

# DAILY GRIND



## NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

It's the slow time again as tourism slows to a crawl. While there has still been plenty to do at the mill, there isn't a lot going on worth sharing, but still have some updates to put out.

Phyllis Hoegh has finished the count and the guestbook numbers are done. The Mill received 69,466 visitors last year. This includes guests from all 50 states in addition to 35 foreign countries. We even had 272 visitors from Denmark.

Speaking of the Welcome Center, we are taking the downtime to clean up our brochure area and get everything reorganized. This includes removing brochure space off of one wall to make room for our new community bulletin board where local organizations and residents can share information about upcoming events. Thumbtacks provided.

In the gift shop, we finished with another stellar year even despite the snowy weekends of November and December. Sales revenue hit its best figure since 2003, and we remain hopeful that the trend will continue this year. We continue to bring new lines of merchandise into the store including some new Blue Delft decor which is now on the shelves. Our 2026 collectibles from Royal Copenhagen and Bing & Grøndahl are also available. The Christmas plate designs this year are both stunning and the cat figurine has already been sold out temporarily.

The windmill held its annual organization meeting on Monday, January 26 with exceptional attendance of 78 members. Given that this year is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we switched things up a bit for the occasion. The meeting was held at the renovated Hygge Inn & Suites now open as a hotel and event venue. And, as a gesture of appreciation, all members were treated to a complementary Danish meal catered by Master Grillers Catering of Kimballton.

## SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

**Group Speech Districts**  
The Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) district contests will be held on January 24. Students from Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton (E-EHK) will take part in individual and group speech events. They will compete in areas such as acting, poetry, prose, and public speaking. Students will perform in front of judges who score them on how well they present their pieces. District contests are important because students who do well can move on to the state competition. After months of practice, E-EHK students show strong speaking skills and teamwork, showing the success of the school's speech program. On February 7th: State speech performances are at West Des Moines Valley, come out to support our speech students!

**Prom on April 18th**  
This year, the class of 2027 chose the theme "Midnight at the Mansion," which was inspired by The Great Gatsby, for Prom. The dance is being hosted at the newly renovated Hygee Inn,

The meeting itself was also very productive. A petition was pushed forth by members this year to amend and update the current Bylaws which were last revised in 2000. Notable changes include more flexible language around quorum and when the annual meeting can be held, as well as membership dues, which are now decided by the Board and no longer encoded in the Bylaws in specific amounts. For 2026, the individual annual and family annual memberships remain at \$10 and \$20, respectively. However, lifetime memberships were raised to \$250 and \$500 for individual and family plans.

Three new board members were elected for 2026: Tim Andersen (Audubon), Jimmy Cogdill (Kimballton), and Mike Howard (Elk Horn). We also wish to thank Andy Anderson (Elk Horn), Brandon Baggett (Elk Horn), and Tony Petersen (Kimballton) for their service on the Board. Anderson and Petersen both served the full extent of 9 consecutive years or three terms.

Shaun discussed upcoming projects for this year as well as plans for the Education & Preservation Center which is still in process of being renovated. The current roof needs to be replaced and the inside is still in need of work in both rooms, but mainly the classroom at this point.

We also debuted our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo which is currently being printed onto t-shirts and other souvenirs to mark the occasion. The design was completed by local artist, Deborah King. It was partly inspired by the 1977 Bing & Grøndahl plate of the windmill in Nørre Snede, Denmark. Blue plates have always been central to our organization, and we felt it best to commemorate our golden year with a similar aesthetic. T-shirts are already up for preorders on our website.

Looking ahead, the mill will be participating at the Omaha Home & Garden Show at the CHI Center from Feb. 27 to Mar. 1. Kringleman Pastries will also be there.

Finally, if all goes well, this article will debut in a new local news section of the Harlan newspaper. Readers are invited to check out past issues and articles at [danishwindmill.org](http://danishwindmill.org).

where the atmosphere perfectly represents the the Gatsby theme. Going on to After Prom, this year the students are going to Topgolf in Des Moines, where they will have a party room, access to lots of food, and hours of fun playing different golf games.

**Upcoming Track Season**  
Next, track season is around the corner, and once again Exira-EHK has a very promising girls' and boys' track team. The Spartans are looking to build on the success from last year, as both the girls and boys are being coached by Kevin Brown.

**Winter Formal**  
With the cold front blowing in, it is now time for the winter formal to get set into motion on the 31st of January in the Exira Event Center. From 8:00 to 11:00, you can come and dance your heart out. With snacks provided, make way to jump out of the cold and straight onto the Dance Floor.

**Spartan Apparel**  
The Junior class is reopening the Spartan apparel store from now until Midnight on February 8th. If you forgot to order before, be sure to order now to help support the Junior Class Prom. Visit the webstore via EEHK's website or Facebook page.

## SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

SCHM is looking for board members. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in the community and the preservation of our local history. Get involved today:

Call Board President Cathy Sidman:  
**712-579-0596**

Email:  
[director@shelbycoiamuseum.org](mailto:director@shelbycoiamuseum.org)

### MODA UPDATE

#### Elk Horn History Trivia Night

Think you know everything there is to know about the Danish Villages? Put your knowledge to the test at Elk Horn History Trivia Night, hosted by the Museum of Danish America and the Elk Horn Public Library! Join us at Larsen's Pub in Elk Horn, Iowa, on February 17 at 6:30 PM for a fun evening of local history, friendly competition, and great company.

To reserve your spot, please RSVP by calling the Elk Horn Public Library at 712.764.2013.

\$20 entry per team.

#### MoDA After Dark

MoDA is open until 8 pm every Thursday night!

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

**For all inquiries**, contact Shaun Sayres at 712-764-7472 or via email at [mgr@danishwindmill.com](mailto:mgr@danishwindmill.com)

All issues available online at [danishwindmill.org](http://danishwindmill.org)

### View this issue online:



\*The articles and opinions shared by authors in this publication are not endorsements held by the Danish Windmill.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



We had a great time at our first Kimballton Kaffee, we hope even more can join us February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Connie Petersen has traveled the world and will share some of her experiences with our meal on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

We will be having our first meeting of the Local History Junkies from 3 – 4 on the February 19th. We hope to continue to have meetings to discuss our local history after that, depending on interest. If you have any questions about some local history, stop in to fill out a form and this group will do their best to answer your questions. They are working on collecting information about Rorbeck right now.

Stop in to get the book ‘No Country for Old Men’ and then join us to watch the movie and discuss the book and movie on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Here are our February and March Schedules:

February 2- Special Delivery 1 – 4 pm

February 7 – Adult Board Game Night 6 – 9 pm

February 9 – Danish Woven Hearts 1 – 4 pm with MODA

February 11 – Kimballton Kaffee 9 am Kimballton Townhall

February 14 – Teen Fun Night 6 – 8 pm

February 16 – Valentine Party 1 – 4 pm

February 16 – Friends of the Library meal at 5, Traveling with Connie Petersen to present at 6 pm

February 17 – Local History Trivia Night at the Pub 6:30 – 8 pm with MODA

February 19 - Local History Junkies 3 – 4 pm

February 21 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm

February 23 – Sharing the Love with Salem 1 – 4 pm

February 25 – Elk Horn Community Coffee and Craft 9 am

February 27 – Book Discussion on ‘No Country for Old Men’ by Cormac McCarthy; Movie at 12:30 Discussion at 2

February 28 – Let Off Some STEAM 10 – 12 am

March 7 – Adult Board and Game Night 6 – 9 pm

March 9 – Buttons and Magnets with MODA 1 – 4 pm

March 11 – Kimballton Kaffee 9 – 11 am Kimballton Townhall

March 14 – Teen Fun 6 – 8 pm

March 16 – Leprachaun Traps 1 – 4 pm

March 16 – Friends of the Library meal at 5 pm with 6 pm presentation of “The Good Stuff” by Jason Walsmith, Humanities Iowa, learn more about Templeton Rye

March 21 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm

March 23 – Putt Putt Golf Tournament 1 – 4 pm

March 25 – Community Coffee and Craft 9 am

March 25 – Trustee Meeting 12 noon

March 27 – Book Discussion and Movie ‘Wild’ by Cheryl Strayed, movie to start at 12:30 pm

March 28 – Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10-12 am

March 30 – Easter Egg Decorating 1 – 4 pm

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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this segment will feature monthly histories of the church’s inaugural year, 1876.

July 20<sup>th</sup>: In 1887 a church barn was built to house parishioners’ buggies and teams while attending church activities. It was a large structure built on the southside of College St. where the Salem Home parking lot is located. In 1888 the church’s chimney was rebuilt and a balcony was added. The same year the church

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Last article covered how moving beyond the winter solstice creates a biological nudge to work towards improvement. This may be in many forms. Its could mean being more involved in local affairs. Or perhaps to start a home improvement project. But if you scan down the list of resolutions the majority of the lists have one about personal improvement.

These can be about a wide range of topics. Perhaps it is about wanting to lose weight. Or put on some muscle. Maybe just be more active with the kids or grandchildren. Some might be about finding ways to reduce stress in your daily life. Or just generally finding ways to feel better over time. And for some to slow the unwanted results of growing older.

