

# ADEL Living Weekly

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## THE HISTORY OF ADEL'S BRICK MANUFACTURING

BY MIKE FLINN

Adel's brick-making history goes back to 1878 when a man by the name of William McKissick made the first bricks. The first brick plant was built by R.M. Kerns & Co. in 1882. The plant was located in the northwest part of town just south of Oakdale Cemetery on Butler Creek. This later became Kerns and McKissick and then Harris and Company. It provided employment for about 25 men and turned out 20,000 bricks per day. When rail transportation became available, this plant was torn down and rebuilt near the railroad tracks on the southwest edge of the town. It was then called the Dallas County Brick and Tile Company.

Halver R. Straight came to Adel in 1907 and, along with his



brother, Merton, purchased the company. It was then renamed Adel Clay Products and H.R. Straight became president and general manager. In 1926, H.R. and Merton sold their plant at Adel

to United Clay Products Company. Having retained the name Adel Clay Products Company, they moved to Redfield where they built

**BRICKS, CONTINUED ON BACK**

### ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

**FRIDAY HIGH 81 | LOW 58**

Sunny and pleasant

**SATURDAY HIGH 78 | LOW 48**

Some sun; turning cloudy

**SUNDAY HIGH 78 | LOW 52**

Pleasant with plenty of sun

**MONDAY HIGH 84 | LOW 53**

Plenty of sunshine

**TUESDAY HIGH 86 | LOW 53**

Breezy and partly cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND

The above words are the name of a hit song recorded by Andrew Gold in 1978. Those of you familiar with the song likely know it because of the cover by Cynthia Fee that was the theme song of the NBC sitcom "The Golden Girls." In fact, you are likely singing along now.

But what exactly does it mean to be a friend? I recently heard Father Ray Higgins offer a version of the following story as part of his sermon. I had not heard the story before, and I was touched so much by it that I wanted to pass it along to each of you. Here it is.

*Two soldiers were great friends. One evening, one soldier came back to the trench but found that his friend had not returned. Many soldiers had been killed on the front. He became worried that his*

*friend was one of them.*

*He asked about his friend, and another soldier said, "We don't know if he was killed, but he was wounded so badly it was impossible for him to come to the trench. By now, he must be dead."*

*The day was turning to night, and the enemy was still firing madly, but the soldier wanted to search for his friend.*

*His commanding officer said, "No, that would be foolish," but he disregarded his officer and left the trench. It was dark, and there were thousands of corpses all around. He searched diligently, and in the middle of the night, he returned — dragging his friend's dead body on his back.*



*He, himself, was now mortally wounded and could not survive.*

*His commanding officer approached him and said, "I told you not to be foolish! It was not worth it. Your friend is dead, and you are dying!"*

*The dying man opened his eyes and said, "But it was worth it — because when I went there, he looked at me and said, 'I knew you would come.'"*

If that story doesn't make you think about how much you are willing to do for a friend, then I don't know what will.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



## Shane Goodman

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ADEL  
*Living Weekly*

A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.  
8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131  
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



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# SEEN IN ADEL

THE SWEET CORN FESTIVAL PARADE WAS HELD ON AUG. 12.



