

# Opinions & Comments

## Library Notes

by Sophia Marvets

Library hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to noon

The Kentucky Derby is right around the corner, and we’re hosting a fabulous workshop to help you get derby-ready in style! You’ll get hands-on experience creating your very own Derby hat or fascinator. Don’t worry if you’ve never crafted before – we’ll provide everything you need to bring your ideas to life, from stylish ribbons and feathers to glitzy accents and more! \*Those wishing to decorate a hat must bring their own. Fascinators and hat making workshop: Thursday, May 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Events and activities-

1. Silent Book Club: Monday, May 5. There’s no assigned reading. Bring your ebooks, audiobooks, textbooks, comic books... it’s BYOBook. Great for extroverts and introverts alike. Friends and strangers gather and share what they’re reading and settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. 5:00: Grab a drink and a snack, socialize and find a seat. 5:30 to 6:30: Shh.. Silent reading time. 6:30 to 7:00: More socializing (if you want to!).
2. Stepping stone making: Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. Create your own garden stepping stone. We will supply cement and glass gems. You may bring additional items to add to your stone. Registration is required as space is limited. All children must be accompanied by someone 14 years old or older. FREE.
3. Celebrate Mother’s Day with Home Grown Bakery: Saturday, May 10, at 5:00 p.m. Choose between a heart, star or circle shaped cake with the option vanilla or chocolate! All you have to do is decorate! The cost is \$50 per family, and spots are limited to 10 families. Be sure to pre-register at the bakery or contact Destiny at (563) 518-1221 to reserve your spot!
4. Genealogy Time: Monday, May 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are kicking off with how to start a family tree, organizing records and searches while connecting with others on the same journey.
5. Teen Night: Tuesday, May 13, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Hey teens! Grab your friends and join us for an epic teen night filled with movies, pizza and good vibes! We’ll pick out a movie and be munching on delicious free pizza and hanging out! Don’t miss out on the fun—bring your squad and let’s make it a night to remember!
6. Monthly craft - floral painting: Thursday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of creativity! Whether you’re a pro or just picking up a brush, come paint beautiful florals in a cozy atmosphere. Please register as seating is limited. Intended for ages 14 and up.
7. Mindful meditation workshop: Saturday, May 17, at 10:00 a.m. Listen. Learn. Grow. Interested in learning more about mindful meditation? Want to understand how it can benefit you and the ways you can practice it in your everyday life? Join us as we partner with Community Memorial Hospital’s Senior Life Solutions. This program is for all ages.
8. Lord of the Rings Trivia Night: Thursday, May 22, at 5:30 p.m. Spaces are limited like lembas bread in Mordor—so RSVP now and prepare to RING in the fun. One trivia night to rule them all.
9. Coping strategies for stress with Dr. Petronella Langley, PhD. Thursday, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. Feeling overwhelmed? You’re not alone. Life gets busy — school, work, relationships, deadlines and the pressure to keep it all together. But stress doesn’t have to take over. In our upcoming class on coping strategies for stress, we’ll explore healthy, practical ways to manage the pressure and regain control.
10. Toddler story time: Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the children’s area. Toddlers through preschool-aged children and caregivers are invited to listen, play and socialize. Upcoming story time themes: April 30, sun safety visit from the Bremer County Health Department; May 7, Mother’s Day; May 14, gardens; May 21, farms; and May 28, beaches.
11. Bremer County Health Department foot clinic: First and second Thursdays each month. Clinic is available to individuals 55-plus years of age and/or significantly disabled who have difficulty with their own foot care due to vision, agility or whatever detriments may prevent regular foot care. For appointments, call the Bremer County Health Department (319) 352-0082, recommended minimum donation of \$30. Walk-ins not available.

Upcoming Closure-  
Saturday, May 24, and Monday, May 26. Regular hours will resume Tuesday, May 27.

Book Clubs/Groups:

- Kids Book Club: Wednesday, May 7, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat.
- Evening Book Club: Thursday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Hello Stranger* by Katherine Center.
- In the Stacks Book Group: Thursday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss *The Cabin at the End of the Train* by Michael Ivanov.
- Friday AM Coffee Book Group: Friday, May 16, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss *Good, Good Pig* by Sy Montgomery.

Visit the library Facebook, Instagram and website (www.sumner.lib.ia.us) for the most up to date information. If there are questions regarding any services, please contact the library at (563) 578-3324 or email library@sumner.lib.ia.us.



This was the news...

