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SEEN IN ADEL



RIBBON CUTTING FOR COUNTY BUILDING: Dallas County Supervisors Mark Hanson, Kim Chapman and Brad Golightly cut the ribbon at the new County Administration Building on the Adel Square on Dec. 6. ■

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 24 | LOW 10
Sunshine and a few clouds



SATURDAY HIGH 22 | LOW 13
Snow and clouds



SUNDAY HIGH 18 | LOW 7
Snow and clouds



MONDAY HIGH 22 | LOW 7
Sun through high clouds



TUESDAY HIGH 17 | LOW 1
Mostly cloudy and cold; breezy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

THE TOY TRAIN AROUND THE TREE

As a child, my buddies and I would sit by the railroad tracks in our hometown and watch in awe as the trains passed by. By the 1970s, train usage had changed drastically, but that steam engine and those rusty railcars still made for an amazing sight.

That fascination with trains continued when my brother let me play with his toy train set that was set up on a sheet of plywood and a couple of sawhorses in our basement. To my knowledge, it was never displayed around the Christmas tree like so many others were. I am guessing Mom wouldn't allow it, as she didn't want us kids playing in the living room. That was OK with us, as we were just fine having our own space in the basement.

As an adult, I continued to have a passion for toy train sets, although I didn't have one of my own. My friend Bill still had his from his youth, and he set it up around their family Christmas tree each year. He was in his 50s when he told me about it and invited me over to play. He loved that train set. I did, too.

Bill moved away, and I wanted

a train set of my own. My kids caught wind of this and eventually bought me a plastic Christmas set that we have put around the tree each year since. It plays music, lets out steam and makes me smile. I still hope to someday replace it with an iconic Lionel train set like the one my brother had.

Ever wonder how and when this fascination with toy trains and Christmas began? It can be traced back more than a century ago to the early 1900s when the railroad was the No. 1 method of transportation, especially when it came to holiday travel. Some say the Christmas connection is due to families gathering around their Christmas trees, opening presents and playing with them immediately. With outlets nearby for the Christmas tree, it only seemed natural to plug in the toy train set right there.

Joshua Lionel Cowen founded the Lionel Corporation in 1900 and began producing toy trains. He created his first electric trains



for toy store displays, but families soon wanted to take one home. Lionel never lost its title as the king of model trains. Although the company reached its peak in the 1950s as the largest toymaker in the world, it is still the king of model trains today, at least to me.

The toy train set is not just an iconic American toy; it is a tradition that is nostalgic for many of us. That time-honored tradition continues today, thanks in large part to Thomas the Tank Engine, "The Polar Express" movie and the Harry Potter franchise.

At the end of the day, and especially at Christmas time, toy train sets may just be a reminder of a less complicated world when we could find enjoyment sitting with our buddies simply watching a steam engine and rail cars pass by. Choo-choo!

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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SEEN IN ADEL



DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR COUNTY BUILDING: Elected officials from across Dallas County, as well as members of the public, were on hand for the dedication ceremony at the new County Administration Building on the Adel Square on Dec. 6. ■

ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 3

- 6:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity vs. Clear Lake @ Wells Fargo Arena - Des Moines
- 8:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity vs. Clear Lake @ Wells Fargo Arena

Saturday, Jan. 4

- 11:30 a.m. **Basketball:** Boys Freshman @ Van Meter
- 12:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys JV @ Van Meter
- 2 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity @ Van Meter

Monday, Jan. 6

- 4 p.m. **Bowling:** JV/Varsity vs. Pella Christian @ Adel Family Fun Center
- 5 p.m. **Wrestling:** JV Tournament @ Earlham



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MOBILE FOOD BANK

Adel Mobile Food Bank is the fourth Wednesday of the month at New Hope Church, 25712 Highway 6, Adel, from 5-6:30 p.m. or until the food is gone. This is a drive-thru pickup for free groceries. ■

WANT TO HELP A VETERAN?

Federal funds may not be used to purchase personal items for veterans at VA hospitals. Individuals and groups, like the Adel American Legion Auxiliary Unit 464, step forward to collect clothing and other items needed by veterans in the Des Moines VA Hospital or in the domicile. The following items are most requested now: individually wrapped snacks; decaf coffee; men's sweatpants/athletic pants (M-XL); men's sweatshirts (XL); men's athletic shorts (M-XL); small, simple sports bras; backpacks; men's jackets (L-XL); men's slippers (11-12, 13-14); and large print books.

Donations may be dropped off at 1305 S. 15th St., Adel, or contact Shirley McAdon at 515-993-4862 for pick up. ■

ADEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

303 S 10th St, Adel • 515-993-3512 • adelpl.org

JANUARY STORYTIMES

- **Move and Groove Storytime** – Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **My First Storytime** – Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Preschool Storytime** – Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

JANUARY SPECIAL STORY TIMES

- **Dallas County Conservation Storytime** – Monday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.
- **Warm & Cozy Pajama Storytime** – Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Dino Storytime** – Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. Registration required at adelpl.org.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

- **Winter Playtime** – Every Friday from 9-11 a.m.

