

Legislators discuss roads and education

▲ SD Legislature is at halfway point



The Clark Cracker Barrel is a great opportunity to meet and visit with District 2 state legislators. Above, first grader Ella Vandersnick didn't have school on Monday of this week, Presidents Day, so it was an opportunity to hear what the issues are in Pierre, in 2015, through the question and answer session.

Ella, in front of her dad, Matt, shakes hands with District 2 Rep. Lana Greenfield. District 2 Rep. Burt Tulson is on the left. Matt Vandersnick is the president of the Clark County Farm Bureau, who along with Clark County Farmers Union, sponsor the Cracker Barrel, held at the Ulyot Building.

Roads and education topped the list of political issues covered by District 2 state legislators at the Farm Bureau and Farmers Union Cracker Barrel held Monday, at the Ulyot Building in Clark. With 400 various bills in the hopper during the South Dakota State Legislature, which is currently at its halfway point in Pierre, many other topics were touched upon by District 2 Representatives Burt Tulson and Lana Greenfield.

District 2 Senator Brock Greenfield was unable to attend the Cracker Barrel as over the weekend he fell on the ice and broke his arm, and Monday morning he was in the doctor's office, finding out if he needed surgery to fix the break.

Many of the proposed bills discussed by Tulson and Greenfield at the Cracker Barrel are also talked about in their respective columns on page 2 of this *Courier* edition, as these current topics are at the forefront of their thoughts this week.

As Rep. Tulson prefaced the road package for state, county and townships, he noted that for every tax dollar in South Dakota, 45¢ goes to education, 39¢ to taking care of people, 11¢ to public safety and 5¢ to other.

"We are looking at two road bills this week, the Governor's bill is starting in the Senate, and both bills will be constantly changing," said Tulson, and he added that the Governor used his bill the last two years and added it to the comprehensive road bill plan to aid counties and townships in the repair of roads.

Greenfield added that roads and bridges have been discussed forwards and backwards, "And if state money is coming forth, it is very important to know where the money (specifically) is going. To vote for this bill, I want to know exactly what money is going to which fund," said Greenfield, and both legislators speculated that a 2¢ gas tax with an eight-year sunset, is being seriously looked at; at least this week.

A Willow Lake School Board delegation was in attendance at the Cracker Barrel, as with the proposed \$3.9 million building project at the Willow Lake School, capital outlay legislation is very important to the finalizing of this project. Plus, teacher pay and teacher shortage are two very critical components of public education in South Dakota. Concerning capital outlay, Tulson

noted that there is a bill to cap, capital outlay. "I don't agree with this," said Tulson and Greenfield agreed. "The schools should be able to decide. We don't need to micromanage," she stated.

"It would really penalize the schools," said Willow Lake School superintendent Scott Klautd of the capital outlay bill and then the talk turned to the School Blue Ribbon Task Force, proposed by the Governor to help with educational issues, including funding, teacher pay and aiding in the teacher shortage situation.

Legislators (continued on page 4)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 10	33	12	tr
Feb. 11	15	-5	0
Feb. 12	15	-6	tr
Feb. 13	29	0	0
Feb. 14	4	-6	0
Feb. 15	17	4	0
Feb. 16	19	5	tr
2015 precipitation to date	.47"		
2014 precipitation to date	.24"		

Animal Kingdom is the family favorite

▲ Ariana takes surprise trip to Disney World



"Ariana liked Pocahontas the best," said the family of Ariana Buechler who recently enjoyed a weeks vacation to Walt Disney World in Florida. The family of 13-year-old Ariana, Greg, Jennifer and older brother Lucas spent five days touring the theme park, courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in January. Of the theme parks, Animal Kingdom seemed to be her favorite, with many wild animals from Africa and a lot of exotic birds.

"We received special treatment everywhere we went, we really did," said Jennifer Buechler with a big smile and Ariana smiled in agreement when talking of their recent trip, courtesy of the Make-A-Wish® South Dakota foundation.

The entire family, Greg, Jennifer and children Ariana and Lucas Buechler of Clark were given a five day vacation plus two days slated for going to and coming from the Walt Disney World theme park in Orlando, Fla.

Ariana has Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection disorder and is confined to a wheelchair. It is very similar to cerebral palsy explained her mother. "Her muscles don't work like ours do. She can't talk but we communicate with her eyes and I can tell by her facial expressions what she's feeling. She's usually really happy and giggling. She can make sounds and can scream too when she really wants to be heard."

