

DAILY

GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

The windmill continues to turn as the winds of Spring crest our Loess Hills, blowing in fresh air, some needed rain, and tearing down a few trees. Our latest windstorm tore down a large evergreen behind the windmill when a 55-mph gust lifted the tree out of the ground, roots and all. Our antique farm mill also sustained some damage, but we are hoping to spruce that up later this year. The downed evergreen has since been removed, and the benefit of this is we now have more crowd space for audiences to watch folk dancing and other events on the entertainment stage during Tivoli Fest.

Speaking of Tivoli, the festival is nearing quickly. The annual coronation dinner is Saturday, April 5th with tickets available at METC, SCSB, and the windmill. The windmill is ready for another exciting year. We will have all our usual entertainment options including the annual Viking invasion and folk dancing performances. We also partnered with local artist, Deborah King, who designed the cover for our new Tivoli Blend coffee, now available in the gift shop. The cannister features a festive Danish scene including the windmill, mermaid, and some of the iconic buildings of the Danish Villages.

For most businesses in town including the windmill, Tivoli Fest is the busiest and most profitable two days of the year. We would like to thank Danish Mutual Insurance for donating \$2,500.00 towards Tivoli Fest’s live entertainment this year. The Museum of Danish America will sponsor this year’s Danish folk music performances which will include an extra performance on Friday, May 23 at the museum complex. As noted earlier, the windmill is sponsoring a billboard in Omaha, NE. East-bound interstate 80 traffic nearing the exit ramp for interstate 480 will be met with a large LED billboard capturing attention for our annual ethnic celebration. Local investment in this festival benefits the community as a whole.

We’re excited to announce that Joni Griffin has stepped down from our Board of Directors to join our team at the windmill. Try to stop by sometime

and say ‘hej.’ We’re excited to have Joni with us and have no doubt she will be an invaluable asset for us. This also means that there is a vacancy on our Board of Directors. Anyone interested in opportunities to join our Board should get in touch with members of the nominating committee, Bill Rollins and Joanne Greving.

In other news, the windmill was forced to pay \$880.00 back to the Iowa Tourism office last month. These funds were initially awarded for the FY2024 Tourism Grant program and were part of the money we used to pay for local billboards promoting Julefest last year. This particularly project proved to be very effective as many local businesses reported some of the best Julefest numbers reached in many years. Unfortunately, due to billing delays related to office closures during the week of Christmas, the necessary payment was not drawn from our bank account until January 3rd. This momentary delay resulted in these funds being disqualified for grant use and so had to be forfeited back to the state. This especially stings since our requests for funds to pay for the Omaha billboard we will have this year were denied.

On that note, we would like to take a moment to clear the air about nonprofits and what it means for us financially. We occasionally receive, directly or indirectly, comments or questions about the kinds of fiscal support we receive and what we’re expected to pay in taxes and other obligations. The short of it is that, first, nonprofits are not exempt from many of the bills and services an ordinary business pays for. We still have utilities, maintenance, advertising needs, and so on that are not free or discounted because of our status. Second, we also do not receive direct financial support from either the federal government or the state of Iowa, and we must fight tooth-and-nail among other local organizations for funds from overstretched local community foundations.

This is a bleak situation to be in as budget cuts at both the state and national level continue to slash endowment programs and other critical funding sources for the larger museums that depend on them. The trickle-down effects of this critical funding for educational organizations and cultural heritage sites like our own could be devastating. While we continue to remain hopeful for a positive future, it must be acknowledged, we are not on solid ground right now.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



The Elk Horn Public Library is encouraging poetry in April! Please bring in any poems you would be willing to share, we will put them together in a binder and put some on display on our carousel.

At 1:00 pm on April 8th we will have the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce visiting us for National Library Week with the theme ‘For a Richer, Fuller Life, Read!’. We are turning it into a celebration of the Children’s Programming area that Julia Hawks suggested we turn into the ‘Enchanted Forest’. Please join us as we celebrate the comfortable new reading areas!

Jaqueline Reinig, a local author, will be sharing her new book ‘The Faيري Academy of QuillSnap’ at 2:00 on Saturday, April 12th. Please join us for coffee and refreshments!

We ask you all to join us April 17th at 6:30 pm for a ‘Poetry Café’ to hear some of McKenzie Yoshida’s poems from her book ‘What You Don’t Know About Me’ (she will have some copies available for purchase). We will also share some other poems, have some refreshments and enjoy the library!

Have you ever thought about writing your own book? Anna Redsand helped a group of us to get started with this process on March 12th. We understand there were others who wanted to attend, so Anna would like to meet with you before our summer workshop in June. Please contact the library and we will get your information to Anna.

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We still have our regular programming for everyone. All are listed below. If there is a program you would like to see us do, please let us know so we can add it to our plans. We are adding to reasons to come to the library!

