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HAALAND RECOGNIZED BY ADEL ROTARY

Carter Haaland received Adel Rotary's ADM Senior Recognition Student of the Month for December. Carter's quiet way of making a positive impact on the projects he undertakes and his interactions with people made him a critical part of the fall musical's success as part of the stage crew. Without a formal leadership role, he still was there first, working on what needed to be done and motivating others to make a positive environment.

The Rotary ADM Senior Recognition Program honors students who demonstrate consistent kindness, a helpful spirit and a commitment to making a positive difference both at school and within the greater community, exemplifying Rotary's ideal of "Service Above Self." ■



Carter Haaland receives a certificate of accomplishment and a \$25 gift award from Rotary President Rylan Vos.

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 36 | LOW 30

Partial sunshine

**SATURDAY HIGH 42 | LOW 20**

A blend of sunshine and clouds

**SUNDAY HIGH 27 | LOW 22**

Mostly cloudy and colder

**MONDAY HIGH 41 | LOW 28**

Intervals of clouds and sunshine

**TUESDAY HIGH 42 | LOW 25**

Mostly sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

MY TWO FRONT TEETH

“Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.” There simply isn’t a better Christmastime tune than the appropriately titled “The Christmas Song” by Nat King Cole. Yes, I prefer my Christmas songs in the traditional manner with crooners like Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and even Elvis. You can keep your Mariah Carey, Wham! and Justin Bieber songs.

In recent years, I have been more attracted to songs with religious meanings including “Do You Hear What I Hear?,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” and, of course, “Silent Night.”

On rare occasions, I will even sing along to some of the Christmas novelty songs, including my favorite, “Snoopy’s Christmas” by The Royal Guardsmen from 1967. My brother had this on a 45, and we spun it continually on our GE plastic record player.

Then, there are the Christmas novelty songs I can do without, like “The Chipmunk Song

(Christmas Don’t be Late)” by The Chipmunks from 1958. Painful stuff.

Admittedly, I do smile when I hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas” by Bob and Doug McKenzie from 1982. And, I laughed the first dozen or so times “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” by Elmo and Patsy played on the radio in 1979.

The Christmas novelty song that most every kid can relate to, though, is “All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth.” It was written in 1944 by Donald Yetter Gardner while teaching a music class in Smithtown, New York. When he asked students in his second-grade class what they wanted for Christmas, he noticed that almost all of them had front teeth missing. That image spurred Gardner to take 30 minutes and write the song. It was published in 1948, introduced the same



year by The Satisfiers on Perry Como’s radio show, and recorded for RCA Victor by Spike Jones and His City Slickers in 1947 with the lead vocal by George Rock. The record reached the top of the pop charts.

“All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth” has been recorded by numerous others including a wonderful rendition by Nat King Cole and some silly versions by Ray Stevens, The Three Stooges, and even Count von Count of “Sesame Street.”

And, if you think this song is just for kids, well, you have clearly never met anyone with dentures trying to chow down a Christmas ham while singing, “Sister, Susie sittin’ on a thistle.”

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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Living Weekly

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Darrah McHugh receives a certificate of accomplishment from Adel Rotary President Ryan Vos.

MCHUGH RECOGNIZED BY ADEL ROTARY

Darrah McHugh is Adel Rotary's ADM Scholarship Foundation Student of the Month for Esports. Darrah is a junior student who has participated in all three seasons of Esports on the varsity competition team. He is interested in pursuing a career in technology and has a strong start. ■

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ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 19

4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls JV @ Ballard

4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys JV @ Ballard

5:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Freshman @ Ballard

6 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity @ Ballard

7:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity @ Ballard

Saturday, Dec. 20

9:30 a.m. **Wrestling:** Varsity Tournament @ Glenwood

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OBITUARIES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

MERLE LEE COX

Merle Lee Cox, 85, of Adel died Dec. 7, 2025, in Des Moines. Merle was born on Aug. 2, 1940, in Brighton. Merle graduated from New Providence High School and Iowa State University. His career was rooted in agriculture, with expertise in swine production. After what he considered retirement, Merle started Brick Street Barbeque. His love of people, paired with his cooking, made Brick Street a beloved favorite.

An avid outdoorsman, Merle found happiness in every season. He ran marathons, rode RAGBRAI more than once, and embraced nature in all forms, whether hunting, fishing, backpacking or tending to his yard. At his Chariton Farm, he built Possum Lodge, a cherished hunting retreat where he spent countless hours with good friends.

Merle was deeply devoted to his family, wife Vonz, and children Rita and Mike. Known for the twinkle in his eye and his jokester nature, Merle always put others first. There was nothing he wouldn't do for his family and dear friends.

