

## Love for Jack comes from near and far



Contributed photo by Heather Scott Photography

The Alexandria boys and girls hockey teams circle around Jack Albert's family to show their support during a fundraiser for the Albert family at the Runestone Community Center in Alexandria on Feb. 8, 2022. Jack Albert, 10, is currently receiving inpatient care at the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis after he was diagnosed with Stage IV Burkitt lymphoma on Jan. 24, 2022.

## Community rallies around 10-year-old's battle with cancer

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

**Alexandria**  
Under normal circumstances, Alexandria 10-year-old Jack Albert would have been on the ice at the Runestone Community Center on the night of Feb. 8, 2022 when the Cardinals hockey team hosted St. Cloud in a Central Lakes Conference matchup. That was the plan. Each home game, Alexandria's varsity team has youth players lead them out on the ice as flag bearers. It's a fun moment to take center stage, and Jack was signed up to take his turn that night. Instead, he and his mother, Kim, watched a live stream from a hospital room in

"He's so strong. There's the chemo, this poison, going into his veins and he's just singing and playing the guitar and talking to his buddies. He's doing amazing, and he's just so positive."

**KIM ALBERT, JACK ALBERT'S MOTHER**

Minneapolis as all of Jack's teammates led the Cardinals onto the ice with his No. 22 jersey. "It was very emotional," Kim said. "His team is just a really special group of kids, and the varsity kids too. The whole Alexandria hockey community is amazing. Just so supportive." The purpose of that night, as the Cardinals hosted a fundraiser



Contributed photo

The Albert family, Kim, Joe, Jack, 10, and Victoria, 12, during a photo taken on Christmas Day, 2021.

that raised more than \$10,000 for the Alberts during a boys and girls hockey doubleheader, was to show Jack how much he meant to them. On Jan. 24, Jack was diagnosed with Stage IV

Burkitt lymphoma. He is receiving inpatient care at the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis where he recently started what will be six

**JACK:** Page 12

## GYMNASTICS



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria senior Ailyn Fetting laughs with her teammates during a meet against Willmar in Alexandria on Dec. 2, 2021. Fetting had a lot to smile about from the Section 8AA meet in St. Cloud on Feb. 12, 2022 as she finished third in the all-around scores to qualify for the state meet on Feb. 19 in St. Paul.

## Fetting steps up on the big stage

Senior qualifies for state in all around

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

ST. CLOUD — Alexandria's Ailyn Fetting just missed making a state gymnastics meet on the bars as a junior last winter. Given a second chance as a senior, she stepped up with her best overall performance of the year on Saturday in St. Cloud.

Fetting scored a season-best 36.325 at the Section 8AA championship to qualify for the Class AA state meet in the all around. The Cardinals finished seventh as a team in the eight-program field after scoring a 134.375.

"It's a really special thing," Fetting said. "State has always been a big goal for me, and having that initial disappointment from last year just drove me harder this season. It will be awesome. Competing with all the other girls from my section, and just being able to not only focus on one event but focus on all four of them is really special."

Taylor Schaefer of St. Cloud Tech led the Tigers to a team championship (147.325) as she finished first in the all-around scores with

a 38.200. Lauren Berg of Bemidji was second at 36.975 as the Lumberjacks took second with a team score of 142.300. Catelyn Zack (36.175) of Tech and Madsen Schmidt (36.050) of Bemidji rounded out the top five all-arounders.

Fetting was keeping an eye on how some of her competition was doing in each event, but she did not know she had finished with that top-three qualifying score until her name was announced.

"There were lots of tears of joy," she said. It's an accomplishment that Fetting has been working toward for years.

"My parents put me in the tiny tot classes when I was about 3-years old," Fetting said. "Ever since then, it's just kind of stuck with me. I love the determination and drive that gymnastics puts in you because you're always out there to be better than you were the day before. Over my entire life, I've been training in the gym. I have trained off-season and in season, and most of my life has been growing up in the gym. Being there has made me the person that I am today."

Fetting was 11th on the vault (9.2), right behind

**STAGE:** Page 12

## NORDIC SKIING

## Jaelyn Miller races to state

Girls fifth, boys seventh at Section 8A meet

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

CALLAWAY — The Alexandria Nordic ski teams competed over the course of two days at the Section 8A meet at Maplelag Resort near Callaway with spots at the state meet in Biwabik up for grabs. Sophomore Jaelyn Miller grabbed one of those spots and will race at state for the second time in her career.

This year's section meet had athletes racing the 5-kilometer classic race on Feb. 8 before the 5.6-kilometer sprint relay and 4.8-kilometer freestyle races took place on Feb. 9.

The Alexandria boys finished

seventh as a team with 312 points, while the girls took fifth place with 351 points. Brainerd, with 384 points, and Bemidji (382) took the top two spots in the girls' team standings in the 12-program field. Little Falls (381) won the boys section title, with Brainerd (375) finishing second.

Miller was the top underclassmen in the entire pursuit as she finished third overall in a total time of 34:24.6. Brainerd senior Lilianna Schaeffer won the pursuit championship in 33:07.3, and Bemidji senior Mary Beth Mathews was second in 34:08.6.

"A big part of Jaelyn's success has been that she is a part of a family that truly lives an active lifestyle," Alexandria head coach Jeremy Rapp said. "Being the fourth in succession of hav-

ing three older sisters who are also great endurance athletes, she has been around an environment her whole life that has fueled her success for a sport like this. Additionally, she has been around skiers on the team, both past and present, that have shown the way on how to train and excel at this sport. She has taken ownership of her own path to do well."

Miller raced the classic portion of the pursuit in 17:43.2 and the freestyle in 16:41.4. Freshman Mackenzie Jurchenko was Alexandria's next best finisher in the girls' race with a 12th-place finish in 35:42.1 (18:46.7 classic, 16:55.4 freestyle).

Freshmen Bobbi Nichols (24th, 37:06.8; 19:13.2 classic, 17:53.6

**RACES:** Page 12



Jared Rubado / Forum News Service

Alexandria sophomore Jaelyn Miller skis to a state-qualifying third-place finish at the Section 8 meet at Maplelag Resort on Feb. 9, 2022. Miller raced the classic portion of the pursuit in 17:43.2 and the freestyle in 16:41.4 to finish with a total time of 34:24.6.

Hey Alexandria,  
Gardonville's got my voice.

Jeff Tacker, Tacker's Barber Shop



gardonville  
cooperative telephone association

Contact us today to learn more about  
business class voice and Internet service.

(320) 834-5151 | www.gctel.com