

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

All in person Amana Church services are suspended and services will be live streamed from the church in Middle on FM 93.5 or Facebook. Must be parked near the church for radio transmission.

The Regular Sunday Service will be in Middle Sunday, February 21, 2021, starting at 10:00 AM with Elder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "This is My Friend's Most precious Art" No. 44 vs 1-3

Testimony: Ronneburg, Feb. 10, 1717, Ursula Meyer

Scripture: John 8:12, John 11:9, John 12:35, 1 John 1: 5- 7

Psalm 18:28 – 32

Closing Hymn: "This is My Friend's Most precious Art" No. 44 vs 4 & 5.

Wednesday Nachtgebet live stream on Facebook at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Fellowship live stream on Facebook at 5:30 p.m.

Services also available later on YouTube.

CCA PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2021-2022

Families can start registering their children for Preschool and Kinergarten at Clear Creek Amana (CCA) schools starting February 16 through March 26, 2021. The Clear Creek Amana school district is committed to providing a high-quality Preschool and Kindergarten experience.

PRESCHOOL: We offer morning or afternoon classes at all elementary sites on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (no Wednesdays). Students enrolled in morning classes will be in school from 8:15 - 11:15 AM and students enrolled in afternoon classes will be in class from 12:15 - 3:15 PM.

FEE: There will be no charge to qualifying students. To qualify for FREE preschool, a student must be age 4 on or before September 15th. There are no requirements for residency or income. Curriculum guidelines and assessment procedures will be the same for both morning and for afternoon classes. Students who are eligible for kindergarten but who wish to enroll into preschool, please contact your building principal for prior approval and fee information.

TRANSPORTATION: Students have the option for bus transportation to and from designated neighborhood stops, homes and to the best of our ability, to currently licensed daycares operating within our district. Per state requirements, CCA schools are not permitted to bus outside of our school boundaries. Bus stops and routes will be determined closer to the beginning of the school year.

OUT OF DISTRICT FAMILIES: Families living in the CCA district will be given priority for enrollment but families outside of the CCA district are encouraged to register their children. Out of district families enrolled in preschool will still need to follow all open enrollment policies outlined by the School Board. Only Amana Elementary is currently accepting students for open enrollment.

KINDERGARTEN: Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 15, 2021, are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. We assign kindergarten

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AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Help Coming for Utility Customers and Renters in Need

The Iowa Finance Authority will begin taking applications soon for a new program called the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program that will provide financial assistance to eligible lowans for utility costs and rent.

This is being funded by a federal allocation through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The program will help lowans in need pay for rent, electricity, gas, propane, water, sewer and trash removal. Payments for utility costs will be made directly to the utility providers and applied to the customer's accounts.

The program is being set up now so some relevant information is not yet available. However to learn more you go to the www.iowahousingrecovery.com. Or call 1-855-300-5885. The website answers basic questions about how to apply, who qualifies and how the program will work.

Derecho Impact Still Being Felt

The derecho that swept across Iowa between 11:40 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, August 10 was a memorable event for those living in Benton, Linn, Iowa, Marshall, Jones and Tama counties.

Indeed the storm lasted about 14 hours total as it rolled across Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. It left its mark on many communities and in the lives of millions of people. The state of Iowa, most especially east central Iowa, suffered the worst damage of all, say those who have looked at the storm's impact.

The total damage estimates have ranged from \$7.5 billion (Insurance Journal, Oct. 2020) to \$11 billion according to the NOAA and the US Department of Agriculture, the bulk of that was in the State of Iowa. Four people died in Iowa as a result of the storm.

By comparison, Hurricane Laura caused \$14 billion in damage when it hit the Gulf Coast in August, according to NOAA figures.

Iowa farmers were among the hardest hit. The first figures compiled in August and September by the USDA doubled when the fall harvest got underway. By October 9, the USDA reported that Iowa farmers were unable to harvest 850,000 acres. Many farmers saw much lower yields on those acres they could harvest. Not all of these acres were covered by insurance and insurance pay-outs may have just covered seed and input costs, thus the loss of income was significant to Iowa farms.

