



BOYS' SEASON CONTINUES, GIRLS' ENDS

The JCC boys' basketball team won its playoff opener against Montevideo Saturday, while the JCC girls had their season end to top-seeded Luverne last week.

Stories, B1

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME STARTS
Set your clocks forward one hour
Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m.



THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

132ND YEAR/ISSUE 10

Local native's township fight may change way county townships operate

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

A Jackson County native's ongoing court battle with Hillman Township in Kanabec County may change the way townships

throughout Minnesota handle abandoned roads.

Andy Crisman, the son of Jackson County residents Greg and Deb Crisman, lives with his wife, Renee, and their children on an acreage in Hillman Town-

ship in Kanabec County north of the Twin Cities. Five years ago, the Crismans petitioned the township to plow the road — Hornet Street — that runs up to their house. Because the section of road by the

Crismans' home had not been used for more than two decades, the township refused. When the Crismans tried to plow the road themselves, the sheriff's department was called on them.

Per state statute, a road can be deemed abandoned if no road improvement or maintenance of a right-of-way has occurred in the past 25 years, which was the case for the section of Hornet Street com-

ing up to the Crismans' home. Township voters may elect, at the annual town meeting, to reopen an abandoned road by vote, but boards cannot do so by themselves.

See **TOWNSHIP** on A3

Two years in, 2,131 cases, 17 casualties

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, Jackson County has recorded more than 2,130 cases of the disease, seen nearly 5,500 residents vaccinated against it and lost 17 locals to it.

As of Tuesday — three days short of the day two years ago the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic — Jackson County had recorded 2,131 confirmed cases of the disease. Nearly 20 percent of that total caseload count was recorded over the first two months of 2022 alone as the omicron variant of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 sent weekly caseload counts skyrocketing into triple digits in late January before plummeting to single digits the last two weeks of February.

Over the course of the past week, the county added just three new cases of the disease to its cumulative caseload count, the lowest new one-week caseload tally since August 2021.

The county's new weekly single-digit caseload count comes as the num-

See **COVID** on A3

JCC schools on alert Tuesday

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Jackson County Central schools were on alert Tuesday after school officials became aware of a possible threat made toward the high school the day prior.

Law enforcement officers were present in all four JCC school buildings Tuesday in an attempt to ensure safety and maintain calm. The school day passed without incident.

School officials said the possible threat involved the sharing of a digital

See **ALERT** on A3

JCC HUSKIES - CLASS A STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS



Above: Isaac Rodriguez celebrates his pin to open the Class A state finals last Thursday against Royalton/Upsala. The Huskies beat the Royals 45-23 for their eighth state championship. Right: The championship trophy and gold medals are ready to be presented to the Jackson County Central wrestling team.



No. 1

Photos by Dan Condon



Above: Daysia Tomlin, Payten Benda, Sadie Voss, Sydney Osterberg and Carson Schneekloth celebrate a big win by the Huskies at last week's state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Right: Members of the Jackson County Central wrestling team show off the Class A championship trophy.



Inside...



Read all about the JCC wrestling team's state tournament success in the special Salute to the Champions section inside this week's paper.



PHOTO BY JEN TEWES

A ROYAL GLOW

Members of the 2022 Jackson County Central Winterfest Royal Court include (front, from left): Sophomore attendant Emma Haren, freshman attendant Erica Hanson, junior attendant Erin Klassen, queen candidate Tory Beaver, king candidate Damien Phaly, freshman attendant Kash Luebben, sophomore attendant Seth Stai and junior attendant Brigian McCarthy. Back: Queen candidates Georgianna Wenzel and Alana Freking, queen Trinity Schultz, king Will Freking and king candidates Kie Anderson and Lucas Vesey. See B8 for full coverage of Monday's coronation ceremony.

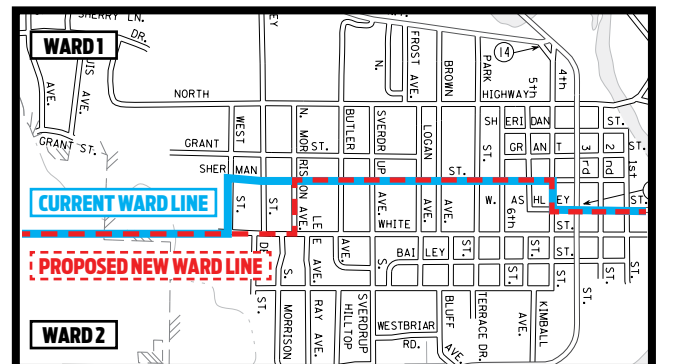
Change would move two blocks worth of second-ward residents into the first

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Two blocks worth of residents in west Jackson are in line to move from the city's second ward into the first ahead of November's general election.

Members of the Jackson City Council last week approved the first reading of an ordinance that adjusts the city's ward and precinct boundaries to reflect changes in population distribution, as of the 2020 census. Ward 1 currently has 1,598 people — a loss of 27 from 2010 — while Ward 2 has 1,725 people, a gain of 51 from the 2010 census.

The proposal to subtract



Inside...



The political process continues in Jackson County in anticipation of the upcoming mid-term elections and August special election.

two blocks along and north of White Street to Morrison Street from the second

ward and add them to the first ward would shift 51

See **CHANGE** on A3



WEATHER

This week

Thursday Partly Cloudy 29 | 12
Friday Cloudy 17 | 4
Saturday Partly Cloudy 35 | 31
Sunday Partly Cloudy 53 | 34
Monday Partly Cloudy 45 | 28
Tuesday Partly Cloudy 59 | 40
Wednesday Partly Cloudy 59 | 43

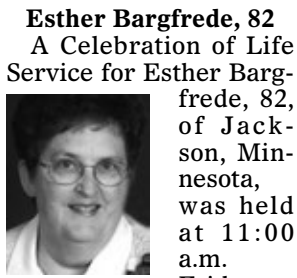
LAST WEEK

Tuesday, March 1 42 / 29
Wednesday, March 2 42 / 24
Thursday, March 3 27 / 26
Friday, March 4 43 / 33
Saturday, March 5 35 / 22
Sunday, March 6 28 / 18
Monday, March 7 33 / 21

Support Deputy Registrar #50 Kim Church
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Your renewal through this office keeps a portion of your money in our community!

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1-800-658-2393
DEADLINES
Livewire..... Thursday, Noon
Jackson County Pilot/
Lakefield Standard Monday, 5 p.m.

DEATHS



Esther Bargfrede, 82
A Celebration of Life Service for Esther Bargfrede, 82, of Jackson, Minnesota, was held at 11:00 a.m.

Friday, March 4, 2022, at Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson, Minnesota with Pastor Eunice Woodberry officiating. Burial took place at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in rural Petersburg, Minnesota.
Esther was called to her eternal rest on Tuesday afternoon, March 1, 2022, at CentraCare in Sauk Centre Care Center in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Visitation was from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2022, at Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson and one hour prior to the services at the Church.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the family online or watch Esther's Video Tribute go to her obituary page at www.kramerfuneralhome.com
Esther's Funeral Service will be recorded and available for viewing on her obituary page.

Esther Grace Johnson was born on August 29, 1939, to Glen and Pearl (Schribner) Johnson in Martin County, near Triumph, Minnesota. She moved with her family to South Dakota and attended Patton School until the 8th grade. Esther then attended high school in White Lake, South Dakota graduating with the class of 1957. She attended the University of South Dakota for two years completing the Elementary Training Course. Esther took a teaching job in Jackson, Minnesota teaching 5th graders. On June 15, 1962, she was united in marriage to David Bargfrede at Salem Lu-

theran Church in Jackson. After their marriage, they farmed in Peterburg Township for many years until moving into Jackson. She continued working for the School District as a paraprofessional. They later owned and operated Southgate Highlander Center, Southgate Clothing, and Jackson Memorial Company and were Star Tribune agents for many years. Esther loved to attend their kids' sporting events and was also an avid Minnesota Vikings and Twins fan.

She was a member of Salem Lutheran Church and belonged to the Ruth Circle. Esther was a collector of Dept. 56 and Snow Village pieces.

She is survived by her three children, son, Craig (Diane) Bargfrede of Ankeny, Iowa; daughters, Rhonda (Shad) DeBoer of White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Kristie (Craig) Heinze of Melrose, Minnesota; seven grandchildren, Phil (Theresa) Bargfrede, Grant Bargfrede, Kelsey Heinze, Courtney Heinze, Kayla Heinze, Connor DeBoer, and Jake DeBoer; one great-grandson, Caleb Bargfrede; sister, Maxine (Don) Mullivan of Rapid City, South Dakota; brother-in-law, Kenneth (Janet) Bargfrede of Jackson, Minnesota; sister-in-law, Verda Garms of Jackson, Minnesota; several nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, Glen and Pearl Johnson; husband, David Bargfrede on November 18, 2014; brother, Marlin and his wife, Janet Johnson; sister, Verlynn Andrea; mother and father-in-law, Herman and Avalda Bargfrede and other relatives.

Jackson County Pilot
March 10, 2022



Jerry Lee Cushman, 85
Jerry Lee Cushman, 85, of Jackson, Minnesota died on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at his home.

Jerry was born on August 11, 1936, to Leo and Amelia (Lamack) Cushman in Jackson, Minnesota. He attended school in Petersburg and Jackson. Jerry enlisted in the United States Army serving in Germany until his honorable discharge in 1958. He worked as a farmer. On January 31, 1960, he was united in marriage to Lila Smith in Jackson. After their marriage, they lived in Jackson and Jerry continued farming until his retirement in 2002. He was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in

Jackson and the Jackson American Legion Post #130.

He is survived by his wife, Lila Cushman of Jackson, Minnesota; daughter, Nancy Cushman (David Sconzert) of Kenosha, Wisconsin; son, Mike (Lisa) Cushman of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; two grandchildren, Ryan and Aidan; nieces and nephews along with other relatives and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Amelia Cushman; three brothers, Alvin "Bud", Howard "Hod" and Elwood Cushman; two sisters, Lucile Poynter and Arlene Wheatley.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the family online at www.kramerfuneralhome.com

Jackson County Pilot
March 10, 2022

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Feb. 9
Deputies responded to Highway 86 in the area around Lakefield for a report of a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was later located on Highway 60 near Butterfield. It was rented from a business in Sioux Falls, S.D., and not returned.

Feb. 10
Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.
Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.

Feb. 11
A deputy assisted the Minnesota State Patrol with a wind-related accident on I-90 east of Jackson. A pickup was pulling an enclosed trailer. The trailer became unhooked from the pickup and ended up in the ditch.

A deputy responded to what was reported to be a dog that had been skinned and discarded in a ditch near the Iowa state line. The deputy located the animal and discovered it was a coyote, not a dog.

Feb. 12
Deputies responded to a report of a wrong-way driver on I-90. The vehicle was reported to be heading westbound in the eastbound lane. The vehicle was not located and must have self-corrected.

A deputy responded to a burglary alarm in Jackson. It was determined to be a false alarm.

A deputy responded to a report of a suspicious person in a parked vehicle in Jackson. The vehicle was located, and the driver was sleeping while waiting for someone.

A deputy responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle on 750th Street off of Petersburg Road. A cell number was located for the owner, but a message could not be left because the message box was full. The vehicle will be towed in accordance with the abandoned vehicle statute.

Dispatch forwarded a report of a vehicle in the median on I-90 near the Heron Lake exit.

A deputy responded to a car-vs.-deer accident in Jackson.

A deputy responded to a car-vs.-deer accident on Petersburg Road.

Dispatch received a report from a homeowner reporting suspicious activity. It was discovered the person was attempting to call the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in Missouri.

A deputy responded to a driving complaint on Thomas Hill involving a pickup with a loud muffler speeding.

Feb. 13
Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.

A deputy responded to a property dispute involving farm tile.

Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance.

Deputies responded to a minor accident in Jackson on Springfield Parkway.

Feb. 14
Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.

A deputy responded to a report of illegal dumping in Enterprise Township on 860th Street between 580th and 590th Avenue. Someone dumped several fluorescent lights and a water heater in a field approach.

Deputies conducted a civil standby for a property exchange between two people.

Feb. 15
The Worthington Police Department K-9 and Jackson County K-9 conducted a routine K-9 sniff at the Heron Lake-Okabena High School in Okabena.

A deputy responded to a civil dispute over a vehicle in Wilder.

Deputies conducted a welfare check on an individual.

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Deputies conducted a welfare check on an individual.

A deputy responded to a hit-and-run report in Jackson.

A deputy responded to a minor accident in Jackson.

Dispatch received a report of distracted driving. A motorist on I-90 near Alpha was reported to be using a laptop computer while driving. The call was forwarded to the Minnesota State Patrol.

Feb. 16
Deputies responded to a report of horses on the roadway on County Road 17 near County Road 16.

A deputy responded to a burglary alarm in the county. It was determined to be a false alarm.

A deputy conducted a traffic stop on I-90 near Jackson. As a result, a citation was issued for speed — 89 miles per hour in a 70-mph zone.

A deputy responded to a report of an injured deer on County Road 34 near the county shop.

Deputies responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health issue.

Deputies investigated a theft report in Jackson.

Deputies assisted the Heron Lake Police Department with a suicide investigation.

Deputies assisted the Lakefield Ambulance with a medical call.

Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.

Feb. 22
A deputy assisted an Emmet County, Iowa, deputy with traffic control on County Road 29 just into Emmet County for a semi that slid into the ditch.

A deputy responded to a minor accident in a parking lot in Jackson.

Deputies conducted a welfare check on an individual at the request of the Dickinson County Sheriff's Office in Iowa.

Feb. 23
Deputies responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center in regard to a mental health issue.

A deputy responded to an abandoned vehicle near the intersection of County Road 29 and County Road 34. It was parked partially onto the roadway and was a hazard for other traffic, so a tow truck was called to the scene to remove it.

Feb. 24
A deputy responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health-related issue.

A deputy responded to a minor accident in Jackson.

Feb. 25
A deputy assisted the Lakefield Ambulance with a medical call.

A deputy towed a car that had violated the parking ordinance. It hadn't been moved from the street for days and was preventing snowplows from clearing the street.

A JCC school bus reported being passed in a no-passing zone on Mill Road between Jackson and Lakefield.

Deputies responded to a verbal domestic disturbance in Jackson.

Deputies assisted the Jackson Ambulance with a medical call.

Feb. 26
Deputies had a booth at the farm and home show in Jackson. K-9 equipment and deputy equipment were shown to the public. Safety materials for several topics were available. The Hide In Plain Sight demo was shown. The turnout to the event was very good, and deputies had many good conversations with folks about many different topics.

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Feb. 20
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A deputy found an open door at a Jackson business while on patrol. The building was secured by the deputy.

Deputies responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health issue.

A deputy assisted the Jackson Ambulance and Alpha First Responders with a medical call.

Deputies responded to San-

FINES

Moua, Van, Stewartville, Duty to drive with due care \$130.00

Ockenga, Rebecca M., Garretson, S.D., Speed \$130.00
O'Donnell, Patrick William Q., Sioux Falls, S.D., Speed \$150.00

Parker, Chauncey K., Omaha, Neb., Speed \$130.00
Paulson, Norman G., Jackson, Driving after suspension \$290.00. Perez, Silvia R., Wakefield, Neb., No proof motor vehicle insurance \$290.00

Perez Marquez, Rito, Minneapolis, Speed \$130.00
Peterson, Cody D., North Sioux City, S.D., Speed \$130.00
Phaly, Sysawat, Jackson, Display plates of another vehicle, Expired registration, No Minnesota driver's license (after 60 days residency/30 days CDL), No Minnesota registration (after 60 days residency) \$290.00

Piper, Hannah L., Jackson, Speed \$140.00, No Minnesota driver's license \$100.00
Price, Madison R., Worthington, Ohio, Speed \$390.00
Quewon, Mark G., Montrose, Speed \$150.00

Rodriguez, Enrique, Brewster, Speed \$150.00
Saboutey, Ablavi, Eagan, Speed \$140.00

Schloss, Nicholas J., Temecula, Calif., Speed \$150.00
Seaton, Timothy J. Jr., Omaha, Neb., Speed \$150.00
Soleta, Mark G., Lakefield, Seat belt required - Driver and passengers must use \$115.00
Warwick, Tenny D., Kodiak, Alaska, Speed \$390.00

Washburn, Dennis C., Sioux Falls, S.D., Hands-free law engage in cellular phone or video call \$140.00
Wiebe, Matthew L., Bingham Lake, Speed \$150.00
Wilking, Abigail L.,

ford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health issue.

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Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance. The matter remains under investigation.

A deputy responded to a minor accident at the Dairy Queen drive-through in Jackson.

Deputies responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health issue.

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Feb. 21
A deputy conducted a traffic stop on County Road 34 east of Jackson. As a result, a 32-year-old female from Fairmont was issued a citation for speed — 75 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone.

A deputy responded to a report of an injured deer on County Road 34 near the county shop.

Deputies responded to Sanford Jackson Medical Center for a mental health issue.

Deputies assisted the Heron Lake Police Department with a suicide investigation.

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Lakefield, Speed \$150.00
Yusuf, Run M., Shakopee, Speed \$150.00

Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Adiga, Mariam A., Jackson, Falsely Reporting Crime \$140.00

Coretes Otero, Johnnattan J., Worthington, Violation of a domestic abuse no contact order \$165.00. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections, St. Cloud.

Crawford, Bennett E., Sleepy Eye, Speed \$150.00

Diemer Jason A., Heron Lake, DWI - Fourth degree driving while impaired \$590.00. Obey all laws, No alcohol/controlled substance use. Random testing. Chemical dependency evaluation/treatment. Follow recommendations of evaluation. Attend MADD Impact Panel. Remain law-abiding. My have credit for up to \$250.00 for out of pocket costs for treatment or assessments.

Murillo, Jaime S., Windom, Speed \$390.00. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type \$50.00

Truempler, Tryston T., Riverton, Wyo., Speed \$230.00
Valentin-Molliner, Patricia, Tacoma, Wash., Speed \$130.00
Williamson, Justice R., Terrell, Iowa, Speed \$130.00

Heron Lake Police Department
Arroyo, Tomasa E., Madelia, Driving after suspension \$290.00. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle \$200.00

Rehnelt, Casey A., Heron Lake, Speed \$150.00

Lakefield Police Department
Dill, Angela R., Lakefield, Speed \$150.00

Ritter, Dawn M., Jackson, Speed \$150.00

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Jackson-built applicator featured part of Commodity Classic exhibit

The Jackson-built Fendt Rogator 900 Series applicator will be a featured part of AGCO Corp.'s exhibit at the 2022 Commodity Classic in New Orleans March 10-12.

After a digital-only event in 2021, most of AGCO's exhibit will be new to Commodity Classic attendees and many of the machines in that exhibit — including the Fendt Rogator 900 Series applicator — have been recognized for engineering excellence.

In addition to the Fendt Rogator 900 Series applicator, which is manufactured at AGCO Jackson Operations, AGCO's exhibit will also feature the Fendt Momentum planter, the Fendt IDEAL 10T combine and FendtONE-equipped tractors.

Jackson will transform into hub of curbside commerce later this year

Jackson will transform into a hub of curbside commerce later this spring as the city hosts its annual citywide garage sales in May.

Dates of the citywide sales are May 5-7. Details on how to register sales will be forthcoming in future editions of the Livewire.

Local reps pushing for tax relief in light of ballooning budget surplus

With Minnesota's state budget surplus expected to reach another historic amount, local state Reps. Rod Hamilton and Bjorn Olson say it's time to enact permanent tax relief for families who are struggling with rising costs.

On Feb. 28, economic experts estimated Minnesota now has a \$9.25 billion budget surplus, an increase of \$1.5 billion from the previous projection in November.

"With our budget set for this biennium, this record surplus proves Minnesota has more money than it needs," said Hamilton, who represents western Jackson County in the state Legislature. "It's time to provide significant tax relief to Minnesotans."

Olson, who represents eastern Jackson County, agreed, and said there are numerous ways to deliver tax relief to Minnesotans who need it.

"Finally eliminating the state income tax from Social Security benefits would be great news for the hundreds of thousands of Minnesota senior citizens that are being nonsensically taxed on their limited incomes," Olson said. "Local business owners also need the state to replenish its unemployment trust fund. If we don't allocate surplus funds for this purpose, all of them will be leveled with a tax increase of 15 percent or more in order to make up the difference."

Hamilton said he strongly supports eliminating the taxation of senior citizens' Social Security benefits. And, he

said, to avoid the 15 percent tax increase to local businesses, lawmakers must replenish the state's unemployment trust fund before March 15.

With such a large budget surplus, the state not only can act to provide tax relief, Hamilton and Olson said, but it must — especially as cost of nearly everything is increasing.

"Anyone who has visited the grocery store and gas station or has paid their electric and heating bills recently has been negatively impacted by skyrocketing prices," Olson said. "Minnesotans must be able to keep more of their paychecks, and lawmakers can make that happen by approving significant and permanent tax relief policies. With state government budgets set and fully funded, and with Minnesota still seeing a \$9 billion surplus, it is clear we need to give our taxpayers a financial break and enact significant tax release proposals before the year ends."

