

SPRING GROVE HERALD

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Snowmageddon! 12 inches of snow doesn't stop SG students from lessons; does rearrange sports

By Jordan Gerard
Spring Grove Herald

It seemed to be a storm of epic proportions, as the area had not seen that much snow all at once for a long time.

Spring Grove saw about 12 inches of the white fluffy stuff, followed by blowing and drifting snow on Monday and Tuesday last week.

Across the river, areas in Wisconsin saw upwards of 18 inches near Arcadia.

Back here, residents and city crews worked hard to clear the sidewalks and streets of snow. City crews were still clearing snow as of Thursday, Feb. 14.

Students had the day off from Spring Grove Public Schools, marking it the fifth day off in a two week time period. The district has currently used up all three of its snow days.

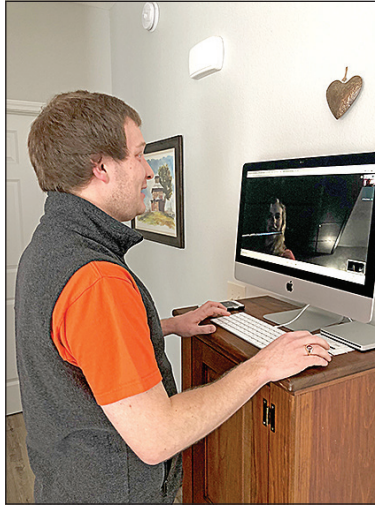
School was in session on Monday, Feb. 18 (Presidents' Day) in order to make up the fourth snow day. Students will also go to school on April 17, which was to be the first day of spring break.

Safety of the students, whereas it concerns winter weather, is the top priority of the district, and while students enjoyed the fifth snow day, others were perhaps eager to keep up with their studies, as were the teachers.

Band director Willy Leafblad tried a new method of teaching band lessons over video messaging.

Junior flutist Addison Deschler completed her band lesson with Leafblad through Google Hangouts. Both could see and hear each other while remaining in their own homes.

While the sound quality was not



SUBMITTED

Snow days are enjoyable, except when they mess with the band lesson schedule. Luckily, band director Willy Leafblad was resourceful and found a way to host the lessons without students or teacher actually being at school, or even together. Thanks to Spring Grove Public School's technology program, junior flutist Addison Deschler was able to work on articulation, pulse and tone quality, completing her lesson.

as great as in person, it was sufficient for completing the lesson on articulation, pulse and tone quality.

With 144 students in the band program, serving grades 5 through 12, scheduling make-up lessons after snow days can be tricky, Leafblad said.

Other teachers also found it tough to make up lessons, tests, quizzes and projects during the cold weather and snowstorms.

Science teacher Jennifer Dregne had to reschedule the 90-minute free response questions of the Advanced Placement (AP) biology practice test.

It's important for students who take the official test because if they score a three or higher, they don't need to take a general science class in college.

"Luckily staff members at Spring Grove were willing to excuse stu-



MEGAN WARNER/SGH

Cardinals in snow-covered trees are a common sight during the winter and Herald graphic designer Megan Warner was able to capture this cheeky cardinal for a photo.

dents for the first day of semester two in order to make up the exam,"

SNOWMAGGEDON page 9

Solving an age-old dilemma, new safety concerns all in one Open House Feb. 28 to see new school redesign

By Jordan Gerard
Spring Grove Herald

The new main entrance of Spring Grove Public Schools has finally solved the age-old dilemma of which door to enter.

Those who did not attend school at Spring Grove nor visited before were perplexed about which door to enter, as four doors are at the front of the school. And now the main entrance clearly presents itself.

The gym doors on the north side will still be open during events like games, concerts and other school events.

The district will host an open house on Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. until the evening basketball game ends.

The community is welcome to tour the new renovations to the school in addition to the remainder of the building.

Students will tour guests around the building, and since the open house starts during the school day, guests will have the opportunity to see learning in action.

