

DAILY GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

Summer has yet to stop at the windmill as September has been just as busy as August with travelers from all over. We hope the trend continues as we transition into Fall.

In the gift shop we’ve picked up a few new products for the Fall season. We now have Glacial Till hard cider in a number of delicious flavors, available by the can, a 6-pack mix of any or all flavors. We also picked up Mike & Jen’s Hot Cocoa featuring their regular cocoa mix or mocha latte. We have both single-serve packets or scoopable mix. We even added some special mugs for the season to go with them.

If you’ve noticed an uptick in our social media posts for the gift shop, it’s all thanks to Johanne Lyager who has been helping us out on Mondays. Every week she creates new posts for Facebook and Instagram, and we have added TikTok as well. We’re very thankful to have her with us.

Meanwhile across the street, work has begun to renovate the Old Danish Workshop. The siding was in desperate need of replacement, and we are also looking at upgrades to the building’s electrical and HVAC. New floors will be put in both rooms, and there is a lot of cleaning and painting to be done for the walls and ceiling. We want to thank our volunteers: Mike & Lou Howard, Mike & Lisa Riggs, and Gene “Beaner” Thomsen for helping out with the project so far. There is still a lot to do and we are still looking for help if others wish to volunteer. We are hoping to get the new siding on the building next

week. We’ve already picked out the new colors for the exterior and our goal is to maintain the authentic Scandinavian look using historic colors and patterns.

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting an EEHK field trip with Mr. Baggett’s 11th grade English class, Mrs. Christensen’s Multi-Cultural Foods class, and Mr. Weis’s Principles of Engineering class. The group toured through the windmill with Shaun and got to a chance to learn more about the windmill and its significance from the inside. We hope to see more groups from EEHK this school year. Many of our readers may remember the days when it was customary for the community 3rd grade classes to make a trip up into the mill and learn about Elk Horn’s Danish past. We are hoping they may come back this year.

As we get ready for Fall, we do have one major obstacle out of the way. We will not have a container this year. Due to how late last year’s container arrived, we have quite a bit of merchandise from last year’s orders and not a lot of funds to spend for this year. While we are trying to get a couple of small orders through, most of the stuff we have for this coming season is already here and arrived before the tariff hikes.

Finally, we want to thank the Audubon Country Players for putting on a great show on the life of Hans Christian Andersen. The sets were beautifully done and the play had a large number of local performers including our leading volunteer, Annabelle Baggett. Mill staff journeyed to Audubon for the Saturday night showing. We sold some fairy tale books and made sure Annabelle had a flower arrangement waiting for her at closing. It was a great night and we wish to thank the showrunners again for including us.

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

At Exira-EHK, three kids were nominated by the teachers for student of the week. These students were Sophie Kitelinger, Gage Lake, and Jordan Callison. These students were nominated for their outstanding behavior in the classroom

Sophie Kitelinger is a senior this year, and she is from Exira. She takes part in many school activities such as color guard, tennis, LEO, and Student Council. Her favorite subject is her individual art class. Right now she is making stamps. One thing she enjoys doing in her free time is reading. Her favorite school lunch is the baked potato bar. Something she is looking

forward to this year is homecoming. In her future, she wishes to be an interior designer.

Gage Lake is in seventh grade this year. He is from Exira. His favorite school subject so far has been Industrial Technology. His favorite part of this class is using different machinery. Gage’s favorite lunch at school is chicken alfredo. In his free time, Gage likes to play video games. The video game he enjoys most is “Snow Runner”. In his future, Gage would like to be a truck driver.

Jordan Callison is in eighth grade this year. She is from Kimballton. The school lunch Jordan enjoys most is chicken alfredo. Her favorite subject in school is art, and she loves to draw. She is not currently in any activities, but she wishes to play soccer in the future. She dreams of being a tattoo artist in the future.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



Stop in to see our Halloween decorations and pick-up one of our new books to enjoy! We add new books all the time, and let us know if you want something, we will do our best to get it for you!

The Monday programming by Nikki is going great! Keep the kids coming!

October 15th we will be sponsoring a walk in the Elk Horn Park from 12-12:30 as a part of the Iowa Health Initiative. Join us for a quick workout over lunch!

DVIO and the Elk Horn Library are teaming up for the Community Halloween Party at the Kimballton Townhall on Friday, October 31st from 5 – 7pm. We are looking for individuals and businesses who would want to bring their treats to the townhall to share that night. Please contact the library, or just show up-costumes would be an added ‘treat’! We will be taking photos for a costume contest on Facebook!

The Lego area is VERY popular this fall, if you have any Legos you would want to donate to us we would really appreciate it, the kids are making some amazing creations.

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.