Hamilton said he couldn't agree more, and placed some of the blame for increasing prices on President Joe Biden and Gov. Tim Walz.

"While state government is doing great, the Biden/Walz economy has not been kind to hard-working Minnesotans as they are struggling to pay more for groceries, gasoline, energy and almost everything else," Hamilton said. "Minnesotans need permanent and significant tax relief that will help them with rising costs now and in the future."



Rep. Rod Hamilton



Rep. Bjorn Olson

COVID: Two years in

Continued from A1

ber of locals vaccinated against the disease continues to increase.

As of this past Sunday, 5,446 Jackson County residents — 54.7 percent of the total population — have received at least one dose of vaccine, with 5,236 — 52.6 percent of the total population — fully vaccinated, a slight increase over the week prior.

Just more than 3,300 Jackson County residents — 33.2 percent of the total population — are what the Minnesota Department of Health is calling "up to date" on vaccine doses. For those ages 5 to 11, that means a complete primary series. For those 12 and older, up to date means a completed primary series plus at least one additional dose.

Despite the increasing vaccination rates, the county remains behind the state as a whole in terms of percentages of residents vaccinated. As of this past Sunday, nearly 70 percent of Minnesotans had received at least one vaccine dose,

with close to 66 percent having received a completed vaccine series and 45.7 percent up to date with vaccine doses.

To date, the deaths of 17 Jackson County residents have been attributed to COVID-19 — eight in 2020 before vaccines became widely available, eight in 2021 and one in 2022.

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Jackson County came on March 20, 2020. The first local death attributed to the disease was reported by the MDH on Aug. 28, 2020.

COVID-19 is a viral respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus first identified in late 2019. Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Minnesota on March 6, 2020, the state has notched more than 1.4 million cases of the illness and tallied more than 12,220 deaths.

Leach ready to call it a career

His decorating center will close later this year

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

A run of nearly six decades of Leach family-owned businesses lining Jackson's Main Street will come to an end later this year.

Mark Leach, owner of Leach Decorating Center in downtown Jackson, will close the store in either late spring or early summer following an inventory liquidation sale. He plans to stop taking orders at the end of this month.

The Leach family moved to Jackson in 1960 when Mark's parents, Art and Irene, purchased Krause Funeral Home in town. Five years later, they purchased an associated furniture store on Jackson's Main Street.

"The furniture store was located in Strom's building," Mark Leach said.

Leach worked part time in the family furniture store as a teenager and came onboard in a full-time

capacity in 1974 as Leach Decorator Center opened.

"The original location was in the building that now houses the R.E.S.T Stop," Leach said.

The current store location was purchased in the late 1960s and the furniture store moved there, while the decorating center set up shop right across the street in the building that now houses Dawn's Dance Connection.

Brother Steve Leach retired from the furniture business in 2008 and Mark Leach moved the decorating center to the east side of Main.

And now, Mark Leach said, it's time for him to follow in his brother's footsteps.

"After 48 great years, I've decided it's time to retire," he said. "I would have preferred to sell the business and keep it going in downtown Jackson, but that hasn't happened."

Leach said he will maintain ownership of the building, which includes the rented upstairs apartments, and look to rent out the main-level retail area.

In retirement, he said



Mark Leach, owner of Jackson's Leach Decorating Center, and longtime employee Carlé Wommer show off a framed newspaper ad from the grand opening of the business in 1974. Leach plans to close the store later this year after nearly 50 years in business.

he looks forward to a bit of rest and relaxation and maybe a little travel right off the bat before finding his next adventure.

"There's plenty of volunteer opportunities out there, or maybe even a part-time job," he said.

And as a long chapter of Jackson business history closes, Leach said he looks back on his time and his

family's time as part of the local business community fondly.

"I would like to thank all of my wonderful customers for their patronage over the years," he said. "I truly enjoyed working with everyone and considered them not just customers, but friends, and I couldn't have stayed in business without them."

Burger King reopens, work continues on JEDC building

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Two major local reconstruction projects are in good shape, with one completed on schedule and the other set to be completed on schedule.

Jackson's rebuilt Burger King opened last Wednesday on the site of the former restaurant, which was destroyed in a 2020 fire, and work has resumed on the Jackson Economic Development Corp.'s multi-tenant retail location after progress was halted by a severe windstorm last year.

Back in business

Jackson's Burger King is serving Whoppers and slinging fries once again. The business, which burned down in November 2020, has been under con-

struction for the past year, with supply-chain issues delaying its reopening.

Mike Leslie, district manager for Cave Enterprises, a Chicago-based firm that owns numerous Burger King locations throughout the Midwest, said the doors of the new restaurant in north Jackson were opened last Wednesday just in time for the lunchtime rush.

"The ice machine and parts for the walk-in freezer were the last things we had to get in," he said.

Right now, Leslie said the location is operating its drive-through from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is open for indoor dining from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shortened hours are due in part to training needs for the staff.

"We're doing a lot of training now with our employees and we've got em-

ployees who worked there before coming back," Leslie said. "We have more than 20 staff members and we're still looking for more."

The restaurant will have a grand opening sometime in spring to celebrate its rebuilding, though Leslie said he's unsure of the date at this point.

"We are going to do a grand opening in spring," he said. "We're just happy to be back in the community."

Back on track

The JEDC's new strip mall, the original frame of which was destroyed by a windstorm last year, looks set to be completed on a revised schedule.

Dave Schmidt, Jackson's economic development coordinator, said the trusses

are already installed and siding is close to being done.

"Those were put up last week," he said. "The frame is set up and everything is on track for an opening in May or June."

With supply-chain issues mostly taken care of, Schmidt said the JEDC is looking forward to the opening of Subway and Cabin Coffee in the new strip mall on Jackson's north side. He also indicated other businesses have expressed interest in the two middle spaces of the facility.

"We're very excited for Cabin Coffee and Subway, and we have some leads on our middle spots, so hopefully we will be able to announce something soon," he said. "As it stands, we're on track."

TOWNSHIP: Could have a statewide effect

Continued from A1

Greg and Deb Crisman said they felt Andy and Renee were treated unfairly by the township, noting the road abandonment is making it difficult for them to receive mail or have deliveries made to their home, as well as creating problems for when their children need to go to school.

"When you Google their address, you get led on a long pathway and there's no actual directions to their house," Greg Crisman said. "They petitioned for the township to reopen the road, but that was defeated in a vote at the annual meeting."

Andy and Renee Crisman sued, and their suit was initially thrown out

by Minnesota Tenth Judicial District Judge Stoney Hiljus, but the judge ruled in their favor on appeal, stating Minnesota law doesn't permit townships to maintain one segment of a road without maintaining the rest of it.

The lawsuit, if successful, may change state law, requiring townships to maintain 55,000 miles of abandoned roads. Hillman Township appealed the decision, and that appeal will be heard sometime this fall, likely in October.

The Minnesota Township Association, a state group that lobbies for township governments, released a statement criticizing the decision on the grounds that it misinterprets state

statute and would, if upheld, impose undue financial burdens on townships.

"The district court decision may require the township to expend thousands of dollars on portions of other roads that have not been maintained for decades," the association's statement states. "The district court decision in this case completely undermines the purpose of the statute and the legislative intent for electors to determine road maintenance decisions after years of no maintenance on all or part of a road by the township."

For the 20 townships in Andy Crisman's home county, the final decision in the case could mean the difference between

business as usual and sudden and significant budget strains.

Minnesota Township board member Bernie Pavelko, who said he is not familiar with the Crismans' situation, said a ruling requiring townships to maintain abandoned portions of road would impose significant financial costs in his south-central Jackson County township, likely resulting in tax increases.

"It would hurt us because these roads would have to be graded to a certain standard and they'd have to be built to specs, which would cost a lot of money," Pavelko said. "You're looking at a half-million dollars just to build one mile of road."

CHANGE: Two blocks

Continued from A1

people into the first, narrow rowing a 127-person population gap to 25.

"There is a tolerance that is allowed under state law," Jackson City Administrator Matt Skaret said. "The number or percentage is not specified, but it is generally agreed that 25 would be

considered a reasonable tolerance."

Skaret said the change would not affect any of the current representation on the council.

Council members are set to adopt the change at their March 22 meeting, ahead of the state's March 29 deadline.

"THERE IS A TOLERANCE THAT IS ALLOWED UNDER STATE LAW. THE NUMBER OR PERCENTAGE IS NOT SPECIFIED, BUT IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT 25 WOULD BE CONSIDERED A REASONABLE TOLERANCE."

Matt Skaret

ALERT: JCC schools

Continued from A1

photo of someone holding an airsoft gun. Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken said the photo also bore a caption that read, "Don't go to school tomorrow."

An airsoft gun often resembles a traditional firearm but shoots non-lethal, plastic pellets. They are used for target practice and military-style games, much like paintball guns.

The sheriff's office investigated the possible threat. Haken said it is believed the photo is a generic/stock photo and not a photo of a JCC student.

School officials on Monday said the threat was judged not credible.

Haken said authorities are examining school surveillance video and interviewing students to try to determine who sent the photo, adding it is possible the photo was shared unintentionally.

"Nonetheless, we take these matters very seriously and are continuing to investigate," Haken said Monday evening, adding photos such as the one that sparked the JCC investigation can be easily found and are being shared across the country.

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OPINION



PILOT EDITORIAL

Challenge facing local businesses

We talk a lot in Jackson County about economic development, and rightly so. We have a lot of projects going on to help boost housing supply and stimulate entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, we're also fighting an uphill battle against Father Time.

As local business owners age, they need someone to sell or leave their businesses to. Right now, finding those people is getting increasingly difficult. We've lost a number of local businesses due to a lack of succession, and we're poised to lose even more.

Maintaining a focus on getting new businesses started is important, but we also have to think about what to do with the businesses we already have here. If businesses that are economically viable are closing due to a lack of people to take them over rather than a lack of customers, it means locals are losing access to goods and services they value.

More needs to be done to keep businesses like these here. We've got to help local business owners create plans for succession so we can minimize the losses. That means entrepreneurial people with the capital to purchase these businesses should step up and explore their options and economic development organizations should keep it on their radar.

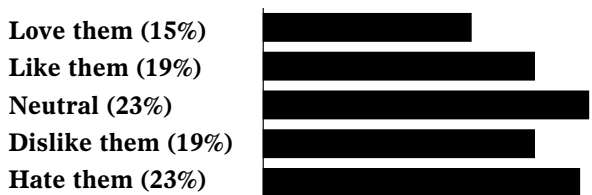
We know it's possible to run a successful business in Jackson County. We need to make sure it's possible to pass the reins successfully as well.

One way to start might be building bridges between young and middle-aged people interested in starting or taking over a business and older people who are considering selling theirs. Running a small business is, in many ways, the ultimate community commitment, since it requires long-term investment and work in a given place.

Finding people willing to make that commitment is a challenge, but it's one we need to meet if we want to preserve a thriving county.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: How do you feel about wind turbines?



Source: Jackson County Pilot Website

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Q: What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Vote online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

I just released my endorphins

Having a deep affinity toward science and all the terminology that goes with scientific thought, I have decided to share with you where I am at when it comes to dealing with stress while in Texas.

Texans, I have found, are pretty laid back most of the time; but don't let that fool you, for I've been told when it comes to land, water and cattle, they are quite protective (not to mention borders).

So recently, while I was reading one of those pop-up articles on the Internet related to an article I had been reading regarding the so-called "new fatigue," I found myself fatigued about things I didn't realize I was supposed to be fatigued about. But I also was reminded of the things I already was fatigued about, such as climate change, then inflation, both of which seem to be overshadowing the pandemic now, as well as political instability, fuel prices and trips to the grocery store, where the conversation in the aisles is about constantly rising food prices and shortages of some food items.

Now we have the Russian-Ukraine war,

which, in this pop-up article, brought me to the scientific remedies for all these "new fatigue" feelings — remedies for dealing with stress, anxiety, fear and, for some, the feeling of impending doom.

The article stated that for some folks the feeling was as if they were witnessing a train wreck from which they could not turn away, overshadowing all their other feelings.

But taking the scientific route I, too, remembered meditation. I remember that, but couldn't remember the mantra.

Then some advice in this article ran along the lines that if you get some sun in your face, your "new fatigue" will diminish. Now that isn't much of a challenge in Texas, as it is sunny here most of the time. But again, I prefer the scientific term "solar exposure" more than "some sun in your face" or "catch more rays."

Another bit of advice from the article was to spend time in nature as a remedy for the "new fatigue," or blues. However, others might refer to what they are experiencing these days as the black-and-blues;

they feel all beat up.

The article stated one new term for the "out-in-nature" experience is "forest bathing." Some folks here in Texas might misinterpret this term to mean their trees need a bath. Then again, as one Texan friend said, there are many trees, shrubs and plants in Texas a person could hug, but cactus should be off limits when "forest bathing."

My favorite advice from this article regarding fatigue was exercise: You know, that heart-pumping kind that releases natural endorphins.

Matter of fact, I nearly ran over a couple of endorphins riding my bike around the lake here. I figure they had to have been released by someone. Fortunately, they jumped into the bushes and made a clean escape even though their mood seemed to change as they struggled to fight off the stress.

Another anti-new fatigue remedy from the article suggested putting your cellphone away for a while. And I have to admit, I often want to put my cellphone away and have even considered putting it away out into the lake here.

And finally, the article suggested spending more time with family and friends. However, I have decided to spend less time with many of my family members and friends, as we don't see eye to eye — another scientific term — and I have found that is a good way to relieve my own new fatigue.

In so doing, I have found isolation a bit of a solace too. And to reduce my mountains — another scientific term for very high hills — and make them more of mole hills, scientifically speaking, I have spent more time hanging around with moles, too, which has really released nearly all of my endorphins and most of my new fatigue. Whew!



OUT AND ABOUT
Mike Jordan

Teslas need two plates too

Question: Why do all of the Teslas I see in Minnesota lack the required front license plate? I see lots of other all-electric vehicles from other manufacturers, and they all have a front plate. I know several people who have collector cars, and they all complain they have to use a front plate, but I have yet to see a Tesla with one.

Answer: Teslas are required to have a front license plate in Minnesota; this is a common equipment violation. Minnesota State Statute 169.79 states, "No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any roadway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the license plates or permit confirming that valid registration or operating authority has been obtained."

Vehicles that are

allowed to display only one license plate include motorcycles, a dealer's vehicle or vehicle in-transit, classic car, collector car or a vehicle that is of model year 1972 or earlier that is not registered as a collector vehicle and is used for general transportation purpose.

License plates must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. They cannot be displayed in the front windshield or rear window. The plates must be securely mounted and displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters visible. License plates issued to vehicles must also display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of each plate.

The plate must be unobstructed and free from grease, dust or other blurring material — dirt, mud, snow, etc. — so the

lettering is visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin with any material, including any clear or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity. This also includes license plate brackets that block the state of issuance and tabs.

Why do we have two license plates? First and foremost, it is the law in Minnesota. From a law enforcement perspective, it is safer to have two plates. For instance:

- If an officer needs to run vehicle information, he or she can get the plate information from the front or rear of the vehicle.
- It makes a suspect vehicle easier to identify if it is encountered from the front or the rear.
- If a suspect vehicle is backed into a parking spot, it is more easily identified.
- Identifying a suspect

in a crime — from surveillance images — is easier with front and back plates.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober.

If you have any questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol, at 2900 48th St. NW; Rochester, MN 55901-5848. Or reach him at Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.



ASK A TROOPER
Sgt. Troy Christianson

READERS WRITE

How united is the United Nations?

To the editor:

We are all watching the destruction unfolding in Ukraine, with individuals of all ages being maimed, killed and driven from their homes with no concern whatsoever by a dictator who rivals Adolph Hitler.

A majority of countries denounce Vladimir Putin's actions but are unwilling to stop him. How many people must die to equal one barrel of oil flowing out of Russia? China will not even do anything to oppose Russia because it is dependent on it also, and because its leaders are looking to take over Taiwan.

This is what happens when you have weak or nonrepresentative governments — the United States included.

The United Nations needs to come together to do what it takes to stop this. Otherwise, it just as well be dissolved.

Mike Handzus
Lakefield

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jackson County Pilot welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, as well as address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters should be brief, up to 300 words. The editor reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and the right to edit as needed. Submit letters in person at the Jackson County Pilot office, mail them to 310 Second St. in Jackson or email them to editor@livewireprinting.com. The deadline for letters is Monday noon. All submissions become the property of the Jackson County Pilot and may be published or otherwise used in any medium.

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JACKSON COUNTY PILOT
310 Second Street • Jackson, MN
(507) 847-3771 • jacksoncountypilot.com
Published Weekly on Thursday
USPS 271880
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, Minnesota

— SUBSCRIPTION RATES —
In Jackson County, \$67.00/Year.
Elsewhere in the United States, \$79.00/Year.
ePilot, \$39.00/Year.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Jackson County Pilot, P.O. Box 208, Jackson, MN 56143, Phone (507) 847-3771

Member of

JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

News from years gone by

10 years ago

March 15, 2012
Do we need a big-box store here?
 Though six of every 10 people who work in Jackson County were satisfied with their most recent shopping experience here, more variety and lower prices — the hallmarks of a so-called “big-box” store — would have made it better.
 Throw in a few new clothing stores, grocery stores and restaurants, and Jackson County would be a top spot to shop. That’s all according to results of a survey commissioned by the Jackson Economic Development Corp.’s welcome committee, a group of local individuals intent on attracting those who work in the communities of Jackson County to live, shop and play in those very communities.
Farm and home show is Saturday
 More than 55 exhibitors will be on hand for the annual Jackson Farm and Home Show this Saturday.
 The show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AGCO Engineering Center and Showroom, and attendees can sign up for various prizes, including a chance to win \$100 in Jackson Bucks. Admission is free.
 Exhibitors this year include everything from home improvement centers and fitness instructors to church groups and photographers.
Obituaries: Carol M. Brakke, Elizabeth J. Matuskus, Vicki Brennan Olson
20 years ago
March 21, 2002
The life of a captain
 A life on the water.
 Poets and authors have written about it; songs have been sung about it; communities have been formed around it.
 Jackson’s Jim Bean, however, has made it his own.
 Bean, a 1976 graduate of Jackson High School, has been a yacht captain since 1984, working many years for C.R. Walgreen Jr. on his motor yacht, the “Sis W.” Bean is currently heading up the construction of a state-of-the-art, 127-foot motor yacht for Walgreen, a wealthy 96-year-old who plans to make the boat his home when it is completed in the summer of 2003.
Police: Thefts could be

work of pros
 Several thefts in Jackson in the past few weeks could be the work of professional thieves.
 That was the word from Jackson Police Chief Andre Schofield, who said the department is working in conjunction with police departments in cities ranging from Sioux City, Iowa, to near Mankato.
 Thefts of many large-ticket items, such as ATVs and a trailer, tools, tires and a forklift, have been reported in the past few weeks.
Obituaries: Palmer H. Halverson, Gordon E. Sathel, Lawrence W. Johnson, John “Dave” Blizek, Ernest C. Lynn, Harvey A. Tallman, Catherine Hilles, Edna H. Jackson, Pauline T. Putt, Bonny Peterson
30 years ago
March 12, 1992
Sharing talks with Windom, Mt. Lake, Martin County set
 Jackson School District officials will be getting together with their counterparts in Windom, Martin County and Mt. Lake in the near future to talk about possible avenues for cooperation.
 A meeting with representatives from Mt. Lake is tentatively slated for March 24.
 Windom and Jackson officials are to get together on March 25, while discussions with Martin County West reps are slated for March 23 at a site to be determined.
Household hazardous waste facility proposed
 A central collection point for household hazardous waste is being proposed for Jackson County.
 Arlene Vee, the county’s environmental officer, told commissioners Monday the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would provide some \$8,000 in funding for such a facility if it gets the go-ahead at the local level.
 The county currently has a contract with Lyon County for disposal of such wastes, Vee noted, but the contract expires in July.
Obituaries: Leona Van Note, Martha Lasley, Donald Vachuska, Anna Mekosch, Esther V. Hatland, Lydia L. Hampel
40 years ago
March 11, 1982
Nationally known speaker in Jackson March 23

The
 Jackson Ministerial Association and the local Chemical Use Education group are co-sponsoring an evening lecture by the Rev. Philip Hansen.
 Hansen will speak on March 23 at the middle school. He is the executive director of Abbot Northwestern Hospital’s Foundation for Living in Minneapolis, as well as the hospital’s chemical dependency rehabilitation program.
Commissioners delay SWMHC participation decision again
 Jackson County Commissioners were advised Monday of a request by the Southwest Mental Health Center’s head of governors to give final word by March 31 on whether the county will remain a partner in the center after 1982.
 The center provides a variety of mental health services for a surrounding five-county area.
Obituaries: Henry Schoen, Sylvia Stahlke, Paul Folsom, Elmer Hansen
50 years ago
March 8, 1972
High-rise bid opening April 5
 Members of the Jackson Housing and Redevelopment Authority will receive three different types of bids for the proposed 62 units of low-rent housing slated for Jackson.
 Separate proposals will be received for the complete construction of elderly housing only and for the complete construction of family housing only.
Chamber supports SWMVS expansion
 Directors of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce last week endorsed the bond issue for an addition to Southwest Minnesota Vocational School and also adopted a resolution asking the state Legislature be convened to consider tax-incentive laws encouraging industry to expand in Minnesota.
 The vocational school expansion was viewed by the chamber as having a double purpose. It would, first of all, provide more educational opportunities for youth of the area and, additionally, add to the economy of the community.
Obituaries: John Schultzer, Anna Rosin, Mary Untiedt

