



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...

C1-C6 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.

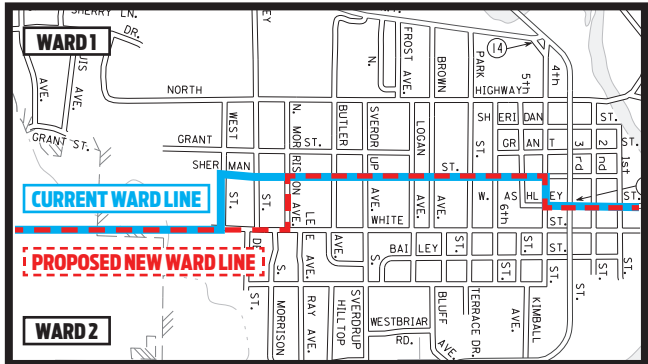
Change would move two blocks worth of second-ward residents into the first

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...

A6 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**