

DAILY GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

We’re in the final stretch as snow blankets the roads leading to December. Such was the story of this year’s Julefest celebration which fizzled out almost as quickly as it began following the forecasted snowstorm. Many of Friday’s festivities were cut short, and a Snow Emergency shut down the rest of the weekend for Main St. businesses. Although the weekend was largely a disappointment for all involved, the mill faired okay. It wasn’t pretty, but we worked well with the traffic we got to finish out the month.

The end of the year is always a large gamble for the mill. We invest the bulk of any revenue we can generate during the travel season into inventory that we hope to sell during November and December, two months that can account for 30-40% of our annual revenue. As a result, snow and closures can hurt us significantly during this time of year, as we depend on events that simply cannot be rescheduled to ensure we make it to the end of the year.

And so we are hoping for the best as we turn our attention to Christkindlmarket Des Moines which will be held over two weekends this year for the first time. We will be there in our usual hut sponsored by the Rasmussen Group, and we’ve heard the Museum of Danish America will have volunteers at the festival as well. These next two weeks can make or break our year, and our staff will be out in the cold winds of Downtown Des Moines to make the most of this opportunity. We also wish to thank Nicole Butler and Jon Adams for volunteering to help with the festival this year.

Preparing for the festival is always a challenge. We have a 20' rental truck in the parking lot to help us move a large chunk of our gift shop to Des Moines so we can built out our space. I have no doubt we will completely fill it before we get there. It looks like we will be in for a cold first week with some potential for snow, so we are taking the precautions we can to ensure things don’t freeze which is always an issue for the 20+ cases of glogg we bring with us.

On the homefront, Phyllis, Joanne, and Joni will continue to run the store while we are gone. We’re sure many of our usual Julefest visitors will be making their annual pilgrimages to Elk Horn on either of these weekends. We hope you will find time to stop in and tour the mill or do a little holiday shopping with us.

Work on the preservation center is at a halt for the moment until we get through the holidays, but the building is at least sealed up for winter. We have electric, but are still waiting on heat and water. Water, of course, has been a sore topic around here the last few weeks, but at least the snow has made our parking lot no longer look like a stockyard with all of the digging in every direction. We do wish to thank Jacob Henry, Elk Horn’s new public works director, for his dedication to resolving our recent water issues as quickly as possible.

And finally, it is no secret that death has had an extended stay in our community recently. We wish to honor those who have passed in recent days, some of whom were vital parts of our organization in different ways: Annette Andersen, Lavon Andersen, Rosa Clemson, Verdell Hansen, Doris Jones, Bev Larsen, Howard Sorensen, and Eileen Sornson.

Keep your loved ones close this holiday season, and have a Merry Christmas from all of us at the Danish Windmill.

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

Exira-EHK Drama and Spartan Theatre just wrapped up their fall production of “A-Haunting We Will Go” by Tim Kelly. This was a fun and Entertaining show. This marks the final Fall Performance for a wonderful group of talented Seniors: Annabelle Baggett, Ben Baggett, Paige Konecne, Sophie Kitelinger, Graic Hill-Borger, Jakob LaCanne, Carter Wiemann, and Keagan Menter. This performance was enhanced by a brand-new wireless microphone system. These sound upgrades were made possible by donations to our Amp Up the Arts fundraising campaign. Our Spartan Community came through in a big way. Specifically, we would like to thank all the donors: Mrs. Riann Hansen and the Spartan Booster Club, Mr. Steve Turner with Front Yard Flags, Dave and Diane Thompson and the Norse Horse Tavern, Bill and Sally Rollins, Mike and Lue Howard, Jack and Nancy Krogstad, Alec & Cindy Paulsen and Precision Concrete, Mr. Duane Christofferson andChristofferson Septic, and the Spartan Music Boosters.

Next, we are getting ready for the upcoming basketball Season. The Spartens Boys team is under the direction of a new but familiar face, Jackson Radcliff. The boys will be led by Seniors Austin Rassmussen, Owen Jhul, and Bryce Brabham. They will look to improve their record within the conference this year. The Spartan Girls, coached by the one and only Tom Petersen, are looking to make big waves this season. Led by Taryn Petersen and Jaelynn Petersen, the ladies look forward to having a big run this year with returning teammates Zoey Rassmussen, Riley Miller, Harlow Miller, and Kadence Sporrer.

Spartans will open the regular season at home on Monday, December 1st, against Riverside. Girls start at 6 pm, with boys to follow. Come support your Spartans this basketball season. Remember, after an epic donation, all K-12 students get in for free to home games.

