

Colonies in Bloom: Gardens of the Amanas, ‘Heart Balm’

By Alicia Schmitt, Amana Heritage Society

AMANA — Celebrate both Iowa theater and the gardening heritage of the Amana Colonies Saturday, June 28.

Begin with Colonies in Bloom from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take a self-guided tour of selected gardens in the seven villages.

Then, enjoy a performance of “Heart Balm” by Iowa City playwright, Janet Schlapkohl, at the historic Homestead Village Church Museum at 7 p.m.

Colonies in Bloom is a free event that celebrates the rich gardening culture of the Amana

Colonies. Gardening has always been a key part of the Amana Colonies and has flourished over time.

In the communal era, production of fruits and vegetables was a community endeavor. Hobby gardens were unknown. When the communal system ended in 1932, hobby gardening became popular.

Selected residences and businesses will open gardens to visitors for Colonies in Bloom. Each garden is unique, with both traditional and modern gardens as well as both native and exotic plants.

Maps for Colonies in Bloom will be available at the Amana Heritage



Museum, the Amana Colonies Visitors Center, and each participating garden location as well as online as a PDF at amanacolonies.com and amanaheritage.org.

“Heart Balm,” a live

performance by playwright Janet Schlapkohl at the historic Homestead Village Church Museum, is the story of a young German immigrant who discovers love, a new occupation,

the Iowa court system and herself. The play poses the question, “What is the price of a broken heart?”

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p. Tickets are \$25 with a \$5 discount for Amana Heritage Society members. Tickets available at amanaheritage.org.

The Homestead Village Church Museum (4210 V Street, Homestead) will host to this performance to raise awareness about its future. Amana is planning a major historic preservation project to restore the structure to its former humble glory.

The church was built in 1865 and served as a

worship space until the 1990s when it became a museum site for visitors to learn about the religious heritage of the Amana Colonies. Revitalization efforts will allow it to become a venue for educational and entertaining musical and theatrical performances, focusing on the history and heritage of the state of Iowa as a whole.

More information about the Amana Heritage Society and these two events can be found online at amanaheritage.org. Or call 319-622-3567 or email amanaheritage@southslope.net.

Amana library hosts Iowa traveler

AMANA — Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Amana will host Tyler Sullivan, the creator behind Iowa Scenic Views by Foot, Tuesday, June 17 5 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

Sullivan, a poet, author and runner, will share his adventures of running and visiting sites across the state.

Sullivan has visited 96 of Iowa’s 99 counties and has been to nearly 1,300 cities across the state. He runs at least a mile in each of these communities and writes poems for each of the counties he visits.

Last year, Sullivan traveled to more than 150 museums across the state. A plans to visit 250 museums and attractions this year.



In this April 2025 file photo, Tyler Sullivan talks about small towns across Iowa at English Valleys History Center in North English. (File photo)

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be signed with the author’s name and town of residence and should include a phone number for verification purposes. The phone number will not be published.

Form letters and letters from outside our subscription area will generally not be published.

We will not publish letters that we deem libelous or letters that contain claims or assumptions that cannot be verified using reasonable effort, letters we consider in poor taste or letters we consider offensive to the general readership.

Letters must be less than 500 words and will be edited for grammar, style and spelling.

Only one letter from a

single author on the same subject will be published in a 30-day period.

Letters that endorse candidates will be considered ad content and will not be printed. Endorsements of ballot issues will be accepted as letters to the editor.

Letters will run at the discretion of the managing editor based on relevance, timeliness and available space. We do not guarantee that submitted letters will appear in print.

Send letters for The Hometown Current, the Marengo Pioneer Republican, the Poweshiek County Chronicle Republican and the Williamsburg Journal Tribune to Hometown Media Managing Editor Winona Whitaker at winona@hometowncurrent.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

A public hearing will be held by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors establishing an Area Service System “B” road classification for a portion of A Ave.

The proposed section of A Ave is located in Section 18 of Hartford Township, T80N, R12W of Iowa County, Iowa more particularly describes as follows:

The portion of A Ave. located within Section 18 of Hartford Township. Commencing at the intersection of Hwy 6 and A Ave and thence south approximately ±1,550 ft to a point of beginning. Thence continuing southerly, then westerly on A Ave to the City of Victor city limits, Iowa County will reduce service to Level B.

The hearing will be held in the County Board Room located on the second floor of the Iowa County East Courthouse Annex, Marengo, Iowa 52301, at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, June 27, 2025. At that time the Board of Supervisors will take public comments and questions.

STATE OF IOWA: COUNTY OF IOWA May 30, 2025

The Iowa County Board of Supervisors met on May 30, 2025. Heitshusen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Maas, Heitshusen, Meyer, Degen and Montross were present.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Montross to approve the agenda. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross, seconded by Maas to approve minutes for May 23, 2025. Heitshusen, Maas, Meyer, and Montross – yes. Degen abstained. Motion Carried.

