

DAILY GRIND

MODA TO BRING DAMBO TROLL TO DANISH VILLAGES

Amelia Juhl

This community knows how to turn bold ideas into reality—because we’ve done it before.

In 1976, we brought a Danish windmill across the ocean and built something unforgettable. That single act of vision and determination transformed our town into a destination. Today, we are home to restaurants, a hotel, a national museum, thriving local businesses, and a vibrant network of organizations that continue to shape our identity.

None of that happened by chance. It happened because people gave generously, because neighbors showed up, because volunteers put in the time, and because this community believed in something bigger than itself.

Now, we have the opportunity to do it again.

In April, the Museum of Danish America will work with world-renowned Danish recycle artist Thomas Dambo to bring a troll to our Danish Villages. This sculpture will celebrate our Danish heritage while drawing visitors, energy, and new stories to our streets. Around the world, Dambo’s trolls have transformed communities into

destinations, boosting local pride and supporting small businesses.

A project like this doesn’t happen without you. Just like the windmill, this vision only becomes reality through community support—through donations, through volunteering, and through people who believe it’s possible. Every contribution matters. Every hour volunteered brings us closer. Every show of support builds momentum.

This is about more than installing a sculpture. It’s about continuing a legacy of doing the impossible. It’s about creating something lasting —together.

We’ve done it before. We can do it again. We just need your help.

Make a donation. Volunteer your time. Be part of what comes next.

Learn more and get involved at: www.danishmuseum.org/thomas-dambo-troll/.



Mother Strong Tail is one of seven trolls created by Thomas Dambo as part of The Grandmother Tree series, constructed in North Carolina in 2025.

Troll construction begins on April 6 and is anticipated to be finished and unveiled before the end of the month. Each troll design is unique and is given a gender and name.

Thomas Dambo will be speaking publically at EEHK High School on **April 23, 7-9PM**. All are encouraged to attend.



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

This isn’t the article we intended for this issue, but changing circumstances have demanded a shift in focus. What was supposed to be an elaborate ruse on the windmill moving back to Denmark following the discovery of a 50-year lease agreement in a secret basement beneath the mill, is now something a bit more serious and resonant with our readers.

Sharp winds of change are whirling towards the Danish Villages, and as mills and wheels are set into motion, we ask for a moment, that we pause briefly to consider the significance of this unique historical moment we find ourselves in.

The arrival of a Dambo troll did not come out of no where. It stemmed from a deeper timeline that includes the establishment of the Danish Inn, the relocation of a windmill from Denmark, and the groundbreaking of the nationally-accredited Museum of Danish America. These milestones, achieved by determination and volunteerism, have climaxed with the momentous arrival of a troll that stands to transform the very fabric of our community.

Similar changes were underway 50 years ago.

The arrival of the windmill excited local residents into a full-on facelift of town infrastructure and businesses, resulting in anything from the addition of windmills to logos and street signs to artistic reimaginations of Elk Horn storefronts to look more unified and culturally-distinct.

Several businesses in Elk Horn, particularly the restaurants, are already shifting gears in anticipation. Towns with Dambo trolls have recorded annual visitor increases in the tens of thousands, and with Elk Horn’s unique Danish background to consider, there is good reason to believe this particular troll will be a special one for Dambo’s followers. The Kringle Man is currently working on plans to offer enhanced breakfast options and Norse Horse Tavern is restructuring their business hours to be open on Sundays. The windmill itself may even have to consider extending our hours passed 5pm, which will be the norm again starting March 31.

This moment will only last as long as we let it. The troll will be built in a flash, but it shares a legacy with the windmill and MoDA that may extend generations if local residents are willing to put in the effort to preserve it. The outpouring of support for this project so far has been promising, but it can’t stop there. Maintaining what we built will be the true challenge ahead.

PAULEY JONES EXPANDING TO ELK HORN

Anna Jones

Pauley Jones Funeral Home is proud to announce the purchase of the Grace on Main building, with plans to transform the space into something truly special: a welcoming gathering place designed to honor and host life’s most meaningful moments.

This reimagined space will be known as Kulturhus, a name inspired by the Danish heritage deeply woven into the fabric of Elk Horn. Meaning “culture house,” Kulturhus will serve as a central hub where people can come together to celebrate, remember, and connect. From joyful beginnings to heartfelt farewells, the vision is to provide a setting that supports every stage of life with care, beauty, and intention.

Kulturhus will host a wide variety of events, including engagement parties, weddings, wedding and baby showers, graduations, anniversaries, family reunions, and celebrations of life. Each gathering will be approached with a personalized touch, ensuring it reflects the unique story and spirit of those being honored. Whether it’s an intimate family moment or a larger community celebration, the space will be thoughtfully designed to accommodate a range of needs and styles.

Beyond private events, Kulturhus will also serve as a vibrant hub for the broader community. Plans include hosting community events, educational workshops, cultural programs, and offering a welcoming space for meetings, clubs, and local

organizations. The goal is to create a place where people can gather not only for life’s milestones, but also for everyday connection, learning, and collaboration.

