

DAILY

GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

Colder temperatures are moving in quickly as our short stint with Fall quickly turns to Winter. We had another unusually busy month this October with plenty of travelers passing through.

As we prepare for the approaching holiday season, we have acquired more new items for the gift shop including the return of Danish paper mobiles, Livingly as well as an assortment of new gnomes. Our catalog is also finished and in the process of mailing out right now. A digital copy can be viewed at danishwindmill.org/catalog.

The windmill joined other local businesses at EEHK’s literacy night in Exira this month. Shaun hauled over an antique manual grinder and some copies of *The Little Red Hen* to teach kids about the hard labor required to turn wheat seeds into food. The kids enjoyed trying to grind some grain

themselves and each left with a souvenir vile of flour ground in the windmill. They later told Shelli Nelson that grinding is hard work and they’re glad they don’t live in the “old days.”

The windmill also debuted its new LED lights this month. Tim Palmer volunteered to help Shaun get them installed, and we’re still exploring all of the different light patterns we can use. The best part about these lights is they are permanent, and allow us to continue to run the windmill through the Winter without having to wait to take them off.

Work on our new Education & Preservation Center is also progressing. Erik Andersen, Mike Howard, Sarah Sayres, and Gene ‘Beaner’ Thomsen have all volunteered their time to help get the siding installed and painted. We managed to get the exterior painted before the cold set in, and will hopefully have the battens installed fairly soon. We still have painting, flooring, and more to get the inside ready.

Until then we’ll be preparing for what we hope will be another festive and busy Julefest!

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

The week has been very eventful for the E-EH-K Community School District. Beginning with Homecoming, the court consisted of Mara Christensen, Austin Rasmussen, Josten Kilworth, Bryce Brabham, Paige Konecne, and Sophie Kitelinger. During the pep rally on Friday, September 26th, the student council representative Annabelle Baggett crowned Gus Greving as homecoming king, who then crowned Jaylnn Peterson as Homecoming Queen. Later that day, the Spartan football team had a great game against the Griswold Tigers, with a whopping 70 to 32 points. This amazing victory helped kick off an amazing homecoming dance hosted by the Kimbolton Town Hall, which raised 618 dollars for the Junior class.

On another note, Mr. Baggett’s Drama Class had a field trip to Iowa State University for their Theater Major for a Day event. During this time, participating students learned all about being a theater major at ISU. This helps these students decide if majoring in theatre is right for them. Another recent event for students in grades 10th-11th was Career Day in Audubon. At this event, students had the opportunity to explore career options nearby. This allowed students to learn about possible career paths and helped them make important decisions regarding their professional future.

The talented and gifted program is up and running again, and for their first event, they are helping out with the Veterans Day celebration on November 11th at the Exira school building at 8:00. On another note, the school board public forum was held on October 21st. Candidates answered questions confidently, and hopefully helped attending people decide who they want to vote for in November. A recording of this forum is on the Spartan Media YouTube Channel. Voting will take place on November 4th. There are three seats open, and the people running are as follows: Emily Paulsen, Nick Fredericksen, Anna Schleimer, Deborah King,

Abby Rasmussen, Beth Larsen, and Eric Konecne. Additionally, with an extra seat to fill to complete Matt Jorgensen's term, which has two years remaining, only two candidates are running for this seat: Cally Christensen and Tony Hough. It's looking like it's going to be a great election.

Moving on to sports, Spartan Volleyball finished their season with an astounding Rolling Valley Conference Record of 6-1 (13-13 overall), finishing 2nd overall in the conference. Led by the Senior Jaelyn Petersen, who finished her career with 837 kills; Sophomore Zoey Rasmussen with 517 assists this season, and Junior Taryn Petersen finished the season with 50 Serve Aces. Congratulations to our Spartan Volleyball Team for a fantastic season. Cross country has also come to an end, officially on October 25th. Their last meet was the regional meetup held at the AC/GC course in Guthrie Center. Rasmussen really ran his heart out on this one, trying to see if he could get another personal record against last year's immaculate time that qualified him for state. Unfortunately, nobody qualified for state this year, but they will only get better and have hope for next year. The team captains, Michelle Wilson, Carter Wiemann, and Austin Rasmussen, did their best to motivate their team and better the future of cross country.

