



Inside:
Letters to Santa



Inside:
ELC wrestlers complete busy week with third-place finish at Emmetsburg Tournament

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Tom and Lisa Hansen had their horses ready for sleigh rides through the woods and to the lake at Christmas on the Farm at the Peterson Point Historic Farmstead, located on High Lake.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

Sleigh rides and snowballs

Christmas on the Farm draws 125 visitors for live nativity, horse and wagon rides, treats and surprises

BY AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday was warm for winter, but not so warm the snow melted. The sky was a color-match to the plentiful snow on the ground. Just like that, snowmen rose up from the ground and snowballs hurtled through the air. This was the scene of the inaugural Christmas on the Farm, a community event and fundraiser for the Brugjeld Peterson Historic Farmstead in rural Wallingford. Anna Pickar's family presented a live nativity with donkeys, sheep, goats, doves and... rabbits. The Nathan and Daisy Brenner family brought their dairy cow who seemed to sing carols from the barn. She was the same cow who provided the cream for the homemade ice cream the Brenner family served from the porch while Daisy Brenner participated in a spinning wheel demonstration in the parlor.

The yard filled with children of all ages working together to build the snowmen and forming teams for an epic snowball fight.

Tom and Lisa Hansen hosted numerous sleigh rides through the woods and along the east shore of High Lake. Sleigh bells rang, horses dashed, and the chatter rang into the still air of the afternoon.

Tim Girres and Lawrence Hacker were pure metal, showing their skills in the blacksmith shop.

Diane Lavender was knitting and Little Sioux Spinners and Weavers showed other textile skills.

Board president Stacie Berg Nelson said, "We have managed to bring life back to the farm through family, friends, music and our Scandinavian traditions. We all caught a glimpse into what a living history farm can bring to this area."

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Snowpeople seemed to pop up all over the farmyard, some tall, some shorter, some with scarves and hats, some without accessories.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

This is 80

Moffitt tells 40 year olds to serve community, consider their future

BY AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

Not so long ago, reaching the age of 80 was considered a major life milestone, and a sign of old age. It is still an important milestone. According to the Population Reference Bureau, average life expectancy in the U.S. is 81.1 years, with a better chance of living longer among those who are connected to their communities and remain active. The 100 visitors to Paul Moffitt's 80th birthday Sunday

attest to his connection to the community.

"We had a good turnout. I was pleased, but I wasn't really surprised. We started celebrating Friday night, and then we put the decorations down here [Saturday] night and we celebrated again - at our place we had pizza and cake and ice cream," Moffitt said.

Working with the idea that youth lasts from ages 0-39, middle age from 40-79, and

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Paul Moffitt, a newly-minted octogenarian, shares a moment with one of his grandchildren, Braxton Dallas Moffitt, at his birthday party Sunday.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

Pipeline issues dominate supervisors meeting

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

The Emmet County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing but took no action on two pipeline ordinances at its Tuesday, Dec. 13 meeting.

Representatives from both the Summit and Navigator pipeline companies attended the meeting which included a public hearing on two proposed ordinances - one directed at pipeline crossings of

county drainage districts and the other regulating pipeline zoning. However, the board took no action due to a conflict between the zoning ordinance and a similar ordinance under consideration by Emmet County Planning and Zoning.

Before the 10 a.m. public hearing, Craig Schoenfeld, representing Navigator, said he was aware of the board's position on carbon dioxide pipe-

lines. He said he was at the meeting to answer any questions about the pipeline design. Schoenfeld said Navigator had discussed setbacks and other issues with the Van Buren County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisors Chair Jeff Quastad said Emmet County Planning and Zoning has an upcoming pipeline zoning hearing as well. He said

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Park planning for 2023-24

Parks & Rec board discusses future projects, budget

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

At its regular meeting on Monday, the Estherville Parks & Rec Board discussed allocations for the 2023-2024 capital budget. Next year's budget begins July 1, 2023. Among the projects that would be paid from LOSST funds (local option sales & service), are surfacing at Lincoln Park, improvements to a proposed

soccer field, shade trees and tables and benches at the Ninja Park, and tennis court improvements.

Work on the Oak Hill entrance, a donation to the disc golf course expansion, and pool storage would be paid from grants and donations.

On this year's budget, city administrator Penny Clayton said, "We have spent 31% of our total budget for the year, so

we are in good shape. They're pretty ordinary expenses for us, so nothing that really stands out to me."

At Oak Hill Cemetery, workers have been removing dead and diseased trees.

"I spent an additional \$3,000 to get those out of there while [the workers] were there, but I think that's well worth it given the equipment that was already

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The Pioneer Club came into existence in 1932 and members celebrated 90 years of the club earlier this month. From left are guest Barbara Gardner, members Betty DeVary, Belva Henriksen, Arlis Heinrichs, Marian Gardner, Brenda Juhl and Karen Hanson.

Photo by David Swartz

Pioneer Club celebrates 90 years

By DAVID SWARTZ
MANAGING EDITOR

Happy birthday to the Pioneer Club.

The social group recently celebrated 90 years with a Christmas party early this month at the Friendship Terrace Apartments in Estherville.

What is the Pioneer Club? It's one of Emmet County's surviving rural social groups.

The Pioneer Club formed in Center and Ellsworth townships within the county—north and east of Estherville.

Members attending the December party were Belva Henriksen, Marian Gardner,

Karen Hanson, Brenda Juhl, Betty DeVary and Arlis Heinrichs. One guest joined the group, Marian's daughter-in-law Barbara Gardner.

Club's beginnings
Belva is the club's current longest-tenured member, joining the group in 1961.

She quickly told the tale of the club's first meeting held in 1932.

"Gus Ramsey picked up the ladies in a sleight and it tipped over," Belva said. She said that occurred on the way to the first meeting.

"The women of that time

decided they were just like Pioneers so they named their group the Pioneer Club," Belva said.

Dues for the club were 60 cents and the club met on the third Friday of the month.

Dues today are currently \$1 and the group meets on the fourth Friday of the month.

Belva said when she joined in 1961, the women used to dress up for meetings. They wore their best and wore white gloves. Kids who came with their mothers were dressed in their Sunday school clothes.

The dress became less formal

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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

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, Terretta 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.



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



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



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.

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