

DAILY GRIND

Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår



NEWS FROM THE MILL Shaun Sayres

Another Julefest is in the books and we could not have asked for a better turnout! As part of our grant with the Iowa Tourism office this year, the windmill had billboards in Atlantic, Carroll, and Denison advertising Julefest throughout November. The results spoke for themselves as people came in droves on Friday and surged again on Saturday in numbers we haven't seen in recent years. Multiple businesses reported extraordinary traffic and sales and there were times that it seemed there wasn't a parking spot in town.

We experienced this at the windmill as well, grossing over \$14,000 in sales between Friday and Saturday, far exceeding last year's totals and more than double of most previous years. Although we didn't get enough wind for the sails to turn much, visitors enjoyed free admission into the chilly mill before warming up with some hot drinks in the video room. This year we expanded our selection, serving hot chocolate, Østerlandsk tea, two mixes of gløgg, and coffee. In addition to sampling some creamy Havarti cheese, we also offered tastings of our Lakrids by Bülow premium Danish licorice which proved to be extremely popular. Staff worked very hard to keep everything stocked and check out orders swiftly and we could not thank them enough.

We also held another new event for Julefest this year, *Santa in the Forge*. Our Vikings dressed the vikinghem for the holidays and spent Saturday operating the forge and giving out handmade trinkets and candy canes to kids that came down to see Santa. It was a great time and they are looking forward to coming back next year and making this a regular event.

We're especially happy, if not relieved, by Julefest because our container from Denmark never arrived, another first. Unfortunately, our shipment from Denmark spent the entire month of November detained by US Customs in Chicago where it remains as we type this. The only explanation we have been given is that US Customs and the Consumer Products Safety Commission have intensified examinations of incoming goods this year, particularly for children's items and baby toys. They are primarily

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN Shining the light on what is going on at your library!



The Elk Horn Public Library is looking forward to adding to the Christmas Spirit!!! Stop in to see all of our Christmas trees throughout the library! We are bringing in the celebration!!!

Our team has been working on our January through May schedules. We plan to have the brochure ready in mid December. 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 already adding to reasons to come to the library! Here is our November schedule:

- December 2 – Nature Nook w/ Winter Birds K-3
- December 4 – Bee a Money Manager and Cookies Grades 3 - 6
- December 4 – BrainFreeze for Teens
- December 5 – Beyond the Book Club-‘The Christmas Bookshop’ at Shar Steen’s Home 6 pm
- December 9 – Nature Nook w/ Wind Grades K-3
- December 11 - Reading Rainbow with Donna McClain – all ages
- December 18 – Coffee Time 9 am

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Christian Recording Artist
RACHEL SCOTT

Live, in Concert
Saturday, December 7th, 7pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Kimballton, Iowa

Sponsored by Bethany and Immanuel Community of Kimballton, METC, and Landmand's Bank

concerned with stopping imported goods that have lead paint, failed general safety exams, etc. However, what constitutes a baby toy? While we do not import all that many children's items, there are many that can be construed as such on paper when agents are going by item descriptions and import harmonization codes. For us, the main items slowing this down are our classic Anne Beate Design figurines. These are listed as "Christmas dolls" on the Danish invoice, owing to the messiness of translations in all of this, and correspondingly have harmonization codes that flag when Customs processes a shipment. As a result, we have been stuck waiting for Customs to examine these items and determine they are not in fact meant for children. Until this very slow process is complete, we cannot do anything but wait.

Navigating this in the store has been tricky with scores of people waiting for these items for their online orders. We've lost a few customers over this, but thankfully most have been very understanding and patient with us. It will make for an interesting Christkindlmarket in Des Moines as well where we sell a month's worth of items in just 3 and a half days. We are doing what we can to ensure the best turnout possible and we are expecting another successful event. Between all of the great vendors and food available, we always encourage people to come check it out. This year it will be December 5 – 8 in the Northeast parking lot outside Principal Park, Des Moines. Kringle Man Pastries will also be there and we look forward to another fun festival.