The impact to Iowa businesses grew as the months wore on and businesses were unable to repair buildings and restore critical operations damaged by the storm due to delays in insurance settlements, the backlog of scheduled work to be completed by construction companies and a shortage of materials. That on top of pandemic impacts has taken its toll on Iowa, especially eastern Iowa.

Drive through Benton County or through Cedar Rapids and Marion and the number of blue plastic tarps on roofs, the still visible piles of building debris and building damage is still quite evident.

A Feb. 10 Cedar Rapids Gazette article reported that many Linn, Tama and Benton County residents are living with August storm damage; coping with holes in roofs, damage to roofs and structural damage to homes and apartments even as they were coping with frigid temps this winter. Citing the high cost of repairs and delays stemming from various issues with insurance companies, plus the inability

to obtain contractors, the impact of the derecho will be felt long into 2021.

Even nonprofits in Cedar Rapids are still dealing with the hit. The Salvation Army of Cedar Rapids suffered over \$500,000 damage to its home on 1000 C. St. NW. rendering 1/3 of their building unusable, according to their website. Repairs are underway with the help of insurance, but fundraising is ongoing. The Salvation Army of Cedar Rapids fed over 5,000 people a day during the period immediately following the storm. Right now in addition to offering hot meals, it is delivering meal boxes, providing financial help to people facing eviction, providing warm shelter and helping people cope with the cold weather.

KCRG recently reported that 3.4 million cubic tons of tree debris from the storm had been disposed of by the city of Cedar Rapids. The Cities of Marion and Hiawatha have carted off another few million cubic tons. Those figures do not include debris cleaned up on city-owned land, said Taylor Burgin, CR's construction engineering manager, in a KCRG story of Feb. 10. He noted that once the park clean up can resume this spring, that number is certain to grow by about another 1 - 2 million cubic tons. So far the City of Cedar Rapids has removed 6,500 damaged standing trees in parks and on public grounds. While a few could be trimmed and saved, many were too far gone to leave upright.

Good news though, the City of CR is partnering with Trees Forever to initiate a city wide tree replacement program. This past fall 1,600 trees were planted on CR public ground. Another two thousand trees will be planted this spring in parks and on public property with more added every year for several years. The City of CR has committed \$1 million annually for the next several years to "releaf" as city leaders are calling it. Trees Forever will be contributing \$500,000 to the project. And they will be looking at ways to encourage their residents to plant trees in their yards and on private property. Plus they will be asking for volunteers want to water and care for trees in public areas, for example, along sidewalks in neighborhoods.

Another piece of good news, the city of Norway has been working very hard to recover post storm. St. Michael's Catholic Church in Norway was able to get a significant portion of the damage to their church repaired this fall. The 125-foot, white steeple which blew off the church entirely, is being rebuilt and will be replaced this spring. The church's three bells, a significant part of the church's history and story and so important to community life in Norway, have been sent to Ohio for repairs and clean – up. The bells will be returned this spring and placed in the belfry.

Estimated damage to the church was over \$1.3 million – and yes, much of it was covered by insurance, but donations have helped pay for the rest,

News & Notes continues on page 2

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET						
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022						
Name of District: HOMESTEAD SANITARY SEWER						
The Board of Trustees of the above-named District will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year						
Meeting Date: 3/2/2021 Meeting Time: 05:31 PM Meeting Location: Homestead Welfare Club 4215 V Street						
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of any part of the proposed budget.						
This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Clerk.						
Contact Name: Thomas Oehler Contact Telephone Number: (319) 225-8065						
Fund	FYE 6-30-2020 Actual Expenditures	FYE 6-30-2021 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE 6-30- 2022 Proposed Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2022	Estimated July 1, 2021 Beg. Balance & All Other Receipts	Estimated Amount to Be Raised By Taxation
1. General	37,894	15,405	15,875	32,229	44,579	3,5250
2. Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. TOTAL	37,894	15,405	15,875	32,229	44,579	3,5250
Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation \$ 0.54000						

AMANA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

DIETARY AIDE

Colonial Manor is hiring for a
full time or part time dietary aide.
Hours are 5:30 am - 1:30 pm.
Candidates must love working with
the elderly population.

