# LIBRARY NEWS

#### Norma Anders Public Library

What's New at the Norma Anders Public Library

 Reading Race Car Rally Scavenger Hunt and Centers, Friday, July 21 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Have fun and cool off at the library while you're at Dysart's Classic Car, Truck and Bike Show. Follow the clues around the inside of library, complete the challenges, and win a small prize. We're extending our hours, staying open until 7 p.m.

• Evening Book Club, Monday, July 24 at 7 p.m. at the library. Join this informal book discussion group to discover new authors and series. Read a book from the optional theme or just tell what you're reading or interested in reading. Food is July's optional theme.

• Knit & Stitch, Tuesday, July 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

• Tama County ISU Extension and Outreach Program, Take Flight, Tuesday July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the library. Build and test rockets and airplanes at the library!

• Construction Zone! Wednesday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Have fun with building and STEM challenges at this come-and-go program for kids.

 Kids Create! Thursday, July 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

 Friday Fun!, Friday, July 28 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Cool off at the library with ing activities and crafts in our MakerSpace.

 Afternoon Book Club, Monday, August 7 at 1:30 p.m. We will be discussing The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware. Contact the by Chris Bowman library to reserve a copy.

• Benton County ISU

Extension and Outreach STEM Story Time Program, Wednesday, August 3 at 10

a.m. at the library • Magic Show, Monday, August 14 at 7 p.m. at the Dysart City Park Gazebo. School Magician Rick Eugene is back with his entertaining magic show for all ages! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an evening of

#### **NEW NONFICTION:**

• My Friend Anne Frank by Hannah Pick-Goslar

#### **NEW FICTION:**

• The First Ladies by Marie Benedict

• The 9th Man by Steve

• The Last Sinner by Lisa Jackson

• The Happiness Plan by DeBoef and Elsa Weida

Susan Mallary • The Good Sister by Gil-

lian McAllister • Never Lie by Freida

McFadden · Circle of Death by **James Patterson** 

 The Sweetheart List by Jill Shalvis

• The Last Chance Cow-

boy by Jody Hedlund • The Seeds of Change by Lauraine Snelling

CHILDREN'S **NEW** 

# **NONFICTION:**

• Arctic Animals by Jennifer Szymanski

• Trains by Kaitlyn Dul-

• EMTs by Kate Moening Garbage Trucks by

Thomas K. Adamson Helicopters by Kaitlyn

• Construction Workers

• Biking by Lisa Owings

#### **NEW DVDS:**

• Lyle, Lyle Crocodile

• Indiana Jones the Complete Adventure Collection

 Last Kids on Earth • Barbie Princess Charm

#### Traer **Public Library**

#### On The Calendar:

• Monday July 24 at 1:00 Fit & Feisty

• Tuesday July 25 at 1:05 Outside the Lines Coloring

• Tuesday July 25 at 1:30 Tuesday Quilters

• Wednesday July 26 at 10:00 PenPals!

10:15 Story Time • Wednesday July 26 at

• Wednesday July 26 at

1:00 Fit and Feisty • Wednesday July 26 at 3:30 Garden Walk - Donna

• Thursday July 27 at 1:00 Cribbage and Rummi-

• Thursday July 27 at 2:15 Chair Yoga

• Friday July 28 at 1:00 Fit & Feisty

• Outside the Lines: • Zero Days by Ruth Come to the library for a relaxing hour of coloring Tuesday, July 25 at 1:05. We provide colored pencils, markers, cards, bookmarks, or coloring books for you, or bring your own supplies. Come to color, socialize and relax. There is no cost or sign up required.

> • Quilting Group: Do you love to quilt? Would you like to learn more? Are you stuck and need help from fellow quilters? Or do you just need space to spread out? Join our Tuesday Quilters Group! This is a lively, talented group that gets together every Tuesday at 1:30 to quilt and share

ideas and tips. We also have a new cutter and accessories to share! With donation and grant money, we have purchased an AccuQuilt Ready Set Go! Ultimate Fabric Cutting System and several cutting dies. This cutter allows you to cut 6 layers of fabric at a time, and gives you exact, precise pieces with an easy turn of a crank.

• Quilt Display: From August 1 through August 15, the Traer Library will have a Quilt Display in memory of Cynthia Drajna. Cynthia led the Library's Quilting Group for over 9 years. We will display quilts that Cynthia made, and also quilts made by others in the group using quilt patterns created by Cynthia. Stop in to see this lovely display.

## **New Books**

#### **Fiction:**

• The Housemaid's Secret - #2 Housemaid Series by Freida McFadden

• Birthday Cake and Bodies - #9 Peridale Café Series by Agatha Frost • Love May Fail by Mat-

thew Quick

## Non-Fiction

 Keto Cooking for Beginners! Easy recipes and essential information for living Keto

#### **DVDs**:

• Book Club: The next Chapter

• Are You There God? It's Me Margaret

• The Man from Toronto

Pun-Of-The-Week: The seamstress decided to diversify and open a restaurant inside her shop. But the reviews were only sew-sew.

