



HUSKIES OPEN WITH SPLIT

The Jackson County Central softball team opened the season with a split of a doubleheader at Fairmont Saturday.
Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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132ND YEAR/ISSUE 15

Commissioner districts to go under the knife

Public hearing set for April 19

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Jackson County's commissioner districts will go under the knife this month.

County officials are working on a redistricting plan for the county commissioner districts ahead of the May 1 filing period for the 2022 elections.

The process, which mirrors that of the state, congressional and city levels of government, is intended to correct imbalances in population between districts.

"It happens once every 10 years and it gets pretty complicated because of all the statutes we have to follow," said Jackson County Administrator Ryan Krosch. "We anticipate that there will be a shift in one district that will cause us to reconfigure all of the commissioner districts."

The district in question is District 1, currently represented by Scott McClure. The district, which comprises the southwestern half of the county, has lost 202 people over the last 10

years, the largest change of any districts.

Broadly, the district population changes reflect the growing trend of people leaving the countryside and moving into town, a phenomenon that has put pressure on local housing markets. Districts 2 and 4, which split the city of Jackson, gained 142 and 129 people, respectively, while District 3, which contains

Lakefield, gained 42 people.

District 5, which consists of the five northernmost townships along with West Heron Lake Township, lost

112 people.

"We have to follow criteria based on population distribution and create a reasonable balance among the districts," Krosch said. "We will have a public hearing on April 19 at 9:30 a.m., during our regular board meeting."

The hearing will give the county the chance to present a proposed redistricting plan and receive input from the public. Uniquely, any member of the public can create a redistricting plan and submit it to the county as a suggestion.

See **DISTRICTS** on A3

If you go...

What: Public hearing
When: Tuesday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Jackson County Government Center, Jackson

Good Sam hosts Easter egg hunt

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

The Evangelical Good Samaritan Society of Jackson will host an Easter egg hunt just outside its nursing home facility on Good Friday.

The event, which is set to kick off at 4 p.m., will offer kids the chance to hunt for eggs and enjoy themselves with their families.

"The Easter egg hunt

will be on the hill in front of the nursing home," said Good Sam assisted living director Nikki Copley. "The hunt will be divided into age groups."

Participants should meet in the courtyard outside the nursing home before the hunt. Re-

freshments will be available for kids and their parents, and the Easter Bunny will also be present at the event to spread Easter joy.

If you go...

What: Egg hunt
When: Friday, April 15, 4 p.m.
Where: Good Samaritan Society of Jackson



Above: Payten Benda sports a spooky look while dancing to "Ghost" during a rehearsal for the Extreme Beat Dance Studio's annual performance last week. Right: Lela Swanson leads a group of first graders dancing to "Lead the Way."



DANCING to THE BEAT

Photos by Dan Condon



Left: Olivia Anderson strikes a pose during her senior solo to "Something's Got to Give." Right: Brielle Mouw has a look of elegance while dancing to "Let it All Go."



Inside...

A8 See more photos from last week's rehearsal for the Extreme Beat Dance Studio's annual performance.

Online...

.com Thousands of photos from last week's Extreme Beat Dance Studio rehearsal are online at jacksoncountypilot.com.

Familiar face rejoins council

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

A familiar face is back on the Jackson City Council.

Jerry Palmer, who last served as a council member in 2010, rejoined the council last week, accepting an appointment from Jackson Mayor Wayne Walter to serve the remainder of the term of Ward 1 council member Chris Vee, who resigned effective March 31. Palmer will serve through Dec. 31.

Vee himself was appointed to the council in April 2021 to fill the seat after it was vacated by the resignation of Larry Anderson. In his letter of resignation, Vee said he was stepping down due to "personal reasons."

See **COUNCIL** on A3



PHOTO BY JUSTIN LESSMAN
Jackson City Administrator Matt Skaret (left) administers the oath of office to Jerry Palmer during last week's meeting of the Jackson City Council.

Inside...

A3 The city of Jackson's taxes, long-term debt and expenditures per capita trend higher than those of other similar cities.

Effort to reduce F grades at high school appears to work

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

A new initiative designed to reduce the number of students failing classes at Jackson County Central High School appears to be working.

The high school implemented a flexible learning period at the start of this school year. JCC High School Principal Keri Bergeson said setting time aside to work with students



Keri Bergeson

who may be struggling in a certain area was an attempt to address the concerning number of F grades earned by local high school students over the past few years.

A recent data check indicates it is working.

During the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year, 42 high school students failed 89 classes; the following semester, 44 students failed 110 classes.

During the first semester of the 2020-2021 semester — which was a period of primarily distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic — 61 students failed 162 classes; the following semes-

ter — which consisted of mainly in-person instruction — 64 students failed 162 classes.

During the first semester of the current school year — the first year of the flexible learning period — 40 students failed 75 classes.

"We're starting to go in the right direction," Bergeson said.

Though second-semester data will be telling, Bergeson said, high school administrators and teachers are already planning to reimplement the flexible learning period next year, with some modifications.

"We're looking at the

See **EFFORT** on A3