

# Jasper County Tribune

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## ‘The Gravel is Worth the Travel’

### RAGBRAI rolling through Colfax for 50th anniversary ride

**Jamee A. Pierson**  
Editor

Riders will be getting hungry as they pedal into Colfax for RAGBRAI 2023 and the Spring City is ready feed and entertain while the bikers are in town. Colfax was selected as a pass thru town for the 50th RAGBRAI ride July 27.

“Ragbrai is a huge, nationally famous activity for the state of Iowa, and its mind-boggling that there will be around 15,000-20,000 riders coming through

downtown Colfax in about a four-hour period of time,” Colfax Main Street Director Stuart Patterson said. “We think it’s a good time to help showcase the positive changes that have been happening in Downtown Colfax over the last decade through the efforts of volunteers, business owners and the City of Colfax.”

Starting at 9 a.m., Traffic Jam, a rock and roll jam band featuring local drummer Dave Wolf, will hit the stage. Entertainment, food



Jamee A. Pierson/Jasper County Tribune  
RAGBRAI is heading to Colfax July 27 as a pass-thru town for the 50th ride.

and drinks will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot on West Howard Street and West Division Street between Colfax City Hall and the Colfax Public Library. Riders will be able to pick from the Colfax Main Street/Quarry Springs Park Beer and Beverage Tent, Lucky Wife Wine Slushies, El Meson Taco Shack, Solar Smoothies, Sheepegate Catering and homemade pies from the Howard Street Christian Church.

“I personally have never been in Colfax when RAGBRAI has gone through before, so I’m pretty excited to see what it looks like,” Patterson said. “We are a bit worried that the

riders have to travel on gravel roads for two miles due to construction on Old Highway 6 so we’re trying to make lemonade out of lemons and hopefully providing fun entertainment and a drinking stop after the woes of cycling on gravel for a few miles. Our volunteer T-shirts say ‘The Gravel is Worth the Travel.’”

The entertainment continues from 10 a.m. to noon with Tropical Steel Iowa, a steel pan ensemble playing Caribbean music featuring Colfax natives Erin and Megan Hilker Langstraat, and Richard Arndt: Live, Loud and Acoustic rounds out the

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## FIRST-RATE SHOW!

### Rilyn Titus earns Champion Showman title at first contest appearance

**Christopher Braunschweig**  
Staff Writer

Rilyn Titus, 15, of Kellogg made her very first appearance to the Brice Leonard Supreme Showmanship Contest this year at the Jasper County Fair and managed the secure the top prize against six other competitors, three of which were returning reserve champions looking for a chance to win it all.

Cadie Horn, Luci Kucera and Lauren Zaabel earned high points this year and have all been named the reserve champion at least once

in the past three years, with the latter competitor earning the title once again this past week. Rylee DeHaai, Alyssa Machin and Avery Meyer also competed in the contest this year.

Titus entered the contest as the senior swine showman. She and her fellow competitors took turns showing horses, pigs, dairy and beef cows, sheep, goats and llamas. Following her victory at the Supreme Showmanship Contest, Titus credited all the hard work she put in at home. Still, she was surprised by the win.

“The dairy cow was a struggle for me, but I stepped in and I put the work in the two days after I found out that I was going to be competing in the Supreme Showmanship,” Titus said. “I worked with the sheep and the llamas and the dairy cow. I’ve shown cattle and goats before, and pigs obviously.”

Zaabel earned the reserve champion showman title for the first time in 2020. Back then, she said, the difference in scores between first and second place was by only one

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Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Rilyn Titus shows livestock during the Brice Leonard Supreme Showmanship Contest during the Jasper County Fair on July 20 in Colfax.

## WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Participants in the Jasper County Fair Parade on July 17 have a different take on the “It’s a jungle out here” theme and dress up as members of Guns ‘N’ Roses while playing “Welcome to the Jungle” on speakers.



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Several participants in the Jasper County Fair Parade on July 17 took advantage of the “It’s a jungle out here” theme for floats and costumes.

## Jasper County teams with IDALS for soil and water improvement projects

### Landowners interested are encouraged to call Soil and Water Conservation District

**Christopher Braunschweig**  
Staff Writer

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship formed a formal agreement with Jasper County last week that will effectively kickstart the search for bioreactor and saturat-

ed buffers projects between farm fields and local watersheds in an effort to protect water quality and reduce nutrient loss in soil.

Jasper County Supervisor Brandon Talsma said IDALS has been trying to work with landowners to implement soil conservation and edge-of-field

practices. But participation has been slim. By forming a 28E agreement with the county, Talsma said the hope is to get more landowners and farmers on board.

Using the county as a government entity and doing what IDALS calls “batch-and-build projects,” landown-

ers do not have to worry about finding contractors to install bioreactors or saturated buffers. The county is not running the program, but will instead use its bid processes to find the contractors.

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