Amana Society Bulletin

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AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Communion Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, November 01, 2026 starting 10:00 A.M. with Sw Betsy Momany presiding.

Hymns: "Invited Lord by Boundless Grace"
"Jesus, Dear True Bread of Life"
"Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord" (Elder will read)
"Oh, Come Ye to the Righteous Vine"
"Praise To The Lord The Almighty"

Songs sheets will be provided.

Testimony: Excerpts, Christian Metz, Nieder Ebenezer, May 28, 1855; Excerpts, Johann Adam Gruber, Leisingen, Switzerland, December 21, 1716

Scripture: John 6:53-58
Matthew 26: 26 – 29

The Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (Nachtgebet) begins at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

Visitors are welcome to join us in worship at all Amana Church Services. Childcare is available during Sunday's 10:00 A.M. Service.

The live link for the 10:00 A.M. service is: https://www.facebook.com/theamanachurch

Links to past services online may be found at: *https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/*

AMANA SANITARY DISTRICT MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Amana Sanitary District will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 04, 2026 in the Amana lift station.

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES

The Amana Scouts, Troop 223, will again be offering Christmas wreaths and outdoor balsam roping for sale to all residents and businesses in our community.

The wreaths are 24" and have a red bow and 2 pinecones as decoration. These are $18.00 each. These can be pre-ordered by October 27 to make sure you get yours. Wreaths will also be available on Saturday November 21st when we do our door to door sales.

Roping is available in two lengths – 25 foot for $27.00 and 50 foot for $54.00.
The roping needs to be pre-ordered by October 27. These WILL NOT be available after that date.

To pre-order your wreaths and roping call Gary or Charlotte Heishman, 319-622-3039. We will put you on our order list. I will personally contact those that are on our 2025 pre-order list within the next few weeks.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY!

The Amana Community Library added the following books to their collection. Stop by or call 319-622-3192 to reserve a book.

Jackals Mistress by Chris Bohjalian
Ironwood by Michael Connelly
Life We Bury by Allen Eskens
Rock Paper Scissors by Alice Feeney
Iowa Weird by Hayseed Press
King Sorrow by Joe Hill
Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz
Made for More by Julie Lefebure
Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Black Wolf and Grey Wolf by Louise Penny
When Disaster Strikes by Raymond Phillips
True Grit by Charles Portis
Exercise Finished by Melinda Wichmann

CJ Box books (7): Blood Trail, Cold Wind, Crossroads, Free Fire, Out of Range, Shots Fired, and Trophy Hunt

Robert Thorogood books (4): Death Comes to Marlow, Marlow Murder Club, Murder of the Marlow Belle, and Queen of Poison's

Buck Turner books (4): A Thousand Distant Shores, Keeper of Stars, Rain Catcher, Until the Last Star Falls

The ***Amana Society Bulletin*** is published by the Amana Print Shop for the **Amana Society Inc.** and distributed free as a public service to the Amana Community. On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com*** **and the Middle Amana Facebook page**

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Iowa County EMS Levy On the Ballot

When the general election is held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Iowa County voters will be asked to consider a property tax measure to help fund Iowa County EMS services, including ambulance and first responder services.

A YES vote means voters will allow Iowa County Supervisors to consider imposing a property tax increase not to exceed $1.50 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. A NO vote means voters decline to allow Iowa County Supervisors the ability to do so.

Here is the complete wording of the measure:

"Shall the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, upon recommendation of the Iowa County EMS Essential Services Advisory Council, be authorized to levy and impose an ad valorem property tax not to exceed One dollar 50 cents ($1.50) per One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) of assessed valuation on all taxable property within Iowa County for the purpose of funding Emergency Medical Services, including but not limited to ambulance services, first responder services, personnel, training and equipment, for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years?"

VOTE: *YES* or *NO*

A vote *YES* will not raise taxes currently, however, it does give the Iowa County Supervisors the authority to considering doing so upon the recommendation of a volunteer board of twelve county residents who oversee the ambulance and first responder teams in Iowa County.

