

# SPRING GROVE HERALD

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Spring Grove- Home of Ola and Per

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One Section

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## 'Walk a mile in someone else's shoes' Poverty simulation shows true effect of impoverished families

By Jordan Gerard  
Spring Grove Herald

Houston County Public Health and Human Services held an "eye-opening" experience on April 3, which simulated impoverished situations.

More than 50 participants from the department, its partner agencies, 20 students and two staff from Spring Grove Public Schools and three facilitators from the Minnesota Community Action Partnership took part in the simulation.

Adult Services Lead Worker Lisa Arneson said the department sponsored the event to bring awareness and help participants experience life in someone else's shoes.

"Much of the work we do in Public Health and Human Services is impacted by the difficult realities of poverty," she said. "Obviously, it impacts our work in economic assistance, but the stress of poverty is also a contributing factor in a high percentage of the individuals and families we serve in Public Health and Human Services."

Another goal was to "sensitize audiences to the realities faced by low-income people." During the simulation, 44 to 82 participants assumed the roles of about 26 different families facing poverty.

Some families were newly unemployed, recently deserted by the "breadwinner," homeless or recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and either with or without additional earned income.

Other family situations simulated could have been senior citizens



SUBMITTED

About 20 students participated in a poverty simulation held on April 3 by Houston County Public Health and Human Services. The simulation was a chance for students and other participants to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes." After the simulation, students said they could feel the stress of those living in poverty.

receiving disability or retirement or grandparents raising their children.

The goal was for the families to provide basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute weeks.

It especially opened eyes for students, who had the chance to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes."

Before they participated in the simulation, students said the situation of impoverished families or those facing poverty wasn't really on their mind.

"Before the simulation, I thought people were lazier and had no ambition to do anything," student Hailey Borreson said. "Throughout the simulation, I learned I was wrong."

Student Kelsey Bratland said she didn't think about it too often, but she knew people struggled with poverty in the community and

world. Students were given various roles such as community action worker, banker, teacher, bill collector and more. Each job would require them to help someone who was experiencing poverty.

During the simulation, they discovered how hard it could be to pay bills, get food or proper healthcare, which could be due to many reasons such as mental health, lack of funds or transportation or other circumstances.

"How hard it is to do everyday tasks and get your basic needs when you don't have the resources like transportation," student Kyle Hagen said.

Student Elizabeth Garcia-Holty

WALK A MILE page 8

## Beyond excellence; Spring Grove dominates section music honors again

By S. Lee Epps  
Spring Grove Herald

"You are my MVP," said judge Tom Haugen emphatically while pointing at Jonah Udstuen and his baritone saxophone.

Other words of praise followed about that freshman musician and the other members of the Spring Grove saxophone ensemble, who had just completed an obviously stirring performance at the 2019 Section 1A Solo/Ensemble competition at Rushford-Peterson High School on April 9.

### Best of the best times six

That saxophone ensemble received one of the coveted "Best in Site" (BIS) awards.

With seven schools competing, Spring Grove students won six of the 10 BIS honors (amazingly surpassing last year's 5 of 11).

Each judge stays in a site (room) for more than four hours as musicians rotate in, usually in 10-minute intervals.

At the end of the evening, each judge determines a Best in Site (BIS) award for what he or she believes to have been the top performance of the day in that room (site).

There were 10 judges, five vocal and five instrumental. Spring Grove received four instrumental and two vocal BIS awards; that total of six was twice as many as Houston (3) while Chatfield earned the only other one.

There were seven competing schools, including Fillmore Central, Lanesboro, Caledonia and host Rushford-Peterson,

The saxophone ensemble and the



LEE EPPS/SGH

CJ Sylling and Addison Deschler performed a superior-rated oboe and flute duet at the 2019 Section 1A Solo/Ensemble Contest.

jazz band both had BIS performances.

There were four BIS honors for solo performances. Amelia Solum - for the second straight year - was so highly honored for her flute solo.

Other BIS went to two soprano vocals by Olivia Mendez ("Gretchen am Spinnrade") and Ashton Towne ("Sure on the Shining Night") plus Maria Myrah for her alto saxophone solo.

Myrah, as part of the jazz band and the saxophone ensemble, was in on three BIS performances.

### Excellence and beyond

Each performance is graded on eight factors, each worth five points, for a possible perfect total of 40 points.

Both the jazz band and the saxo-

phone ensemble received a perfect 40 as did Wyatt Murphy and Kai Bjerke, each with a snare drum solo.

In his written official notes for the jazz band, judge Gary Urness reiterated, "You deserved a score of 40."