Call Tanya at 319-622-3131

OBITUARY

Lee Christ Herr, age 87, left his earthly home on February 12, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. In God's mercy, he had a full and happy life before cancer claimed his body. A private funeral service for the family will be held with Elder Kristie Yoder officiating. Memorials may be contributed to the Amana Church. Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lee was born to Rudolph and Viola (Haldy) Herr February 9, 1934 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He lived in Middle Amana as a child until his family moved to High Amana. He graduated from Amana High School and received a certificate in tool and die engineering from Iowa Technical Institute, but his great knowledge and skills were experiential and contributed to his enjoyment and successes in two different work careers. He retired from the Amana Refrigeration in 1975 where he served as a tool and die engineer and manager since 1952, in order to become Production Manager at Amana Furniture Shop where he worked for 20 years before retiring in 1996. His third career was enjoying retirement which he has done for the past 25 years living in Florida, Texas, Arizona and Middle Amana. He was a member of the St. Clair Masonic Lodge, Amana Church, Amana Heritage Society, Middle Amana Fire Department, and the Amana Sportsmans Club.

He was a loved and loving husband to Marlys McArtor Herr (deceased in 2001), Joyce Grafeman Herr (deceased 2007), and his current wife Gerry Kahler Herr. Lee and Marlys were blessed with three children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren: Keela Ann Herr (Alan Harrington), Shay, Taylor and Grayson (Tayvia); Jacki Lee (Gary) Klaas, Brittany (Alex) Benninghoven, Lauren, Isaac, and Liam, Abby (Chris) Wood; Christian Lee (Angela) Herr, Stephanie (Shane) Seye, Alyssa Herr, Lee (Jacky) Sawyer and baby on the way. He is also survived by his wife Gerry's daughter Robin (Doug) Brecht and son Rick Kahler and their families.

Lee was an energetic and enthusiastic lover of life and people. His positive attitude and ever-present smile was contagious to those around him and very little in life removed them. He had many hobbies and passions that morphed over the course of his life. He was gifted in mechanics and construction and created many lovely pieces of furniture. He was an avid hunter of deer and pheasants (and all sorts of game), a passion he passed down to his son and grandchildren. He enjoyed the outdoors including camping and fishing with family and friends, but also the indoors finding entertainment in occasional visits to the closest casino. He loved singing and was a member of the Amana Chorus and the Four Fifths Quartet. Later in life he added golfing to his most enjoyed activities, loved to travel and read and most recently transformed his carpenter skills into wood-working craftsmanship creating beautiful pieces of art.

During his final test of cancer, he continued to grow in his love of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He embraced his devotions for strength to endure the challenges faced as his body and mind failed him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rudolph and Viola Herr, his brother Roger, his 1st wife Marlys, and his 2nd wife Joyce.

Online condolences: www.klosterfuneralhome.com

School from page 1

students to the school in the CCA boundary area that corresponds to their home address. At this time there are no spring Kindergarten round-up activities planned and families will be notified of any fall back to school events. For families wishing to open enroll into the Clear Creek Amana Community School District, please note all Elementary schools are closed for open enrollment except for Amana Elementary.

The Clear Creek Amana Community School District has four elementary buildings serving Preschool and Kindergarten students:
Clear Creek Elementary, Oxford
Tiffin Elementary, Tiffin
Amana Elementary, Middle Amana
North Bend Elementary, North Liberty

Please visit www.ccaschools.org/Page/5530 for both Preschool and Kindergarten registration information.

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said Norway residents who can't wait for their beloved St. Michael's to be open again for services and weddings.

"I can't tell you how much we've all missed being able to go in the church and really, to go by and see it in that condition, with the steeple missing, that just tore my heart out. . . It will be a very happy day when St. Michael's looks whole again. That's when I'll know Norway is back," said one long-time Norway resident. "Between the derecho and the pandemic, it's been a really hard year."

Lakeview Village**Assisted Living Apartments**

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FOR SALE

Ice Melt, 50 lb bags. Call Hometown Lawn Care & Landscaping in Homestead, (319) 622-3417

Hay for sale. Large round net wrapped bales. (319) 361-0425.

