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TREE LIGHTING



The holiday festivities got underway over the weekend with activities around the Courthouse Square, including the tree lighting ceremony, Sips and Sample and more. ■

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 26 | LOW 6

Low clouds and windy



SATURDAY HIGH 9 | LOW -11

Colder with intermittent snow



SUNDAY HIGH 11 | LOW 6

Cold with vibrant sunshine



MONDAY HIGH 36 | LOW 18

Not as cold; mostly sunny



TUESDAY HIGH 43 | LOW 28

Warmer; mostly cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

WITH TINSEL OR WITHOUT

Well, we did it. We put up four Christmas trees this past week. Not four in one house, mind you. I realize some of you do this and more in your homes, but that's not the Goodman approach.

In recent years, we have struggled to put up one tree in our home before it was time to take it down. This year, we put that tree up, plus one in both of our offices and one at our cabin. They are all more Charlie Brown than the Rockefeller Center, but they undoubtedly signify that the Christmas holiday is near, and that makes me smile.

As a kid, I recall putting up the Christmas tree with Mom. This was not something Dad would partake in, and my three siblings were nowhere in sight. That was fine with me, as the process was a special time with just my mother and me, and everyone else likely had their turns in prior years.

Mom would drag that old, tattered box out of the attic, and we would unpack the artificial tree, carefully sorting each branch for the right level. I would

handle the first few rows but was too small to help with the tall stuff.

Then came the ornaments, which included a few homemade keepsakes and lots of those thin metal balls, mostly red and silver, as I recall. They weren't anything fancy, and for good reason, as a few seemed to shatter each year, creating quite the safety hazard in our 1970s shag carpet.

The Christmas lights were the frustrating part. Despite Mom's meticulous efforts to keep them straight, they were a tangled mess — and half of them seemed to be burned out. Fortunately, we had a few hundred replacement bulbs that, as I recall, were scorching hot when turned on. It's amazing more trees didn't catch on fire.

Mom seemed to really like tinsel, and it showed. Maybe it was trendy at the time. Maybe not. Either way, our Christmas tree was wrapped in those shiny silver strings.



The final touch on our tree was the angel on the top — not a star like many of you may have, but an ornate angel perched on high, looking over us. I dreamed of the day when I would be tall enough to put it on top of the tree. I am still dreaming.

Our Christmas trees today don't look much like the one Mom and I put up more than 50 years ago, and that's probably a good thing. In reality, the look of the tree doesn't matter. As Linus van Pelt so famously said in "A Charlie Brown Christmas": "I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

And love is what Christmas is all about — with tinsel or without.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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ADEL CITY HALL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Help support the community during the holiday season. Drop off donations at Adel City Hall. Items will be delivered to Adel Food Pantry every other week through the end of the year.

Most needed items are peanut butter and jelly, breakfast cereal, boxed/bagged mashed potatoes, boxed mac and cheese, canned soup, canned/package meals (Dinty Moore, chili, ravioli, etc.), juice (plastic bottles preferred) and laundry detergent. Any donated items are appreciated.

Let's make the holidays brighter for everyone in Adel. For more information and to donate directly to the Adel Food Pantry, visit <https://adelfoodpantry.com/>. ■



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. ■

COMING UP IN ADEL LIVING MAGAZINE

SUPER BOWL PARTIES: Do you have a tradition of holding or attending a Super Bowl party? Tell us about your party plans, recipes and other ideas. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com to share your story. ■

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ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 12

- 6 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity vs. Winterset
 7:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity vs. Winterset

Monday, Dec. 15

- 3:30 p.m. **Bowling:** JV/Varsity vs. Valley @ Warrior Lanes
 5 p.m. **Wrestling:** JV Invitational @ Knoxville

Tuesday, Dec. 16

- 4 p.m. **Esports:** Varsity vs. Hampton-Dumont
 6 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity @ Bondurant-Farrar
 7:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity @ Bondurant-Farrar

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SOUP DINNER WITH FANCY DESSERTS

Adel First Christian Church invites you to a Soup Dinner with Fancy Desserts on Sunday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Adel First Christian Church, 218 N. Ninth St., Adel. Come dine in the magic of the Festival of Trees. Free will offering. ■

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. ■

ADEL SCHOOLS DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

- **Saturday, Dec 13:** SCIBA High School Jazz Festival
- **Monday, Dec 15:** High School Band Concert
- **Tuesday, Dec 16:** Middle School Band Concert ■

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Adel United Methodist Church, 115 S. 10th St., serves a meal Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall downstairs. Serving is 5-6:30 p.m. This is a freewill donation meal. All are welcome. ■

LIGHT UP ADEL HOLIDAY LUMINARY

The Adel Women's Club is selling luminary kits for the second annual Light Up Adel event. Kits are \$10 and include five plastic-coated, reusable weather resistant bags, five LED candles, and five baggies for adding material of your choice for weight in the bags.

