

Jasper County Tribune

Serving Colfax • Mingo • Baxter • Western Jasper County

Thursday, March 2, 2023

126 Years • No. 22

Single Copy \$1.00



THE BREW IS ON IN BAXTER

Java on Main Cafe now open and serving up a variety of caffeinated treats in downtown

Jamee A. Pierson
Editor

Coffee and more is back in Baxter with the Java on Main Cafe opening in the former Joss and Beans location. Still both a salon and cafe, new owner Jeni Manship is excited for the new adventure as she continues with her long-time passion.

"I like having a salon in town, it might be the only one," Manship said. "So I knew I would keep it a salon because I do hair and the coffee shop just sounds fun because I've done hair for 25 years and it is something different."

She said the decision was made after traveling to work on a cold, winter day. When it took an hour-and-a-half for Manship to make it to Highway 330 because of ice, she decided to take a harder look at the open building.

"I got home and asked a friend if it is still for sale," Manship said. "It was really fast and it all just worked out. We figured if it was meant to be it will work and if not it won't and it did."

With about a week to get the business up and running,

JAVA | 3A



Jamee A. Pierson/Jasper County Tribune
Java on Main Cafe owner Jeni Manship serves up a fresh cup of joe at the new shop in Baxter which will also serve as a salon for Manship's 25-year hair business.

C-M School Board looking to fill District 2 opening

Applicants have until March 3 to send letter of interest

Jamee A. Pierson
Editor

A seat on the Colfax-Mingo Community School District School Board has opened up the district has announced. District 2 board member Jan Myers submitted her resignation from the board after serving for 12 years.

"We want to thank her for her endless support and the hours she put in. She has always been a positive school board member that advocates for what is best for the district," C-M Superintendent Tim Salmon said. "Best wishes on her next adventure."

Those interested in serving on the school board must live in District 2, which covers the northeast portion of the district. To apply, send a letter of interest to Salmon at tsalmon@colfaxmingo.org by March 3.



Salmon

OPENING | 3A

Republican lawmakers turn to fallacies in discussion on gun violence at legislative gathering

Dunwell and Rozenboom turn focus to mental health and violence in media

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

After Sen. Ken Rozenboom and Rep. Jon Dunwell spent 14 minutes responding to a question about the Republican Party's plan to decrease gun violence at the Feb. 18 legislative gathering hosted by the League of Women Voters of Jasper County, a citizen pointed out that even though they talked about mental health and the impact of violence in media, they might have missed the bigger issue.

"This lady here asked about gun violence. Both of you guys had comments about mental health," Steve Murphy said. "You did not address easy access to guns."

Rozenboom responded, "You guys think that in and of itself is the solution to the problem? We've had easy access to guns my whole lifetime."

While topics at the legislative gathering varied from education to property taxes and from SNAP benefits to the reorganization of state departments, gun violence was the most talked about issue. Lori Eisbrener, of Newton, kicked off the conversation with the question about decreasing gun violence and requesting neither lawmaker give a rationale to defend the Second Amendment.

It is a complicated issue, Dunwell said, and one could certainly talk about access to guns as being part of the issue; but mental health continues to be a huge area that can be related to gun violence. The Republican lawmaker said part of what needs to happen is to provide more resources to communities and direct those resources towards mental illness such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Problems occur when individuals get off their medications and wind up engaged with law enforcement. Dunwell said the minute they are stabilized on medication, they are released. But he does not believe that is necessarily helpful, noting that the addition of mental health centers that could provide up to 18 months of in-patient care and followed by extensive out-patient care would be more beneficial.

Problems occur when individuals get off their medications and wind up engaged with law enforcement. Dunwell said the minute they are stabilized on medication, they are released. But he does not believe that is necessarily helpful, noting that the addition of mental health centers that could provide up to 18 months of in-patient care and followed by extensive out-patient care would be more beneficial.



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune
Rep. Jon Dunwell speaks to constituents at a legislative gathering hosted by the League of Women Voters of Jasper County on Feb. 18 in the Newton Public Library.

VIOLENCE | 3A

Courthouse to add holding cell for potentially violent individuals

Supervisors approve conversion of a former judge's chambers into enclosure for confrontational defendants

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

A former judge's chambers in the Jasper County Courthouse will be converted into a small holding cell for potentially violent individuals who are on trial.

Jasper County Attorney Scott Nicholson told the board of supervisors on Feb. 21 that a number of delinquent offenders and people with mental illness are violent or confrontational on the third floor of the courthouse. To ensure the courts have a safe space for these individuals, he suggested a holding cell may be needed.

Within the past two years, Homeland Security paid a visit to the Jasper County Courthouse and they made several suggestions in a written report that they generated," Nicholson said. "One of the suggestions that they made ... is the fact that we need a holding cell on the third floor."

Everybody has a right to counsel, and lawyers need a place to meet with their clients no matter what condition they may be in. The county's courthouse security committee has decided the judge's chambers in the northwest corner — formerly occupied by Thomas W. Mott — would be the ideal location for a holding cell.

"We've had a lot of families of juvenile delinquents that also congregate on the third floor waiting for their child to come from detention," Nicholson said. "Sometimes friends of the juvenile delinquent will congregate on the third floor. And we need a safe place to put a juvenile until a court hearing can be held."

Maintenance director Adam Sparks received two quotes to construct and install the enclosure: a \$7,396 bid from American Fence Company and a \$7,780 bid from Des Moines Steel Fence Co. The structure would be enclosed with a one-inch mesh with a handle mechanism key latch.

The other part of the room would have a table for counsel and transport officers to



Nicholson

HOLDING CELL | 3A



CONTACT US

Newsroom: 641-792-3121, ext. 7 • Advertising: 641-792-3121, ext. 2
Subscriptions/Delivery: 641-792-5320 • Billing: 641-792-3121, ext. 6

SHAW MEDIA
EST. 1951