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HISTORY

BUTLER BRANCH

BY MICHAEL FLINN

The quiet little stream that flows out of the northwest corner of Adel and divides Kinnick Feller Park from Oakdale Cemetery was named after Adel's first land agent, who turned out to be a man of questionable reputation.

Thomas Butler came to Adel in 1847. He was a hustling sort of fellow and was named the first lot fund agent for the newly formed town. He figured prominently in politics, occasionally acted as a preacher and, for a while, was quite popular. He sold nine lots that October, but the demand was so poor and the price so low that, for a time, the founders withdrew them from the market. Then it was discovered that Butler had left his home in Missouri because of some financial troubles and had settled in Adel in the hope of making some money. After his reputation caught up with



The bridge leading into Oakdale Cemetery crosses the Butler Branch.

him, he was asked to resign as lot agent. He then moved elsewhere, leaving "a deficit in his official accounts."

The stream that bears his name

still trickles peacefully around the cemetery and is also known as Butler Creek. The northern branch

STREAM, CONTINUED ON BACK

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 86 | LOW 65

Partly cloudy with a thunderstorm



SATURDAY HIGH 88 | LOW 63

Partly sunny and humid



SUNDAY HIGH 88 | LOW 65

Cloudy; strong afternoon t-storm



MONDAY HIGH 82 | LOW 66

Cloudy; strong morning t-storm



TUESDAY HIGH 83 | LOW 65

Cloudy; morning t-storm



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

LET'S GO FISHING, PAL

I have often wondered, like many of you, why immigrants don't come into our country the legal way. The answer, I am told, is that the process is quite complicated, lengthy and costly. Still, I pondered, is it worth breaking the law and risking having you and your family deported? Then, I tried to buy a fishing license.

Yes, a fishing license. It's a simple document with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to show that I paid a fee and can legally cast a line in the water in the state of Iowa. Sure, I could risk it and break the law, but I wanted to do the right thing. So, I visited the DNR website and attempted to buy a license, but my only choices were non-resident options. Keep in mind, I have lived in Iowa for the last 20 years. Apparently, though, I purchased a one-day, non-resident Iowa fishing license as Nebraska resident a few decades ago while camping at an Iowa state park. As such, that address is carved in stone in the Iowa DNR database, and I was unable to buy an Iowa resident fishing license online. Ugh!

Still wanting to do the right

thing, I bypassed the website and visited a local retailer to buy a fishing license. The clerk asked for my driver's license, which showed my Iowa address. When he pulled up my options on his screen, I saw the same results — only non-resident choices. At this point, I was willing to pay more and simply buy a non-resident license, but I couldn't because it didn't match the address on my driver's license. Ugh! Ugh!

The store clerk told me to call the DNR weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. This didn't aid me in my effort to fish that weekend, but I decided to do the right thing and call on Monday. I talked with a helpful DNR representative and explained my situation. She said I would need to fill out a "residency change" form and submit that, and she directed me to the DNR website. I could not find that form in the list of 700-plus links, despite word searching for the exact name. Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!

So, I printed the two-page form and



began filling it out manually. It was a basic information request — until section two where I was instructed to attach a copy of all of the following: a recent paystub, a copy of a utility bill, my home purchase agreement, a vehicle registration and a copy of my driver's license. Seriously. For a fishing license. Ugh! Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!

But wait. There is good news in this story. A DNR employee replied to an earlier email of mine and verified my account.

Despite the frustrations, in the end, a logical human being made sense of it all. This process gave me a better appreciation of what those who attempt to become legal American citizens must face. I am still not going to purposely break the law, and I don't expect others to either, but there has to be a better way.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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ADEL
Living Weekly

A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.
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ADEL FARMERS MARKET

Enjoy this open air market featuring more than 40 vendors with a range of homegrown and homemade products from local farmers, bakers and artisans, at the Dallas County Fairgrounds, 28057 Fairground Road, Adel, Tuesdays through September, 4-7 p.m. This is a family event with food trucks and music. ■

ADEL GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Join the Adel Good Samaritan Food Pantry at the Adel Farmer's Market to help distribute Kid Summer Food Packs. All ages are welcome. Bring a friend; at least two per shift is recommended. Volunteers are needed every Tuesday from 4-7 p.m., June through August, at the Dallas County Fairgrounds, 28057 Fairground Road, Adel.