# **ARRESTS**

#### Thursday, July 6

• Isaias Cazarez Gamboa (28) of Tama was arrested for violation of parole by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo.

### Friday, July 7

• Cory Robert Lecount (30) of Tama was arrested for sex offender registry — second offense by the Tama Police Department in Tama.

• Andrew William Cannon (39) of Traer was arrested for violating a no-contact order — domestic by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Traer. He was released the following day on a promise to appear.

• Elvis Presley Hite (41) of Gladbrook was arrested for third degree burglary — vehicle first offense by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Gladbrook.

• Bailey Anne Jenkins (32) of Elberon was arrested for simple assault by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Elberon.

• Surrell Jade Youngbear (27) of Toledo was arrested for public intoxication by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo. He was released the following day on a promise to appear.

#### Saturday, July 8

warrant for failure to appear by the Tama Police Department in Toledo. He was released the same day on bond.

• Robert James Morgan (35) of Tama was arrested on a

#### Sunday, July 9

• Surrell Jade Youngbear (27) of Toledo was arrested for fifth degree theft and public intoxication by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo. He was released the same day after pleading guilty. • Donnae Elsie Wanatee (42) of Tama was arrested on

a warrant for failure to appear by the Meskwaki Tribal Police in Toledo.

• Traveante Kl'onne Montgomery (24) of Waterloo was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Toledo.

#### Monday, July 10

• Anthony James Reitinger (31) of Montour was arrested for sex offender registry - first offense by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Toledo. • Jolene Alyce Davenport (46) of Tama was arrested for

OWI first offense and possession of a controlled substance second by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo. She was released the following day on a promise to appear.

## Tuesday, July 11

• Andrew Dillon Clayton (30) of Chelsea was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear by the Toledo Police Department in Toledo.

• Todd Wayne Moore (40) of Gladbrook was arrested for interference with official acts - bodily injury, disorderly conduct — fight/violence and domestic assault with intent — first. He was released on July 14.

### Wednesday, July 12

• Freddy Enriquez (24) of Marshalltown was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear by the Tama County Sheriff's Department in Toledo.

## **SAND**

## Continued from Page 1

this newspaper's reporter

and her infant daughter. To be fair, Seda, a longtime Democrat, pointed out Sand's office did not send word they would be stopping in Tama County in time for the weekly paper's deadline, but there also isn't a Democratic party to speak of in Tama County anymore - a county that once upon a time voted for Barack Obama before pivoting to Donald J. Trump – that could have spread the word, too.

"No, there's nobody. There's no officers," Seda said when asked about the state of his county party these days. "It's all defunct."

As Sand and his mother settled themselves and Pow near a pair of benches mere steps from the Tama County Courthouse's front doors, they both instantly began chatting with those in attendance - Sand with the film crew about trout fishing in Decorah, his hometown – and Leslie about the reporter's baby, a baby she voluntarily scooped up and watched for nearly 45 minutes during her son's visit because that's Iowa for you.

This was certainly no Chuck Grassley #99countytour visit, but maybe that's the point.

Sand is not Chuck Grassley despite clearly taking a move from his playbook.

For one thing, he's quite a bit younger at age 40, and, of course, he's a Democrat.

But like Grassley he seems hellbent on weeding out waste and sniffing out corruption – something the senior Senator from Iowa often touts about himself while on his own annual visits across Iowa.

Of his mother's presence in Toledo, Rob explained: "When we're doing northeast Iowa, Mom or Dad oftentimes will drive just because they get a little bit of time with me." And Pow?

"She's very very well

behaved. Calm. Great with kids," Sand further explained. "We're actually thinking about getting a second one."

Rob Sand can be infinitely relatable. There is no question about that.

# Let them eat pie

The first thing Sand officially discussed during his 45-minute visit to Toledo was his voluntary PIE Checklist. As Iowa's "taxpayer watchdog," Sand created the Public Innovations and Efficiencies Checklist - PIE, for short - to help municipalities and school districts across the state save money.

'The idea behind it is it just helps cities, counties, and school districts save money," Sand explained to Seda as he sat on a bench across from him. "It's like a checklist for things that they can do to save money. The more of them they do, the more they're gonna save. Pretty simple."

The PIE program began in 2020 and has about 500 participants currently, Sand said. One aspect of the program compares and, in essence, pits cities, counties, and school districts against one another in a "PIE" contest.

"The best performers," Sand said, "get an actual pie [as a prize] that I deliver. Usually a local pie."

In Tama County, the city of Dysart received a pie for its efficiency efforts back in 2021.

This year it appears Tama County is on track to set a record in terms of the number of PIE partici-

"Chelsea, Clutier, Elberon, Garwin, Gladbrook, Montour, Toledo, Traer, North Tama Schools, Tama, GMG Schools, and South Tama Schools," Sand said, listing the various entities in Tama County that have chosen to participate during the last fiscal year.

"Is that like everybody?" Sand asked. He was told it was 'practically everybody' to which he chuckled.

## No cake for you

During his Tama County stop, Sand also addressed recent legislation passed by the GOP-controlled Iowa Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, that prevents his office from subpoenaing state agencies for records.

