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HISTORY

THE GREEN GABLES

BY MIKE FLINN

Before motels, there were tourist courts...several tiny cabins each with sleeping accommodation, a bathroom and a kitchenette. You could pull your car right next to the entry door. They were usually situated along a busy highway.

The Green Gables Tourist Court on 11th and Green Street (Highway 6) was built to take advantage of all the traffic on Highway 6, once the busiest highway in Iowa. It initially consisted of seven small cabins on a 3-acre lot. Green Gables was built by Charles and Melissa Marker. After divorcing in 1936, Melissa sold it to Leroy Gause and Henry West. They added several more cabins to the court and a service station on the southeast corner of the lot.

The large house, which formed the nucleus of the court, was built around 1900 as the residence and offices of Dr. W. J. Williams, who had arrived



The Green Gables provided lodging for people traveling through the area on Highway 6, once the busiest highway in Iowa.

in Adel in 1887 and purchased the practice of Dr. Timothy Cadwell.

In March of 1946, Lester Steelman of Charles City, along with his wife, June, and four children, purchased the Green Gables. Lester had just

completed his WWII service in the Navy. The cabins, service station and about three acres of land were included in the sale, along with the large house with two apartments in the top floor.

HISTORY, CONTINUED ON BACK

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 34 | LOW 8

Very windy; cloudy with flurries

**SATURDAY HIGH 11 | LOW 2**

Cloudy, windy and cold

**SUNDAY HIGH 33 | LOW 7**

Partly cloudy; not as cold

**MONDAY HIGH 19 | LOW 5**

Mostly sunny, windy and colder

**TUESDAY HIGH 32 | LOW 18**

Mix of sun and clouds; windy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

FOOD, FESTIVITIES AND FANFARE

I was reminded of an important fact recently about news and sports coverage, one that I first learned more than three decades ago: Sports readers are loyal and passionate, but they are few in number.

Before The Des Moines Register's demise, it was truly the newspaper Iowans depended on — for news and sports. The sports readers, though, were fewer than one might think. Three decades ago, readership by section showed that sports ranked at the bottom, right next to the classifieds section. The same is true with sports radio — a small but loyal audience. I have had many discussions with sports fans and sports editors about this, but the numbers don't lie.

This also holds true with weekly paid subscription newspapers. I managed several through the years. We would see subscriptions from parents drop off once their kids no longer played in sports, and we would gain new ones from parents of kids whose kids replaced them. I have learned that, aside from parents, most other

readers are satisfied with knowing which team won and what the score was, along with some solid photography.

This all hit home in recent weeks when we sought to publish a series of stories in our Iowa Living magazines on how residents celebrate Super Bowl Sunday. The story suggestion was mine, as I rationalized that with 127.7 million people watching the game, there must be some great local stories to tell about the food, the festivities and the fanfare that are all part of it.

Our writers who sought the stories for those 14 magazines told us that most people, aside from the rabid sports fans or those whose teams make the Super Bowl, simply don't care all that much. Yes, they tune in to watch at least some of the game. Enjoy some food. Watch the commercials. But, it isn't as much of an event as I assumed it would be or that I remember it being. (In case you are wondering, the Super Bowl is Sunday, Feb. 8.)



The cold, hard truth is that a lot of people don't know the difference between a touchdown and a home run, and they don't care to. But, apparently, many of them do watch the commercials, which now bring \$8 million or more for 30-second spots. The highest-rated Super Bowl was in 1982 with a 49.1 household rating, meaning 49.1% of TV-owning households were tuned into the Super Bowl during its broadcast.

I guess I don't have to look far to understand the viewing trend. With my Minnesota Vikings out of contention for this year, I will likely be lounging in my living room and watching the game with a few family members or friends. And, that's just fine by me.

How about you? What are your Super Bowl plans? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



Shane Goodman
President and Publisher
Big Green Umbrella Media
shane@dmcityview.com
515-953-4822, ext. 305

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8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



News contact
Tammy Pearson
515-953-4822, ext. 302
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com



Advertising contact
Dan Juffer
515-371-2290
dan.juffer@dmcityview.com

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The ADM High School 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 January, 2026. Businesses and groups in the district make donations to the ADM Scholarship Foundation in recognition of the students' achievements.