TEEN PROGRAMS

- **Teen Advisory Board** – Thursday, Jan. 9 at 4 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **Yoga** – Every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. Registration required at adelpl.org.
- **50s-plus Senior Gathering** – Jan. 7 and 21 at 10 a.m.
 - Brown Bag Book Club – Thursday, Jan. 9 at noon ■

FAITH'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Registration for Faith's Flock Preschool, 602 S. 14th St., 2025-2026 year opens Jan. 15 online at adelpreschool.com. Prior to that, an open house will be held Jan. 12 from 3-4:30 p.m. Faith's Flock is a Christ-centered LCMS preschool for 2 1/2 to 5 year olds owned by Faith Lutheran Church in operation since 1982. Email preschool@faithadel.com with any questions. ■



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7:00 a.m. - noon Sat.

www.sdclandfill.com

HISTORY

BAND CONCERT NIGHTS

BY MIKE FLINN

Band concert night during the 1920s was always on Thursday. The merchants loved it. It was like having two Saturday nights in one week to bring out the shoppers. It also gave the school a chance to show that they were actually teaching the youth something useful like music. Music was important in those days before television. Entertainment was often provided by the piano in the parlor, and every family had at least one member who could “tickle the ivories.” Adel was not lacking in culture.

The courthouse lawn was mowed the day of the concert, and the street department (one man back then) pulled the wooden bandstand on a wagon gear up from Riverside Park and placed it on the south side of the courthouse. By 1921, everyone came to town in automobiles.

There were many different brands, but Ford’s Model T was the most popular due to its price, a major consideration for the frugal farmers. Cars began arriving about 7 p.m., maybe later if it was threshing time. Emery Skinner usually had his J.I. Case touring car parked across the street by Skinner’s hardware before anyone else could get that choice spot.

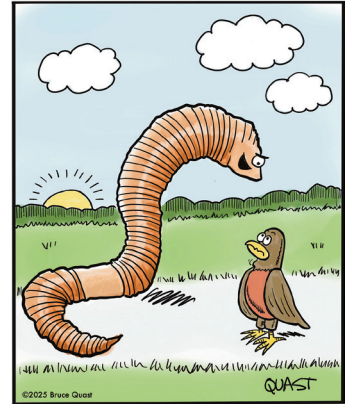
Many farmers did their trading on band concert night. The farmers’ wives would bring their eggs and butter to town and exchange them for other commodities such as flour, sugar, coffee and maybe even some factory-made crackers.

Meanwhile, the men would head to the barbershop for a haircut and sometimes even a shave. There were three barbershops in Adel, but John Parberry’s was probably the most popular. It was located under the Adel State Bank on the southwest corner of the square. It was not unusual for there to be 10 or more men lined up waiting their turn to be shorn. The wait did not matter to Parberry’s patrons. The lively conversation, on almost any topic, was better than the band concert any day. John Parberry, the barber and master of ceremonies, only had one eye. His motto was “The only difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is two weeks.” I don’t know for sure what this meant, but he would roar with laughter after each time, spit a huge wad at one of the four spittoons and resume his shearing. Anything was open for conversation: politics, weather, the state of the crops, and anyone not in the shop at the time.

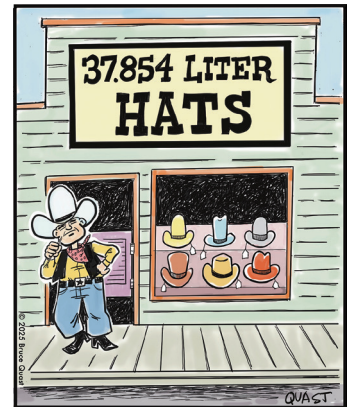
The choice parking spots were quickly filled, and the seats of the open touring cars were assigned to maximize the visiting (gossip) potential. Young people would be in one car while the ladies would fill another, and men would stand outside with one foot on the running board or the curb. The band would play from about 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. with a 15-minute break. The noise sometimes made conversation difficult but never impossible. The visiting didn’t always end when the music did. ■

COMFORTABLY DUMB

By Bruce Quast



“You must be the early bird I’ve heard so much about!”



