



HUSKIES BEAT STATE-RANKED FOE

The Jackson County Central football team overcame a host of mistakes to beat state-ranked Redwood Valley by three points last week.
Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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Cement issues delay progress on I-90 project

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Work on Jackson County's section of Interstate 90 eastbound ground to a halt recently due to a supply issue with steel bars used to reinforce the cement structure on the roadway.



Roger Risser

The project, which is being overseen by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, got under way this past summer and was originally expected to be finished in early October. The project affects around 11 miles of road and includes pavement resurfacing, culvert repairs, the installation of new edge drains, ditch cleaning and guardrail upgrades.

"Our contractor had issues with supply for their reinforced steel for the project, so they had to go to a different supplier," said Roger Risser, assistant construction engineer with MnDOT's seventh district. "They had to have it manufactured, so they worked on another project while the supply was being straightened out."

The contractor, Michels Corp. of Brownsville, Wis., was awarded the project earlier this year with a bid of \$9,911,000.

Another issue with some cement slabs was brought to the department's attention, requiring the contractor to take out multiple slabs and repave the section.

"There were several dry cement slabs that were not acceptable to the department, so those had to be replaced," Risser said. "They removed those, and they will repave that section."

Risser said while the replacement of slabs might have alarmed locals, it's a relatively small part of the project and will not impose any new expenses for taxpayers.

"As far as the repav-

See **I-90 PROJECT** on **A3**



Above: Ella Mulder gets high-fives as she's introduced prior to Sunday's powderpuff football game to help kick off homecoming week at Jackson County Central. Right: Senior Molly Turner tries to outrun junior Payten Benda during the game, which the juniors won 8-6.



Left: Sydney Osterberg avoids a flag pulling from Morgan Preuss during Sunday's powderpuff football game. Right: Maci Farmer (center) is mobbed by teammates after her third interception of the game.

THE GIRLS OF FALL

Photos by Dan Condon



PHOTO BY JOSHUA SCHUETZ

Water seeping through a leaky roof at the Riverside Cemetery chapel is threatening to ruin more than 100 American flags.

Damage at cemetery chapel threatens local heroes' flags

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Every Memorial Day, more than 100 flags once draped over the bodies of local veterans are displayed at Riverside Cemetery in Jackson — a visible reminder of the sacrifices made by Jackson's heroes, which help enshrine their legacy, that it might be remembered and appreciated by future generations.

And right now, those

flags are in danger of being destroyed.

The flags are sustaining water damage due to roofing issues at the cemetery's chapel, where they are currently stored.

Due to the size of the flags and their accompanying poles, there's no other place at the cemetery where they can be safely — and respectfully — stored.

"The big concern about the roofing damage to the chapel is the flags that

were draped over our veterans' caskets, because they're starting to get wet," said Jackson Cemetery Association President John Osterberg. "We need to repair the roof so that the flags aren't destroyed."

All of the flags are stored on a special rack created by local veterans. As of now, the expected cost to fix the roof is just less than \$17,000. While no fundraising events have

See **HEROES' FLAGS** on **A3**

Rainy September eases the severity of drought

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

The severity of drought in Jackson County continues to ease following two consecutive months of above-average rainfall.

Jackson-based Federated Rural Electric — which has recorded and maintained official local weather statistics for decades — measured 4.15 inches of rainfall in the month of September, nearly nine-tenths of an inch more than the historical average rainfall for the month. Coupled with a higher-than-normal precipitation total of 4.89 inches in August — which ended six consecutive months of below-average precipitation totals — Jackson County continues to emerge from drought conditions that plagued it for much of the summer.

As of last week, much of eastern Jackson

Jackson County sees pair of all-new record-high temps set in September

Jackson County set two high-temperature records in September.

The mercury hit 87 degrees on Sept. 28, edging out the day's previous high-temperature mark of 86 set back in 1956. The following day saw a high temp of 86, which topped the day's previous high of 84 set back in 1991.

The two new record highs helped make September a warmer-than-normal month overall, with the average high and average low temps for the month about 3.5 degrees higher than historical averages.

High temp for the month was 89 degrees, hit on Sept. 16, Sept. 19 and Sept. 26. Low temp for the month was 38 degrees, on Sept. 24.

Inside...



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

County was experiencing moderate drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, while central Jackson County was abnormally dry and western Jackson County was back to normal. Three months prior, much of the county was experienc-

ing severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

More than an inch of rain fell across the county over two days Sept. 2-3, with a half-inch-plus falling Sept. 19-20 and another 2.3 inches soaking the surface on the last day of the month.