Each performance receives one of four overall ratings - superior (35-40 points), excellent (28-34), good (22-27) and fair (21 or below).

Of Spring Grove's 39 instrumental entries, 36 received superior ratings and three were rated excellent.

Among Spring Grove's 39 vocal entries, 24 received superior certificates, and 15 earned excellent ratings.

Last year, 70 percent of the Spring

MUSIC AWARDS page 2

## Behind the scenes: The importance of deadlines and color pages

Editor's Column  
Spring Grove Herald

This week we're exploring the dreaded *deadline*.

And I'm here to tell you that deadlines are nothing to dread, if you know it's coming and prepare ahead of it.

We are taking a stronger stand on our deadlines to provide our excellent subscribers and customers with a superior newspaper.

If you are submitting items (ads, photos, press releases, etc.) for more than one of our papers, the deadline is Thursday noon.

If you are submitting items (ads, photos, press releases, etc.) for the *Herald* only, the deadline is Friday noon.

Promos and special section deadlines vary depending on the designers' schedules.

They work on 50-plus ads and special sections per week for our newspaper, so schedules differ from week to week. This is why we

DEADLINES page 2

## Whitetails Unlimited raises money to fuel trap teams



JORDAN GERARD/SGH

Members of the Spring Grove Trap Team pose for a photo with the donation check from Whitetails Unlimited Hunter's Night Out Banquet, held in February. This team and the Houston County 4-H Shooting Sports will get \$3,102 each.

By Jordan Gerard  
Spring Grove Herald

An event in its fourth year raised a sizeable donation for two trap teams in Houston County.

A total of \$6,204.41 was raised from the annual Houston County Hunter's Night Out banquet, hosted by Whitetails Unlimited Minnesota South Field Director Chris Petersen said.

"We have great community support for the event and the teams,"

he said. Throughout the last four years, a total of \$23,765 has been raised and donated to the Spring Grove Trap Team and the Houston County 4-H Shooting Sports. Each group gets an equal donation.

This year, they will receive \$3,102, which will go toward purchasing ammunition for practice and competition and other things the team needs.

About 230 people attended this year's banquet. Numerous prizes

were given away including guns, artwork, crossbows and many more items.

Ivy Grove Cafe catered the meal and was also a sponsor of the event. Other sponsors include Don Hagen of Donnie's Dust Control, Weiss Realty, Nate Borreson of Iron Hide Fabrication and more.

The event has become a favorite of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts since the first banquet was held in 2015.

## Director reports Houston County mining permits 'unenforcable'

By Craig Moorhead  
The Caledonia Argus

Environmental Services Director Aaron Lacher met with Houston County commissioners on Tuesday, April 9, reporting on a thorny problem.

"At issue is whether the county properly issued Conditional Use Permits (CUP) with term limitations, and how existing permits containing such conditions are to be administered," the director said.

Commonly referred to as CUPs, the permits carry certain "conditions," as the name implies.

But starting around 1990, some Houston County mineral extraction permits were issued with five-year terms.

The practice was uneven in subsequent years. Lacher said certain permits were issued with the afore-

mentioned five-year terms, while others were not.

The problem is, he added, that State of Minnesota statutes contain the following provision under Chapter 394: "A conditional use permit shall remain in effect for so long as the conditions agreed upon are observed, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the board from enacting or amending official controls to change the status of conditional uses."

The director said that in 2008, Chapter 394 was amended to allow the issuance of interim use permits.

Those are defined as temporary. Houston County added IUP's to its zoning ordinance in 2014, he noted.

"Because the statutory language establishing an unbound term for Conditional Use Permits has remained unchanged since 1974, the county concludes that its pre-

vious actions to encumber such permits with time constraints was, and is, unenforceable," Lacher concluded. "Therefore, conditional use permits will no longer be subject to renewal provisions, and all previous renewal provisions are considered to be removed/withdrawn/nulified."

### Ballots, other news

The board voted to split the cost of an improved roadway crossing on Highway 6 with the City of La Crescent.

Located near a public pool frequented by children, the new crossing will employ push-button activated flashing lights and curb extensions (a.k.a. bump-outs).

The city will pay for engineering and future maintenance. The county's share of overall costs is estimated at \$33,700.

Commissioners also approved paving work done last year on County 27, and issued the final payment on the \$2,949,264 project.

Three CUPs were granted. One will allow Ma Cal Grove to operate a golf course and build a replacement clubhouse in an agricultural district.

Tanner Johnson was also granted a CUP to build a dwelling on less than 40 acres in an ag protection district, with Commissioner Eric Johnson abstaining from that vote.

Brian and Rhoda Dobeck also were issued a CUP for building a dwelling in similar circumstances.