History

Priorities for the district when formulating the process for a remodel was improving learning spaces and improving security and accessibility of the school's entrance. Superintendent Rachel Udstuen said.

The idea for a new entrance, new learning space and remodeled gymnasium bathrooms started in April 2018, when architects from Fielding Nair International visited the school.

Huichong Tang, associate designer, and Randy Fielding, founding chairman, talked with students, faculty and staff about what they would like to see in their school.

Students cited different types of learning spaces such as group work-spaces and individual nooks.

The two architects immediately saw a "sense of community and kindness" at Spring Grove, citing the school already had those two traits.

They tossed around a few ideas to build upon, such as flexible furniture and collaboration spaces.

Math Learning Center

Out of that conversation came the



HERALD FILE PHOTO

In this file photo, the door above is the very first door in chronological order at the front of the school, but it was not the door that would get you to the district office. That responsibility belonged to the third door to the right, leaving visitors confused.



JORDAN GERARD/SGH

Now the first door in chronological order is the main door at the front of the school. Stairs lead down into the building, while a ramp is next to the retaining wall. All guests and visitors to the school will go through these doors into the office first.

idea to create a learning space for math and other subjects.

After much planning and design, the Math Learning Center took the entire space of the district office.

The hammer was thrown in July, and construction was completed in early October, allowing students to use the room for the remainder of the year.

Teachers Kelsey Morken and

Chris Strinmoen are able to teach math collaboratively and also teach their own classes simultaneously. They can teach as many as 70 students at the same time.

"Our math instructors team teach," Udstuen said. "Instruction is self-paced with students learning what they need, when they need it."

In this year's second semester,

seventh graders share their math time with the sophomore class and eighth graders share their math time with the freshman class.

The space features whiteboard walls, where a special paint allows teachers and students to literally write on the walls and erase it.

It also features a breakout room for small group work or one-on-one teaching. To save space, a garage door takes the place of a traditional door. Another breakout room is more traditional on the opposite side.

The new space allows the district to explore their ideology of a "one-room schoolhouse," where students across different age groups can learn from one another.

They've already started the process with a combined Kindergarten-first grade class.

First graders help kindergartners with learning while kindergartners give first graders confidence to lead.

The district hopes to explore a combined fifth and sixth grade class option.

The district is also focused on individualized learning, where students can take ownership of their learning.

That's been started with a self-paced math program called ALEKS and a Makerspace class, where students experience hands on learning, such as woodworking, 3-D printing, robotics and more.

Students said they enjoy individualized learning. It allows them to have extra study time before a test or work on other projects as long as they complete their work for other teachers on time.

The district also received a \$150,000 grant from the Bush Foundation for individualized learning. Those funds purchased furniture for the Math Learning Center, Media Center and hallways.

Students were particularly interested in flexible furniture for small groups, reading, studying and "cave spaces," where they can read or study alone.

The board was able to purchase

OPEN HOUSE page 2

County accepts multi-road paving bid

By Craig Moorhead
The Caledonia Argus

Some Houston County officials gave a collective sigh of relief last week.

That's when bids for a four-road-way paving package were opened. Three of the roads (County State Aid Highways 10, 20 and 24) will receive State of Minnesota funding, but County Road 249 will not.

So for Houston County taxpayers, CR 249 represented a wildcard, as 100 percent of the funds for that project will be locally derived. There was only one bidder at the Feb. 12 opening - Mathy Construction.

County engineer Brian Pogodzinski said the engineering estimate for CR 249 was \$2,693,427, and the bid totaled \$2,637,935.

The county has been saving funds to pave 249 for a number of years and had budgeted \$3.01 million for the work. The bid was accepted via unanimous vote by the county board.

On a related note, commissioners also approved a grant agreement that will secure MNDOT funds totaling \$130,040 to help pay for a bridge replacement in Spring Grove Township (CSAH 4).

Later in the meeting, Pogodzinski spoke at a public hearing. The topic was a transition plan that the county has been developing for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

The engineer said that his department is primarily tasked with bringing handicapped-accessible ramps along county roadways up to federal standards.

