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HISTORY

OUT OF THE MUD

The streets and sidewalks of Adel are mostly all paved and kept in good order. Adel is known for its historic brick streets around the courthouse square and beyond. But it wasn't always that way. In the early years, getting around after a rain was quite a challenge.

It was 1893 when brick paving was laid round the courthouse square. But aside from the streets immediately adjacent to the block in which the courthouse was situated, there was little paving until automobiles became popular. Mud roads were everywhere. The present generations, thankfully, know nothing about mud. It was ankle deep for pedestrians much of the time, except when frozen in winter, and was nearly hub deep for wagons and buggies. Doctors, who spent much of their time driving in the country, would have their buggies



and teams splattered with mud and their lap robes and overcoats fairly covered with it. Not only were they muddied and splattered, but frequently they got stuck so that they had to have assistance from other teams to pull them out of the mud holes.

In the early 1890s, there were few if any crossings at street intersections for the use of pedestrians. Crossing a street on

foot, a day or two after a heavy rain, was a sore trial to the gentleman whose shoes were nicely polished and whose trousers were carefully creased. And the ladies were even more sorely tried. The long, street-sweeping skirts they wore were gathered up and held in one hand while the fair young thing, or the dignified madam, stepped carefully and gingerly from island to island until she got across the street. Crosswalks were built as time passed on. Sometimes they were of planks and boards and sometimes of brick. They were an aid to the pedestrian but helped the teamster not at all. The street workers spent much time shoveling off the mud so that the foot traveler could get across without soiling his shoes.

Streetlights were unknown

STREETS, ON BACK

ADEL WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 33 | LOW 16
Colder and mostly sunny



SATURDAY HIGH 37 | LOW 25
Breezy in the morning; sunshine



SUNDAY HIGH 50 | LOW 29
Mostly sunny and mild



MONDAY HIGH 47 | LOW 27
Mostly cloudy and mild



TUESDAY HIGH 50 | LOW 32
Cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

PATRIOTISM SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE A LAW

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.” I have said those 12 words and the 19 that come after them many times in my life, mostly in the classrooms of my youth. They had meaning to me then, and they still do today. As they should.

If I am wearing a hat, I remove it when the flag is present.

When I see American soldiers, I thank them for their service.

I respect our president and commander of our Armed Forces, regardless of who it is.

I flunked choir in eighth grade, yet I still sing our national anthem every chance I get. And when the words “gave proof through the night that our flag was still there” are sung, I get goosebumps.

I never served in our military, but, at times, I wish I would have. I believe the experience would have made me a better American and a better person.

I don’t know why I feel the way I

do about patriotism.

It was probably instilled in me by my father and my teachers and my coaches and my pastors. I never felt it was forced on me or that I was guilted into it. I am quite proud to be an American, and I am forever thankful to those who sacrificed to allow me to have the freedoms I have.

Even so, when Iowa legislators discuss enacting a law to require students in public schools to stand and sing portions of “The Star-Spangled Banner” on a daily basis, I am torn. I don’t know that yet another law is needed. (I have a strong feeling that when any new law is enacted, an old law should be eliminated. That goes for new taxes, too.) Even though a law requiring this may be excessive, encouragement to sing our national anthem certainly seems appropriate.



If a public school teacher doesn’t want to do this in his or her classroom, so be it. That decision will say a lot on its own.

I walked into a public high school the other day, and the ceiling in the commons area was draped with dozens of flags from other countries. I didn’t see an American flag at first glance, but I certainly hope one was there. Americans don’t need to be disrespectful to other countries to show patriotism for their own, but there should be no question where one’s loyalties need to be. If a person truly despises our “land of the free and the home of the brave” that much, there are 194 other options.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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ADEL LIBRARY EVENTS

303 S 10th St, Adel • 515-993-3512 • adelpl.org

We are accepting donations for our garage sale until April 8. We will accept donations of antiques, CDs, décor, DVDs, holiday decorations, homeware, kitchenware, puzzles and games, toys and vinyl records. For more information about donating, you can reach us at 515-993-3512.

STORYTIMES AND WINTER PLAYTIME

Storytimes and Winter Playtime are great opportunities to get out of the house with your little ones in the winter.

- **Move & Groove Storytime (0-5 years old)** – Every Tuesday in February at 10 a.m.
- **My First Storytime (0-36 months)** – Every Wednesday in February at 9:30 a.m.
- **Preschool Storytime (3-6 years old)** – Every Thursday in February at 10 a.m.
- **Preschool Heart Explorers** – Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bored after school? Not anymore. Check out all of the awesome programs we have coming up.

- ***STEAM with ISU Extension: Take a Chance (grades K-5)** – Feb. 20 at 10 a.m.
- ***Elementary Book to Art: Collaborative Hearts (grades K-5)** – Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.
- **Teen Heart Explorers (grades 6-12)** – Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.
- ***Library D&D (grades 7-12)** – Feb. 23, 2-4 p.m.

