



JCC GIRLS QUALIFY FOR STATE

The JCC girls' track and field team won the Section 2A True Team meet to qualify for state for the first time in team history.

Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

132ND YEAR/ISSUE 20

SEVERE STORMS CLIP COUNTY

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Two straight nights of severe storms last week flattened buildings and trees, triggered flash flooding and knocked out power to thousands across the county.

Funnels and rain

Last Wednesday's storm rolled into Jackson County at around 5:30 p.m. Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken said an off-duty deputy observed a wall cloud west of Jackson, and a citizen reported observing a funnel cloud just outside of Lakefield. Haken said there were no confirmed reports of a tornado touchdown in Jackson County.

Still, the storm packed a punch.

Strong winds leveled everything but the house at the Ryan and Mackenzie Erickson farm site just west of Rush Lake — a machine shed, small barn, chicken house and grain bin included. Wind gusts also downed several electric poles in the same area, contributing to a power outage that at one time affected more than 1,100 Federated Rural Electric customers.

"Federated lost 10 three-phase overhead poles in this storm — all in the same area," George Madden, Federated's operations manager, said last Thursday morning. "The downed poles were all along 460th Avenue, just north of County Road 4."

Most Federated members had power restored by 7:45 p.m. last Wednesday. All were back on the grid by 11:30 that night.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office received reports of several trees down following last Wednesday's storm, including across a lane of Highway 71 four miles south of Jackson, across the Petersburg Road and at the intersections of South Highway and Hilltop Avenue and Park Street and Bailey Street in Jackson.

Flash flooding was observed in downtown Jackson around the Pizza Ranch and reported on Highway 86 in Lakefield near its intersection with Third Avenue. The sheriff's office also received a report of a sewer backup in a residence in Lakefield.

Personnel from the sheriff's office also assisted in traffic control around a fatal crash on Interstate 90

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County hit by 'derecho' and rare 'haboob'

The National Weather Service has termed the storm that hit Jackson County last Thursday a "derecho" and the massive dust cloud on its front a rare Midwestern "haboob."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines a derecho as "a widespread, long-lived windstorm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms."

Derechos can pack gusts of wind in excess of 100 miles per hour across a front stretching for many miles, and last for hours. Storms that have sustained winds of at least 58 mph and leave a path of damage at least 240 miles long qualify as derechos, according to the NWS.

Last Thursday's derecho developed as a line of strong thunderstorms across southern Nebraska and quickly raced northeast. As the storms moved north, they whipped up extreme winds across portions of the Northern Plains.

Widespread straight-line winds between 50 and 70 mph were reported, according to the NWS, with more limited areas of 80- to 100-mph winds. The highest wind gusts reported included a measured 107-mph gust in Tripp, S.D.; a 97-mph wind gust in Madison, S.D.; and a 90-mph wind gust in Huron, S.D.

Later in the evening, a second line of thunderstorms developed in eastern Nebraska and moved northeast across portions of Iowa, Minnesota and extreme eastern South Dakota. While weaker, these storms continued to produce wind gusts between 50 and 87 mph.

Significant damage to residential, commercial and agricultural areas was reported in many communities across the tri-state area, according to the NWS. Vehicles and high-profile vehicles were blown off several roads, shutting down traffic on Interstates 29 and 90.

The term derecho was coined in 1888 by University of Iowa professor Gustavus Hinrichs, according to the NOAA. The word is Spanish for "direct," or "straight."

Not only did Jackson County experience a

See **COUNTY** on **A3**



PHOTOS BY SUE CARLBLOM AND COURTESY OF STEVE RUTHENBECK, MACKENZIE ERICKSON AND GERRY POHLMAN
Clockwise from top: Federated Rural Electric crews work to restore power in a section of Minneota Township hard hit by last Wednesday's storms. A window is broken out of the Lakefield home of Rusty and Angela Kaderabek last Thursday. A barn owned by Victor and Gerry Pohlman is in ruins following last Thursday's derecho. Nothing is left of a shed on the Ryan and Mackenzie Erickson farm site west of Rush Lake last Wednesday. Sheets of insulation intended for the new middle school addition in Lakefield are scattered on lawns and streets last Thursday evening.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Locals experienced a pair of two unique weather phenomena last Thursday — a derecho and a haboob. Definitions of each follow:

DERECHO

"deh-REY-cho"

A long-lasting storm system capable of producing extreme winds and damage over an extended area of space and time.