- **Student of the Month** — Hailey Lensch, sponsored by Raccoon Valley Bank
- **Fine Arts Student of the Month (choir, band)** — Vaughn-elise Nardini (choir), Aidan Lippincott (band), sponsored by Lincoln Savings Bank
- **Girls Bowling Student of the Month** — Alabama Astley, sponsored by Iowa Spring Manufacturing
- **Boys Bowling Student of the Month** — Ty Lovejoy, sponsored by Azalea Lane Boutique
- **Wrestling Student of the Month** — Ethan Johnson, sponsored by Adel Kiwanis
- **Boys Basketball Student of the Month** — Reid Kluesner, sponsored by Adel TV and Appliance
- **Girls Basketball Student of the Month** — Ella Subbert, sponsored by Cullen Howe Real Estate-RE/MAX Precision
- **Dance Student of the Month** — Elin Schwes, sponsored by Adel Rotary Club
- **Wrestling Cheer Student of the Month** — Claire Roorda, sponsored by Adel Vision Clinic
- 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 Jack Gordon. Congratulations to all of the students of the month. ■

ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 16

- 4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls JV vs. North Polk
 4:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys JV vs. North Polk
 5:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Freshman vs. North Polk
 6 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity vs. North Polk
 7:30 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity vs. North Polk

Saturday, Jan. 17

- 9 a.m. **Wrestling:** JV Tournament vs. Multiple Schools
 9 a.m. **Wrestling:** Varsity vs. Multiple Schools


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RACCOON RIVER PRESCHOOL'S TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Raccoon River Preschool is hosting its Trivia Night on March 7 at Country Lane Lodge, 29300 Prospect Ave., Adel. The event features dinner, cash bar, game night, and a live auction. Doors open at 5 p.m. and trivia, hosted by DJ Trivia, starts at 6 p.m. A live auction follows. Registration is \$30 per person or purchase a table for up to eight people. Sign up online at reccoanriverpreschool.com under the Fundraising tab. ■

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. ■

THIRD MONDAY BINGO

Enjoy 16 games of bingo (\$5/ card for the night) plus a 17th Progressive Blackout (\$1/card) Jan. 19 and Feb. 16, 6-8 p.m., at the Masonic Lodge, 411 S. 12th St., Adel. Packaged snacks and nonalcoholic drinks will be available. ■

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. ■



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. ■

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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OBITUARY

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

LINDA ANNE EVANS

Linda Anne Evans, 78, of Adel, died Jan. 6, 2026, at UnityPoint – Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. A visitation will be held at 11 a.m., with a prayer service to follow at noon on Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. John's Catholic Church in Adel. A luncheon will take place following the service in the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family for future designation. Online condolences may be left at www.caldwellparrish.com.



Linda was born on Aug. 28, 1947, in Pueblo, Colorado, to Roman and Margaret (Marron) Franzen. She graduated from Lincoln High School in Des Moines in 1965. On June 17, 1967, she married her high school sweetheart, Terry Evans, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Des Moines.

Linda's greatest love was her family and friends. She especially cherished time spent with her nieces, nephews and their families. She was deeply devoted to those she loved and will be remembered for her caring and loyal heart.

She is survived by her husband, Terry Evans; two daughters, Leslie (Leon) Kollasch and Tracy Evans; her sister, Mary Jo Bailey; four nieces, four nephews, four grand-nephews, seven grand-nieces, two great-grand-nephews, and one great-grand-niece.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, John; her sisters, Katie and Clara; and her nieces, Danna and Michele. ■

DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION

www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation | All programs are free 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 ■

FIRE & ICE

WINTER BAR CRAWL

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

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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.

**SPLURGE: WEST END SALVAGE'S ANNUAL WINE, CHEESE AND CHOCOLATE EVENT****Friday, Jan. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 24, 6-9 p.m.****West End Architectural Salvage****22 Ninth St., Des Moines**

What's better than a decadent night of wine, cheese and chocolate from local wineries, artisans and chocolatiers? Enjoy this annual downtown Des Moines event to break up the winter monotony and SPLURGE with all your favorite people. Tickets available by following the QR code.