Memorials are \$5 each. Names are recorded in a permanent record and will be read aloud at the Dec. 14 Holiday Celebration and Community Display. Starting at 4:30 p.m., The Adel Women's Club will be serving holiday refreshments at the Raccoon Valley Bank Adel Community House, 1016 Main St., Adel. They will sing carols and read the memorial luminary names at the Adel Pavilion. Luminaries will be displayed in the area. The Adel Community is asked to display their luminaries in front of their homes on Dec. 14 as well.

Luminary kits are available at Adel Flowers and Gifts, 801 Main St., Adel, or by emailing adelwomensclub@gmail.com. ■

DC FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 2

The Dallas County Foundation makes grants to IRS 501(c) (3), (5) or (6) federal income, tax- exempt organizations and 170(b) units of government organizations. Religious or political organizations are not eligible unless their project benefits the entire community. Areas of emphasis are: art, culture, humanities, education, health, human services, public/society benefits, environment/animals. Visit the Dallas County Foundation's website, www.dallascountyfoundation.org, for FAQs, grant writing tips, and for the application. Deadline is Feb. 2. ■

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DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS

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

All programs are free to the public and open to all ages.

- **Wilderness Trail Tales**
Thursday, Dec. 11, 5:30-7 p.m., Dallas County ISU Extension Office, 28061 Fairground Road, Adel
- **Winter Solstice**
Sunday, Dec. 21, 7-8 a.m., Hanging Rock Conservation Area, 416 Redfield St., Redfield
- **Critter Crafts**
Monday, Dec. 29, 10-11:30 a.m., Forest Park Museum, 14581 K Ave., Perry
- **Voas Owl Prowl**
Monday, Dec. 29, 1-3 p.m., Voas Nature Area, 19286 Lexington Road, Minburn
- **Winter Survival**
Monday, Dec. 29, 1-4 p.m., Kuehn Conservation Area, 32828 Houston Trail, Earlham ■

NEEDS FOR VETERANS AT THE VA

Federal funds cannot be used at the Des Moines VA Hospital or Community Resource and Referral Center for personal items. That's when the Adel American Legion Auxiliary and other groups step up to collect contributions from the community as well as provide funds from Poppy Day donations.

Current new items needed are long sleeved shirts, XL boxers/briefs, duffle bags, sweatpants/sweatshirts (M-2XL), and pullover and zip-up sweatshirts (M-XL); personal care items; and coffee and snacks. Please refer to the Adel American Legion Facebook page for a detailed list. Of note is that Branch-of-Service clothing, blankets, hats and insulated mugs are residents' favorite items.

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



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EVENTS IN THE AREA**EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM****CITYVIEW'S FIRE AND ICE****Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-4 p.m.****Valley Junction**

CITYVIEW brings back its legendary Valley Junction area pub crawl. Fire and Ice is a hockey-themed liquor sampling event that will be sure to warm up your winter blues. With your event ticket, you will receive 10 individual drink tickets to sample some of the best winter cocktails from establishments in the Valley Junction area. Bring your friends, try new drinks and shop local in Valley Junction. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door.

Follow the QR code for tickets. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-cityview-fire-ice-a-winter-pub-crawl-tickets-1873604273819>

**DES MOINES ART CENTER MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS TOUR****Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.****Des Moines Art Center****4700 Grand Ave, Des Moines**

Discover the vast variety of the Des Moines Art Center's permanent collections during the Museum Highlights Tour. This tour offers a unique journey through the galleries, featuring a selection of timeless paintings, sculptures and more. Join knowledgeable guides to uncover the stories, techniques and inspirations behind the art on view, and experience the highlights of the Art Center in a fresh and engaging way. This guided tour is perfect for art enthusiasts of all ages. Free to all, no registration required.

ARTS EXHIBITS**OLSON-LARSEN GALLERIES**

542 Fifth St., West Des Moines

- **Through Jan. 31:** The Animal Show 2025

POLK COUNTY HERITAGE GALLERYPolk County Administration Building, 111 Court Ave., Des Moines www.polkcountyheritagegallery.org

- **Through Dec. 31:** The Invitational: Curated Show

ANKENY ART CENTER1520 S.W. Ordinance Road, Ankeny, www.ankenyardcenter.org

- **Through Jan. 14:** Members Show

IOWA BIKE EXPO AND BANQUET**Saturday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.****Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines**

The Iowa Bike Expo & Banquet serves as the annual celebration for the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, bringing together cyclists and trail lovers, advocates, vendors, donors, supporters and partner organizations to advance the Iowa Bicycle Coalition's mission to promote safe, accessible and enjoyable cycling for everyone in Iowa. The Iowa Bicycle Coalition is excited to announce both Ayesha McGowan and Connor Fields as the dynamic dual keynote speakers for the event. The Iowa Bike Expo is free and open to the public, featuring 120-plus vendors. For information, visit www.iowabikeexpo.com.