Here is our April schedule:
April 2 – Bee a Gardener Grades 3 – 6 (We will continue our Wednesday after-school program every Wednesday in April and May since there will not be anymore early outs)
April 5 – Tivoli Banquet
April 7 – Nature Nook with Clouds and Rain K-3
April 8 – 1:00 Chamber Visit and Enchanted Forest Celebration
April 12 – Jacqueline Reinig Author Visit
April 14 – Nature Nook with Bees K-3
April 16- Bee a Poet 3-6
April 17 – Poetry Café with McKenzie Yoshida
April 18 – Escape Rooms 1-4 (No School Day)
April 21- Outlook Study Club
April 23 – Coffee Time 9 am
April 28 – Nature Nook with Snakes
May brings the end of the school year, Tivoli and Summer Programming. We will be having our Lego Contest, Mini Canvas Contest and we are adding a Joke Contest. The PBS STEAM Trailer will be in our parking lot.
Our Summer Reading Kick-off will be May 29th 2-6 pm.

We are getting ready for Summer Reading Programs! We would like to hear from our adults about what they would like to see for them. We hope to have you join us!
We look forward to serving you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tivoli Fest:

April 5: Coronation Banquet

Elk Horn Lutheran Church:

April 13: Palm Sunday & Commemorative Tree Planting Ceremony

April 25: Evening Service commemorating the first service at EHLC

DVIO:

April 19: Easter Egg Hunt (Kimballton)

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DANISH WINDMILL

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RECENT CUTS TO USDA AFFECT LOCAL FARMS

Emily Paulsen, Brun Ko Farms

The United States Department of Agriculture serves Iowans in many ways. From Rural Development programs that boost and strengthen our small towns to extension programs that serve youth, farmers of all types and sizes and even home gardeners to conservation programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and so much more, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a hefty impact on our rural communities.

We have been farming near Elk Horn for 10 years. I raise vegetables and pasture-raised meat and eggs. We also raise honey. Today I will share how the USDA has served our farm, how recent cuts affect us, and how that impacts you.

Over the last 5 years, we received 2 conservation grants from the NRCS - an agency of the USDA. One grant was for a high tunnel (HT) which we put up last May. HTs are important to consumers because they allow farmers to grow fresh food right here in Iowa for a larger portion of the year. This expands opportunities for Iowa farmers, decreases the environmental impact of transporting food and strengthens food systems by growing food in the same communities it is eaten in.

Our first high tunnel has been a success and last fall we submitted a second application to NRCS. Our goal has always been to have 3 tunnels to facilitate appropriate crop rotation. We are very grateful for the help we received for the tunnel we have as we wouldn't have been able to take this step for several more years without the cost share but do not anticipate receiving funding for our new application given the cuts to both NRCS staff and to their programs.

We feel very lucky to not be mid-project at this time. Our peers that ARE mid-project have been jerked around for the last 2 months, leaving them uncertain if they should continue to spend money on projects they may not be reimbursed for. For some, loss of promised funds could mean losing the farm, too.

Maybe you're thinking "but I'm not a farmer - why do I care?" Well, farming impacts our soil, water and other natural resources. If we aren't careful, we create conditions that result in dust storms like the one that killed 4 people in Texas last month or high phosphorus levels in lakes that make swimming unsafe. After so much uncertainty, many farmers will not be willing to take a chance on working with NRCS or any government agency again in the future. This means that conservation practices become less common and things like lethal dust storms become more common.

Another USDA program that had a direct impact on our farm and our local communities was the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). LFPA put FRESH meat, eggs, fruit and vegetables onto the tables of low-income families and LFS did the same for schools across Iowa. Our farm sold into both programs over the last 3 years. It has been the highlight of my farming career to know that my produce, meat, and eggs were nourishing school kids and helping to set them up for success.

LFPA & LFS put \$11million worth of local food on tables in Iowa and both programs were cut last month - even as farmers had already begun tending livestock and crops that were set to be sold into these programs.

Dismantling LFPA & LFS is perhaps the most baffling of the USDA cuts as just one day later the USDA released a statement saying: “The Trump-Vance Administration supports transformational opportunities to create and implement policies that promote healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes.” LFPA and LFS fit this mission to a T.



SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY QUILL

Wava Petersen

Have you ever thought about how many of the people in your life are known better by a nickname than their given name? The early Danish settlers here apparently had a very small name pile to choose from. There were many a Hans, Nels, George, Martin, Jens, Jim, Chris, John, Peter and so forth in our Danish community. This made for a lot of confusion and numerous nicknames were invented to assist with identification.

There was Hans T, Hans N and Big Hans (Lyle’s uncle) among others. George had more colorful nicknames. There was Holy George, a very religious fellow, Honest George (maybe, maybe not). Little George has a very small body of water at the edge of Harlan named Little George Lake in his honor. Chris was blessed with several nicknames indicating their last name such as Chris T and Chris N. One extremely frugal fellow was called Penny Chris. He was known to pinch every penny, even stooping down to retrieve any coin stuck in the crack of a sidewalk.

Jens Otto Christensen, the Danish immigrant who built Bedstemor’s house was called Prince Otto because he often wore a long coat with tails and a top hat and he walked straight and upright.