In all the CUP cases, findings of fact made by the Houston County Planning Commission (PC) were adopted.

COUNTY BOARD page 8

## In this musical, 'Anything Goes'



JORDAN GERARD/SGH

The Spring Grove High School Drama Department will present "Anything Goes," the spring musical for 2019. Performance dates are April 26 and 27, at 7:30 p.m. The cast has been working hard on the production and excited to present it. Stay tuned next week for full details!

## Here's to the future...



SUBMITTED

For the 2019-2020 school year, Spring Grove Public Schools will see 36 new kindergartners. That bodes well for the district's enrollment. The young learners recently completed Kindergarten Round Up, where they got to meet their classmates, teachers and tour the building.

## DEADLINES

continued from front

give you a specific deadline well in advance.

Previously we did accept late items on Mondays, if it was "camera ready," meaning we didn't have to design it or write it from scratch.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late items anymore because it hinders our workflow and when that happens, sometimes items have a tendency to be forgotten. And we don't want that to happen.

We will still accept corrections to items already submitted for the week's paper, though we try to send out proofs as often as possible.

However, we cannot accept new ads on Mondays. As stated before, those must be submitted the previous week.

If we continued to receive new ads on Mondays, and all the way up to our deadline on Tuesday morning, we would either never be able to publish the paper or be running ourselves ragged and not producing the quality newspaper that you're reading right now.

We have made it a priority to finish the paper by 4 p.m. on Mondays. Once we were told that we would be putting the paper together until the wee hours of the morning.

But that just wasn't going to work for us. First of all, we like sleep. Secondly, we have lives and things to do besides obsess over the paper.

We were done by 5 p.m. on our first week editing the paper and done by 4 p.m. ever since then, which is all due to the fact that we get our ads, stories and other items done by Fridays.

And then all we have to do on Mondays is place things in their proper spots in the paper.

Every single item in this paper has its proper place. The only exception to that rule is the front-page stories, in which I like to change up the layout of it.

Putting this paper together is like putting together a puzzle, except the pieces are already flipped over and much better organized by file name.

Display ads or large promotions (full page or half or somewhere in-between) go on the pages first. Those pages are sent off to a co-worker in Spring Valley to be measured for how much ad space we have for the week.

The goal is to fill just about every inch of space and leave no large chunks of white space. If there's white space, it gets filled with a house ad or press release.

It's a good week when we have a full-page promotion running, such as spring sports preview or Week of the Young Child that you saw a few weeks ago.

Those pages are planned out a few weeks in advance, and they often coordinate with national recognition weeks, such as National Ag Week or 4-H Week or similar.

We also have to tell our printing company, Graphics, Inc., that we plan to do a large promotion, so they know how much color they need to use.

We can't just throw it together and expect it to be printed right away. Photos and text are needed, ads are sold and our wonderfully talented

graphic designer, Megan, designs it all.

The same rules also apply to special sections (we call them "tabs"). The Herald does a few tabs that are special to itself and then has ones that our whole group participates in.

Ads are usually eight or more pages of a magazine-style paper featuring stories about local residents and ads from local businesses.

Recently, we just prepared our lawn and garden tab. It will be printed soon in all of our papers.

Coming up in May is the Syttende Mai tab, which features festival information, schedule, locations of events, ads and more.

That tab only runs in Spring Grove, because the event is only happening in Spring Grove.

The graduation tab will be coming out near the end of May, and that will feature graduates, their accomplishments throughout the year, ads and more. Each of our newspapers produces a similar type of graduation tab for the school(s) they cover.

Since all of these tabs are smaller than regular newsprint, our printing company has special days on which they are due. Normally it's a Thursday.

So our job is to assign a deadline, gather the ads, write the stories, take the photos and put it all together by that Thursday so it gets with the regular print edition on the following Tuesday.

Finally, let's talk color pages. The first required color page is the front page. We live in an age of color print, and by gosh, we're going to use it!

Since the front is in color, the back page is also automatically in color; due to the way our printer (literally the machine itself) prints the paper.

We must always have an even number of color pages. By default, we always have two color pages. Color ads go on the back page, while color photos go on the front along with the stories.

If we need more color pages to accommodate the number of color ads we have, then we add page two and page nine as color pages.

Or if we have a full-page promotion running on the back, color ads get pushed to page nine and two.

There is one page that cannot have color on it, no matter what. It's called the "dinky" and it's usually page 7 and 8, which are legal notices and classifieds anyways, so there's generally no color planned for those pages.

We also work our way in for color pages. Our sports page is always in black and white because we cannot add color to page six, without adding color to the other pages first.