Individual tickets for Bike Banquet early bird rate are \$45 and tables of 10 for \$450 until Dec. 15. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com/e/iowa-bike-expo-and-banquet-tickets-1925662862459.



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RECIPE

WIN BUSY WEEKNIGHTS WITH A ONE-PAN MEAL

(Family Features) If the holiday season has you avoiding the kitchen at all costs, a one-pan weeknight meal that's equal parts filling, satisfying and simple can let you spend more time with loved ones and less time at the counter. Turn to Cheesy Spinach Chicken Bake that can easily be adapted to your family's tastes by swapping out spinach for broccoli or cauliflower. ■



CHEESY SPINACH CHICKEN BAKE

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

Ingredients:

- 2 cups chopped rotisserie chicken
- 10 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained
- 15 ounces ricotta cheese
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon garlic

- powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon thyme

Directions:

- Heat oven to 375 F.
- Cut rotisserie chicken and spinach into bite-sized pieces. In baking dish, mix chicken and spinach with ricotta cheese.
- Add mozzarella, Parmesan, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, onion powder and lemon thyme. Mix well then bake 30 minutes.

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HISTORY

THE GREAT ADEL FIRE

BY MIKE FLINN

At 3:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, 1894, Adel was struck by the most devastating fire in its history. The blaze began in the Morse Livery Barn just west of the square on the north side of Main. John Tice sounded the first alarm, managing only one ring before the rope attached to the fire bell snapped. Residents quickly responded, rushing to ring church bells while others climbed atop the engine house to ring its bell.

Within minutes, the entire town was mobilized, determined to fight the flames. Firefighters pulled out the engine and hoses and sprinted to the cistern on the south side of the square, their nearest water source. The fire engine consisted of a manually operated fire pump that used levers operated by firefighters to force pressurized water through a hose.

As the fire spread, it engulfed the opera house and forced out the men trying to salvage goods from Bailey's Dry Goods and Row and Book's Grocery. The situation worsened when gasoline stored behind Row and Book's exploded, accelerating the destruction.

The fire engine, now operational and hooked to the water supply, was moved to the top of the Risser block where the flames were fiercest. Firefighters had to tear off the tin roof before they could use the hose effectively. As flames threatened the Masonic Hall, S. Douglas and Vol Hoeye bravely guarded three barrels of gasoline in back of Thorton's store, extinguishing countless sparks to prevent further catastrophe.

Citizens hurried to evacuate

merchandise and supplies from the buildings in the path of the fire. Dry goods, groceries, shoes, printing materials, millinery, meat market supplies, office ledgers, law libraries and more from the buildings on the west side of the square were piled on the street. The piles of goods stretched nearly the entire length of the street. (By noon the next day, almost all of these items had been returned to their proper places.)

The estimated damage reached \$60,000. Morse's Livery Barn was destroyed, along with 11 horses, eight carriages, buggies and \$500 worth of feed — covered only by \$900 in insurance. The opera house, originally valued at \$13,000, had just \$1,000 of insurance. Dry goods and clothing of C.D. Bailey's, worth more than \$23,000, were partially covered by \$8,000 in insurance. Row and Book's grocery stock was valued at \$7,000, with \$3,000 insured. Roland's Restaurant lost \$3,500 with no insurance, and J. Tice's restaurant, stock and household goods, valued at \$2,500, were uninsured after his policy lapsed the month before. Other merchants lost everything.

At the time of the fire, Adel lacked a water system and relied on a single cistern for water. During the fire, water had to be hauled from the river to the cistern to keep the fire engine supplied. The devastation prompted city leaders to start planning for the next fire. The following year, an ordinance was passed establishing a municipal water system and a steam pumper was purchased soon after. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

SERVSAFE COURSE PLUS CERTIFICATION

EXAM: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost: \$160. Use current best practices in safe food handling to keep your food establishment in compliance and protect the health of both customers and staff. Contact Jackie at ISU Extension and Outreach at 515-993-4281.

FOR SALE: Homemade caramel corn for \$8.00 in gallon size bag. I also knit too. Call sandy @515-710-7844.

FOR SALE: Rustic oak vinyl flooring for your remodeling projects. 1,200sq. ft. \$500 OBO. Call 515-321-0570 for more information.

FOR SALE: 2001 Chrysler mini-van, handicapped equipped with rear lift. 148,000 miles. Asking \$5,200. Call 515-770-5071.

FOR RENT IN ADEL: Commercial retail space for rent. 1,800 square feet. 608 Greene St. on Highway 6. Call 515-988-7940.

FOR RENT IN PERRY: 312 Warford, Perry, IA. 1bedroom, 1 bath \$475 a month. Call Dave at 515-491-4157 if interested.

NOW HIRING PART-TIME ACCOUNTANT:

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