



## HUSKIES ARE HEADED TO STATE

The JCC volleyball team is going to state for the first time since 2003 after a five-set win over Paynesville in the Section 3AA championship. Story, B1



# JACKSON COUNTY PILOT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

131ST YEAR/ISSUE 44



## UCAP rolls out 2021 Jackson Holiday Project

Officials prep for increased need

by JOSHUA SCHUETZ  
Staff Writer

Jackson's United Community Action Partnership is looking to help struggling families through this holiday season by providing them with gifts and clothing for children through the Jackson Holiday Project.

"We're trying to alleviate the financial burdens lower-income people face during the holidays so they can enjoy that time with their kids," said Courtney Newgard, self-sufficiency case manager with UCAP in Jackson. "We provide gifts for their kids, so the parents are able to save money."

The organization has placed trees in various local businesses with wish-

list items from children whose families have applied for the program. Individuals and businesses can take a tag and buy those gifts for the kids.

"Each tag has a gift and an article of clothing on it," Newgard said. "People can drop off the gifts at our office in Jackson."

There is still time for families to apply for the program and applications can be filled out at the UCAP office. Newgard said gifts should be dropped off unwrapped so the parents of each child can wrap them up to put under the tree at home.

Those who lack the time to shop can still help kids and their families out through monetary donations, which can be mailed to UCAP, Newgard said.

Normally, the program serves around 100 kids from around the community. See **HOLIDAY PROJECT** on **A3**

## New SRO laying solid foundation

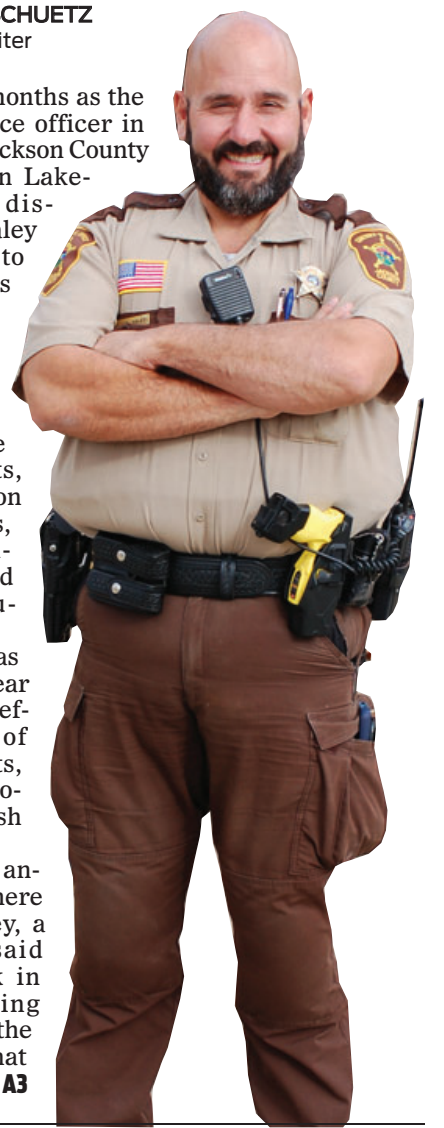
by JOSHUA SCHUETZ  
Staff Writer

In his first few months as the first school resource officer in the history of the Jackson County Central and Heron Lake-Okabena school districts, Brandon Haley has worked hard to forge relationships and team up with students to promote good living.

It is hoped this work establishes Haley as a role model for students, aids in the protection of school facilities, supplements anti-drug education and helps reduce truancy rates.

Haley was hired as SRO earlier this year after a multi-year effort on the part of the school districts, county and some local cities to establish such a position.

"I've been doing anti-drug programs here since 2006," Haley, a deputy sheriff, said of previous work in the schools. "Doing those programs at the school is really what See **SRO** on **A3**



## A HEROES' SALUTE

Photos by Justin Lessman



Above: Riverside Elementary School student Londyn Loeschen salutes the veterans driving by on their way to the Jackson County Central High School Veterans Day program Tuesday morning. Left: Kinslee Anderson (from left), Jessica Truitt and Liam Hitzemann offer some words of thanks.



Left: Riverside Elementary School student Jaxon Lucht salutes the veterans driving by on their way to the Jackson County Central High School Veterans Day program Tuesday morning. Right: Amiah Durrant (left) and Austin Jackson show their appreciation.



### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## Local kids start getting the shot

by JUSTIN R. LESSMAN  
Publisher

Local children began getting vaccinated against COVID-19 last week at Sanford Jackson Medical Center following authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for that age group by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among the first local youngsters to receive the shot were Aubri Gordon, 9, and Baylie Gordon, 10. Their mother, Ariel Svoboda, said she believes getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is important.

Her daughters agreed. "I want to protect my teacher from getting sick

### Inside ...

**A3**

Jackson County recorded 17 new cases of COVID-19 over the last week, marking 14 consecutive weeks of double-digit weekly caseload increases in the county after 14 consecutive weeks of single-digit — or no — increases.

because she has cancer," Baylie Gordon said upon receiving her first shot.

Sister Aubrielle said everybody who can get vaccinated should get vaccinated, adding, "It didn't even hurt."

Sanford Health began scheduling and administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 5 to 11 last Thursday. Joseph Segeleon, vice president and medical officer of San-

ford Children's in Sioux Falls, S.D., said the day was an historic one.

"This is a significant milestone in protecting our young patients and putting an end to this pandemic," Segeleon said. "The vaccine appears to be safe and effective. As a children's physician, I am grateful that we are now able to offer this vaccine for children."

See **KIDS** on **A3**



Ariel Svoboda (right) holds daughter Aubri Gordon's hand as Dawn Jagodzinske, licensed practical nurse at Sanford Jackson Medical Center, administers a shot of COVID-19 vaccine to the 9-year-old last week.

PHOTO BY JEN TEWES