As we look to round out the year on a high note, be on the lookout for upcoming sales events to help push some of our shipment from Denmark out when it finally arrives. We've had to compensate for the delays by ordering more products from domestic vendors, which means we will be sitting on a substantial inventory by the end of the year ahead of 3 very slow months. We ask our local supporters to come visit us before the year is over. Don't forget members get 10% off, and there will likely be a few sales days coming up to help ensure we can pay the bills over the next few months.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy holiday season to close what has been yet another remarkable year. Glædelig jul og godt nytår!

- December 18 - Bee Ready for Christmas and Crafting Grades 3 – 6
- December 19 - Homeschool Book Club and STEM 2-4
- December 24 and 25 – Closed for Christmas
- December 30 and 31 – Sewing Workshop – **Sign up ahead of time**
- January 1 – **Closed** for New Year
- January will be bringing in some new programs. We will have movies on January 2nd.
- On Saturday mornings twice a month Julia will be having 'Enchanted Bookworms' for toddlers and preschoolers from 10 – 10:45. We look forward to providing more opportunities for children and their parents in this age group.
- January 15th get together you Disney experts and sign-up a team to participate in our first Disney Trivia Night at the 'Pub' starting at 6.
- January 23rd we will have a joint Cookbook Club with soups and a Family Game Night with a puzzle contest. We hope to have you join us!

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

GRACE

announcement
closure

After much consideration and prayer, Michael and I have made the decision to permanently close our doors.

We would like to thank everyone who passed through our doors and supported us over the past four + years. We give all the glory to God and feel blessed for the success and opportunity to serve you.

As we close our doors, we are excited for the opportunities the Lord has put before us.

The Muller Family

THIS ISSUE'S SPONSORS



4132 Main St. Elk Horn, IA | (712) 764-2487
elkhornquilting@gmail.com

LEXI LEINEN Cuts•colors•perms•manis



712-304-1502
4105 Union street Elk Horn,Iowa

Help us keep this going by making a donation to the Danish Windmill. Give online at danishwindmill.org or send by mail to:

Danish Windmill
PO Box 245
Elk Horn, Iowa 51531

Thank you for your support.

Printed issues available for **FREE** at select locations in Elk Horn and Kimballton including:
Danish Windmill
Elk Horn Post Office
Elk Horn Public Library
Kimballton Post Office
Several local businesses

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

All issues available online at **danishwindmill.org**

View this issue online:



SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY
QUILL

Wava Petersen

By the time this goes to press Thanksgiving will just be a memory and it is time to think about Christmas.

There have been many Christmases in my life and many precious memories... My brother and I sprawled out on the kitchen floor poring over the Christmas catalogs, trying to decide which of all the wonderful treasures therein we would most like to find under the spindly little tree on Christmas morning. Our stockings were hung behind the wood heater on Christmas Eve. By morning Santa had filled them with apples, oranges, nuts and candy. There was always a large Brazil nut tucked down in the toe. That was the only time of the year that I truly appreciated my ugly long brown stockings. They held a lot of goodies.

One Christmas day we got to wondering if Santa would fill our stockings once more if we hung them up again that night. Back to the wall went the empty socks. We flew down the steps the next morning to find that Santa really had returned. But this time the socks were filled with corncobs.

So many memories... Watching Aunt Gladys’s Noma Bubble Lights heat up and begin to bubble merrily on a branch from an evergreen tree... delicious meals that always included roast goose and all the trimmings, the candied sweet potatoes and always a variety of pies with real whipped cream.

We seldom had a Christmas tree when I was growing up but Lyle made sure we had one every year after we were married. It didn’t take long for our choice of trees to become a family joke. I swear we always had the ugliest tree in the community. There were bare spots in the oddest places or it was crooked, never symmetrical like a true Christmas tree should be. One year most of the needles fell off by the third day. It was probably the forerunner of the Charlie Brown Christmas tree. I fastened all our Christmas cards to the branches to cover up the poor naked thing

