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Bar celebrates its 50th anniversary

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By Eric Robinette

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — One of the oldest establishments in Fairfield celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

The Elbo Room occupies a strip shopping center in Fairfield on 1115 Magie Avenue in Fairfield. It's only had two owners, and the current one, Sandi Coffey, is also one of its former patrons. It's only nine years younger than Fairfield itself, which was incorporated in 1955. The only bars that were older were near the former Fisher Body plant

"I've owned it about 10½ years. There was one previous owner. So it's been the same name, same location for over 50 years. My dad used to bring me here when I was a little girl, which is the reason that I bought it. It was kind of a sentimental thing," said Coffey, who had never owned a business before then.

The Elbo Room got its name, a variation of the phrase "elbow room," courtesy of the mother of the original owner, George Brockman. He converted the Elbo Room from a pizza parlor. Brockman, 89, is still a customer of the bar, having attended the anniversary party in June, said Coffey.

One of the hottest tickets at the bar is its old-style bowling arcade game, in which players roll a ball across a platform to hit the pins, which fall up instead of down. It's so popular, it has its own league, said Mike Keller, Carol's partner who helps run the bar.

"Dads used to bring their kids in here. And now their kids are coming in here and grandkids are coming in here. It's been a family thing for a long time," Keller said.

The bar's features include a bucket special for veterans, game night on Wednesdays with trivia or a Family Feud-style game. The Elbo Room will also introduce a Fairfield Alumni night every other Saturday, starting Aug. 2, Coffey said.

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