*Programs with an asterisk require registration. You can easily register at adelpl.org. ■

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ADM SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 16

TBD **Wrestling:** Varsity State
Tournament @ Wells
 Fargo Arena - Des Moines

Saturday, Feb. 17

TBD **Wrestling:** Varsity State
Tournament @ Wells
 Fargo Arena - Des Moines

7 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity
Regional Semifinal vs.
TBA

Monday, Feb. 19

7 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity
Substate vs. Atlantic

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FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

ROBERT RAY DECAMP

Robert Ray DeCamp, 85, died Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at Bickford of West Des Moines after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Bob was born on July 3, 1938, in Des Moines and graduated from Adel High School in 1956. Shortly after, he enlisted in the United States Army where he served from 1956 to 1959.

Bob married Sharon V. McKinney on Aug. 23, 1956. He worked as an auto mechanic with his father for several years then joined the Dallas County Sheriff's Office in 1966, first as a deputy, then was ultimately elected sheriff from 1976-1979. In January 1979, he took a break from the Sheriff's Office to operate a fishing resort in northern Minnesota for the next eight years, after which he returned to Dallas County as a deputy and finally retired in 2005. He selflessly dedicated more than 30 years of service to protecting his community.

Bob was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing, bird watching, gardening, traveling, WWII history and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Due to his caring nature, he was an adopted grandpa to many, lending an ear to whoever was in need.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sharon, of 67 years; daughters: Kathy (Jim) Baldwin of Adel, Deb Jensen of Maple Grove, Minnesota, and Margie (Tim) Branam of Adel; grandchildren: Mike (Jill) Baldwin, Jamie (John) Wetter, Ryan (Erin) Jensen, Kristen (Kyle) Stump, Cody (Molly) Branam and MacKenzie (Tom) Walter; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert C. and E. Marie DeCamp.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bickford of West Des Moines and Suncrest Home Health and Hospice of West Des Moines. A private memorial service will be held. Interment will be at Waukee Cemetery. ■



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HELP VETERANS AT THE DES MOINES VA HOSPITAL

Federal funds may not be used to purchase personal items for veterans at VA Hospitals. Like many other American Legion Auxiliaries, Adel ALA Unit 464 steps forward to collect clothing and other items needed by vets in the Des Moines VA Hospital or in its domicile. Currently, the following are being requested: men's sweatpants/athletic pants (size S-XXL), men's sweatshirts (size S-XXXL), men's coats (size-XXL), men's underwear (size S-L), great condition large print used books, individually wrapped snacks, and decaf ground coffee.

Donations are welcomed to be dropped off at 1305 S. 15th St., Adel, or contact Shirley McAdon at 515-993-4862 for pick up. ■

BIRDS OF DALLAS COUNTY

The public is invited to Adel First Christian Church on March 8 for a presentation by Dallas County DNR Naturalist Mike Havlik on Birds of Dallas County. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. or come for the 6 p.m. presentation. With spring approaching, we are all looking forward to more time outdoors, and this will be a great introduction to local wildlife. The church is located at the corner of Highway 169 and Rapids Street. People of all ages are welcome. ■

HUMANS AND HONEYBEES

The public is invited to Adel First Christian Church for a presentation by the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association titled "Humans and Honeybees" on Wednesday, Feb. 28. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., and, at 6 p.m., learn about honey, honeybees and the importance of these pollinators to all of us. The church is located at the corner of Highway 169 and Rapids Street. You'll leave with a better understanding of how people and bees can help each other. ■

EVENTS AT THE BRENTON ARBORETUM

The Brenton Arboretum, 25141 260th St., Dallas Center, will be holding a variety of events. For more information or to register, visit www.TheBrentonArboretum.org/events.

- Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 10-11 a.m., Nature's Healing.
- March 7 and 21 and April 4 and 18, Nature Club, varying times. Register by age group.
- April 21, noon to 3 p.m., Earth Day Celebrations; 1-3 p.m., Exploratory Beekeeping.
- April 27, 7 a.m., Birds & Bagels. ■

FAITH'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

Faith's Flock Preschool's annual Rummage and Bake Sale will be March 16, 8 a.m. to noon, at Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool. Donations of kids' items will be accepted on March 14 and 15 from 3-6 p.m. at the fellowship/gym entrance. Email Kylee at preschool@faithadel.com with any questions. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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"Les Misérables"

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTIONS

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

dmpa.org

Feb. 17: The Peking Acrobats

Feb. 20: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Feb. 27 through March 3: "Les Misérables"

Feb. 27 through March 17: "Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull"

IOWA BEEF EXPO

Feb. 10-18

3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

iowastatefairgrounds.org

An entire week of beef packed into the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Parades, shows, sales and banquets, all in the name of Iowa beef.

