

DAILY GRIND



Farvel, Faye!

After nearly 40 years, local resident and honorary Dane, Faye Farley has officially retired from her life-long career at the Danish Windmill. She will be dearly missed by both staff and visitors, but she remains hopeful to volunteer some of her time in the future.

Faye began working at the windmill all the way back in 1986 and remained a critical part of the organization ever since. She spent most of her time with us as the mail order specialist, shipping out hundreds of Danish collectible plates year after year. As is customary with all employees, Faye also worked as a clerk in the gift shop and gave tours of the windmill, always passing on her wealth of knowledge about the windmill and the Danish Villages to our annual visitors.

When staff were asked to share their own remarks and memories of Faye, everyone said the same thing. She was a skilled decorator with a special penchant for crafting ornate displays all around the store, especially in the front window. Faye could turn any product we have into a work of art, and she loved to prepare the shop for Christmas every year.

Although not Danish herself, Faye and her husband, Cloid, regularly participated in Danish folk dancing. They enjoyed taking in community events and fully embraced Danish culture. For

Tivoli Fest and Julefest, she dedicated her holiday time to the windmill year after year, and always dressed the part. Her energy and drive will be missed by all of us, and we are grateful for her full commitment to our organization and her willingness to help in any capacity w

Her commitment to serving our community is deserving of special recognition, and we hope that she may find time to finally rest and relax in her retirement watching Huskers games and spending more time with family.

"Your dedication and hard work have greatly contributed to the Windmill's success. As you retire, we honor the legacy you've built and the many customers, members, and staff you've touched with your work ethic and kindness. Thank you for working your share of weekends and helping with events and holidays. Your consistent attention to every customer set a high standard. Thank you for over 35+ years of excellence, inspiration, and loyalty to the Danish Windmill. Wishing you joy and fulfillment in your well-deserved retirement. Enjoy it, Faye!"

- Lisa Riggs

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

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Thank you for your support.

NEWS FROM THE MILL Shaun Sayres

February is a slow time of year for us, but that also means it is the perfect time of year to catch up and deep clean. We've been at work lately cleaning out and digitizing files and records including the boxes and boxes of slides and photographs collecting dust in our cabinets. We're excited to share these old pictures with everyone and so have been posting batches of slides on our Facebook page on Fridays for #FlashbackFriday. Staff have been having a blast combing through these and playing a bit of guess who, and our friends on Facebook have been doing so as well. We would also like to thank Tami Jacobsen for helping us digitize the older Kodak slides.

Visitor traffic has shown some life this month, but it is still generally slow. We had only 322 entries in the guestbook for the month of February, but we also received the year's first visitors from Denmark. The recent warm front brought in some familiar faces, but in general the cold has been keeping people away.

We're happy to announce that the 2025 Danish plates are here. From Bing & Grøndahl we have this year's Mother's Day plate and Christmas plate. Last year was the final year of the

Children's Day plate. Royal Copenhagen is celebrating its 250th anniversary and so in addition to their 2025 Christmas plate, we also have a special commemorative plate for the 1775 - 2025 anniversary.

Last Thursday we put together another Throwback Thor's Day. We coordinated with Norse Horse Tavern, Kringleman Pastries, the Egg Krate, Love You Mor, and the Museum of Danish America to put on a festive night of Danish food and fun. Norse Horse's frikadeller special sold out in 20 minutes, and plenty more people enjoyed æbleskiver and medisterpølse at the bakery. Other businesses including the windmill were open late for the occasion. Unfortunately the mill didn't have anyone stop by this time, but we know this is fairly typical this time of year. It's still worthwhile to organize these events for the community and we're hoping to host several more this year.

Tivoli Fest preparations kick off this week. Those who are interested in volunteering for the festival this year are encouraged to come out and join us at the Norse Horse, Thursday March 6 at 5pm. It will be difficult to top last year's successes, so we will need all of the help we can get. Anyone interested in joining the committee is more than welcome.

Printed issues available for **FREE** at select locations in Elk Horn and Kimballton including:
Danish Windmill
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For all inquiries, contact Shaun Sayres at 712-764-7472 or via email at mgr@danishwindmill.org

All issues available online at danishwindmill.org

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ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



The Elk Horn Public Library is encouraging practicing and sharing your artistic skills in March. Deborah King will be having a painting party here at the library starting at 6:00 on Thursday, March 20th. Please sign-up by Monday, March 17th so we have all the materials you will need!