Since ink costs are expensive, we generally don't color the entire paper. Instead, we move pages around inside to accommodate what we need.

Two-page spreads such as Easter or Thanksgiving get moved around to page two and three to accommodate color ads.

Help us help you. Don't let all of this information overwhelm you. Come place your color ads with us! We can help you through the process.

## MUSIC AWARDS

continued from front

Grove performances (43 of 61) were rated superior.

This year – even with significantly more performances – was even more astonishing with 77 percent of the performances (60 of 78) receiving that highest rating.

**The many and the amazing**

There were 60 competing high school musicians from Spring Grove (grades 9 through 12) plus two very valuable student assistants – Cierra Blaskowski and Tristan Hammel – who video recorded each performance and kept up with the paper music and other organizational duties.

An astonishing number of Lions had multiple performances. Each is limited to six individual entries (three vocal, three instrumental), but competing in larger band or choir groups makes it possible for the total to surpass six.

Several competed as many as five, six or even seven times. Freshman Tiffany Michels and freshman Hailey Borreson each performed an astounding eight times within four and half hours. (Fortunately, there was a half hour supper break.)

Instrumentally, Borreson played both the flute and the guitar in addition to singing solos in two foreign languages – Italian and French.

In vocal presentations, Spring Grove students sang in a foreign language 14 times – seven times in French (including the Chamber Choir), five in Italian and two in German.

Four students sang in two different foreign tongues – Mendez, Borreson, Ashlyn Hammel and Tiffany



LEE EPPS/SGH

The Jazz Combo received the highest superior rating. From left are Rhiannon Skauge, Hailey Borreson, Kai Bjerke, Carter Bratland, Wyatt Spier and Emily Guberud.

Michels.

In addition to singing a solo in French among his seven performances, freshman Wyatt Spier played three different instruments – bassoon, tenor saxophone and clarinet.

There were two freshman sister/junior brother vocal duets with Tiffany and Alan Michels as well as Jordan and Payton Leahy.

**More than students**

The extensive participation and extraordinary success would not have been possible without invaluable assistance from several adults, including the piano accompanists.

Back for a fifth year was Jean

Ellingson, who accompanied 13 performances.

Linda Gjerdrum was at the keyboard 14 times and Rachel Udstuen 15 times. Bethany Engen played for 23 different selections.

And it all begins before competition day; there are a couple of weeks of practice sessions.

The goal is 30 to 40 minutes of preparation between an accompanist and each performer.

Participation at section is a major task for the music educators to organize and accomplish. Willy Leafblad is in his fourth year as band director.

Engen, a former "Best in Site" performer as a high school student in Spring Grove, is completing her

third year as choir director at her alma mater, following six years at Rushford-Peterson.

Spring Grove's year-after-year exceptional success at section is the result of not only hard-working and obviously talented students but also of the vision and inspiration of two dedicated music educators.

**Upcoming concerts**

Community residents should not deprive themselves of the opportunities to enjoy such superb local talent. The Elementary Music Program is on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:15 p.m.

The Spring Band Concert is Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m. The Spring Choir Concert is Thursday, May 23, at 7 p.m.

## Military Ball is April 27 in Spring Grove

By Jan Lee Buxengard

The 15th annual Military Ball is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at the Fest Building in Spring Grove.

Hosted by the military family, the evening includes a catered meal, presentation of colors, toasts to the branches of service, POW/MIA ceremony, roll call, taps, speaker, photographs, patriotic displays and a live nine-piece band.

The speaker, Colonel Eric T. Evenson, Medical Corps, US Army (Ret.) is a native of Spring Grove.

He retired in September 2002 with the rank of Colonel after serving 30 years with the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

The military ball event is open to the public and especially all military service members and veterans, as

well as spouses and families.

Attire for the ball is Sunday best, semi-formal, or formal, with many wearing their military uniform or the uniform of a veteran's organization. Organizers request no casual street clothes.

Cost for the evening is \$27 per person, and attendance is by RSVP only. Social hour and photos begin at 4:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:45 p.m. and dancing at 8 p.m.

Invitations were sent in the mail to those who attended the ball in past years and others who had already signed up.

For those who would like to attend, but are not yet on the invitation list, and for more information about the military ball, please call Gary Buxengard at 507-498-3461, or email gnljlbux@springgrove.coop

## Seeking information for 100 year celebration of 4-H

Next year, 2020, is the 100th year of 4-H Clubs. To get ready for the centennial celebration a year from now, the Houston County Fair Board is looking for assistance of people to help do some research, NOW, prior to the 2019 county fair.

They need dates/years of the organization of the various clubs in the county.

