

Jasper County Tribune

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RIP-ROARING RODEO

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



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

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.

JCARL building to become training facility for sheriff's office

Building will be open to other departments across county for training opportunities

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

The former Jasper County Animal Rescue League building, which is owned by the county, will be renovated into a training facility for the nearby sheriff's office.

Following the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 27, sheriff John Halferty and sergeant Tracy Cross met with the county supervisors to discuss their proposal for the building. The sheriff's office staff and other first responder units throughout the county have struggled to find places to train for years.



Halferty

TRAINING — See Page 3

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

Jamee A. Pierson
Editor

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 participat-

ing 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 disabilities. It is fun and I wanted to try out and do it," Lowry said. "I had a lot of fun. I'll definitely do it again."

With new sponsors and volunteers pledging their time and money even during the fair, it looks like the Friendship Livestock Show will be around for many years to come. A heartwarming event, it is a great way to be inclusive and share the love of the fair.



Jamee A. Pierson/Newton News

Thomas Russell leads his goat during the Friendship Livestock Show at the Jasper County Fair.

Whoa, Nelly!

Fast action keeps fairgrounds safe after cow got loose

Jamee A. Pierson
Editor

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.

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 ahead of the halter and got it tied up until we could get the trailer."

The animal was then load-



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

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.

ed up, and headed back home.

"Some animals don't like to be moved to different places and they react differently," Hiemstra said. "When I was

little and in 4H I had an animal that drug me around everyday at home, but when I got to the fair she was fine. Some animals are fine at

home. But you move them to a new environment and they don't like it."

COW — See Page 3



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