Eight NDSU students are in the Public History Field School class. They are front row, left to right, Kirbie Sondreal, Emily Kulzer, Lauren Wiese and Alex Lien; back row, Brett Mills, John Hest, Kaci Johnson and Dean Brooks.

Students are cooking breakfast and lunch for themselves in the basement kitchen of First Baptist Church.

The students are scanning and making boxes in the basement of First Baptist Church.

Emmons County is more than 130 years old, and the Emmons County Museum has artifacts from many of those years. With a new project by public history students from North Dakota State University, the community will see more and more of those, some now and some later.

The eight students and Dr. Angela Smith, associate professor of public history at NDSU, arrived in Linton May 30 for the Public History Field School. They presented a plan for the museum to the museum board and, approval in hand, got to work.

The community is invited to see the results of their work and a short film they’re producing about their experience in Linton. The presentation will be at 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, in the basement of First Baptist Church, Linton. There will also be a museum open house following the short program by the field school students. Refreshments will be provided by the Emmons County Historical Society.

“Students are so excited to be able to work on the Emmons County Museum,” said Kirbie Sondreal, a student from Reynolds, Minn. “This field school has given us great museum experience, and the community here has been very welcoming.”

After the overall plan was approved on Wednesday, May 31, the group immediately focused on developing a storage plan for the museum. Brett Mills, a senior public history major at NDSU, Smith and Sue Sandwick of Linton acquired used shelving from Nodak Ranch and Home Supply. They cleared out space, scrubbed the shelving, and reassembled it so there would be room to store items.

Since then, they’ve continued to work and, in addition to shelving and storage, they created a library in the museum office area with a significant genealogy section; staffed a booth at Emmons County Dairy & Ag Day and invited the public to join the historical society and/or volunteer to help; and are digitizing photos and storing them in archival folders so that they will last a long time.

The focus of the rest of this week is on interpretation, where the field school students will continue to examine the artifacts at the museum and writing labels to provide more information to visitors.

Dr. Smith will come back in August for a digital genealogy workshop for the community. Details about the workshop will be announced in July.

Sue Sandwick gave a tour when the field school students arrived in Linton on Tuesday, May 30.

Tours were provided at the Emmons County Museum during Dairy and Ag Day, Friday, June 2, by volunteers, left to right, Eileen Morris, Betty Meier and Sue Sandwick.

Helping promote the efforts of the Emmons County Historical Society on Emmons County Dairy & Ag Day, downtown Linton, are NDSU students Lauren Wiese, left, and Brett Mills.