



Inside: Outdoor Connection

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Inside: Iowa Lakes to host Region XI Men's Basketball Tournament March 3-5 Page 1B



Emmet County gem

Field services reporter said Peterson Point is a gem in the world of historical properties

BY AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

The board of the Brugjeld-Peterson Historic Farmstead is planning a celebration of Norwegian independence on May 13. Known as Syttende Mai, for the actual date of independence of May 17, the celebration could include an open house, a catered lunch or snacks, and tours of the property.

Steve Wilke-Shapiro of Sequel Architecture visited the Brugjeld-Peterson Historic Farmstead about six weeks ago to tour the site. Wilke prepared a long report – the good, the



The Brugjeld Peterson Historic Farmstead is on the National Register of Historic Places.

File photo

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Berg-Nelson presents info on Peterson Point to Historical Society

BY MICHAEL TIDEMANN

WALLINGFORD — The 1927 Wallingford Lutheran Church was a most appropriate venue when Stacie Berg-Nelson updated Emmet County Historical Society members on the Peterson Point Historic Homestead at the society's annual meeting Sunday, Feb. 26.

Millie Bryan first updated members on progress on the new building at the Emmet County Historical Museum started this past fall and scheduled for spring completion. Bryan said the City of Estherville and Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative had both donated to the society.

In her presentation, Berg-Nelson, founder of the Peterson Point Preservation Foundation and a descendent of the original settlers, said the foundation will replace attic wiring and install attic insulation this summer. She also noted that Nicole Grabow, director of preventive conservation at Minneapolis-based Midwest



Stacie Berg-Nelson, founder of the Peterson Point Preservation Foundation, spoke to Emmet County Historical Society members at their Sunday, Feb. 26 annual meeting at the Wallingford Lutheran Church.

Photo by Michael Tidemann



Emmet County Historical Society President Millie Bryan updated members on the Emmet County Historical Museum at the society's annual meeting Sunday, Aug. 26.

Photo by Michael Tidemann

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This weekend in Estherville

The Estherville Farm, Home & Living Show starts Friday evening, March 3 from 4-8 p.m. and continues Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The free event features over 50 vendors and a food stand sponsored by Emmet County Special Olympics. The show is free to attend. Saturday morning at 10 a.m., legislators will meet with constituents for the Legislative Town Hall. The event is held in the Regional Wellness Center across from the Estherville campus of Iowa Lakes Community College.

The Iowa Lakes Community College Men's Basketball team will host the 2023 Region XI Men's Basketball tournament at the college gym running Friday-Sunday. Four quarterfinal games will be played on Saturday at 1, 3, 5, and 7 p.m. The Lakers will play at 5 p.m., Saturday with the region semifinals at 5 p.m., and 7 p.m., Sunday. See more about the tournament in this week's sports section.

The Estherville Fire Department will hold its pancake breakfast Sunday, March 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire station on South Fifth Street. The breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, sausage and a beverage. To-go orders available upon request. All proceeds from the free-will donation help benefit the fire department. Tickets for donated raffle items will be available at the door.



A disappointing day for ELC

A disappointed Estherville Lincoln Central team collects its participation trophy following a 54-46 loss to Vinton-Shellsburg in a Class 3A State Quarterfinal at the girls' basketball tournament in Des Moines on Monday. See the story on Page 1B of today's Estherville News.

Photo by David Swartz



Wrapped in love and healing

Emmet County's Quilts of Valor group continues making quilts for veterans, even as expenses rise

BY AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

Joan Eveleth of Estherville represented the core group of four women who have made Emmet County's Quilts of Valor sustain through the challenges of the last several years. Launched in 2018, the first purpose of the group was to make quilts for 58 Vietnam Veterans or their families that were presented one by one at a ceremony during the Traveling Vietnam Wall event in 2018 in Estherville.

The core group of four include Eveleth, Deb Seylar, Doreen Hansen and Holle Smith. Numerous quilters sew panels together with the borders or prepare backings. Hansen uses her long-arming machine to make wave, star

or other thread patterns that add to the richness and val-

"The Quilts of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation. We consider it a privilege to honor you. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice and service to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude, we award you this Quilt of Valor."