YMCA RED FLANNEL RUN

Feb. 17

501 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Dmymca.org

The Red Flannel Run is great for a fun freezing run. After starting 35 years ago when two single guys didn't have Valentine's Day dates, it is credited with being the longest consecutively produced race in the Des Moines area.

CITYVIEW CHOCOLATE WALK

Friday, Feb. 23, 5-9 p.m.

West Glen Town Center, 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

Like chocolate? Like chocolate drinks? Then you'll love this event. For a ticket price of \$25 (\$35 at the door), attendees will receive 10 drink tickets that can be redeemed for sample cocktails at participating venues. Attendees will also be provided tickets for chocolate dessert samples at participating retail stores. A shuttle bus from Majestic Limousine will be providing transportation to each location, although most are only a short walk away. For a link to purchase tickets, visit <https://chocolatewalk.dmcityview.com>.

MORE EVENTS

Feb. 17: Ari Shaffir: The Wrong Side of History Tour. Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; hoystherman.org/events

Feb. 27 through March 3: Les Misérables, one of the world's most popular musicals. Starting at various times at the Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; dmpa.org

Feb. 28: Coldest Night of the Year Fun Run/Walk. Held by Central Iowa Shelter and Services at Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines; centraliowashelter.org

Feb. 29: Greensky Bluegrass. Val Air Ballroom. 301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines; firstfleetconcerts.com/events

March 1: Iowa Deer Classic. Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com

March 4-8: IHSAA Iowa State Boys Basketball Tournament. Wells Fargo Arena, 223 Center St., Des Moines; iahsaa.org/basketball

March 8: Iowa Home Expo. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; iowahomeexpo.com

March 15: All Iowa Auto Show. Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com

March 15: Mateo Lane: The Al Dente Tour. Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; hoystherman.org/events ■

RECIPE

GIVE COMFORT FOOD CLASSICS A MEXICAN TWIST

(Family Features) If winter evenings have you stuck in a dinner rut, heat up the kitchen with family favorites everyone can look forward to. Shaking off the chill can start with a cozy blanket and comforting food that warms you from the inside out.

For a flavorful side that complements a variety of main courses while adding Mexican flair, consider Mexican loaded mashed potatoes. This recipe is a familiar favorite with the unique twist of bacon and pork chorizo for a meat-infused recipe that will become a menu mainstay.

Plus, for an extra creamy texture, it calls for cacique crema Mexicana — an everyday table cream with a neutral, fresh-tasting flavor ideal for balancing out spice — and Oaxaca, a semisoft cheese with a mellow, buttery flavor. ■

MEXICAN LOADED MASHED POTATOES

Prep time: 35 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Servings: 10

- 3 pounds russet potatoes (about 9 medium potatoes), peeled and cubed water
- 6 bacon strips, chopped
- 1 package Cacique Pork Chorizo
- 12 ounces Cacique Crema Mexicana
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup Cacique Oaxaca or Queso Quesadilla, shredded
- 1/2 cup Cacique Crema Mexicana Agria, for topping (optional)
- 3 green onions, chopped

Directions:

In Dutch oven, add potatoes and cover with water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cook, uncovered, 10-15 minutes, or until tender.

In skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels, chop into small pieces and



set aside. Remove bacon grease from skillet and cook chorizo over medium-high heat, 6-8 minutes.

Drain potatoes; add to pan. Mash potatoes, gradually adding crema Mexicana, butter, onion powder, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Transfer to greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish; sprinkle with cheese, chorizo and bacon. Refrigerate, covered, up to 1 day.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Remove potatoes from refrigerator and let stand while oven heats. Bake, covered, about 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes, or until heated through.

Drizzle with crema Mexicana agria and chopped green onions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A legislative update will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m. at the Adel Public Library Community Room, 303 S. 10th St., Adel. Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott and Rep. David Young will be present. ■

THIRD MONDAY BINGO

Enjoy Bingo on Monday, Feb. 19, 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. ■

STREETS, FROM FRONT

in those early years and people frequently carried lanterns when they went about town at night. Later in the 1890s, cement walks began to appear. But the streets were still muddy and, in early spring when the rains came and the frost came out of the ground, the streets and highways seemed bottomless. For many years, this condition prevailed. But, in 1916, pavement was put in on Main Street and several other streets of the town. The McLaughlin Construction Company did a fine

job of paving these streets. The paving consisted of a concrete base and a layer of brick with asphalt filler. Later, other streets were similarly improved.

Today, few people know the hassle of losing a rubber overshoe in the mud while trying to cross the street. Concrete sidewalks have replaced the mud-covered boardwalks, and what few streets that aren't hard surfaced are at least graveled. Sometimes we need to remember that the "good old days" weren't always that good. ■

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