

# Fredericksburg Review

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Hansel (Lane Munk) and Gretel (Alli Hagen) watch as the dead witch (Connor Stimson) is dragged off stage by the narrator Marshall Dillon.

## Middle school play makes audiences laugh with the Brothers Grimm tales

The Sumner-Fredericksburg Middle School fifth- through eighth-grade students made audiences laugh with their spring production of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" last week.

Students took to the stage four times including two shows Thursday, March 26, with a matinee and evening performance and one performance both Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28. All shows were held in the S-F Middle School gymnasium. Abbylee Priebe and Abigail Kurtz were directors, and Anna Desloover was the student director.

This chaotic comedy raced through dozens of Grimm fairy tales, including Snow White, Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel and more, all with a modern twist and plenty of unexpected surprises. This show allowed students to showcase their acting skills, creativity and strong ensemble work in new ways.

This year's production also highlighted the collaboration between middle school and high school students. High schoolers assisted in a variety of roles, including technical support, direction and even onstage performances, helping to strengthen connections across grade levels and build a stronger theatre community.

Reid Meyer and Marshall Dillon were Narrator 1 and 2, respectively, while Lydia Prosser was Actor. Lily Shepard was Girl, and Sophie Rochford and Paige Holtz portrayed the Dirt Merchant. Brynn Rethamel was Enchantress, while Dory Baker was the



The Raven (Grace Rethamel, right) warns Johannes (Brynn Rethamel) of what he must do so he doesn't turn to stone.

Devil, Luis Botello played Rumpelstiltskin and Connor Stimson was the Prince.

Taking the stage as Rapunzel was Elise Tiedt, while Prince 2 was Baker. Portraying Hansel were Lane Munk and Jaxon Bergmann, while Gretel was Alli Hagen. The Witch was Stimson and Bradley Arthur played the Audience Member.

Tandee Drudik played Fishergirl,

Botello was Talking Fish and Arthur was Chet. Having fun playing Crab Person 1 and Crab Person 2 were Munk and Holtz, respectively. Making the audience laugh as the princess was Drudik, Baker was Frog Prince and Stimson as the King.

Tiedt took on the role as Snow White, while Faith Chandler and Botello were Dwarf 1 and Dwarf 2, respectively.

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## S-F School Board approves early retirement, advances SAVE bond actions

The Sumner-Fredericksburg School Board held a special meeting Monday, March 23, regarding SAVE bonds and a public hearing for the property tax levy. Board members Jamie Steege, Mike DeSloover, Ken McFarland and

Janet Wendland were present, and Ashlyn Laabs was absent.

In the special meeting, the board approved the early retirement application for Victoria "Tori" Fowler-Sorenson. Superintendent Ryan Cunningham

explained Sorenson was impacted by reduction in force, and she asked afterward if she qualified for early retirement as she reached the age requirement this past February.

Cunningham stated she technically missed the deadline, but it would be a board decision to accept her application as they did with the previous early retirement approval of Steve Crawford. He added the management fund is used to pay for early retirement benefits and they had budgeted for it.

Questions from the board included having the retiree find another job outside of the district that offered insurance following their retirement from S-F. Cunningham said when employees retire, the funds from the district are put into an HRA account. The money would go toward insurance, but it did not have to be through Sumner-Fredericksburg as they are no longer an employee with the district.

McFarland asked if the board was "opening some sort of box" with Crawford's exception after the deadline, and Cunningham answered it was written in the policy decisions were at the dis-

edge of Fredericksburg and the Dairy Days celebration and will be expected to attend a variety of events throughout the community as Miss Fredericksburg during her reign. The Dairy Days board can assist in setting up events if needed.

The Miss Fredericksburg winner will receive a \$750 college scholarship upon completion of her reign. Judging will be held Friday, June 5, prior to the morning parade and coronation will take place after the morning parade.

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## Royalty candidates, parade entries sought for 2026 Dairy Days

The Dairy Days board is busy preparing for the 102nd annual celebration of Dairy Days and they recently announced they are seeking applications for 2026 royalty and parade entries. This year Miss Fredericksburg, Little Miss Fredericksburg and Little Mister Fredericksburg will be crowned.

The role of Miss Fredericksburg is open to applicants between the ages of 16 and 21 prior to Aug. 1, 2026, and they must have a Fredericksburg address. Those applying for Miss Fredericksburg must have general knowl-

edge of Fredericksburg and the Dairy Days celebration and will be expected to attend a variety of events throughout the community as Miss Fredericksburg during her reign. The Dairy Days board can assist in setting up events if needed.

