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PCM EXPLORER

PRAIRIE CITY



MSA planners Sarah Runkel and Chris Janson lead the discussion on the future of Prairie City during a community input meeting Nov. 15. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

Looking to the future

Community input workshop held on Prairie City Comprehensive Plan

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About a dozen community members came together Nov. 15 for a community input workshop on the Prairie City Comprehensive Plan. Held at the Prairie City community building, Chris Janson and

Sarah Runkel from MSA Professional Services led the group in discussions on what the city could look like for the next 20 years. "Why plan? Community planning helps shape a community physical growth, identify and secure funding opportunities to improve your city, in-

crease economic development opportunities and improve the quality of life for citizens," Runkel said. The group on hand had open discussion on three topics: Community Culture, Mobility and Development, discussing

PLANNING • 3

PCM

Prepping for state

PCM Dance Team putting early mornings to get ready for state competition Dec. 1

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All of the hard work and early mornings are about to pay off for the PCM Dance Team as they head to state competition Dec. 1. The team, featuring 12 dancers, will take the stage three times at Wells Fargo Arena for the Iowa State Dance Team Association 2023 Championships competition. "It's been going really well," coach Lainy Curry said. The team, who started

practice on their routines the second week of school, will be competing three dances, Hip Hop Class V, Novelty Class II and Pom Class VIII. Each routine has a fun theme with hip hop calling back to the days when the group Queen ruled the stage, novelty taking flight with a birds motif and pom getting country with a western theme. "Last year (our choreographer) Jay had thrown out some themes and wester was

DANCE TEAM • 3



The PCM Dance Team will hit the floor Dec. 1 for state competition at Wells Fargo Arena. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

JASPER COUNTY

Supervisors plan to fill county auditor vacancy by appointment

Local voters can petition for special election, need about 1,600 signatures



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune
Jasper County Auditor Dennis Parrott demonstrates how the absentee ballot counting machine works. Parrott announced in October he would be retiring from his office, which will leave a vacancy on Jan. 1. The board of supervisors decided appointing someone to the position would be the best move, rather than a special election. Citizens can still petition that decision.

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

All three supervisors feel the best way to fill the county auditor vacancy at the end of the year is by appointing someone rather than holding

a special election. The Jasper County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 15 voted 3-0 to fill the vacancy by appointment. The board did not determine

APPOINTMENT — See Page 3

Special election for auditor vacancy depends who is appointed, party chairs say

Local Democratic, Republican leaders could organize petition depending on who fills seat

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

The board of supervisors want to fill the county auditor vacancy by appointment, but the chairpersons from both major parties lean toward a special election. Of course they say that all depends on who is eventually appointed to head the office for the two years left in Jasper County Auditor Dennis Parrott's term — which ends in 2024 — and whether enough signatures are acquired to call a special election. Michelle Smith, chair of the Jasper County Democratic Party, said it is ultimately up to the citizens to decide whether they agree with the

supervisors' choice. Smith is not opposed to a special election. She knows it will cost money to hold a special election, but the people do have a say in who fills an elected position. "Dennis was elected and now he's retiring, so people should also have the option to elect if that's what they want," Smith said. Jasper County Supervisor Brandon Talsma said it would cost upwards of \$25,000 for special election, and with only a few years left of the term he felt it does not justify spending that kind of money. Smith very much disagreed, claiming the county "wasted several millions" on the administration building. "I don't care about \$25,000," Smith said. "It really isn't any-

thing to the budget." Thad Nearmyer, chair of the Jasper County Republican Party, is also not opposed to a special election and feels like you "can't put a price on citizens' freedom to vote." He also pointed out the county having to spend extra money to mail out postcards correcting an error made by the auditor's office regarding a tax levy. But, like Smith, Nearmyer argued it all depends on the person the board of supervisors appoints to the office sometime after Jan. 1. If it is a person the Republican Party doesn't necessarily approve of, they may petition. "Either party would probably go out and try to get signatures for an election," he said. SPECIAL ELECTION — See Page 3

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