

DAILY GRIND

POSTKASSE COMING TO ELK HORN

We're happy to announce that an authentic Danish *postkasse* is on its way to Elk Horn where it will become an exhibit of the Danish Windmill. When technical issues made it seem unlikely, local couple Brenda Nelson and Tony Hough stepped in to the rescue. They were able to place bids for us at auction and secured a mailbox. For those wondering, it is considered to be the last mailbox of Faxø, a town on the outskirts of Copenhagen.

We wish to thank Brenda and Tony for their

efforts. We also wish to thank the generous support of donors who made the acquisition possible.

A new exhibit space is being prepared in the entryway for the *postkasse*. This area will also feature a new community bulletin board where businesses and organizations can advertise local events, specials, and more in the windmill's Welcome Center area.

We're thrilled to have such an iconic piece of Danish culture become part of our organization.



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

It's been another typical February at the mill, not nearly as many visitors but the same amount of work. We've been busy gearing up the gift shop for Spring, preparing new exhibits, and chipping away at the new Education & Preservation Center. Shaun's been putting in extra time on weekends to try and move things along and MoDA's interim executive director, Erik Andersen, has also been around to help. We're still waiting for the electricians to finish the second leg of work, and for a warm day to replace some of the windows.

Behind the scenes, the windmill has finally begun the anticipated work of building a new website. While not much can be said yet, we know this will be a welcome change for our supporters and customers alike. Due to budgeting constraints, the project is being broken up into distinct phases. Our attention will be first focused on building a new public-facing site with our updated content and branding. Once that is published, we will begin working on overhauling our ecommerce platform. This project will complete the merger of our two websites: danishwindmill.com/ and increase the ability of our visitors to make full use of the site on mobile platforms.

Separately, the basalt rock for our new millstones has been cut at a quarry in the Netherlands and delivered to Bas Batenburg for shaping and dressing. We'll be sharing pictures once we have them as the new millstones continue to move along in the production process. We're excited to hear more and will share once we do.

The windmill's livestream on YouTube is also, finally, live and has now been public for a record-breaking seven days. You can find the livestream on our YouTube channel: [@danishwindmill1848](https://www.youtube.com/@danishwindmill1848). The camera features the windmill from the Southwest, almost directly opposite METC's millcam. It is also hooked onto our backup power, so that in the event of storms, provided

we have internet, it will remain live. The Museum of Danish America has also published a prairie cam which can be found on their YouTube channel.

The windmill is also partnering with Iowa Western Community College this semester. Two student interns have been tasked with building a software for us to pair with our Welcome Center guestbooks. This software will offer us a better means of converting and maintaining our guestbook data in digital form. Once finished, we will be able to use our guestbook entries to determine visitor patterns including where most of our visitors are coming from and how this might change over the course of the year. Unfortunately, the state of Iowa hasn't been interested in developing such a tool on behalf of its Welcome Centers, but we're happy to partner with IWCC to make our own.

In the gift shop, we've brought in a few new items including new styles of the ever-popular Gry & Sif felt flowers. Varieties now include roses, hydrangeas, hyacinths, coneflowers, and cosmos. Complete the floral ensemble with some of our new paper decorations from Livingly. We quickly sold out of our Livingly Christmas-themed paper decorations and had to bring in some of their Spring items including single-and-multi-flowered mobiles as well as butterfly mobiles.

Tivoli planning has also begun and we have already spearheaded some new twists for this year, which is not only the windmill's 50th anniversary, but also the 50th anniversary of the celebration that became Tivoli Fest for good by 1980. We will be hosting a breakfast buffet on Sunday, May 24 at the Hygge Inn and food will be provided by Master Grillers. In conjunction with this, work is underway to revive the Tour de Tivoli bikeride which looped to Prairie Rose and the mermaid. More details to come. The Tivoli Committee is looking for volunteers for this year's festivities. Look for event details at tivolifest.com.

And speaking of bikes, news was broken that Iowa's annual RAGBRAI event will be passing from Harlan to Guthrie Center on Day 2 of the event. Specificities of the route including the designated pass-through towns are expected to be announced in April.

