

Jasper County Tribune

Serving Colfax • Mingo • Baxter • Western Jasper County



Jasper County Fair 2023 It's a Jungle Out Here Kicks off Thursday in Colfax



Jamee A. Pierson/Jasper County Tribune

Hilltop Haven owner Joyce Christianson cuts the ceremonial ribbon officially welcoming guests to her new Airbnb in Baxter.

Hilltop Haven brings home while away

Jasper County's newest Airbnb overlooks the beautiful Iowa landscape just south of Baxter

Jamee A. Pierson
Editor

Nestled at the top of a hill overlooking beautiful Iowa farmland, Hilltop Haven is a picture perfect place for a relaxing stay. Jasper County's newest Airbnb at 7819 Hwy S52N in Baxter offers all the luxuries of being at home and the adventure of staying somewhere new.

"We had an old, old barn and it had been in bad shape for years. Driving through the countryside I was always jealous of everybody's barn. My future daughter-in-law called it 'barn envy,'" owner Joyce Christianson said. "When the derecho came

through it really did a number on it. We tore it down and built this little venture."

Across the yard from the family home, the Airbnb is located inside the newly built barn. It features a large front porch overlooking the landscape, two bedrooms, one bathroom and a full living room, dining room and kitchen area along with a variety of other amenities.

"It just fell into play. We always travel Airbnb and I know some other area Airbnb owners who helped me with some of the set up. It's an idea to try," Christianson said. "It would be something for people who are traveling with family. We have a

pack-and-play and highchair if they have younger kids."

She also said it would be great for a girls weekend. There was even thought put into what should be in the space to accommodate the single bathroom.

"We have one bathroom and with everybody getting ready, I made sure they were strategically placed," Christianson said. "And I always like when I travel to have a washer and dryer."

Located in a barn, designer Jennifer Nevels drew inspiration from the family's history.

"The inspiration was the family farm. The minute we saw

AIRBNB — See Page 3

Colfax man's world record attempt for largest pencil collection awaits certification

Evidence needs to be submitted, initial high count shows more than 70,000



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Aaron Bartholmey, 36, speaks with two visitors during a public event July 1 at Colfax Historical Society Museum & Community Center where he showed off his pencil collection and attempted to break the Guinness World Record for largest pencil collection.

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Aaron Bartholmey, 36, of Colfax thinks he may have surpassed the Guinness World Record for largest pencil collection after two days of counting last week.

However, the final count and its validation with Guinness World Records are still to be determined. During the public event where the count took place, two people hand-counted all 490 boxes of Bartholmey's advertising pencils. Their counts were tracked on paper and recorded. Some of the counts did not match.

RECORD — See Page 3

DMACC provides lot for Jasper County's motorcycle license test course

Service makes its return after brief hiatus and is available to all Iowans

Christopher Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Jasper County has resumed motorcycle license tests as a result of a local partnership with DMACC Newton Campus.

The driver's license and motor vehicle department has not been able to provide motorcycle license tests for the past year-and-a-half. Jasper County Treasurer Doug Bishop said some of the logistics of the course changed over time, which required more space that was not possible at the course's previous location.

"It just wasn't feasible for us to use that existing location anymore," Bishop said.

Located due west of the Centre for Arts & Artists, the new course is technically on DMACC property around the Legacy Plaza area. Dr. Joe DeHart, the provost of the DMACC Newton Campus, spoke highly of the collaboration with Jasper County, and he sees it as a no-brainer for both entities and the community.

"Partnering with the county to use space at Legacy Plaza just makes sense," DeHart said in a

TEST COURSE — See Page 3

A WILD Time

Baxter Fun Days draws large crowds during the event filled weekend



Submitted Photos



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