

Local People. Local Stories.

# PCM EXPLORER

PCM

## New school entrance policy in place at PCM

Raptor Visitor Management identifies those who may be a danger to students

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Starting March 21, a new visitor management system will be rolled out for all buildings in the PCM School District. Raptor Visitor Management is now in place to quickly identify those who may present a danger to the students and staff.

“Most school districts are doing this nowadays,” superintendent Michelle Havenstrite said. “The biggest thing is safety issue to make sure we are protecting our kids. It is a quick, easy way to do a background screen.”

The system works by requiring all volunteers and visitors to the schools to present an ID, such as a driver’s license, which will be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a par-



The Raptor Visitor Management System will help identify those going into the school buildings for the PCM district. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

ent or guardian for any reason does not have a U.S. government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually en-

ter the person’s name in to the Raptor system.

The Raptor system will then

ENTRANCE • 3

MONROE

## BEEN THERE, RUN THAT

Frosty Nose Cold Toes 5K gives participants a tasty reason to cross finish line

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The race is on to see who can be the first to enjoy the delicious ice cream prize at the Jersey Freeze Frosty Nose Cold Toes 5K Run Walk. Beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday on the south side of the Monroe city square, the event is a favorite, especially ice cream lovers.

“Same great timing, same great ice cream,” organizer Andrea Steenhoek said.

Described as flat and fast, the course is “perfect for a personal record.” Registration is \$15 for 18 and younger and \$25 for adults. Walk-up registration is held from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Awards will follow the race at 10 a.m.

FROSTY NOSE • 3



Ready, set, go! The Jersey Freeze Frosty Nose Cold Toes is back Saturday in downtown Monroe. File Photo

### JASPER COUNTY

## Heartsill drops out of HD37 race, endorses other GOP candidate

District covers southern portions of Jasper County

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Former Rep. Greg Heartsill on March 16 announced “unexpected events” in his family life is causing him to withdraw his candidacy for the Republican nomination for the redistricted Iowa House District 37 seat, which includes portions of Jasper, Mahaska and Marion Counties.

In a press release, Heartsill extended his “heartfelt gratitude” to those who supported him in this

effort. The former lawmaker who previously represented Iowa House District 28 — currently served by Rep. Jon Thorup — announced his candidacy on Oct. 28 when the new redistricting maps were chosen.

With his campaign at an end, Heartsill took his opportunity to express his support for another candidate: Barb Kniff-McCulla, owner of KLK Construction in Pella.

“Her extensive business

HEARTSILL • 6

## Thorup withdraws SD19 bid, seeks HD37 seat

Representative will be pitted against Kniff-McCulla in primary

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Rep. Jon Thorup, R-Knoxville, is no longer seeking the redistricted Iowa Senate District 19 seat — which he originally announced in October 2020 — and he will instead be on the primary ballot for House District 37, according to election filings posted by the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office.

In a follow-up interview with Newton News at the League of Women Voters forum on March 19, Thorup said

House District 37 was the original district he had planned on running for. But Greg Heartsill also announced he wanted to run for the seat. Thorup said he was a good person to run for the seat.

“The senate seat was open, but he (Heartsill) backed out last week,” Thorup told Newton News. “So, honestly, it was the district I probably wanted to run for anyway. It most closely matches the district I’m in now. It’s very similar ... I like this area, so it was a natural fit.”

THORUP • 6

## Former NDC president, retired banker submits bid for Jasper County supervisor

Democrat Bev Price sees economic development as a way to boost the region



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Bev Price, a longtime Newton resident and retired banker, wants to convert her extensive experience and passion for economic development into something greater by running for a seat on the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. She enjoys bringing people together to make plans and follow through with projects.

It is what she did as president of the Newton Development Corporation and as president of Newton Housing Development Corporation, where she currently serves as secretary. It is what she did when she co-chaired the Newton Transformation Council alongside former Sen. Chaz Allen.

Economic development is a worthy investment for the county, she suggested. “When you look at the budgets,

PRICE • 3

## Retired county employee wants to run again for Jasper County supervisor



Christopher Braunschweig/PCM Explorer

Pam Olson, a retired assistant to the county engineer, is running for one of the two open seats on the Jasper County Board of Supervisors this upcoming election.

Democrat Pam Olson says current board is ‘one-sided,’ doesn’t represent all citizens

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Pam Olson originally ran for a seat on the Jasper County Board of Supervisors in 2018 when she was still the assistant to the county engineer, but now that she is retired she feels more confident to speak out and is campaigning once again for a spot on the governing body.

“The last time I didn’t want to alienate myself out of my office. I wanted to be, I guess, careful, politically correct — that type of thing,” Olson told Newton News in a March 16 interview. “There was some things going on that maybe I didn’t agree with but wasn’t free to comment on at that time.”

OLSON • 3