The most natural exercise for humans is walking. It doesn’t require expensive equipment, but it has many benefits for both the person and the environment. Frankly, the ability to walk about unaided is a “use it or lose it” situation. There are people in care facilities that would not be there if they still had the ability to walk safely and confidently about in their daily lives. Walking improves not only your leg muscles but also builds core strength. The muscles in your torso are engaged in helping to keep you balanced. Your cardio-vascular system responds by becoming more efficient. Your body’s utilization of oxygen is increased as you continue

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

“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)

It is never a bad idea to stop every once in a while and examine one’s self in relation to the task that is at hand. Are you an artist? Do you understand the motivation under which you find your- self creating a portrait? Are you a scientist? Are you completely aware of the parameters that surround the experiments you undertake? Are you a gardener? Have you looked at the plot of ground and found it to be conducive to your planting desires?

But more pertinent to our endeavor today, have you considered whether or not you recognize yourself as one of God’s children? The apostle Paul reminds us that before we “eat of the bread and drink of the cup, a man ought to examine himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28). A little later on Paul tells the Corinthian Church, “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV) Self-examination is a very good idea.

I have heard it said that to become a Christian, one only has to read or repeat the sinner’s prayer and bingo; eternal life and joy will forever be yours! Really? Is this what the scriptures say? I

and parsonage were painted for a cost of \$32. At this same time, it was decided to lock the church door. 1891 found the purchase of a pump organ using free will donations. In 1895 a platform was added to the front of the church for improved sound from the organ. A small enclosed room was constructed in the NW corner for mothers with small children. It was noted that if it got too cold in this room an oil stove would be provided. The chimney needed some modification to keep smoke out of the sanctuary. It appears the challenges of heating (cooling) a huge building like a church was and continues to be a burden. No major improvements were made to the original church for many years. During the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943, board meeting it was decided to ask the congregation whether they wanted to remodel the present church or start a fund for a new church to be erected sometime in the future.

July 27<sup>th</sup>: On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1943, after Sunday worship the congregation was asked to vote on whether to start a fund to be used to build a new church. By a vote of 67 to 12 the motion to start the fund passed. By October 1947 it was hoped that construction of the new church could begin in the spring. But the cost of construction continued to skyrocket and it was not until July

walking regularly. You find that your pace is increasing allowing you to walk farther in the same amount of time. And the combination of exercise and just being outside does provide a reduction in your stress levels.

The walker contributes to a better environment. People walking aren’t driving their cars so there isn’t any pollution from a vehicle being created. Those easily walkable distances actually create the most vehicle pollution. The modern automobile creates as much pollution in its first mile running as it will in the next ten miles of operation. The walker isn’t moving so fast that they are raising dust with their passage. The sub 2.5 particles that are comprised of tire dust, brake dust, and exhaust fumes are detrimental to our health.

Having more people moving about at human speed allows them to notice things that could be easily improved. Just having more eyes observing what is happening always provides a reduction in minor mischief. When we sealed ourselves inside a vehicle we lost the opportunity for social contact. Yes, we small towners always give the finger wave as we meet other drivers, but we learn nothing about them. That person you see sitting on their front porch that you have always exchanged waves with as your drove by. Now you have a chance to actually say Hello and make an actual human connection. The lack of social connections can debilitate a person’s spirit and mental health. Let’s lace up our shoes and make this a better place one step at a time.

do not believe that. There are many ways to look at this so let’s consider a couple.

In His sermon on the mount, Matthew 5:20, Jesus tells us this, “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV) Oh, you say, ‘the scribes and Pharisees, were self-righteous’. Quite true, they were also hypocrites! But Jesus did tell us that we must have some basis for righteousness.

In Matthew 7:21 we read this, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” And He goes on to say, “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

It seems to me that some folks might think they are doing something “for God” and so receive some reward – this is not so and they are left out of the Kingdom! Now I’m not trying to make this difficult for those of you desiring to obtain life eternal – I just want to open up the idea that there is more to it than the so called “sinner’s prayer”.

In the quote from Matt. 7:21-23, there are two ideas that the Messiah generates for us: first, doing the will of God. And second, being in the position of having God know us. I believe these two ideas are a good place to begin our quest in understanding our position as we ‘examine ourselves’.

of 1949 that the cornerstone was laid. By January of 1950 activities could take place in the basement but by March more funds were needed. The dedication of the new church took place on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1950. A moving ‘eulogy’ for the original old church by Alfred Hansen in his Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948 “Stuff and Nonsense” column. Here are a few excerpts:

There is something missing in the skyline. The Elk Horn Lutheran church has been razed. It was a “lighthouse” around which a rich, cultured community developed. Many residents have been baptized, confirmed, and married in the structure. Their forefathers reared by hand and paid for it out of poverty. The wreckage of the ancient church has been cleared away. The last hand-wrought, square nail pulled from the white pine rafters. In good repair the building could have served for another century or two. We old fogies knew every inch of the old building. Years ago, there wasn’t any question about going to church. The only question was getting there on time. I knew the old church beat before the stained-glass windows and new altar furnishing were installed. The old windows had 72 frosted windowpanes. I know, I counted them every Sunday for years.