



Union-Times

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COVERING MILLE LACS COUNTY, THE CITIES OF BOCK, FORESTON, MILACA, PEASE, PRINCETON AND BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

Biracial, multiracial demographics fastest growing group in Mille Lacs County

Census data shows changes in racial makeup in the county over the last decade

CONNOR CUMMISKEY
Union-Times

Census data shows growing diversity in Mille Lacs County, particularly among residents identifying as two or more races.

Data tables released by the Census Bureau Sept. 16 focused largely on the racial demographics of the United States and showed

dramatic growth among residents who identified as biracial or multiracial.

Mille Lacs County grew by 1.4% to a total of 26,459 in 2020 from 26,097 in 2010. Of that 20,290 residents are over the age of 18, according to census data.

Residents who identified as Asian, Hispanic or Latino and two or more races grew in population.

The largest growth was among residents identifying as two or more races. That population more than doubled, increasing by 659 residents to a total of 1,075. They accounted for 4.1% of the county's population in 2020.

Hispanic or Latino residents increased by 104 individuals, to a total of 481. They made up 1.8% of the

total population in 2020. Asian residents increased by 45 people to a total of 124. They accounted for 0.5% of the county's population in 2020.

Residents who identified as Black, white and American Indian or Alaskan Native all saw decreases in their population between 2010 and 2020.

In Mille Lacs County 18

fewer residents identified as Black, a total of 78 in 2020. They accounted for 0.3% of the county population in 2020.

White residents decreased by 451 people to a total of 23,131. They accounted for 87.4% of the county population in 2020.

American Indian or Alaskan Natives saw 68 fewer residents in 2020 compared

to 2010. They made up 5.5% of the county population in 2020.

City populations

Princeton grew to a population of 4,819, an almost 2.6% increase from a total of 4,698 in 2010. The fastest growing racial demographic

Census
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Baldwin Fire Department open house



Firefighters gave children a ride through the township in a fire truck as part of the festivities at the Baldwin Fire open house. See more photos from the open house on Page 2.

Photo by Jeffrey Hage / Union-Times



Photo by Connor Cummiskey / Union-Times

Maria Monson poses with the rice art pregnancy emoji she was featured on CBS for making.

Minnesota 'rice'

Princeton resident reaches national stage with rice art

CONNOR CUMMISKEY
Union-Times

One Princeton resident was featured nationally thanks to her social media videos of creating rice art.

Maria Monson recently hit the national stage when she was featured on CBS' "The Greatest #ATHOME Videos" Sept. 17.

Monson was featured for creating rice art — which she does by throwing images of dyed rice into the air to make a picture. The featured video showed Monson about nine months pregnant with her third child, Sawyer, creating rice art depicting the pregnancy emoji.

Using dyed rice, Monson lays out a pattern or image on a board then flicks it up to create a suspended version of the image.

"It's up in the air for like three or four seconds, but I record it in slow motion so that you really see the design when it comes up in the air and then it dissolves back on the board," Monson said.

Monson first saw the art style on the social media app TikTok and thought it was unique. She has always

Hall of fame
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Rice art
Cont. on Page 2

Two more inductees in the Milaca hall of fame

Jackie Monroe

Jackie (Harris) Monroe is a 1998 graduate of Milaca High School where she was active on the Varsity Swim Team and lettered each year from 1994 to 1999, and she was part of Student Council.

After graduating high school, she attended St Cloud State University initially pursuing a degree in dentistry. Her career path changed when she took a news production class to meet an undergrad requirement; this choice changed her trajectory. After she switched majors to Mass Communications, Jackie worked in the UTVS newsroom at SCSU, writing and anchoring newscasts which aired on public television. She graduated in three years with a degree in Mass Communications. Jackie pursued an unpaid internship in El Paso, Texas. Within two months, she advanced to become



Photo submitted

John Palmer

a paid, part-time reporter. In another two months, she earned a full-time position. Her time with ABC7 was one of tremendous growth and nourished a lasting,



Photo submitted

Jackie Monroe

positive impact. In 2002, she accepted a position as Morning Anchor at KSNT, an NBC affiliate in Topeka, Kansas. She anchored a 2 hour morning

show, produced and anchored morning cut-ins, and also worked as the Health Reporter. During the first ratings period of her employment, the morning show's market share doubled. Viewership grew as Jackie received the Topeka Capital Journal's "Best of Topeka" award in 2004. In 2004, Jackie accepted a new position and moved their household to Indiana, where her husband, Nate Monroe, would join her after his deployment in Iraq. She took on a weeknight anchor role at WTVW, a Fox affiliate in Evansville. She also contributed weekly pieces for the Family First franchise and produced fitness segments called Two-Minute Toner, featuring local certified trainers. At the end of her con-



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