Cowboys adopt the metric system



EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**SPORTS****IOWA WOLVES HOME GAMES**Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines
iowa.gleague.nba.com

- **Jan. 4** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Santa Cruz Warriors (Golden State Warriors)
- **Jan. 7** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Santa Cruz Warriors
- **Jan. 13** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Rip City Remix (Portland Trailblazers)
- **Jan. 15** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Greensboro Swarm (Charlotte Hornets)
- **Jan. 23** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Valley Suns (Phoenix Suns)
- **Jan. 24** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Valley Suns

IOWA WILD HOME GAMESWells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines
iowawild.com

- **Jan. 17** at 7 p.m. vs. Rockford Icehogs
- **Jan. 18** at 6 p.m. vs. Rockford Icehogs
- **Jan. 22** at 7 p.m. vs. Charlotte Checkers
- **Jan. 25** at 6 p.m. vs. Texas Stars
- **Jan. 26** at 3 p.m. vs. Texas Stars
- **Jan. 28** at 7 p.m. vs. Charlotte Checkers
- **Jan. 31** at 7 p.m. vs. Springfield Thunderbirds

DRAKE BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

Knapp Center, 2601 Forest Ave., Des Moines

Men's home games

- **Jan. 5** vs. Murray State
- **Jan. 11** at 5 p.m. vs. Evansville
- **Jan. 15** at 8 p.m. vs. Illinois State
- **Jan. 22** at 6:30 p.m. vs. Valparaiso
- **Jan. 29** at 6 p.m. vs. UNI

Women's home games

- **Jan. 4** at 2 p.m. vs. Valparaiso
- **Jan. 16** at 6 p.m. vs. Belmont

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS HOME GAMESThe MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex
6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
bucshockey.com**Home games**

- **Jan. 3** at 7 p.m. vs. Cedar Rapids RoughRiders
- **Jan. 4** at 6 p.m. vs. Lincoln Stars
- **Jan. 24** at 7 p.m. vs. Lincoln Stars

THEATRE**ACTORS, INC. - AMES COMMUNITY THEATER**120 Abraham Drive, Ames
actorsinc.org

- **Jan. 23-25, 31, Feb. 1-2:** "Angel Street"

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTSDes Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons,
Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines
desmoinesperformingarts.org

- **Jan. 9:** Capital City Pride Presents: "V Spehar"
- **Jan. 25:** "A Night of Magic and Comedy"
- **Jan. 28 to Feb. 2:** "Shucked"

TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines
tallgrasstheatre.org

- **Jan. 31 to Feb. 16:** "Ripcord"

STEPHENS AUDITORIUM1900 Center Drive, Ames
center.iastate.edu/events

- **Jan. 8:** "MANIA: The ABBA Tribute"
- **Jan. 24:** "Matt Mathews: Boujee On A Budget" ■

RECIPE

SAVE PRECIOUS TIME WITH SLOW-COOKED PULLED PORK

(Culinary.net) Whether you're hosting a holiday celebration or enjoying a weeknight meal during this busy season, easy recipes can help make the most of your time. Enjoy more of those precious moments with loved ones and less time in the kitchen with cranberry pulled pork, a slow-cooked solution with sweet cranberries perfectly complementing pork shoulder. ■

CRANBERRY PULLED PORK

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 6-8

Ingredients:

- 2 cans whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, divided
- 1 pork shoulder (7-8 pounds)

Directions:

In bowl, mix cranberry sauce, balsamic vinegar and 1/4 cup brown sugar.

Place pork shoulder in slow cooker and rub remaining brown sugar into meat.

Cover meat with cranberry mixture. Cook on low 6-8 hours or high 4-6 hours.



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DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION

www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation or call the DCCB office at 515-465-3577.

To register for events, visit www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation, click on “Public Programs” and scroll down to see program descriptions and to register. If you don’t have computer access or need assistance, call the DCCB office at 515-465-3577.

WHEN IT SNOWS, WE SKI!

Voas Nature Area

Date and time TBD

Dallas County Conservation has cross-country skis and boots available. When there is 4 inches or more of snow cover at Voas, weather conditions are safe, and a staff member is available, DCCB opens the building as a ski chalet, allowing participants to gear up inside and literally ski out the door. Poles, boots and skis for ages 10 and older are available to rent for \$3 per person. A limited number of sets are available for younger skiers. Register to be notified when ski rental is available.

HARD WATER HIKE “POP-UP” PROGRAM

Snyder Tract (North Raccoon River Wildlife area)

Date and time TBD

Take a hike on the “hard water” of the frozen North Raccoon River and the ponds at Snyder Tract and enjoy these natural areas from a new perspective. When weather and ice conditions are favorable, registered people will be notified when the program is scheduled.

WILDERNESS TRAIL TAILS

Waukee Public Library

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Registration required. Calling all grown-up adventurers. For the past 30 years, DCCB has led a service-oriented backpacking trek to the 4-million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness complex in Idaho. Every fourth year, adults, rather than high school students, are invited to participate. 2025 will be one of those years. Hear stories and view photos of prior trips to learn the details of the upcoming trek. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Rifle - Remington Model 788, 22.250, very well-maintained, excellent condition. Text (or call) 352-682-9550

FOR SALE: New Steven’s 555 E, 20 gauge over/under shotgun \$775. Text (or call) 352-682-9550.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS:

Paying cash for 60’s-90’s rock, blues, country and jazz. Call Brian at 515-326-5033.

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