

Spring  
**CRAFT FAIR**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 3**  
**9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**  
CENTRAL PARK, WASHINGTON  
**OVER 100 VENDORS & FOOD TRUCKS**  
**FREE ATTENDANCE!**  
CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!  
café dodici  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE  
www.washingtoniowa.gov/craft-fair-spring



The 2024 Citizens of the Year are Werner Elmker (second from left) and Diane Goudy (third from left). They received their plaques from the 2023 Citizens of the Year Pete Tollenaere and Lori Fry at the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Banquet on April 24, 2025. (Andy Hallman/The Union)

# Fairfield chamber names Diane Goudy, Werner Elmker Citizens of the Year

By Andy Hallman,  
Southeast Iowa Union

FAIRFIELD – The Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 24, during which the names of this year's Citizens of the Year were revealed: Di-

ane Goudy and Werner Elmker.

## DIANE GOUDY

Both of this year's recipients happened to be recording the proceedings when their names were called, and they were equally pleased and surprised to be honored

in front of hundreds of people at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. Lori Fry, one of last year's Citizens of the Year, was at the podium to present an award to this year's winner. Goudy and Fry are good friends, so Goudy was recording Fry while she

was giving her speech, revealing details about this year's recipient without mentioning their name.

"I remember Lori saying something about how 'this person just does service and it's never

► CHAMBER, PAGE 7U

# Washington's Latino Fest canceled for 2025

By Kalen McCain, Southeast Iowa Union

WASHINGTON — Organizers say they won't hold Washington's Latino Festival this summer, canceling plans for a popular day-long annual tradition in the city's central park marked by an abundance of authentic food, flashy lucha libre matches, plus musical mariachi and "Banda" performances.

A press release about the cancellation cited non-specific "current circumstances." But in an interview late last week, Latinos for Washington President and Cofounder Sonia Leyva said the decision was driven by safety concerns, citing a nationwide arrests and deportations by federal immigration officials since President Donald Trump took office.

"We need to take care of our community members, and it's almost like we don't want to do anything that brings so much attention, and brings people there for the wrong reasons," she said, adding that she was disappointed because, "it's a family-oriented event, we've had it every summer for the last 10 years, people look forward to it ... it's supposed to be something happy, and it's turned into something that's just scary. We don't want to put anyone in danger."

While the national monthly rate of arrests in January was considerably lower than in the final year of the Biden administration according to Reuters and NBC, the current president has moved to make the process faster for immigrants without criminal records.

The Trump administration says it has arrested and deported tens of thousands of people since he took office in January, adding that roughly half of those deported had criminal records. But attorneys for many of the displaced say the process happened without sufficient legal notice, and sometimes skipped court hearings, ignored judges' orders or displaced legal U.S. residents, according to coverage in national outlets including Reuters, PBS, and Fox News.

► LATINO, PAGE 2U

# Rotary recognizes Mt. Pleasant couple for transforming communities worldwide

Cal and Rachel Litwiller's passion for service has impacted communities around the world — and now Rotary is honoring their extraordinary dedication.

By AnnaMarie Kruse, Southeast Iowa Union

MT. PLEASANT — Two longtime leaders of the Mt. Pleasant Evening Rotary Club were honored with prestigious awards for their decades of global and local service during a recent Rotary district conference.

Cal Litwiller received Rotary International Foundation's Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition given to Rotarians worldwide. Rachel Litwiller was presented with the Guardian of Integrity Award, a district honor recognizing ethical leadership and outstanding service.

Cal Litwiller sat in the audience at the conference listening to a description of the Distinguished Service Award recipient's accomplishments and tried to guess who it could possibly be. As the details unfolded — mentioning trips to Malawi and the development of new grant methods — his wife, Rachel, nudged him, realizing the honoree was none other than her husband.

"It was a huge surprise," Cal recounted. "I sat there and they were reading that description, and I looked at my wife, and I said, 'Who are they talking about?' I was trying to think who it could possibly be. Then they started talking about specifics, and my wife looked at me and said she knew it had to be me. I just sat there and [was] just in total shock. I had no idea."

► ROTARY, PAGE 2U

# Fairfield Renaissance Faire triples its attendance

By Andy Hallman,  
Southeast Iowa Union

FAIRFIELD – The Jefferson County Fairgrounds was filled with the sound of swords clanking and banjos strumming this past weekend for the third installment of the Fairfield Renaissance Faire.

Organizer Katrina Vincent said she was thrilled with the turnout, which was triple last year's. She said 950 attended the faire on Saturday and 675 attended it on Sunday for a total of 1,625.

"People loved that we tripled the entertainment with the music, the battles and the camels," she said. "They really liked that we had a variety of food and drink, with seven total food and drink vendors. But mostly people just enjoyed the atmosphere."

► FAIRE, PAGE 5U



Members of the group Skjaldborg Vikings re-enact battles using axes, spears and swords during the Fairfield Renaissance Faire on Sunday, April 27 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. (Andy Hallman/The Union)