Joan Eveleth

ue of each quilt. Eveleth said she estimated the fabric, batting, thread and other materials probably came to \$500 per



Lisa Dreeszen, left, of Estherville Rotary presented Joan Eveleth of Emmet County Quilts of Valor with a check from the club for materials for its quilts for veterans. Eveleth said the price of materials continues to rise with everything else. The Rotary Club had a successful college bowl football game booklet fundraiser during the 2022 holiday season.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

quilt, and that was without the cost of labor.

"We don't care about that, though. It's a labor of love," Eveleth said.

Emmet County Quilts is part of the national organization

Quilts of Valor, and as part of the larger organization, a discount is available from Faust Textiles for fabric, thread and other materials. The national organization is 20 years old, started by a quilter named

Katharine Roberts.

Eveleth said, "She said her thought at that time was those soldiers sometimes came home wounded, and not necessarily always physical wounds, but

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Supervisors continue with pipeline issues

Board also approves resolution for summer 17 project

BY MICHAEL TIDEMANN
The Emmet County Board of Supervisors at its Tuesday, Feb. 28 meeting continued to discuss – and act upon – carbon-dioxide pipeline issues impacting the county.
In the open forum, Supervisor Jeff Quastad said he had joined a 200-member delegation to Des Moines the previous Tuesday to discuss pipeline issues with lawmakers – but to no avail. Supervisor Lisa Hansen said she and Quastad had attended a Farm Bureau meeting in which pipeline lawsuits and eminent domain were discussed.
The board later went into closed session to discuss the county's proposed drainage

district ordinance amendment with attorney Timothy Whipple from Ahlers & Cooney of Des Moines. The board made no motion after the session.
The board approved agreements with Snyder & Associates for inspection services for the Summit Carbon Solutions Express and Navigator CO2 Heartland Greenway pipelines.
The board decided to deny a request by Summit to meet with the Emmet County Drainage District Trustees. The board made no decision, saying it would be premature before Summit received a permit from the Iowa Utilities Board.
Landowners Richard

McKean and Mark Mitchell were at the meeting to indicate the impact of the proposed Navigator pipeline.
McKean said many changes to tile have never been recorded and that the pipelines will face an uphill battle in Minnesota.
Mitchell agreed, saying the Navigator pipeline would cross 82 tiles in one mile of his property. He said if earth is disturbed under tile, the tile will sink, making them useless.
“Who’s going to pay me for nonfunctional tile?” Mitchell asked. “This tile thing is going to be a total disaster for me.”
In other business, Supervisor John Pluth said he had attended an Iowa Lakes Corridor meeting the previous week in which certified utility sites were discussed. Pluth said the group is also getting away from the

Lakes Life slogan.
Hansen, reporting on an Early Childhood North Central Iowa meeting, said the group decided not to request a \$10,000 funding request from Cherokee County Public Health for training for the Child Health and Oral Health Program.
The board welcomed Meagan Blackstad as the new motor vehicle clerk to the Emmet County Treasurer’s Office.
Auditor Amy Sathoff requested a budget work session following the following week’s board meeting. Sathoff noted a wide impact from a mandated state assessment rollback. She said she needs to submit all property valuations by March 8.
The board adopted Resolution 23-10 for the A17 paving project to be done by Blacktop Service Co. for \$1,269,651.69.

The board also approved a preconstruction agreement for concrete replacement on Highway 4 from .2 mile south of Estherville to Fifth Avenue North. County Engineer Walter Davis-Oeth said 380th Street will be closed. The board also discussed construction proposed on Half Mile Hill on the Estherville west side this summer. David-Oeth said Cedar Valley Construction will do the work with traffic detoured to A17.
The board approved a five-year copier lease for the Emmet County Attorney’s Office, with Supervisor Jeff Quastad opposed.
County Recorder Diann Minion said she wanted to buy a copier for \$3,786.74 for a \$760.06 savings over a lease. Sathoff said board approval was not required.

The board heard an audit report for the fiscal 2022 budget from Arvin Druvenga and Dave Schmidt of Winter & Stave LLP. Schmidt said the report gave an unmodified opinion, meaning a clean audit, and that the county’s debt picture was favorable. The board accepted the audit report.
The board took several other actions, including:
• Appointed Lexie Ruter to the Northwest Iowa Planning & Development Commission.
• Certified the final Peters Subdivision Plat.
• Designated April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
• Approved Resolution 23-09 withdrawing from Northwest Iowa Local Workforce Development Area.