A few additional items such as push-buttons on traffic signals are also in the plan.

"The reason why it's become a big issue right now is the Federal Highway (Administration) has said it's going to stop funding projects if you do not have an ADA transition plan in place," Pogodzinski reported.

Ramps are most often rebuilt and brought up to spec, when a roadway is paved or otherwise reconstructed, the engineer added.

The plan reviewed 194 curb ramps, and anticipates that within five years, 50 percent of accessibility features within the county will be ADA compliant.

Some additional ramps are also in the plan with over 80 ramps scheduled for replacement in 2019 alone.

It's a daunting task. "Some features that were compliant when they were built are not compliant now," Pogodzinski noted.

Some specifications have changed, and even a frost heave of one-quarter inch is enough to put a feature out of compliance.

As 2019 began, only four percent of curb ramps within Houston County were fully compliant.

The transition plan estimates a cost of approximately \$775,000 to update all items. The final version of the transition plan will likely come before the board for a vote in March.

Other news

A State of Minnesota grant was approved for the Houston County Airport. The monies will be used for an airport master plan study with an airport layout plan.

A federal grant of \$187,020 (90 percent of project costs) was approved last August. State dollars will pay \$10,390, or five percent,

COUNTY BOARD page 2

Behind the scenes: Three different types of ads

By Jordan Gerard
Editor's Column

You get an ad, I get an ad, everyone gets an ad!

We really enjoy when our local and non-local folks advertise with the *Herald*. It supports the newspaper and helps get the word out about your event or news.

For your convenience, there are three different advertising options available to customers. They are classified, display and happy ads.

Classified is the most well-known of the three, as those ads have a long history in newspapers.

It was, and still is, the easiest way to advertise things for sale, real estate, thank yous, employment, wanted, rummage sales, farm/ag, services, for rent, miscellaneous and more.

Here at Bluff Country News Group, we have a classified deal that works well, especially if you're looking to sell something.

You can place a classified ad of 30 words (20 cents each extra word) in all six of our papers for \$6 a week. We call it the 6-by-6 deal.

Our papers include the Spring Valley Tribune, Fillmore County News Leader, Spring Grove Herald, Chatfield News, Tri-County Record (Rushford area) and the Bluff Country Reader.

The deal is great for those who need a lot of visibility in the area. And if you don't need that much visibility, or you're looking to sell locally, pricing is affordable for less than six papers.

Here's our own:

FOR HIRE: The Spring Grove Herald is looking for a company or individual to snowplow 2 sidewalks and 1 small parking lot. Preferably shoveled by 9 a.m. on weekdays after snowstorms. Potential to continue into summer with lawn mowing. Payment to be negotiated upon hire. Contact 507-498-3868.

Display ads

Hey, I'm right here!

Display ads get more attention than classifieds because they have their own space in the paper.

These are able to have artwork, fancier fonts, borders and photos in

Get your local news TODAY!

Local rate \$30⁰⁰
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Call (507) 498-3868 or stop by 115 West Main St. • Spring Grove
VISA, MasterCard and Discover accepted!

The ad above is an example of a display ad. It gets more attention with color and images plus different styles of text. These are helpful when you need a lot of visibility in your ad.

order to ensure maximum visibility. Display ads provide more creativity and come in a variety of sizes to fit every ad's need.

Occasionally, newspapers will place an ad upside down in order to get your attention.

We are also able to share the display ad between our six newspapers and have price breaks for placing display ads in multiple papers.

Happy ads

Good news! Happy news! Happy birthday! Wedding shower!

What are these? Happy ads.

Happy ads are the type of ads that announce good news, hence the name. Engagements, baby or wedding showers, memorial remembrances, birthdays and more can be placed into the ad. Photos can also be printed with the ad too!

These are especially helpful if your event is an open house and you need people to know about it.

