

School board approves changes to bus routes, music teacher configuration

The Sumner-Fredericksburg School Board met Monday, March 13, with members Jamie Steege, Roger Wedemeier, Ashley Meyer, Lonnie Schult and Mike DeSloover present.

Wedemeier presented changes to the bus route system to make the school district compliant with the state regarding time students are spending on the bus. He commented he and Stan Koester have been working for several weeks trying to tweak the routes to be in compliance with the state and they believe they have fixed the problem.

The two men have been planning and driving routes to make sure it's as close as possible to the allotted time students are allowed to be on the bus. Under normal driving conditions, Wedemeier stated the new route setup will cut about 10 minutes off students' time on the bus and have students to Fredericksburg for breakfast at 7:45 a.m.

"I'm not going to tell the drivers to speed, but they will not deviate from their pickup times. Some drivers changed the times on their own. Some

drivers out there are conscientious of times and waiting for kids, which I understand, but you wait for one kid and it sets you behind for the next 13 kids," Wedemeier expressed. "I make the recommendation of having drivers wait zero to 30 seconds before leaving. Parents need to take more responsibility in this."

Wedemeier proposed to start the new route system following the Easter holiday, and the board agreed. Transportation director Trey Myers stated it is possible to get information to families about the new routes before the holiday, and their work will get the district a whole lot closer than where they were.

During a public hearing regarding the 2023-2024 calendar, staff members present discussed the possibility of a built-in makeup day in February and moving a professional development day from the end of the year to March.

Superintendent Fred Matlage explained there were two different calendar options presented by the Build-

ing Leadership Team (BLT) and SIAC. BLT member Josh Krueger stated the group reached out to staff members in every building about professional development days, and the proposal included having Feb. 16 and Feb. 19 be no-school days. The group wasn't aware a built-in makeup day was an option. He added he would personally rather have a four-day week instead of a three-day week because it is easier to condense a five-day curriculum into four days.

Middle school activities director Toni Kroenecke commented in the past, the day off in February was typically known to be a day off for boys state wrestling. She stated in all fairness it didn't make sense to schedule a day off for boys wrestling and not girls wrestling or other sports.

Makaya Henniges expressed she would rather only have one professional development day at the end of the year than two, and it would make more sense to move that day to earlier in the semester where it would be utilized in a better way.

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High school speech students earn top marks at state, two earn All-State

Sumner-Fredericksburg High School individual speech students performed at the state competition Saturday, March 11, at Starmont High School. Six students qualified for state after receiving top marks at the district level.

Five students earned Division I ratings at state, including Ava Bernhard, solo musical theatre, "Mother Knows Best;" Ethan Boyle, poetry, "Shake the Dust;" Payton Leete, review, "Folklore" by Taylor Swift; Travis Smith, solo musical theatre and poetry, "Please Die;" and Ellie Vierkant, acting, "The Cherry."

Lexi Cahoy earned a Division II for her musical theatre piece, "I Love Play Rehearsal."

Two students received All-State nominations for three entries and both will be able to perform at the All-State Festival. Bernhard was selected for her solo musical theatre piece, while Smith will perform his poetry selection.

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Travis Smith (left) and Ava Bernhard were selected to perform at the Iowa High School Speech Association Individual All-State Festival after earning top marks at the state competition. (Photo submitted)

S-F Sensations finish as Class 1A/2A champions at Emmetsburg

The Sumner-Fredericksburg Sensations traveled to Emmetsburg Saturday, March 4, to perform in the highly competitive 29th annual Emmetsburg Extravaganza show choir invitational including Class 1A through 4A schools.

The Sensations finished as Class 1A/2A champions and overall champions during the first round of competition with their set called "The Comeback," to qualify for the night show finals.

The song selections included "Born

this Way," "I'm Still Standing," "Wings" with a solo by senior Sasha Gitch, "I Lived," "The Comeback" with solos by seniors Ethan Boyle and Lexi Cahoy and sophomore Eli Priebe and "Born to be Somebody" with solos by freshmen Connor Kramer and Skylar Harnisch.

In the finals, the Sensations finished as sixth runner-up and were selected as People's Choice. Aberdeen Central High School's Eagle Express was grand champion and also earned

best vocals, best band and best female soloist. Classic Competition, Sioux Falls Washington High School, was first runner-up and earned best choreography and best male soloist.

La Crosse Central High School's Grand Central Station was second runner-up, followed by Harrisburg High School's Eclipse, LeMars Community High School's Crimson and Black show choir and Spirit Lake High School's Music Factory.



Sumner-Fredericksburg Sensations finished as Class 1A/2A champions and overall champions during the first round of competition at the Emmetsburg Extravaganza show choir invitational. (Photo submitted)



Authorities surround 212 W. Sixth St., Sumner, as they were involved in a standoff Friday, March 10. Homes were evacuated and streets were closed for over four hours as authorities tried to negotiate with the suspect.

One person dead and another injured in standoff with authorities

One person was left dead and a second person was injured in a police standoff in Sumner last week.

It was reported Sumner police chief Dan Wegg responded to a call Friday, March 10, at 7:30 a.m. at 212 W. Sixth St., Sumner, for an unknown issue. When he arrived on scene, he heard multiple gunshots coming from behind

the residence.

Wegg witnessed a female, later identified as 58-year-old Sharon Kuhlmann, approaching him from the side of the house with multiple gunshot wounds. She was able to be transported from the scene for treatment.

The suspect, Bruce Kuhlmann, 65, Sumner, was armed with a firearm and

refused orders from Wegg to put the weapon down. Additional law enforcement agencies responded to the scene to assist and set up a perimeter around the residence. Residents adjacent to the Kuhlmann residence were evacuated.

While law enforcement was present, Bruce Kuhlmann fired multiple

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Middle school holds successful health fair, blood drive

The Sumner-Fredericksburg Middle School health class hosted a health fair and blood drive Wednesday, March 8. A variety of outside entities attended the health fair with tables and resources, as well as information middle school students researched regarding numerous areas of health, including mental and emotional health, suicide prevention, nutrition and growth and development. (Above) Bremer County Sheriff's deputy Kyle Shores (left) and Chickasaw County Sheriff's deputy KJ Miller walk students through different activities using impairment goggles, including walking a straight line and testing their reactions. (At right) Barbara Ball waits patiently as the technician prepares her arm to draw blood.

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