Area faith and worship schedule

Belmont Lutheran Church
 Rural Lakefield,
 Pastor: Eunice Woodberry
 Thursday, March 10: 2 p.m. Bible Study
 Sunday, March 13: 8 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
 Tuesday, March 15: 6:30 p.m. Belmont Council Meeting
 Wednesday, March 16: 1:20 p.m. Release Time; 2:30 p.m. Confirmation; 3 & 6:45 p.m. Lent Worship Service; 5:15 p.m. Lighthouse; 6:30 p.m. Jars of Clay
 Thursday, March 17: 9 a.m. Conference Meeting
 Call the church office for updates or leave a message for the pastor Join us for worship on our Facebook page.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 401 7th Ave. N., Lakefield
 Pastor: Andrew Schensted
 Sunday, March 13: 8 a.m. Trustees Meeting; 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; 11:30 a.m. Catholic Church Spaghetti Dinner
 Tuesday, March 15: 10 a.m. Ruth Circle & BLL; 6 p.m. Deacons Meeting; 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting
 Wednesday, March 16: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship Service; 8 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Church of the Good Shepherd
 311 Sverdrup, 847-2504
 Fr. Jonathan Fasnacht - Pastor
 Thursday, March 10: 5:45 p.m. Stations & Mass
 Saturday, March 12: 5 p.m. Mass at St. Luke, Sherburn
 Sunday, March 13: 8:30 a.m. Mass at Good Shepherd, Jackson; 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph, Sherburn; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Spaghetti/Chicken Alfredo Meal; 1:30 p.m. KC Bingo
 Monday, March 14: Holy Communion: 1:30 p.m. Valley View; 2 p.m. Colonial Manor; 2:30 p.m. In-Home; 6 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting
 Tuesday, March 15: 4:30-6:30 p.m. Atrium Class; 6:30 p.m. Tri-Parish Finance Council Meeting at Good Shepherd
 Wednesday, March 16: 6 p.m. Faith Formation Supper; 6:30-7:45 p.m. Faith Formation Classes

First Baptist Church
 921 Hills Ave., 847-2369
 Pastor: Nathan Janzen
 Youth & Family Pastor: Thor Kurtz
 Thursday, March 10: 3-4 p.m. JOY Group; 4:30-5:30 p.m. Elder Led Prayer Time
 Sunday, March 13: 9:30-10 a.m. Upper Room Prayer/Worship Service; 9:30-10:40 a.m. Worship Service and Children’s Church
 Wednesday, March 16: 1-2 p.m. Release Time; 6:15-7:45 p.m. AWANA; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group - 6th-12th Grade

Thursday, March 17: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Elder Led Prayer Time

Grace Lutheran Church
 Spirit Lake, 712-336-2446
 Thursday, March 10: Grace to Go Online
 Saturday, March 12: 4 p.m. Worship Service
 Sunday, March 13: 10 a.m. Worship Service In-Person and Facebook Live; 10 a.m. Connect: Grades K-5
 Messages may be heard at our website: gracelutheranspiritlake.org. All services can be viewed Facebook Live or YouTube.com until further notice.

Salem Lutheran Church
 500 N. Hwy., 847-3861
 Pastor: Eunice Woodberry
 Sunday, March 13: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
 Wednesday, March 16: 1:20 p.m. Release Time; 2:30 p.m. Confirmation; 3 & 6:45 p.m. Lent Worship Service; 5:15 p.m. Lighthouse; 6:30 p.m. Jars of Clay
 Thursday, March 17: 9 a.m. Conference Meeting
 Call the church office for updates or leave a message for the pastor. Join us for worship on our Facebook page.

Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center
 601 Fourth Street
 Monday, March 14: 6-7 p.m. Jackson Sobriety AA Group
 Wednesday, March 16: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jars of Clay Youth Group - 6th-12th Grade
 Thursday, March 17: 6-7 p.m. Jackson Sobriety AA Group

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
 101 Kimball Ave., 847-3693
 Pastor: John Schuetz
 Sunday, March 13: 9 a.m. Worship Service; 10:15 a.m. Education Hour
 Monday, March 14: 3:45 p.m. Confirmation (7/8); 1:30 p.m. Women’s Bible Study at The Pines
 Tuesday, March 15: 8:30 a.m. Quilting Workshop
 Wednesday, March 16: 10 a.m. Lenten Worship Service; 1 p.m. Release; 2:10 p.m. Confirmation (6); 3:30 p.m. LWML at The Pines; 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service; 7:15 p.m. Choir
 Worship services streamed at 9 a.m. on our Facebook page.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
 614 Logan, 847-2856
 Thursday, March 10: 8 a.m. Men’s Study - Parlor
 Saturday, March 12: 5 p.m. Worship Service
 Sunday, March 13: 8:30 a.m. Worship Service and on KKOJ 1190 AM; 9:45 a.m. Adult Class

Monday, March 14: 5:05 p.m. Church Council Meeting
 Tuesday, March 15: 8 a.m. Women’s Study; 9 a.m. Library Board
 Wednesday, March 16: 5:15 p.m. Lighthouse Children’s Ministry & Hand Bell Choir; 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service & Jars of Clay
 Thursday, March 17: 8 a.m. Men’s Study - Parlor; 2 p.m. Martha Circle
 Worship will be streamed via Facebook & Twitter at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays or you can listen on KKOJ 97.7 FM/1190 AM.

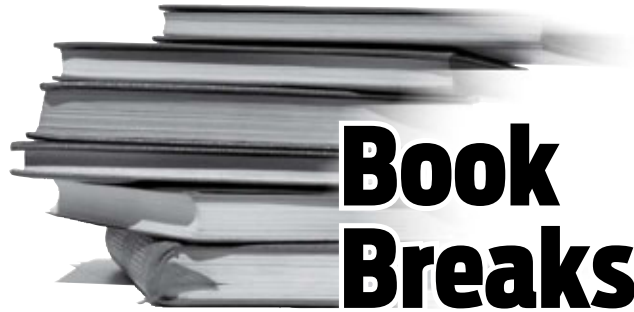
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
 Sioux Valley, 839-3086
 Pastor: Pastor Jacobsen
 Thursday, March 10: 9 a.m. On-line Devotions @ Facebook or YouTube
 Friday, March 11: 9 a.m. On-line Devotions @ Facebook or YouTube
 Saturday, March 12: 12 noon Lunch with Pastor @ Gunderson’s
 Sunday, March 13: 9 a.m. Divine Service at Trinity; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School at Trinity; 10 a.m. Sunday School at Concordia; 10:45 a.m. Divine Service at Concordia; 5:30 p.m. Confirmation at Trinity
 Pastor Jacobsen is doing live Bible Study Devotions on Facebook weekday mornings at 9 a.m. They will also be available for viewing afterwards at any time there or also on our YouTube site.

Trinity Lutheran Church
 Alpha, 236-7165
 Pastor: Rick Bremseth
 Sunday, March 13: 9 a.m. Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
 Live stream videos and links can be found on Trinity’s live stream page.

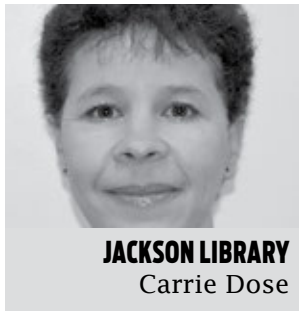
Union State Line Lutheran Church
 Petersburg, 847-2068
 Pastor: Nancy Isaacson
 Sunday, March 13: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

United Methodist Church
 900 North Highway, 847-2681
 Pastor: Russ Steele
 Thursday, March 10: Pastor Russ in Lakefield
 Sunday, March 13: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; 6 p.m. Embrace Jackson
 Monday, March 14: Pastor Russ in Jackson
 Tuesday, March 15: Pastor Russ in Lakefield
 Wednesday, March 16: Pastor Russ in Jackson. 10 a.m. Bible Study; 4 p.m. Lenten Service, Lakefield; 5:30 p.m. Jackson Lenten Meal/Service
 Thursday, March 17: Pastor Russ in Lakefield

<p>Osterberg Funeral Homes Jackson 507-847-3300 Lakefield 507-662-6464</p>	<p>ASA AUTO PLAZA Your hometown family dealer 507-847-3153 800-788-6415 Hwy. 71 North, Jackson, MN www.kemma.com</p>	<p>Abiding in God's presence “And [the LORD] said, ‘My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.’” “Then [Moses] said, ‘If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.’” Exodus 33:14-15</p> <p>The obstinate heart of God’s people became evident in their decision to worship the golden calf. This people who had entered a covenant with the One True God were told to go to the Land of Promise without the Presence of God in their midst. Moses recognized the gift without the Giver was of little value! Dwelling in the land would never last without the glorious presence of the Promise-Giver who provided guidance, protection and peace through the opposition, obstacles and distractions of the journey. The one thing that distinguished them from all the other people was God’s glorious presence and their identity as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. God provided a way for his glorious presence to dwell in their midst through the Tabernacle. It is a visual aid showing the people how to abide in the presence of God. This visual aid was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah, who “died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring us to God.” (1 Peter 3:18). By our faith in Jesus as the one whose sacrifice redeems us from sin, we become “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession,” (1 Peter 2:9). God’s design is that he would dwell among us as we abide in his presence, living by the light of his Word and illuminating Spirit, nourished by the bread of his truth and sustaining power. Will we treasure his abiding presence, or merely seek the gift apart from the Giver? Nathan Janzen Pastor, First Baptist Church</p>	<p>Only Lawn Care & Landscaping Jackson, MN 847-2613</p>	<p>Jackson Sports, LLC Industrial Parkway Jackson, Minnesota 507-847-3977 • 1-888-299-8151 POLARIS Think Outside</p>
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Book Breaks



JACKSON LIBRARY
Carrie Dose

New arrivals at the Jackson library!
“Shadows Reel” by CJ Box (Crime fiction)
Game warden Joe Pickett, while dealing with the brutal murder of a fishing guide, must help his wife solve a mystery involving a photo album that belonged to an infamous Nazi officer, placing them in the crosshairs of a killer.
“High Stakes” by Danielle Steel (General fiction)
Five women work together at a boutique literary and talent agency while the challenges of their individual lives cause chaos both inside and outside the office in a new novel by one of the world’s bestselling authors.
“Run, Rose, Run” by Dolly Parton and James Patterson (Crime fiction)
On the rise and on the run, a young singer-songwriter arrives in Nash-

ville to claim her destiny, but it’s also where the darkness she’s fled might find her — and destroy her.
“Wild Irish Rose” by Rhys Bowen (Mystery and detective)
In 1907, after helping distribute clothing to those in need on Ellis Island, Molly discovers, through her policeman husband, a murder occurred on the island that day and the suspect is the spitting image of her and feels strongly that fate wants her to clear this woman’s name.
“Calder Grit” by Janet Dailey (Romance)
Trying to calm tensions, an ambitious, young mill owner agrees to marry the daughter of a home-steading family in 1909 Montana after his spoiled half-brother took advantage of her.
BOOKS:
“Caramel Pecan Roll Murder” by Joanne

Fluke, “The Atlas Six” by Olivia Blake, “The Berlin Exchange” by Joseph Kanon, “The Midnight Ride” by Ben Mezrich, “The Lightning Rod” by Brad Meltzer, “Goodbye Again” by Mariah Stewart, “Gwendy’s Final Task” by Stephen King
DVDS:
“After We Fell,” “Shattered,” “House of Gucci,” “Eternals,” “American Underdog”
For a more complete list of new items, check out the library website, plumcreeklibrary.org/Jackson.
Search the online catalog at opac.plumcreeklibrary.net to reserve any of the above titles or to search for other titles. You can also renew items from home. You can access your account with your library card number and password. The password is the last four digits of your library card number. Call the library for assistance if needed.

‘Fill the Boots’ fundraiser this Saturday

A “Fill the Boots” fundraiser in honor of former Jackson firefighter Brandon Krumwiede is planned this Saturday at the Lakefield Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.
Doors open at 2 p.m. Saturday, with a beanbag tournament running from 3 to 7 p.m. and the Jeremy DeWall Band slated to play from 8 p.m. to midnight. Food will

be offered and those in attendance will be invited to fill Krumwiede’s fireman boots with freewill donations, which will be given to the MN INDY Cancer Warriors and Jr. Warriors.
Krumwiede died March 12, 2021, after a two-year battle with glioblastoma.

Breakfast to benefit local library

The Jackson Knights of Columbus team with the Jackson library this Sunday to help raise money for the 2022 summer reading program.
The local K of C council hosts a fundraising omelet and pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Good Shepherd Hall in Jackson. Serving will be

available in sit-down and drive-through style.
On the menu are made-to-order omelets with choice of fixings, pancakes, sausages, toast and coffee or orange juice.
Proceeds will be donated to the Jackson library and earmarked for the summer reading program.

Jackson’s community gardens are featured in regional ag publication

Jackson’s new community gardens are featured in the latest edition of the Farm Market News, a regional ag publication reaching more than 18,500 rural homes and businesses across the tri-state area.
The gardens, which were first conceptualized in 2020 and introduced in 2021, are the subject of the cover story in the March 7 Farm Market News.
In the article, those involved with the gardens’ development discuss their origins, how the process works and plans for the future. Reservations for garden plots, which are

spread among three garden boxes in Zimmerli Park in east Jackson, are being accepted now.
The Farm Market News is delivered free of charge to 18,700 rural homes and businesses across 15 counties in southern Minnesota, northern Iowa and eastern South Dakota and is available for free pickup at cafés and coffee shops throughout the coverage area. Extra copies are available at the offices of Livewire Printing Co. in downtown Jackson.
The Farm Market News may also be read for free by article online at jack-



soncountypilot.com or in its entirety online at farm-marketnews.com.



BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES

la Moonen, Timothy Moonen, Jessica Adams.
March 12: Happy birthday to Kay Harder, Ethel Ray, Sara Fransen, Michael Nelson, Eric Vee, Dawn Meyer-Koep.
March 13: Happy birthday to Hilary Brech, Arlis Lucht, Richard McDeid, Daryl Olson, Lauren Pibbs, Cameron Mulder, Jenna Vachuska.
March 14: Happy birthday to Mackenzie Henning, Thomas Schul-

ler, Kiara Streiff, Sydney Osterberg.
March 15: Happy birthday to Shelby Benson, Scott Gruhlke, Elise Rasmussen.
March 16: Happy birthday to Zachary Holm, Nathan Schulz, Dominic Woolridge, Carisa Boell, Jacey Edlin, Dylan Lucht, Ashley Schmit, Mackena Tweedt. Anniversary wishes go to Patrick and Alissa Coquyt, Dave and Netchie Luhmann.

School board, council to tackle pool in joint session next week

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Members of the Jackson County Central Board of Education and the Jackson City Council will meet in joint session Monday to discuss the future of the indoor swimming pool.
It’s the first time the two boards have met together in more than a

year. The last time was in February 2021, when members of each heard a panel of experts say it could cost upwards of \$5 million to bring the city- and school-owned swimming pool up to code.
Barry Schmidt, superintendent of schools at JCC, said he envisions Monday’s meeting being a brainstorming session of sorts.

“No decisions are to be made, but we’ve got to start brainstorming,” he said.
Schmidt added as part of the process, he is in favor of surveying members of the public about what they think about the pool’s future.
The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at the JCC High School. It is open to the public.

Local residents encouraged to be volunteer rainfall monitors

Locals are encouraged to volunteer to serve as rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.
The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and submit reports online.
Minnesota State Assistant Climatologist Pete Boulay said the data from backyard rain gauges are helpful and important in many ways.
“These volunteers help to verify high rain totals after big events, monitor drought and flooding, make

our precipitation maps more accurate and provide needed guidance on Minnesota’s changing climate,” Boulay said. “This is also a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate.”
Volunteers are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area, including in Jackson County. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online. They must purchase or provide

a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and have Internet access to submit reports.
For the past two years, Minnesota has won the “CoCoRaHS Cup” for recruiting the most new volunteers of any state.
“We’re hoping Minnesotans will again come through in 2022, to keep the cup in Minnesota and, more importantly of course, to improve our state’s precipitation recording,” Boulay said.
Those interested in signing up may visit CoCoRaHS.org or contact Boulay at peter.boulay@state.mn.us.

Political process continues with county conventions

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

The political process continues in Jackson County in anticipation of the upcoming midterm elections and August special election.
Both the local Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties have times, places and agendas set for their respective

county conventions. Jackson County Republicans will gather at 9 a.m. this Saturday at the Lakefield Multi-purpose Center; local DFLers will convene at the same place at 10 a.m. on March 26.
GOP
Jackson County GOP chair Rich Koch said he expects a handful of candidates for statewide office to attend the convention this Saturday.
“We’ll be electing our delegates to the state convention,” Koch said. “I’m expecting some candidates to stop by to greet people at the convention, especially those in the running to replace Rep. Rod Hamilton.”
Hamilton, R-Mt. Lake, who represents western Jackson County in the state Legislature, will retire at the end of 2022.
With the recent passing of U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn, a separate convention will take place to endorse a candidate for the special

election.
“That will be a convention for our congressional district, and it will be separate from the state convention,” Koch said.
DFL
Jackson County DFL chair Jenna Schwartz said the primary item on the docket for March 26 is getting delegates elected for the state convention, as well as officers for the local party.
“The agenda is to elect three delegates and alternates to the state convention and elect Jackson County officers for the next two years,” she said.
Schwartz said no candidates are scheduled to attend the county convention as of yet, but the party is open to meet-and-greets if informed ahead of time.
“No candidate has reached out to me at this point,” she said. “If one does, we can allow them to speak to the floor if they desire to.”

Happy 50th Birthday
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THANKS to all those who made the 2022 Farm and Home Show a great success!
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• Jackson County Fair Board for rides from cars across the parking lot
• JCC School for being wonderful hosts
• JCC FFA for serving pie and ice cream
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• All the businesses, social and civic organizations who participated this year
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Thank you to our panel of outstanding presenters for our educational forums at the 2022 Jackson Farm and Home Show!
Lori Kokoruda • Dr. Mark Titus • Wyman and Rebecca Fischer
Adam and Julia Weets • Matt Skaret • Dave Schmidt
Dr. Kerri Henderson • Megan Heser

Of-pictured group of kiddos turn 50 this year

Four still live in Jackson County

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Eight local kiddos who grew up together in the pages of the Jackson County Pilot turn 50 this year.

Back in 1973, Judy Rasmussen of Jackson sewed eight identical rompers — one for her 1-year-old daughter, Sonja, and seven for Sonja's 1-year-old neighborhood friends. The rompers were presented during a late March gathering of the toddlers and their mothers, and Jackson County Pilot photographer Irene Hanson was summoned to capture the moment on film.

The photo of the kiddos — some smiling, some crying, all but one not really paying attention — was published in the March 28, 1973, edition of the Jackson County Pilot and, as Mary Mulder, mother of one of the youngsters pictured, recalls, received quite a bit of public interest and positive comment.

One year later, the same group of kiddos — now 2-year-olds — were gathered together once again for another photo that ran in the Pilot. And, once again, some were smiling, some were crying and all but one were not really paying attention.

A few years later, that same group of kiddos headed off to kindergarten in Jackson. Again, a Pilot

photographer was summoned, and the group photo was published in the Pilot. This time, nobody was crying, most were paying attention and all but one were smiling.

"It was Cameron," Mulder said of her son and his persistent refusal to crack a grin.

Fast-forward 13 years, and that group of kids had matured into graduating high school seniors. A Pilot photographer was summoned one more time to snap a photo of those same kiddos, minus Sonja Rasmussen — whose mother had started the whole thing — who had since moved to Texas. This time around, everyone pictured was paying attention and all but two — Mike Pribyl and, you guessed it, Cameron Mulder — were smiling.

Cameron Mulder's upcoming 50th birthday on March 13 got his mother thinking about those group photos that ran in the newspaper, and she

found three of them. Susan Pribyl, mother of another of the group members, was able to come up with the senior photo.

The two put their heads together on where the original eight kiddos ended up.

Rasmussen, of course, moved away long ago. Four are still around, including Cameron Mulder, Mike Pribyl, Becky (Pribyl) Benson and Karin (Erickson) Eggink. Christine Lev is now Christine Reiff, and lives in Chester, S.D. Jenny Pribyl is now Jenny Gilhol and lives in the Twin Cities. And John Haberman lives in Colorado.