Once you sign up, a friendly Good Samaritan Food Pantry staff member will reach out with all the details you need for your shift. You'll be handing out Kids Grab & Go Food Packs from the Good Samaritan Food Pantry van and tent. Let's make this summer unforgettable for our kids. Scan the QR code to apply to volunteer. ■



DALLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EVENTS

Dallas County Fairgrounds, 28057 Fairground Road, Adel

- **June 14:** Wright Rodeo Company Rodeo, 7:30 p.m. with Jordan Beem performing afterward.
 - **June 21:** Figure 8 Races at the North Track
 - **June 28:** Figure 8 Races at the North Track.
 - **June 29:** Fair Set Up on the entire fairgrounds
- See event details at www.dallascountyfair.com. ■

I FEEL HELPLESS: HOW TO ACCOMPANY DURING TIMES OF GRIEF

Learn what makes us uncomfortable with grief, how to manage our own feelings when approaching someone grieving, and how to effectively communicate with and care for a person who is grieving. The event will be at St. John's Catholic Church Social Hall, 24043 302nd Place, Adel, on Tuesday, June 24, at 6:15 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For accommodation requests or questions, contact the church office at 515-993-4482. All are welcome. ■

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ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, June 13

10 a.m. **Softball:** Varsity
Invitational @ North Scott

Saturday, June 14

9 a.m. **Baseball:** Varsity
Tournament @ Glenwood
9 a.m. **Softball:** Varsity
Invitational @ North Scott

Monday, June 16

5 p.m. **Baseball:** Varsity Double
Header vs. Ballard @ Nite
Hawk Field - Slater
5 p.m. **Softball:** Varsity Double
Header @ Ballard

Tuesday, June 17

3:30 p.m. **Softball:** Freshman vs.
Waukee Northwest
5 p.m. **Softball:** JV vs. Waukee
Northwest

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FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

JEFFERY DEAN OPHEIM

Jeffery Dean Opheim, 59, of Plover died at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids surrounded by his family. Per the family's wishes, cremation will take place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be sent to www.caldwellparrish.com.

Jeff was born on Nov. 17, 1965, in Emmetsburg to Alfred and Joan (Halstead) Opheim. Jeff's journey was marked by resilience and dedication. He earned his GED and had a career as a truck driver for Jergens Repair in Havelock. His boss, Mike Jergens, quickly became one of his best friends. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, fishing, camping and smoking food. He created warm memories that will forever be treasured by his loved ones.

On Feb. 14, 2020, Jeff married Rebecca Lauri, who resides in Plover and survives him. He is also survived by two daughters, Jenny (Ryan Holmes) and Jessica (Jarod Reitz) Fisherkrug; five stepchildren, Robert (Anna) Johnson, Rigo (Megan) Johnson, Jonathan (Megan Hammen), Katelynn (Trev) Biery and Dustin (Kelsey) Souza; 17 grandchildren, Chase (Morgan Fraker) Opheim, Kailen (Brianna Cloudas) Fisher-Krug, Braxton Holmes, RJ Holmes, Ayden Reitz, Chandler Reitz, Aubrey Reitz, Alexis Reitz, Cade Reitz, Aailiyah Reitz, Carleigh Reitz, Jace Reitz, Lincoln Johnson, Colter Biery, Briar Biery, Colby Souza and Micah Jo Souza, with two grandbabies on the way that he was eagerly anticipating. He is also survived by his mother, Joan Opheim; his sister, Michelle Opheim; and his brother, Doug (Laurie) Opheim.

Jeff was preceded in death by his first wife, Shari Lynn Opheim; his father, Alfred Opheim; his grandson, Creighton; three cousins, Travis Snavelly, Justin Snavelly and Dalton Alexander. ■



DONALD MICHAEL (MICKEY) HUBEL SR.

Donald Michael (Mickey) Hubel Sr. died Feb. 15, 2025. He was born in Oxnard, California, and graduated from Oxnard High School in 1955.

Donald was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Gloris; his mother, Alice Dreyer; and sister, Marcia Dreyer. He is survived by his sons, Donald Hubel Jr. and Durk (Jerry) Hubel, and two grandchildren, Ryan and Tiffany.

