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Luca Bergeson, 4, enjoys the warm weather by splashing water at a wading pool at Brookside Park on Thursday in Ames. Temperatures will get to the mid-80s in central Iowa this weekend followed by mid-90s on Monday and Tuesday. PHOTOS BY NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

Staying cool at the wading pool



Julian Bergeson, 2, plays in the water at a wading pool at Brookside Park on Thursday in Ames.



Ida Hollinger, 4, has some fun at a wading pool at Brookside Park on Thursday in Ames.

Story County native announces two legacy bicycle rides

Teresa Kay Albertson
Ames Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

For those who missed getting into the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa in the early days, now is your chance to jump on the saddle for a new legacy ride sure to grow and become an annual beloved event.

The Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Ride is coming to Iowa with events this weekend and June 14 to honor a nearly forgotten ground-breaking experiment led by Black American soldiers in the late 19th century. The challenge was to determine whether newly designed bicycles featuring a chain drive and steerable front wheel could become an effective transportation tool in the United States Army.

This year is the 125th anniversary of the original Buffalo Soldier's bicycle ride from Ft. Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1897. The ride was developed to test the practicality of the new transportation tool.

The soldiers' original route didn't take them through Iowa at all, but that isn't stopping Cedar Rapids resi-

dent Larry Ritland from commemorating the amazing feat of the original 23 men who accomplished the 1,900-mile mission.

The Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Rides in Iowa will take place rain or shine.

Two commemorative rides are scheduled in Iowa.

Des Moines-area bicycle ride starts in Ankeny on Saturday

The Des Moines-area ride starts at Ryno Velo Bike Shop in Ankeny at 604 SW Third St., Ankeny. There is no registration, no fees and no donations.

"Simply show up and ride," Ritland said in a press release.

To avoid congestion, riders are encouraged to park at the High Trestle Trail parking lot on First Avenue in Ankeny, and then ride the 1 1/2 blocks south to the bike shop. Riders will be given a token for one complimentary adult beverage or soft drink at the VFW Hall in Madrid on the day of the ride.

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March for Our Lives rally planned for Saturday

Phillip Sitter
Ames Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

An Ames High School student who will be participating in one of many March for Our Lives rallies scheduled for this weekend knows the recent shooting outside a local church brought the issue of gun violence home, but he also wants people to realize the problem is much bigger in scale.

David Lee said, "I hope people understand that gun violence isn't just another thing that happens at a national level, that doesn't impact us."

On June 2, a 33-year-old gunman shot and killed two women, 21 and 22 years old, outside Cornerstone Church in Ames with a 9 mm pistol, before killing himself, authorities said. Authorities have said he had been in a relationship that had recently ended with one of the victims.

The gunman also had a legal history of alleged assault and threats against other women, as well as having been arrested two days before the shooting for charges related to alleged harassment of the woman he targeted outside the church — who served in the same Iowa National Guard unit as him.

The shooting in Ames came on the heels of several high-profile mass shootings in recent weeks that the country continues to mourn, including: 10 people killed at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, on May 14; 19 students and two teachers killed at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24; and four people killed at a medical building in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 1.

Last year had the highest number of mass shootings in the U.S. of any year since 2014, and at least 245 mass shootings have been recorded so far in 2022, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

The archive defines a mass shooting as one that involves four or more people shot or killed.

The number of people dying from gun violence every day in the U.S. reached a record high in 2020 — an average of 124 people a day, according to a new report from John Hopkins University.

The 45,222 gun deaths in the U.S. that year was the highest number recorded since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began tracking firearm deaths in 1968, according to the study's authors.

Suicides by firearm — more than 24,000 — accounted for more than half of those deaths, but homicides by firearm rose by 35%.

The CDC also found that in 2020 firearms had become the leading cause of death among children and teenagers — above car crashes.

The same night as the shooting outside Cornerstone Church in Ames, President Joe Biden had delivered a speech asking Congress for gun control measures.

"This is not just a one-time occurrence. These shootings, at a larger scale, happen everywhere," Lee, the Ames High student, said.

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