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## KEY CLUB UPDATE



ADM seniors Josie Steinkamp and Brecken Morse gave the Adel Kiwanis Club an update on the ADM Key Club on Dec. 9 at Patrick's Restaurant. The Key Club members assisted the Kiwanis Club in selling Christmas greenery, which raises money for ADM scholarships. The ADM Key Club is focusing on a literacy theme this school year and is currently organizing a book drive. They plan on launching a Reading Buddies program at ADM Elementary, as well as a reading campaign for high school students next semester. Also pictured are Kiwanis Club members Paul Berkenbosh, Brittany Sandquist and Jodi Kuhse. ■

### ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

**FRIDAY HIGH 41 | LOW 27**

Cloudy

**SATURDAY HIGH 33 | LOW 16**

Cloudy and windy with a.m. snow

**SUNDAY HIGH 36 | LOW 24**

Partly sunny and breezy

**MONDAY HIGH 44 | LOW 30**

Partly sunny and breezy

**TUESDAY HIGH 45 | LOW 30**

Sun giving way to clouds; windy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# 6 REASONS TO SMILE

You shouldn't need a reason to smile today, but here are a few, just in case you do.

**“Smile. It makes people wonder what you're up to.”**

This quote is attributed to Sean Keogh, author of “Bottoms up: a Cheeky Look at Life.” My sister had a similar version as a painting that was hung in her bedroom in our childhood home. I read it hundreds of times as a kid, and I always smiled. She did, too. I hope you are as well.

**“If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.”**

Dolly Parton has been known to share this quote, along with a great big smile. In fact, I can't envision Dolly not smiling. Wouldn't it be great if people said that about each one of us?

**“You are never fully dressed without a smile.”** These beautiful words are from the song “You're

Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile” from the Broadway musical “Annie,” written by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin.

So many people put so much time and money into their appearance, yet the greatest improvement we can all make to how we look is to simply add a smile — and it's free!

**“Life is like a mirror. Smile and it smiles back at you.”** You have likely heard that when one person yawns, another soon will. The same is true for smiles. In fact, they multiply. A lot.

**“Be the reason someone smiles today.”** My friend Susan used to take her finger and press it against my forehead each time I would frown. “You are going to get a permanent wrinkle there,” she would say. “You should smile



instead.” That was great advice. It still is, which I am reminded of each time I look at that wrinkle.

**“Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.”** I had a friend who ran a car dealership who would say, “Buying a car shouldn't be like going to the dentist.” And, he made car-buying fun. My dentist took offense to that comment, though, and would frequently say, “Going to the dentist should be fun.” And, at her office, it is. Meanwhile, there is still something heart-warming about a person without teeth offering an ear-to-ear smile.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.  
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[www.iowalivingmagazines.com](http://www.iowalivingmagazines.com)



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# KEY CLUB UPDATE



ADM seniors Genevieve Book and Isabelle Karwal gave the Adel Kiwanis Club an update on the ADM Key Club on Nov. 4 at Patrick's Restaurant. The ADM Key Club is sponsored by the Adel Kiwanis Club. The club encourages high school students to learn about civic responsibility, build character and develop leadership. The ADM Key Club was founded one year ago, meets twice a month, and has 29 members. Also pictured is Adel Kiwanis Club member Jodi Kuhse. ■

## 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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## ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Friday, Jan. 9

- 4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls JV @ Boone  
 4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys JV @ Boone  
 5:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Freshman @ Boone  
 6 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity @ Boone  
 7 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls JV2 @ Boone  
 7:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity @ Boone

### Saturday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. **Wrestling:** JV Tournament @ Des Moines North  
 9:30 a.m. **Wrestling:** Varsity Tournament @ Winterset

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## 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. ■

## 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. ■

### Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



As a self-taught artist, I was never clear on the whole pallet thing.