"All of them were born right around the same time," Mary Mulder said of the kids, "so when I got to thinking about Cameron's 50th birthday, it occurred to me all of them are turning 50. It's just neat to look back on those photos, even if Cameron isn't smiling in any of them. Maybe we'll get him to smile on his birthday. But maybe not."



PILOT FILE PHOTOS

Neighborhood 1-year-olds clad in identical rompers back in 1973 include (front, from left): Becky Pribyl, Sonja Rasmussen, Karin Erickson and Jenny Pribyl. Back: Cameron Mulder, Mike Pribyl, Christine Lev and John Haberman.



Neighborhood friends back in 1974 include (front, from left): Becky Pribyl, Sonja Rasmussen, Karin Erickson and Jenny Pribyl. Back: Cameron Mulder, Mike Pribyl, Christine Lev and John Haberman.



As kindergarteners, the neighbors include (front from left): Jenny Pribyl, Sonja Rasmussen, Karin Erickson and Becky Pribyl. Back: Cameron Mulder, Mike Pribyl, Christine Lev and John Haberman.



Jackson High School senior friends include (front, from left): Jenny Pribyl, Cameron Mulder and John Haberman. Back: Karin Erickson, Becky Pribyl, Mike Pribyl and Christine Lev.

Council debates rental policy

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Members of the Jackson City Council last week debated the merits of a proposed rental ordinance requiring landlords to have \$1 million in liability insurance to receive a license from the city.

Currently, city ordinance requires landlords carry liability insurance, but does not specify how much they must have.

Council member Brandon Finck felt the proposed amount was too high, noting there's a difference between a company that owns an apartment building and someone renting a room out.

Jackson City Administrator Matt Skaret said the reform was proposed due to an incident in which a landlord claimed to be self-insured, which is a viola-

tion of the current policy.

Council member Dave Cushman said he didn't feel that situation merited an immediate change.

"If they claim to be self-insured, they're already in violation of the policy we have," he said. "What is the need for us to change this?"

The council voted to send the ordinance to Jackson Rental Housing Committee for review.

In other action from last Tuesday's council meeting:

CIP UPDATED

The council approved updating the municipal airport's capital improvement plan to reflect the funding it will receive over the next five years from the federal government.

The airport will receive \$110,000 for the next five years.

AGREEMENT OK'D

Council members approved an engineering agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. for a water plan media filter replacement project.

Total costs of engineering from the beginning to end of construction are estimated at \$88,000, while total project costs are estimated at \$520,000.

HEARING SET

The council approved the first consideration of an ordinance to require screening on rooftop HVAC units.

A public meeting for the ordinance is set for April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

UPDATE GIVEN

Jackson Mayor Wayne Walter spoke to the council about work being done between several cities in southwest Minnesota to lobby the statehouse for a workforce development incentive program.

The proposed program, similar to one in South Dakota, would offer a forgivable loan to vocational school students to cover the costs of education. The money would be forgiven over the course of five years if the student remained in southwest Minnesota for work.

The Jackson Economic Development Corp. pledged to pay \$1,229.57 toward the effort, helping the cities hire representation to lobby for the program.

Scholarships and grant money both available through the Jackson Community Foundation

Grant applications are now available for the 2022 Jackson Community Foundation grant campaign, as well as for the Kristi Elaine Teigen Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is administered by the Jackson Community Foundation.

The deadline for both applications is Friday, April 15.

Jackson Community Foundation representatives will meet with eligible seniors at Jackson County Central High School to explain more about the scholarships, and applications will be available to students at that time.

Area nonprofit organizations can apply for grants for projects that promise a long-term benefit to the Jackson area. Grants are made from interest earned by the foundation's general endowment fund and unrestricted fund, which was formerly the Jackson United Fund. These funds come from the many generous donations made throughout the year from community members.

Funding requests should be in the \$300 to \$1,000 range, but the project may request additional amounts

in future years. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government or a public agency.

Grant applications must be filled out online. Those interested can find a link to the application, as well as specific guidelines, through the Jackson Minnesota Community Foundation Facebook page. A copy of the link may be requested by emailing the Jackson Community Foundation at jacksoncommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

The Jackson Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Southwest Initiative Foundation and is in its 11th year as the one-stop community organization for charitable contributions that benefit the city of Jackson. Since its inception, the foundation has granted more than \$30,000 to 27 different local nonprofit organizations. It has also awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to JCC students.

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Salary range for this position is \$21.92 - \$27.77/hour depending on experience.

For a complete job description or application of employment, please contact the County Coordinator/Human Resources Office (Room 13 of the Cottonwood County Courthouse), call 507-831-5669 or visit the county website at www.co.cottonwood.mn.us. Resumes will not be accepted without the completed job application.

Application deadline is Wednesday, March 18, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Mail completed application and resume to: Kelly Thongvivong, Coordinator/Human Resources, 900 Third Avenue, Windom, MN 56101

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Members of the Jackson Lions Club: Merv Steen, Marcus Polz, Mike Stade, Bridget Kolander-Gilbert, Mike Gilbert, Al Nelson, Mark Walter, Sam Tracey, Richard Seim, Dennis Henrichs, Tim Olson, Curt Handevitd, Philip Handevitd, Dan Ruby, Clayton Lewis, Dennis Hample, Bob Bass, Ryan Brinks, Connie Myers, John Myers, Craig Fransen, Daryl Olson, Ron Anderson, Kent Bargfrede, Arnold Benson, Matt Benson, Richard Burud, Kevin Dunlavey, John Dykstra, Ron Fransen, Drew Hagen, Kerri Henderson, Steve Henderson, Mitch Jasper, Mike Johnson, Diana Kuehl, Don Kuehl, Marcus Leggate, Dave Maschoff, Jeremy Michelson, John Osterberg, and Nolan Schuller.

Listed below are some of the projects the Jackson Lions Club has funded during the past year.

JCC AFS Program	\$500
JCC Post Prom	\$500
Library Summer Reading Programs	\$200
Prairie Ecology Bus Center	\$300
Food Shelf	\$4,072
JCC Students of the Quarter	\$2,400
Big Buddies	\$100
Can Do Canines	\$500
Lions Hearing Foundation	\$1,000
Lions Diabetes Foundation	\$2,000
Leader Dog	\$500
Lions Humaritarian Fund	\$1,000
Lions Vision Foundation	\$1,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,500



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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF JACKSON
DISTRICT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No. 32-PR-22-13
In Re: Estate of
David E. Williamson,
Decedent.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF FOREIGN PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
ACTING IN MINNESOTA**

Notice is hereby given that Craig Patten, whose address is 1500 South Judy Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103, is the domiciliary personal representative for the estate of David E. Williamson, a resident of the State of Iowa.

On February 28, 2022, the personal representative filed with this Court a document stating his intention to exercise as to the assets in the State of Minnesota all powers of a local personal representative and maintain actions and proceedings in Minnesota in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 524.4-205.

Notice is also given that any Minnesota creditor who objects to the personal representative's exercise of power over assets in the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minn.

Stat. § 524.4-205 must file an objection within 60 days of the personal representative's filing of said notice. If no objections are filed, after the expiration of 60 days from the date the personal representative filed, the personal representative will be authorized to exercise all powers of a local personal representative.
Dated: March 2, 2022
Teresa Retz
Registrar

**DAVENPORT EVANS
HURWITZ & SMITH, LLP**
Lori M. Rensink
Minnesota Atty. No.
0402288
206 West 14th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57401
Telephone:
605-336-2880
Facsimile:
605-335-3639
e-mail: LRensink@dehs.com
(March 10, 17)

**School Board
Meeting Minutes
Jackson County
Central Schools
ISD#2895
January 24, 2022**
The Jackson County Central School Board held their

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF
JACKSON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
February 15, 2022**

This document constitutes a summary of the proceedings of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners' February 15, 2022 meeting. The full text of these proceedings is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the County Administrator, Jackson County Courthouse, 405 Fifth Street, in the City of Jackson, Minnesota.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners, Minnesota met in regular session, in the Jackson County Government Resource Center, Cafeteria Room (Door 7), 402 White Street, City of Jackson, Minnesota, on February 15, 2022. The following members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners were present: James Eigenberg, Catherine Hohenstein, Scott McClure, Philip Nasby and Don Wachal. County Administrator, Ryan Krosch and Assistant to the Administrator, Brandi Bourquin were also in attendance.

Chair Hohenstein called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and let the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion was made by Commissioner McClure and seconded by Commissioner Wachal to adopt the agenda with the following change: Move Regular Agenda Item 4.1. RBA - 2022 Ditch Assessments to the Drainage Authority Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eigenberg and seconded by Commissioner Nasby to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:
Board Action 22-035 - Approve February 1, 2022 Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes

Board Action 22-036 - Approve all Commissioner disbursements in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 130.01 subd. 4(b), recorded on warrants numbered 98118-98265 in the amount of \$965,361.53 for the following funds: Revenue, \$134,119.15; Public Works, \$765,959.01; Ditch, \$35,512.73; Agency Fund, \$4,174.00; and Library Fund \$25,596.64. A detailed list of claims paid is available at the Auditor/Treasurer's office upon request.

Vendor	Total
Cooperative Energy Co.	\$ 52,765.88
Petersburg Township	39,718.95
Wisconsin Township	38,824.92
Heron Lake Township	38,763.45
Delafield Township	38,130.55
KARL CHEVROLET, INC	37,786.66
Rost Township	36,431.15
Ewington Township	35,776.34
Des Moines Township	35,665.83
Sioux Valley Township	35,577.13
Town of Alba	35,091.61
Middletown Township	34,697.89
Belmont Township	33,643.10
Christiana Township	33,615.82
Enterprise Township	32,010.48
Minnesota Township	31,390.41
La Crosse Township	31,326.94
Round Lake Township	31,289.94
I & S Group Inc	30,960.29
Hunter Township	29,987.13
West Heron Lake Township	28,912.81
Kimball Township	26,813.53
Jackson County Historical Society	25,500.00
Weimer Township	23,905.00
Plum Creek Library System	22,259.00
Midwest Contracting LLC	17,190.64
Ziegler Inc.	8,474.97
Gag Sheet Metal, Inc.	7,863.60
Dell Marketing L P	6,992.10
Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC	6,695.96
Marsden Bldg Maintenance LLC	6,667.64
Civplus, LLC	5,226.37
Shi Corp	5,195.30
Treasury Division Of Mn Dept Of Finance	4,131.50
Amazon Capital Services	3,803.02
Good Samaritan Society	3,293.50
MEnd Correctional Care PLLC	3,263.21
Rinke Noonan, Ltd.	2,760.00
Livewire Printing Co	2,749.48
Cohrs Construction Inc	2,687.55
Rural Minnesota Energy Board	2,500.00
Midwest Lift Works	2,458.68
Southwest Minnesota Regional Radio Board	2,380.00
Total Claims Submitted over \$2000	\$935,158.33
90 Claims Submitted under \$2000	\$30,203.20
Total Claims Submitted to the Board	\$965,361.53

Board Action 22-037 - Approve the County Administrator entering into an AIA agreement with WOLD Architect and Engineers

Board Action 22-038 - Approve the County Safety Committee membership list
Resolution 22-011 - Approve Joint Powers Agreements between the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Court Services, and Jackson County Attorney's Office with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for CJDN access

Resolution 22-012 - Approve 2022 HAVA Grant Application
Board Action 22-039 - Approve final payment to Midwest Contracting, LLC for SAP 032-599-105 and SAP 032-599-106

Board Action 22-040 - Approve final payment to Phoenix Corp for SAP 032-090-011
Board Action 22-041 - Approve ratification of Professional Services Agreement between TriMin Systems Inc. and the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MnCCC)

Board Action 22-042 - Annual Renewal of Liquor, Wine, or 3.2% Licenses expiring March 31, 2022 for FR2 LLC (Jackson Motorplex), Round Lake Vineyards & Winery LLC, Bergen Bar & Grill, Inc., Loon Lake Store and Bait Shop, and Loon Lake Golf, LLC effective April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Board Action 22-043 - Approve the application to conduct off-site gambling for the Jackson County Conservation League, for a raffle to be held at the Horse Barn and Hunt Club on March 18, 2022

Board Action 22-044 - Approve the application for exempt permit of Pheasants Forever #8, with no waiting period, for a raffle to be held at the Horse Barn and Hunt Club on April 9, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wachal and seconded by Commissioner Nasby to adopt Resolution 22-013- Approve the Fort Belmont 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Budget for the Fort Belmont Museum and Visitor's Center. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner McClure and seconded by Commissioner Eigenberg to adopt Board Action 22-045 - Approve the Lease Agreement Renewal for the County Building at Fort Belmont. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eigenberg and seconded by Commissioner Wachal to adopt Board Action 22-046 - Approve the cleaning/sanodial services contract with Marsden Building Maintenance, LLC effective March 1, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eigenberg and seconded by Commissioner Wachal to adopt Board Action 22-047 - Re-appoint Wayne Rasche to a three year term on the Heron Lake Watershed District Board of Managers. The motion carried 4-0 in favor with Commissioner McClure recusing himself from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Motion was made by McClure and seconded by Commissioner Wachal to adopt Board Action 22-048 - Establish a Broadband Committee and appoint Commissioner Nasby, Commissioner Eigenberg and County Administrator Krosch to the Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eigenberg and seconded by Commissioner Nasby to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.
(March 10)

regular meeting on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:30pm in the JCC High School Auditorium Conference Room, remote via zoom at 77687 490th Avenue, Jackson MN 56143, and live via Facebook.

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Rhonda Moore, Bradley Anderson, Troy Schultz, Tina Polz, Amy Voss, Jody Thrush Withers, and Eric Kruger. Also Ex-Officio Superintendent Barry Schmidt, Building & Grounds Director Mark Steffen. Others present: Principals Keri Bergeson, Chris Naumann, Director of Curriculum and Assessments Tammy Timko, media Justin Lessman, Anderson-Krause Matt Lundberg, Matt Harder, Representative Bjorn Olson, Alyssa Anderson, and Eric Tinnereium

Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Voss to approve the agenda as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items

1. Representative Bjorn Olson - District 23A

2. Superintendent's Report, Solar for School Grant Program - Barry Schmidt

3. Principal's Report - High School, Middle School, Pleasantview, Riverside

4. Business Manager's Report (revenues and expenses) - Jim Hoffbeck

5. Facilities/Grounds Director's Report - Mark Steffen

6. Activities Director's Report - Shelly Hotzler

7. Food Service Director's Report - Kari Rubitschung

8. Community Education Director's Report (Husky Howl)- Jacqueline Knips

9. Preschool Director's Report - Lisa Schensted

10. Director of Curriculum and Assessment Report - Tammy Timko

11. Committee Reports

a. Project Oversight Committee

Motion was made by Thrush Withers and seconded by Kruger to approve the consent agenda. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of consent agenda

1. Approve the board minutes from the School Board Meeting on December 20, 2021.

2. Approve the board minutes from the Reorganizational Board Meeting on January 3, 2022.

3. Approve the board minutes from the Special Board Meeting on January 10, 2022.

4. Approval of the bills (Revenues: \$1,466,070.48 , Expenses: January board bills \$128,362.44, December manuals bills \$2,487,421.67, and December Net Payroll \$548,118.58)

5. Approve the donation of \$25,000 from the Frank Zaher Trust for Lakefield Fields.

Business Action Items

Motion was made by Voss and seconded by Anderson to approve medical leave for an employee. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Kruger and seconded by Schultz to approve resignation of an employee on May 22, 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and

Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Polz and seconded by Voss to approve the seniority lists for the 2021-2022 school year. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Thrush Withers and seconded by Kruger to approve Deb Stade as long term sub for payroll. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Polz and seconded by Anderson to approve hiring Alison Duncan as an elementary teacher at Pleasantview. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Kruger and seconded by Voss to approve the resignation of Ellie Singvongsa as preschool para at Pleasantview. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Voss to Approve the retirement of Patricia Steffen as Head Cook at the Middle School and Pleasantview. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Polz and seconded by Thrush Withers to approve the resignation of Erica Wedeband as paraprofessional at Riverside. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Voss and seconded by Polz to Approve Brandon Pygman as an assistant wrestling coach. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Thrush Withers and seconded by Kruger to move to have District 2895 engage JLG and K&A to engineer plans, make a construction estimate and prepare bid documents for the CTE project, with the construction start date to be in April 2023 for a completion/occupancy date of September 1, 2023. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Voss and seconded by Polz to approve the motion to close session per Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(c): School Board will consider an offer to sell real property at 6:28p.m. Motion was made by Voss and seconded by Schultz to reopen closed meeting at

6:37p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Motion was made by Voss and seconded by Anderson to approve final reading of the following policies. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Employees/Personnel

404 Employee Background Checks

a. Suggested changes from MSBA

405 Veteran's Preference

a. Suggested changes from MSBA

406 Public and Private Personnel Data

a. Suggested changes from MSBA

406F Consent to Release Data - Request from an Individual

412 Expense Reimbursement

New Business

First Reading of the following current policies.

416 - Drug and Alcohol Testing

417 - Chemical Use and Abuse

418 - Drug Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

419 - Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession And Use Of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, And Electronic Delivery Devices

a. Suggested changes from MSBA

420 - Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Disease.

a. Suggested changes from MSBA

Motion was made by Kruger and seconded by Thrush Withers to adjourn at 6:47p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE. Members present voting yes: Anderson, Thrush Withers, Polz, Kruger, Schultz, Voss

and Moore. Members voting no: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Rhonda Moore, Chair
Jody Thrush Withers, Clerk
(March 10)

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MESSAGE TABLE made by Custom CraftWorks, model Athena. New excellent condition. Comes with bolster and carry case, \$395. Call 507-877-3015, evenings.

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33188

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- Physical Education / Health
- Elementary
- Special Education
- Science (High School)
- Preschool (Riverside)
- Art (Riverside)
- ELL (all buildings)
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Activities Director / Dean of Students (HS)



Teacher Applicant Requirements:

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2. Resume
3. Formal application
(found online at www.jccschools.com/employment)
4. Copy of your college transcript
5. Minnesota teaching license
6. 3 letters of recommendation

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Supt. Barry Schmidt
Jackson County Central Schools
Box 119, Jackson, MN 56143

Phone: 507-847-3608 or
Fax: 507-847-3078 or
emily.anderson@jccschools.net
Deadline: Until filled

Current openings:

Payroll and Benefits Coordinator
JCC has a payroll opening in Jackson at the District Office. This position if year round 40 hours per week.

Food Service Assistant
JCC has a food service assistant opening in Lakefield. This position is Monday through Friday.

Paraprofessionals
JCC has paraprofessional openings at the Middle School. These positions are Monday through Friday around 35-37.5 hours per week.

To apply, complete application
(www.jccschools.com/employment) and submit

Send immediately to:
Supt. Barry Schmidt
Jackson County Central Schools
Box 119, Jackson, MN 56143

Phone: 507-847-3608 or
Fax: 507-847-3078 or
emily.anderson@jccschools.net
Deadline: Until filled

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33079

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**This position has hours available from
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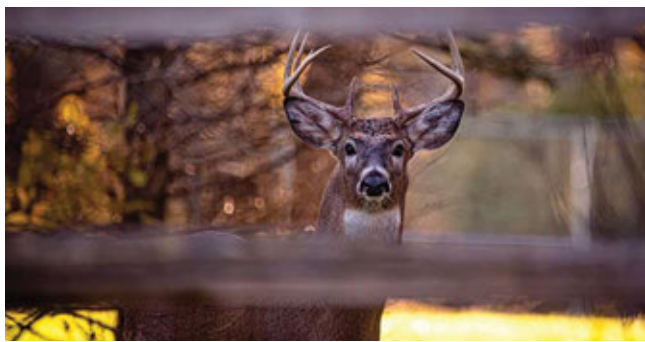
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a person in his home.
Helping him with
activities such as:**

- Grocery shopping
- Meal preparation
- Medication monitoring
- Community participation
- Social enrichment

**Hours for this position can offer a little flexibility
and additional hours would be available for
anyone interested. Starting wage is \$14.00
per hour. Reliable transportation is a must.
Benefits include paid holidays and holiday pay, local gym
membership, and retirement account.**

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHIL KIRK

Local wildlife, like this buck, features prominently in Phil Kirk's portfolio.



A bear gets up close and personal in Phil Kirk's camera viewfinder.



Birds make up a lion's share of Phil Kirk's photo subjects.

Local photographer's work inspires awe

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Phil Kirk of Jackson is a native of the United Kingdom, a father and grandfather and a professional photographer whose portfolio includes wildlife, landscape and portrait photos.

Kirk spoke at the Jackson library last Wednesday, showing a wide array of photos from his portfolio and explaining how he's able to get the perfect shot.

As it turns out, it takes a lot of work, patience and more than a little luck. Most of Kirk's photographs are taken locally, with many coming from local parks and nature reserves.

"I do a lot of my photography in Kilen Woods," he said. "I spend a lot of time early in the morning and late at night taking photographs."

