

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Annual Picnic Service will be in the Middle Park Sunday, September 09, starting 11:00 A.M. with Sw. Andrea Haldy presiding.

Opening Hymn: "O Holy Spirit Enter In" No. 79
 Testimony: Excerpts, Christian Metz, Willoughby, Canada July 2, 1845

Scripture: John 14: 15-21

John 16: 12-15

Psalms 139

Closing Hymn: "Holy Ghost with Light Divine" No. 282

Song sheets will be provided. Limited number of larger print Bible reading will also be available

The Wednesday Evening Prayer (Nachtgebet) meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

THANK YOU

Home again - sweet words after 9 weeks. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered me with cards, letters, and food.

To staff members and therapists at Colonial Manor, you are the reason I am mobile once again and I am forever grateful.

God's Blessing,
 Harriet Graesser

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

I feel like a walking (limping) disaster these days. Our washing machine gave up the ghost. Now, I can live without a stove because one can use the microwave. If the kitchen sink doesn't work, one can use the bathroom sink. If the bathtub doesn't work, one can take a shower. Usually, people have more than one toilet. But if the washing machine does not work, HOW-EVER, then life stops.

So, it was with us on Labor Day weekend. Charlemagne might know how to grow plants, but let's just say that using a wrench is not what he trained for. As for me you must remember that in high school physics, I wired a parallel circuit successfully but forgot to unplug it before starting the experiment. I still have the scar.

So, now we wait for a store to open and deliver and install the beast, our new washing machine. Naturally, I am thinking that if the washer breaks how much longer before the dryer goes, too?

While we are at it, how come stoves cost less than do washing machines? Why do washers now have blue tooth and Wi-Fi? That seems a

Feathers continues on page 2

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AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Drought Watch 2023

The US Drought Watch has ranked this summer in Iowa as the 12th driest since record keeping began and certainly one of the persistently hottest. The past 10 days have made the drought worse with high temps drying out already drought-stricken areas.

Iowa County is ranked as in "Severe Drought" and our corner of Iowa County, the northeast corner of the county, is even drier now and has been rated as in an "Extreme drought," one step worse, as of August 31 on the US Drought Monitor website kept by the USDA.

Drought conditions have been reported in 99 percent of the state with roughly 18 percent of the state experiencing extreme drought, an increase of about 12 percent since the third week of August.

2023 precipitation has been well below average. In some cases far below average. According to the Iowa State University Environment Mesonet (which tracks precipitation via official weather stations in various Iowa population centers) reports:

In 2023 total precipitation through August:

- Cedar Rapids - 14.40 inches
- Iowa City - 16.6 inches
- Grinnell - 13.09 inches

In 2022 these communities had significantly more rainfall and snowfall: Cedar Rapids had 28.46 inches last year; Iowa City 27:28 inches and Grinnell 16.77 inches.

Normal average annual precipitation in this part of the state hovers between 26 to 30 inches by this point in the year. In a normal summer we can expect about 4 inches of rain per month both in July and August with 5 to 6 inches in June. Not so this year. This August, Cedar Rapids received 1.5 inches. Iowa City just over 2 inches.

While there are no USDA official weather stations in the Amanas we've heard from John McGrath that the Amana Farm's weather station in Homestead has collected 11.83 inches and High Amana read 12.31 in 2023, but it's doubtful these stations collect snowfall.

Here's the month by month total from Jessica Burk's weather station in Amana (it does record snowfall.)

- 2023 January -1.45 inches
- February - 2.17 inches
- March - .85 inches
- April - 1.63 inches
- June - 4.05 inches
- July - 2.71 inches
- August - 1.45
- TOTAL in 2023 in Amana - 16.74 inches

The drought conditions have been especially persistent - meaning this drought has lasted longer than most.

Iowa State Climatologist Justin Glisan reported to the Radio Iowa on August 31, "This is going into the 166th week of at least D1, that moderate drought category, somewhere in the state, so (this is) the longest drought that we've had since the Drought Monitor came into inception," Glisan says, "but also longer term than the 1988 and 2012 droughts."

"Those two drought years were more intense because of particularly warm temperatures in the upper Midwest, according to Glisan.

