

Grade schoolers go green

STAFF REPORT

A single tree planted on the Coal City Elementary School campus has the potential to save the school district more than \$2,400 over the next 20 years.

In the first year alone, the shade created by the tree is expected to conserve 20 kilowatt hours of electricity and reduce carbon in the atmosphere by 54 pounds.

On April 24, second grade students helped plant the red sunset maple on the school's campus. The tree was donated by Spring Grove Nursery Inc.

This is the sixth year the Mazon-based nursery has donated a tree in observance of Arbor Day. The elementary school was one of six area schools to receive a tree.

Jamie and Becky Thomas, owners of Spring Grove Nursery, took part in the school's Arbor Day celebration by educating students about the important

role trees play in our environment.

Becky Thomas also shared the history of Arbor Day with the students before they ventured outside to plant the tree near the school's front entrance.

Spring Grove Nursery is a family owned wholesale tree nursery. The business features over 80 acres of shade, ornamental and evergreen trees, many of which are selected by landscape contractors. Their trees can also be found at local nurseries and garden centers.

The elementary school's Arbor Day celebration also featured students reading poems they created based on the themes of recycling and protecting the earth.

Friday's activities were the culmination of Earth Week events at the school. Earlier in the week, students had a green out, where they all wore green T-shirts purchased for the event. They also picked up trash around

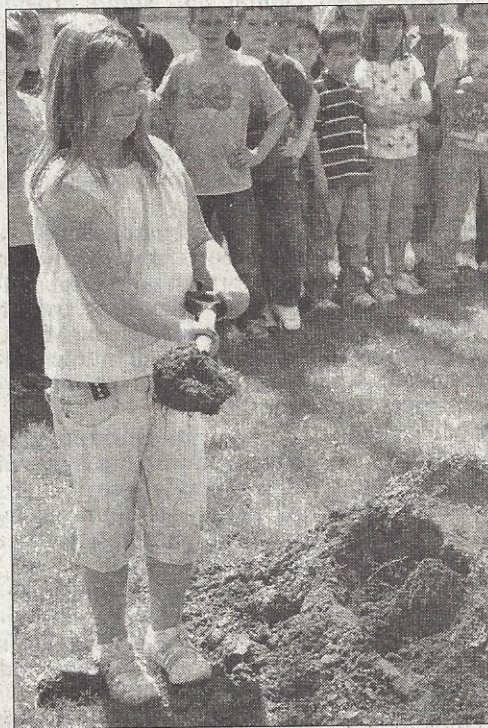


Photo by Ann Gill
COAL CITY Elementary School student Cassidy Flatness took part in the planting of a tree on the school campus. Spring Grove Nursery, Inc., of Mazon, donated the tree in honor of Arbor Day.

the school and engaged in classroom activities centered around Earth Week and Arbor Day. The school

wide projects were organized by second grade teacher Branden Petersen.