

OUR TOWNS

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GV Academic Schedule Takes On New Look

New Calendar Offers Students Opportunities For Enrichment

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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GAYVILLE — Starting next fall, some Mondays will offer more than the start of a school week for Gayville-Volin students and staff.

The Gayville-Volin School District board of education has adopted a new calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. During its regular March meeting, the board voted unanimously to adopt the calendar.

The modified calendar uses selected Mondays to offer opportunities for student enrichment, remedial work and professional staff development, said Superintendent Jason Selchert.

"The calendar highlights a commitment to students and staff," he said.

Selchert noted the district is not moving to a four-day week. The calendar does not offer the special activities every Monday of the school year, he said.

"It is Mondays in August and May," he said. "Then, when there is a break in the end of the week or a holiday, we will go on Monday to make up the days."

Gayville-Volin school officials talked extensively with the Avon district, which uses a similar calendar, Selchert said.

Avon's modified calendar offers time for student enrichment and staff development. The calendar also reduces time previously lost to early dismissals, late starts and other factors.

The Gayville-Volin board recently adopted the calendar, but the idea is nothing new for the district, Selchert said.

"This initiative has been discussed for some time informally. We actively discussed it for two board meetings and adopted the calendar," he said.

"The calendar was adopted to infuse



Selchert

time and resources into a schedule that was already over-packed. Too many issues, too few resources. This gives more time without losing instructional time."

The Gayville-Volin district will serve students during scheduled days off from the classroom, Selchert said. The district will also implement a new professional development model for the staff. That model embraces 21st century teaching and learning, he said.

"This was a two-month process, but an idea that has been researched for years," he said. "That is, how do we offer more services to our students and give our staff the needed professional development within a limited budget? We believe we have found that mechanism."

Gayville-Volin students will not sacrifice instructional time as the district has built in roughly the same number of hours as in previous years, Selchert said. However, students and parents will see a major change, as early dismissals, parent-teacher conferences and staff in-services all move to Mondays.

The change will make better use of the school calendar, said Gayville-Volin elementary principal Jesse Sealey.

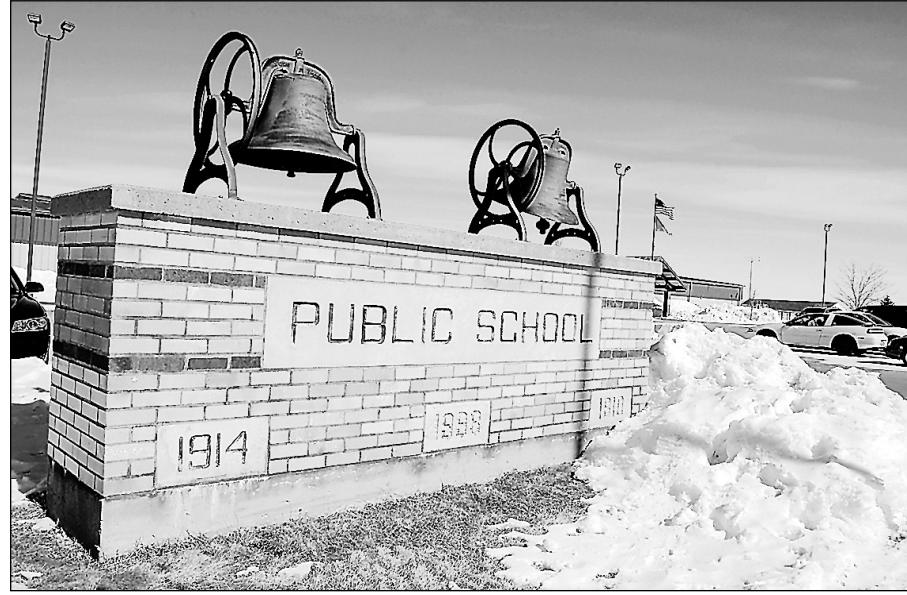
"I think this will be a much wiser use of our time," Sealey said. "We are adjusting some of our instructional time as well as providing more opportunities for staff development."

The calendar has worked well elsewhere in South Dakota, said Gayville-Volin secondary principal Tom Rice.

"In discussing the implementation of the modified calendar with other school districts in our state, students and staff agreed that the change has been beneficial on both sides," he said.

"Students have enjoyed the opportunity to get more one-on-one time with faculty on the scheduled enrichment days, while staff members have noted an increase in the quality of professional development time."

The new calendar will focus on the district's current initiatives, he said. That



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

The Gayville-Volin school district will switch to a modified calendar for the 2011-12 year. The calendar, recently adopted by the school board, will use selected Mondays for student enrichment, remediation and professional development.

The scheduled Mondays will offer flexibility for both students and staff, Selchert said. Students can take advantage of the Mondays for either enrichment activities or remedial work, he said.