Noting that southern Iowa received some notable rainfall in August, he commented, "If you look at the climate divisions in eastern Iowa, so climate division 3 is the northeastern corner and then east central is where the nose of Iowa is - it's the top 10 driest August on record, so that statewide average is skewed where we see higher precipitation totals across the southern part of the state."

In the Amana Colonies the drought has resulted in worrisome farming.

John McGrath, Amana Farms, reported Monday, "The corn has held together reasonably well given the severity of the drought. Most ears look decent but 'test weight' (density of the kernels) will be the last component of yield that has yet to be fully determined. Soybeans really need moisture during the pod filling stage in August and early September and we obviously haven't had any. I am concerned that bean yields could be poor and will certainly be below average. Harvest starts today (9/5) with corn silage and will continue with high moisture corn for cattle feed and then corn for sale."

"Pasture conditions are really bad. Our cattle herdsman have been hauling water and/or hay to many pastures for much of the summer. The grass has been grazed down much shorter than we would like to see which will hurt prospects for good grass growth next year, even if moisture returns."

Let us all pray for rain in abundance this fall and yes, snow this winter to recharge the groundwater and soils.

Big Weekend Lots of Work

If Labor Day weekend means a respite from work for most Americans, in Amana for its tourist related businesses it means hard work and hopefully, turning a profit.

"We were as busy as Oktoberfest this weekend but that usually only lasts two days, this went on for four days. Yup I'm going to need a day off this week to recuperate," said one tired, restaurant worker Monday.

"We were steadily busy all weekend and really starting last Thursday. I love it don't get me wrong. I'm not not complaining, after the heat in August when the tourists sort of tapered off we needed a good weekend to kick off September and we got it," said one main street merchant who was thrilled.

"That tool show, HandWork is huge. I mean huge and the dog show too. We saw lot of folks coming through to go to the dog show," said another main street merchant. "It was a great way to start the month."

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 Saturday September 16, 2023
 at the *Price Creek Event Center*
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 Show Starts 7:00 PM
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OBITUARY

On Saturday, September 2nd, 2023, Boneita "Midge" Albert crossed the bridge to be reunited with her husband Bill Albert who passed away October '04. A graveside service will be held for Midge at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the East Amana Cemetery, East Amana, with Elder Alan Trumpold officiating. A celebration of life gathering will follow the service. Memorials may be contributed to the First Presbyterian Church, Marengo, and Safe Haven of Iowa County. Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo is assisting the family with arrangements.

She is preceded in death by her father and mother Newt and Josephine Gerard. Brothers Laurel, Gene, Glenn, Russ and Bud. Sisters Irene, Anna and Twyla. Several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

She is survived by her sons Dan and wife Joan of Walford, Tom and his wife Teresa of Homestead, and Billy of East Amana. Her grandchildren Shannon, Brian, Brian and Nikki and three great-grandchildren. Also, by her sister, Mary Ruth and husband Dwayne Brecht of Marengo.

She was born November 19th, 1934, near Ladora, Iowa. Her family moved to Marengo when she was in grade school. She graduated from Marengo high school in 1953 and was working for an insurance company in Cedar Rapids when she met Bill Albert, and they were married in 1954.

She lived most of her life in East Amana. She spent countless hours scouring the fields looking for arrowheads and worked at the Amana Furniture Shop, doctor's office and Woolen Mill and was part of a bridge playing club for many years. She and Bill traveled all over the country stretching from Boston to Hawaii and even made a flight to Germany after a lucky lottery win. After retiring she cross-stitched, read books, and spent a great deal of time listening to Rod Stewart who she finally got to see in concert.

"You have to have faith. In her, and in yourself, without it everything else is just dust."

