

DAILY GRIND



WELCOME ROCKETT FUEL BBQ!

We have a new business in town for the Summer! Many of you might remember Todd Rockett from Tivoli Fest a few years ago. He is back in town for the summer months, using the Grace on Main kitchen as a homebase. Todd is from Houston, but has since found his way into Elk Horn after marrying into the Jensen family. During the school year he coach's middle school sports in Houston. But Todd has spent a few summer breaks trucking his smoker around Iowa for festivals and traveling events like RAGBRAI. While Todd has nearly 30 years of cooking experience, his BBQ business took liftoff in 2018. His signature sauces, including his

special pomegranate BBQ sauce, have received significant praise and currently sit in the finals of grocery chain, HEB's annual Quest For Texas Best BBQ Contest. Todd's business is still in-flight, but he hopes to utilize the Grace on Main building as a takeout restaurant for the remainder of the Summer. Anyone looking for part-time work is encouraged to contact Todd directly at 832-654-7985. Follow his Facebook page @Rockett Fuel BBQ for updates on where he'll be. Todd always has food on hand. So if you see him in the parking lot smoking ribs or brisket, he's happy to serve some. In the meantime, we're hoping to coordinate a few days where he will be serving locally at the windmill. Stay tuned for updates.



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

We are in the thick of it now as the tourists continue to pour into town. The windmill hosted a number of group tours in June including back-to-back tours on June 19 and another back-to-back on June 28. We even had two tour groups show up just to use the restroom, so one way or another they are finding their way here. But the month has not been without its challenges. As many are aware, the windmill's fantail suffered another breakdown shortly after Tivoli Fest. Updates about the repairs were posted on our blog at danishwindmill.org, but the short of it we were saved once again by Mike's Welding in Kimballton. Mike Mortensen and Shaun spent an entire day up in the air adding a new coupling to the fantail's axle that should fix the issue once and for all and ensure the gearboxes function better for many years to come. We're thankful for Mike's ingenuity and readiness, and that the issues we've had with our gearboxes the last several years may finally be behind us. Elk Horn's ongoing water issues have presented additional problems. We invest a significant amount of time and money in our flower beds on an annual basis, and have had to refrain from our regular watering schedule in recognition of the

city-mandated restrictions. We wish to thank Mike McClain for bringing us a barrel of rainwater collected at Salem. Thankfully we've been fortunate with rain, and staff continues to work to water everything by hand until the water issue is finally resolved. To help local residents work around the boil advisory, we hosted a couple food trucks which were well received. In the gift shop, we have brought in a number of fun items for the Summer, but we remain out of the high-demand electric aebleskiver pans. There is only one manufacturer of these pans and they have been unwilling to import them into the country at the risk of tariffs spiking again when the ship gets to port. Otherwise, we have fared well in getting products in without having to raise prices significantly. However, additional suppliers have already begun raising prices as we nearly the holiday season market time. We are excited to announce that we will have a new livestream webcam of the windmill by Summer's end. METC is already in the process of running fiberoptic for it and we should have the camera installation fairly soon as well. This will allow many of our followers at home to watch the windmill in real time and will be announced once available for viewing. Finally, we wish to thank the volunteers who have helped out the last couple of weeks including Faye Farley who stepped in to help while Shaun was away for his wedding, and Annabelle Baggett who continues to volunteer as a tour guide.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN



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

We are having great results for our summer reading program! July lets our participants start all over again! We have a huge new donation from Mike Howard of World War Two nonfiction and fiction books, Western DVDs, World War Two DVDs and EMT resources. Stop in to see his donations and other new books we have added to our collection from donations and purchases. Here are our July and August Schedules:

July 1 – Library Gnome and the Legend of the Danish Windmill 2 – 3
July 2 – Storytime – Planning 2-4
July 5 – Nerf Battle in the Elk Horn Park 2-4 for 7 – 12 graders
July 7 – Monday Matinee 1:30
July 9 – Storytime – Production 2- 4
July 11 – Friday Matinee for Adults with Coffee 2-4
July 14 – Monday Matinee 1:30
July 15 – Library Gnome in Legoland 2-3
July 16 – Toby's Funny Farm 2-3
July 18 – Storytime in the Prairie 10 am-at the Museum of Danish America – 'Sugar Snow'
July 18 – Summer Cinema Spectacular around the pool at dusk-'Moana 2'
July 21 – Monday Matinee 1:30
July 23 – Community Coffee 9 am
July 23 – Craft Time 10 am Button Bouquet
July 23 - Storytime – Production 2-4
July 25 – Pint Size Polkas 10 am at Salem Home – please join us!
July 25 – Book Discussion 2 – 4 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah
July 26 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 - 4