2024 - 2015  
2000 - 1975

May 2, 2024

High school senior, Neva Brockmeyer, was asked to illustrate an upcoming children’s book titled “Mausdrachen: The Winsomeness Inside” by Thea Kvamme, which follows the story of part mouse, part dragon creature named Nausdrachen and part snake, part weasel creature named Wheezie.

The Sumner-Fredericksburg High School music department presented the annual spring concert Saturday, April 27. Amelia Rader performs her solo on her bari saxphone in the jazz band’s selection “Groanin’.”

The Sumner-Fredericksburg Community School Distict board of education provided an update on the superintendent hiring search last week. The three finalists are Micah Gearhart, Josh Moser and Kevin Seney.

Jason Scanlan, Frederika, was named the Bremer County EMS Provider of the Year and is pictured with those who nominated him, including Kip Ladage and Jim Schutte.

April 30, 2015

The Durant Elementary sang about “creepy crawlies” at the annual spring concert Friday, April 24, with the program called “Giggle, Wiggle and Squirm” featuring kindergarten, first- and second-graders. Lincoln Holtz, Braedy Schroeder and Emma Grimes ring their bells during the kindergarten’s song, “Sing a Ling a Ling.” The song “A Snake in the Grass” featured some s-s-s-slippery snakes including Katie Walvatne, Jamie Jones, Avery Werner and Olyvia Schoonover.

The Thomas E. Woods Post 223, Sumner American Legion and Auxiliary selected the 2015 Poppy girl and veterans. Selected for this year’s ceremony include Bob Pipho, Jack Melinger, Harold (Pat) Snyder and Earl Brandt. The 2015 Poppy girl is Zoey Rhea and is the daughter of Gene and Brooke Rhea, Fredericksburg.

Krayton Allen and Becca Pagel are neck and neck going into the final stretch of the 100-meter dash at the Cougar Invitational Monday night. Allen narrowly edged out Pagel in this competition with times of 12.89 and 12.96, respectively. The two girls picked up several wins to hlp the Cougars win the meet. Allen also won the 400-meter dash.

May 4, 2000

Brittany Lantzky watched and learned from her mother Sue Lantzky, Sumner, how to band together international freight at Rockwell Automation. Thursday, April 27, was “Bring your Children to Work Day” at the Rockwell plant in Sumner.

The year 2000 marks 100 years since the deaths of Sumner’s founders, Chancy Carpenter (1830-1900) and Stephen F. Cass (1839-1900).

Mr. and Mrs. John Buhr, Sumner, are celebrating their 50th anniversary with a card shower. They were married may 10, 1950, at the Little Brown Church, Nashua. They are parents of three children: Wayne Buhr, John W. Buhr and Cheryel Stevenson. There are eight granddaughters.

Members of St. John Lutheran Church, Sumner, confirmed Palm Sunday, April 16, include: Pastor Norman Stubbendick, Amanda Kuhlmann, Holly Rader, Abby Duhrkopf, Neil Davis, Joshua Krueger, Kristen Huebner, Andrew Boeckmann, Pastor John Sorrenson, Dana Steggall, Brianna Read, Jenna Miner, Jenilee Kohlmeier, Breanne Luebbers, Meredith Shaffner, Kassi Snyder and Joshua Priebe.

May 1, 1975

Saturday’s Walkathon, which attracted more than 125 people on a cold, blustery, unspringlike day, netted more than \$2500 for the American Lung Association of Iowa and was termed a huge success by Bremer County Lung Association Chairman, Jim Lahmann of Sumner.

The Sumner Future Farmers of America Chapter was named winner of an Area Award in “Building our American Communities” competition Friday during the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference held at Sioux City. Members of the Sumner Future Farmers of America Chapter attended the annual State Conference last weekend at Sioux City and include Dianne Scott, Tom Miller, Kevin Meyer, Eldo Pries, Ron Hartman, Dan Weltner, Steve Pleggenkuhle, Joel Schlatter and Jeff Reynolds.

Traci Lyn Ganske born Apr. 21 at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ganske, Jr. of Sumner. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Ganske, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Duhrkopf, all of Sumner.

## 100 Years Ago

April 30, 1925

Miss Ella Kirchoff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Kirchoff, and Mr. Leonard Wilharm, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilharm, were united in marriage Sunday afternoon at the St. John’s Lutheran Church. Rev. Mar-dorf performed the ceremony.

Sumner will have league baseball again this year according to plans completed at an organization meeting in Sumner Tuesday evening. Six teams will compose the league, New Hampton, Lawler, Readlyn, Denver, Tripoli and Sumner.

W. A. Ribbeck and Sons have installed a new steam presser in their store, to be operated in connection with their dry cleaning department.