## 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](http://www.dallascountyfoundation.org), for FAQs, grant writing tips, and for the application. Deadline is Feb. 2. ■



## NEEDS FOR VETERANS AT THE VA

Veterans Day is a reminder that our veterans still need our help when they are hospitalized or homeless. 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. ■

## FAITH'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Faith's Flock Preschool's registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens to new families on Jan. 14. Register online at [www.adelpreschool.com](http://www.adelpreschool.com). Part-day and limited full-day options for ages 2.5 to 5 are available. Discovery Preschool class is specifically designed for 2.5 and young 3-year-olds. Staff emphasizes a balanced approach: structured learning and play-based exploration. An open house will be held on Jan. 11 from 3-4:30 p.m. ■

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## HISTORY

# ADEL'S CHICK BUSINESS

BY MIKE FLINN

There was a time when most farmers and city dwellers alike raised chickens. Eggs were a welcome staple in the breakfast diet, and the meat was necessary during summer and fall when the lack of refrigeration kept farmers from slaughtering cattle or hogs since the meat was likely to spoil before it all could be used.

Tending to the flock of chickens was usually left to the woman of the house who usually had little knowledge of proper care and disease prevention. Most producers could not afford an incubator, and the few old “biddy hens” they kept were not that reliable. Buying baby chicks instead of hatching their own had many advantages.

Adel had two hatcheries. The first commercial hatchery was established in 1930 when Philo Neff leased the J. B. White building at the northwest corner of the square. The business was originally named the Adel Home Hatchery but later became known simply as Neff Hatchery.

Vern Danilson, operator of the local elevator, announced in 1936 that he was also establishing a hatchery to be located in the Skinner building on west Main. The business would have a modern up-to-date Smith incubator with temperature and humidity control. To celebrate, Danilson threw a chicken-eating party in May of



1937 at the Garoutte log cabin featuring chickens from his first hatch, each weighing more than two pounds. In June, Danilson Hatchery invited the public to view a display of the new wingless chickens, a big concern to those who thought the wing the best part of the chicken. Along with a full line of poultry feeds and medicines, Danilson offered culling, blood testing and vaccinations. In 1948, Danilson purchased the Dr. Scott Building (now home of Fiesta Restaurant) and moved his hatchery to that location.

An article published in April

1951 stated that “the incubators at Neff Hatchery are capable of hatching over 48,000 chicks at one time and over 250,000 chicks are hatched every year. It takes three weeks. Leghorns, White Rock and White Leghorns predominate but lately they have been specializing in Hy-Croft chicks.” The business was now located at 1010 Main St.

The hatchery business seemed to have peaked in the early 1950s. Danilson Hatchery discontinued advertising in 1950, although the elevator business continued. Neff stuck around for another 10 years but, in September of 1960, advertised a closing business sale featuring poultry equipment and remedies, brooder batteries and two Studebaker trucks.

Adel was changing, and growing chickens in the backyard was not as popular as it once was. But, even though the local hatchery was no more, you could still obtain chicks through the mail. Mail-order baby chickens actually started in the late 1800s using railroads and later airmail through the USPS to deliver chicks nationwide. Today, hatcheries use airmail for speed, coordinating deliveries with customers and postal services to minimize stress. I still remember going into our little post office in the early spring, and all you could hear was the chirping of baby chicks. ■

## 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.

**BOTANICAL BLUES IS BACK****Every Sunday now through March 29, brunch at 10 a.m., concerts at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.****Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden  
909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines**

Winter doesn't stand a chance when there's live music at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Botanical Blues has long been the go-to Sunday afternoon escape for warm vibes, local talent and a laid-back atmosphere. Each set lasts one hour, with a one-hour intermission in between. Concerts are held live in the conservatory, and guests are welcome to wander the indoor gardens during the show. This year's lineup blends favorite performers from the past two decades with exciting new voices. Follow the QR code for the full lineup.

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

Discover 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.

**CHEWBOCKA FEST 2026****Jan. 17****Confluence Brewing Company  
1235 Thomas Beck Road, Des Moines**

Confluence Brewing Company challenges any and all Star Wars fans to harness their inner Wookiee and get transported into this themed festival at the southside brewery. Practice your roars and get ready for a day full of fun activities. More information available at [www.confluencebrewing.com](http://www.confluencebrewing.com).

**COMEDIAN CHARLIE BERENS****Jan. 24****Des Moines Civic Center  
221 Walnut St., Des Moines**

Charlie Berens brings his Midwest-style comedy to Des Moines, much to the delight of comedy fans in central Iowa. More information available at [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org).

