



HUSKIES DOMINATE KNIGHTS

The Jackson County Central football team shut out LCWM in a 36-0 homecoming win last week.
Story, B1



JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

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Enrollment at JCC falls

Student numbers lowest in history

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Student numbers at Jackson County Central schools are the lowest they've been at any point in history.

Official fall enrollment figures reported to the Minnesota Department of Education earlier this month show 1,066 kindergarten through 12th-



Barry Schmidt

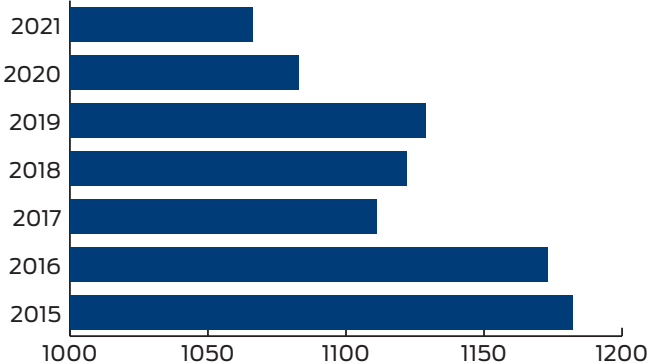
grade students enrolled in JCC schools. That's 17 fewer than last year and represents the lowest student count since JCC was formed in 1997.

Barry Schmidt, superintendent of schools at JCC, said the drop in student count was not unexpected. "That's right where we thought we would be," he said. "We had several families leave the area and there are more options for students with open enrollment to online school."

When JCC formed in 1997, student enrollment hovered around 1,400. Not long after that, student numbers plummeted to around 1,100 and hung

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Jackson County Central K-12 Fall Enrollment



Source: Jackson County Central School District

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Deadly week for Jackson County

Two more locals lost to COVID-19

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN
Publisher

Jackson County experienced one of its deadliest weeks of the COVID-19

pandemic last week, as two locals succumbed to the disease.

The latest death — that of a 95- to 99-year-old from Jackson County — was reported by the Minnesota

See COVID-19 on A3



Above: With Jackson County Central Homecoming King Austin Braun at her side, queen Sadie Voss tosses beads to cheering fans during the homecoming parade Friday. Right: Eighth-graders Katelyn Hendricks (left) and Madelyn Rowe toss candy.



HEROES OF HOMECOMING

Photos by Justin Lessman



Left: Jackson County Central Middle School students Emma Gillum (from left), Renae Vancura and Josie Dvorak toss candy from the top of a Jackson fire truck during the homecoming parade Friday afternoon. Right: Sophomore attendants Aubree Eller and Trey Rossow wave to parade-goers.



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See more photos from the Jackson County Central Homecoming parade that took place Friday afternoon in Jackson.



PHOTOS BY
DAN CONDON

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Above: Austin Braun celebrates after being named Jackson County Central Homecoming king during a coronation ceremony last Wednesday. Right: Gabriel Wolff perfectly places a tiara on Sadie Voss' head after she is named JCC's homecoming queen.



Jackson man running for governor

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

A Jackson man is running for governor.

If elected, Brandon Millholland-Corcoran will be the first from Jackson, and the youngest elected governor in Minnesota history. At age 24, Millholland-Corcoran is a year short of being old



Brandon Millholland-Corcoran

enough for the office at present, but will turn 25 before the election.

Millholland-Corcoran has lived in Jackson for three years and is currently studying psychology at Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Previously, he lived in Minneapolis and Rosemount, where he was born.

Millholland-Corcoran is seeking the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party nomination. Current Gov. Tim Walz, also a DFLer, has not announced whether he plans to seek a second term.

Millholland-Corcoran describes himself as a centrist, favoring a more libertarian approach with respect to COVID-19-related mandates and a more populist economic approach, which he said will benefit the working class.

"I think Walz has done well, but when it came to the mandates, I would have allowed the cities and counties to make their own decisions," Millholland-Corcoran said.

One of his main issues is taxes. Millholland-Corcoran feels low- and moderate-

See GOVERNOR on A3

Local mental health office closing

Director says rise in telemedicine, labor shortage are responsible

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ
Staff Writer

Changes are coming for mental health care in Jackson County.

The Southwest Mental Health Center, which has an office in the city of Jackson, plans to close that office at the end of October and move most of its services in the area online. Luke Comeau, executive

director of the SWMHC, said the decision came about due to the rise of telemedicine during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of that, Comeau said, the board of directors felt maintaining the Jackson location could no longer be justified financially.

"During COVID, insurance companies allowed telemedicine and kept it that way even after things opened back up," Comeau said. "We went for months serving our clients virtually or over the phone."

The center provides outpatient therapy, which can

be done via Zoom or on the phone. A shortage of therapists, the difficulty of finding childcare for staff and positive reviews of the center's telemedicine services led to the decision, which was finalized after a survey of clients and staff.

Comeau said the center will maintain its Worthington and Luverne facilities, so those who wish to continue in-person visits can still travel to do so. The center is also working with Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services to explore the possibility of stationing mental health

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