He's set up cameras and other gear in the woods to get photographs of various critters to great success; photographs of racoons, birds, coyotes and deer graced his presentation last week, eliciting interest — and amazement — from those gathered at the library for the program.

One photograph that got a few gasps in response was a close-up photograph of a bear — not taken in the area, as it turns out. Still, it proved a remarkable example of Kirk's dedication to his craft.

"We were at a park and



PHOTO BY JOSHUA SCHUETZ
This camera is one of many Phil Kirk uses to make photographs of wildlife, natural events, landscapes and other subjects.

my granddaughter shouted, 'Bear!' And, of course, I thought she was joking, but there was a bear close by to us," Kirk said. "So, the first thing I did was reach for my camera and I followed it

around and was able to get a few photos."

Some tricks of the trade have to be used in moderation. Kirk noted Photoshop, used by almost every photographer — himself included — can be used in ways that harm the overall quality of the art in question and can even be used deceptively.

Kirk said one of the most important parts of photography is taking opportunities as they come. That means being alert for chances to catch something interesting on camera.

"Opportunity knocks sometimes," he said. "We were camping on Big Spirit one time, and we happened to ride by a horse arena, and they were doing shooting events there. I'm the guy who takes cameras to concerts, and timing is really

everything when you're taking photos, because it's very easy to miss something."

Kirk particularly favors photographs of birds, including bald eagles and birds doing mating rituals in the air. Deer are another regular source of content, roaming Kilen Woods and other areas in the county.

"I want to highlight how much wildlife we have in this area," Kirk said. "You just have to look for it."



Great photo opportunities present themselves at all times of the day for Phil Kirk.

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PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central wrestling team show off their Class A state championship trophy following three straight wins Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center. Team members are (front, from left): Athletic trainer Caitlin Place, Nolan Ambrose, Matt Haley, Thomas Freking, Landon Andrews, Trey Rossow, Seth Stai, Isaac Rodriguez, Kie Anderson, Skyler Andrews and student managers Aubree Eller and Reese Anderson. Back: Assistant coaches David Thorn, Troy Schultz, Rick VanderWoude and Brandon Pygman, Logan Butzon, Jack Mix, Cameron Scholten, Dylan Withers, Will Freking, Braydan Winter, Andrew Boyum, Trace Michelson, Payton Handevitd, Isaiah Rodriguez, Caleb Vancura, student manager Renae Vancura, assistant coach Jacob Johnson, head coach Nate Hanson and assistant coach John Thorn.

HUSKIES STRIKE GOLD AT STATE



The Class A team state championship, three individual state champions and five other state place-winners highlighted an historic state tournament for the Jackson County Central wrestling team. Read all about the Huskies in this week's Salute to the Champions special section.



C1-C6

JCC GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Super season ends in sub-section semifinals

Huskies finish with most wins since 2010-11

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

The best season in more than a decade for the Jackson County Central girls' basketball team came to an end last week as the Huskies lost in the South Section 3AA semifinals to Luverne.

The fourth-seeded Huskies team fell behind the top-seeded Cardinals 10-1 last Tuesday in Windom and were never able to recover.

The loss brings an end to the season for the Huskies, who were 17-11. That's the most wins for the team since the Huskies went 26-3 in the 2010-11 season and went to the state tournament.

The Huskies eventually got within four points in the first half and made a run midway through the second half, but both were answered by Cardinal runs as Luverne won 75-53.

The Cardinals jumped all over the Huskies early, leading 10-1 less than three minutes into the game.

By that point, the Cardinals had more blocked shots than the Huskies had

See **GBB** on **B4**



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Sadie Voss drives past a defender during last week's playoff game against Luverne.

JCC BOYS' BASKETBALL

Rally allows Huskies to seal playoff opener

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

A little run to open the second half and a bigger one later in the half helped the fourth-seeded Jackson County Central boys' basketball team open the South Section 3AA tournament with a 75-67 win over fifth-seeded Montevideo Saturday in Jackson.

The Huskies led by just two points at the break after a back-and-forth first half, but built a six-point lead early in the second half and never trailed after the break.

Roman Voss started the second half with a basket and Damien Phaly followed with a steal and hoop for a 38-32 lead. The lead stayed right around that mark until the Huskies started to pull away midway through the half.

Kaden Cother hit a 3-pointer and Christian Benda followed with a hoop to give the Huskies a 57-48 lead. After a basket by the Thunder Hawks, JCC scored six straight points for its biggest lead of the game.

Caleb Thurmer scored two points, then Bryson Powers twice grabbed offensive rebounds and scored, giving JCC a 63-50 lead. All the points during the 13-4 run were scored by players who aren't necessarily the focus of JCC opponents.

"We said during the week some guys were going to have to step up," JCC head coach Alex Hein said.

"Kaden Cother made two big 3s in the second half. Caleb came off the bench, but played basically the entire game. Bryson had three big buckets for us in the second half."

JCC's lead was trimmed down to 66-59 as Montevideo kept hanging around. "We were able to open it up to about 12 points but Montevideo would not go away," Hein said. "They started to blitz us and were able to cut it down to five or six."

The usual suspects handled the scoring the rest of the way, helping the Huskies hang on for the win.

Voss and Travis Rogotzke combined to score eight of JCC's final nine points as the Huskies held off the Thunder Hawks.

Voss' first basket during that time came on a fast break after a block by Rogotzke. His second basket ended a long JCC possession, which all but finished off the victory.

Rogotzke dominated the first couple minutes of the game, scoring the first four points and then blocking a shot. Voss scored for a 6-0 lead before the Thunder Hawks answered with the next seven points.

That started a back-and-forth affair as the teams traded the lead eight times in the game's opening 18 minutes.

Rogotzke continued his offensive dominance, scoring 15 points in the first half. Voss tallied 14 before the break.

"Travis really had a good first half," Hein said. "They had a small guard guarding him and he did a good job getting to the paint."

Foul trouble kept Rogotzke on the bench for a big part of the second half, but Voss picked up the scoring. He tallied 12 points after the break to finish with a team-high 26.

"Travis had the first half where he played really well," Hein said. "It was

See **BBB** on **B4**

JCC spring sports coaches approved

Practice starts Monday for two Husky teams

Practice for some spring sports teams at Jackson County Central starts already next week and the Huskies have their coaches in place.

The track and field and softball teams begin practice Monday, while the golf and baseball teams officially start March 21. Baseball players can begin arm conditioning workouts Monday.

Rafe York remains head coach of the track and field team and is assisted by Mary Boyum, Alex Hein and Jon Beckman. Nate Hanson is a middle-school coach.

Morgan Christopher is back as the head softball coach and is assisted by Erica Colby. Missy Entriiken is the B-squad coach and Ashley Nagel and Sarah Theesfeld are middle-school coaches.

Mike Wierson remains the head baseball coach and brings back assistant coach Blaise Jacobsen.

Kevin Holm is coaching the B-squad team and Easton Bahr and Sean Minder are middle-school coaches.

Keith Eggink is the boys' and girls' golf coach and will be assisted this season by Scarlet Thorston. Mark Kocak will coach the middle-school team.

The first event scheduled for the spring is an indoor track and field meet March 26 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The track and field team also competes April 4 at Luverne and April 7 in Mt. Lake.

The baseball team is scheduled to open its season with a busy stretch, hosting Martin County West April 4, Fairmont April 5 and Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda April 8.

The softball team is scheduled to open April 7 at Fairmont and then host MCW in a double-header April 9.

The JCC golf team has its opener scheduled for April 14 at Pipestone. All schedules are subject to change.

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BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	10-2	14-13
Pipestone	9-3	21-5
Redwood	9-3	20-7
JCC	5-7	12-15
Worthington	5-7	7-18
Luverne	2-10	10-14
Windom	2-10	10-17
East Team	BSC	All
New Ulm	9-1	20-6
St. Peter	7-3	12-14
Fairmont	4-6	13-11
Waseca	4-6	9-17
BEA	3-7	12-12
St. James	3-7	12-15

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	12-0	23-5
Luverne	9-3	23-5
Worthington	9-3	16-10
JCC	5-7	17-11
Windom	3-9	11-16
Pipestone	3-9	7-18
Redwood	1-11	1-26
East Team	BSC	All
St. Peter	10-0	22-6
Fairmont	8-2	24-3
St. James	5-5	11-16
New Ulm	4-6	13-14
Waseca	3-7	10-18
BEA	0-10	4-21

WRESTLING

Team	BSC	All
JCC	6-0	24-3
Marshall	5-1	14-5
Worthington	4-2	13-11
Pipestone	3-3	11-10
Redwood	2-4	7-17
Windom	1-5	8-18
Luverne	0-6	5-14
East Team	BSC	All
Martin Co.	5-0	26-1
St. Peter	4-1	18-10
BEA	3-2	10-13
New Ulm	2-3	12-12
Waseca	1-4	4-15
St. James	0-5	3-16

GYMNASTICS

Team	BSC	All
Worthington	6-0	11-0
JCC	5-1	8-2
Luverne	3-2	4-2
Pipestone	2-2	4-3
Redwood	1-4	1-5
Marshall	1-4	3-8
Windom	1-5	2-8
East Team	BSC	All
New Ulm	4-0	7-2
St. Peter	4-1	8-2
Waseca	3-2	6-4
MCA	2-3	4-6
St. James	0-4	0-9
BEA	0-3	1-4

BOYS' HOCKEY

Team	BSC	All
New Ulm	16-0	21-7
Luverne	13-3	15-11
Marshall	11-5	14-12
Worthington	9-7	12-14
Windom	8-7-1	12-14-1
Fairmont	7-9	9-17
MN River	3-12-1	5-20-1
Waseca	3-13	5-17-1
Redwood	1-15	2-20

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Team	BSC	All
New Ulm	14-0	23-4
Luverne	12-2	23-5
MN River	9-5	13-13
Marshall	7-7	13-14-1
Windom	6-8	8-15
Fairmont	4-10	8-14-2
Waseca	2-12	4-21-1
Worthington	2-12	5-20

Get sports updates as they happen on Twitter @PilotSports

SPORTS CALENDAR

- Thursday, March 10**
BBB vs. Pipestone - sub-section semifinals in Windom
- Friday, March 11**
No events
- Saturday, March 12**
Sub-section finals - TBD
- Sunday, March 13**
No events
- Monday, March 14**
SB - Practice starts
T&F - Practice starts
- Tuesday, March 15**
No events
- Wednesday, March 16**
No events



March 5, 7:03 p.m.
JCC sophomore Nolan Ambrose went 52-0 this season, setting a new school record for single-season wins. He's now a two-time state champion.

March 5, 7:20 p.m.
Kie Anderson's 100th win was his most important - it gave him the Class A state championship.

March 3, 8:31 p.m.
Caleb Vancura gets a pin at 182 pounds and the JCC Huskies are going to win the state championship!
JCC leads R/U 39-13 with three matches left.

March 3, 2:51 p.m.
Will Freking gets a pin at 220 to send the Huskies to the state finals! JCC leads WCA/A/B-E 35-21 with two matches left.

Follow for more updates

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Name: Jackson County Central wrestling team
The week that was: The JCC wrestling team sent a school-record 13 individuals to the state tournament last week. A school-record eight of them came home with medals, including individual state champs Nolan Ambrose, Kie Anderson and Payton Handevit. The Huskies also won the team state championship for the first time since 2013.
Coach's comments: "I couldn't be prouder of our team," Nate Hanson said. "I couldn't be prouder of our guys. What a great season. What a great three days."

Athletes of the week sponsored by:

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HL-O CORNER

Coyotes win playoff opener before loss to Knights

The Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda boys' basketball team opened the Section 3A tournament with a win over Edgerton last Thursday before having its season end with a loss to Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Saturday.

The seventh-seeded Coyotes took it to the 10th-seeded Flying Dutchmen in the opener, leading 42-20 at halftime before picking up a 76-48 victory.

The Coyotes drilled 14 3-pointers in the win to account for more than half of their points.

Sawyer Drent scored 24 points and Parker Murphy tallied 16. Carter Drent finished with 10 points and eight assists.

The season came to an end Saturday with a 78-52 loss to second-seeded RTR.

Carter Drent made four 3-pointers in the game and finished with a team-high 12 points. Sawyer Drent added a dozen points for the Coyotes.

The Coyotes finish the season with a record of 13-15.

Teams to be featured in sports review

The Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda boys' and girls' basketball teams will be featured in the Winter Sports Review, which is scheduled to be published at the end of the winter sports season.

Also included in the review will be the Windom Area girls' hockey team, which features players from HL-O High School.

The end of a sad life's chapter

Two years ago today (Thursday), the saddest and most difficult chapter of my life ended. The chapter ended physically, but mentally it will probably go on for the rest of my life.

March 10, 2020, after Kathy and I flew back from Texas for the occasion, I gave a testimonial in the Brown County Courthouse before the judge ruled in favor of us survivors on the final settlement in the New Ulm Diocese Clergy Abuse case.

As a clergy abuse survivor, it was an important day, but yet a very difficult, emotional day. But then, so was the whole abuse experience. Very difficult and emotional.

On the one hand — a real big hand — I wish the abuse would have never happened. On the other hand — a real small one — having it happen helped make me into the person I am today.

I can trace several personality traits of my being back to the abuse, some good and some not so good. I like to dwell on the good.

Unlike many of the other clergy abuse survivors, I forgave Father Skoblik a long time ago. Or, at least I have come to peace with regards to him.

While the lion's share of the blame for what happened falls on him, some blame also is on the students who mercilessly, constantly mocked and ridiculed me during my school years.

For the most part, it was not my classmates, but the kids who did not know me who picked on me. All they saw was my outside.

I was a small kid from a lower-income family, shown by my homemade clothes — which I loved

— who had a speech impediment and a quick temper. I was a perfect target for the bullies.

What started as a passive bullying eventually turned into an active bullying. Very active.

Thankfully, the kids who knew me treated me well. In fact, I was a class officer every year for grades seven through 12, with most of those years as class president. They saw my good qualities.

And so, when we moved to Silver Lake in July 1970, sensing I, a sixth-grader, was in dire need of attention from a non-family member, Father Skoblik swooped in. I was a perfect target.

Becoming a target for the predator was not the only way the bullies affected me. Part of the reason I still have my lisp is because of them.

I had speech therapy for many years, although looking back, they started the therapy too late. By the time I started therapy, my lisp was a part of me.

When it was just Mr. Halleran and me in the room, I could say my S's correctly, but as soon as I exited the room, I went back to being me. With a lisp.

I knew if I talked correctly, the same people who mocked my lisp would also mock my new way of talking. If not, they would find something else to tease me about.

It was kind of like when we would prepare our barn for the dairy inspector. We knew he would dig and dig until he found something to write us up on. So, we made sure we left an "easy fix" issue for him to criticize.

I was used to being picked on for my lisp; to me, it was "safer" to let that continue than let them find something

else about me they could target. Plus, once again, talking with a lisp was me. And I like me.

Besides, who is to say maybe I am the one saying the S's correctly and the rest of the world is wrong?

It was fun following the Jackson County Central wrestling team as it won the Class A team state tournament. It was just as thrilling following the individual portion of the tournament.

What a great way to cap off such an enjoyable season. It is fun watching hard work and dedication pay off. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff.

Hard work and dedication does not guarantee winning, but it does guarantee you will do better than you would have without the hard work and dedication.

Spring sport practices are getting ready to begin. Softball and track and field teams can begin to practice on Monday, with baseball and golf starting one week later on March 21.

And now, as I have St. Patrick's Day to start preparing for, and the soon-to-follow first day of spring, I close for this week. Until next week, help cheer on our basketball Huskies this evening as they continue their tournament run. Go, Huskies!



WIDE WRITE
Stephen A. Condon

LEAGUE BOWLING SCORES

- Tuesday night men**
Team standings: Junction 86 20-4, Bowlers Inn 14-10, Phillips Agency 8-12, New Fashion Pork 6-18
High game: Mark Walter 221, Dewayne Hage 213, Tony Jorgensen 213
High series: Dewayne Hage 577, Tony Jorgensen 536, Mark Walter 519
- Wednesday night men**
Team standings: Elness Livestock 18-6, Left Overs 16.5-7.5, FCA 11-13, Pocket Pounders 10.5-13.5, Schaap Sanitation 10-14, S&J Cleaning 6-18
High game: Doyle Svoboda 226, Terry Hansen 221, Dave Svoboda 211
High series: Terry Hansen 605, Doyle Svoboda 584, Jay Wagner 545
- Thursday night women**
Team standings: Rubis Farms 21-3, Pampered Chicks 14-10, Bipolar Rollers 13-11, 9th Ave Salon 9-15, Split Personalities 9-15, Lakefield Savings Bank 6-18
High game: Sue Hedrick 190, Mari Byam 170, Lois Anderson 166
High series: Mari Byam 527, Diane Vellema 465, Kim Nelson 463
- Friday night mixed**
Team standings: Miller 31-9, Jorgensen 24-12, Habben 22-18, Potter 22-10, Kocak 21-19, Elness 18-22, Gerdes 16-20
High game men: Brian Kocak 244, David Miller 215, Jeremy Potter 202
High series men: Brian Kocak 605, David Miller 598, Jeremy Potter 561
High game women: Lisa Kocak 145, Chanel Potter 139, Bobbi Habben 134
High series women: Lisa Kocak 402, Changel Potter 384, Bobbi Habben 382



HUSKIES POST HIGHEST SCORE OF SEASON AFTER LONG BREAK

One year ago, March 11, 2021
After a two-week break, the Jackson County Central gymnastics team turned in its best performance of the season with a 133.6-111.9 win over Marshall. Payten Benda finished in the top three in all four events and all-around. She won all-around (34.075) and vault (9.025), finished second on bars (7.3) and balance beam (9.05) and third on floor exercise (8.7). Carson Schneekloth won balance beam (9.15) and floor exercise (9.0) and Makayla Hotzler won bars (7.95).

HUSKIES HANG ON – TWICE

Five years ago, March 16, 2017
The JCC boys' basketball team held on to beat Pipestone 80-72 in the sub-section finals two days after beating Minneota 89-75 in the sub-section semifinals. Pipestone cut a 15-point JCC lead down to just four points late before the Huskies held on to win. The story was similar against the Vikings, when JCC's 22-point lead was whittled down to just five late before the Huskies pulled away. Jacob Christopher scored 22 points in each game and Rudy Voss scored 19 against Minneota and 13 against Pipestone. Ryan Christopher scored 17 against Minnesota and 14 against Pipestone. Chris Gumto added 13 against the Arrows.

SEVENTEEN HUSKIES ARE ALL-CONFERENCE

10 years ago, March 15, 2012
Eleven members of the JCC wrestling team and six JCC gymnasts have been named to all-Southwest Conference teams. Cooper Moore, Patrick Hanson, Alex Tewes, Kyle Edlin, Cameron Henning, Darick Vancura, Jordan Biehn, Jack Zierner, Paden Moore, Luke Norland and Keegan Moore were named all-conference for the state-champion Husky wrestling team. The conference-champion JCC gymnastics team landed Sydnee Donnelly, Brandi Sether-Hassing and Adriane Rentschler on the all-conference all-around team. Hailey Timko (bars), Morgan Halverson (floor) and Riley Schneekloth (vault) also earned all-conference honors.

TEN JAGUARS NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

25 years ago, March 13, 1997 – Jackson County Pilot
HLOL/Jackson's eight state qualifiers were all named to the all-Red Rock Conference team. Earning the first-team honors are Peter Alcocer (112), Nate Baker (119), Tucker Polz (125), Nate Hanson (130), Troy Schultz (135), Wes Liepold (140), Matt Kraft (160) and Matt Nesseth (171). Derek Harwood and Kevin Seby are both honorable-mention selections.

VOSS, RESCH, HENNING HONORED

25 years ago, March 13, 1997 – Lakefield Standard
Four members of the HLOL girls' basketball team have been honored by the Red Rock Conference, as has one member of the Silver Bullet boys' team. Seniors Sue Resch and Lindsay Voss were both named first-team all-conference and sophomores Stacy Oelke and Brittany Liepold are honorable-mention picks. For the HLOL boys, senior Josh Henning is a first-team all-conference selection.

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BBB: Playoff win

Continued from B1

the second half for Roman when Travis was off the floor. We kept giving him the ball and he kept making plays.”

Hein said it's the versatility of Rogotzke and Voss that make it hard for them to be stopped.

“If you put a guard on one of them, they'll post them up,” he said. “If you put a big guy on them, both guys have the ability to drive by them. Roman, he saw guards, he saw posts and he was able to score in a variety of ways. They led us in scoring, but we know other guys can step up and

score too.”

Thurmer scored nine of his 11 in the second half and all six of Powers' six points came after the break.

Voss finished with a team-high 26 points and added eight rebounds and five steals. Rogotzke tallied 17 points, three rebounds and three blocks.

Thurmer scored 11 points and Cother (four rebounds), Benda (five rebounds) and Powers (five rebounds) each scored six points. Phaly tallied three points to go with three rebounds. “Offensively, it was pretty clean throughout,” Hein said. “A lot of the things I wanted to see happened. Defensively, we've got to get more consistency, but, overall, it was a really well-played game.”