If anyone would like to share some of your art work for us to display in our cases, we would love that! The kids will be making clay items and painting this month, too!

Have you ever thought about writing your own book? Anna Redsand will be helping us to get started with this process on March 12th at 6:30 pm. Please sign-up by March 10th, so we know how many to expect. This is a preview to a full day of writing and planning on a Saturday in April. We will determine that date that night. 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!

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Well, it has been really cold for a few days. But we all know that Spring is soon to arrive and before long we will be talking about how hot it is. With Spring being one of the best times to plant things, let’s talk about nature’s air conditioners. By that I mean trees.

Tree offer not only shade, but they also sequester carbon, remove some other pollutants, and actually do lower the air temperature by their transpiration. When we perspire as our sweat dries it carries away heat. The process of transpiration is how trees pull nutrition and water from their roots up to the tips of their branches and that works much like our perspiration to carry away heat.

But planting a tree does require some investigation of several issues before you break out the spade. What do you want the tree to provide? Are you looking for good shade? Or do you want the tree to produce fruit or nuts? Are you just wanting a wind break or to screen something that is unsightly? Or are you looking for a tree that provides good forage or shelter for the local animals?

Another issue that must be examined is what type of soil is present where you will plant the tree. If it is heavy clay soil you will need a species that tolerates wet ground. How much sunlight reaches this area. Some trees tolerate partial

Here is our March schedule:
March 3 – Nature Nook with Rainbows K-3
March 5 – Bee an Artist with Clay Grades 3 - 6
March 5 – BrainFreeze for Teens
March 8 – Enchanted Bookworms (Toddlers and Preschoolers 10 – 10:45 am)
March 10 – Nature Nook with Laws of Physics Grades K-3
March 12-Reading Rainbow– all ages
March 17 – Fortnite Contest 1-4 (No School Day)
March 17 – Outlook Study Club with the Museum of Danish America Presenting
March 19- Bee an Artist and Paint Grades 3 – 6
March 12 – Your Life As Story Preview for a Writing Retreat with Anna Redsand 6:30 pm
March 14 – Olaf’s Gotcha Day – Celebrating one year of having Olaf in our family! Treats and Crafts!
March 20 – Painting with Deborah King 6:00 pm
March 22 – Enchanted Bookworms (Toddlers and Preschoolers 10 – 10:45 am)
March 24 – Nature Nook with Spring Equinox K-3
March 26 – Coffee Time 9 am
March 26-Reading Rainbow– all ages

shade very well while others simply will not grow well. Freshly planted trees do best when they are where they can be watered until they have their roots firmly established.

And you will need to consider how tall and wide this species get as it matures. You wouldn’t want to plant a tree that will reach over 60 feet high under a power line. Or one that will grow 25 feet wide between two buildings that are 20 feet apart. If you are planting near a structure perhaps you want a tree that does not get very tall.

One other important thing is this species one that grows naturally in this area. A tree that grows naturally is best suited for the soils and temperatures found here. It likely has a resistance to some insects and diseases that are and have been present in this area.

And remember, no matter what species you plant, where they are planted will cause a shift in the wind pattern around them. This can have unintended results if not considered. The shift could cause problems with snow drifting or when carefully planned move the drifting to where it does not cause problems.

The State of Iowa has lost hundreds of thousands of trees to storms and insect damage in the last few years. We need to replace these trees where we can. It will help us combat climate change and bring back the lush scenery that Iowa was known for both residents and tourists to enjoy.

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

If you serve the Almighty God who created all things, then you serve a good, gracious and loving God. And if you truly do serve Him then you already know all this about Him.

If I were to try and wrap up all of the attributes of God into one word, it would be a futile endeavor. God is beyond our comprehension. In the book of Isaiah 55 God tells us this, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “ As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

We are finite beings; we live in the flesh – God is not finite and He does not dwell in the flesh! God created all things and we have created nothing! We have air to breathe because God provides it. We have food to eat because God causes it to grow. We have water to drink for God, who created all things, knew to put two atoms of hydrogen with one atom of oxygen and we have H2O.

We owe our complete existence to His awesome wisdom and knowledge. It was He that brought forth the genetic structure by which we have life. DNA is an actual code that He has written within which all of our makeup is stored.

Man, with all of his intelligence and all of his laboratories and all of his abilities, cannot bring forth life, even though he knows about this DNA. In the beginning of the book of Genesis the scripture tells us that “LORD God formed the

man of dust from the ground (which He had made) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living creature.” God is the author of life. He has life because He is life and there is nothing that lives that does not have His life in it.

