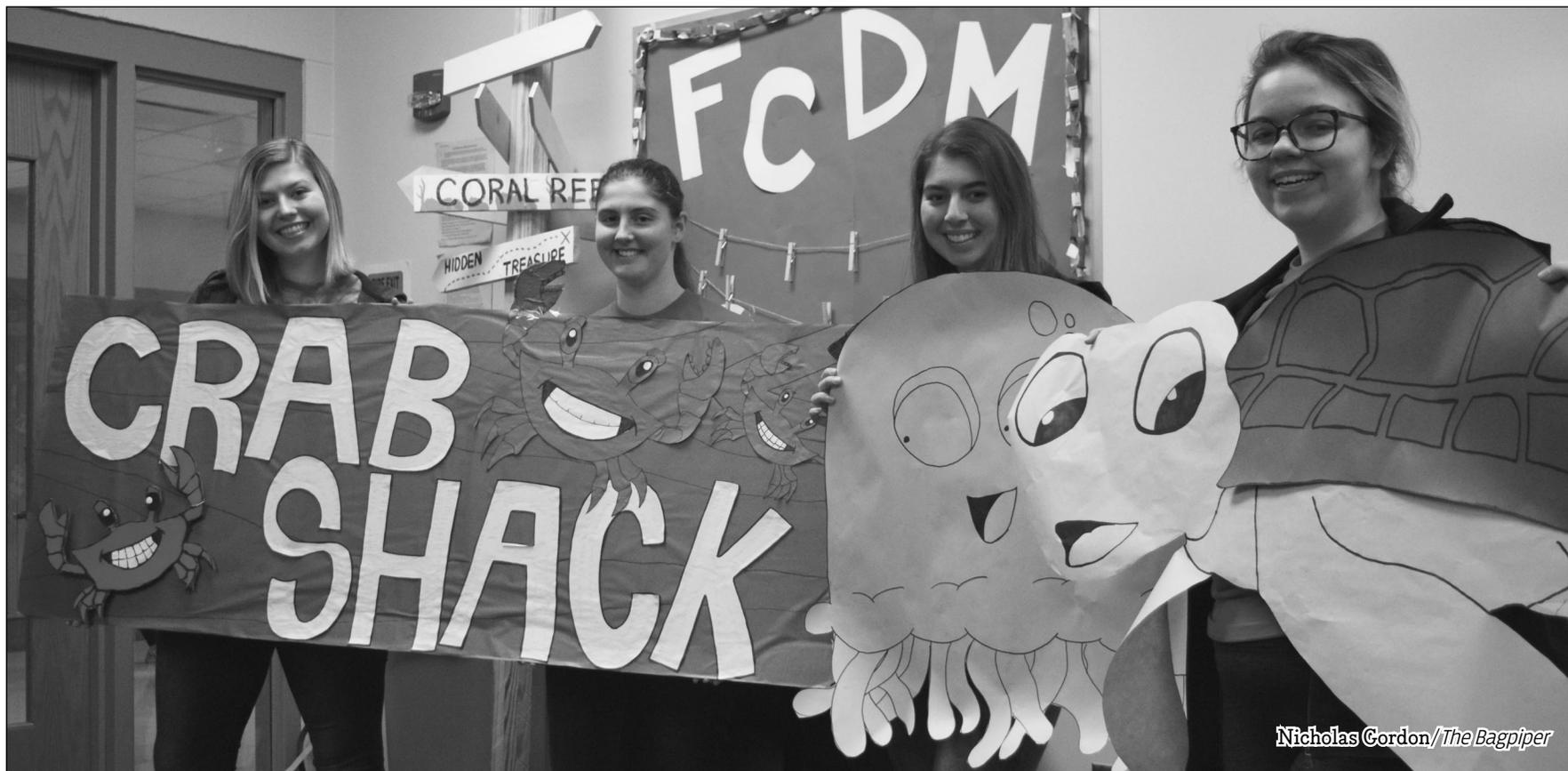


Dance Marathon brings FC under the sea



Nicholas Gordon/*The Bagpiper*

SENIORS CAITLYNN SALTZGABER, LEANNA GATTON, MAGGIE OLIVER AND JUNIOR CLAIRE ELMORE work hard to have signs, art, and props ready to go for the school event held tomorrow.

Annalise Bassett
Assistant Features Editor

Senior Caitlynn Saltzgaber sits with other Floyd Central Dance Marathon (FCDM) committee members, planning

out the last-minute details of the big night. One executive member explains plans for food and drinks, and another, the decorations.

FCDM is student-led, with staff members helping to finish planning anything for tomorrow's event.

"This is a student-run

organization. They decide the theme, organize and run the meetings, plan the food, the entertainment, the decorations," said decorations committee sponsor Rachel Sketo. "The teacher sponsors help to keep the students on track. We remind them of things that need to be done, help them reach their goals, but the students run the show."