ADM Girls Varsity Athletes



ADM Boys Varsity Athletes



ADM Dance Team



ADM Hall of Fame Inductee Bill Kimber



ADM Hall of Fame Inductee Bruce Pinkerton



ADM Hall of Fame Inductee Brett Glenn



The Iowa Clinic



Archer Home Center

## ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Friday, Sept. 15

4:15 p.m. **Football:** Freshman vs. Norwalk

7 p.m. **Football:** Varsity vs. Norwalk

### Saturday, Sept. 16

9 a.m. **Volleyball:** Freshman Invitational @ Des Moines East High School

10 a.m. **Cross Country:** Girls vs. Pella @ Central College

### Monday, Sept. 18

4:30 p.m. **Volleyball:** Freshman Triangular @ Atlantic

4:30 p.m. **Volleyball:** JV Triangular @ Atlantic High School

5:20 p.m. **Cross Country:** Girls @ Hillcrest Country Club

5:45 p.m. **Cross Country:** Boys @ Hillcrest Country Club

6 p.m. **Football:** JV @ Norwalk

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## ADEL LIBRARY NEWS

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### TOUCH-A-TRUCK

**Touch-A-Truck, Sept. 29, 9-11 a.m.**

Spend the morning touching and exploring different trucks and vehicles used by the city public works department and a garbage truck from Ankeny Sanitation. This event will be located in the parking lot north of City Hall.

### STORY TIMES

- **Move and Groove Storytime** – every Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- **My First Storytime** – every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Preschool Storytime** – every Thursday at 10 a.m.
- **Storytime at Evans Park** – Sept. 25 at 10 a.m.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- **Elementary Art: Painting**, grades K-5, Sept. 19, 4 p.m.\*
- **Teen: DIY Boba**, grades 6-12, Sept. 21, 4 p.m.\*

- **Library Dungeons and Dragons**, grades 7-12, Sept. 22, 2-4 p.m.\*
- **Teen Gaming: One Night Ultimate Werewolf**, Sept. 28, 4 p.m.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

- **Yoga at the Library**, every Wednesday in September at 5:45 p.m.\*
- **Exercise Group**, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.
- **50s+ Senior Gathering**, first and third Tuesdays of the month, 10 a.m.
- **Iowa History: Letters from the Farmhouse**, Sept. 15, noon to 1 p.m.
- **Cook Book Club**, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m.
- **Homeschool Meet-up**, Sept. 20, 1-2 p.m.
- **Plant Propagation Class**, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m.\*
- **Evening Book Club**, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. ■

*\*Programs with an asterisk require registration. You can easily register at [adelpl.org](http://adelpl.org).*

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## ADEL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY COLLECTS FOR VA HOSPITAL

The Adel American Legion Auxiliary is collecting donations for the VA Hospital and the VA CRRC to assist veterans with needs for clothing and other items. Currently, the following are being requested: great condition large print used books, individually wrapped snacks, +2.25 reading glasses, men's deodorant, men's shampoo and conditioner (no body wash), hair brushes, men's sweatpants/athletic pants (size M, L and XL), men's athletic shorts (size L, XL, XXL), and decaf ground coffee.

Donations are welcome at the Adel American Legion Auxiliary drop-off box at 1305 S. 15th St., Adel, or contact Shirley McAdon at 515-993-4862 for pick up.

Thank you to our community for your generosity in supporting our veterans. ■

# MUSEUM OPEN

The Adel Historical Museum, 1129 Main St., will be open every Saturday from 1-3 p.m. through the month of August. ■

## DE SOTO FUN DAYS

De Soto Fun Days, Saturday, Sept. 16, will feature free activities for kids and adults, including a parade, car show, bouncy houses, face painting, balloon artist, zoomers, Silly Sally, craft making, dunk tank, kids water fights, bingo and fireworks. Food trucks and a beer garden with a live band will also be featured. ■

## THIRD MONDAY BINGO

Enjoy Bingo on Monday, Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 411 S. 12th St., Adel. Seventeen games (\$0.25/card) plus an 18th Progressive Blackout (\$1/card) will be held. Packaged snacks and non-alcoholic drinks will be available. Bring a dauber if you have one. They will also be for sale. ■

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

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

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## RECIPE

# SIMPLIFY SCHOOL NIGHTS WITH EASY, CHEESY MEALS

*(Family Features)* Putting a delicious, kid-friendly meal on the table in an hour or less is goal No. 1 for many families. When the hectic schedules of back-to-school season are in full effect, saving some precious time in the kitchen can make all the difference.

