



HUSKIES SWEEP SUB-SECTION TITLES

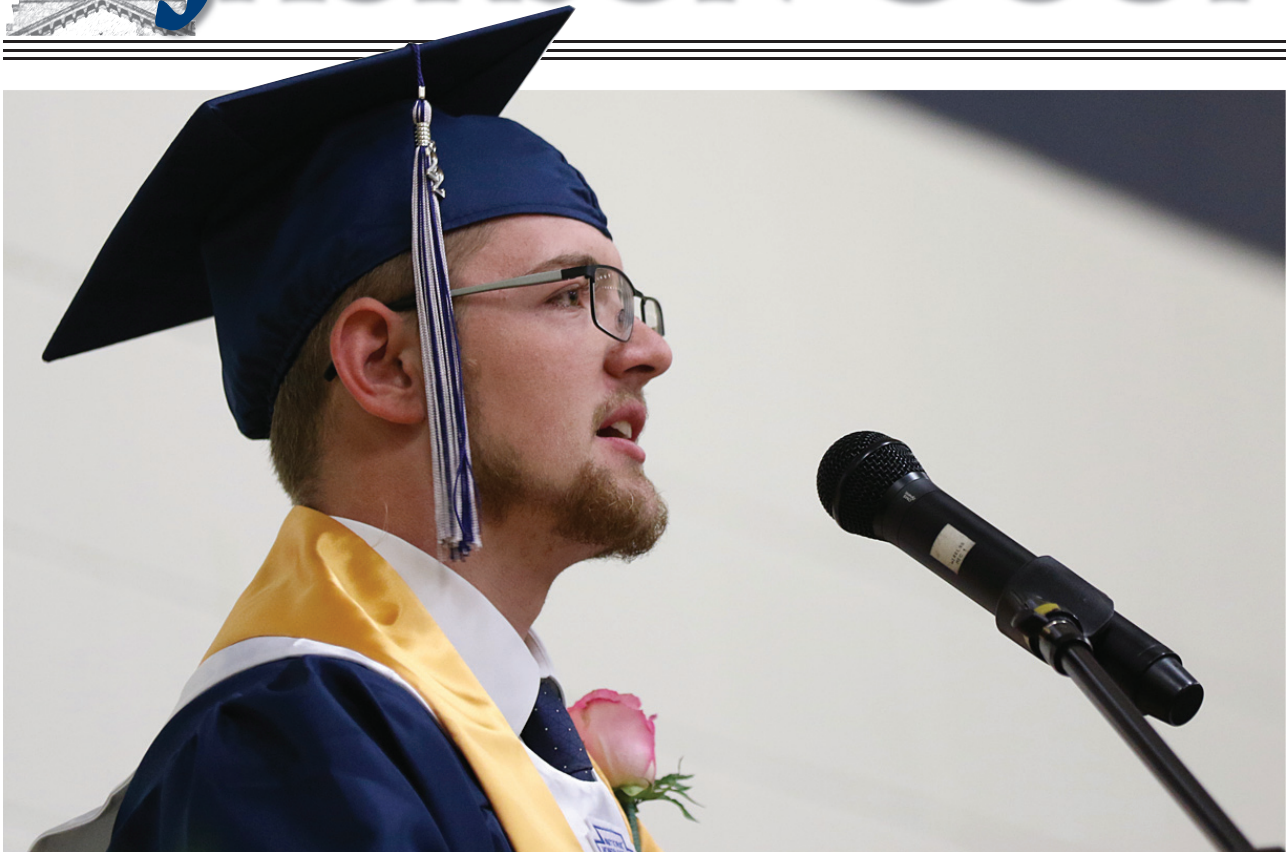
The Jackson County Central boys' and girls' track and field teams both won team titles at the sub-section meet and qualified a host of athletes to the section meet.
Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Photos by Dan Condon and Jen Tewes



Left: Jackson County Central High School senior Maia Reed gazes toward the crowd during Sunday's commencement ceremony. Right: Honor students Molly Turner (left) and Meta Tewes are proud members of the JCC Class of 2022.



Above: Jackson County Central High School senior Zach Rasmussen addresses his fellow graduates at Sunday's commencement ceremony in Jackson. Left: Kade Zishka is congratulated by JCC High School Principal Keri Bergeson after receiving his diploma.



Inside... See more photos from Sunday's graduation ceremony at the Jackson County Central High School.

A single county race contested

Races for local legislative seats

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Incumbent county officials have all filed for reelection this fall, and only one will have a challenger. Current Jackson County Commissioners Scott McClure, Don Wachal, Cathy Hohenstein, Phil Nasby and James Eigenberg all filed for office ahead of the May 31 filing deadline, as have Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken and Jackson County Attorney Kristi L. Meyeraan. Only Hohenstein, who represents District 3, looks to have opposition, in the per-

son of Roger D. Pohlman of Lakefield.

Wachal is the longest-tenured member of the county board, having been first elected in 2014; McClure, Hohenstein and Eigenberg were all first elected to the county board in 2016; and Nasby was elected in 2018. Haken was appointed sheriff in 2016 and first elected in 2018; Meyeraan was appointed county attorney earlier this year.

One candidate has filed for office of supervisor in each of the open Jackson Soil and Water Conservation Districts — Dan Riley in District 2, Jeremy Daberkow in District 3 and

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Inside...

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Windom Republican Jayesun Sherman will run against endorsed GOP candidate Marj Fogelman for the party's nomination for the new House District 21B seat.

Locals vote for Benda, Ettinger

Ettinger, Finstad to square off in special election

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

If it were up to Jackson County voters, local native Matt Benda would be running against Jeff Ettinger for the late U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn's congressional seat later this summer.



Matt Benda

Local Republicans in last week's special primary election favored Benda, an Albert Lea attorney, over GOP primary victor Brad Finstad by a vote of 310-221. State Rep. Jeremy Munson, who finished as runner-up to Finstad in the overall vote, received 229 Jackson County votes.

Finstad won the special GOP primary election over Munson by around 425 votes. Benda came in a distant fourth, with just more than 7 percent of the vote.

Jackson County Democrats lined up with the rest of the district in selecting Ettinger, former CEO of Hormel Foods, as their preferred candidate for the vacant congressional seat. Locally, Ettinger received nearly 50 percent of the vote; districtwide, he garnered more than 64 percent.

A little more than 1,000 Jackson County residents voted in last week's special primary election out of around 6,200 registered voters, for a voter turnout rate of 16.5 percent. Eighty-one percent of local voters voted Republican; 18 percent voted for a Democrat. Districtwide voter turnout was around 13.5 percent, with 65 percent voting Republican

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JCC explores new student opportunity

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Jackson County Central High School may soon be churning out entrepreneurs.

Officials with JCC are exploring the possibility of joining with other area districts in a Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities community. Member schools would partner with area businesses to provide unique learning opportunities for selected high school juniors and seniors with an eye toward inspiring them to become young entrepreneurs.

"The program literally uses the businesses as



Keri Bergeson

the classroom for the students," JCC High School Principal Keri Bergeson said. "Every student who leaves the program has created a business or ends up running their own business."

Exploration of the opportunity is still in its infancy, Bergeson said, though she added school and business officials are excited about the prospect.

"There is lot of excitement among businesses involved in early discussions," Bergeson said, adding a steering committee has been formed to continue exploring the opportunity.

She said the earliest the program could be implemented locally is the 2023-2024 school year.

Bergeson said the CEO program would fit in with the district's move toward

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PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

A SUNSET SALUTE

The sun sets over the avenue of flags at the local cemetery this past Friday ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