Mrs. Agnes Carpenter has been seriously ill at her home for the past few days, her life Friday and Saturday having been despaired of. We are glad to report her condition better and hope that this estimable pioneer will soon be completely covered.



## CAPITOL CORNER

From the desk of Sandy Salmon . . .

Ding! Dong! Is the CO2 Pipeline Really Dead??

Last I left off with you, HF 639, a good property rights protection bill that came over from the House, was amended by the Senate Commerce Committee Chair Sen. Bousset to take out from the bill protection from the use of eminent domain by a company with a project that is not a public use. It removed the requirement for proof of a public use and the requirement for the company to be a common carrier in order to exercise the power of eminent domain. Those were the protections that were needed and they were taken out!

For more detail on this amendment and its issues, please see my April 5th newsletter: [https://irp.cdn-website.com/c2e95eab/files/uploaded/My\\_Newsletter\\_4-5-2025.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/c2e95eab/files/uploaded/My_Newsletter_4-5-2025.pdf)

Then Sen. Alons put an amendment onto Sen. Bousset’s amendment to return the bill back to the way it originally was. After that Senate leadership did not want to bring the bill to the floor. We are looking at several other strategies to get a bill to the Senate floor before the legislative session ends, about two or three weeks away.

Meanwhile in South Dakota.....South Dakota courts had given Summit another opportunity to come up with a plan as to how they could build a pipeline through the state. So last Tuesday, that hearing was held before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). They denied Summit’s application to construct a CO2 pipeline through South Dakota. Even when the PUC asked, Summit could make no argument as to how they might restart in South Dakota.

According to the order our Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) issued in June of 2024, there has to be agency approval in South Dakota and North Dakota in order for Summit to have approval to build the pipeline in Iowa. This means that one of the conditions on which our IUC approved a permit to Summit to use eminent domain cannot be met.

From the IUC 500-page Final Order-Summit Pipeline, June 25, 2024- “...the Board will condition the construction of certain segments based upon certain conditions occurring. Summit Carbon will not be allowed to begin construction in Iowa unless and until the North Dakota and South Dakota PUC’s have approved a route....”

As a South Dakota PUC commissioner told Summit’s lawyer (paraphrased): “You don’t have a SD easement that gives you a way into SD, you don’t have a path through SD, and you don’t have an easement to get to the ND border”. Stated: you don’t have a plan.

Iowa is an agricultural state and our constitutional rights to private property must absolutely be protected if we expect our farmers and landowners to invest in their property. This right is listed in our Bill of Rights. It is key not only to liberty but also to prosperity. That is why the Founders put it in there.

We are so used to have our property rights protected as Americans we don’t know what it’s like when we don’t have them protected. It’s taken quite awhile for us to wake up to this critical danger. We have over 800 farmers and landowners now threatened with a serious erosion of these fundamental rights. This is unprecedented in Iowa history! We have not seen the likes of this before in our state. We are at a true watershed moment where we need to stand up and fight for these rights or risk losing them.

Passed the Senate

The following bills have passed the Senate this past week:

Adoptive Parent Employees-HF 248: Employers would be required to treat adoptive parents of a 0-6 year-old child and biological parents of a newborn the same in terms of policies, benefits, and protections for the first year of the adoption.

Health Insurance Coverage for Autism-HF 330: Mandates health insurance coverage of treatment for autism spectrum disorder. Prohibits a health insurance plan or policy to establish an aggregate annual or lifetime limit on coverage benefits for autism. Also prohibits a limitation on the number of outpatient visits for applied behavior analysis or for the treatment of autism. Eliminates the maximum age of 19 for mandated coverage of applied behavioral analysis benefits.

Right to Try Upgrade-SF 233: Expands Iowa’s “Right to Try” Act to include “individualized investigational treatment”. Also allows a patient that has a life-threatening or severely debilitating illness, as confirmed by a doctor, to participate in the program. Patient must have exhausted all other U.S. FDA-approved treatment options. This allows Iowans diagnosed with a rare disease that has a limited positive outcome the option to seek specialized treatment not covered by the FDA or not in a clinical trial. Eliminates any burdens or regulatory barriers by the federal government.

National Guard Credentials Scholarship Program-HF 117: Allows the National Guard to use its tuition assistance funding given to national guard members for bachelors or associates degrees to be also used for credentialing programs. The National Guard is finding more and more prospective guard members seeking a certificate credential instead of a degree. Not all want to get a 4-year degree. The workforce is changing and wants options in post-secondary education such as STEM fields or a career in the advanced trades.

