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PCM EXPLORER

COLFAX

RIP-ROARING RODEO

Jasper County Fair kicks off festivities (and cowboys) with buckin' broncos, barrel racing and more



Cowboys and cowgirls entertained a packed horse arena during the Jasper County Fair Rodeo and Ty Carlson Memorial Bull Ride on July 14 at the county fairgrounds in Colfax. Christopher Braunschweig/PCM Explorer

MONROE

Former Mustang Diner sold again

Monroe City Council approves potential office or retail space for building

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The former Mustang Diner has once again sold. The Monroe City Council approved the sale of the building for \$20,000 during its July 10 meeting.

Two proposals were submitted for the location. The one selected did not have a firm plan but is considering an office space or the possibility of a coffee shop. They plan to put on black steel siding and a copper roof on the building and new concrete on a portion of the parking lot.

The second proposal would have demolished the building and placed approximately 10 — 14x24 ft storage bays for boats or RVs and general storage. Council members along with citizens expressed concern about people moving boats or RVs in the busy traffic area.

“With RVs and boats coming around there, could it be

causing problems with traffic?” council member Jennifer St. Peter said.

Council member Sean Wilson was also in favor of a potential retail business over more storage. In the approved proposal it states the space will not be used to put up storage buildings.

As a part of the contract, the building must be valued at \$75,000 within 18 months of the purchase.

“Something has to be done to make it worth that in 18 months,” council member Stacey McCoy said.

The potential business will bring fresh life into the property that has sat empty for more than four years. Mustang Diner closed its doors after eight years of service. Prior to the diner opening, the location was a Maid-Rite for many years.

A public hearing on the approval of the sale will be held at the Aug. 14 council meeting.



The former Mustang Diner has sold once again with the Monroe City Council approving a potential office space or coffee shop for the building. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

PRAIRIE CITY

New speed camera approved in Prairie City

City council adds speed camera for eastbound lanes of Highway 163

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A new speed camera will be added on the eastbound lanes of Highway 163 in Prairie City. The city council approved the new camera July 12, along with increasing the issue violation limit to 11 mph and above on certain cameras.

Prairie City Police Chief Kev-

in Gott said following the Iowa State Legislature discussion on speed cameras, several other cities contacted him about the program. A number of speed camera issues were discussed at the Statehouse, but none made it out of committee.

“Moving the lower threshold up to 11 will result in a decrease of 47 percent of violations,” Gott said. “This in turn will have neg-

ative impact on expected revenue.”

To help offset the loss and enforce speed violators going in the eastbound direction, Gott proposed adding another speed camera.

“We can all agree that slower speeds mean safer roadways and the revenue gained is allowing

CAMERA • 3

COLFAX

Helping a new friend | Friendship Livestock Show back in fourth year at the Jasper County Fair



Thomas Russell leads his goat during the Friendship Livestock Show at the Jasper County Fair. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

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A favorite event at the Jasper County Fair, the Friendship Livestock Show took to the ring Saturday afternoon. The inclusive activity pairs kids with special needs alongside fair participants to show livestock together.

Started by Jasper County Fair Queen Superintendent Codi DeBruin five years ago, the event is in its fourth year after taking 2020 off.

“Five years ago I had an idea that I got from a Texas county fair. I reached out to them and they took the time to talk to me about how they do their version,” DeBruin said. “I called one of the fair directors and asked if this was something I could do. I went to a fair board meeting and pitched the

idea. They said go ahead and put me into the schedule.”

Each year the response to the event has been great with new people participating along with volunteers and kids coming back to experience it again. Two of the participants, Grace and Thomas Russell, have been to all but one year of the event.

“This is their third year. They really like it,” Nicole Russell, Grace and Thomas’ mother, said. “It is fun to see them interact with other kids and learn something else from kids that are their age that are doing things they wouldn’t normally do.”

Work begins to organize the Friendship Livestock Show in the spring. DeBruin starts to gather volunteers and sponsors along with getting the word out to those who might want to participate.

“It worked out super well the first year and we’ve been doing it every since,” DeBruin said. “I just seems to magically fold together at the fair, everyone shows up to help out.”

Lasting a couple of hours, the kids first get introduced to the animals before they take to the arena.

“They come an hour before the show where they can go out to the barns, learn about the animals, how to walk them, what they eat and make that relationship so when we do the show everybody meshes really well,” DeBruin said.

First year volunteer Hayden Lowry helped a participant show one of her sheep. Along with sheep, pigs and goats are also used in the show.

“I just like helping people with

FRIENDSHIP • 3

COLFAX

Whoa, Nelly!

Fast action keeps fairgrounds safe after cow got loose

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Quick thinking helped corral a cow on the loose Saturday

at the Jasper County Fair. Several people jumped into action to get the cow back to safety with only a few scrapes and rope burns to show.



Volunteers wrangled a cow that had got loose this past weekend at the Jasper County Fair. Escaping animals is an inevitability, but staff are never too far from controlling the loose livestock. Christopher Braunschweig/PCM Explorer

Jasper County At-Large Director Reed Hiemstra was one of the people who tracked down the animal and helped make the situation safe for all

of those on the grounds. “We just make sure we shut all gates and do what we can to try and get the animal corralled safely for it and us,” Hiemstra

said. “It ran back behind one of the buildings and trapped itself. We got ahold of the halter and

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