Some of the older 4-H clubs got their start in the 1920s. If you have information, documentation, records, photos, scrapbooks, historian books from previous generations that would shed light on this topic, please contact 4-H Coordinator Rebecca Paulson at 507-725-5807.

## Wilmington News

By Jan Lee Buxengard, correspondent

Happy birthday wishes to Fred Voight on April 18; Jean Middendorf and Claire Morken-Honl on April 19; Alan Fruechte on April 20; Wayne Bunge on April 21; Mary (McKenna) Newgaard on April 23; and Katie Sobock on April 24.

Wedding anniversary greetings are extended to Robert and Tammi (Waldera) Engen 30 years and Christopher and Tammy (Olerud) Petersen 13 years on April 22; Dean and Vicki (Sanness) Dehning 36 years on April 23; Paul and Rhonda Myhre 37 years and Justin and Caitlin (Myhre) Speece 7 years on April 24.

A weekend ago, Russell, Jody and Glenn Kinneberg took a commercial flight to Oklahoma City, OK to visit Max and Jennifer (Kinneberg) Yardley. Glenn reported the flight down took 1½ hours and the return trip 1¼ hours.

On April 14 Pastor Brian Cuda officiated at the worship service at Wilmington Lutheran Church. There was a good turn-out for the "Kids for Christ" brunch following the service.

Sunday visitors at the Gary and Jan Lee Buxengard farm were Jan Lee's brother, Lorin Pohlman and his wife Dorothy of Wanamingo, MN, as well as Tamitha, Garret

and Gavin Peter of Mabel. On Sunday evening, the Wilmington Gophers 4-H Club met at the Spring Grove American Legion.

Congratulations to Glenn Kinneberg, who will be inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame on April 27. An article about his life-time of flying was on the front page of last week's issue of the Spring Grove Herald.

Wilmington Lutheran Church news:

Wed., April 17 – 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/breakfast at the Redwood Café.

Fri., April 19 – 7 p.m. Good Friday service.

Thurs., April 18 – 2 p.m. – need volunteers to help residents play bingo at Gundersen Tweents Care Center.

Sun., April 21 – 10:30 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE) - Easter Worship with Holy Communion. Rev. Steven E. Meyer will officiate.

Sharing your family and community news is what makes this column interesting and informative. Please call me at home 498-3461, mail to 21465 Southview Road, Spring Grove, MN 55974, or email gnljlbux@springgrove.coop.

## Semcac Senior Dining

American Legion - 498-3385

- Wed., April 17:** Chicken ala king, baking power biscuit, peas, mixed fruit cup, oatmeal crispie.
- Thurs., April 18:** Swiss steak in gravy, buttered noodles, seasoned broccoli, carrot pineapple salad, chocolate cherry bar. **Chair Volleyball & Birthday Party.**
- Fri., April 19:** Roast turkey, alt: fish, masked potatoes/gravy, corn, coleslaw, fruit cup.
- Mon., April 22:** Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes/marg, seasoned broccoli, beet pickles, mixed fruit cup.
- Tues., April 23:** Oven baked chicken, bread dressing, parslid carrots, coleslaw, apple crisp. **Exercise with Brandon.**

A special thank you from Faith Lutheran of Black Hammer to Truman Espelien, Scott Prah, and Dan Alstad for going out of their way to help clear snow and ice at our church and parsonage.

## Flushing Hydrants

Notice to the Residents of the City of Spring Grove

The Public Utilities Department will be flushing hydrants on

**Tues, April 30**  
**Wed., May 1**

## FOLLOW THE HERALD ON INSTAGRAM!

@jordanthethejournalist  
or search "Spring Grove Herald"

## Retirement Open House For Donna Rasmussen

Dewey says "Come help us celebrate the 28 years that Donna has been with the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District."

**OPEN HOUSE, THURSDAY, APRIL 25th**

**2:00—4:00 pm** Fillmore County Office Building, Rm 108  
902 Houston St NW, Preston

**5:00—8:00 pm** Mabel American Legion Hall  
114 S Main St, Mabel

Refreshments will be served

## Spring Grove Cinema

**Captain Marvel**  
April 19-24 • PG-13 • 2D/3D

Visit [sgmovietheater.com](http://sgmovietheater.com) or call 507-498-SHOW for schedule.

## Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### NEW BEGINNING FARMER TAX CREDIT EFFECTIVE IN 2019

- 5% on Purchase of Land, Livestock & Machinery
- 10% on Farmland Rental
- 80% Discount on Cost of Farm Management Program

For more information, please contact Riverland Community College Farm Management Instructor Dan Miller • 507-259-6270 dan@danbmiller.com

**Start Anytime**