Deeply passionate about his beloved Iowa State Cyclones, any sport and any topic, basketball and football were his primary loves. Unfortunately for the household, his wife, Vonz, was equally passionate about the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, John and Alvin. He is survived by his wife, Vonadale "Vonz" Odem; daughter, Rita Cox (Steven Jongeling); son, Michael Cox (Malinda); son, Nathan Odem (Brooke); grandchildren Melrose and Talmage Odem, Alex Jongeling (Sarah), Casey Greubel (Abee), Chelsey Greubel (Justin Brown), and Carly Young (Brad); his great-grandchildren, Delilah, Mack, Aberree, Ella, Asher, Gavin and Jaylynn; and his siblings, Ralph Cox (Gail), JoAnn Heinz, Mable Buerckley (Howard), Dale Cox (Joan) and Homer "Butch" Cox; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was Dec. 10 with a prayer service following at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home in Adel. Funeral services were at Adel United Methodist Church on Dec. 11.

In lieu of flowers, Merle's family asks people to donate blood through the Red Cross or make donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa or Adel United Methodist Church. ■



ALICE BUELANE DAUGHERTY

Alice Buelane Daugherty, 88, of Cedar Rapids, died on Dec. 7, 2025, at CountryHouse Residence, Cedar Rapids. Family and friends will gather to remember Buelane from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at Stewart Baxter Funeral & Memorial Services, Cedar Rapids. Burial will be at a later date at Panther Creek Cemetery in Adel.

Survivors include her nephew, Timothy Daugherty (Christy); nieces, Teri Farrand (Matt) and Tania Daugherty; and a host of friends.

Buelane was born on May 10, 1937, in Willow Springs, Missouri. She moved to Adel as a child and graduated from Adel High School in 1955. Buelane continued her studies, earning her Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Iowa in 1965 and her Master of Public Health from the University of Minnesota in 1967. Buelane began her career as a visiting nurse in Des Moines. She began her teaching career at the University of Iowa and moved to Mount Mercy University in 1977. Later in her career, Buelane transitioned to administrative duties in the Academic Dean's Office. She retired in 2008.

Buelane enjoyed international travel and will be remembered as an excellent seamstress. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting as well.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Jack, Jonathon and Phillip.

Memorials may be directed to the Martin-Herold College of Nursing & Health at Mount Mercy University. ■



OBITUARIES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

SHIRLEY ANN HOPEWELL

Shirley Ann Hopewell, 89, died Dec. 16, 2025, at Spurgeon Manor in Dallas Center. Shirley was born on Aug. 11, 1936, in Silex, Missouri. The family moved to Burlington where she graduated from Burlington High School in 1954.



Following high school, Shirley worked at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, where she held a top-security position as an administrative secretary. She later served as secretary to the president and general manager at Midwest Manufacturing Corporation. After moving to Adel, Shirley became the high school secretary at ADM Schools.

Spending time with family and attending the many sporting events and activities of her children and grandchildren brought Shirley her greatest joy. An avid photographer, she captured thousands of memories over the years and lovingly created scrapbooks for her children and grandchildren, as well as reprints for many others.

Shirley is survived by her children: Lisa (John) Daugherty, Tom Hopewell III, Brenda (Bill) Vernon and Karen (Joel) Jacobsen; sisters, Bonnie Jordan and Judy Payne; brother-in-law, Mark Hopewell; sister-in-law, Marilyn Hopewell; grandchildren, Adam Daugherty and Ashley (Joe) Morris; Mason (Kayla), Jarrett and Hogan (Courtney) Hopewell; Taylor Vernon and Haley (Matt) Miniea; and Molly (Robbie) McCargar, Abby Jacobsen and Emma Jacobsen; ten great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom; her parents; her son, Mike Hopewell; sisters-in-law, Betty Ertz, Barbara Cain and Beverly Ann Hopewell; and brothers-in-law Dennis Hopewell, Roy Ertz and Dick Cain.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be mailed to: Karen Jacobsen, 1941 S. Warrior Lane, Waukee, Iowa 50263. Memorials will be used to help pay off student lunch debts in local school districts.

Visitation will be Sunday, Dec. 21, at St. John's Catholic Church in Adel from 2-5 p.m. with a memorial service immediately following at 5 p.m. Burial will take place on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in West Burlington. ■



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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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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.