**WINTERFEST MARKET****Saturday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m.****EMC Expo Center, Iowa Events Center
730 Third St., Des Moines**

Escape the post-holiday blues and treat yourself to something special at Winterfest Market — a cozy indoor shopping event featuring your favorite local makers, artisans and small businesses. Unique handmade goods and one-of-a-kind finds. Warm drinks, festive vibes and community love. More information is



available at www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/winterfest-market.

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 and 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.

IOWA AG EXPO**Tuesday, Feb. 3, to Thursday, Feb. 5****Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines**

No need to travel far to see the latest farm equipment when the Iowa Ag Expo brings the biggest names and newest innovations to Des Moines each winter. Spanning 7.25 acres, the Iowa Ag Expo is the third-largest indoor agricultural show in the United States, hosting nearly 700 exhibitors across three buildings of the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. These companies come from around the world to display the best agriculture has to offer, from big iron, precision ag, and livestock production to autonomous equipment, electric vehicles, robotics, artificial intelligence solutions and more. To view the full Iowa Ag Expo program and list of exhibitors, visit <https://iowaagexpo.com/show-program/>. Buy tickets at www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/iowa-ag-expo-5. ■



RECIPE

TAKE SWEETNESS TO NEW HEIGHTS

(Family Features) Whether you can't quite give up on the holiday treats or the festivities are continuing into 2026, these easy lemon blueberry bars offer a light, fruity bite. The melted white chocolate drizzle is just what gatherings with loved ones call for. Visit Culinary.net for more delicious desserts to enjoy this year. ■

EASY LEMON BLUEBERRY BARS

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Ingredients:

- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup fresh blueberries
- 2/3 cup white chocolate chips, divided
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans

Directions:

- Heat oven to 350 degrees F.
- In bowl, combine butter, cake mix, eggs, blueberries, 1/3 cup white chocolate chips and pecans.
- Butter 7-by-11-inch pan and spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake 30-35 minutes.
- Let cool then melt



remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.

- Tip: If melted white

chocolate chips are too thick, add a little oil before drizzling.

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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.

ELEMENTARY

- **Pet Rock Adoption Clinic:** Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 4 p.m.
- ***Elementary Maker Lab - 3D Printed Marble Maze:** Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 4-5:30 p.m.

TEEN

- ***Library D&D:** Friday, Jan. 16 from 1-3:30 p.m.
 - **Teen Craft: Junk Journal:** Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m.
 - **Teen Maker - 3D Printed Marble Run:** Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 4 p.m.
- *Registered event; register at adelpl.org. ■*

HISTORY, FROM FRONT

In November of 1946, Steelman leased the service station, which handled Mobil products, to Dale Merical, who would also operate the Greyhound bustop within the Green Gables Service Station. Dale changed from Mobile products to DX sometime after that and renamed the operation Merical DX.

Les and June had their hands full in those days right after WWII. They had 17 sheets and 16 beds, so June had to wash and iron sheets every day and make 16 beds. Lester told of going to Des Moines to buy sheets, which were nearly impossible to find after the war. He was fortunate in finding a few, which he purchased and carried out to the street unwrapped. He was nearly mobbed by other shoppers wanting to know where he found them.

It was a busy time for travel. Lots of

days, they had the “no vacancy” sign out by 3 a.m. A big treat for them was when they had all the rooms rented and they could go down to the service station by the river and buy the kids a nickel ice cream cone.

Lester brought in two or three more buildings and soon was involved in the trailer court business. He also operated a sawmill and even got in the carnival business for a time.

With the completion of Interstate 80, Highway 6 no longer carried enough traffic to support the cabin court. Some of the cabins were converted into small homes or other uses.

Dale Merical’s DX station lasted a few more years, but, with the Greyhound bus no longer operating, it, too, was discontinued. The station building saw many uses after that and still stands today. ■



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Farm fresh eggs from free range chickens. \$4/dozen. Call 515-250-9730.

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

WALK-INS WELCOME: Kinnicks Barbershop is taking walk-ins Monday-Friday. 119 N. 9th St., Adel.

FOR SALE: Jigsaw puzzles 550 pieces. Little Farm Girl, Holiday scene, Christmas scene, Christmas Cottage, Covered bridge in fall. Sparkle Shine northern lights has never been opened \$10. The other puzzles are \$7 each. Call 5153210301.

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