FILM BASED ON DAW'S BOOK OUT MARCH 30

As the Estherville News featured in the December edition of Our Hometown, Amy (Danielson) Daws’ novel, “Wait With Me,” was made into a movie through Passionflix. Daws announced last week that the movie will stream on the Passionflix app, on Passionflix.com and on Amazon Prime Video beginning March 30. “I can’t wait for you to see Miles and Kate on your TVs very soon!” Daws said.

Armstrong case kicked down the road

A status hearing last Thursday resulted in the scheduling of another hearing in the case of Armstrong city officials accused of crimes committed while in office. Former mayor Greg Buam, former police chief Craig Merrill and former city clerk Connie Thackerly will now be heard by Judge Jeffrey A. Neary on May 19, 2023 at 9 a.m. in the Emmet County Magistrate’s Office. Assistant Attorney General Israel Jacob filed an appearance Jan. 9 as prosecutor for all three cases after Tyler Buller was appointed to a judge position.

Armstrong men face charges after stop

Two Armstrong men were charged as the result of a traffic stop in rural Emmet County recently.
According to Emmet County Sheriff Mike Martens, a sheriff’s deputy on patrol in the 4600 block of highway 9 on Feb. 24 at 10:18 p.m. observed a traffic violation and initiated a traffic stop on an eastbound vehicle.
Upon investigation at the scene, it was determined that the driver, Logan Dickherber, age 20 of Armstrong, was driving the vehicle with a suspended license and had an active warrant for his arrest from Palo Alto County.
Further investigation at the scene led to the discovery of controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, alcohol and synthetic urine.
As a result, Dickherber was placed under arrest and transported to the Emmet County Jail where he was booked for Possession of a Controlled Substance Marijuana (1st Offense), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Synthetic Urine (1st Offense), Driving with a Suspended License and the Palo Alto County warrant. A passenger in the vehicle Dillon Neusch, age 23 of Armstrong, was cited and released for having an open container of alcohol on a public roadway.
A charge is merely an allegation and all persons are presumed innocent unless or until they are found guilty in a court of law.

Fairmont men face charges after stop

A traffic stop in rural Emmet County resulted in charges against two Fairmont men recently.
According to Emmet County Sheriff Mike Martens, a sheriff’s deputy initiated a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle in the 1400 block of 490th Avenue south of Dolliver on February 25th at 9:35pm.
Upon investigation at the scene open containers of alcohol and controlled substance and drug paraphernalia were discovered in the vehicle.
As a result, the driver Carter Leiding, age 20, was placed under arrest and transported to the Emmet County Jail where he was booked for Possession of a Controlled Substance Marijuana (1st Offense), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Alcohol as a person under legal age, Speeding 69/55 and was issued a citation for being in possession of tobacco products. A passenger in the vehicle, Carter Beebe age (20) was cited and released for Possession of Alcohol as a person under legal age.
A charge is merely an allegation and all persons are presumed innocent unless or until they have been found guilty in a court of law.

Spirit Lake man faces drug charges

The Estherville, Spirit Lake, and Emmetsburg Police departments in conjunction with the Iowa Great Lakes Drug Task Force conducted an investigation into the sale of methamphetamine during the Spring of 2022.
On Feb. 10, 2023, Matthew Krogman-Meyer, age 32 of Spirit Lake, Iowa, was arrested in regard to two charges of Deliver of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine over 5 grams). The charges are a Class B Felony that is punishable by up to 25 years in prison and fine.
Krogman Meyer was placed in the Dickinson County Jail where he remains on a \$25,000 cash bond.
Additional charges may be filed as a result of an on-going investigations into the sale and use of illegal controlled substances.
All suspects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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Art Conservation Center will conduct a building assessment. She said the foundation is also working with the Iowa State Historical Society and developing an action plan for the homestead.
Berg-Nelson said 30 Norwegian tourists will visit the farm this summer and Christmas on the Farm Dec. 10. She said a May celebration is slated to commemorate