Spartan Basketball Home Schedule

- 12/01 Riverside
- 12/02 Ar-We-Va
- 12/13 IKM-Manning
- 12/16 Paton Churdan
- 01/09 Woodbine
- 01/10 ACGC
- 01/16 Boyer Valley
- 01/22 West Central
- 01/26 Panorama
- 01/30 Cam
- 02/03 Glidden Ralston
- 2/10 Red Oak (Boys)

**Girls start at 6 pm, and boys follow.

Can't make it to the game? Catch all the action on the New Spartan Media YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@eehkspartanmedia>

Or use your phone camera with this QR code, open your camera app and direct it at the code. Tap the link that pops up for our YouTube page:



SAY CHEESE SALE

Get any \$5 block of cheese for \$4 in the gift shop! While supplies last.

Just say “cheese” at checkout!

Elk Horn and Exira Food Pantry Drive
Dec 1st-5th

Tuesday - Toy Tuesday
Bring new unwrapped toys, coloring books, etc (items donated will benefit the Caring and Sharing Family Christmas Program)

Wednesday- Washy Wednesday
Personal hygiene items, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels

Thursday- Throw it Together
Non perishable items such as: canned meats, soups, ravioli, spaghetti o's, and condiments

Friday - Formula Friday
Bring pull ups or size 5 diapers

Christkindlmarket DSM

Find us at Principal Park in Downtown Des Moines:

December 4-7 & 11-14

Festival Hours:
Thursday: 5 - 9
Friday: 11 - 9
Saturday: 11 - 9
Sunday: 11 - 5

Printed issues available for **FREE** at select locations in Elk Horn and Kimballton

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ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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

We love books, kids and Christmas trees! Please stop in to see our community Christmas trees all over the library, see the amazing Menter Family Christmas Train Display and find additions to your private library at our Friends of the Library Book Sale through December!

Stop in to vote on our books decorated as favorite books! Top selections will win prizes!

Attalia volunteers at the library on Monday afternoons. She is sharing her impressions of the library:

“The library is one of my favorite places in the world. Not just because of the books and games, but also because of the people. Heiko is amazing-finding anything you need. Of all the books he finds me, City Spies is the best! I love the action combined with the family conflict.I also like The Series of Unfortunate Events. The last book is great, and when you read The Unauthorized Biography a bunch of things start to come together.

The library is a great place for people of all ages, and I hope that you come to love it as much as I do!”

Here are our December and January Schedules:

December 1 - Extreme Gingerbread Challenges 1 – 4 pm

December 6 – Adult Boad Game Night 6 – 9 pm

December 8 – Polar Express 1 – 4 pm

December 13 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm

December 15 – Santa’s Little Helpers 1 – 4 pm

December 15 – Friends of the Library Potluck starting at 5:00 pm. Open to everyone!

December 20 – Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10 – 12 am

December 24 – Library Closed

December 25 – Library Closed

December 31 – Community Coffee 9 am

December 31- New Year’s Noon Party 11 am – 1 pm

December 31 – Teen New Year’s Party 9 – 11 pm

January 1 – Library Closed

January 2 – Kids Trivia Contest 2 – 4 pm

January 3 – Adult Board Game Night 6 – 9 pm

January 5 – Snow Animals with Christina Roelofs 1 – 4 pm

January 10 – Teen Fun 6 – 8 pm

January 12 – Scarf Making with MODA 1 – 4 pm

January 14 – Kimballton Kaffe 9 am Kimballton Townhall

January 17 -Young Adult coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm

January 19 – Snow Science 1 – 4 pm

January 21 – International Day of Education – Coffee for Retired Teachers 2 – 4 pm

January 22 – NFL Trivia Night at Norse Horse 6:30 – 8 pm

January 23 – ‘Hidden Figures’ by Margot Lee Shetterly Movie 12:30 pm and Book Discussion at 2:00 pm

January 24 – Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10 – 12 am

January 26 – Sledding Adventure 1 – 4 pm

January 28 – Elk Horn Community Coffee and Craft 9 am

The Lego area is VERY popular, 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.

If you have any ideas for presenters or activities, let us know!

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.

June 22nd: President Kirkeberg was not universally well-liked in part because of his uncompromising personality and sensitivity about his nationality. He resigned in 1880 as president and church pastor and ownership of the school was transferred to the Danish Evangelical

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

In the last three articles we covered four of the capital types for economic and community development. They were presented first for an important reason. The last source of capital is financial capital. But one needs to closely examine the other sources before investigating your financial capital.

Many projects for economic or community development require fundraising or grant applications in order to become reality. They require a broad level of public support. Many times, they need the continued efforts of many diverse interests within your community to reach their full potential. Your researching of the environment, built, social, and people capital has allowed you to determine your strengths and challenges in each of these categories. This is going to be an advantage when you begin to promote your project.