Christmas day was spent with my side of the family; Christmas Eve was always with Lyle’s family. Santa Clause became a reality each Christmas Eve in the form of a family member taking on the role. Lyle was the designated Santa one year when his nephew was just past the stage of believing in the old elf. “Hey, Ronnie, want to come out and help me get dressed?” Lyle quietly suggested as he headed for the garage. With a wide grin and feeling very grown up, Ronnie readily agreed. Several minutes later, acting very mature and blasé he nonchalantly joined the rest of the kids as they anxiously awaited Santa’s arrival. But guess who was the most excited when Santa rapped on the living room window. The old coat over the rotund but sagging padded belly, the well-worn mask and matted beard suddenly took on magic proportions as Santa shouted Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas. Ronnie’s eyes sparkled and he fairly danced in anticipation of what was to come. Perhaps, the child in each one of us, like Ronnie, never wants to let go of the illusion of Santa Claus. Have a very Merry Christmas and remember the reason for the season, God’s gift of His Son, the greatest gift the world has ever received!

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Many people are worried about AI. They are concerned about all the ways it could be used to hack passwords, create deep fake videos, etc. But many never consider how AI will affect our environment. The data centers that provide AI are hungry and thirsty!

A large data center for AI may require as much as 1500 megawatts of electricity for its operation. That is enough electricity to power around a million and a half average homes. Experts forecast that in a few years AI and other data centers will be responsible for 8 to 10 percent of the electrical load across the world. More about this issue later.

They are thirsty! These centers require massive amounts of water to keep their equipment from overheating. Many of you have noticed that while 75-degree air is quite comfortable, 75-degree pool water feels cold. . They use water because it is seven times better to carry away heat than air. The electronic equipment has a limited safe elevated temperature span. If that temperature is exceeded it can cause permanentdamage to this expensive equipment.

The water needed for their cooling system must be of high quality. A city’s drinking water may not be pure enough for this use. It may have too

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In our previous copy of the Daily Grind the title of an article caught my attention. Written by Wanda Sornson, a genealogy researcher for the Museum, the article was titled “What’s in a Name.” Her article concerned the history and origin of certain Danish names. But I immediately thought of the Name of all Names, God’s name!

Many people today think that God’s name is ‘God’. But the term ‘god’ is actually a title and not a name. If we desire a definition for the word ‘god’ we must go to the Hebrew language wherein we find the basis for this word. Now, stay with me on this and don’t let your eyes gloss over because of the subject.

My reference work for this task is Vine’s Complete Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.The English word ‘god’, used in the Bible is taken from a couple of Hebrew words; the most basic one being the word ‘el’. This small Hebrew word is defined as, “mighty, strong, great, and is sometimes translated as “Almighty”, which we see in the scriptures as designating the God of Israel, the true God of all creation. Another word used is ‘Elohim’ which is the plural of the word ‘El’.Are you with me so far?

Curiously, this same Hebrew word ‘el’ is used for pagan gods some 16 times in the Old Testament.There is much more to this subject but let this suffice, for our understanding, that the word God or god is a title and not a name.

What then is His name?Let’s try and keep this brief – many books have been written on this

many dissolved solids or be at an unsafe level of acidity. And even if the city water is suitable, once it has been used for use in the cooling system it is no longer considered to be potable. With water treatment facilities included in the date centers equipment it would be possible to use “grey” water. Water that has be treated by the city’s sewage treatment plant. Most facilities will have at least a two-day supply of water stored at the facility. And will require two separate delivery lines for the water to be brought to the plant. Pure clean water is the World’s most valuable resource! The facilities must be constructed where it is available without causing any shortage for other users.

Now let us look at energy usage. Dedicated power generation for these centers protects other users from rate hikes by the energy company. While it is possible to provide nearly limitless amounts of electricity it needs to be created by non-polluting sources. Having wind turbines and solar panels with battery storage to supply the center’s needs would be the best environmental choice. If we are using fossil fuel-based generation we would be creating an impact equal to a large City’s carbon footprint.

AI can be of benefit in many applications across different fields. But we need to be conscious to ensure these facilities are placed in suitable locations.

topic and I don’t want to confuse or frustrate our efforts. In Exodus 3, we find Moses confronted with a bush that continues to burn without burning up.It catches his attention. In verse 3 we read, “Moses thought, ‘I will go and see this strange sight – why does this bush not burn up.’”

