

Mercantile building will house museum

New building provides more room for storage, souvenirs

By Jayati Ramakrishnan
Staff Writer



Staff photo by Gary L. West

David Bothum (right), board member and co-founder of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo, measures construction material for the mercantile building at the new rodeo arena at EOTEC.

Along with the new venue, visitors can expect to see some changes with the mercantile area at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo — even if all the planned features are not quite ready to go for this year’s event.

“Eventually, the room adjacent to the mercantile area will be a mu-

seum,” said Jon Gill, a board member for the rodeo. “It probably won’t be complete for this year, but that’s the intention.”

The museum will showcase the history of

the rodeo, which is entering its 30th year.

“We don’t even know exactly what we’ll have in there yet,” Gill said. “It’ll probably be old photos and archives. It’s some-

thing we’re trying to figure out.”

“The mercantile building itself has three or four functions,” Gill said. “It’s not going to house people, so to speak. But the area facing the crowd will be the mercantile area, selling t-shirts and ball caps.”

The north-facing merchandise section will have no outside entrance, and will be larger than the merchandise area at the old fairgrounds.

The east side of the building will feature a bar for Chute 8 Whiskey, named for Farm-City’s competition venue, and being used at rodeos around the West. The bar will have a walk-in cooler, and drinks will be pumped

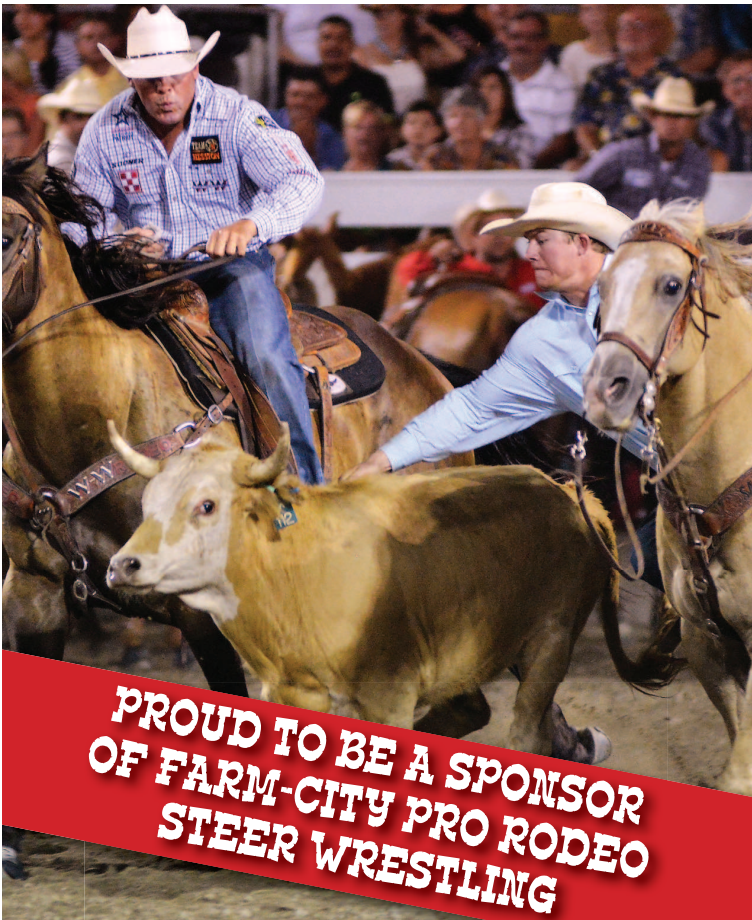
in through glycol pipes to keep them cold.

“Everything east of the mercantile area will be Chute 8,” Gill said.

The south side of the building will serve as a loading dock and storage area that will be utilized throughout the year, and the west side, a hospitality area for sponsors with a kitchen.

Gill said the board and construction crews are busy trying to get the area ready for the rodeo, and are there every evening.

“Basically, just the structure of the building is going to change,” he said. “The facade will have different features, but the inside, the inner workings will be the same.”



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