Online condolences: www.klosterfuneralhome.com

2nd Garage Sale (Outdoor Only)
Friday, Sept. 15: 9 am - 4 pm
Saturday, Sept. 16: 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday, Sept. 17: 9 am - 3 pm
 Kitchen, Garden, General Household, Tools, Costume Jewelry, Some Furniture, Books, Amway (New Old Stock), Magazines, Crafts, More Items have been added since 1st Sale!
Next Sale (Tag Sale) Sept. 21-24

WANT TO BUY
 -Reloading Equipment -Bullets and Brass
 -Presses and Dies -Shooting Sports Items
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 Will also do Appraisals & Consignment Sales
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FOR RENT/ LEASE
 Room for rent South Amana. No smoking, background check 319-540-9351

Amana Area Fellowship Night of Worship
 Please join us for an evening of food, fellowship, song and a message from the Bible. Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the
Amana Performing Arts Center
 Potluck 6:00-6:30
 Music and Message 6:45
 Continuing Series: Jesus' Letters to the 7 Churches - Book of Revelation
 Message: Letter to the church in Sardis - Rev. 3:1-6
 visit us at www.amanaareafellowship.org and on Facebook

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Feathers from page 1
 little extreme to me, but then I am technically challenged. I mean, do you hook up your washer to the computer and "Google" or send emails while doing the laundry?
 Now to find some kind of device to dust, clean and walk the dog.... This could bring in millions of dollars if only I could figure out how to make such a device.

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AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)
Agenda September 11, 2023 – 7:00 pm ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana And via ZOOM link
 I. Call Meeting to Order
 II. Set Agenda
 III. Review/Approve the August 14, 2023 BOT Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes.
 IV. Welcome visitors and allow citizens to speak on items not on the agenda.
 V. Discussion/Action on the following permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:
 a. 2023-076. Amana Fire District / 4114 V St Homestead / HP-C / Replace asphalt shingles or cover asphalt shingles with metal roofing. If going with metal will be brown in color.
 b. 2023-077. Amana Fire District / 2725 K St Middle Amana / HP-A / Replace asphalt shingles or cover asphalt shingles with metal roofing. If going with metal will be brown in color.
 c. 2023-086. Joyce Anderson-agent Louis Caspers / 4512 220th Trail Amana / HP-C / Replace quantity eight non-conforming windows with 9/6 double hung vinyl. All lower level - 2 west / 3 north / 2 east / 1 south. All same dim 28" x 56". Top sash 36" / lower sash 20" / 7" x 10" panes.
 d. 2023-099. Abe Holmes / 2704 220th Trail Middle Amana / HP-R / Pour concrete or asphalt pad on west side of rooming house to ease some of the parking congestion around building. Parking slots for eight cars to be made available, equal to the number of dwelling units available. After discussion B. Momany made a motion to accept the application as presented with the caveat that the eight new parking spots be laid out in the manner called out on document Exhibit A to best allow proper setback from property lines.
 e. 2023STR-01. The Lodge At Amana-LeAnna Kruckeberg / 617 45th Ave Amana / HP-R / Previously Lace Lodging, new owners have applied for a permit to establish a three unit short-term rental business. The second floor has a full-service hair salon.

f. 2023STR-02. Ironsun Investments – Sonya LaGrange / 610 43rd Ave Amana / HP-C Application for a short-term rental permit for a previously established business.
 g. 2023-075. Jeff and Suzanne Conquest / 621 46th Ave Amana / HP-C / Re-surface south face of west side newer brick with ACLUD recommended siding. Restore historic wraparound porch on west side of property. Note that this is a continuation from the August meeting, new graphics are being provided regarding these two items.
 h. 2023S-049. ACCVB-Stacey Colledge / intersection of Highways 151 and 6 / Stacey wishes for the BOT to review the graphics of the new gateway billboard to replace the one blown down by the wind. Ten feet high by thirty feet long.
 VI. Other Business.
 a. Discussion/Action: 2023 ACLUD Special Election is to be held Tuesday, October 3rd. Joe Parcell, Moses de los Santos and Norine Magee are up for re-election. All nominations are to be turned in by Friday, November 8th.
 b. Discussion/Action: HPC personnel wish to present a summary of their research with SHPO regarding the potential modification of converting historic barns to residences.
 c. Discussion/Action: Review the subject of cedar siding as it applies to all building surfaces that face the north or south side of Amana's Main Street.
 d. Discussion/Action: Review the subject of how best to improve existing sign ordinances to streamline the process.
 e. Discussion/Action: Jeff Conquest confirmed that he would be willing to stay on as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission for an additional five years (2023 to 2028).
 VII. Review/Approve September Disbursements Report.
 VIII. Review/Approve both the July and August Treasurer's Report.
 IX. President's Report.
 X. Administrator's Report.
 XI. Adjourn.