HABOOB

"huh-BOOB"

A wall of dust pushed out along the ground from a thunderstorm downdraft at high speeds.

Local voters to head to the polls Tuesday

Field of 20 to be winnowed down to final field of 4

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Jackson County voters will head to the polls Tuesday to help winnow the field of 20 candidates vying for a seat in Congress down to four.

Polling places across the county open at either 7 or 10 a.m. Tuesday, with all closing at 8 p.m. Absentee and mail-in ballots must be received at the Jackson County Auditor/Treasurer's Office in Jackson by 8 p.m. that day in order to be counted.

Eight Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidates are in the running for the seat vacated upon the death of U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn earlier this year, as are 10 Republicans and one candidate each representing political parties focused on marijuana legalization.

Jackson County Auditor/Treasurer Kevin Nordquist, the county's top election official, said local voters will be asked to select just one name from the list of 20. The top vote-getter among the eight DFL candidates on the ballot will advance to the Aug. 9 special election, as will the winner among the 10 Republicans. The Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis

candidate and the Legalize Marijuana Now candidate are already set to appear on the Aug. 9 ballot.

Nordquist said if a voter votes for more than candidate, that ballot will not be counted. Write-in votes are also not allowed on this ballot.

DFL candidates include Warren Lee Anderson, Sarah Brakebill-Hacke, Candice Deal-Bartell, Rick DeVoe, Jeff Ettinger, George H. Kalberer, Richard W. Painter and James Rainwater. Republican candidates include Matt Benda, Jennifer Carnahan, Bob "Again" Carney Jr., J.R. Ewing, Brad Finstad, Kevin Kocina, Jeremy

See **VOTERS** on **A3**



PHOTO BY JUSTIN LESSMAN

AFTER-SCHOOL FUN

Devyn Ness gets up close and personal with her Ozobot robot during last Wednesday's after-school program at the Jackson library — the final program of this school year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Downtown business plays host to local bicycling celebration May 19

A downtown Jackson business hosts a celebration of National Bike Month this week. The celebration will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. today (Thursday) at the R.E.S.T Stop in downtown Jackson. Hosted by the Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee and the Jackson County Parks and Trails Department, the celebration will consist of discounted smoothies, door prizes and the opportunity to learn about plans for new trails in the county and other active living efforts and initiatives currently under way. All are welcome to attend the celebration.

Early news, ad deadlines in effect

Early news and advertising deadlines are in effect for several Livewire Printing Co. publications due to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. Deadline for the May 29 Livewire and June 2 Southern Minnesota Peach is noon on Wednesday, May 25. Deadline for the June 2 Jackson County Pilot and Lakefield Standard is noon on Friday, May 27. News and advertising may be submitted by calling the offices of Livewire Printing Co. at 847-3771 or emailing info@livewireprinting.com. More information is available in the Sunday, May 15, edition of the Livewire.

Local state senators tout historic tax relief bill

Local state senators are touting Senate passage last week of a second round of historic tax relief for working families, retirees and small businesses.

The bill includes the top two tax priorities for Senate Republicans this year — a total exemption of the Social Security benefits from state taxes and a significant reduction of the lowest income tax rate — and builds on a previous historic tax bill with additional relief aimed at helping working families afford daily life under the pressure of in-



Sen. Julie Rosen

flation. "Minnesota has a record budget surplus. That means one thing — government took too much money from people who pay taxes," said local state Sen. Julie Rosen, R-Fairmont, who serves as Senate finance chair. "In April, Senate Republicans passed the largest tax cut in state history. This bill goes even further and provides even more permanent tax relief for working Minnesotans. With 40-year high inflation putting strain on family budgets, we can't get this relief



Sen. Bill Weber

into Minnesotans' pockets quickly enough." Local state Sen. Bill Weber, R-Luverne, agreed. "All year I've heard from my constituents is that they want our record surplus to be returned to our taxpayers," Weber said last week. "As one of the highest taxed states in the country, we have a real opportunity to help families, seniors and businesses while turning around the tax narrative in Minnesota. Minnesotans have been hammered this year by inflation and a struggling economy; it's time that we help them and return their

money." Senate Republicans' top two tax priorities for the year are the marquee items in the second tax bill, among them reducing the first-tier tax rate and full elimination of the tax on Social Security income. The bill also spells out tax relief for families, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs and various other provisions, including establishing tax credits for public safety pensions and preceptors, providing charitable gaming tax relief and establishing a new agricultural buffer credit.