Up next

The Huskies take on Pipestone in the South Section 3AA semifinals tonight (Thursday) in Windom (see preview to the right).

Boys' basketball

JCC vs. Montevideo						
MON	32	35	67			
JCC	34	41	75			
JCC (75)						
Player	2	3	FT	PF	TP	
Phaly	1	0	1	2	3	
Voss	10	1	3	3	26	
Rogotzke	6	1	2	3	19	
Cother	0	2	0	1	6	
Thurmer	1	1	6	1	11	
Benda	3	0	0	2	6	
Powers	3	0	0	1	6	
Totals	24	5	12	15	75	
Montevideo (67)						
Totals	21	4	13	19	67	

Huskies hoping third time's a charm tonight against Arrows

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

The Pipestone boys' basketball team swept Jackson County Central during the regular season this season, but the fourth-seeded Huskies are hoping for a little revenge against the top-seeded Arrows when they meet in the South Section 3AA semifinals tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m. in Windom.

The first meeting can be thrown out the window, as the Huskies were down several starters with injuries and illnesses. The Arrows won that game 84-51 on their home court on Dec. 21, 2021.

The second game was much closer, as JCC led late before losing 56-52 on Feb. 4.

“We played them earlier in the year when we were shorthanded and they took it to us,” JCC head coach Alex Hein said. “The second time we were down 15 early and were able to battle back.”

That game gives Hein confidence heading into the third tilt between the two teams.

“The last game we were up by one with two minutes to go,” he said. “We know we can play with these guys and beat these guys. We just have to execute things a little better.”

Hein said against a team as good as the Arrows, everything has to be done right.

“Those little things are no longer small things,” he said. “They're big. Pipestone is so good at doing the small things over and over again.”

They also play well as a team, Hein said.

“Pipestone has such a good record because they play so well together,” he said. “They play the best together of any team I've seen all year.”

The Arrows feature a trio of players standing 6-feet, 4-inches or taller and have the ability to dominate in the paint.

“They post up a lot on offense,” Hein said. “Their height and length is a challenge for us.”

To counter that, the Huskies will rely on their speed and try to spread the court.

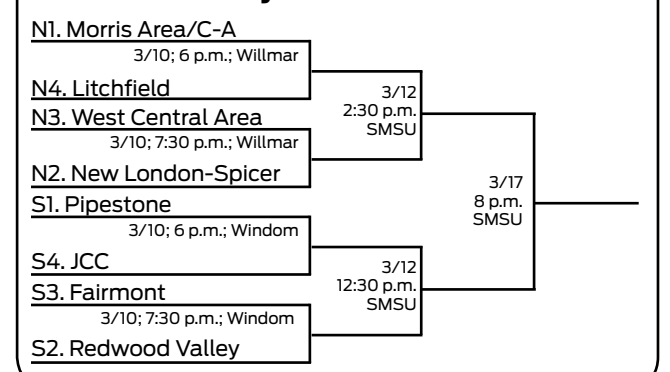
“Offensively, we've got to be able to spread them out and attack their defense,” Hein said. “We have to use our quickness against their length.”

To win in the playoffs requires beating good teams. Hein said his team is up for any challenge that comes its way.

“We know it's going to be a tough, tough challenge and we'll have to execute much better than previously,” he said. “I'm proud of what this team has gone through throughout the season and still be in this. We've faced a lot of challenges. To be here sitting in this spot, get a playoff game and win it, I'm really proud of this team. The challenges we've faced should give us confidence no matter what we see Thursday — we can rise above it and succeed.”

The winner of tonight's game plays in the sub-section finals Saturday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall against either No. 2 Redwood Valley or No. 3 Fairmont. The section championship game is March 17 at SMSU.

Section 3AA boys' basketball tournament



GBB: Best season in more than a decade ends in semifinals

Continued from B1

points. “We got off to a rough start,” head coach Rafe York said. “Luverne makes it easy to get off to a rough start. They're a really good team.”

Referees changed basketballs during a timeout after the 10-1 deficit and Maci Farmer sank a 3-pointer on the next pos-

session to spark a JCC spurt.

She made two more 3-pointers in the next couple minutes, with the second one followed by a Rylie Cother 3-pointer to cut the Cardinal lead to just 17-13.

The six-point Husky surge was followed immediately by a 14-0 Luverne run, giving the Cardinals a 31-13 lead with less than six minutes left in the half.

The margin stayed at 18 as the Huskies trailed 39-21 going into the half.

“We didn't have a great first half,” York said. “The second half went a lot better. We picked up our effort and played more the style we wanted to play.”

Even with an improved effort from the Huskies, the Cardinals were able to extend their lead early in the half.

Luverne led 61-34 before the Huskies made things interesting with an 11-0 run.

Kylee Wenzel started the rally with two free throws, then Sadie Voss knocked down a 3-pointer. Farmer and Cother followed with 3-pointers, cutting Luverne's lead to 61-45 with seven minutes left.

“The 3-pointers were falling,” York said. “Maci was so hot in the first half. She was shooting from the 10-foot line and hitting nothing but net.”

That was good, but the Huskies needed more.

“We were hitting our 3s, but you've got to have something to go with it,” York said, adding the Huskies made just five 2-pointers in the game.

Most of that had to do with the Cardinals, who

are excellent shot blockers.

“When you've got three tall girls looking to block your shot, it's hard to escape them all,” York said. “That changed things quite a bit.”

As quickly as the Huskies got back in it, the Cardinals regained control. Luverne scored the next eight points to lead 69-45 and finished off the victory.

Farmer scored a team-high 18 points, with all coming on her six made 3-pointers.

Cother made four 3-pointers for the bulk of her 13 points and Voss sank a pair of 3-pointers while scoring 16 points.

Voss had a double-double, adding 10 rebounds and three assists. Farmer pulled down five rebounds and Cother grabbed four.

Wenzel snagged a team-

high 11 rebounds to go with five points. Madelyn Rowe had four rebounds and Brylee Anderson dished out three assists.

The Cardinals used their height to dominate the paint, outscoring the Huskies 48-4 down low.

Eventually, the Huskies started shooting jump shots, but weren't great at

those either, making just five-of-31 2-point attempts for 16.1 percent.

“We couldn't get the layups we usually get,” York said. “We shot some pull-up jumpers, but not enough of them fell.”

The Huskies were 12-of-29 on 3-point shots, hitting an impressive 41.4 from behind the arc.

Girls' basketball

JCC at Luverne						
JCC	21	32	53			
LUV	39	36	75			
JCC (53)						
Player	2	3	FT	PF	TP	
Farmer	0	6	0	2	18	
Voss	4	2	2	2	16	
Cother	0	4	1	2	13	
KWenzel	1	0	3	3	5	
Rowe	0	0	1	5	1	
Totals	5	12	16	53		
Luverne (75)						
Totals	28	3	10	13	75	



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Above: Maci Farmer puts up a shot during last week's sub-section semifinal game against Luverne. Left: Kylee Wenzel pokes the ball away from a Cardinal for a steal.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

SILVER MEDALISTS

Members of the Immanuel Lutheran School girls' basketball team celebrate a second-place finish at the Minnesota State Lutheran Basketball tournament, which ran Feb. 25-27 at Concordia St. Paul. Team members include coach Matt Benda (from left), coach Gretchen Benda, Savannah Freking, Gracie Peters, Aliza Liepold, Paige Benda, Ellie Freking, Ellamae Peters and coach Amber Liepold.

JCC WRESTLING

Ten wrestlers earn all-conference honors

Ten members of the state and Big South Conference champion Jackson County Central wrestling team have earned all-conference honors.

Named to the all-BSC team are seniors Kie Anderson (46-7), Payton Handevidt (51-3) and Will Freking (43-13); juniors Logan Butzon (46-9), Thomas Freking (45-11), Dylan Withers (35-18), Matt Haley (40-12), Caleb Vancura (50-4) and Cameron Scholten (34-17); and sophomore Nolan Ambrose (52-0).

Butzon and Handevidt both earned all-conference honors for the fourth time,

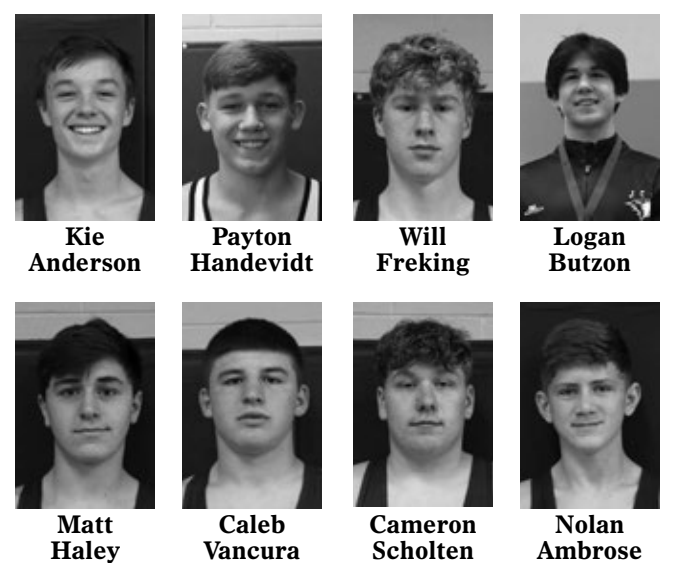
while Ambrose, Anderson, Thomas Freking, Haley, Vancura, Withers and Will Freking are now two-time all-conference performers. It's the first all-conference honor for Scholten.

The Huskies won the BSC championship, beating Martin County 50-13 after going 6-0 to win the

West Division of the conference.

The Huskies were 24-3 overall on the season and won the Class A state championship.

For the complete all-conference team, go to jacksoncountypilot.com or lakefieldstandard.com.



Local libraries to host author talks

All three libraries in the Jackson County Library System are hosting visits with local author Vanessa Treviso this month.

Treviso's picture book, "God Has a Purpose For You," was recently released. It is part of a three-book series designed to help readers find their purpose in life and to activate the hidden ability within them.



Vanessa Treviso

The Jackson County Library System is hosting events for families that include readings of the book, a discussion of her inspiration and the message of her book that there's something God wanted done on Earth that made each

person necessary and that God created everyone for a special purpose.

These events are for all ages, with a focus on young readers ages 6 and up. There will be refreshments provided at the events, as well as books available for purchase and signing by the author.

The family events will take place at the Jackson library on Saturday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m., the Heron Lake Library on Wednesday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m. and the Lakefield library on Thursday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Treviso will be at the Jackson library on Tuesday, March 15, at 5:30 p.m. for an adult event, during which she will describe her journey to becoming a published author.

Registration is requested by calling the library.

Locals are set to star in upcoming PAC production

Tickets available

Locals are set to star in the upcoming Prairie Arts Continuum production of "Mumbo Jumbo."

The murder mystery comedy will be staged April 1-3 at the Business, Arts and Recreation Center in Windom. Evening performances that Friday and Saturday will begin at 7. That Sunday's matinee will start at 2 p.m. Doors will open one half-hour prior to show times.

Local cast members include Dialaura LeFebvre, Jeri Sirovy and Laura Svoboda of Jackson and Avery Jensen and Scott Place of Lakefield. Other cast members include Tera Elness, Tucker Kern, Bruce Mews and Al Peterson of Windom; Bob Christianson and Leif Peterson of Butterfield; Sunny Osland of Lambertson; Khya Boldt, Isaac Larson and Travis Smith of Mt. Lake; Maryellen Suhrhoff of Westbrook; and Jacki Bomgaars of Worthington.

"The 17-member cast is widespread geographically, drawing actors from five counties," said Tim Jenniges of Windom, who is directing the show. "This means the audience will see some new faces on-stage, along with some veteran PAC performers."

Jenniges said the cast members have been working diligently to memorize

lines and to train their feet to move to the proper place on stage when those lines are delivered.

"They are doing wonderfully well," he said. "It will be challenging to figure out who did the crime and the motive behind it."

Amber Thomas of Jeffers is assistant director. Brenda Koch is backstage coordinator. Shelley Lange is stage manager and set coordinator, along with Craig Hettenbach. Sue Huls of Jeffers is in charge of props. Carol Hartman is costume coordinator. Light and sound director is David Hettenbach. Osland is poster and program creator. Cheryl Hanson is coordinating advertising and ticket sales.

Tickets are on sale now. General-admission tickets will allow attendees to be seated on a first-come, first-served basis, in the lower level of the auditorium, non-reserved seats. Purchasing tickets in advance will expedite seating for those who do so, as they will not have to stand in line to purchase tickets and then find seats.

PAC members may purchase reserved seats for any of the performances. Memberships can be purchased along with reserved seat tickets to the show.

Tickets are on sale at the BARC office weekdays from noon to 4 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

HUSKY HEROES

Pleasantview Elementary School students named Husky Pride Heroes for the month of February include (front, from left): Rosie Roark, Ailea Ramirez, Becket Rowe and Cade Malchow. Back: Cameren Werner, Leah Janzen, Dakota Hookstra, Regan Endreson, Ryker Geinitz and Brekkyn Rossow.

Lopez Medina: From Madrid to Minnesota

Growing up in Madrid, Lucia Lopez Medina is used to a flurry of people around her, with family members, friends and passers-by making themselves known in daily life.

Now, in a town of just more than 3,000, the foreign exchange student and aspiring doctor is exploring different careers, sharing memories with her host family, improving her English skills and sightseeing.

"I always wanted to see how it is to live in the United States and have the experience of being a student here," said Lopez Medina, an exchange student at Jackson County Central High School. "I also wanted to get better at speaking English, because it's really important to know English in Spain."



Lucia Lopez Medina

While in America, Lopez Medina is staying with Hope and Chris Vee and their family. She's already gotten to enjoy a number of local and regional attractions. She's also been matching her host dad and siblings at the games they play.

"We went to Spirit Lake; the Mall of America, which was huge; and once we went to the Black Hills, which was amazing," she said. "My host siblings play video games and I really like playing pool with my host dad."

Lopez Medina, for her part, is an avid baker and has taught her host family numerous Spanish recipes, while trying out American ones for herself. She's made a lot of friends since coming to JCC and has gotten to ice skate with them and ski in Mankato.

"I've skied at the Sierra Nevada mountains in Spain, so that was something I knew how to do already," she said. "Skiing is probably the sport I'm the best at."

She's gotten to try her hand at American sports as well, joining the volleyball team and going to football

and basketball games with her friends.

"I played volleyball, and I might join track," she said. "Volleyball was awesome because I was just part of the team and I got to be a part of senior night, so it felt like being part of one big family."

On the academic side of things, Lopez Medina has been just as active. She wants to be a doctor someday, though she hasn't decided on a specialty yet. She got to tour the Sanford Jackson Medical Center, interact with staff and patients and learn more about different aspects of the medical field.

"One of my favorite things so far is the job shadowing I got to do at

Sanford, because I was able to actually talk to doctors, nurses and some patients," she said. "I really love my anatomy class with Mrs. (Tvinnereim), because that's the kind of thing I want to dedicate myself to studying in the future."

While Lopez Medina will return to Spain after her school year is done, she plans to visit her host family and friends in America in the future.

"People here are really nice, and I've made a lot of friends during my time here," she said. "I'm coming back, for sure, so I can visit people, and I know some of my friends want to visit me in Spain, so I hope that can happen too."



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Jackson County Central

WINTERFEST



Boys Basketball

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
 Members of the Jackson County Central boys' basketball team are (front, from left): Caleb Thurmer, Keyton Kraus, Erik Hesebeck, Tyler Hendricks and Carter Johnson. Back: Kaden Cother, Travis Rogotzke, Roman Voss, Christian Benda and head coach Alex Hein. Missing: Damien Phaly, Caden Thurmer, Noah Thompson, Ben Gallagher, Kasey Grimmus, Brenan Runge, Bryson Powers and Aiven Farmer.



Girls Basketball

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
 Members of the Jackson County Central girls' basketball team are (front, from left): Brylee Anderson, Kailey Fricke and Brooklyn Stenzel. Middle: Assistant coach Easton Bahr, Megan Benson, Kylee Wenzel, Georgianna Wenzel, Maci Farmer and Rylie Cother. Back: Head coach Rafe York, Sadie Voss, Emma Haren, Madelyn Rowe, Destiny Timmer and assistant coach Jon Beckman.



Boys Hockey

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL ALVSTAD/COUNTY COUNTY CITIZEN

Members of the Windom Area boys' hockey team are (front, from left): Grant Dronen, Vance Koch, Wyatt Haugen, Brady Espenson, Zach Espenson, Zach Rabbe, Ethan Rabbe, Evan Mathis, Dillon Evers and Dan Stubbe. Middle: Manager Hannah Anderson, Ben Purrington, Alex Cory, Andrei Rivera, Nick Espenson, Jackson Veenker, Braydn Evans, Luke Anderson, Wriley Haugen, Chase Hamlett, Ethan Purrington, Adam Dahna and manager Riley Raverty. Back: Head coach Travis Janssen, Carter Pigman, Landon Pillatzki, Karson LaCanne, Sonny Heil, Cragen Porath, Charlie Smith, Owen Dahna, Keegan Classen, Brad Gentry, assistant coach Justin Espenson and assistant coach Jason Espenson.



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Wrestling

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA VANCURA

Members of the Jackson County Central wrestling team are (front, from left): Landon Andrews, Isaac Rodriguez, Skyler Andrews, Ben Dahlin and Jack Mix. Middle: Braydan Winter, Seth Stai, Trey Rossow, Thomas Freking, Nolan Ambrose, Logan Butzon, Isaiah Rodriguez and Cameron Scholten. Back: Matt Haley, Trace Michelson, Andrew Boyum, Will Freking, Kie Anderson, Payton Handevitd, Caleb Vancura and Dylan Withers.

Gymnastics

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central gymnastics team are (front, from left): Adria Ambrose, Julia Bidne, Braelyn Boogerd, Brielle Mouw, Nayeli Asmus and Maryjane Taylor-Halverson. Middle: Romi Rosenbrook, Makayla Hotzler, Andaysia Tomlin, Erica Hanson, Alexis O'Reilly, Maia Reed, Cailee Jo Pauling, Clara Brinks, Olivia Blaskey and Bailey Finck. Back: Carson Schneekloth, assistant coach Brandon Halverson, Alexis Cother, Braxton Berkner, Josefia Hermand, Peyton Hanson, Hannah Carson, Madisyn Wachal, Miley VanDeVere, assistant coach Kendall Kaplinger, Payten Benda and head coach Abby Schneekloth.



Competition Cheer

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central competition cheerleading team are (front, from left): Lily Mohning, Lizzy Rasmussen, Adyson VanWesten, Mia Ruiz, Baylee Pietrowski and Tieran Muongkhot. Middle: Rylee Benda, Izabella Grein, Olivia Anderson, Addie Vee and Ashlyn Bohl. Back: Erin Klassen, Elena Winter, Morgan Preuss and Paige Duncan. Missing: Milliani Insicheinmay.



Girls Hockey

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BAERG

Members of the Windom Area girls' hockey team are (front, from left): Lacey Simon, Lyvia McManigle, Ellyson Bang, Porscha Myrvold and Jamie Edlin. Middle: Fiona Robillard, Malaya Hall, Kennedy Dronen, Ella Smith, Reagan Haugen, Brooklyn Roll, Aidan Hunt and Kaylie Baerg. Back: Presley Dockett, Ella Dockett, Madelyn Schumacher, Madyson Fredin, Marissa Becker, Marenna Bang, Victoria Robillard and Allison Negen. Missing: Miranda Cory.

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Above: Seniors Tori Beaver (from left), Georgianna Wenzel, Alana Freking and Trinity Schultz snap a selfie following Monday's Winterfest coronation ceremony. Right: Will Freking and Trinity Schultz rein as 2022 JCC Winterfest king and queen.



PHOTOS BY JEN TEWES

WINTERFEST WINNERS

Above: Will Freking (from left) finds out he has been named 2022 JCC Winterfest king Monday evening as king candidates Kie Anderson, Damien Phaly and Lucas Vesey look on. Right: Trinity Schultz (from right) finds out she has been named Winterfest queen Monday evening as queen candidates Georgianna Wenzel, Alana Freking and Tori Beaver look on.



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SALUTE TO THE CHAMPIONS

A record-breaking season for the Jackson County Central wrestling team ended with a Class A team state championship, three individual champions and five other state place-winners.

HUSKIES ARE STATE CHAMPS

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

When Will Freking was on his back in the second period of the Class A team state semifinals against West Central Area/Ashby-Evansville last Thursday at the Xcel Energy Center, things looked pretty bleak for the Jackson County Central wrestling team.

A couple minutes later, the JCC wrestlers, coaches and huge contingent of fans had their biggest eruption of the tournament when Freking pinned Beau Robinson to clinch the dual and send the Huskies to the state finals.

The semifinal dual was the most dramatic of the tournament for the Huskies, who dominated Royalton/Upsala 45-23 to win the state championship Saturday night. JCC opened with a 52-9 thumping of Maple River/United South Central.