It was common practice to

TYPES OF ADS page 9

SNOWMAGGEDON

continued from front

Dregne said. Even more difficult than making up a test of any importance is making up lab days in a science class. During the polar vortex in January, school was cancelled for three days, but the science class was in the process of culturing bacteria. Since the students weren't at school, Dregne cultured the bacteria for more than 96 hours. Ideally, she would culture it for 72 hours. The science room had a distinct, reeking smell when students returned to school, she added. Spring Grove High School uses a digital platform called Schoology that allows teachers to post assignments to students. With the days off, students were able to catch up on missing work or work ahead if they had internet access.

Students can also email teachers if they have questions or concerns about assignments. Catching up or working ahead is not always possible for all students though, as some are without internet access or they take care of younger siblings on snow days. Dregne has also been teaching two lessons a day when school is session since it's still only February and in Minnesota, the land of mild or wild snowstorms, snow can be expected into April.

"We have such highly motivated kids at Spring Grove that asking them to do a little bit more work because we 'might' have a snow day is usually not met with a lot of arguments or animosity," she said. Lessons aren't the only important thing affected by weather; basketball games and gymnastic events have also been cancelled, moved, started early and rescheduled due to weather.

"Our biggest priority for all school events is safety of our kids, coaches and fans," Athletic Director Michelle Anderson said. "As people that live in Minnesota, we expect to deal with winter travel conditions, but have to keep the safety of our students at the top of our list." Since the winter weather has ramped up, Spring Grove has had

three boys basketball games with Waukon and Stewartville (high school) and Kee Lansing (junior high) cancelled due to rescheduling difficulties.

Two more boys basketball games were rescheduled with Grand Meadow and Schaeffer Academy (Rochester).

One girls basketball game with Waukon was cancelled, but due to Iowa's playoffs starting earlier than Minnesota.

"Our situation hasn't been as extreme as some other schools when dealing with cancellations and reschedules," Anderson said. "We started out the winter season rescheduling a couple of boys basketball games because we played football into the state games."

And back to rescheduling they go. The hardest things about rescheduling are finding dates that work for both teams and schools as well as dates that work with officials.

The teams also try not to play too many games during a period of days that might be overwhelming for some teams. School and community events are also taken into account.

The girls basketball team is headed into playoffs this week with all of their regularly scheduled games played, but the boys basketball team has a few more games to make up before its playoffs start.

Ideally, all regular season games should be done before playoffs start, Anderson added, and it would be nice before the seeding process takes place.

"Athletic directors, superintendents and bus owners or drivers spend a lot of time in the winter looking at weather forecasts, discussing options and trying to figure out if the road conditions to the event will be safe," she said. "Our bus drivers and road maintenance people are top notch, but some conditions are just not safe to be out in."

The groundhog said spring is coming early, but the state of Minnesota still has a week of February and the month of March for what could be a mild or wild remainder of the winter season.



MEGAN WARNER/SGH

The little town of Freeburg found itself buried in snow during the most recent snowstorm that brought 12 inches of snow to the area. That said, people still braved the roads for lunch at Little Miami Bar and Restaurant. If anything, it allowed snowmobilers to stop for food while out on the trails.



MEGAN WARNER/SGH

Above: Frost covered every inch of nature on cold snowy mornings. Winter has shown its wild side recently with below-zero temperatures and windchills, often preceded by large snowstorms. Below: Snowcover has made for wintry scenes like this field pictured below. It also makes for winter fun such as sledding and snowmobiling.



TYPES OF ADS

continued from front

announce an engagement or birth announcement in the paper before social media took over.

Newspapers today are still able to do this, and we'd love it if we received more of them. Not only does the Herald bring you all sorts of content, we can also bring you the good news!

Now with this knowledge of ads, go forth and place your ad with us. We look forward to working with you for all of your advertising needs.

The ad at right is an example of what we can do for special events that we consider happy ads.



New CWD-positive deer in Crow Wing County and southeastern Minnesota require additional disease monitoring and management

The Department of Natural Resources has confirmed chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a wild deer in Crow Wing County.