Take a homework timeout and bring loved ones running to the dining room for family favorites like Sweet Heat Pickled Beet Grilled Cheese. This modern take on a childhood classic pairs sourdough bread with brie cheese, a spicy-sweet hit of hot honey and juicy Aunt Nellie's Diced Pickled Beets. ■

## SWEET HEAT PICKLED BEET GRILLED CHEESE

*Recipe courtesy of MacKenzie Smith of "Grilled Cheese Social"*

**Prep time: 5 minutes**

**Cook time: 12 minutes**

**Yield: 2 sandwiches**

- 4 slices (3 ounces each) sourdough bread
- 2 tablespoons hot honey
- 1 small wheel (8 ounces) brie, at room temperature, cut into thin strips
- 8 ounces Aunt Nellie's Diced Pickled Beets (1/2 jar or 2 individual diced pickled beet cups)
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil, cut into thin strips
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt, or to taste

### Directions

Place two bread slices on cutting board. Drizzle with hot honey then add 4 ounces brie evenly across bread.

Drain beets and pat dry. Add evenly on top of brie followed by basil and remaining brie.

Spread 1 tablespoon butter on one side of remaining bread slices. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt. Place top piece of bread on each sandwich.



Heat cast-iron or frying pan over medium-low heat then add sandwiches butter sides down. Butter top sides and add remaining garlic salt.

Cook about 5 minutes on each side, or until bread is golden brown and cheese has melted, flipping halfway through.

Once sandwiches have cooked on both sides, remove from heat and serve.



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## BRICKS, FROM FRONT

another brick plant and continued in business. Merton, afterwards, ran this operation until the facility was purchased by the Goodwin family. HR also built and operated a large soybean plant at Redfield, now owned by Cargill.

While operating in Adel, H.R. Straight constructed numerous houses for employees of the brick manufacturing operation. Twenty-three homes were still in company ownership in 1958 when the plant was acquired by Sioux City Brick and Tile company.

HR Straight also had 87 patents, many pertaining to brick manufacturing. He also purchased patent rights on a boxcar unloader, and his Straight Engineering Company of Adel manufactured this equipment. HR Straight died in 1956. Straight Engineering Co. was continued under direction of his son, Lee, and Lyle A. Hanson.

On Aug. 31, 1950, a loud blast shook the brick plant. Two men attempted to blow up a clay planer

due to a labor dispute over wages and other issues. Pay, at that time, was 80 cents an hour, and the union was demanding a 30-cent increase as well as other benefits. Two men pled guilty to reduced charges of malicious mischief, and the strike was settled shortly thereafter.

In 1958, the Sioux City Brick and Tile company purchased the Adel and Des Moines plants of United Brick and Tile Company. After that purchase, a tunnel kiln was built in 1968 to modernize the facilities at Adel. The plant at Des Moines was closed that same year. A second tunnel kiln was constructed in 1978 and the last of the periodic kilns was phased out.

Three plant superintendents at Adel are remembered for long and outstanding management. L.E. (Pete) De Camp, William Ohmsieder and Kurt Hansen. The bricks manufactured at the present facility are shipped to every part of the United States. It is one of three large modern brick factories remaining in the state of Iowa. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** 3 different music boxes \$3 each, extra large duffel bag \$5, barber kit \$5, support hose helper \$5. Call 515-321-3231.

**HUGE GARAGE SALE:** Sept. 21 and 22, noon -7 p.m. and Sept. 2,3 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1403 Janet Circle, Adel. Men's scrubs, cleats, Fabrics, Graco pack/play, Xbox/PS2 games, furniture, longaberger, linens, kitchen, crafts/supplies, knickknacks, holiday, home decor, music, books, games, puzzles, videos, clothes (baby to adult) coats, too much to list.

**HOUSE FOR RENT:** 3 BR ranch on pavement west of Adel 1.5 bath, sun room, and large basement. \$1500 per month no smoking or pets please call Paul 515-979-2601.

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