Foster Parent Custodial Rights-HF 644: Allows foster parents to provide emergency and routine medical care and participate in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a foster child in their care. When the biological parent is not present or unable to be reached

(Continued on page 8)

## Community hears information on school district needs, facilities plan (Concluded from page 1)

Hildebrandt.

The goal for the project, Seney added, was to create personalized, project-based learning spaces, flexible environments and shift from rigid, traditional classrooms to learning spaces and suites. They also want to create updated CTE areas as S-F has outstanding CTE programs and needs improved spaces for more access, as well as needed STEM programming space. He commented they also want to create CTE hubs to attract students from other districts.

S-F’s infrastructure is aging with a significant amount of deferred maintenance needs, Seney commented. Both elementary buildings are in poor condition, and each of the four buildings has outdated and inefficient modern HVAC. Regarding space

utilization, he expressed the middle school and high school have higher square foot per student compared to new schools, and each building has inefficient configurations which leads to higher operational costs.

With operational inefficacies, Seney stated a lot of staff have to be shared between buildings, which can create gaps in programming, higher transportation costs and less time with students. Each building also needs improved security systems, as well as secure, welcoming entry spaces.

“We want to do what’s best for our kids while being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars. We want to direct the dollars we’re pouring into our facilities toward programming, staffing and students,” Seney expressed. “Being more energy efficient is huge for us.

Updating those mechanical, boiler and HVAC systems will save us money down the road. Addressing our facility needs now will prevent more costly emergency repairs in the future with more preventative versus reactive spending. We can’t not do something, and I think we all agree on that.”

Schwarze provided cost analysis information on each of the four buildings in the district. He explained at Durant Elementary, the district will more than likely have to spend \$3,398,500 in the next five years, with repairs including boiler replacement and associated mechanical work, asbestos abatement in pipe insulation, electrical issues like fire alarms, emergency exit lights and others, security access and information technology updates.

The high would have likely \$4,552,000 in the next five years, with similar issues including restroom and locker room ADA updates. The middle school would need \$5,335,00 in repairs and Fredericksburg Elementary would need \$3,203,700 in the next five years.

On average, Fredericksburg Elementary has \$94,200 in annual maintenance, Durant Elementary has \$123,000, the middle school has

\$206,100 and the high school has \$307,500. The amount of deferred maintenance, which are the issues not being fixed at the time, is \$247,395 for Fredericksburg Elementary, \$335,765 for Durant Elementary, \$72,555 for the middle school and \$304,225 for the high school.

Schwarze explained if two boilers went down in the district within the next few days, they would be spinning their wheels on how to pay for it. With the current state of boilers and HVAC equipment, it was something that could realistically happen.

Hildebrandt went into detail about each building, regarding their square footage and when additions were built onto each facility. He explained Fredericksburg Elementary has 31,000 square feet with 80 percent of the facility built before 1968. Durant Elementary has 41,000 square feet with 90 percent built before 1960. The middle school has 68,700 square feet and has the most new square footage with 40 percent built in 2010. The high school has 102,000 square feet with 18,000 square feet added in 2010.

Hildebrandt expressed when building new facilities, they aim to

have 150 to 200 square feet per student, so each building in the school district is currently larger than it needs to be with the amount of students enrolled. He added it creates inefficiencies in the building with the increased square footage.

Regarding taxation, Seney stated any prospective facilities project will require the financial support of the communities, which will come through property taxes. An increase of \$2.70 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation through a general obligation bond would generate \$14.6 million in additional funding. The district will also obligate \$11 million of SAVE funding toward the project, which is 20 years of one-half of S-F’s future sales tax revenue with no impact on taxpayers. It would generate an approximate \$25 million to \$27 million for the project.

Seney also spoke about an increase of \$4.05 per \$1,000 assessed value, which would generate \$22,299,806 from taxpayers. He added that is not something the district is looking toward as it would also require a two-vote bond issue. The \$2.70 increase would move S-F to the middle of the

North Iowa Cedar League conference in terms of property tax.

Seney provided examples of how the increase would affect property owners. With a \$100,000 value home, which needed to include the property tax rollback and homestead credit, the property owner would see \$114 in additional taxes.

Ken McFarland presented an option to the community and the administration for a three-building design for the district. He stated each community would maintain its elementary students, with Durant Elementary preschool through fourth grade being added to the high school building.

The middle school would remain fifth through eighth grade, while Fredericksburg Elementary would be preschool through fourth grade at the east wing with special needs students being taught in the west wing. He commented it would resolve the green space problem at the middle school if they included elementary students there, as green space was already designed into an option at the high school.

Rent it, Buy it, Sell it . . .  
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

563-578-3351