WANTED/WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ALL ANTIQUES; Toys, Furniture, Crocks, Paintings, Advertising Signs, and Weird Items "any condition." Buying Entire Estates, call for fair pricing. Please call 319-270-1251.

**AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Notice and Tentative Agenda for the Regular
Meeting February 22, 2021, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

- I. Call Meeting to Order.
- II. Set Agenda.
- III. Review/approve the January meeting minutes.
- IV. Discussion/Action on the following permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:
 - a. 2020-076, Jeff & Suzanne Conquest, 621 46th Ave. Request to modify design of south stairs on previously issued permit.
 - b. 2021-001, Jeff & Suzanne Conquest, 621 46th Ave. Replace windows, change attic vent.
- V. Other Business.
- VI. Adjourn to work session.

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

About 30 years ago, a sudden wave of interest in the hoboes who came through the Amanas during the communal era came about. This interest resulted in several articles and newspaper stories, including pieces by Emilie Hoppe, Rozella Hahn and Clifford Trumpold.

As two of the sources for this column, Emilie Hoppe, and Pat Kellenberger, were both careful to point out, historically there was a difference between being a "hobo" or being a "tramp." Both were men who rode the rails in the 19th and into the 20th centuries, of course, but a "hobo" prided himself on working for his meals, and disdained other travelers who did not like to work for food and shelter as "tramps."

During the communal era many, many hobos came through the Amanas, aware that the communal kitchens were a steady source of meals and regular work. Some of these hobos stayed a few days, others came for a few months, and some settled in the village permanently, or at least made a regular extended stay in the Amanas during warm weather. One of the more notable of the hobos was a man known as "Pittsburg Blackie," but whose actual name was Henry Strassburger. "Blackie" stopped at Upper South Amana, befriended the locals, and maintained a long friendship with Al Kellenberger and his family, who knew him as "Hank."

Al had once briefly ridden the rails himself and had an affinity for down on their luck travelers like Blackie, who eventually lived in an outbuilding near the Kellenberger home. As a child, the Kellenberger's son, Pat, followed Blackie around as he did household chores for the family.

One day, a lawyer came to speak to Al about an auto insurance claim. During the discussion, Blackie became involved and noted that he had once served in the U.S. Infantry. Al pressed him as to why he did not apply for a pension for his service. Blackie then told the story of how he had been against the actions of the calvary unit to which he belonged in the then Indian Territory. His disapproval of what was being done to the Native Americans led him to desert. As a deserter, he assumed that he needed to keep a low profile. After some prodding and assurances that the statute of limitations had long since expired for his desertion, Blackie produced his induction papers. Dated October 23, 1889 the documents had been signed by his mother, because he was underage (two months short of his 21st birthday) at the time of his enlistment. The papers confirm that Pittsburg Blackie was indeed a native of Pittsburg, PA, the son of a woman named Lizzie Werner.

Somehow, though an application process facilitated by the Kellenbergers, Blackie received a small pension from the government, despite his desertion. After his death, in 1962, he was buried in the South Amana cemetery, with a grave marker inscribed with his legal name.

Pat Kellenberger has shared clippings with me, not only about Pittsburgh Blackie, but about some of the other hobos who lived in the Amanas and whose stories were known. Of course, many of these men did not talk about their past, and, in many cases, probably no one was ever interested enough to ask them.

Many of the stories that came to be passed down or recorded included a story of some past hardship that had driven the man in question to the road. One man lost a wife and child in the Galveston, Texas hurricane of 1900, at least two men mentioned being survivors of the Johnstown Flood of 1889. One man, known locally as "Zither Frank," was a talented musician who came to a sad end, frozen to death in the Iowa River bottom.

THANK YOU

The Amana Arts Guild would like to thank the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State of Iowa for the funding of the \$2500 Emergency Grant/Recovery Program Grant.

The Amana Print Shop

Call : 319-622-3912

To avoid injury due to winter conditions, visitors are asked to park next to the building, and I will come out to you.

E-mail: amanaprintshop@southslope.net

Please wear a mask in public.