Introducing your project to the general public requires you to be able to answer questions. How will this project bring improvement? Why do you believe this project is possible? How are we going to fund this project? How will this affect other existing features of our community? What can we expect to happen when this project is completed? Are there complications that must be dealt with before or during the project? Being able to answer these questions with facts from your diligent examination of the capital resources

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In our previous article I asked the question, “How do you get to a place of purity?” In other words, how do we purify ourselves?

We were considering this thought of ‘purity’ because we noticed the Apostle John telling us that we must purify ourselves. “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)

In my prayer time, I often thank God for allowing me to become a member of His family – I am a child of God! Are you? Being a child in a family of this world allows for tremendous privileges. But being a child in the family of our Almighty God who is our heavenly Father allows for privileges beyond what our imaginations can dream of.

Having this hope (remember, the word ‘hope’ in the scriptures equals assurance) gives us the goal of purity. So let’s think this through. Becoming a child of God requires that we accept the invitation to belong to Him. God gives the call; when we accept this call, we become a part of the chosen ones. What must we do to accept this calling? In the book of Acts chapter 2: 14-36, Peter gives a beautiful message to a gathering crowd about the amazing plan of God for salvation. And the crowd asks “What shall we do?” Peter first tells them to repent and then he tells them to be baptized: “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of

Lutheran Church. Under Kirkeberg the school was modeled after folk schools in Denmark. Under new pastor H.J. Petersen from Gowen, Michigan, more short courses, gymnastics and a great deal of singing were added. This drew many local young and adult Danes to take advantage of the excitement. In 1882 Pastor Kristian Anker replaced Petersen and the school’s attraction blossomed. It became a major drawing card bringing many new Danish immigrants to settle in the Elk Horn area. In 1887 the school burnt to the ground. But within a year’s time a much larger new school was open for ‘business’. In 1890 Anker purchased the school from the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. For the next four years Anker added a Normal (teaching prep) College to the school’s offerings.

June 29th: In 1894 Anker sold the school to what would become the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association of North America. That body would establish an official Theological Seminary at the school. It was active until 1897 when it was

existing will provide positive public support for the project.

When you submit a grant application you must assume the granting entity is not familiar with who you are. They do not know what you have already accomplished. You must be prepared to tell a compelling story of your community. If your previous research has identified certain challenges you should describe how you will overcome them. Being completely honest with your appraisalment of your projects route to successful completion is critical. A well-prepared narrative is a vital part of any good grant application. When researching grants, find the ones whose goals fit your project. Never try to make your project fit into a grant that really is not for the purpose your project addresses.

Then when you are asked a response to a question in the grant application, make certain you are answering that exact question. Being concise in your replies is often the difference between success and failure of your application. The panel that reviews the applications often reviews many applications. Failing to answer the question asked is grounds to reject an application. Keeping your answers concise makes their review process easier. And that compelling story about your community gives them the context to fully understand your answers.

Good research of your capital resources, broad public backing, and careful creation of any grant applications brings the best results for your project.

your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

When we repent and are baptized, all our past sins are ‘washed away’ in the waters of baptism. In that moment we stand PURE before our heavenly Father. Forty eight years ago, when I was baptized, I remember coming up out of the water feeling wonderfully clean, a pure newborn babe in Christ. But that’s not all! Remember, in his message to the crowd Peter told them that they would receive “the gift of the Holy Spirit”. WOW – God had given me a gift that would dwell within me, to guide me, to correct me and to strengthen me. And I rejoiced to become a child of God.Pure? Yes, by the blood of my Savior.

But the story is not over ... I live in this fallen world, this is a troublesome society and even as a child of God, I slip, I fall, I sin. But because I have His Holy Spirit dwelling in me and because I have faith in the blood of Jesus, I have the beautiful opportunity to again repent, and my Savior, who is always there to help me, lifts me up from my fall, to cleanse me from my sin.

God is merciful and always wants to bring His children back to a state of purity. Let’s see what the Psalmist says, “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.”

Clean hands, a pure heart and seek the face of God. There’s still more to come. Stay tuned!

moved to Blair, NE. In 1899 the “College” was moved to Blair also and these two would become Dana College. In 1902 the United Church (another new combined conference) sold the Elk Horn school to a stock company made up mostly of members of the Elk Horn congregation. It would continue to serve the community as a High School and College Preparatory School until 1918. In 1910 the school burnt to the ground again in January but by September it was open. With the War to End all Wars in 1918 the attention of young men was not on education. This coincided with the completion of Elk Horn’s first public high school. The faithful old “Folk” school’s ownership reverted to the Elk Horn congregation. It served many community purposes including as a meeting place, housed Sunday School, and under the direction of Pastor Anders Hansen as the Salem Old People’s Home from 1932-1962. In 1962 it was dismantled and replaced with the Salem Lutheran Retirement Home. Columns from the front porch were salvaged and exist to this day.