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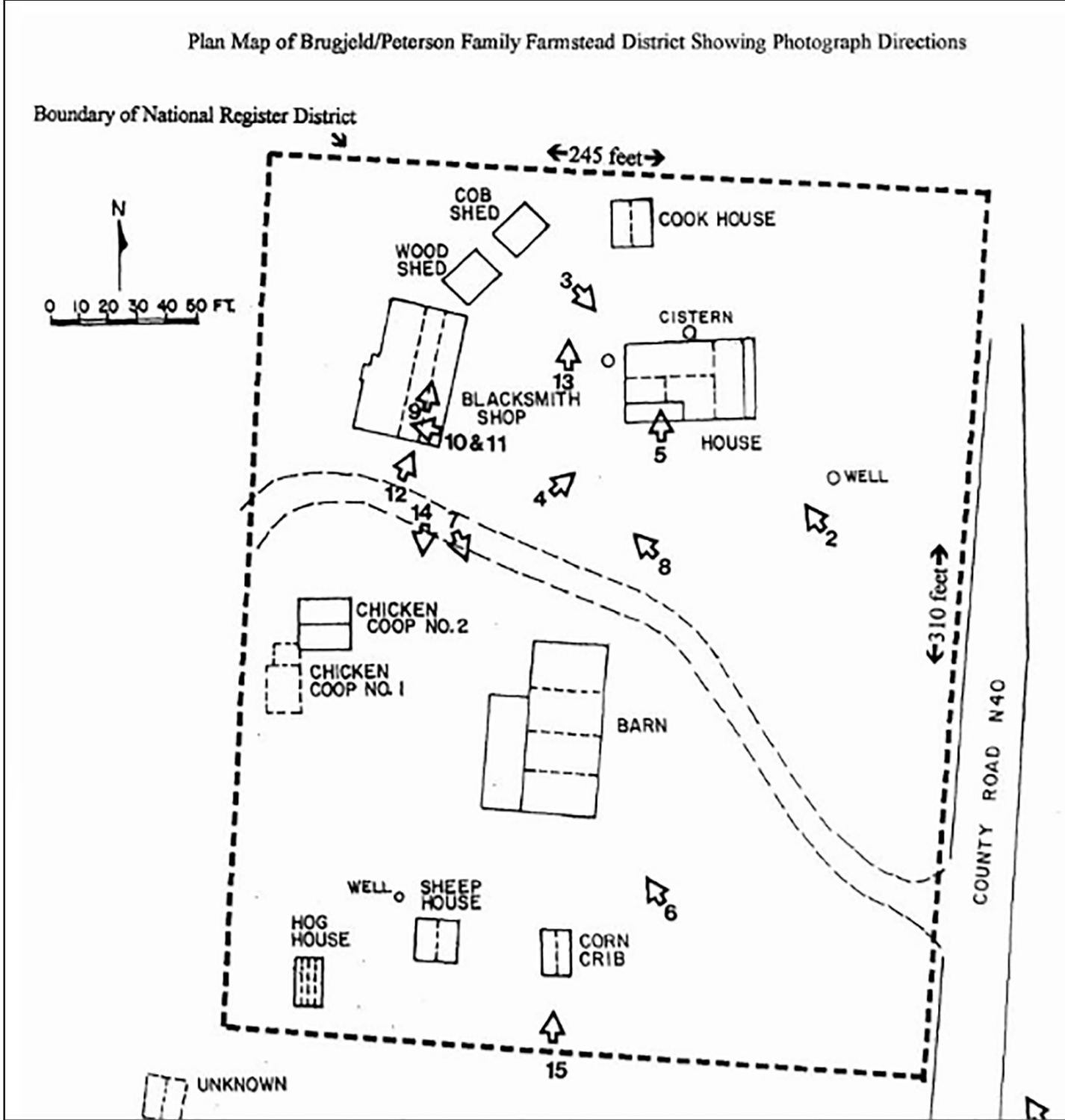
bad and the ugly, the things that need repair and restoration, and a timeline by which the repairs should be addressed. The State Historical Society of Iowa provided partial funding for the report, which will provide a guide to board members of the nonprofit organization to address the issues. Of course volunteer help is welcomed and needed, according to board president Stacie Berg Nelson.
Wilke-Shapiro wrote in summary, “Generally, the buildings were observed to be in varying states of deterioration that ranges from structurally unsound (likely not salvageable in their current form) to good condition (requiring maintenance and repairs but structurally sound). The log/stone house is currently in the best condition.”

each building that have pictures and a story of what that building is and its history. Eventually, we would like to raise money for that as well.”
The interpretive signs would allow visitors to take a walking tour even if a volunteer docent was not available to give the tour.
Wilke-Shapiro noted that the buildings remaining in their original locations, the workmanship that allowed the buildings to still be standing, the vibe – the fact that the buildings and site retain the feeling of a historic farmstead, and the association with the descendants of the original family were all remarkable.
The barn on the property has a high level of historical significance. Berg Nelson said, “He [Wilke-Shapiro] said the barn should be considered as a prime opportunity for visitors to interact with the farmstead in meaningful ways. So we saw a fine example of that during Christmas on the Farm. We could have an activity in the north, the cattle lowing to the south.”