The measure was first proposed by EMS Director Adam Rabe in 2025 so that the county would be able to offset rising costs at a time with the State of Iowa is capping property tax increases.

Iowa County Supervisor Abigail Maas at a town hall meeting held October 22 at the Millstream Brau Haus in Amana said she is on record as opposing the measure. She said that right now Iowa County pays about $900,000 per year for ambulance service (two ambulances and personnel). About 53 percent of the ambulance service's budget comes from service charges billed to those who use it and 47 percent comes from the general fund which is funded by property taxes paid to the county.

The county does not pay for first responder services in the county, including the Amana QRS (Quick Response Team). That's all funded by donations with volunteers trained to serve, they do share a software system and receive some disposable supplies from the Iowa County Ambulance. QRS teams do not bill users for services.

Josh Bern, a University of Iowa ICU nurse and a former Iowa County Ambulance Service employee was the director of the Amana QRS team for ten years. He wrote a Facebook post in support of the Iowa County EMS measure.

He and others have questioned why some would object to even considering increasing funding for the ambulance service or to help out the volunteer first responder teams who are working hard to help local residents. He noted that demand for both has grown and costs have risen.

He wrote: "Most taxpayers of Iowa County are unaware that the ambulance service is a separate entity from the QRS service that responds when an emergency (911) response is activated. Although QRS services respond under the direction of the Iowa County Ambulance Service, they are responsible to operate and function independently to the set standards and inspections of the State of Iowa."

"My point being, in any circumstance that an ambulance is requested it is possible that there is no QRS (first responder) response if the QRS service cannot maintain functional status as a volunteer organization."

"Second, most taxpayers are unaware of the itemized expenses it takes (for QRS) to stay operational. Replacement of medical supplies utilized on calls in addition to items that have expiration dates adds up. The coursework/tuition for a new volunteer to become certified to join is $2,000 per provider. Lastly, vehicle maintenance along with refueling is not cheap with the current price at the pump. This last year Amana QRS's vehicle required

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Lakeview Village
Assisted Living Apartments
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News & Notes *from page 1*

an engine rebuild ….(it was done by volunteers) if that one expense were to go to a local dealership, the account funds to stay operational would have been depleted completely. In a recent statement from the current Amana QRS's director, his service is only bringing in around $1,000 annually in donation funds. This is inarguably disproportionate to the expenses listed above."

Maas seemed worried that the supervisors might be asked to impose the levy in order to get a third ambulance in service in Iowa County. Iowa County has only two ambulances currently. She doesn't think the county can afford a third ambulance.

Maas said average response time for emergency medical services is 13 – 17 minutes within Iowa County, however Diane Lamb, with the Millersburg Quick Response Services said that the 13 – 17 minute times are first responder times. An ambulance wait time is closer to 30 minutes, stated Lamb, who was quoted in the Hometown Current Oct. 23

In June 2026 the Iowa County Supervisors agreed to put the EMS levy on the ballot. Supervisors Chris Montross, Seth Meyer, Kevin Heitshusen and Jon Degan voted yes. Maas voted no.

At that time Heitshusen said the county would levy the additional tax only if it needed to. If property taxes levied for the general fund in any given fiscal year covers the EMS budget, the additional tax wouldn't be levied, he said in June.

EMS supporters have pointed out that the measure on the ballot doesn't levy a tax. It simply gives the county authority to levy a tax if it is needed in the future.

The General Election is Tuesday Nov. 3

Early voting at the Iowa County Auditor's office at 970 Court Ave. in Marengo (in the courtyhouse annex across the street from the courthouse) is happening now. Bring a photo id to vote. The early voting site is open Monday – Friday this last week and Saturday, October 31. From 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The last day to vote in person early at the auditor's office is the day before the election: Monday, Nov. 2.