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## Annual Fredericksburg Easter tub hunt set for this Saturday

The annual Fredericksburg Easter tub hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at the Fredericksburg Fire Station. The hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. for preschool to fifth-grade children.

Once again there will be children's bicycles and helmets as grand prizes, which will be drawn before the hunt, and registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The fire department asks for vehicles to not park along the highway and encourages people to arrive early in order to find a place to park.

The bicycles for the 2026 Fredericksburg Easter Egg Hunt are sponsored by Rex and Kim Nolte and Nolte Excavating; Justin and Kacey Gansen and Rick's Service Center;

Todd and Amy Warnke and All Stop; Dr. Luke Brinkman and Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic; Dean Speicher and Speicher Excavating; Stan and Andy Trask and New Hampton Auto Body; Glen Davis and Here's 2U; and Sherry Mattke. Kyle and Megan Wendland and Meatory on Main are sponsoring a prize for children under 2 years of age.

The helmets are sponsored by Dr. Sawyer Anderson and Anderson Chiropractic Clinic; Mitch Haugen and Mitch Haugen Construction; Craig Speltz and Speltz Electric; and Shawver Well Company. The candy is being sponsored by Bill Drewelow and North Iowa Fur Company; Ray and Lorraine Armbricht;

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## S-F FCCLA members see success at state, three events qualify for nationals

Members of the Sumner-Fredericksburg FCCLA chapter attended the Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference Sunday, March 22, through Tuesday, March 24, in Cedar Rapids. The State Leadership Conference is an opportunity for Iowa FCCLA members to celebrate the past year of hard work on various projects as well as develop their leadership skills with members from around the state.

S-F had five students advance three projects to nationals which will be held July 6-10 in Washington, D.C. Emma Grimes earned a gold in fashion design, while Deanna Balk and Megan Balk competed in interior design and received a gold. Jaci Snyder and Cece Sperfslage were awarded a gold in chapter in review display.

In the event of hospitality, tourism and recreation, Kalena Quigley and Skylar Harnsich earned a gold. Harnsich finished in first in her Iowa Event of interior design sketch, while Grimes earned third in her Iowa Event of fashion sketch. Sperfslage was named the 2026-2027 vice president of community service for the FCCLA

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Deanna Balk (left) and Megan Balk proudly display the gold medals they won in the event of interior design. They will compete at the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in July. (Photo submitted)

## Mike DeSloover named 2026 Bremer County EMS Provider of the Year

Mike DeSloover never set out to earn awards. For the Sumner paramedic and Sumner Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) director, service has always been about people — the neighbors who call for help, the volunteers who show up beside him, and the family who supports the long nights and unpredictable hours. Recently, the Waverly Exchange Club made it official, honoring DeSloover as the 2026 Bremer County EMS Provider of the Year.

It's a recognition that highlights not only his leadership, but the dedication and hard work of a man who joined SEMS five years ago simply because he wanted to give back. "I saw it as a way to give back to the community and thought the work was rewarding,"

he said in reflecting on his start with SEMS.

Since then, DeSloover has stepped into increasingly vital roles, from an EMT to paramedic after seeing a need in the emergency service. He completed his paramedic certification and training in November 2024 which included months of classes and in-person experience in hospitals. His journey also took him from interim director in March 2025 to permanent director guiding SEMS through one of its busiest years on record.

DeSloover's leadership style mirrors the culture of SEMS itself, humble, collaborative and rooted in service. He credits his parents for instilling the value of giving back and said he tries

to pass that same vision on to his children. He also emphasizes SEMS' success is shared.

"I wouldn't be the provider I am today without their guidance, mentorship, leadership and, most importantly, their friendship," he added. "I can't take credit for it all. I have an amazing wife and family that let me be gone what seems like almost every night. They are my support squad."

"On the other end, my EMS team makes my job easy, and I consider them my family too."

He was joined at the award presentation by his wife, Sharlet, and two of their children, Charlie and Peyton, with the honor presented by Kip Ladage and Jim Schutte.



Mike DeSloover (center) was honored as the 2026 Bremer County EMS Provider of the Year. He is pictured with Bremer County EMS Association members Jim Schutte (left) and Kip Ladage, his wife Sharlet and children Charlie and Peyton. (Photo submitted)