God then calls to Moses from the bush and tells him to remove his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. God lets Moses know that His people, Israel, were in miserable bondage in Egypt. God wants Moses to go back to Egypt and bring the people out of this bondage. Sounds like a difficult task, no? Moses wasn’t sure he wanted to take it on. God, however, insisted that he was the man for the job and promised that He would accompany him.

But Moses wanted to know who was sending him to report the name to his fellow Israelites. “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’” “Say to the Israelites, Yahovah (I AM) sends you... This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.” This Hebrew name ‘Yahovah’ may be transliterated by the English word ‘Eternal’.Our God is the self-existent one, the One who is life itself. We get our life from Him because He is life! This name has become known as the ‘covenant name’ of God, used by His people who have entered into a covenant with Him. It is the Name above all Names – this is truly God’s name. We are out of space so we will consider the implications of this name in our next article – thanks for staying with me on this important subject!

PRAIRIE ROOTS RUN DEEP, Pt. 3

Warren Watson

Preceding the white man in Clay Township buffalo traveled the ridge line south of what is now called Elk Horn Creek. They were the first road builders in the township. Buffalo skulls can still be found stored in farmstead basements around the Elk Horn Grove. These skulls and bones were discovered by Danish American farmers along the banks of Elk Horn Creek. They are the remains of those massive brutes that could not escape the grasp of the creek’s bottomless mud banks. At one time buffalo wallows could still be seen along what locals call the “the Lonesome Mile” in northern Clay Township. A buffalo jump, used by Native Americans, was said to be located north of the abandoned Danish community of Popular, just north of Clay Township. As of now this jump is just a rumor. But the mighty bison would have found a Shangri-la on the prairie of Clay Township. Their numbers were probably small. The Short and Mixed Grass prairies west of the Missouri River were more conducive to vast buffalo herds.

Those buffalo were not alone in Clay Township. Elk and deer abounded. The town name of Elk Horn is “legit”. More on that later.

In Edward S. White’s 1915 history of Shelby County, he lists ‘critters’ in and around Clay Township in the early 1800’s. White lists buffalo, elk, deer, black bear, otter, raccoon, mink, muskrat, weasel, badger, skunk, timber wolf, black wolf, prairie wolf (coyote), lynx, wildcat (called bobcat by early pioneers), occasional panther, possum, squirrels, pocket gophers, rabbits of all kinds, mud turtles, catfish, bullheads, lizards, rattlesnakes, bull snakes, blue racer snakes, black water snake (sometimes obtaining lengths of five feet), mallards, teals, wild ducks, geese, occasional swan, prairie chickens, quails, wild turkeys, etc.” Although the numbers of these animals are certainly down today, many can still be found in the township. You might inquire about the pheasant. Pheasant did not make their appearance in Iowa until 1900.

One from the list you’ll have a hard time finding in Clay Township today is the rattlesnake. Rattlesnakes were exceedingly common on the township prairie. It is amazing to think that more reports of rattlesnake bites did not fill the local history books and newspapers. All kids and many adults went barefoot during the summer months. The plows drove the snakes out of their hiding places and directly in the way of emerging farm practices.

One of the habits of rattlers was to crawl under grain that had been raked off the platform to the ground by the old McCormick reaper. Many a man binding grain or picking up an armful of grain exposed a snake. He suddenly found himself short on nerves. A local newspaper article from April 13th, 1878, states ten rattlesnakes were killed on the farm of L. Neff in Clay Township. They were in the harvest field under one sheaf of wheat. Neff’s homestead was in Section 6 in the northwest corner.

Another critter that has survived despite the best efforts of Clay Township pioneer children is the prairie squirrel. Although not as numerous as in the 18 and 19 hundreds, they can still be seen racing across county roads. A favorite amusement of early Danish children was fishing for these squirrels. The way this was done was to take a fishhook and line, fasten a grain of corn to the hook, drop it down the hole, and when they began to bite, jerk them out. As evidenced today, the prairie squirrel population was never in danger of extinction.

To be continued...