Tomorrow's dance

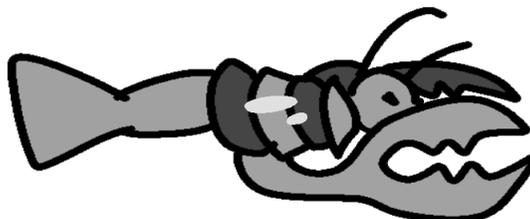
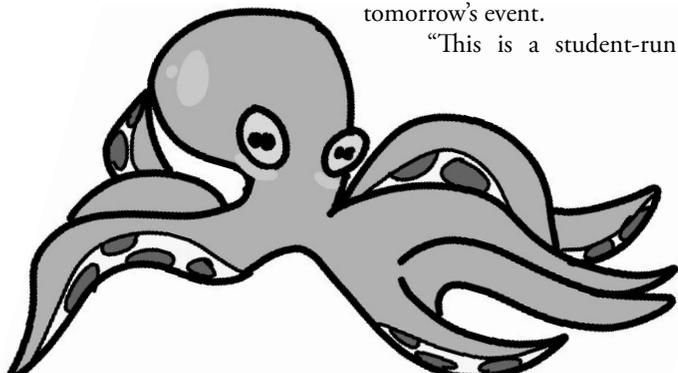
marathon is an all-day event with great food, activities, decorations, and more. The money they raise goes to supporting Riley Children's Hospital. Riley Children's Hospital is a hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana, that treats kids no matter if their family can pay for treatment. Riley accepts donations and uses fundraisers, such as FCDM, to pay for treatments for kids

whose families cannot afford it. FCDM may take place the last weekend in February, but all of the work for the whole day starts almost a year in advance.

"We begin the year with new and returning exec and have sign-ups for the committee members and then continue through the year," said Saltzgaber.

Execs and team members work together in their individual committees to plan out and work every little detail.

"We then select a group [of] students to be on each of those committees and that's when the fun starts," said Sketo. "Each committee is in charge of a different aspect of our



fundraising events.”

Execs are an important part of the staff, as they each lead one committee.

“To become an executive, you need to prove to the teacher sponsors that you have what it takes to represent dance marathon at an interview,” said junior Olivia Stinson. “If someone wants to be an executive member, you apply and have an interview with the teacher sponsors, and explain why you want to be a bigger part of FCDM.”

The students who help set up and plan FCDM are broken down into six different committees.

“There are committees: fundraising, entertainment, hospitality, morale, Riley relations, and decorations; and after deciding a theme, we all work towards putting it together,” said entertainment committee sponsor Matthew Townsend.

The morale committee creates the dance that all of the participants at FCDM do during the event, together.

Every organization needs money to buy the products they need to run smoothly, including food, decorations, games, and more.

“Fundraising comes up with the ideas of what to do to raise money so we can get as much money as we can for the kids,”

said junior Sydney Moeller.

Fundraisers can be anything, from parties at the elementary and middle schools to the chili supper before a basketball game.

“I’m in the fundraising committee, so we work on getting corporate sponsors and do other events such as the silent auction,” said junior Carter Blessing.

FCDM is full of decorations, both at the event and in the hallways beforehand to advertise Dance Marathon.

“Decorations is responsible for everything you see, so literally every single decoration there to see, it was made by us,” said Moeller. “I know being in decorations, we meet every single week for a couple hours to make a new decoration.”

The hospitality committee talks to local businesses and organizations to have food donated to FCDM so attendees can snack with friends.

“Hospitality is in charge of food and drinks, and talking to companies to donate food for us,” said Moeller.

The entertainment committee is one of the biggest aspects for FCDM. All of the fun activities at FCDM are run by this committee.

“Entertainment plans and prepares activities for events including night of, [and] runs events on night of,” said morale committee sponsor Ashley Faith.

As the whole point for the event is to help support Riley Children’s Hospital, FCDM has a committee to communicate with the hospital and the families there. Families of Riley are invited to come to FCDM and enjoy the event.

“Riley Relations works families [of Riley Children’s] and encourages them to come out to the event and also to share their story and how Dance Marathon has helped them,” said Moeller.

FCDM tries to get as much money as possible raised for Riley Children’s Hospital, and all of their hard work goes to that cause.

“What we do, as members of Dance Marathon, and as dancers, is so extremely important because every single dollar counts,” said Saltzgeber. “Every single hour spent planning and executing Dance Marathon is crucial and so valuable because we are literally saving lives. Without donors, Riley wouldn’t have a lot of the vast array of programs that it

does.”

Teachers and staff members work with students to put FCDM together, and to make the event perfect. Each committee has their own sponsor.

“Each teacher gets to sponsor a committee and help that committee throughout the season. We can look to them for ideas and they keep us motivated to reach our goals,” said Stinson.

Other teachers outside of the FCDM staff also help out with other things for the event.

“Mr. Lang helps out with the media aspect, [and] Mr. Shaw helps with pushing the event live,” said Townsend.

Everyone in FCDM wants to help in the biggest way possible, and they want everyone to try to come to tomorrow’s dance marathon.

“We would love it if every

student at FC were able to be involved with FCDM at some point while they are a student here,” said junior Autumn Worrall.

All of the hard work and money raised is very important to each student on FCDM, and even more important to the kids at Riley Children’s.

“The money raised goes to Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis, where half goes [to] pediatric cancer research, and half goes to the hospital,” said Stinson. “I encourage everyone to go to Dance Marathon because not only is it a fun time with friends, [but also] it teaches us that we are extremely fortunate to have the lives we have and not to take it for granted. We have a saying, ‘FTK,’ which means ‘for the kids.’ In dance marathon, everything we do is for the kids.”

Under The Sea

Dance Marathon is tomorrow from
1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20. To get a t-shirt, it
is an additional \$20.