In addition, Pauley Jones Funeral Home will offer custom design and printing services for events, bringing every detail together, from invitations and programs to signage and keepsakes.

Adding to the warmth and accessibility of the space will be Kaffehus, an inviting coffee shop located within Kulturhus. Open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Kaffehus will provide a cozy place for community members and visitors alike to gather, relax, and recharge, offering freshly brewed coffee along with light breakfast and lunch options.

The creation of Kulturhus and Kaffehus reflects a deep commitment to the Elk Horn community. It’s a vision for a place where traditions are honored, new memories are made, and people feel at home. By blending hospitality, thoughtful service, and cultural inspiration, Pauley Jones Funeral Home aims to create a space that truly brings people together.

As plans continue to take shape, we look forward to sharing more updates and welcoming you into Kulturhus in the near future. Together, we will celebrate life, community, and the moments that matter most.

JAMES UREN

THE KRINGLE MAN

DANISH KRINGLE & PASTRIES



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answered until 5 pm CDT, Tues-Fri

Danish Villages' Annual

Easter Egg

HUNT

Saturday, April 4th @ 10:30AM

Elk Horn, Danish Windmill

Hunt Followed by

Hot Dog Lunch + Free Will Donation

(Ages 10 & Under)

Hosted by:

DVIO

DANISH VILLAGES Improvement Organization

Danish Windmill ELK HORN IA USA

If your child needs accommodations, let us know by April 1st by calling (402) 613-3325

Printed issues available for **FREE** at select locations in Elk Horn and Kimballton

For all inquiries, contact Shaun Sayres at 712-764-7472 or via email at mgr@danishwindmill.com

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View this issue online:



*The articles and opinions shared by authors in this publication are not endorsements held by the Danish Windmill.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

Shining the light on what is going on at your library!



Stop in to see our new arrangements, we will have a room available to ‘check-out’ for mornings and evenings!

Hans Christian Andersen’s birthday is April 2nd, but we will be celebrating it April 9th at the Kimballton Townhall! We will be having a three course meal of his favorite foods! Tickets are available at the library or from Donna McClain. \$15 for adults, under 12 are \$6 and under 2 are free. We will have some short plays of three of the stories!

The Friends of the Library meal and Presentation on April 20th will be a repeat of Warren Watson’s ‘A Ride on the Atlantic Northern’. Plan to join us!

Local History Junkies have meetings to discuss our local history every third Thursday from 3 – 4 pm. Bring newspaper clippings, photos, books, ideas and share them with the group! Warren is looking for Rorbeck information if you have it. We will be meeting in our new room, plan to join us!

Please join us for our Kimballton and Elk Horn Coffees-open to EVERYONE! Enjoy the fellowship!

Stop in to get the book ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ and then join us to watch the movie and discuss the book and movie on Friday, April 24th.

We are planning on a Quilt Show during Tivoli this year. Consider getting out a family or personal quilt to have on display. More information will be coming soon.

Here is our April Schedule:
April 4 – Danish Windmill / DVIO Easter Egg Hunt 10-12pm.
April 4 – Adult Board and Game Night 6 – 9 pm
April 8 – Kimballton Kaffee 9 – 11 am Kimballton Townhall
April 9 – Hans Christian Andersen Supper 6 – 9 Kimballton Townhall
April 11 – Teen Fun 6 – 8 pm
April 13 – Danish Easter Traditions with MODA and What’s the Forecast 1 – 4 pm
April 16 – Local History Junkies 3 – 4 pm
April 18 – Young Adult coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm
April 20 – Weather Safety 1 – 4 pm
April 20 – Friends of the Library meal at 5 with Warren Watson on the local railroad at 6 pm
April 24 – Book Discussion and Movie starting at 12:30 pm with ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ by David Grann
April 25 - Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10 - 12 am
April 27 - May Flowers 1 – 4 pm
April 29 – Community Coffee and Craft 9 am

The Lego area is VERY popular, if you have any Legos you would want to donate we would really appreciate it, the kids are making some amazing creations. We will be having our Lego contest for Tivoli, again, this year!

We are missing some 80’s and earlier EH-K yearbooks, if you have any you would be willing to donate we would love to complete our collection.

If you have any ideas for presenters or activities, let us know! We are almost done with our summer plans, now!

We look forward to serving you! The Elk Horn Library Team



IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

With all of the unique things happening both here and in the county we need to put our best face forward. We will have people visiting our community that have never been here before. Tourism experts will tell you that when something new and different has happened you will see folks that have never been here. They will also tell you that your communities “curb appeal” is extremely important. And so is the way your residents interact with the visitor. If the visitor’s experience is one that they will favorably remember, they will tell their friends and family about how nice their visit was. And word of mouth is still both the least expensive and the most effective means of advertising a community can have.

But you ask, “What can we do?”. Take the time to really look at your home and/or business. What are some things you can do to improve its appearance? Do you need to trim some shrubs or freshen up a flower bed? Does that porch railing need a fresh coat of paint? Perhaps it is time to make that trip to the landfill and get rid of some unsightly items. Has the gale force winds got

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

Remember Matt. 7:21, “Only those who do the will of the Father who is in heaven shall enter the Kingdom of God”!! It was with this declaration that we ended our previous article. The import of this statement must not be taken lightly; and so we have begun a journey to find and understand just what the ‘Will of God’ is.

