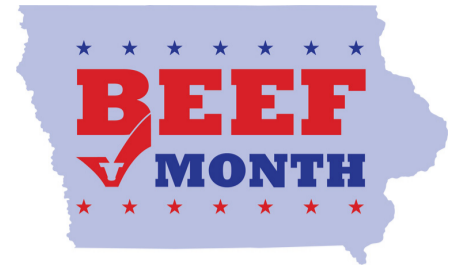


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# THE MANILLA TIMES

• Serving the communities of Manilla and Irwin •

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## Thatch 'facelift' to give Hausbarn new life



The thatchers received a lift from the locals such as board member Mike Warner and others, who operated a Telehandler and a lift.

By Janine Kock, Manilla Times Editor and Publisher

Spring is traditionally a time for cleaning up and fixing up, and that is no different for the Manning Hausbarn and Heritage Park. As has been the tradition at the attraction on the east end of Manning, volunteers were busy in late April preparing the facility for the summer, as the park opened for the season May 1.

However, this year's preparations were a bit different than the usual work, as the thatched roof on the hausbarn received a "facelift" which will take the building years into the future.

The hausbarn was dismantled in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where, as the name implies, it had been "home" to a German fam-

ily as well as their animals. The pieces were brought to Manning in 1999, where they were reassembled and a three-man crew came over to thatch the roof.

The hausbarn is now part of a heritage park which has been developed to preserve and promote the history of the Manning community and its German heritage, also including a historical farmstead, the Trinity Church, a modern hotel and conference center, the Carroll County Freedom Rock, and a campground.

The hausbarn has been well maintained during the nearly 25 years it has been in Manning but, as its roof's original life expectancy was nearing its end, board members began exploring what the next step would be in making

sure the roof and therefore the rest of the building was preserved.

"There is not a lot of demand" for roof thatching, Hausbarn-Heritage Park board member Mike Warner, who spearheaded the groundwork for the project, stated, noting they found just two possible companies, one in Ohio and the one they hired from North Carolina. "It's quite an art," he said.

Colin McGhee, a native of Scotland who moved to the United States in 1991, heads up the three-man crew. He had completed an apprenticeship as a roof thatcher out of high school to learn the trade and has done work all over the United States, from Virginia, where he now lives, to Texas, to DeWitt, Iowa, where they have a hausbarn with a thatched roof that now serves as the community's Chamber of Commerce office. In many locations, he has thatched tiki huts for wealthy people who construct them in their backyards, or near their pools or beaches.

McGhee hails from Staunton, VA, home of the Museum of American Frontier Culture, whose director was Walter Heyer. Heyer came to Manning in the 1990s to advise the community how to maintain a Hausbarn when the project was just getting underway.

Freda Dammann, president of the Hausbarn-Heritage Park board, said the reeds which make up the thatched roof come from the Island of Fehmarn in the Baltic Sea, located off the eastern coast of Schleswig-Holstein, which is Germany's northernmost state. The plants grow from three to five feet tall in inlets on the island and, in the winter, crews go out and harvest them and put them in bundles. For the Manning project, those bundles were shipped to the United States and brought in by the men doing the work.

There were some bundles of reed left over from 1999, stored

Continued on page 2

## Memorial Day Services Monday, May 29



10:00 a.m.  
Manilla  
Bandshell  
Park

### Memorial Day Schedule

(In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in to the Memorial Hall)

- Master of Ceremonies – Welcome
- National Anthem
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Placement of the Wreath to honor the unknown Soldiers
- Patriotic song by the Community Band
- Memorial Day Address
- Community Bank plays each Service Branch song to honor Veterans in attendance
- Recognition of the Color Guard from American Legion Post 132
- Reading of the Roll Call
- Color Guard Rifle Salute
- Taps played
- End of Ceremonies



## Memorial Day Services to be held at Defiance, Irwin, Kirkman

Memorial Day Services will be held at the Danway Cemetery (Irwin-Kirkman) at 9:30 a.m. on

Monday, May 29.

Rosehill Cemetery (Kirkman) at 10:30 a.m.

Oak Hill (Irwin) at 11:00 a.m.  
Union Township (Defiance) at 2:00 p.m. with lunch following.

### FFA Breakfast on Memorial Day

The IKM-Manning FFA is hosting a Memorial Day Breakfast on Monday, May 29 from 7-10 a.m. at the Aspinwall Community Building. See ad page 16 for details.

### Early deadline due to Memorial Day

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday all ads and articles for The Manilla Times need to be our office by Thursday noon, May 26.

*Congratulations!*

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