Here is our October schedules:

October 4 – Adult Board Game Night 6 – 9 pm
October 6 – Mad Scientist Monday Program 1- 4 pm
October 11 – Teen Hangout 6 – 8 pm Grades 7 – 12
October 13 – Witch’s Brew Monday Program 1 – 4 pm
October 15 – Iowa Healthy Walk 12 – 12:30 Elk Horn Park
October 18 – Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10 – 12 am
October 20 – Going Battey Monday Program 1 – 4 pm
October 24 – Book Discussion: ‘Never Lie’ by Freida McFadden 2 – 4 pm
October 25 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm
October 27 – Monsters on Parade Monday Program 1 – 4 pm
October 27 – ‘History of Licorice’ by Shaun Sayers 6 pm
October 29 – Community Coffee and Craft 9 am
October 31 – Community Halloween Party 5 – 7 pm Kimballton Townhall
October 31 – Zombie Prom 8 – 10 pm at the Library

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



Hough & Zaccone
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

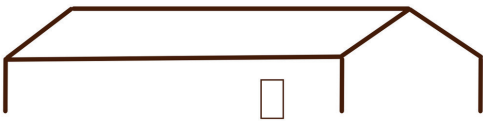
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Work is underway to transform the Old Danish Workshop into our new Education & Preservation Center. We’re looking for volunteers to help with the renovations and repairs.

Contact Shaun to get involved:
712-764-7472 | mgr@danishwindmill.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Oct. 20: | Salem Lutheran Homes Annual Fall Bazaar |
| Oct. 27: | Elk Horn Public Library: History of Licorice by Shaun Sayres |

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

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NAVIGATING DANISH GENEALOGY

Eric Mortensen

One question I often get asked is “Were my ancestors Danish or German?” This arises from the fact that the area known historically as Schleswig has been claimed at times by both Danish and German political entities. While people today like to categorize and identify our ancestors based on their nationality and/or ethnicity, these do not always have straightforward answers.



Here’s a quick history of the region and how the borders have changed over the years. Image source: economist.com

The area of the southern Jutland peninsula, Sønderjylland, also known as Schleswig (German) or Slesvig (Danish), has always been strategically important as a transit and trading space between the Jutland peninsula and the German-speaking areas of Europe, as well as between the North Sea and Baltic Sea. The Dannevirke, a series of earthwork barriers and fortifications across the peninsula, shows this importance.

In 811, a treaty between the Danish king and Charlemagne established the southern border of Denmark (including Schleswig) at the Eider River. Schleswig later became a duchy, separate from Denmark proper, but the title of Duke of Schleswig was historically held by the King of Denmark.

Starting around 1800, more of Schleswig began to speak German rather than Danish. This coincided with rising feelings of nationalism – the idea of a nation state with fixed borders and people of common language and ethnicity – which pervaded Europe in the 19th century. This led to the “Schleswig question” and two wars.

The First Schleswig War, called the Treårskrigen in Danish, lasted from 1848 to 1851. The duchies of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg were under the control of the King of Denmark, but not part of Denmark proper. Danish politicians sought to integrate Schleswig as part of Denmark, which provoked a rebellion among the German population of Schleswig. Denmark won the war and retained control over Schleswig.

The Second Schleswig War took place in 1864, when Denmark again tried to integrate Schleswig as part of Denmark proper. While the first war was largely Germans from Schleswig and Holstein fighting against Denmark, the second war was the larger armies of Austria and Prussia fighting against Denmark. The Danes lost the war and control over Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg, which became a part of the Prussian, later German Empire.

In 1920 a plebiscite was held in Schleswig. The northern half voted to be part of Denmark, and the southern half voted to be part of Germany. The vote was respected by both countries, the former duchy of Schleswig was divided, and the current border between Denmark and Germany was set. Today, a minority of Danish-speaking people live in German Schleswig, and a minority of German-speaking people live in southern Denmark.

Identifying nationality can be a shifting target, as seen with the area of Schleswig. More important is how individuals personally identified, which is most often indicated by their primary language and cultural background.

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

The next source of capital is your local “built” environment. Examining this can provide you with significant insights as to what you already have. And what your community could use in structures and/or businesses. Knowing these issues can provide you with guidance in your development plans.

First you need to examine the local area public infrastructure. How far are you from an Interstate Highway? Is there a loading/unloading railroad facility nearby? What about an airport? Is it just for light aircraft or can it be used for commercial flights? Does your area have bridges that have weight or dimension limits that could impede truck traffic? Does your area have any public transportation services available?

Next you should determine are there limits on the amount of electrical power that can be delivered to your location? Does your local freshwater supply have adequate ability to deliver an additional amount of water? If it does, what is that amount? And of course, what about your sewage treatment facilities capacity? Can it manage an additional amount of sewage without expensive expansions?

Next you should examine structures in your

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In the article that came out on the first of August, 2025, I wrote about the title of these articles in which the two words, “Good News” appears. The word Gospel literally comes from these two words, good news. I know we have looked at that thought previously but let’s see it from a new perspective.