**SQUARE DANCE LESSONS****Sunday nights starting Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m.****Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church  
4601 Douglas Ave., Des Moines**

Ankeny Square Dance Club is sponsoring Square Dance Lessons. Cost is \$20 per person for the entire session accepted at the third lesson. Attend with or without a dance partner. You'll learn the calls, one at a time, taught by a caller (instructor) and volunteers. For more information, call Sandy Townsend, 515-294-2624, or visit [www.ankenysquares.com](http://www.ankenysquares.com). ■

## RECIPE

# HEALTHY EVERYDAY RECIPES FOR REAL LIFE

*(Family Features)* When planning meals, particularly breakfasts, there are a few critical factors many families consider: taste, simplicity and nutrition. Eating healthier doesn't have to be complicated or out of reach. With the right inspiration, healthy food can be delicious, nutritious and convenient.

To find more healthy eating tips and recipes that help you eat smart, move more and live healthier, visit [Heart.org](http://Heart.org). ■

## TURKEY BACON AND SPINACH QUICHE WITH SWEET POTATO CRUST

*Recipe courtesy of the American Heart Association with support from Eggland's Best*  
Servings: 5

### Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled
- 1 teaspoon canola or corn oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 6 slices uncured, nitrate-free turkey bacon, thinly sliced
- 10 ounces frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 3/4 teaspoon dried dillweed, crumbled
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 4 large egg whites
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fat-free feta cheese

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly spray 9-inch pie pan with nonstick cooking spray.
- In medium bowl, using box



grater, grate sweet potato. Measure out 2 cups. Gently press sweet potato on bottom and up sides of pan, forming crust. Sweet potato will be loose but will hold together once cooked.

- Bake 20 minutes, or until crust is cooked. Remove from oven. Let stand to cool. Reduce oven temperature to 350 F.
- In medium skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, swirling to coat bottom. Cook onion 6 minutes, or until almost translucent, stirring frequently. Add turkey bacon. Cook 3-4

minutes, or until onion and bacon begin to brown, stirring frequently. Add spinach, dillweed, salt and pepper. Cook 1-2 minutes, or until water from spinach is released. Remove from heat. Transfer mixture into sweet potato crust.

- In medium bowl, whisk egg whites, eggs and milk. Pour over mixture in crust. Sprinkle feta over top.
- Bake 35-40 minutes, or until knife inserted into center comes out clean. Transfer to cooling rack. Let cool 10 minutes before cutting into wedges.

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## OBITUARY

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### GARY 'BABE' LEE MCNICHOLS

Gary "Babe" Lee McNichols, 87, died Dec. 26, 2025, in Adel. He was born July 26, 1938, in Murray. Gary graduated from Murray High School in 1957. He then proudly served in the United States Navy from 1957 until 1961 on the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa. Gary married Sherry Sue Severson on Sept. 29, 1961.



Together, they moved to Waukee, where they raised their children, Mike and Muffy. Gary was a semi-truck driver and then worked for the Dallas County Secondary Roads Department for 17 years, from which he retired. He then served on the Waukee Fire Department for more than 20 years. Gary enjoyed cribbage, golfing and spending winters at their Arizona home in Mesa with family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 54 years, Sherry McNichols, and his siblings, Ervin "Curly" McNichols and Margaret Louise Ryan. Gary is survived by his son, Mike (Brooke) McNichols, and daughter, Michele (Doug) Bailey; four grandchildren, Cheyenne Sage, Cassady (Evan) Schaal, Sullivan (Kiaya) Bailey, and Sheridyn Bailey; and two great-grandchildren, Wylin and Breyton Sage.

Arrangements were by Iles Brandt Chapel. ■

## DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation) | All programs are free to the public and open to all ages.

- **What's A Bee Survey?** Saturday, Jan. 17, 10-11 a.m., Forest Park Museum, 14581 K Ave., Perry
- **Wilderness Trek Virtual Information Meeting**, Monday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. or 6 p.m., virtual meeting
- **Snakes, Snakes, Snakes!** Monday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m., Forest Park Museum, 14581 K Ave., Perry
- **Full Moon Evening Hike**, Friday, Jan. 30, 6-7:30 p.m., Voas Nature Area, 19286 Lexington Road, Minburn

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