To vote in person on Tuesday, Nov. 3 bring a photo id to your polling place: Middle Amana Fire Station for Lenox and Iowa townships. Hilton Township Hall in Conroy for Hilton and Washington townships. The polls will be open on Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. here and across Iowa.

If you have questions go to the Auditor's website, Iowa County, Iowa at iowacounty.iowa.gov or call 319-642-3923.

The acceptable forms of identification to vote are:

- A current Iowa Driver's License or a Non-operator's ID
- A current US Passport
- A current US Military ID
- A US Veteran's ID
- Tribal ID
- Voter ID "PIN" card.

Your absentee ballot must be received at the Iowa County Auditor's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have not already mailed it, you may take your absentee ballot to the Iowa County Auditors Office Friday, Oct. 30, on Saturday Oct. 31 or on Monday, Nov. 1 the day before election day.

ESSEN WAGEN - HOME DELIVERED MEALS

The Amana Church, in conjunction with Colonial Manor, sponsors the Amana Essen Wagen, which provides a hot noon meal to home-bound, adults or their adult child, delivered to your home (even to your chair!) each weekday, except holidays. Enjoy not cooking and enjoy visiting with one of our volunteer drivers.

Please contact Colonial Manor at 319-622-3131 to sign up for this service. You can register for a short time while recuperating at home, or on a permanent basis. The suggested donation per meal is $4.00.

The Amana Print Shop
319-622-3912
'tis the season for advantage plan calls and if you are not on my contact list you will go to voice mail. Please leave a message with your name and number, I will call you back
E-mail: amanaprintshop@southslope.net
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AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP
Church Services
SUNDAYS 9:00 AM
All Are Welcome
Amana Performing Arts Center
www.amanaareafellowship.org

AMANA'S FIRST ARTSY FARTSY CHILI PARTY A HIT!

Good food, friendly competition, live music and beautiful fall weather came together Sunday, October 25, for the Amana Arts Guild's first Artsy Fartsy Chili Party. With a good turnout and an impressive lineup of local restaurants, the event brought the community together for an afternoon of chili tasting, voting, art and conversation.

Acoustic guitarist Todd Frank provided the soundtrack for the afternoon, setting a relaxed, welcoming tone as guests sampled chili, visited with friends and enjoyed the sunshine. An art sale held alongside the event added another creative touch to the gathering.

The highlight was the chili competition, featuring an impressive variety of recipes and flavors. The competition was tough, but The Ronneberg took home the People's Choice Award with its White Chicken Chili, a creamy blend of chicken, white beans, green chilies, cumin and a hint of chipotle. Guests cast their votes for their favorites, making for an exciting finish to the friendly competition.

Local restaurants and community organizations brought an array of distinctive entries to the table.

The Ronneberg took home the coveted People's Choice Award with its crowd-pleasing White Chicken Chili, a creamy blend of chicken, white beans, green chilies, cumin and a hint of chipotle. With so many delicious and creative chilis competing for the title, the contest was fierce, making The Ronneberg's win a delicious triumph and a highlight of the afternoon!

The Amana Fire Department joined the fun with a classic chili made with meat, beans, tomatoes, onions and spices, offering the kind of familiar, comforting flavor that reminds many people of homemade family recipes.

Amana Colonies Bakery served Momma Joyce's Legendary Chili, a sweet, hearty recipe made with farm-raised beef, beans, onions, bell peppers and savory spices. The bakery also shared delicious bread and pumpkin bars that were a big hit with guests.

The Brau Haus brought two distinct entries. Ultimate Betrayal Chili, made with ground beef and pork, delivered the most heat of the competition, while Brau Haus Chili offered a hearty beef option with a milder flavor.

Two 20th Point brought Two 20th Toot, a hearty chili with an Italian twist featuring pepperoni and olives—a creative take on the traditional dish.

The Indigo Room contributed an outstanding Texas chili that brought bold flavor and plenty of character to the competition.

The Ox Yoke Restaurant contributed two comforting favorites: a creamy Chicken Chili with a touch of spice and a traditional Beef and Red Bean Chili.