The Spartan Football season came to an end against Woodbine in the Class 8-Player First Round. The Spartans finished the season with a 4 and 5 record. The Spartans were led offensively by seniors Bryce Brabham, Josten Kilworth, and Allen Olson. Brabham finished the year with an impressive 1066 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns. Kilworth tallied 712 rushing yards with 9 touchdowns and Olsen contributed 545 yards with 11 touchdowns. Defensively, Kilworth led the way with 63.5 total tackles while Anthony Young, a junior, accounted for half of the Spartan’s total sacks with 5.5. Jack Hansen, a sophomore, also made a huge impact defensively by recording 37.5 total tackles and 2 sacks on the season. Overall, the Spartan had a great season by making it to post season play and will now look to the future after the departure of our senior leaders.

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!

Stop in to get an 8 inch Christmas Tree to decorate as one of your favorite books. Pay a \$1 deposit that you will get back when you return the decorated tree. The trees need to be returned by November 24th to be put on display for public voting. Top selections will win prizes!

If you want to bring in a Christmas tree to

decorate our library, plan to have it here by November 26th so we are ready for Julefest!

We are trying a Sunday Swap on November 16th. Stay tuned to learn more about it!

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.

Last year we had a wonderful Christmas Tree Celebration at the library. We look forward to even more individuals and organizations to bring their trees to share with our communities!

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

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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

Nov. 22-23	EEHK Play: “A Haunting We Will Go”
Nov. 28-29	Julefest Full schedule on JulefestDV.com

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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NAVIGATING DANISH GENEALOGY
Eric Mortensen

Obituaries can contain a treasure trove of genealogical information. Birth dates, birth places, death dates, places lived, occupation, membership in organizations, and names of pre-deceased and surviving relatives are often detailed in a person’s obituary. They have limitations, but they can be an important piece of the puzzle.

Not everyone’s death results in a published obituary. While obituaries are common today, this was not always the case. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, obituaries published in local newspapers were more likely to be reserved for wealthy or prominent members of a community. In many cases, a person’s death may only result in a death notice, including an announcement of their memorial service.

Also, like any source, the information needs to be confirmed by other sources for validity. Obituaries often contain errors, especially for immigrants. The contributors of information for obituaries, likely children or grandchildren of the deceased, often did not have clear knowledge about their immigrant ancestor’s past. Birth years might be off by a year or two. For many immigrants, their birthplace was only listed as Denmark, with no mention of a specific town or region. The names of an immigrant’s parents were often unknown to the immigrant’s descendants. Place names and family names were frequently misspelled or anglicized.

Another unfortunate trend throughout much of the 20th century was referring to women by their husband’s name, i.e. Mrs. John Smith. In some cases, a woman’s obituary might never include her first name or maiden name, only the name of her husband. When survivors are listed, daughters of the deceased may only be referred to by their husband's name, with their own names totally omitted. This is an added obstacle when researching women in genealogy.

Despite all of this, an obituary can be a valuable source of information. I recently did genealogy research for someone where an obituary was a key to the puzzle. The deceased had a very common name, and had altered his name after immigration, so it was difficult to track his Danish origins.

The obituary gave the person’s specific birth date, which was also corroborated by other sources. By searching for people with similar names born on that day in Denmark, the possibilities were narrowed down. The names of the person’s parents were included on his death certificate, which matched one of the possibilities.

The obituary stated that the deceased had a brother living in Denmark, and a sister living in Michigan. With this information, I researched the possible match in Denmark and found that he had a brother and sister. The brother was indeed still alive and living in his hometown in Denmark, and the sister, who had immigrated later, was living in Michigan at the time of the subject’s death. This was further confirmation that the possible match in Denmark was indeed the same person described in the obituary and revealed his Danish origins.

Are you seeking an obituary for an ancestor? The Genealogy Center in Elk Horn may be able to help you find it. Email us at genealogy@danishmuseum.org.

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 1st: The first parsonage was built in 1876 on the SE corner of Main and College streets, the present location of the Salem Lutheran Homes. It was a small modest house but in 1878 the congregation restored it and added paint. A major addition was attached in 1883. In 1914 the congregation voted to move the original parsonage and replace it with a huge 2 ½ story new home. It was built by Herman Hansen. The original parsonage was moved to a location on Washington Street but burnt down a few years later. In 1948 the parsonage was moved to the NW corner of Main and Pleasant. This was to make room for the new 1949 Invalid Home. The 1914 parsonage still stands but was replaced by a

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE
Bob Mortenson

Talking about your capital for economic and community development one source is your “Social Capital”. Social capital is defined by how well your community supports improvement efforts. Are they willing to come together for a common cause? Will they take some of their time to assist with planning? Have they already demonstrated how well they can work together?