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

Basketball update

On February 25th, the Exira-EHK Spartans played the GTRA Titans in a regional championship. The Spartans won the game 57-38. This game was a hard-fought victory for the Spartans, as the Titans had been some of the toughest competition the Spartans had played all year. This Spartan victory will result in the Exira-EHK Spartans playing the Saint Albert Saintes in the first round of the 1A girls basketball state tournament on March 4th at 6:45 P.M.. This will be a tough and even match-up for the Spartans. But we here at Exira-EHK believe in the Spartans' ability to win. GO SPARTANS!

Spelling Bee

The 2026 Spartan Spelling Bee saw intense competition as students from across the school showcased their dedication and remarkable vocabulary skills. After several nerve-wracking rounds, the winners of the Spelling Bee were crowned. Congratulations to our Middle School winners, Joseph Yock, Staci Patridge, Mary

Eldal, Nora Bieker, Peyton Madsen, Harper Rasmussen, Ava Young, Summer Pedersen, and

Trivia Results

Junior Class held a Trivia Night as an after-prom fundraiser on February 21st at the Exira Event Center. They had a great turnout with about 15 teams. Topics were: 2009, Prom, The Great Gatsby, and Golf. The money raised from this event goes toward prizes for prom and the location of after prom which will be Top Golf in Des Moines.

Track Season

Track is coming to a running start this season for Exira-EHK. To start the season off on March 21st, the track team is heading to Northwest Missouri State University to run their only indoor track meet of the season. However, the Early Bird Meet at Audubon is on March 30th, starting at 4:15 pm. This is going to be the first season back having an Exira-EHK Spartans track team, after our two-year contract with Audubon expired last year. This is going to be an exciting season. Good luck, Spartans!



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DVIO's

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4
10am - 12pm
at the Danish Windmill

Donations collected at
the Elk Horn Public
Library.

Preorder your 50th
Anniversary T-shirt at
danishwindmill.com



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

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 Friends of the Library meal and Presentation on March 16th will include tater-tot casserole and a presentation on Templeton Rye. Plan to join us!

Do you have something that needs to be mended, well bring it to the library on Tuesday, March 17th at 6 pm to learn more about mending techniques!

Local History Junkies met on a windy cold day, but we would like to continue to have meetings to discuss our local history every third Thursday from 3 – 4 pm. Bring newspaper clippings, photos, books, ideas and share them with the group! Warren is looking for Rorbeck information if you have it.

Paint your own quilt block with Deb King on Monday, March 23rd starting at 6 pm. We will provide materials; there will be a small fee. Stay tuned for more information!

Please join us for our Kimballton and Elk Horn Coffees-open to EVERYONE! Enjoy the fellowship!

Stop in to get the book ‘Wild’ and then join us to watch the movie and discuss the book and movie on Friday, March 27th .

We are looking for candy and toy donations for the DVIO Easter Egg Hunt this year. It will be held at the Danish Windmill in Elk Horn from 10-12 pm April 4th. Bring your donations to the library. Thank-you!

Hans Christian Andersen’s birthday is April 2nd, but we will be celebrating it April 9th at the Kimballton Townhall! We will be having a three course meal of his favorite foods! More information will be coming!

Here is our March schedule:
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 – Leprechaun 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 17 – Learn to Mend 6 pm
March 19 – Local History Junkies 3 – 4 pm
March 21 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm
March 23 – Putt Putt Golf Tournament 1 – 4 pm
March 23 – Paint your own quilt block with Deb King 6 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 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! We are working on our summer plans, now!

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Recent university studies have shown that the State of Iowa has the second highest cancer rates in the United States. The same studies have shown that Iowa also has the only rising cancer rates. This information was developed by scientific methods to ensure accuracy.

It only makes sense that these are the methods we should be using to address what actions we need to take. Just making a blind guess as to what is causing these problems will not produce a meaningful reduction in the rates.

We must determine what types of cancer are included in these statistics. Every cancer has different causes. Certain individuals may have a genetic weakness to a type of cancer. Others like firefighters may have a higher rate of certain cancer due to the exposure to various chemicals produced by the fires they fight. Other occupations may have exposure to various elements required for their employment. Some types of cancer can result from long term exposure to elevated levels of sub 2.5 microns particles. Without determining the types of cancer involved we lack direction in determining where to focus our efforts.

After we have done the required research into the types of cancer we now have a strong indication of where our search should begin, We know that it must be something environmental in order for it to be so widespread. But only science

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In our previous article we read this scripture, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Considering the gravity of the concept of our entering the kingdom of heaven, it must be imperative for us to look at this idea of ‘the will of God’!

