

FAIRFIELD Ledger

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Fairfield Rotary Club plans May carnival

By Andy Hallman,
Southeast Iowa Union

FAIRFIELD – The Rotary Club of Fairfield will host a carnival this May that it hopes will draw 700 people.

The carnival will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 in Central Park. John Hanks, one of the Rotarians organizing the event, said that date was chosen because it doesn't conflict with any other festivals in the area, and it's late enough in the spring that the weather should be nice. He hopes the carnival

can raise \$8,000-\$10,000, with money going to a designated project through the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Foundation.

The event will be a major undertaking, and Hanks said the club will need about 60 volunteers to pull it off. Rotary will be in charge of all the food and games. Patrons can fill their bellies with walking tacos, corn dogs, funnel cakes, popcorn and cotton candy. Adults and kids alike can enjoy activities such as a cake walk, bingo, raffle, 50-50 drawing and games such as cornhole, duck

pond, ring toss, and balloon pop-and-drop courtesy of Soarin' Soiree. There will be basketball hoops inside a wagon, face-painting, temporary tattoos, and a kiddie train courtesy of Community 1st Credit Union. One of the highlights to look forward to is a heated dunk tank featuring "local celebrities."

To play these games and eat these tasty treats, Rotary will sell punch cards, where each punch costs \$1, and a full punch card of 30 punches can be purchased for a discounted rate of \$25.

"That's like getting a free walking taco," Hanks said about the discount.

Rotarian Beth Alonso, who is on the carnival planning committee, said the club wanted to revamp its spring fundraising drive. It has traditionally hosted a silent auction in April, but COVID put an end to that. Hanks said the club also wanted to do something that involved the whole family.

"We want to put the 'fun' into 'fundraising'" he said.

Alonso said the silent auction was not an

ideal event for children, and she wanted to do something both family-friendly and inexpensive that everyone could be a part of. Hanks was the one who suggested doing a carnival, and the committee proposed holding it in the spring so it would not compete with Kiwanis Kids' Day in September. If all goes well, the club plans to make this an annual event.

The Rotarians hope that other service clubs will step up to volunteer, and they will reach out to high school students who need community

service hours, too. Tony Baker of Sweet 'n Saucy has agreed to be the carnival's food service manager.

Rotary International has agreed to match the funds raised from the carnival, allowing the club to double its contribution to the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Foundation.

Members of the carnival planning committee are Beth Alonso, John Hanks, John Loin, Club President Dave Reiff, and Kent and Kathy Rice.

Call Andy Hallman at 641-575-0135 or email him at andy.hallman@southeastiowaunion.com

Celebrate Recovery Brighton requests funds from opioid settlement

By Andy Hallman,
Southeast Iowa Union

WASHINGTON – The founders of Celebrate Recovery Brighton appeared before the Washington County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, asking whether some of the money from an opioid settlement could go to support their group's chapters in Brighton and Washington.

Rick and Anne Zickefoose founded the Brighton chapter of Celebrate Recovery in 2017, and the group meets weekly at 6 p.m. every Thursday at the Brighton Community Church at 101 S. Mechanic St., where Rick is the pastor. Five years ago, a chapter was formed in Washington, and that group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the United Methodist Church at 201 W. Second St.

Rick said the organization's purpose is to help anyone trying to overcome "hurts, habits and



Celebrate Recovery Brighton meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday at the Brighton Community Church at 101 S. Mechanic St. in Brighton. (Photo courtesy of Rick Zickefoose)

hang-ups," which could range from addiction to depression to recovering from abuse. Anne said the group is for anyone struggling with "feelings of worthlessness" and those in need of healing.

Rick and Anne said that they saw an article last year in the Southeast Iowa Union about Washington County joining a group of counties eligible for payouts from

► **FUNDS, PAGE 5F**



Rick and Anne Zickefoose founded Celebrate Recovery Brighton in 2017. (Photo submitted)

Fairfield school board to discuss future of middle school Feb. 9

By Andy Hallman,
Southeast Iowa Union

FAIRFIELD – The Fairfield School Board will hold a study session Monday night to discuss the future of the middle school.

The school board has tried unsuccessfully to pass a bond to build a new middle school, coming up a few percentage points short in 2024 and again in 2025. But faced with the cost of maintaining the existing building, the board is considering how to best manage its money and its responsibilities to students and teachers.

At 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, the board will convene at the ACT building for a study session specifically on the middle school, including design firms used to plan its earlier proposals for a new building. School board president Meghan Dowd Robbins said the district's SAVE funds from its penny levy could supply possibly \$23 million in bonding toward either repairs or new construction. Since the sales tax levy for this fund is already approved, this option would not require a referendum.

Another option the board will consider is asking voters to approve a smaller general

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Keokuk County man clocked at 97 mph, rolls car in Washington County

By Andy Hallman,
Southeast Iowa Union

KALONA – A Keokuk County man was arrested Sunday, Feb. 1 after he led law enforcement on a high-speed chase in Washington County.

Cole Jaren Stout, 26, of Harper, was arrested at the conclusion of the chase and charged with several crimes, including speeding, eluding and operating under the influence of alcohol (first offense).

According to the arrest report, Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Colton Schneider was conducting stationary radar in the 1000 block of Highway 1 in Kalona on Feb. 1 when he observed a vehicle traveling south at 97 mph in a 55 mph zone. He activated his emergency lights and attempted to stop the car, but the driver failed to yield and led Schneider on a pursuit westbound on 110th Street.

Schneider wrote that he was traveling at

► **KEOKUK, PAGE 5F**



Cole Jaren Stout

Pekin Schools partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace for Community Service Day

Pekin Schools are proud to announce a partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Washington/Keokuk County as part of their upcoming Community Service Day, focused on helping children in need in Keokuk County.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that no child sleeps on the floor. The organization provides beds to children ages 3-17 who are currently sleeping on floors, sofas, or other unsafe and uncomfortable conditions. Through this partnership, Pekin Schools will play a hands-on role in making a difference for local families.

On April 8, Pekin students and volunteers will help build beds that will be delivered to children in our community. In preparation for the bed build, Pekin Schools are currently hosting a Community Bedding Drive to ensure that every bed delivered includes a complete and comfortable bedding set.

The bedding drive is accepting new, unopened twin-size items, including: Sheet sets, Comforters, Bed-in-a-bag sets, Standard pillows, Waterproof mattress protectors.

Because the beds are delivered to children ages 3-17, neutral or kid-friendly colors and patterns are encouraged.

► **PEKIN, PAGE 5F**



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