Regardless of the buildings’ current condition, the site presents a wealth of opportunity to create an educational, historical, and entertaining experience. Wilke-Shapiro said, “There are excellent opportunities to repair/restore the various buildings to create a sustainable interpretive center through some combination of volunteer donated work/materials, hired conservation work, salvage, adaptive reuse, and expert consultation.”
Berg Nelson said, “Understanding the site’s story and the development over time is critically important to communicating the farmstead’s historical significance.”
Wilke-Shapiro wrote, “In specific building elements that have been replaced over time, interior alterations, and identified maintenance needs, the buildings as a whole retain an extraordinarily high degree of historic integrity.”
One way to develop the site into a historical experience is through interpretive signs. Berg Nelson said, “There are signs on posts outside of

each building that have pictures and a story of what that building is and its history. Eventually, we would like to raise money for that as well.”
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It’s the farmhouse that should be considered the crown jewel of the district. It’s the building that remains in the best condition and is an excellent tool to tell the story of the whole farmstead in a meaningful way.
Berg Nelson said consultants are available to provide ideas on preservation and how to secure and maintain the farmhouse, and help identify historical artifacts.
Another building on the site that could provide major historical and educational value is the blacksmith shop.
Wilke-Shapiro wrote, “The sawmill-blacksmith complex presents great opportunities for use as an interpretive center, display of uncovered implements, craft re-enactment, and even classes.”



A major undertaking would happen if the board follows the recommendation to provide cover for the large farm implements and machinery that’s currently sitting out exposed to the elements.

While changes to the property must be made in compliance with the property’s inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, the board has freedom to choose how renovations are made within those

guidelines, Berg Nelson said. “He started out by saying, ‘you have a real gem here,’ and I thought, ‘cool!’” Berg Nelson said.
The board also discussed a website and a YouTube chan-

nel to further promote the farmstead project.
Berg Nelson said she plans to present additional programs around the area to raise awareness of the historic farmstead.

QUILT, Continued from Page 1A

emotional wounds. She wanted to do something for them – to wrap them in some kind of love. Since then 338,143 quilts of valor have been awarded across the United States. Isn’t that amazing?”
Love goes into every quilt, Eveleth said.
Eveleth read the proclamation Quilts of Valor reads to each veteran before they wrap the quilt around their shoulders.
“Truly the quilts are all

stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts,” Eveleth said.
“The Quilts of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation. We consider it a privilege to honor you. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice and service to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude, we award you this Quilt of Valor.”

When the quilters of Emmet County Quilts of Valor endeavored to create 58 quilts in a year, Eveleth said there were some who thought there was no way they could complete the task.
“We surprised them, because we ended up with 90 quilts. We have a lot of help from all over, and it was a huge success,” Eveleth said.
There are often tears all around during a quilt presenta-

tion, Eveleth said.
“The appreciation by those veterans – I just can’t put it into words. It’s amazing. There are a lot of tears. Someone said, ‘you know, we finally said thank you to those guys.’ So many of them didn’t get that ever. More than one of them will see me around town. I always get a hug and they always tell me, ‘you started my healing.’ It amazes me that so many years later in their 70s that

some of them are just starting to heal,” Eveleth said.
It was these moments of healing that spurred Eveleth, Smith, Hanson and Seylar to keep going.
“So we then awarded 12 World War II veterans down here in this trophy room and then 24 Korean veterans also here at the VFW. We now award any Emmet County veteran that we can find,” Eveleth said.

As of press time, 250 Emmet County veterans have received quilts of valor. Eveleth said the veterans are usually referred by others and are not themselves requesting a quilt or the honor.
“We always have to remind them; they just thank us over and over and over and we always have to remind them that it’s us thanking them – they all deserve a thank you,” Eveleth said.

Norway’s Independence Day May 17 and Mother’s Day and that the foundation is also considering a Founder’s Day to commemorate the June 21, 1865, settling of the farm.
Berg-Nelson said 30 Norwegian tourists will visit the farm this summer and Christmas on the Farm is again scheduled for December.

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