First of all, we should consider the question, “Must I know the will of God in order to be saved”? It was toward the end of the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus Himself spoke these words! As we saw in our previous article Jesus tells us that it is not just calling Him ‘Lord’ that brings salvation – in verse 23 of this chapter He says “I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; away from me you who do lawlessness’”. Salvation cannot be found away from the presence of God. This salvation is a free gift from God Himself. Does the Messiah know you?

Let me put it this way; to whom would a wealthy man be more inclined to give a portion of his inheritance, a complete stranger or someone he knew well and who also knew him? This idea of being known by the Messiah is paramount to understanding this scripture!

Does God know you? Oh you might tell me that “God knows all things, so of course He knows me”. Yes, He knows all about you but what does this word “know” actually mean? That’s a great question, I’m glad you asked. Here is a definition from Vines “Dictionary of the Greek New Testament”: “This Greek word ‘ginosko’

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

Sports

The Exira-EHK Spartans played the Saint Albert Saintes in the first round of the 1A girls basketball state tournament on March 4th at 6:45 P.M. It was a tough but even match-up for the Spartans. After being down big in the first quarter, the Spartans battled back to tie the game in the 2nd half. Unfortunately, the Saintes went on a run and finished strong to win and eliminate the Spartans from the State Tournament. Taryn Petersen was awarded player of the game despite the Spartan’s loss. The Spartans finished the season with an astounding record of 22-2. Congratulations on a fantastic season.

Next up is track, the Exira-EHK track teams battled at their first meet of the season down at Northwest Missouri State. It was a great indoor meet and the Spartans had a strong performance. The Early Bird Meet at Audubon is on March 30th, starting at 4:15 pm. Good luck, Spartans!

The Spartan Girls and Boys Golf team will have their first meet on March 31st in Avoca. Good Luck Spartans.

EEHK will not play a Varsity Football season next year due to participation numbers. After speaking with players, their families, and

your privacy fence leaning or does it need re-stained? Grass and weeds growing in the cracks of your driveway or walk can give visitors a bad impression. Perhaps this is the time to touch up your signage and some trim a fresh coat of paint.

But even more important is how you treat the visitors. It is truthfully said that the shortest distance between two people is a smile. Acknowledge them with a smile and say Hello or Good Day. If they have a question about where something is located or what it is about, take a few moments to answer them. We must take on the role of Ambassadors for our community. When the people they encounter on the street treat them like they are important it makes them truly feel wanted and welcome. This can create the highest opinion of our town.

If you aren’t familiar with the amenities and attractions we have to offer you need to check them out yourself. Not knowing who is open for lunch or dinner can seem to the visitor that you really just don’t care. Being able to describe some of the features of your local attractions will often be the encouragement they need to visit them and perhaps stay a little longer.

With a little extra effort, we can make this a banner year for our villages. And create the base for even greater things to come.

frequently indicates a relationship between the person ‘knowing’ and the object or person being known; it means ‘to know’ by observation and experience”. When Jesus says, “I never knew you” (in verse 23) He may as well have said, “I never had a relationship with you”! As I see it, it all comes down to having a relationship with our Heavenly Father and His Son. Is that where you stand? Would God say that He never knew you because you never took the time to develop a relationship with Him?

We could end our journey into understanding the will of God at this point but I believe we might need to go a little deeper and consider just how this relationship might develop between us (as humans) and an almighty, perfect and infinite God.

Once again we might consider what our brother Paul has to say about God’s will. Remember, in our previous article I said that, “The path to knowing God’s will is simple but it is not easy.” In his first letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 5:16 we read, “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

God’s will for all of us is, joy, prayer and thanksgiving. Yes, simple but not easy! The not so easy part in doing this is ‘always, continually and in all circumstances’.

God wants to know us – He wants to have a relationship with us and Paul gives us a wonderful blessing by stating this beautiful formula for the journey. And of course, every journey begins with just one step.

community members, Tom Petersen the Athletic director and the EEHK administration team made the decision to only play a JV season for the 26-27 season. While somewhat disappointing, a JV season will allow the Spartans to field a team, have fun, and win games.

Spring Concert

The high school and middle school Choir will be performing a concert on April 14th at 7pm. Come out and support these talented musicians.

Washington DC Trip

Students left Saturday March 28th for a school trip to our nation’s capital. Students have been fundraising for 3 years to take this trip. The trip includes tours of key monuments and museums. Additionally, students enjoyed hiking and rafting excursions. They returned on March 31.

Troll Participation

EEHK students have been encouraged to get involved with MoDA’s troll project. A media team of Ben Baggett, Jack Lassek, Cooper Paulsen, and Anthony Young will be posting video updates on Spartan Media’s YouTube Channel. Follow along for updates over at <https://www.youtube.com/@eehkspartanmedia>.