Family will greet friends and honor his life on Saturday, June 21, in Creston. Email durk.hubel@gmail.com to attend. Time will be provided for anyone who would like to share a memory or tell a story about Mickey. ■



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Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them He is a faithful friend we can always trust. Runs from June 9-13, 9 a.m. to noon, at 602 S. 14th St., Adel. Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/801972>. ■



ADM BOOSTER CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

ADM Booster Club will be hosting a golf tournament at the River Valley Golf Course, 22927 Valley View Trail, Adel, on Friday, June 20, starting at 8 a.m. The event is an 18-hole, 4-person scramble, 8-inch cup on every hole. Entry fee is \$400 per team (includes cart/lunch/drink ticket). Add on four mulligans per team for \$50.

Help make this event a huge success by sharing with your network.

Proceeds support all student athletes at ADM Middle and High schools through the ADM Athletics Booster Club. Any questions can be directed to Gretchen Rickert at grerick722@gmail.com. Register at <http://admboosterclub.org/golf>. ■



NEEDS AT THE DES MOINES VA HOSPITAL/CRRC

Since federal funds may not be used to purchase personal items for veterans at VA hospitals and resource centers, individuals and groups, like the Adel American Legion Auxiliary Unit 464, step up to collect clothing and other items needed by veterans. The following items are being requested by the hospital now: new, light-weight unisex jackets (sizes L-XL), new men's shoes (sizes 10-13), new sweatpants (S, M, 4XL), new women's slippers (all sizes), reading glasses (all strengths), and regular and decaf coffee. Nonperishable food items requested by the VA Community Resource and Referral Center include single-serving microwavable meal cups and soups, fruit cups, and individually wrapped snack bars or chips. Donations may be dropped off at 1305 S. 15th St., Adel, or contact Shirley McAdon at 515-993-4862 for pick up. ■

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. ■

50s PLUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Enjoy board games, conversation, coffee and good food at the 50s Plus meetings. They invite anyone in Adel and the surrounding area to join them the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Adel Public Library, 303 S. 10th St. If you have just moved to the area and would like to meet new people, this is a great way to do it. The group now has programs included in its activities. Programs are open to anyone, not just seniors. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS****May through June, 5:30-8 p.m.****Campbell Park, 12385 Woodlands Parkway, Clive**

Satisfy your food cravings with the best of street eats and local live music — a can't-miss community event. Bring the family to Campbell Park in Clive for food, fun and free live music. Campbell Park is now a cashless facility. Payment methods for beverage purchases at Campbell Park concession stand: Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, Apple Pay, Google Pay. Most food trucks still accept cash and cards. For details, visit www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/food_truck_fridays/index.php

URBANDALE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**Various dates, 6:30-8 p.m.****Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park, next to the Urbandale Public Library**

Enjoy free, high-quality music in a family-friendly setting. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, and feel free to pack a cooler.

- **Tuesday, June 24:** Tommy Doggett
- **Sunday, June 29:** Wind and Strings - Flute and Harp Duo
- **Thursday, July 10:** Brass Blast Brass Band
- **Tuesday, July 29:** June Bugs DSM
- **Tuesday, Aug. 26:** River City Opry

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- **June 20:** Bojangles: Napoleon Douglas sings Sammy Davis Jr at 7 p.m.
- **June 21:** Torch Songs: Lauren Vilmain at 7 p.m.
- **June 27:** Kansas City the Grand Marquis at 7 p.m.
- **June 28:** Steve Berry: 1974 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

ART ON THE AVENUES 2025**Saturday, June 14 through Saturday, June 21**
Ingersoll and Grand Avenue area

The Avenues of Ingersoll & Grand proudly announces Art on The Avenues, a weeklong celebration of local art, creativity, and community, taking place from Saturday, June 14 through Saturday, June 21. This event transforms the Ingersoll and Grand Avenue corridor and the surrounding North of Grand and Woodland Heights neighborhoods into vibrant spaces showcasing the talents of local artists through interactive installations, performances, and culinary collaborations.