When you have people that are willing to donate their time and energy to help facilitate a project it is actually a thing of value. Not only to your efforts but in the eyes of potential outside funders. Having a group participate in the development of a project means you will have a very comprehensive development of that project. For everyone sees a new project in a unique way through the lens of their own experience. This means that little will be overlooked in your planning. A broader base of input often can prevent unintended results from developing after the project’s completion.

When this larger group encounters others, not in the group, they have the opportunity to present actual facts about the project’s purpose. This can stop rumors or incorrect information before they have time to cause the project’s problems. Those participating in the project speak from actual knowledge, not from “Well I

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!
Bill Rollins

In our previous article we considered the idea of ‘hope’ as it applies to the scripture and to our God. We mentioned that it is not just a wish for something but in reality it is an assurance of God’s promise to His people. His word is true and God Himself is the one who backs up this promise.

So what is it that God has promised you? If you have not read His word you may have no idea what these promises are. Well, you say, “I heard a sermon or read an article that told me of the promises of God.” Should we trust the word of God or the word of men? We need to check!

There is an interesting episode in the book of Acts wherein Paul, after running into great trouble in the city of Thessalonica, encounters a group of Jews at a synagogue in the town of Berea. Here is Luke’s account of that meeting, “The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed... But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds”. (Acts 17:10-13)

These folks from Berea did not want to take

new ranch-style parsonage on Bornholm Street in 1975. This house was extensively refurbished in 2023.

June 8th: On April 21st, 1878, the congregation transferred to Pastor Kirkeberg 3 acres of land “south of the cemetery down to the trees just north of the parsonage”. This would be the site of the first Danish Folk School in the US. The school would be owned by its president Pastor Kirkeberg and supported by the church. When the total cost of construction, \$2000, was not reached, contributes were sought and reached from both Danes in the US and Denmark. Local Danish farmers volunteered their time and equipment to haul building materials from Audubon along the ridge road. The school was erected along with a teacher’s residence and ready for use on November 1st, 1878. The school was dedicated as a “prep” school for potential theology students as well as a folk school with a general study curriculum.

June 15th: Pastor Kirkeberg gave lectures ranging from general history and Scandinavian history, Nordic mythology, Christian church history. Kristian Ostergaard came from Denmark to teach basic subjects in Danish. An American, Mr. Crouse, taught subjects in English. The initial enrollment was nine students. While the school had the blessing of the Danish Lutheran Church in America, no financial support was

heard”! And that makes their voices the ones that carry the most weight in public opinion.

And when a large group has completed the development process their roles are not over. For now, they become cheerleaders keeping public enthusiasm high. Helping with fundraising activities where matching monies must be raised. Even searching for grant funds or creating the applications for those funds. Perhaps there is some site preparation that could be done with volunteers and local equipment. Now is the time to talk of People Capital. Not about their willingness to pitch in but in their personal skills. Are they the artistic type who could design posters advertising the project? Or perhaps their skill set is in one of the building trades. Could they provide the necessary HVAC or plumbing? Perhaps helping with framing is within their skill set. Maybe they are computer experts who could help with design work or tracking expenditures? It is often so amazing how many actual experts in so many varied fields go unnoticed in a community.

And do not forget the local students because this is what many of them would love to do. To become involved in a lasting project in their town will strengthen their ties to this place they call home! And like everyone else working to make this happen we will be truly proud of what has been accomplished.

Paul’s word for the truth but searched the Word of God to check on him, and they are called ‘noble’ for doing so; and not only that, but they received these things from Paul with “all eagerness”. Let it be understood that when Paul was preaching this gospel the only resource, he had to use was what we today call “The Old Testament”.

I am not saying that what you have heard or read is not the truth, but if even Paul had to be proven correct through the word of God it behooves us to be reading the scriptures to “see if these things be so”.

I will ask my question again; so what is it that God has promised you? “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) These words are from the Apostle John.

God has promised that we may be sons and daughters of the Most High God and then John uses the word ‘hope’ to tell us that this promise is assured by God Himself. Are you His? Do you belong to Him? Do you have this promise that has been assured, this promise that cannot fail? Oh, but then John has a caveat, “And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

How do you get to that place of purity? Sounds like a good question for our next article.

The GOOD NEWS is found in the bible.

appropriated by the organization. Generous donations were received to keep the school functioning with some coming from Denmark. There were other tribulations other than finances; some caused by Kirkeberg himself. Pastor Kirkeberg, a Norwegian, cut a large glass window over the entrance to the school that read: “Lief Erikson’s Minde (memorial)”. This proved to be a major irritation to many of the local Danes.

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 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.

To be continued...