The Huskies finish the season with a record of 24-3. Their state championship is the first since 2013 and the eighth in JCC history.

Huskies dominate finals

Isaac Rodriguez started off the state finals against third-ranked R/U with an upset pin and the Huskies never looked back in a 45-23 win.

Rodriguez trailed sixth-ranked Tucker Simmons 2-0 after the second period before pinning him 64 seconds into the third.

Rodriguez knew once he got the arm bar on Simmons, it was over.

"Most guys I stick it in don't come out of it," Rodriguez said. "It's a really painful move. I heard him. He was in pain. I knew all I had to do was put a little more pressure and run it."

Once the ref slapped the mat, Rodriguez celebrated toward the JCC crowd, holding up his pointer finger on each hand.

"We're No. 1," he said. "I called it."

JCC head coach Nate Hanson said the match played right into Rodriguez's hands.

"That's a match where, on paper, we're maybe not supposed to be in it," he said. "It was 2-0 after the second period. The guy picks down and top is Isaac's best position so that worked out really well. We got the arm bar in and turned him over for the fall."

Hanson said that win

pretty much sealed up the dual, even after just one match.

"To beat us, they needed everything to go right and to get pinned there was really tough on their guys," he said. "I think they knew they absolutely had to have big points there and when we pinned them it kind of iced the dual right there, if you can ice it at 106 pounds."

"That kind of set the tone for the rest of the dual and we just carried it forward," Freking said.

"We knew once we got that pin, the storm was going to roll," Caleb Vancura said.

Nolan Ambrose was in the tunnel warming up during Rodriguez's pin, but he knew something big happened.

"I didn't really see it," he said. "I just heard the crowd roar and when I saw Isaac celebrate, I knew something good happened."

Ambrose followed with a major decision and Kie Anderson got a pin at 120 pounds for an early 16-0 lead.

"After we came out and hammered them hard after the first three, we were pretty confident from that point forward and just gave it to them," Freking said.

The Royals got a major decision at 126 pounds before Logan Butzon dominated in a major decision, Thomas Freking won a decision and Dylan Withers racked up big points in the third period to win a major decision and give the Huskies a 27-4 lead midway through the dual.

R/U won with a pin at 152 pounds, but their momentum lasted 19 seconds as Payton Handevit got a quick pin at 160. R/U won a decision at 170 before Caleb Vancura clinched the state title.

Vancura knew a win would mean a state championship, but knew he had to stay focused on his match.

"I was just going to go out there and do my job like I always do," he said.

As soon as he pinned

"WE HAD A GOAL IN MIND AND WE KNEW HOW BAD IT HURT TO LOSE IT. WE CAME IN HARD RIGHT AFTER THAT HEARTBREAK. IT TOOK A LOT OF HARD WORK TO GET WHERE WE WERE AND WE CAME BACK THIS YEAR AND GOT WHAT WE WANTED."

Caleb Vancura



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Will Freking (from left), Kie Anderson, Andrew Boyum and Payton Handevit show off the Class A state championship trophy after Jackson County Central beat Royalton/Upsala in the finals Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center.

Hunter Novitzki to clinch the title, though, it was time to celebrate.

"The celebration from the crowd, that was pretty exciting," said Vancura, who threw four fingers up on each hand for the team's eighth championship. "I held up eight. Eighth state title for the wrestling crew."

Vancura said he enjoyed being the one to clinch the victory.

"Words can't describe how excited I am and how good it feels to capitalize on the opportunity," he said. "It was pretty fun."

Freking followed with a pin at 195 before the Royals got wins in each of the final two matches.

Freking come through in state semifinals

When the Huskies needed a win in the semifinals, the Freking brothers came through.

Thomas Freking got a

takedown with eight seconds left to win a 4-3 decision at 138 pounds and then Will Freking did the job at 195, with his pin sending the Huskies to the finals.

The dual wasn't expected to be that close, but things didn't go the Huskies' way early.

Rodriguez was closing in on a pin at 106 pounds, but ended up pinning himself.

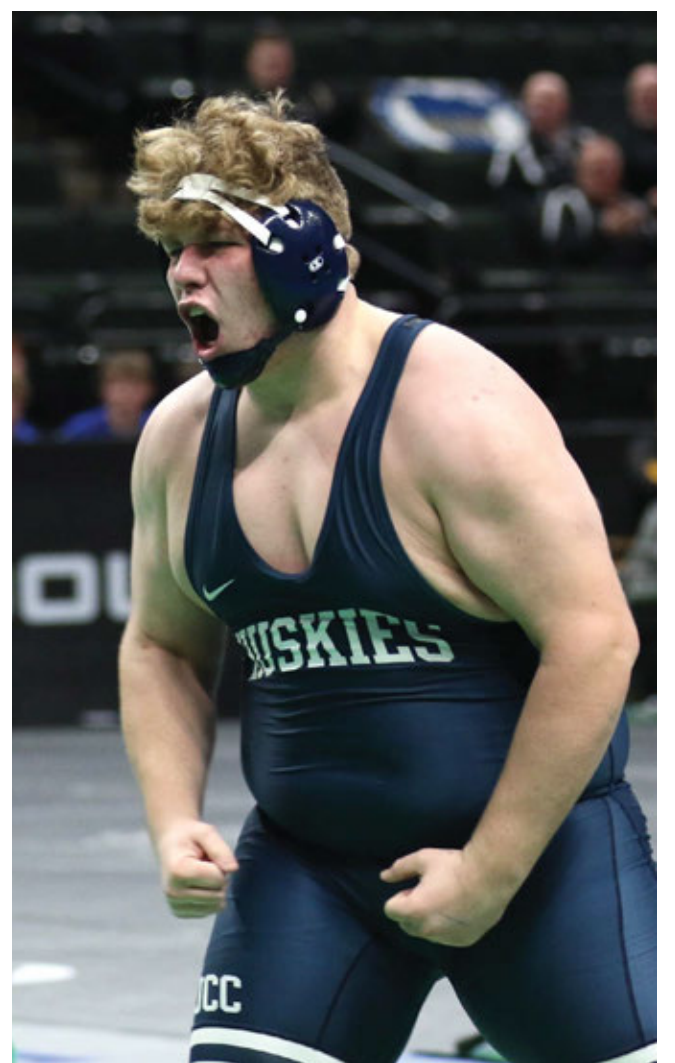
After quick pins by Ambrose and Anderson gave the Huskies a 12-6 lead, Andrews took an early lead at 126 pounds before getting caught and pinned to tie the dual at 12.

"A defensive fall at 106 hurt us," Hanson said. "A little bit of inexperience hurt us. At 126, we're winning and he catches us in a move we don't see a lot of. It's hard to survive two nine-point swings, but the guys came through."

Third-ranked Butzon won a 12-7 decision over No. 7 Hunter Gruchow to put the Huskies ahead 15-12 ahead of Thomas Freking's last-second win.

Freking trailed Solomon Wales 3-2 in the third period before getting his match-winning takedown with just eight seconds left to give the Huskies an 18-12 lead.

See **CHAMPS** on **C2**



Cameron Scholten celebrates a win in the Class A state semifinals against West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville.

Congratulations to the Huskies on their outstanding season!

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CHAMPS: State title

Continued from B1

“Thomas had a late, last-second takedown to really keep us in the match,” Hanson said.

The Huskies lost the net two matches, but felt pretty good after dropping just decisions to a pair of state-ranked grapplers. That left the dual tied at 18 with six matches left.

Handevitd picked up a technical fall at 160 pounds, racking up five third-period takedowns to finish off the win. WCA/A/BE followed with a decision at 170, cutting JCC’s lead to 23-21.

Vancura stuck Gavin Flint in just 56 seconds before Will Freking’s heroics.

Freking got a quick takedown against Robinson and tried to turn the Knight the rest of the period.

In the second, Robinson twice put Freking on his back, the second time nearly sticking the JCC senior on the edge of the mat.

Freking fought off the pin, earned a point on a caution and then earned another with an escape to cut Robinson’s lead to 5-4 going to the third.

The match stayed that way until Freking got a takedown with less than one minute left.

After a restart, Robinson nearly got a reversal before Freking pinned Robinson’s arm in and put him on his back. Freking adjusted and picked up one of the most dramatic pins in team history.

“There was so much relief,” Freking said. “It was just an awesome experience.”

The team surrounded Freking after the match, congratulating their hero.

“Just getting embraced by the whole team and the coaches, that was one of the best experiences of my life,” he said. “That was so incredible.”

Anderson said he was nervous throughout the dual, but Freking’s win brought pure joy.

“I couldn’t watch parts

of it, I was so nervous,” he said. “I couldn’t stand something we worked so hard for have a chance to be thrown away, but those guys really pulled through. They stayed calm and did what they needed to do.”

While the wrestlers on the mat were calm, Anderson said he wasn’t.

“I thought I was going to have a heart attack,” he said. “It was such a back-and-forth match. When he got that pin, we all knew it was over and it was really euphoric.”

Hanson said he was concerned after the two early losses, but that anxiety grew even more during Will Freking’s match.

“I was very concerned,” he said. “The most concerned was when Will was on his back. Everyone knew they had the momentum and things weren’t going good for us in that match. Worry and doubt starts creeping in the kids’ mind a little bit. That was huge. Obviously it iced the dual. What a great, great match by Will. He was kind of the hero. He went from on his back to pinning the guy.”

And once it happened, Hanson jumped in the air a couple times and got a big hug from assistant coach Troy Schultz.

“That was pretty awesome,” Hanson said of the celebration. “The crowd was going crazy. I think it was the biggest celebration.”

After Freking’s pin clinched the win, the Knights got a win at 220 before Cameron Scholten picked up a pin at 285 for the 41-27 final.

Hanson said the Knights impressed him, but the talent of the Huskies proved to be too much.

“Hats off to them,” he said. “They wrestled us as well as anybody has all year. I think we were probably better wrestlers than they were, but they probably wrestled better than



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Will Freking pins Beau Robinson to clinch the dual against West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville in the Class A state semifinals. Freking trailed in the third period before picking up the fall.

us in that dual. They had no fear.”

Huskies dominate opener

The Huskies dominated the state opener, beating MR/USC 52-9.

JCC jumped out to a 25-0 lead and won 11 of the 14 matches in the dual.

Isaac Rodriguez opened with a 9-7 win over Wyatt Walters, using a reversal with 16 seconds left for the winning points. Ambrose and Anderson followed with first-period pins before Andrews beat state qualifier Ethan Elvebak 9-4.

Butzon beat second-ranked Boden Simon 3-2 on the strength of a third-period takedown at 132 pounds and Thomas Freking won an 8-0 major at 138 for JCC’s 25-0 lead.

MR/USC got a pair of decisions the next two matches before top-ranked Handevitd stuck third-ranked Cooper Ochsendorf in the second period. Matt Haley followed with a 12-5 decision and Vancura and Will Freking picked up pins.

MR/USC won a decision at 220 before Scholten finished off the win with a first-period pin.

Heartbreak to glory

After losing in the semifinals last season, team members said this year’s championship was even sweeter.

“I’d rather have it be the second one, to be honest, but it does make it pretty special,” Hanson said.

“That makes it way sweeter,” Will Freking said. “We definitely thought we should’ve been in that championship round and maybe won it last year, so coming back, it gives you a lot of drive for what you want. That helped push us through the whole season. Now we’re here and it just makes it that much sweeter.”

“We had a goal in mind and we knew how bad it hurt to lose it,” Vancura said. “We came in hard right after that heartbreak. It took a lot of hard work to get where we were and we came back this year and got what we wanted.”

“I’m so proud of everyone giving their all and working and working and getting what we deserved,” Handevitd said.

For seniors Will Freking, Anderson and Handevitd —other seniors are Trace Michelson and Andrew

Boyum — going out on top is perfect.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Anderson said. “It feels a little bit surreal. It’s very gratifying.”

“I’ve been wrestling with these guys since we were first-graders or kindergartners, so we’ve been through everything together,” Freking said. “I’ve

never had any other teammates, so finally getting what we wanted with these guys is just an incredible experience I’ll cherish for the rest of my life.”

“There’s no other way I’d want to end my senior year than going out with these boys and winning a team state title,” Handevitd said.



Thomas Freking celebrates his last-second win in the team state semifinals.



Above: Landon Andrews tries to get a pin in the state quarterfinals against Maple River/United South Central. Top right: Matt Haley has control in the state semifinals. Right: Dylan Withers drives through his opponent in the state finals. Below: Isaac Rodriguez pins No. 7 Tucker Simmons of Royalton/Upsala in the state championship.



Class A state wrestling tournament			
1. JCC			
Maple River/USC	JCC	52-9	
5. WCA/A/B-E	WCA/A/B-E	41-27	JCC
4. Kimball Area		34-33	
3. Royalton/Upsala			JCC
United North Central	R/U	49-16	
Dover-Eyota	R/U	34-33	
2. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa	D-E	30-26	
Maple River/USC	WCA/A/B-E		
Kimball Area	D-E		Third place
Kimball Area			
UNC			Consolation Champion
BBE			

JCC wrestling			
Class A finals			
JCC 45, Royalton/Upsala 23			
106	Isaac Rodriguez (JCC) fall (5:04)	Simmons	6-0
113	Ambrose (JCC) maj. (14-5)	Olson	10-0
120	Anderson (JCC) fall (1:16)	Binek	16-0
126	Diederich (RU) maj. (15-4)	L. Andrews	16-4
132	Butzon (JCC) maj. (19-9)	W. Gorecki	20-4
138	T. Freking (JCC) dec. (9-3)	Costanzo	23-4
145	Withers (JCC) maj. (11-2)	N. Leibold	27-4
152	J. Leibold (RU) fall (4:19)	Isaiah Rodriguez	27-10
160	Handevitd (JCC) fall (:20)	Leners	33-10
170	G. Gorecki (RU) dec. (12-5)	Haley	33-13
182	Vancura (JCC) fall (:46)	Novitzki	39-13
195	W. Freking (JCC) fall (3:50)	K. Holm	45-13
220	B. Holm (RU) maj. (13-2)	Michelson	45-17
285	Mugg (RU) fall (3:52)	Scholten	45-23

JCC wrestling			
Class A semifinals			
JCC 41, WCA/A/B-E 27			
106	O. Gruchow (WCA) fall (:45)	Isaac Rodriguez	0-6
113	Ambrose (JCC) fall (1:16)	C. Lohse	6-6
120	Anderson (JCC) fall (1:05)	A. Lohse	12-6
126	Richter (WCA) fall (1:45)	L. Andrews	12-12
132	Butzon (JCC) dec. (12-7)	H. Gruchow	15-12
138	T. Freking (JCC) dec. (4-3)	Wales	18-12
145	Swanson (WCA) dec. (4-2)	Withers	18-15
152	Danner (WCA) dec. (16-14)	Isaiah Rodriguez	18-18
160	Handevitd (JCC) tech. (19-4)	Blascyk	23-18
170	Sykora (WCA) dec. (6-1)	Haley	23-21
182	Vancura (JCC) fall (:57)	Flint	29-21
195	W. Freking (JCC) fall (5:47)	Robinson	35-21
220	Lindquist (WCA) fall (3:28)	Michelson	35-26
285	Scholten (JCC) fall (4:25)	Stone	41-26

JCC wrestling			
Class A quarterfinals			
JCC 52, Maple River/USC 9			
106	Isaac Rodriguez (JCC) dec. (9-7)	Walters	3-0
113	Ambrose (JCC) fall (:38)	Bullerman	9-0
120	Anderson (JCC) fall (1:29)	Br. Simon	15-0
126	L. Andrews (JCC) dec. (9-4)	Elvebak	18-0
132	Butzon (JCC) dec. (3-2)	Bo. Simon	21-0
138	T. Freking (JCC) maj. (8-0)	Getchell	25-0
145	Evanson (MR) dec. (3-1)	Withers	25-3
152	Harpestad (MR) dec. (7-6)	Isaac Rodriguez	25-6
160	Handevitd (JCC) fall (3:11)	Ochsendorf	31-6
170	Haley (JCC) dec. (12-5)	Ziegler	34-6
182	Vancura (JCC) fall (2:31)	Ivie	40-6
195	W. Freking (JCC) fall (:39)	VanCleave	46-6
220	Decker (MR) dec. (10-4)	Michelson	46-9
285	Scholten (JCC) fall (1:35)	Berkner	52-9

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PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Members of the Jackson County Central wrestling team show off their Class A state championship trophy following three straight wins Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center. Team members are (front, from left): Athletic trainer Caitlin Place, Nolan Ambrose, Matt Haley, Thomas Freking, Landon Andrews, Trey Rossow, Seth Stai, Isaac Rodriguez, Kie Anderson, Skyler Andrews and student managers Aubree Eller and Reese Anderson. Back: Assistant coaches David Thorn, Troy Schultz, Rick VanderWoude and Brandon Pygman, Logan Butzon, Jack Mix, Cameron Scholten, Dylan Withers, Will Freking, Braydan Winter, Andrew Boyum, Trace Michelson, Payton Handevidd, Isaiah Rodriguez, Caleb Vancura, student manager Renae Vancura, assistant coach Jacob Johnson, head coach Nate Hanson and assistant coach John Thorn.

Hanson named Class A Coach of the Year

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Jackson County Central wrestling coach Nate Hanson was named the Class A Coach of the Year at the state tournament. That came one week after Hanson was named the Section 3A Coach of the Year and Troy Schultz was named the section's assistant coach of the year.

Hanson said he's honored to receive the state award, but said credit for the team's success goes to far more people than just him.

"They give the award to the head coach, but it's really the program that earned the award, all the way down to our youth wrestling coaches, all the way up to our assistants and the new additions of Jacob Johnson and David and John Thorn," Hanson said. "It's a program award more than an individual award."

Hanson puts so much trust in his coaches that he wasn't even in the corner during Kie Anderson's state championship match.

That was a formula the coaches came up with before the postseason started.

"When the postseason started we made a list of who was coaching what guys so we could do a little better job of focusing and scouting," Hanson said. "Having 13 guys up here is really hard for one or two people to do, so we spread out the workload."

Each wrestler had two coaches assigned to him and at least one was always in his corner for their matches at the section and



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Jackson County Central assistant coach Troy Schultz (left) and head coach Nate Hanson have won six state championships together as JCC coaches. Hanson, who won his first as head coach this year, was named the Class A Coach of the Year.

state tournaments.

"We put two guys with every wrestler," Hanson said. "We tried to get at least one of the two guys we talked about in the corner every time."

That meant it was the father-son combo of John and David Thorn in Anderson's corner during his 3-2 championship win.

"Those two were put with Kie before the section tournament ever started and they did a great job getting him all the way through the finals," Hanson said.

Schultz has been Hanson's assistant since he took over as head coach and the two were longtime assistants when Randy Baker was the head coach.

Hanson and Schultz now have been on the coach-

ing staff for six team state titles.

Newcomers Johnson, John Thorn and David Thorn are joined by Brandon Pygman and Rick VanderWoude as the team's other assistant coaches.

They all share in the award, Hanson said.

"It kind of represents a lot of people's hard work for a really long time for our whole program," he said.

2022 JCC wrestling team

Opponent	Result	Wt	Name	Grade
Luverne	W 79-0	106	Isaac Rodriguez	8
Redwood	W 73-3	113	Nolan Ambrose	10
Marshall	W 54-19	113	Ben Dahlin	9
Liberty, AZ	W 38-22	120	Kie Anderson	12
Staley, MO	W 49-15	126	Landon Andrews	11
Bolivar, MO	W 48-15	132	Andrew Boyum	12
St. Michael-Alb.	L 18-45	132	Logan Butzon	11
W-SR, IA	L 28-35	132	Trey Rossow	10
Vacaville, CA	L 22-39	138	Thomas Freking	11
Windom/ML	W 60-14	138	Seth Stai	10
Wabasso	W 67-6	145	Dylan Withers	11
Fulda/MCC	W 65-4	145	Skyler Andrews	11
ACGC	W 49-21	152	Isaiah Rodriguez	11
Pipestone	W 56-18	160	Payton Handevidd	12
Worthington	W 52-12	160	Braydan Winter	10
Adrian	W 60-12	170	Matt Haley	11
Martin County	W 50-13	182	Caleb Vancura	11
M/T/ML	W 83-0	182	Jack Mix	9
RRC	W 71-0	195	Will Freking	12
TMB/WWG	W 57-9	220	Trace Michelson	12
BBE	W 48-19	285	Cameron Scholten	11

Tournaments

Glencoe	2nd place
Jackson	1st place
Spencer	1st place
Rumble	1st place
BSC	1st place
Parkston, SD	1st place

Section 3A tournament

Springfield	W 81-0
F/MCC	W 82-0
TMB/WWG	W 60-6

Class A state tournament

MR/USC	W 52-9
WCA/A/BE	W 41-27
Royalton/Up.	W 45-23

Overall record: 24-3

Head coach: Nate Hanson

Assistant coaches: Troy Schultz, Jacob Johnson, John Thorn, David Thorn, Brandon Pygman and Rick VanderWoude

Student managers: Aubree Eller, Reese Anderson and Renae Vancura

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CAMERON SCHOLTEN

Eight Huskies finish on podium at state

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

The Jackson County Central wrestling team capped a historic season with a historic performance at the Class A individual state tournament.