Ariana goes to school every day at the Hamlin Education Center. Paraprofessional Dawn Hink of Raymond has been with her for eight years, since she started school. She spends all day with her and transports her to school and back daily, as well as taking care of her feeding tube and tending to her needs.

The family was chosen for a Make-A-Wish® trip after Joie Steffen at the Hamlin Education Center submitted their name to the organization. It was a nice surprise to the family when they found out they were

Ariana (continued on page 3)



One may notice that every month, the windows of the Cagley-Smith Legion Post #60 American Legion building have a different scene to admire.

Currently Legion Auxiliary members Sharon Larson and Dianna Overby are on the decorating committee as they have been the last four years.

Shown above are Kathleen McHenry and Larson from the unit with this month's winter/Valentine decor. McHenry, Bev Kluess, Joyce Temple and Marcela Peckham have also been instrumental in this tradition over the years.

Clark American Legion Auxiliary keeps the front window very attractive

Since the Clark American Legion Post #60 was given the former Red Owl store building in 1993, by Gary Cushing, many changes have been made to make it their own.

The front window of the building actually changes monthly thanks to the efforts of Dianna Overby and Sharon Larson. Members of the Clark American Legion Auxiliary, they see to it that the tradition continues, adding to the collection every year. Most recent changes are a suspended bar assembled by Dianna's husband Greg, who also crafted the new 'Winter' sign. From the hanging bar the ladies have kicked it up a notch in what they can do in the window with more of a 3D type of look.

Larson and Overby were handed the reigns in the job of decorating from Kathleen McHenry, Joyce Temple and Bev Kluess. Before them Marcella Peckham had the honors and is credited for the painting and color scheme inside of the building.

"We used 'Flag blue' that we special ordered from Desnoyers Hardware for the bottom part, then I taped off the red stripe over the

white. I did the stairs going up in the back and the Legionnaires liked it, so it was decided on for the main room too," said Peckham.

"I recall our first Christmas tree was donated to us and we used it in the window along with other items. People would donate stuff and we incorporated it into the window display.

"It was a fun thing to do," continued Peckham. I made some firecrackers out of cardboard tubes for the Fourth of July. We always had a lot of nice comments on the windows. I used to bring all the decorations back home, until about 15 years ago, then they were stored in the old Red Owl office upstairs after that."

"Marcella was very artistic," said Kathleen McHenry who was next in line on the job. "I remember her using gunny sacks filled to look like potato sacks for potato days."

Bev Kluess recalls, "In earlier years, when we didn't have anything, I'd draw something on big cardboard and color it with chalk. I made a big Leprechaun with a rainbow and a pot of gold one year for St. Patrick's Day; a three foot bun-

ny for Easter and a big turkey with a long neck with a sign saying 'Eat Ham' for Thanksgiving."

"I think our first creation was a welcome sign. With ingenuity and decorating ability, we made do adding things as we went along. Kathleen was a big fan of craft shows and she shared ideas and items from them. Joyce Temple also helped us in always running up and down the stairs for us, getting items and putting them away."

A decorator tree, another Christmas tree and reversible vertical blinds were purchases over the years.

The ladies brought items from home for decorating too. As time went on, they added little things like a plate of cookies for Santa and parasols for in the spring.

Bob Forest crafted the white wooden crosses that were the first homemade decorations used according to Peckham. Vintage poppies were used from over the years and were added to the crosses for Memorial Day, along with canteens and other items from war times.

Legion Auxiliary (continued on page 4)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services

This Wednesday (today), February 18, Ash Wednesday begins the Easter Lenten Season with most churches in the area starting the first of a season of worship services.

In Clark, an ecumenical service will be held at the United Methodist Church, starting at 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark will hold their Mass with distribution of Ashes at 12:10 p.m. In Henry, at St. Henry's Catholic Church, the Ash Wednesday service

will be at 5:30 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church, will have services at 7:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley will combine with Crocker Lutheran Church for a service to be held in Crocker at 7:00 p.m. with lunch to follow.

Willow Lake Evangelical Church will have their Ash Wednesday service, at 6:30 p.m.

Also in Willow Lake, the Lent-

en season starts with a noon Ash Wednesday service at Grace Lutheran Church.

At the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna, the service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

In Bryant at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, an Ash Wednesday service will be held at 8:15 p.m.

The United Presbyterian Church and the Congregational Church will

Lent (continued on page 4)