"MINNESOTA HAS A RECORD BUDGET SURPLUS."
Sen. Julie Rosen

STORMS: Two consecutive days

Continued from A1

east of Worthington. Traffic was routed onto County Road 34 while troopers with the Minnesota State Patrol and workers with the Minnesota Department of Transportation cleared the scene, which also involved power lines down and across the interstate.

Wind and dust

It was a similar story last Thursday evening as a second consecutive night of severe storms caused further damage across the county. Last Thursday's storm system began with a blast of wind pushing a massive dust cloud. Cathy Holthe was near Lake Independence in northern Jackson County when she saw the dust cloud come rolling toward her out of the south. "It was crazy," she said. The initial blast was followed by sustained high winds, intermittent rainfall and lightning strikes, then a second line of somewhat

weaker thunderstorms a few hours later. In Lakefield, the wind blew sheets of insulation intended for the new middle school addition across the street and into adjacent yards. Rusty and Angela Kaderabek's yard at 204 Hunter St. was littered with sheets of the insulation, with some apparently causing damage to a car parked in the driveway and to the windows and gutters of the house. A bucket loader was called in to help remove sheets of insulation from the street. Victor and Gerry Pohlman, who live north of Lakefield, lost a barn in last Thursday's storm, with Gerry Pohlman terming the mess "a sight to see." Officials with the National Weather Service termed the collection of storms last Thursday a "derecho" — by definition, a long-lasting storm system capable of producing

extreme winds and damage over an extended area of space and time — and the dust cloud it whipped up a "haboob" — a type of intense dust storm carried on a weather front. The environment in which last Thursday's storms developed led the NWS to issue a "Particularly Dangerous Situation" severe thunderstorm watch for much of the local area. This was the first PDS Watch issued for any part of the local forecast office since 2015, and the largest PDS Watch issued since 2008. By the numbers More than 1.3 inches of rain fell at Federated Rural Electric's Jackson headquarters last Wednesday, with just half a tenth the following day. Peak wind gusts through Jackson County last Thursday evening measured between 60 and 80 miles per hour.

COUNTY

Continued from A1

derecho, but it also saw a rare Midwestern haboob. A haboob is a wall of dust pushed out along the ground from a thunderstorm downdraft at high speeds, according to NOAA. Haboobs can occur anywhere in the United States, though they are most common in the Southwest. Last Thursday's derecho whipped up a haboob at its front, bringing what the NWS termed "incredible amounts of dust and debris northward, leading to near zero visibility as the storms passed across the area." The term haboob was first used in 1897 in Sudan to describe the massive dust storms typical of that country.



VOTERS: Tuesday

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Munson, Ken Navitsky, Nels Pierson and Roger Ungemach. Haroun McClellan filed for the office as a member of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party; Richard B. Reisdorf filed as a member of the Legal Marijuana Now Party. Eleven townships in Jackson County — Alba, Belmont, Christiania, Enterprise, Ewington, Heron Lake, La Crosse, Sioux Valley, Weimer, West Heron Lake and Wisconsin — and two cities — Alpha and Okabena — will conduct the special primary election by mail. Residents of those precincts may also vote in person at the Jack-

son County Courthouse in Jackson on Tuesday. Residents of the city of Jackson will vote at Good Shepherd Hall; Lakefield residents will vote at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. As of Monday, Nordquist's office had received 291 mail ballots and 11 absentee ballots. While Nordquist said it's always difficult to predict how an election will shake out in the end, he added those numbers may foreshadow a low voter turnout rate. "I would expect the turnout to be pretty low, judging by what we are seeing at this point," he said.

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