July 28 – Monday Matinee 1:30
July 29 – Library Gnome on Sesame Street 2 -3
July 30 – Storytime – Production 2- 4
August 4 – Monday Matinee 1:30
August 6 – Storytime-Production 2-4
August 8 – Storytime in the Prairie 10 am-at eh Museum of Danish America-'Winter Days in the Big Woods'
August 10 – Summer Reading Celebration at the Pool 4 – 6
August 11 – Monday Matinee 1:30
August 12 – Library Gnome and the Wild Kratt Brothers 2-3
August 13 – Storytime – Sharing 2-4
August 15 – Summer Cinema Spectacular 'If at dusk with Storytime Academy Awards before the movie
August 16 – Lego Building Contest 2 -3 Grades 7 - 12
August 18- Monday Matinee 1:30
August 22 – Friday Matinee and Coffee 2 – 4
August 23 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4
August 27 – Community Coffee 9 am
August 27 – Craft Time 10 am Fall Décor
August 29 – Book Discussion – 'The Lost Bookshop' by Evie Woods 2 -4

The Storytime productions are just starting to come together-they are VERY exciting!!! If you can't make it in on Wednesdays, stop in and we will get you started when it works for you. Create a book, a graphic book, a puppet show or a video of your own. We are working on a program called 'Labors of Love' for September 1st in the park from 11 – 2. We are looking for it to be an opportunity to share organizations, volunteer opportunities, business updates and much more. We will be sharing more information in August!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18-19: Crazy Dane Days
Don't miss a fun weekend of garage sales. deals, and more in Elk Horn!



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In recognition for his years of service, Martin Nelson was presented a quilt by Larry Fajen of American Legion Post 322. Congratulations!

Navigating Danish Genealogy

Eric Mortensen

Last month I wrote about patronymic names in Danish history. Examples of patronymic names are Hansen or Hansdatter, where the surname was not a family name but simply meant the person is the son or daughter of Hans. Patronymic names were not passed from one generation to the next since they were based on the name of the person’s father.

In 1828, King Frederik VI issued a decree that everyone should have fixed family names. Parents could either give the child the same surname as the father (freezing the patronym and passing it to future generations) or adopt a place name as a surname. The decree also stated that all siblings should have the same surname, meaning that girls would no longer be given “datter” names. (All the children of Hans would be named Hansen regardless of gender.)

Although this was the beginning of the end of patronymic names, they continued to be used, particularly in rural areas. There was resistance among many to government intervention in personal traditions. In 1856, a law was passed making it mandatory to use fixed family surnames, reinforcing the earlier royal decree.

In the 19th century, there were only a handful of male given names being used. As a result, when patronymic names were frozen and passed onto future generations, most of Denmark now shared the same few family names. Nielsen, Jensen, Hansen, Petersen, Andersen, Christensen, Larsen, Sørensen, Rasmussen, and Jørgensen were the top 10 family names in Denmark in 1801, and those same ten names were the top family names in 2024.

In 1904, because so many people had the same few surnames, a new law was passed that allowed changing a surname to a name used by a parent or grandparent, or the name of a property which had been owned by the family. This brought about further changes in Danish family names.

As a result of changes to naming laws in the mid-19th century, we see more Danish surnames derived from places. Two of my ancestors are Peder Sørensen Kragelund, born in 1805, and his son Søren Pedersen Kragelund, born in 1854 in Denmark. Here is an example of the patronymic name used in combination with a place name. Kragelund is presumably derived from the name of a farmstead which appears in 19th century maps in Als Parish, Aalborg County, where Peder was born.

Søren Pedersen Kragelund immigrated to Iowa in the mid-1870s and lived in nearby Oakfield township. The name on his tombstone is Soren P. Kragelund – Kragelund was the name he used in the United States and the family name passed on to his descendants. The name Kragelund – a small farmstead in 18th- and 19th-century Denmark – now lives on as the surname of present-day Americans and Danes.

Recently, I discovered the use of a placename used as a middle name. My grandfather’s name was Axel Nørlund Nielsen. When researching his ancestors, I discovered that many generations had lived and worked on a farmstead called Nørlund in Tårs Parish, Hjørring County. The name Nørlund was then transplanted to the United States when my grandfather emigrated in 1909. Axel’s first son was given the name Norlin, presumably from the same derivation, but with alternate spelling. I wonder now if my grandfather Axel or my uncle Norlin were aware of the source of the name.

The use of place names can therefore point us to specific places where our ancestors lived and work. What hidden nuggets are waiting to be discovered in your genealogy?

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

The evidence is there proving that global warming is a fact. This is not a belief, it is a fact like the Sun rises in East. Or that the earth is in orbit around the Sun. Belief is what you have when there is not concrete proof that something exists.