Chair Notes: The board approved handwritten claims paid with warrant numbers 39315-39317 and 39418-39419 and claims paid with warrant numbers 39318-39417.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Maas to approve Resolution 2025-05-30A as follows:

and F Ave then proceeding south on F Ave to the intersection of F Ave and 148th St any and all speed restrictions shall refer to 321.285, section 3 & 4 of the Iowa Code.

All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Meyer to set a public hearing for reducing level of maintenance to Area Service “B” Road – A Ave for June 27, 2025, at 9:15 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross seconded by Maas to approve the liquor license applications for Fireside Winery and two for Amana Colonies Outdoor Convention Facility. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Montross to approve and authorize chair to sign the Amendment to Contract with Bayer at 2227 and 2229 225th Street. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Degen to discuss concerns regarding parking in Main Amana.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Montross to approve bus loading and unloading signage being put up in Main Amana with 15-minute time limits. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Meyer to approve the donated leave policy of Catastrophic illness of employees and immediate family members. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Maas to approve the County Handbook to amend the existing sheriff’s employees hours to 12-hour shifts. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross, seconded by Maas to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

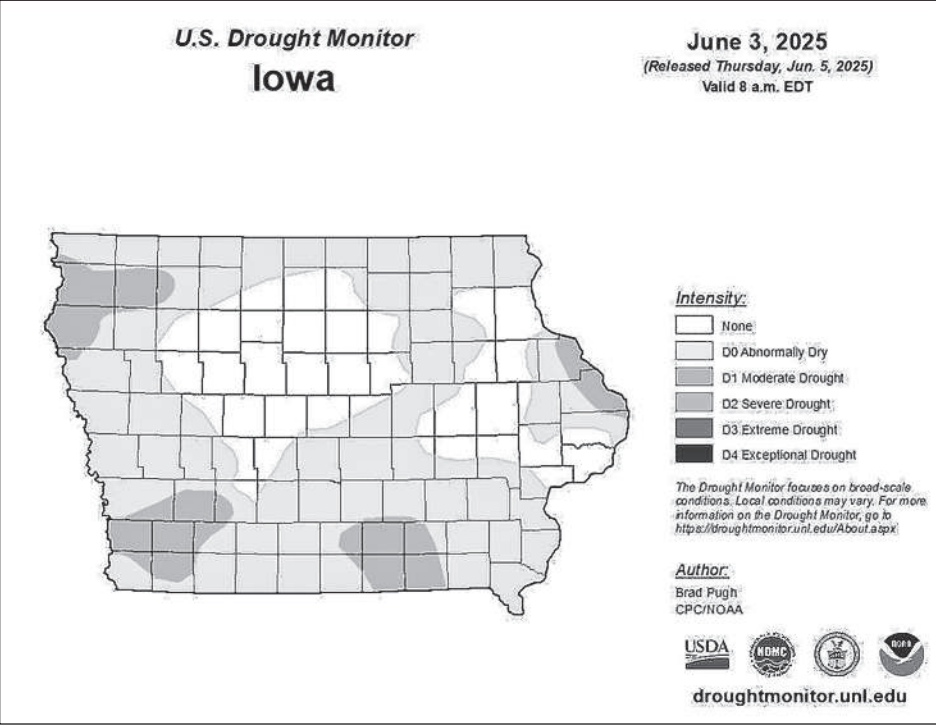
Kevin Heitshusen, Chairperson
Brandy Enochson, Auditor
Minutes are unofficial until approved at the next Board Meeting.

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Below-average rainfall extends Iowa drought area

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

DES MOINES — Drought conditions have expanded across the state due to below-normal precipitation in May, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

After a drier-than-normal April, May saw decreased rainfall across all regions of the state, resulting in an increase in drought and abnormally dry conditions.

While early rainstorms initially helped maintain stable dry conditions, lower rainfall amounts later in the month resulted in deteriorating conditions across Iowa.

May’s average statewide precipitation was 2.80 inches, 2.04 inches below normal. The state experienced slightly warmer weather, with

statewide temperature averaging a normal 60 degrees.

At the end of May, Iowa’s Drought Plan showed degrading conditions across the state except in the central drought region. However, Western Iowa now carries a drought watch designation.

The remaining drought regions remain under a normal drought designation.

According to the current U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 80% of Iowa continues to experience abnormally dry conditions or drought conditions.

The June precipitation outlook from the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center indicates an equal chance for above-, below- or near-average precipitation across the state, but also an elevated like-

lihood of above-normal temperatures.

Warmer air holds more moisture and could increase concerns for widespread drought if the state experiences below-normal rainfall during June.

“Despite above-average rainfall in March and nearly average amounts in April, May saw below-normal totals, which expanded drought conditions across the state, but most notably in Western and southeastern Iowa,” said Jessica Reese McIntyre, DNR environmental specialist.

“Western Iowa is now under a drought watch as D1 — Severe Drought persists. The National Weather Service precipitation outlooks predict an equal chance for the entire state for above, below, or normal precipitation through June,” McIntyre said.

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