BILL OWENS: WORK AND LEISURE

Dec. 20 to April 19

John Brady Print Gallery, Des Moines Art Center
4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Bill Owens documented the suburbs in the 1970s, capturing the lives of prosperous, predominantly white Americans at a moment after the cultural shifts of the 1960s but before the dawn of the digital age of computers and video games in the 1980s. His photographs were compiled in the best-selling coffee table books "Leisure" (1972), "Our Kind of People" (1975), and "Working: I Do It For the Money" (1977). The images in this exhibition, taken from all three of these series and shot mainly in California and the Midwest, reveal Owens' unique comedic eye as he seems to lightly poke fun at his subjects while clearly enjoying their company, finding both the genuine and the absurd in everyday life.

Now 50 years old, these scenes will look charmingly familiar to many viewers and blasted from the distant

past to others. Owens titled his images with quotes from his subjects, allowing their voices to reach us decades later. Through Owens' lens, they invite us into their homes, share a day at the office, and take us along to several kinds of parties. These photos allow us all to take a moment and join the fun.

HOLIDAY HORSE-DRAWN RIDES

Dec. 20-23, 26-31, every half hour, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jester Park Equestrian Center
11171 N.W. 103rd Court, Granger

Staff will hitch up their draft horse team to take your group for a 30-minute horse-drawn ride through Jester Park. If there's no snow, plan for a wagon on wheels instead of a sleigh. Sleigh Rides require a minimum of 6 inches of packed snow as a proper base for the sleigh. A wagon will be used when there is no snow or not enough snow to pull a sleigh. Registration is required. Private holiday rides, which cost \$200, can hold a maximum of 12 guests. Small children who can sit on an adult's lap for the duration of the ride do not need to be included in the count. To register, follow the QR code.



TINSELTOWN IN THE PARK

Through Dec. 20

Water Works Park

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RECIPE

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(Family Features) In a holiday season crowded with everything from mouthwatering cakes, cookies and pies to “fa-la-la-la” forgettable fruitcakes, the dessert table can bring you comfort and joy or sweet-tooth dismay. ■

**GINGERBREAD
CUPCAKES WITH
HONEY CREAM
CHEESE FROSTING**

Yield: 12 cupcakes

Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup Busy Bee Raw Honey
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup buttermilk, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Honey cream cheese frosting:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/4 cup Busy Bee Raw Honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4-6 cups powdered sugar

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- Line 12 regular-size muffin cups with paper baking cups.
- In medium bowl, whisk



flour, brown sugar, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt.

- In large bowl, using hand or stand mixer, beat softened butter and honey until smooth and slightly fluffy, 1-2 minutes. Beat in egg then mix in buttermilk and vanilla until combined.
- Add dry ingredients to wet mixture and stir gently until no streaks of flour remain; don't overmix.
- Divide batter evenly among muffin cups, filling each about two-thirds full.
- Bake 20-22 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cupcake comes out clean.
- Let cupcakes cool in pan about 5 minutes then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.
- To make frosting: Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth and creamy. Add honey and vanilla then gradually beat in powdered sugar until fluffy, spreadable and reaching desired sweetness. Chill for firmer consistency before piping or spreading, if desired.

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ADMHS RECOGNIZES DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The ADMHS staff and coaches recognize students each month who exemplify the hard work, dedication and leadership that make them “Tigers.” The following students have been selected to receive this honor for December. Businesses and groups in the district make donations to the ADM Scholarship Foundation in recognition of the students’ achievements.

Student of the Month — Miller Banse, sponsored by Raccoon Valley Bank

Fine Arts Student of the Month (journalism) — Chloe Meacham (NewsTrey Journalism), Allie Knutzen (Yearbook Journalism), sponsored by Lincoln Savings Bank

Girls Bowling Student of the Month — Rhylea Fuquey, sponsored by River Valley Insurance

Boys Bowling Student of the Month — Trey Lee, sponsored by Core Physical Therapy

Wrestling Student of the Month — the managers: Eliza Schmidt, Jordan Crannell, Ella Campbell, Lilee Wahlert, Sophia Novelli, Ali Obstarczyk, Addison Siedleemann, Morgan Rynearson, Kinnley, sponsored by Adel Vision Clinic

Boys Basketball Student of the Month — Trey Bryte, sponsored by Cullen Howe Real Estate - RE/MAX Precision

Girls Basketball Student of the Month — Ellis Smith, sponsored by Adel Lions Club

Dance Student of the Month — Lilee Wahlert, sponsored by Azalea Lane Boutique

Wrestling Cheer Student of the Month — Gabriella Wills, sponsored by Fareway

Another award, **Student Citizen of the Month**, is presented by the Adel Police Department and Blue Kindness (not associated with the ADM Scholarship Foundation). The December Student Citizen of the Month is Eli Wiebers.

Congratulations to all of the students of the month. ■

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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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 at 515-710-7844.

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