball team celebrate a big point during last week's five-set win over Pipestone.

Huskies get 'extremely important' win against Arrows

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Coming off of being quarantined and a loss to state-ranked Mar-

shall, the Jackson County Central volleyball team needed something to go its way.

That something came with a five-set win over

Pipestone last Thursday in Jackson.

The win moved the Huskies to 4-2 on the season and 3-2 in the West Division of the Big South Con-

ference, but also gave the Huskies something to feel good about after a long couple weeks.

"I think it was extremely See **VB** on **B3**

Seniors cheer on Huskies, honor classmate

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Jackson County Central seniors cheer on the volleyball team during last week's five-set win over Pipestone.

For the first time all season, Jackson County Central students were in the stands for a volleyball match when the Huskies hosted Pipestone last Thursday.

Parents gave up their tickets so JCC seniors could get a chance to cheer on their classmates — and honor one.

A group of about 30 seniors sat together in the bleachers and got especially loud as the Huskies won the fifth set to beat the Arrows.

But before the match, they all stood together in silence to honor Holden

See **SENIORS** on **B4**

JCC FOOTBALL

Huskies come up just short against state-ranked Cardinals



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Trevin Gaustad breaks a tackle on his way to the end zone for the first of his two touchdowns against Redwood Valley.

JCC had chance for lead late at Redwood Valley

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Jackson County Central football coach Tom Schuller just wanted his team to have a chance to upset state-ranked Redwood Valley on the road.

The Huskies put themselves in a position to do so this past Friday, but couldn't quite finish the job in a 28-14 loss to the Cardinals.

The Huskies had the ball trailing by just two points in the fourth quarter and still had a chance down by just eight points midway through the final quarter, but weren't able to score either time.

"If you tell me we come over here and have a chance with what we're

going through right now, I'd say, 'Yes, I'll definitely take it,'" Schuller said.

The loss drops the Huskies to 1-3 on the season.

Huskies have a chance late

Trevin Gaustad's second touchdown of the game pulled the Huskies within two points less than two minutes into the fourth quarter and the Huskies forced a punt a minute later to take possession with a chance to take the lead.

But their drive didn't last long.

It started with a 12-men-on-the-field penalty and ended with an interception that gave the Cardinals the ball on the Husky 5-yard line.

Redwood Valley scored on the next play, but a big defensive play kept the Huskies in the game. Caleb Vancura sacked Cardinal quarterback Alex Lang to stop the two-point conver-

sion. The stop kept the Huskies within eight points as the Cardinals led 22-14.

The Huskies' chance to pull even didn't last long as they were forced to punt with just less than seven minutes left in the game.

The defense, which played well much of the game, forced a third-and-14, but a completion kept the Cardinal drive alive. Redwood Valley converted on third-and-long two other times on the drive and scored a game-clinching touchdown with 81 seconds left in the game.

"Our inexperience showed in the secondary," Schuller said of allowing three back-breaking conversions on third-and-long late in the game. "There was a certain route we just could not handle. Finally, we brought some heat and they beat us one-on-one.

See **FB** on **B3**

HUNT: Season starts Saturday

Continued from B1

most important thing in any hunt is safety.

"It is utmost important that everybody that goes to field this weekend pay attention to what they learned in firearm safety as far as muzzle control," he said. "And remember the blaze orange rule. That's one factor that has helped make hunting one of the safest sports in Minnesota."

Those two factors are the most important in making sure this year's hunt is a safe one.

"If folks can remember that — wear blaze orange, control your muzzle and be sure of what's beyond your target," Gruhlke said.

Pheasant success

Gruhlke said pheasant

hunters have stayed active and have been rewarded.

"Pheasant hunting has kept on going," he said, adding it looked like there were quite a few hunters out last weekend. "There has been success in doing so."

Fishing, trapping are slow
Gruhlke said he hasn't seen a whole lot of action on the water lately, which is a bit of a change.

"I haven't seen a great deal of people fishing yet," he said. "As far as lakes in the county, I haven't seen a terrible amount of fall fishing, which is unusual."

There is some action on the Des Moines River, he said.

"There have been some along the river," he said.

"With the low waters, there's just a few places where people can find some depth to fish. Where they do, that's a good place to be."

Trapping is also a bit slower this year, but Gruhlke said that's based on fur prices.

"That is usually centered around what the fur prices are bringing for money," he said. "Fur prices are anticipated and are low, so I don't know that there will be a tremendous amount of participation. There will be those who do it because it's in their veins, but we do see an uptick when the fur prices are high and that is not the case."

SENIORS: Night to cheer, honor

Continued from B1

Broitzman, who died last month.

Senior volleyball player Grace Brinkman said she and the five other seniors on the team came up with the idea and the parents were supportive of it.

"It was our tribute to one of our other seniors who passed away," she said. "We wanted our seniors to be there for him and that's who came tonight."

Broitzman's parents were also at the match.

Nearly all of the seniors wore flannel, which was a way to honor Broitzman.

"Holden always wore red flannel with his white sweatshirt, so we thought it was important to wear flannel tonight," Brinkman said.

JCC head coach Deidre Wierson said she liked the way her leaders stepped up and did something positive.

"I thought that was great," she said. "It was great to have them here. It was very emotional for them and the whole team. It was a great tribute."

The Huskies recently had to quarantine because of COVID-19 and are still reeling from their classmate's death, but Wierson said their gesture reveals a lot about them.

"I think it says a lot about their character and their leadership," she said. "Just who they are as people. We always say we have great kids here at JCC and this just signifies that even more."

Having seniors in the stands to support the Broitzman family was important, Brinkman and Wierson said, and it was just nice to have them back in the stands to see some volleyball.

"I think having our students here helped a lot," Brinkman said. "They bring a lot of energy to us."

Wierson said a little normalcy can go a long way for her team and the students.

"It was nice to see them doing some of our cheers that we normally hear," she said. "Just to see the smile in their eyes since you can't see their faces. On and off the court, it really felt great to have some kind of normalcy back in the gym."

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