There is so much ‘good news’ in the scripture, that to try and embrace the entirety of the meaning in one article is quite impossible. This time we will consider the word “hope” as the reason for “good news.”

To start with we need to understand that this concept of ‘hope’ is much greater than merely wishing for something. We might say that when we go fishing, we ‘hope’ to catch a fish – this is merely a wish. The hope that we have in God the Father and His Son is truly an assurance of a promise. In other words, it is a confident expectation of the reality of something that God has spoken in His word. We do not “hope” that God is good or right or true or believable or powerful or merciful, etc., we are assured of it by His word which cannot fail!

In thinking about this I must ponder the very first chapter in the bible; yes, let’s look all the way back to the creation. You will remember that as each day of creation came to pass, the scripture tells us that God spoke everything into being; “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” Genesis 1:3 Again on the second day, “And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ And God made the expanse. And it was so.” Genesis 1:6-7 And yes,

A BIT OF HISTORY

Warren Watson

In celebration of Salem Lutheran’s 150th anniversary, this segment will feature monthly histories of the church’s inaugural year, 1876.

May 4th: The charter congregation was made up of 37 families. All the families were of Danish heritage apart from a couple of Norwegian families and a Norwegian or Swedish wife. The first communion was held in Allen’s schoolhouse on August 13th, 1876. There were 16 communicants. In 1876, 59 communicants would participate in 3 different services. The first wedding took place on June 9th, 1876. Mads Rasmussen Taber and Miss Delia Rasmussen were married in the home. There was a total of 3 weddings in 1876. The first confirmation took place the first Sunday after Easter on April 8th, 1877. Four boys and one girl were confirmed.

May 11th: Soon after Pastor Kirkeberg’s arrival it was decided to purchase 40 acres basically north of today’s Washington St. and east of Main St. The northern boundary would be approximately the north road of the present cemetery. The congregation made a commitment to build a

community. Do you have vacant buildings that could be filled with a new business or service that you are lacking? Do you have any buildings that are functionally vacant? A business district building that is just used for storage would fit this classification. Are your structures well maintained? No windows boarded up or missing. No peeling paint or broken or missing siding. Do they have ADA compliant access provided? Do they have signage that clearly states what business occupies the structure?

And then it is time to look at your community’s housing. Do you have housing available? Are there developed lots available for new housing? Does your community have rental housing? And does your rental facilities cover a range of rental rates?

Then look at what your community offers for recreational opportunities. Do you have nice parks? Are there often various activities planned that all are welcome to enjoy? Do you have a good library that provides interesting activities? Are there other sources of frequent activities? Is your community walkable?

Once you have answered these questions you will have a lot of the data you need to intelligently make your development plans. Next we will talk of the other three sources of capital.

throughout the 6 days of creation God spoke and it was so with all that He created.

Since then God has spoken again and again about ‘hope’ and His word is true and it came about. He told Abraham that He would have a child in his old age; and it was so. At one hundred years old Abraham and Sarah had the promised child Isaac. God also told Abraham that his descendants would inherit the land of promise “On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.” (Genesis 15:18) He told the Israelites, who were in bondage in Egypt, that His servant Moses would give them salvation by bringing them out. And it was so! The hope of that promise was fulfilled many years later through God’s servant Joshua.

Our God is a God of truth; King David understood this as we see in his words from the Psalms: “For you, O LORD, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.” Psalms 71:5; “But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.” Psalms 71:14; “O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.” Psalms 131:3; “O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.” Psalms 130:7

There are over 160 references in the scriptures concerning the word “HOPE.” We have only touched the surface in this article. Hope is an important topic for study and a wonderful resource for increasing our love and understanding of our Creator.

Hope in a man can bring disappointment but God never disappoints! And that is GOOD NEWS.

parsonage by the end of July. On May 14th the first member of the new congregation was buried. He was the brother-in-law of Rasmus Hansen. Ole Hansen died on May 12th, 1876, and was buried on top of the hill before a cemetery was officially dedicated. Ole was born in Norway in 1847. He had come to America in the early 1860’s. There were 4 funerals in 1876.

May 18th: On Oct. 1st, 1876, the congregation adopted its constitution. It was decided that the cemetery would be dedicated on Oct. 15th, and each family would receive a FREE family plot. The first ANNUAL congregational meeting was held on Dec. 16th, 1876. At a congregational meeting on Dec. 24th, 1876, Pastor Kirkeberg’s salary was set at \$400/yr. It was also agreed that Pastor Kirkeberg would be allowed to preach beginning in 1877 to a newly formed congregation in Jackson Township. The Bowman Grove Lutherans would pay the church \$25 quarterly for Kirkeberg’s services performed every 4th Sunday. This was the establishment of the Bethlehem Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. They would call their own pastor in 1885. This was the first of many area “daughter” congregations branching out from the Elk Horn church.