This test result marks the first time in Minnesota the fatal neurological disease has been found in a wild deer outside of the southeastern part of the state.

Previous discoveries of the disease in wild deer have been concentrated predominantly in Fillmore County, with additional discoveries in Houston and Winona counties in the past two months.

As a result of these discoveries, the DNR is planning additional disease response actions, and Gov. Tim Walz is proposing new funding of \$4.57 million over the next two fiscal years, and \$1.1 million annually thereafter to combat the disease, including surveillance and response, enforcement, and outreach to landowners.

The Crow Wing County deer, an adult female, was found in Merrifield, north of Brainerd, on Jan. 23. A conservation officer responded to a report of a deceased deer. The DNR tests suspect deer when possible, especially in areas of high risk. Test results confirmed the deer as positive for CWD on Feb. 14.

The DNR began surveillance around a CWD-positive captive cervid facility near Merrifield starting in the 2017 hunting season. Over the last two years, the DNR has sampled more than 8,600 deer in this north-central surveillance zone, with no previous detections of CWD-positive deer.

"Thanks to our deer hunters, we have done a lot of surveillance in this area over the past two years, and it's our hope the disease is isolated within this area," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager.

As next steps, the DNR will determine where deer are located in the area by working with conservation officers and wildlife staff, and conducting an aerial survey. In addition,

the DNR will explore the possibility of late-season deer removals.

DNR will also work closely with the Board of Animal Health, which regulates Minnesota's captive deer and elk.

Southeastern Minnesota CWD management efforts

In the southeast, the DNR has also intensified its management efforts, adding several special hunts in late 2018 and early 2019 to identify areas of CWD-infected wild deer. During the January/February special hunts in deer permit area 346, a hunter harvested a wild deer in Winona County that tested positive for CWD.

The positive deer was a 1 1/2-year-old buck harvested 2.5 miles east of a Winona County deer farm that tested positive for CWD in 2017 and 8 miles from the wild CWD-positive deer in Houston County found this fall. It was the first detection of CWD in wild deer in Winona County since testing began in Minnesota in 2002.

Within the disease management zone in deer permit area 603, targeted culling through the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services has removed 154 deer, as of Feb. 12. Of them, four were CWD-positive and results are pending for 35 deer.

In response to these detections, DNR will activate additional response steps that include conducting an aerial survey to determine deer distributions in the area and working with landowners on deer removal options.

Additional CWD information CWD affects the cervid family, which includes deer, elk and moose. It is spread through direct contact with an infected deer's saliva, urine, blood, feces, antler velvet or carcass. There is no vaccine or treatment for this disease. For more information on CWD, visit mndnr.gov/cwd.

Blood Donor Day set at Veterans Memorial Hospital in Waukon

Did you know one in seven people entering the hospital will need blood?

Attend the next LifeServe Blood Center Blood Drive held on Thursday, March 7, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in south Waukon.

Blood drives are held once per month in Waukon. The LifeServe Blood Center supplies Veterans Memorial Hospital with their blood and blood products.

The LifeServe Blood Center is seeking donors to ensure a safe and plentiful blood supply in Iowa. Because there is no substitute for hu-

man blood, the need for donors is continuous.

To help maintain Iowa's blood supply, donate at the Waukon Community Blood Drive, on Thursday, March 7, at the First Baptist Church in south Waukon.

Eligible donors must be at least 17 years of age, be in general good health and weight at least 120 pounds.

Appointments are encouraged and walk-ins can only be accepted as the schedule permits.

To schedule your appointment, please call the LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903.

FOR HIRE

We require a company or individual to snowplow 2 sidewalks and 1 small parking lot

Preferably shoveled by 9 a.m. on weekdays after snowstorms

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Wednesday, February 27th | 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Norski's Saloon | 135 W Main St, Spring Grove, MN

Hosted by the Spring Grove Economic Development Authority

Congratulations to our 2019 Open House Door Prize Winners at our Eitzen Customer Appreciation Day!

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