So what do you know about God? Why did He create everything?

I believe that He created all things because He is love. In the first epistle of John we read this very thought, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

We humans like to talk about this love. Songs that we write say things like “What the world needs now is love, sweet love....” The first step in coming to understand love and what it really is, is to love God and all that He is!

A time is coming and is now at hand when mankind will be brought face to face with the living God. The bible tells us about man’s reaction to this encounter, “Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:15-16

And that will be a sad time. Ah, but don’t despair, there is hope for us who believe and for those who serve Him. And a chance for everyone to come to know Him. Amen

March 27-Homeschool Book Club and STEM 2-4
March 27 – Teen Murder Mystery at the Circus! 7:30 – 8:30 Sign-up!
March 31- ‘The People Are Kind: A Religious History of Iowa’ on March 31st at 6 pm.

We are also 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!

SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY QUILL

Wava Petersen

My befuddled brain was blank until a friend suggested a column about needlework and sewing machines. That was a subject I knew a few things about, mostly unpleasant. Let’s begin with a bit of history of sewing machines.

Attempts to design a working sewing machine date back centuries. The first functional machine was the brain-child of Barthelemy Thimonnier. Using a curved needle and one thread it produced a chain stitch. After obtaining a successful patent he opened the world’s first clothing manufacturing company where he created uniforms for the French Army. Other French tailors were not too pleased, fearing this new-fangled machine would result in their unemployment. They burned down his factory while he was still inside. Never take your sewing machine for granted; this fellow nearly died for it. In 1834 Wm. Hunt created America’s first functioning sewing machine but the prototype fell victim to a botched filing job at the patent office.

In 1845 an American, Elias Howe, produced a machine resembling Finch’s that used two thread sources, creating a lock-stitch. Unsuccessful marketing his machine in the U.S. he sailed to England. After a lengthy stay Finch returned to the U.S. only to find that others had copied his lock-stitch mechanism. One of these was Merrit Singer. And the rest is history. Singer’s empire is still going strong.

My introduction to needle work came at a very young age. My mother was a very competent seamstress and could snip out an original pattern from a newspaper on the floor. Feed sacks and hand-me-down garments were repurposed and turned into beautiful dresses. Those garments were works of art and I wore them proudly. She taught me the rudiments of “fancywork.” When it came to embroidery, I much preferred reading a book. I did manage to learn the art of wielding the large crochet hook to turn strips of rags into throw rugs. My fingers never got the hang of using the small hooks used to make doilies or edging for pillow cases. It was so boring and I would rather be outside daydreaming in the swing that hung from a limb of the huge maple tree.

With the coming of electricity to our home, a brand-new electric Singer replaced Mother’s old treadle model. No more pedal to the treadle; it was a welcome addition to our home. And that is the machine on which I learned how to sew. Then came 9th grade and Home Ec. Though it was the mid-1940s the room was still equipped with those pre-historic treadle model machines. When I wanted it to go forward it went backwards. It did the opposite when I ordered it to back up. A horse would have been easier to control. About the first thing we had to do was make an apron. I think my mother bought the hardest pattern she could find. It had four panels in the skirt, a bib and a sash. Most of the other girls brought simple patterns that had no bib, just a sash that tied in the back. I quietly cursed that machine, the pattern and sewing in general. Finally the teacher let me take the blasted thing home. Eventually I had one of the panels put in perfectly and took it off the machine to admire my handiwork. Only then did I discover to my horror that I had gathered some of the material under the apron and sewed it into the seam I was so proud of. I think it was then that I cried. The teacher gave me a B+ on my project, probably given out of pity rather than quality of the apron.

Following our marriage I once again did battle with a treadle model sewing machine. I produced several items of clothing for my little girls. Some were quite respectable, others not so much. Pajama bottoms usually ended up with the crotch somewhere in the vicinity of the knees; dresses might have one sleeve-cuff barely large enough for a small hand to go through while the other cuff would have fit a Sumo wrestler with plenty of room to spare. Eventually I had an electric machine but much of my sewing time went into patching overalls and coveralls. My hubby did a lot of welding but never used a protective apron. He burned a lot of holes in his clothes.

The moral of this story is that I better be good. Should I be sent to the lower echelons I will most certainly be sentenced to patching coveralls and crocheting doilies throughout eternity.