- **All Week Long:** A Feast For Your Eyes: Experience a fusion of culinary and visual arts as local chefs and mixologists at Ingersoll Avenue restaurants and bars partner with artists to create art-inspired menu items.
- **All Week Long:** Doodle Wall: Leave your mark on the Doodle Wall, featuring doodles by five local artists. The interactive mural will be available at various locations:
- **Monday:** Palmer's Deli (2843 Ingersoll) 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Tuesday:** Chamberlain Park (2134 Woodland Ave) 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday:** Ted's Coney Island (3020 Ingersoll) 4-6 p.m.
- **Thursday:** Lachele's Fine Foods (2716 Ingersoll) 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Friday:** Zanzibar's Coffee Adventure (2723 Ingersoll) 9-11 a.m.
- **Friday, June 20:** Poetry on The Avenues: The leaders of the Des Moines Poetry Workshop are excited to perform at Dugan's Hideaway (3124 Ingersoll) from 7-9 p.m. Come out for this showcase and sign up to read during the open mic. Featured poets include: Kelsey Bigelow, Ashton Jordan, Cainon Leeds, and Anna Zilbermint.
- **Saturday, June 21:** Inger-Solstice Block Party at the Woodland Realm: Celebrate the Summer Solstice from 1-4 p.m. at the Woodland Realm (24th & High Streets) with family-friendly activities, food, and music in an urban garden setting. This event is supported by InvestDSM. ■

RECIPE

ELEVATE YOUR MENU FOR A LEGENDARY BACKYARD BARBECUE

(Family Features) Summer is here and it's time to hit the grill. Take at-home entertaining to the next level by upgrading everyone's favorite cheeseburger with ground pork.

Family and friends will love this elevated twist on a summer favorite that is oh-so-deliciously different than the traditional beef patty. These Pork and Bacon Burgers are made with Heritage Duroc pork, known for its rich flavor and juiciness, and will be a hit at your next barbecue. The crispy bacon adds another level of texture and flavor, making these juicy burgers a gourmet treat that rivals any takeout burger. Celebrating 150 years as the premium all-natural meat choice for families, Coleman All Natural Meats offers a variety of products that are sourced from American family farmers who humanely raise livestock with no antibiotics ever and no added hormones. ■

PORK AND BACON BURGERS

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon stone-ground mustard
- 4 slices whole-grain bread
- 2 slices provolone cheese
- 10-12 blackberries, cut in half

Directions:

- Heat medium skillet over low heat.
- In small bowl, mix mayonnaise and mustard; spread on one side of each slice of bread.
- Place bread mayo-side-down in skillet. Top with cheese and



blackberries. Add second slice of bread mayo-side-up.

- Cook 3-4 minutes per side,

or until bread is toasted and cheese is melted. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

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DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION

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CRITTER CRAFT

Tuesday, June 17, 9-11 a.m.

Kuehn Conservation Area, 32849 Houston Ave., Earlham

Nature has been inspiring artists since the beginning of civilization. Painting, photography, sketching, pottery, you name it. Join a naturalist for a nature inspired kids craft using materials from the park itself. This will be an independent art project that the naturalist will help get you started on. Participants may arrive any time during the program timeframe. Reservations required. ■

STREAM, FROM FRONT

began in the center of Colfax Township while the southern branch started in Adams Township. There is even a poem, written many years ago, about its beauty. I could not determine who the author was.

O, Butler Branch was a famous stream

To the boys I used to know

I am proud to tell, that I knew it well

In the days of long ago

It was such a stream, it seems to me,

That nature did intend

To swell the joys of bare-foot boys
In pleasures without end.

It wound about through wooded dells

Past many a grassy glade;

With many a pool so deep and cool

In sunshine and in shade.

(There are several more verses not included here. The poem ends with:)

Don't talk to me of mountains grand

*Of seashore lake or ranch:
None can compare in beauty fair,
With good old Butler Branch.*

Oakdale Cemetery, Adel's third burial ground, was laid out prior to 1880. The first bridge over Butler Branch into the cemetery was north of the present one. It fell into disrepair, so, in 1910, a contract was awarded to the Marsh Engineering Co. to construct a new concrete bridge over Butler Branch at the entrance to the cemetery. "It will be of ornamental design built of reinforced concrete and will be north of the pavilion." The county supervisors agreed to help the town with the expense in the form of \$750 from the county bridge fund.

The newspaper reported that "A new road to the bridge was graded up several feet and covered with gravel. A winding driveway from the west entrance at the end of Walnut Street was laid out to the cemetery and it will be a pleasant and attractive drive."

This bridge is still in use today as the entrance to Oakdale Cemetery. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

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HELP WANTED: Part-time church secretary. Looking for someone with a positive attitude, good computer skills, knowledge of Word and Publisher, and the ability to communicate well. Please call for more information: Adel United Methodist Church, 115 S.10th St., Adel. 515-993-3791.

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