From traditional favorites to creative combinations and spicy surprises, the entries showcased the variety and personality that make chili such a beloved comfort food.

The Amana Arts Guild extends its heartfelt thanks to all the participating restaurants, the Amana Fire Department, Todd Frank, volunteers and everyone who came out to enjoy the afternoon. Events like this are possible because local businesses and community members are willing to share their time, talents and generosity.

Established in 1978, the Amana Arts Guild is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and celebrating the arts in the Amana Colonies and surrounding communities. The Artsy Fartsy Chili Party brought that mission to life in a new way, combining food, music, art and community connection.

With beautiful weather, a good turnout and a hard-fought chili competition, the first Artsy Fartsy Chili Party was a delicious success. In fact, planning for next year is already underway—and organizers have heard the requests for cinnamon rolls!

The Amana Arts Guild looks forward to bringing the community together again for another helping of food, art, music and friendly competition.

OBITUARY

Happy (Duane) Brindle, 75, of High Amana, Iowa, died October 3, 2026, after an unexpected illness. Visitation for Happy will be held Friday, October 30, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Calvary Baptist Church, 5338 Johnson Avenue, Cedar Rapids, IA, followed by a memorial service at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will be provided at the church, with a graveside service to follow at the High Amana Cemetery.

Happy was born to George and Mary (Rowen) Brindle on September 26, 1951. They named him Duane, but later in life he legally changed his name to Happy. This was a nickname given to him early in life by the family physician, as he always saw him as such a happy baby.

Happy graduated from Union-Whitten High School in Union, Iowa in 1969. He enjoyed periodically taking adult ed classes to learn about topics of interest to him. After high school, he farmed and did long haul trucking. He later worked as a mechanic, did factory work, sold and installed DTN systems, and worked in sales and marketing of technology labs. Eventually he started his own business called Val-Tech, where he sold and installed technology centers in schools and universities in 3 states.

In retirement, Happy moved to High Amana. Here he became "Santa", disappearing after Thanksgiving, traveling to various places throughout the USA, bringing Christmas cheer to children and adults alike.

In the Amana area, many local friends became his supportive family. He attended Bible studies and prayer meetings, as well as Calvary Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids. In his later years, Happy had developed an eternal, personal relationship with Jesus, whose love he actively shared with everyone.

Happy is survived by his Irish Setters, Dee and Limey, who were beside him in his last hours on this earth. He is also survived by many good friends in the Amana area. Additionally, he is survived by a brother, Charles (Sheryl) Brindle, and sister, Janine (Dan) Johnson. He was preceded in death by both of his parents, his grandson, Justin Swick, and a sister, Diane Warden.

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FOR SALE

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HELP WANTED

The **Amana Colonies Visitors Center** is seeking a reliable and flexible part-time Customer Support Associate with interpersonal skills. This position includes assisting visitors with questions and providing them with resources in person and via phone or email, helping visitors learn about what the Amana Colonies have to offer, tour and retail sales, and some cleaning. Must be able to count money, learn to use Square POS Register, and do some light lifting. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday required, with availability to cover Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday as needed. For a copy of the complete job description, please email director@amanacolonies.com

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WINE MIXOLOGY CLASS
Presented At Fireside Winery in Amana

Fireside Winery offers a WINE Mixology Class at Amana location, November 6th at 5:00 pm.

Enjoy the flavors of three unique wine-based creative cocktails. Let your palate explore while you learn!

Each guest will sample the wines used to create each cocktail, watch a "how to" demonstration, and sample the unique and flavorful wine crafted creation.

Cheese and crackers will be provided with each ticket as a palate cleanser.

Guests can also take the recipes home after the demonstration so they can recreate these culinary sips anytime.

This class will be led by tasting room manager, Deb. Tickets are $24 per person and available on our events pages, https://www.firesidewinery.com/ or via email to deb@firesidewinery.com