The Huskies had three state champions as part of a school-record eight state place-winners.

Along with state champions Nolan Ambrose, Kie Anderson and Payton Handevitd (see stories on C5 and C6), juniors Logan Butzon, Thomas Freking and Caleb Vancura finished in fourth place and junior Isaiah Rodriguez and senior William Freking finished in sixth.

The Huskies had five other individual participants as they sent a school-record 13 individuals to state.

"I couldn't be prouder of our team," head coach Nate Hanson said. "I couldn't be prouder of our guys. What a great season. What a great three days."

Butzon back on podium

Butzon, ranked No. 3 in the state, finished on the podium for the third straight season in his fourth straight trip to state.

He opened the 132-pound state tournament with two straight wins, starting with a pin of Deagen Captain of Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale/Parkers Prairie.

In the quarterfinals, Butzon had a rematch with Boden Simon of Maple River/United South Central, who the Husky beat in the team competition the day prior.

In the individual tournament, the two were tied at one midway through the third period before Butzon got a point for Simon stalling. That forced Simon to get aggressive, which worked to Butzon's advantage.

He got a takedown off a wild Simon shot and put the senior on his back for three near-fall points and a 6-1 victory.

Then came another rematch in the semifinals as Butzon faced fourth-ranked Ayden Horner of Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

Butzon got the better of Horner in the individual section tournament a week earlier, but Horner used an early takedown to get revenge at state.

Butzon trailed 2-1 after the first period, but pulled even with an escape in the second.

Horner got a reversal in the third period to lead 4-2, then, after a Butzon escape, held off Butzon's late takedown attempts to win 4-3.

Butzon bounced back with a win over Hunter

Gruchow of West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville — another rematch after Butzon beat Gruchow in the team tournament last Thursday — and then lost to Owen Denstad of Caledonia/Houston to finish fourth.

"I'm sure it's really disappointing for him having beat Horner the weekend before and then losing to him in the semifinals," Hanson said. "He kind of bounced back and won that next one, but he still wasn't himself and wasn't quite able to pull it back together for that third-place match."

Hanson said it was tough for Butzon to bounce back from the semifinal loss and having three tough matches in the team tournament also took its toll.

"A disadvantage is we wrestled three really tough duals and Butzon, especially, had tough matches in the team tournament, wrestling three tough matches before the tournament ever starts," he said. "That takes a toll on you mentally and physically. It was his eighth match of the tournament. He didn't have as much in the tank as maybe the other guy did."

Butzon finished his season with a record of 46-9.

Freking gets on podium

Thomas Freking made his way onto the podium for the first time, finishing fourth at 138 pounds. His only losses came to the eventual first- and third-place finishers.

Freking opened the tournament with a 7-0 victory over Patrick Forcier of Border West before losing to now three-time state champion Charley Elwood of Medford.

Freking bounced back with three straight wins to get to the third-place match.

The run started with a 9-2 victory over Carter Coauette of Crookston this past Friday night, then he guaranteed himself a spot on the podium with a 7-0 victory over Nate Bobendrier of Pipestone Area.

In the consolation semifinals, Freking beat top-seeded Maddox O'Reilly of Goodhue 5-1, which Hanson said was his best win of the tournament.

In the third-place match, second-ranked Austin Kiecker of BOLD won 7-2.

"Thomas had a great tournament," Hanson said. "He'd like a little different result in that third-place match, but he beat up the No. 1 seed in the consolation semis. That was great to see."

After Freking fell short of the podium at state a year ago, Hanson said it was good to see him earn a

medal this year.

"I think he's thrilled to be on the podium," he said.

Freking finished the season with a record of 45-11.

Vancura finishes fourth

Caleb Vancura nearly had a late takedown win in the 182-pound semifinals, but a loss there sent him to wrestlebacks and Vancura ended his season with a fourth-place medal.

The JCC junior opened the tournament with a pin of Royalton/Upsala's Hunter Novitzki and a 6-1 win over Paynesville Area's Peyton Hemmesch.

Then came a match against top-ranked Carter Holtz of Kimball Area, who had pinned Vancura twice earlier in the season.

This time, the match was tied at one in the final seconds when Vancura got deep on a shot near the edge of the mat. He tried pulling Holtz back on the mat to secure the takedown, but Holtz gained control for the two points and a 3-1 victory.

"We were really close, almost taking that guy down in the semifinals," Hanson said. "We made just a little mistake on the edge of the mat and ended up losing that match."

Vancura won a 5-3 overtime decision over Isaac Schmidt of St. Agnes in the consolation semifinals before losing 9-5 to Caleb Vacura of Badger/Greenbush-Middle River.

"We battled back and won the consolation semis and then lost a tough one to almost a name twin," Hanson said.

Hanson said it's always tough losing close matches at state, but its pretty inevitable.

"Butzon's semifinal match, we'd really like to have that one, and Caleb's semifinal match, we'd really like to have that one, but that's always the case up here," he said. "There's always a couple three or four matches — we'd like it to be zero or one — that get away that you'd like to have."

Vancura, who sealed JCC's state championship in the team finals last Thursday, finishes the season with a record of 50-5.

Those 50 wins are the third-most in a single season in school history, trailing only the 52 and 51 won by teammates Nolan Ambrose and Payton Handevitd, respectively, this year. The previous record was 49 won by Cooper Moore.

Rodriguez surprises

Rodriguez was never ranked this season, but made plenty of noise at the state tournament.

After losing to third-ranked Jacob Leibold of



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Caleb Vancura tosses Caleb Vacura to the mat in the third-place match at the Class A individual state tournament Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center.

Royalton/Upsala in the first round of the 152-pound bracket, Rodriguez won a pair of matches to guarantee a medal.

He got revenge against Konner Harpestad of MR/USC, winning an 8-5 decision one day after losing in the team competition.

Rodriguez then knocked off ninth-ranked Hank Tellers of United North Central with a 7-5 overtime victory.

Rodriguez picked up two second-period takedowns to lead 4-2, but trailed 5-4 at the end of the period. He got an escape to tie the match in the third and then a takedown to win it in overtime.

Rodriguez then lost to No. 5 Jett Thoreson of St. Charles and NO. 1 Blaine Fischer of Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa to finish sixth.

"I think he's one probably nobody was expecting to place," Hanson said. "He makes a lot of mistakes yet because he's relatively new to the sport of wrestling, but he did just a great job for us. He's kind of a bonus place-winner for the Jackson County Central program. I'm sure he feels great about being on the podium."

Now, Hanson said he thinks Rodriguez will work even harder to climb up the podium.

"I hope this propels him to some offseason work, which he's done every year since he started in eighth grade," he said. Rodriguez started wrestling just four years ago, which Hanson said should give others hope if they join the sport at a later age.

"If there's proof you can start late and still be successful, he's proof of it," Hanson said.

Freking finishes sixth

Will Freking had a heck of a run going lately, which finally came to an end against state champion Thomas Dineen of Benson.

Freking pinned all three of his opponents in the team tournament, including a dramatic dual-clinching fall against West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville, and then

pinned his first two opponents in the 195-pound individual tournament.

That gave Freking a pin in 18 straight matches and 20 straight wins, dating all the way back to The Clash.

Freking stuck Cory Kitchel of Blue Earth Area to open the 195-pound tournament, then put Kimball Area's Haden Rosenow on his back in the quarterfinals.

The run finally came to an end against Dineen, who picked up a 7-1 victory over Freking.

That was by far Dineen's toughest test of the tournament. The Benson junior opened with a technical fall and pin and then won the title with a pin after just a decision against Freking.

During the pin of Rosenow, Freking got hit above the eye, forcing it to partially close and making it black and blue Saturday morning. He dealt with it against Dineen, but got hit again, forcing it even more shut.

A trainer pulled the plug on Freking's tournament, forcing him to medical forfeit out of his final two matches, which put him in sixth place.

Freking said Saturday night he was OK with the decision, adding his eyesight is more important than another match or two. He has signed to play college football at St. Olaf, so he said he didn't want to jeopardize that opportunity, either.

"Will was at least the third-best guy in that weight, but wasn't able to wrestle because his eye is the size of a grapefruit and he can't open it and can't see out of it," Hanson said. "He was in good spirits because he got to finish on the podium."

Five others compete

Eighth-grader Isaac Rodriguez nearly pulled off an upset in the first round of the 106-pound tournament.

He trailed fourth-ranked

Reggie George of Osakis 5-0 after the first period and 7-2 midway through the third period before putting George on his back.

Rodriguez nearly had the pin — many JCC fans thought he did — but the clock ran out before the ref slapped the mat. Rodriguez earned three near-fall points, coming up just short in a 7-5 defeat.

When George lost the next round, that meant Rodriguez didn't get a wrestleback match.

Juniors Landon Andrews (126), Dylan Withers (145), Matt Haley (170) and Cameron Scholten (285) all went 0-2 in the tournament and did not place.

Andrews lost a 9-4 decision to defending state champion Brandon Ross of Caledonia/Houston in the opening round before losing 4-0 to David Revering of BHV/PP to have his season end with a record of 22-18.

Withers lost a 14-3 match to third-ranked Brodie Kellen of Dover-Eyota in the opening round, then 5-3 to ninth-ranked Zach Fier of Minneota. Withers finished the season with a record of 35-18.

Haley lost to top-seeded Ashton Hanan of Kimball Area in the opening round, then was edged 7-5 by seventh-ranked Kail Schott of Chatfield in the second round. Haley went 40-12 on the season.

Scholten gave up a total of two points in two matches, but ended up losing both.

He dropped a 1-0 decision to eventual runner-up Makota Misgen of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva in the first round, yielding a third-period escape as the match's only points.

In wrestlebacks, No. 10 Jackson Esping of Minneota got a second-period escape for the only point in another 1-0 match.

Scholten finished his junior season with a record of 34-17.



Logan Butzon drives for a takedown in the Class A individual state tournament.

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Isaiah Rodriguez gets a hug from Nate Hanson after a win that guaranteed him a spot on the podium.

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Perfect ending for Anderson

Senior finishes career with 100 wins, state title

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Jackson County Central senior Kie Anderson had a perfect ending to his high school wrestling career.

Anderson won his first state championship Saturday night at the Xcel Energy Center, picked up the 100th win of his career in the finals and stayed a perfect 7-0 against Devin Carter of Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

Anderson faced Carter for the third time in less than a month for the 120-pound state championship and seventh time in the last season — and won every single time.

“It’s always tough beating someone twice in a year, much less seven times in two years,” JCC head coach Nate Hanson said.

Each of the final three matches was a bit different, with Anderson rallying from a 4-1 deficit to win 7-4 on Feb. 10, then dominating in a victory in the finals of the Section 3A individual tournament.

The state championship match might have been the closest of all seven matches as Anderson fell behind

late in the second period, then held on late for a 3-2 victory.

“Every time I wrestle him, he gets better,” Anderson said. “He’s a great wrestler; I have a lot of respect for him.”

Neither wrestler scored in the first period of the state finals and Anderson took a 1-0 lead with an escape to start the second. Carter went ahead 2-1 with a takedown with just one second left in the second period.

Anderson said he didn’t let the last-second takedown rattle him and just focused on the final two minutes.

“Normally I try not to stay too focused on the score, just on my goal and what I need to do to win” he said. “At that time, I was down, but I was confident in myself that I could get the shot I needed.”

Anderson got the takedown he needed to go ahead 3-2 with 45 seconds left in the match, then rode Carter the rest of the way to claim his first state championship.

“It was pretty unreal,” Anderson said. “I never really thought I would get to state when I started wrestling. Even now, it’s weird to think of myself as a state champion, but it’s a good feeling.”

Hanson said Anderson’s composure helped him come back after giving up

the second-period takedown.

“That was a great, great match by Kie,” he said. “He just battled back.”

The win not only earned Anderson the state title, but put him exactly at 100 career wins.

“What a great way to end his career,” Hanson said. “I didn’t tell anybody because I didn’t want to put any pressure on him, but I knew if he went 7-0 up here between team and individuals, he’d get 100 wins. It’s kind of a neat way to end up a career. That probably doesn’t happen very often where your last match in the state finals is for your 100th career win.”

“It’s just a great way to cap off my senior year,” Anderson said. “I’m ecstatic about it.”

Dominant start

Anderson pinned his way to the state finals, doing so in the first period of his first three matches.

He opened with a pin of Crookston’s Gavin Hlucny in one minute, 23 seconds, then needed just 51 seconds for the ref to slap the mat in a quarterfinal win over BOLD’s Brady Kiecker.

In the semifinals, Anderson stuck Teagyn Ludwig of Eden Valley-Watkins in one minute, 49 seconds.

Anderson finished his senior season with a record of 46-7.



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Kie Anderson gets his hand raised after winning the Class A 120-pound state championship Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center.

More history, more gold for Ambrose



JCC sophomore wins second state title, sets record with 52 victories

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Jackson County Central sophomore Nolan Ambrose continues to make history.

Last year, he became the first freshman in Jackson County’s storied wrestling history to win an individual state championship.

This season, he put together the best season in the county’s history, going a perfect 52-0 and winning his second straight state title.

Ambrose’s 52 wins set a new county record, breaking the previous mark of 49 set by Cooper Moore in 2012 — a mark that was also broken by Payton Handevidt (51) and Caleb

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Nolan Ambrose gets his hand raised after winning the 113-pound state championship Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center. The win capped a perfect 52-0 season for Ambrose and gave him the most wins in a single season in Jackson County history.

Vancura (50) this season.

Ambrose pinned his way into this year’s state championship match at 113 pounds before facing a little tougher competition than expected.

Unranked Ryan Bortz of Goodhue provided a good test for the unbeaten Ambrose, but the JCC sophomore prevailed for a 6-3 victory.

“The guy was a little tougher than we thought,” JCC head coach Nate Hanson said. “He did a nice job of riding us in the second period. He got a couple of escapes on us, which doesn’t happen very often.”

It still wasn’t enough to put a blemish in Ambrose’s record.

Ambrose picked up two first-period takedowns for a 4-1 lead, then added another in between Bortz escapes in the third for the victory.

“I knew it would be tough,” Ambrose said. “He had some good wins throughout the season. Since he was a senior, I knew he was going to be strong.”

To combat Bortz’s strength and age, Ambrose knew he had to stay sharp.

“I knew I just had to focus and keep good position,” he said. “I knew if I stayed in good position and took good shots I would

come out on top.”

Ambrose said a second straight championship is the result of a lot of time and dedication to the sport.

“It means a lot,” he said. “Just all the hard work we put in and everything we do and getting the rewards we deserve. It feels amazing.”

Historic season

Ambrose not only won the Class A state championship, but he also beat the Class AAA champion during the season.

Ambrose won a 6-4 decision over Mason Mills of St. Michael-Albertville at The Clash earlier this season. Mills won the Class AAA title Saturday, beating every opponent in the tournament by at least four points.

“It doesn’t happen all the time in Class A where you can say you’ve beaten the other state champions,” Hanson said.

There were other signature wins along the way, but for the most part, he dominated. Ambrose pinned 36 opponents this season, finishing just one shy of Keegan Moore’s school record.

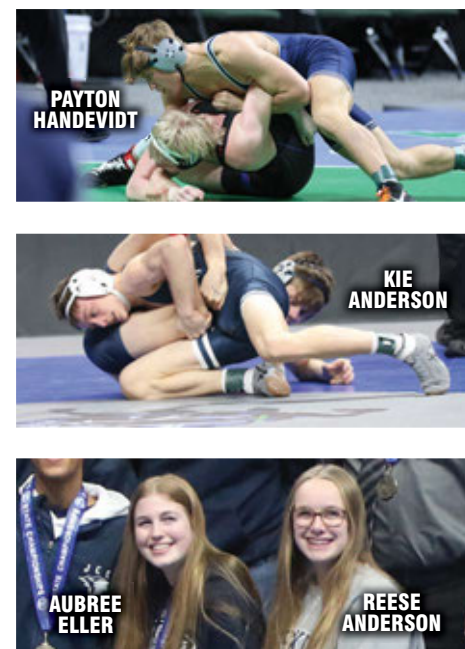
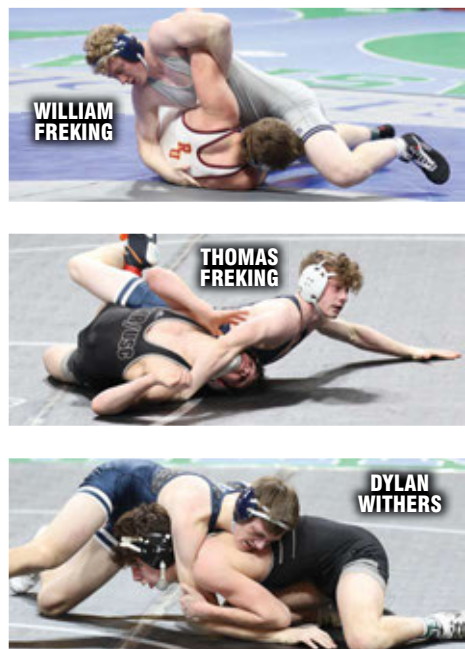
“He had a historic year,” Hanson said. “The most wins ever, undefeated season. It was a pretty dominant season overall.”

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PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Payton Handevidt flexes his muscles toward the crowd after winning the Class A state championship Saturday night at the Xcel Energy Center. Handevidt ended each of his final three seasons at Jackson County Central with a state title and a celebratory flex.

ONE FINAL FLEX

Handevidt ends career with his third straight individual state championship

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Payton Handevidt's final three seasons in a Jackson County Central singlet each ended the same way: with Handevidt flexing his muscles toward the crowd after winning a Class A state championship.

Handevidt's final flex Saturday night at the Xcel Energy Center capped a 51-3 season and put him in elite company, joining Keegan Moore, Bronson Steuber, Nate Baker and Chad Kraft as the only three-time state champions in Jackson County history. "It means everything," Handevidt said of the state title. "It's everything I've worked toward since I was a kid. All my dreams are here and it happened."

Handevidt was never threatened in the 160-pound state tournament, allowing just two total points in four convincing victories.

He opened with a 10-0 win over Tucker Zigan of Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville before beating No. 5 Maximus Hanson of Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Handevidt made quick work of his semifinal opponent, pinning Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted's Isaac Busse in just 50 seconds.

That set up a championship match against seventh-ranked Tate Hermes of Medford, which Handevidt dominated.

He jumped out to a 2-0 lead with a first-period takedown, then got an escape and takedown in the second for a 5-0 lead and finished the 7-0 win off with a third-period takedown.

Handevidt, who fell behind in the state finals last season before rallying to win, said he wanted to score early this time.

"I knew I wanted to score early and then take control of the match from there," he said. "Take control early, then keep putting points on the board."

"Payton wrestled a really great, smart match," head coach Nate Hanson said. After the match, Handev-

idt did his signature celebration — which he said he figured he should do one more time after the first two sort of came spontaneously.

"I knew I should probably do it if I did it the first two times," he said.

'Meant everything'

Handevidt said it was a bit of a relief when he finished off Hermes in the finals.

"I felt there was a little bit of pressure just because it was my senior year and I wanted to go out with that one last win and it just meant everything," he said.

"I think it was a lot of relief, a lot of hard work paying off," Hanson said. "The third one is pretty emotional being his last match. That's probably as emotional as I've ever seen Handevidt after a win."

Having a target on your back all season can be tough, Hanson said, but it can also give a wrestler an advantage as a heavy favorite.

"It probably cuts both ways," Hanson said. "Some people come out a little intimidated maybe, and some people come out and give it their best shot."

In the finals, Hanson thought Hermes wrestled a bit scared of the now three-time champion.

"I think in the finals that guy didn't do a whole lot," Hanson said. "Even when he was down by quite a few points he never really tried much. I don't know if he was just happy to be there in the match with him or what his strategy was."

Hard work pays off

Once his career came to an end, Handevidt said he's proud of the work he put in and the results that came.

"All I can think about is the work that goes along with it and all the hours you put in, going to all the tournaments in the youth and it all adds up," he said. "It means everything."

A third straight state championship was the perfect ending to an incredible career.

"It's the best feeling in the world to know it was my last high school match ever and I went out on top," he said.

"What a great way to end his historic career for Jackson County Central," Hanson said.

That career will continue next season at Augustana



Payton Handevidt celebrates his third straight state championship Saturday night in St. Paul.

University in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Keegan Moore (227) and Darick Vancura (215).

Incredible career

Handevidt finishes his career with 208 wins, which ranks fifth in Jackson County history, trailing only Cooper Moore (237), Paden Moore (229),

His 51 wins this season are the second-most in school history, trailing only the 52 by teammate Nolan Ambrose this season. The previous record was 49 set by Cooper Moore in the 2011-12 season.



Payton Handevidt's first state championship flex came after winning the 145-pound title his sophomore season (left) and the second came last year as the 152-pound champ.



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