Big Hank and Black John were big, brawny bachelor brothers. Hank’s given name was Henry. Back in my childhood, Hank was a common nickname for Henry. I never knew if Black John’s came from his black hair and swarthy complexion or if it came from his aversion to soap and water. Black John often worked on threshing crews

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Last article we talked about the direct benefits of trees. Now let’s take a look at how natural spaces provide benefits we may not have considered.

Back in 1984, Roger Ulrich was fighting a long-term health problem that required multiple hospitalizations. And even when at home he was often bedridden. He noticed that at home he had a view of the outside world and that offered comfort to him. He later started to study whether or not this had an effect on other patients. He selected gall bladder patients as the recovery times for them normally showed little variance. But the patients with a view of a different side of the facility needed more pain meds and took longer to be released than those with a view of nature.

Adjunct professor Peter James studied how just taking a short break to observe nature while working on a tough mental task helped. It seemed to prepare the mind for the task.

Recently researchers are working with those suffering from PTSD and are documenting how spending time engaging with nature can reduce many of the problems associated with this. These included forest walks, assisting with wildlife care in a rehabilitation facility or just bird watching. The veterans all experienced a reduction in anxiety after these activities.

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In our previous article I talked about that time in the future when all of mankind will be brought face to face with the living God. That day will be a reality for all who are alive on the earth; but perhaps a better study at this point is to examine ourselves today, to see if we are of a mind to meet face to face with our God before that day.

King David in the book of Psalms talks about seeking the face of God, (27:8) “You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, Lord, I do seek.’” David was a man after God’s own heart! Is that not where we should find ourselves?

But lest we get ahead of ourselves in this, perhaps we might look at the topic of examining ourselves and what that might entail.

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Cor.13:5) This admonition of Paul should indeed open our eyes to the importance for us to sit down and consider the attitudes of our heart and our life.

Do you find yourself “in the faith”? In other words, do you believe in the Son of God? Do you walk with Him? And perhaps even more importantly, do you understand and know that God is faithful?

Someone once said that our spiritual walk with God is never a cake walk. God who is perfect in

during the summer harvest of oats and barley. His arms were always grease-covered and dirty. The ladies of one threshing crew purchased a long tablecloth to be used at the various farms on threshing day. Every farmwife made sure John always sat at the same place at the table to avoid the whole tablecloth getting grease-stained.

A fellow who attended school with my dad, short in stature, was appropriately nicknamed Shorty. Suddenly in his teenage years Shorty experienced a tremendous growing spurt, becoming a tall young man. For the remainder of his life he was known as Shorty Long.

Middle kids in a family of nine children, my mother Josie and her sister Ruth were called Toad and Rooster by their four older siblings. Mom never said whether or not they resented those nicknames. I do know how much I detested being called Sis. When I reached school age I went on strike and refused to answer unless called by the name I was given at birth. It took awhile, but I won the battle.

This will be the Swan Song from my rusty quill. My inkwell has run dry; the nib on my quill is no longer sharp. Me thinks it is time to move on to some family history projects and other interests. I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of compiling Scratches from the Rusty Quill. Mange Tak for the many calls, notes and encouragement. It has meant so much to know you enjoyed reading my scratches.

All of us can benefit from spending some time in a natural environment. But there are some caveats if we are to experience the maximum benefits from our exposure. We need to take out the earbuds and at least mute the cell phone. Better yet just turn it off for a while. I know some are panicking at that, yet only 50 years ago your 4.5-pound cell phone only worked in some larger cities, and not at all in the country. And just a few decades before that it could be days or weeks between connections between friends and family. But when those connections occurred they were intensified by the absence of today’s constant impersonal texts and calls.

Sadly, many natural spaces are under attack from multiple sources. Expanding suburban development has taken out or greatly reduced many natural spaces. Even climate change has wreaked havoc on some species of fauna and flora. Some places we once knew well do not look like we recalled them. This can cause us discomfort or a feeling of no longer being connected to these places. In 2007 scientists coined a term for this feeling. They called it *solastalgia*. The feeling that this place is not what it was.

We need to protect our still existing natural spaces for those that will follow us. We need to make certain that our decisions made today will not take away these special places from the next generations!

holiness requires us to follow the holy walk that His Son revealed to us during His life on earth. In the book of Hebrews 12:14 we read, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” Now that’s a straightforward warning!

And yet, this examination might be quite difficult for us to complete. In the book of Jeremiah 17:9 he tells us “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” It is a disconcerting thought to realize that we cannot understand our own deceitful heart but then Jeremiah gives us the answer in the very next verse, “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind to reward a man according to his conduct according to what his deeds deserve.” AH yes, the answer is indeed in God’s hands. It is in His loving care that we may be assessed and strengthened!

In fact, David tells us this in Psalm 139:23, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!” To me, it is amazing – God sets before us an improbable (might I say impossible) situation and then comes to our rescue, to save us from it. And then God, through David, tells us in Psalm 26:2, “Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.”

God is good in all things and in every way. Let us praise Him and glory in His name!