

Sandersfeld family in concert in Amana



AMANA — The Sandersfeld Family will present a Christmas concert this month in Amana.

The Sandersfeld family will perform Christ-centered Christmas

music at the Amana Performing Arts Center, 39 38th Ave., Amana, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

Shawn and Jennifer Sandersfeld and their children perform tra-

ditional and unique arrangements of Christmas carols on piano, guitar, brass, marimba, bells and percussion.

Donations will be accepted in lieu of ticket prices.

Haus Walk

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Society.

These kitchens were operated by the women of the Colony and were supplied by the village smokehouse, bakery, ice house and dairy, and by the huge gardens, orchards and vineyards maintained by the villagers.

In 1932, during the Great Depression, Amana set aside its communal way of life and many formerly communal buildings were converted into private residences. The homes had to add kitchens when the communal kitchens closed, Lisa said.

During the holidays, Lisa decorates her home and Bed and Breakfast with nearly 30 Christmas trees. She has one in each room and 10 in the dining room alone, she said.

“I just love Christmas.”

The trees are so full of decorations that the branches can barely be seen, said Lisa. “I always just love a full Christmas tree.”



A hallway in Rawson's Bed and Breakfast Inn in Homestead is decorated for the holidays. The home was one of several in the seven Amana villages on the Amana Arts Guild Haus Walk Dec. 6. (Winona Whitaker/Hometown Current)

Lisa said her favorite tree is one decorated with her grandmother's cookie cutters and recipes.

Two of the three dining room tables displayed formal setting in holiday colors. “I love a set table,” said Lisa. “We do breakfast here every morning.”

On the table in the first-floor hallway by the stairs is an extensive Nativity scene. People give Lisa new pieces for it every year, she said.

By the baseboard in each room is a little mouse house.

Decorating the entire Inn takes time. “This year I went slow, and it

took me about a month,” said Lisa. She wanted to take her time and enjoy it, she said.

Lisa decorated a tree a day and unloaded a couple of totes of decorations each day, she said. She leaves the decorations up until the middle of February, when Valentine's Day approaches.

This is the first year the B and B has been on the Haus Walk, said Lisa. It's something she's wanted to do for quite some time, but she wasn't sure how to get on the list.

“I love sharing it,” said Lisa, but people don't walk in off the street to visit the Inn. “Not a lot of people get to see it. I want everyone to see it.”

The B and B is pretty busy May through October, said Lisa. It has a nice in-ground pool. “We have an herb garden,” said Lisa. “I do a lot of canning.”

During the off-season Rawson's B and B is not full every night, but weekends are always full, Lisa said.

“I get a lot of girls getaways,” said Lisa, and a lot of retreats. People don't always stay because they are doing something in the area. Often people book a room and don't leave the B and B, she said.

Rawson's Bed and Breakfast has received several awards, accord-

ing to the Amana Society, including a Peoples Choice Award for top three bed-and-breakfasts in Northeast Iowa.

Also on last weekend's Haus Walk was the Myers Home at 23 220th Trail, in Upper South Amana, originally a general store built in 1885 after the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad built a rail line one mile south of South Amana in 1883.

The Brost Home, at 705 E Street, West Amana, welcomed guests as well. Built in 1858, it was the oldest home on the tour. Originally the village bakery, it later served as a general store and cobbler shop for the new village.

The McCarty Home, 2605 J. Street in Middle Amana, built in 1888 on Middle Amana's “backstreet” as a wagon shop for the village, was also on the Haus Walk, and the West Amana Blacksmithing Shop and the Arts Guild Folklife Center in High Amana were open during the house tour.

The Salvation Army is in need of bell ringers

By J.O. Parker, Poweshiek County Chronicle Republican

MONTEZUMA — The snow had started to fall as Bonnie Cox of Montezuma and a Montezuma student stood outside the town Memorial Hall ringing the Salvation Army bells.

It's was the town's Christmas celebration, Saturday, Dec. 6, and the two, along with other volunteer bell ringers, kept the Red Kettle Campaign going all day, starting early that morning with the arrival of Santa.

Cox said this was her third time ringing the bell that day. “It's hard to find bell ringers,” she said.

