

News



UDMO receives PEO Chapter ON donation

Members of PEO Chapter ON: Nancy Anderson, top, Amy H. Peterson, left, and Marcia Forsyth, right, delivered a donation to Ashley Cooklin, Outreach Coordinator for Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) in Estherville. The four met in front of Santa's House to celebrate the donation. Forsyth is president of Chapter ON and said the chapter hoped to emphasize the season of giving. PEO has a mission of celebrating the advancement of women, educating women through scholarships and other assistance, and motivating women to achieve their highest aspirations. For information on joining PEO Chapter ON, contact Forsyth at HYPERLINK "mailto:marcia@okoboji.com"marcia@okoboji.com.

Cooklin told the Estherville News that the demand for assistance with food and utilities has grown while funding from the federal government has decreased.

"Last year with federal pandemic money, we could help everyone. This year, that funding is gone and more people are struggling," Cooklin said.

More people experiencing homelessness in Estherville have sought help from UDMO, Cooklin said. "Without donors and our local partners, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission of helping those in need."

Photo by Kaitlin Apitz



Lawrence Hacker demonstrates his blacksmith skills in the shop.



Anna Pickar and her family provided a live nativity in the barn. Photos by Amy H. Peterson



Numerous volunteers brought Scandinavian treats. Glenn Henriksen, Marcia Klingbeil and Jeanne Handeland sample a few here.

FARM, Continued from Page 1A

The board and volunteers anticipate voluminous work to continue to bring the farm back to working order.

Volunteers for Christmas on the Farm included: Jeanne Handeland, Marcia Klingbeil, Kathy Graves, Paul Peterson, Terry Osher, Scott Larsen, Glenn Henriksen, Mike Torreson, Randy Nelson, Bettja Willmore, Bev Brix, Jackie Imsande, Clara Valen and the Lincoln Handy Helpers 4-H crew, and, Berg Nelson said, many others behind the

scenes.

"This was a place where friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate, to have picnics, to listen to music, and to visit with each other. Our vision for the future will bring these traditions back to this historic farmstead, and in doing so will enrich our local community," Berg Nelson said.



Children enjoyed the farm animals in the petting zoo, who also performed in the Pickars' live nativity.

Fire department responds to CO alarm

The Estherville Fire Department was called to 714 N. Seventh St. in Estherville for a carbon monoxide detector alarm at around 1:40 on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

First-arriving officers helped with evacuating a mother and her infant. When firefighters arrived on scene with monitoring equipment, they detected carbon monoxide levels at 480 ppm (parts per million). Shortly afterwards, Black Hills Energy staff arrived on scene and verified the same levels of carbon monoxide.

Firefighters ventilated the house so that Black Hills Energy staff could continue to evaluate the cause of the carbon monoxide levels, which was later determined to be the boiler heating exhaust system.

The mother and her infant were checked out by Estherville Ambulance Services on scene. It was determined that the infant needed further evaluation by Avera Holy Family Hospital.

According to Estherville Fire Chief Travis Sheridan, at 480 ppm, exposure to carbon

monoxide can cause physical symptoms after 45 minutes, unconsciousness in 2 hours. Fatal in 2-3 hours.

It is strongly recommended that carbon monoxide detectors are replaced every seven to 10 years. The detector found in the residence was past the recommended replacement time.

Estherville Fire Department was assisted on scene by Black Hill Energy, Estherville Police Department and Estherville Ambulance Services.



Direct hit! The laughter of snowball fights filled the air around the farm.

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