The legislation, however, doesn't apply to cities, counties, and school districts. Those entities must still comply with his office's audits or risk being taken to court.

"When the state rewrote that law," Sand explained, "they made it so that it only applies to themselves. Which gives you an indication of what it's all about. If it was a good idea, it would

apply to everybody." Sand characterized the legislation as a bill "passed by a small handful of insiders who don't want accountability when they waste your money."

He described it as "prowaste" and "pro-corrup-

tion." Seda then alluded to recent corruption uncovered in the Tama County community of Clutier, asking why such an entity wasn't being audited yearly.

In 2020, a report released by Sand's office showed improper spending by Keri Kopriva, the former city clerk of Clutier. A special investigation eventually identified more than \$64K of improper disbursements, more than \$9K of unsupported disbursements, and more than \$43K in estimated undeposited collections.

"If a city has under 2,000 population," Sand told Seda, "they just get a periodic review. And so it's just once every eight years."

But he was quick to point out "people get away with" such corruption in larger communities, too, before stating: "I think the smaller the town is, oftentimes the more trust there is in the community, and the more hats everybody is

"If you're both the

mayor and the street department and the baseball coach, you know, with fewer people there's more responsibility on everybody. And it just gets more complicated to get everything done in exactly the right way and have those checks and balances that you need. But that doesn't mean it doesn't happen elsewhere.

The fact that the Republican-controlled Iowa Legislature now seems to have specifically carved a special set of rules for itself when it comes to his office's audits and no one else - not cities, not counties, not public school districts - is plain and simple, wasteful, Sand

"They're making it easier for them to hide the fact that money is getting wast-

# Vouchers for all,

accountability for some One of the final issues Sand touched on while visiting Tama County was the recent Students First Act signed into law by Gov. Reynolds – legislation that allows for public funds to be used by Iowa parents at private schools and, to an

extent, for homeschooling. "I think you could actually be someone who likes the idea of vouchers and yet looks at this bill and thinks that it's appalling," Sand said.

Sand explained there are rules for participating parents as to how they can spend the program's money - potentially facing criminal charges, he said, if they spend funds inappropriately – but such rules do not apply to the private schools themselves.

Once the money gets paid as tuition to a private school they can do literally anything in the world with that money except one thing ... they can't provide rebates to parents - that's Sand said he is not cer-

tain what would happen if a student attends a private school using Students First Act funds for "a month" and then migrates back to

a public school. What happens to those funds? He's not sure.

"Bottom line is, they can do anything else they want with it," Sand continued. "If they want to send their principal on an all-expenses-paid trip to Europe - first class - they can do that, that's legal. ... There's almost no transparency.

There are no public requirements nor public records requirements, and no annual audit requirement accessible by the public for private schools that take public money, Sand explained.

"That's just not the way we do things," Sand said. "The public has a right to know. In addition to that, there's nothing in the statute that gives parents any rights either – parents don't have a right to go to meetings, parents don't have a right to ask for records, parents don't have a right to look at - or demand an

audit even happening. "We just opened up a massive line to the general fund in the state of Iowa and we're gonna have no idea what's actually hap-

# pening to that money."

Lone reed Toward the end of Sand's visit, this reporter queried the state auditor on his lone reed status: "You're the only Democrat. By default, now, are you the mouthpiece?"

"Well, I represent everybody. And that is really important to me," Sand answered. "But you are a Dem-

ocrat?" this reporter responded. "Yeah, I have a 'D' behind my name. .... We have a dumb political system that

only gives people two real-

istic choices, including can-

didates." Sand said he was an Independent when he first registered to vote as a young man in Decorah.

As the sound of police sirens wailed in the background, Sand continued: 'My purpose has always been public service, which I think is a much higher call-

ing than just trying to serve some political calling."

Sand went on to explain how his office employs people from across the political spectrum, stating, "We don't do politics in the office, what we do is public service."

He further said he hopes Iowans are able to look at the business his office conducts and who he is as a person before deciding whether they "like" him or

More than once during Sand's visit — which, again, took place just outside the Tama County Courthouse — an attorney on their way into the building stopped to chat with Sand whom they recognized.

One such attorney was Fred Stiefel of Victor, a community in Iowa and Poweshiek counties which border Tama County to the

south and east. "We met at [Iowa state Senator] Kevin Kinney's barbeque," Stiefel reminded

Sand. "That's right," Sand said.

"That's right, that's right." "I used to be city clerk in Victor," Stiefel continued, "which you never came to investigate. I quit and they did an audit and they said everything was OK."

Stiefel's comments immediately elicited laughter from the few in attendance at Sand's event including Sand and his mother.

Later, as the clock ticked toward 10:15 a.m., Sand and his mother began to gather their things, hand back the reporter's baby, and ensure Pow had one last drink before for the next leg of the trip – a visit to Black Hawk County, Tama's northern neighbor.

Sand said goodbye to Seda, the lone Tama County citizen present during his visit, and headed inside the courthouse to fill up Pow's water bowl where he would no doubt encounter someone else he knew.

This is Iowa, after all. We may not vote for you, but we know you.

And your lovely mom.