Our atmosphere has reached over four hundred parts per million carbon dioxide. This level has not happened since the Earth was in its phase of frequent volcanic activity, millions of years ago. We need to take action that will result in fossil fuels being left in the ground.

Starting to address these issues calls for us to look at what actions would have the most immediate impact. And we need to examine the smartest way this could happen. A good example is in planning solar panel installations. They do not have to be just off ground level. By putting them on raised racks we can use the area under them for livestock pasture. Or for alternative crops like vegetables. And why not put them over parking lots where the ground is already is use. It is estimated that one hundred square miles of solar would create all the energy we require. In the United States we have over one hundred square miles of roofs and parking lots.

Electric vehicles are another means of lowering our fossil fuel usage. But we need to think about recharging. For those making long trips the level

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

So what’s been on your mind? In our previous two articles I asked the question, “Do you know God?” Would it be possible that you have been contemplating this? Well, I have been musing upon this subject a little. I have been thinking about the topic of, “How much is God worth?” And yes, I do believe that is an impossible question to answer; but it just might be an exciting question to reflect upon! So, let’s consider the universe; now that’s a large subject! But is God bigger than the entirety of the universe? Well, first of all He did create it. Several years ago, I and a few other people built a 26’ X 100’ building – it was larger than we were, so perhaps it does not have to be true that the creator/builder is large than that which is built.

Just how big is the universe? There are about 8 billion people on the earth. If God wanted to give each and every one of us an equal amount of stars to own, we would be in charge of about 2 trillion of them. Now that is mind boggling. And yes, that is quite immense.

How big is God? In considering just the earth, the prophet Isaiah says this, “Behold your God!” Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; ...Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand and marked off the heavens with a span, or enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? ... Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket and are accounted as the dust on the scales;

PRAIRIE ROOTS RUN DEEP, Pt. 8

Warren Watson

Many newly arrived Danish hired hands had never used more than two horses while doing field work or hauling in Denmark. The reason probably being that in Denmark two horses was all that was necessary. They had quite the time learning how to hitch up four or six horse teams.

One hired man, Pete, was a Danish German from Schleswig-Holstein. People had some difficulty understanding him at first. But the farmstead’s father had one dialect from Denmark, the mother another, and the neighbors adding 14 or 15 more dialects. With the mixture of all these people they got along fine with Pete. Most of the hired men eventually attended the Danish Folk School in Elk Horn to learn English.

A young farm boy tells this story:

“I was one of those few people that liked to use a walking plow. My eldest brother, he just despised the thought of getting hold of a walking plow. I would take my shoes off and walk in that nice wet dirt all day. The smell of newly turned soil in May meant we could put our shoes away for the ...

3 fast charging stations arerequired. But we can put in the long dwell level 2 chargers where people already are spending considerable time. Or where we want to encourage them to stay longer. This moves their charging to when the highest percentage of renewable energy is available. During the daylight hours when both wind and solar are both available.

Making our structures more energy efficient would be another action that would create energy savings. We should not guess what would improve the energy efficiency of a structure but seek to find our best return on investment of our improvements. Studies have shown that the average structure loses most of its energy through air infiltration. If we reduce the infiltration we can achieve a large energy savings. There is a process called a blower door test. The blower door is temporarily installed in place of one of the entry doors. The blower is then turned on removing air from inside the structure. The readout on the devise shows how much air is being pulled out of the structure. If it is excessive, by using a smoke stick you can find exactly where the largest infiltration is occurring. Then you have the information you require to make the improvements that give you the best results.

We can solve carbon dioxide issues by our intelligent, well-planned actions. It is time to get to work!

behold, He weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for altar fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are accounted by Him as less than nothing and emptiness. To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with Him?” Isaiah 40:9-18

It is fascinating to me, to find that all the nations are accounted as less than nothing compared to God! And yet within this piece of scripture we read, “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom and gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:11

Our great creator God is not only awesome in scope but awesome in His tenderness with us, His children. He loves us!

“It is God who sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. ‘To whom will you compare Me or who is My equal?’ says the Holy One. ‘Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created all these? It is He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength not one is missing.” Isaiah 40:22-26

As that wonderful old song says, “Oh LORD my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed; then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.”

summer. I found out that a walking plow is a very temperamental thing. Your hitch must be adjusted just right to make it work right. One time we borrowed another walking plow. I used a John Deere, and we borrowed an International. On the International you could not let go of the handles at all. The John Deere was straight going; I could let loose of the handles and go 25, or maybe 50 feet without budging an inch out of a true furrow. So, I liked plowing and using a walking cultivator.”

To be continued...

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