"Times will be set up and posted so parents will know, and also teachers will be contacting parents to set up times if they feel it is warranted," the superintendent said. "It will not stop students from coming in and getting tutoring."

The modified calendar will also allow staff more opportunities for professional development, Selchert said. The staff will work on specific outcomes, he said.

The professional development will center around 21st Century Teaching and Learning, Integration of Technology in the Classroom and teacher effectiveness, Selchert said.

The new calendar will focus on the district's current initiatives, he said. That

includes South Dakota's school model entitled "High Schools 2025," he added.

The new calendar takes into account Gayville-Volin's distance-learning program, Selchert said.

"The new calendar should not negatively affect the distance learning," he said. "We are still working out scheduling for pre-school and Head Start, but these programs will not see any significant change in instructional time. We are evaluating feedback from our early-childhood instructors and principals to determine the most beneficial way of moving forward."

Overall, the new calendar should achieve a number of goals, Selchert said.

"We will be providing more services to our students," he said. "We believe we will see great benefit in a short period of time."

The adopted calendar can be found online at <http://www.gayvillevolin.k12.sd.us>.

Volin-Gayville Horizons Celebration Slated Sunday

VOLIN — The Volin-Gayville Horizons Steering Committee will host a celebration on Sunday, March 21, to commemorate the successful completion of the process to receive the Horizons grant. The celebration will take place in the Volin City Hall.

The celebration will start with a free dance workshop from 4:30-5:30 p.m. taught by Sandi VanderWal and the Yankton County Drifters. They will be teaching the Electric Side, Silver Wings and 16-step. The workshop will be followed by a free supper and a dance with The Outback Band.

There will be various booths to display projects that are being worked on in the community to improve our community and address issues of poverty in our community. Some of these projects include developing a local food bank and addressing hunger in the community, improving communications within our community, providing culture and recreation for children within the community through classes and transportation.

A free will donation will be taken for various community projects.

Questions can be directed to Julie at 605-661-8766 or Missy at 267-2217.

SPORTS

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varsity-only tournaments.

If those proposals are voted down again, the experimental use likely would end, said Neil Goter, the activities director at Wagner High School and a member of the basketball advisory committee.

Adding the shot clock regulation would force schools to buy the timing equipment. Larger schools are perhaps better suited for switching to 16-minute halves because team depth allows them to substitute more often to offset the loss of a timeout and quarter break now available by playing four 8-minute quarters.

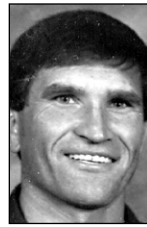
"When the Class A and B schools used it, that's their comment. We're having to play kids we don't normally play in a ball game," said Goter, former girls basketball coach at Wagner.

Two recommendations in football would give the two top-rated Class 11AA teams or the four top-rated teams a first-round bye in the playoffs.

The byes would reduce some travel and eliminate the chances of lopsided games in which the No. 1 seed plays the No. 16 seed in the first round.

Yankton football coach Arlin Likness said he doesn't support the change, in part because it would give strong teams another week to rest for the second round of playoffs and time to add new plays or formations.

A proposed playoff change in nine-man and Class 11A and 11B football would seed teams after the first round of play in their region. The change would increase the chances that the state's highest rated teams would not play each other until the championship game.



Likness

MEALS

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Pre-registration for Saturday's 5K is requested, Matuska said.

"If they'd like to stop in at The Center and register ahead of time, that would be great, to make sure we'll have everything down there for them. We'll have water available, and then the T-shirts can all be organized. If they would like to, they can still come that morning, but I would like them to register ahead if possible."

The Center is planning several other events as part of the March For Meals campaign.

They include:

- From March 19-21, people can pick up a ticket at The Center which will put 5 percent of their purchases from Hy-Vee toward the campaign.
- On Monday, March 22, 10 percent of all purchases at the Pizza Ranch accrued between 5-8 p.m. will be donated to the campaign.
- On Wednesday, March 24, Mayor Dan Specht will deliver meals for Meals On Wheels as part of the nationwide "Mayors For Meals" push. City commissioners Charlie Gross and Pauline Ackland will also deliver meals.
- On March 25, students at Stewart School will hold a march during recess to raise

awareness of March For Meals.

- Also on March 25, The Center is asking local restaurants to participate in "Dine For Meals," which would require them to donate 10 percent of the proceeds they accrue from 5-7 p.m. that day.
- On March 26, The Center will hold a bingo game, during which funds will be raised.

Matuska said she hopes these events will help increase awareness of senior hunger.

"We just need to let people realize that there is an issue with senior hunger, and that if we don't take care of our seniors, they're not going to be able to stay in their own homes," she said. "They're going to have more medical

problems, which in turn causes more expenses for them, more hospitalizations, more nursing home assistance. So people need to do a preventative service, which is our Meals on Wheels program."

For more information, contact The Center at 665-4685.



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