I have heard people say, “Oh, if I only could know the will of God for me, how much easier my life would be”. Maybe yes and maybe no on that sentiment; but we can know God’s will. God is never going to ask us to do something without giving us a path and the knowledge of that path in order to accomplish His instruction.

Let me put it this way, the path to knowing God’s will is simple but it is not easy. Is that ‘good news’ or not such ‘good news’? ‘Simple’ is good but in our society and in this age, we do not look to doing hard things. I have said it before in these articles and I will say it again, those things that are hard or tough are of much greater worth than those tasks that are easy!

So let’s start with Paul to lead us off in our search for the will of God. In his letter to the Romans, he gives us a very strong statement to ponder; starting in chapter 12 verses 1 and 2, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your rational act of worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by

can tell us which environmental factor or factors are involved. Is it something in our potable water? If that is true, how could we remove it with new treatment options? Or can we prevent it from entering our water sources at all? It is something airborne that is causing the problem. If that is the case how could we remove that from our atmosphere? If it is chemical in nature? What action could we take to prevent it from entering into the environment? And of course it could be something in our ground. We know that radon is a problem in most areas of our state. It could be a contributing factor in some cases.

Using the proper scientific methods will result in an accurate determination of the actions that will be required to address these problems. With their use we can take the actions that are needed without wasting time or money on solutions that would not provide the desired results. Some actions may be just a short-term fix to immediately reduce a particular portion of the problem. While the proper action and/or methods that would address the root cause are being developed for a permanent solution. A temporary action is preferable to not acting until the final solution is available.

We could during this process address another unrelated problem. The so-called brain drain. By making use of the vast knowledge and technical expertise of Iowan businesses and our own scientists instead of hiring outside personnel and consultants. Showing we support our own experts would make a strong statement and help reduce the brain drain.

the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The first word we must notice here is “appeal”. In other translations we see the word ‘beseech’ and ‘urge’, this is a strong admonition by Paul; it is not just a suggestion for he really does urge us to do something! Next, we see that he urges us “by the mercies of God”; God’s mercies toward us are founded upon the crucifixion and death of the Son of God. Jesus shed His blood for our sins and by that blood we find God tremendously merciful.And next we read that we should “present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”. Wow!

God wants all of who we are – and this is that “living sacrifice” which becomes our “act of worship”. And how do we become this living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God? We do this by not conforming to the ways of the world; by being “transformed by the renewal of our minds”. It is then that we may discern what the will of God is; His “good, acceptable and perfect will”.

I told you these were strong words from Paul. The Apostle Paul may truly be the most zealous person for the ways and truth of God in the New Testament, and he wants to lead us to the maturity, completeness and perfection of the calling God has for us.

That is not all we see in the New Testament regarding God’s will. God willing, we will look into this subject further, next time. Remember Matt. 7:21, “Only those who do the will of God shall enter the Kingdom of God”!

Steven Turner, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away on February 14, 2026, at the age of 77, at his home in Elk Horn, Iowa. He was a man of deep conviction, generous spirit, and an enduring belief in the potential of every person around him.

Steven was born to Idys and Anna Turner and grew up in Castro Valley, California, where he graduated from Canyon High School.

Above all else, Steven treasured time with his family. He was a passionate advocate for those who had been overlooked — the underdog, the underserved, and those whose voices were too often unheard. He threw himself into building community wherever he went, always working to bring people together and turn big ideas into reality. Those who knew him best knew him as a dreamer: someone who could cast a vision that made others want to be part of something greater. His love of Elk Horn prompted him to start the local newspaper, Rolling Hills, and his love of country led him to take on the role of placing flags in yards on specific holidays throughout the year.

Steven was preceded in death by his son, Scott Turner, whose memory he carried with him always.

He is survived by his wife, Dusty Turner; his children, Stacey Ashton and Keri Turner; his grandchildren, Kane Ashton, Haley Ashton, Mikayla Thomas-Turner, and Caleb Turner; and his great-grandchildren, Alice Ashton and Violet Ashton.

A Celebration of Life will be held in mid-March. Details to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in Steven’s memory to the Boosters Club Performing Arts Department at Exira-EHK Community School District, a cause close to his heart and a reflection of his lifelong dedication to community.



Steven Turner

April 15, 1948 – February 14, 2026