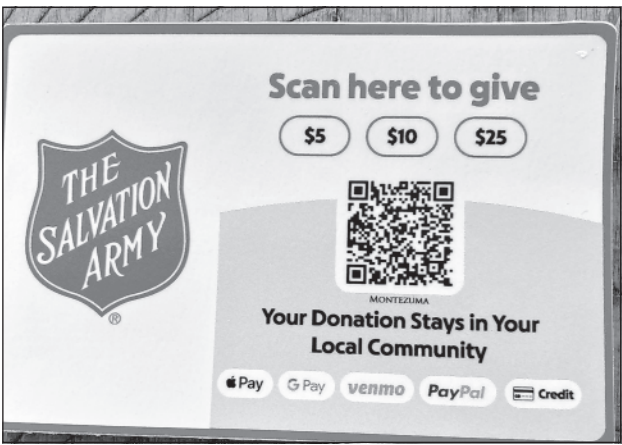
Bruce Blankenfeld, the volunteer bell ringing coordinator with the Poweshiek County Salvation Army Service Extension Unit #261, agreed, saying there is a need.

“It's some weekdays that ringers are needed,” Blankenfeld said. Most of the weekends until Christmas are filled.

Bell ringers are needed at Grinnell Walmart, Fareway and Hy-Vee.

When there is a shortage, Blankenfeld will often place the red kettle inside the store until the next bell ringer arrives. And sometimes, he will move all the ringers to Walmart if there is a shortage of bell ringers.

“Some days I don't



The Poweshiek County Salvation Army Extension #261 has a QR Code card through which residents may make donations. Donations can be made through Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal and by credit card. (Submitted photo)

ring at all three stores because I don't have enough bell ringers,” said Blankenfeld.

Darla Wilson, chairman of the Poweshiek County Salvation Army, said being a bell ringer is a good way to get children involved in serving their community.

“They can easily work shortened shifts and warm up inside the store or with a parent in the car,” said Wilson. “Kids love handing out peppermints to donators or even singing Christmas carols as they ring that bell.”

Bell ringing started the Friday after Thanksgiving and will continue until 3 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Last year, the Salvation Army in Poweshiek

County raised \$15,000, mostly through the Red Kettle Campaign. Blankenfeld said the goal this year is to raise \$20,000.

“I try to raise a little more each year,” said Blankenfeld.

All funds raised provide temporary or emergency welfare assistance to individuals and families in the Poweshiek County. It's the same for all counties.

Service extension units may also apply to the Omaha district office for special projects to be funded. These projects should be addressing needs that cannot be met by any other means.

Ninety percent of the funds raised in the county stays in the county. The other 10% being sent to the main office in

Omaha.

The Salvation Army fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 — Sept.30.

According to Wilson, the budget for providing assistance and special projects consists of the money raised from the Red Kettle bell ringing campaign during the Christmas season and any other special funding that the unit may have such as community fund drives, personal giving and trusts.

“During the last fiscal year, 48 assistances were extended,” said Karen Meek, co-welfare secretary with Secretary Annette Deering with the local Salvation Army.

“Of these, 16 were from the Grinnell area, five from the BGM area, 22 from Montezuma and five from other areas within the county. These helps include assistance with rent, utilities, storage rent due to eviction and water and sewer.”

In addition, three special projects totaling \$3,417.39 were accomplished after committee members suspected a need. Most recently, two refrigeration units were purchased from S & S Appliance for Connections in Grinnell, formerly known as Station Clubhouse, where an average of 15 adults participate daily in this peer drop-in center.

Meek said it was won-

derful opportunity to help an organization that has done much good over many years.

In June, just before the relocation grand opening of the Brooklyn Food Pantry, a 21-cubic foot convertible upright freezer was purchased from Roudabush Electronics & Appliances.

“It was a dream come true for Mary Carlson, director of the pantry, to finally have adequate room and infrastructure to properly serve the community in need,” said Wilson.

Carlson said that an

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six years and drop it to 57 cents for the last four years, according to figures provided by the Board.

That amount includes the cost of paying off the last five years of the previous contract, said Maas.

The county's debt service dropped this year to 31 cents from 60 cents two years ago when another bond was paid off. “Our service levy is not maxed out by any means,” said Supervisor Abby Maas.