

Education reform bill dominates legislative Cracker Barrel



Local cracker barrels are a great opportunity to meet with lawmakers. This past Monday, on President's Day, at the Ulyot Building, the Clark Farmers Union/Clark Farm Bureau sponsored the Clark County Cracker Barrel. Farmers Union representative Gail

Temple is shown introducing District 2 State Senator Brock Greenfield at the cracker barrel. Sen. Greenfield is surrounded by Rep. Lana Greenfield, to his right and Rep. Burt Tulson to his left.

District 2 legislators used the two-hour Clark County Legislative Cracker Barrel to visit with area constituents, give reflection and answer any and all audience questions.

The topic getting much of the attention to this point in the state legislature was front and center at the local cracker barrel - teacher pay. More specifically it was Gov. Dennis Daugaard's education reform bill, House Bill 1182. HB 1182 proposes to increase the state sales tax, the state use tax, the excise tax on farm machinery and amusement device tax for the purpose of increasing education funding and reducing property taxes and to declare an emergency.

This measure was to be voted upon in the House last Thursday, but was stalled with a procedural tactic and was to be taken up again by the House this week.

Rep. Lana Greenfield was the first to speak on this topic. "I'm against HB 1182," she said and then emphatically stated that she wants higher wages for teachers. Rep. Greenfield's problem with this bill is that she is afraid that if the House passes it, they will be handing over a blank check (bill) to the Senate.

"I don't want to jump the first freight train and not know where it is going. Having said that, I definitely want to see the money go to the teachers," said Rep. Greenfield.

Rep. Burt Tulson told the 20 or so in attendance at the question and answer forum that he is in favor of the Gov.'s bill, even though it would be the first time in almost a half century that the sales tax would be raised in South Dakota.

Tulson was quick to point out that even though the sales tax would be raised by 1/2 cent, a property tax relief on ag of seven percent would be included. "When you are raising taxes, there is no perfect bill," said Tulson. "I'm aware of the arguments...Now is the time to do this... if we keep putting teacher pay off, we will never catch up."

Sen. Brock Greenfield, when asked about the bill, said that he would wait to see exactly what it looked like when it got to the Senate side. "The legislative intent is to get the best bill possible, but I feel more emphasis needs to go to education," he said.

Sen. Greenfield continued that he wasn't sure that taxes will be raised to bring about higher salaries for educators. "South Dakota runs a pretty tight ship. Millions

of dollars can be targeted for cuts. These cuts are part of the process also, I feel. There are many moving parts."

The District 2 senator finished this topic saying, "I do not want to adjourn this session without earmarking money for education. The easy thing to do is to raise taxes. It is a harder job to bring about teacher raises without taxes being increased."

Even though the House is to vote on HB 1182, with the 2016 State Legislature at the half way point, this topic of teacher pay/sales tax increase, will highlight the media

Cracker Barrel (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 9	23	2	.08
Feb. 10	13	8	0
Feb. 11	19	9	tr
Feb. 12	9	-7	0
Feb. 13	11	-3	.59
Feb. 14	23	10	0
Feb. 15	31	18	tr
2016 precipitation to date			1.07
2015 precipitation to date			.47

Now is the time to file for local boards

▲ Deadline Friday, February 26

If one has an inkling to serve on a local governing board, now is the time to file your petition. Petitions for town boards and the Henry School Board need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26.

Position openings include:

Clark: There are no vacancies scheduled for the city of Clark in 2016.

Henry School: Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. One three-year term is open with the incumbent being Nicole Watson.

Gail Thompson is the business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

Garden City: Two council positions will become vacant due to the expiration of the present terms. One three-year term currently held by David Waples and one two-year term currently held by Erica Benson are open. Jeanette Warkenthien is the finance officer for Garden City.

Bradley: One three-year term position presently held by Chad Alfllisch will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. The finance officer for Bradley is Jeanette Warkenthien.

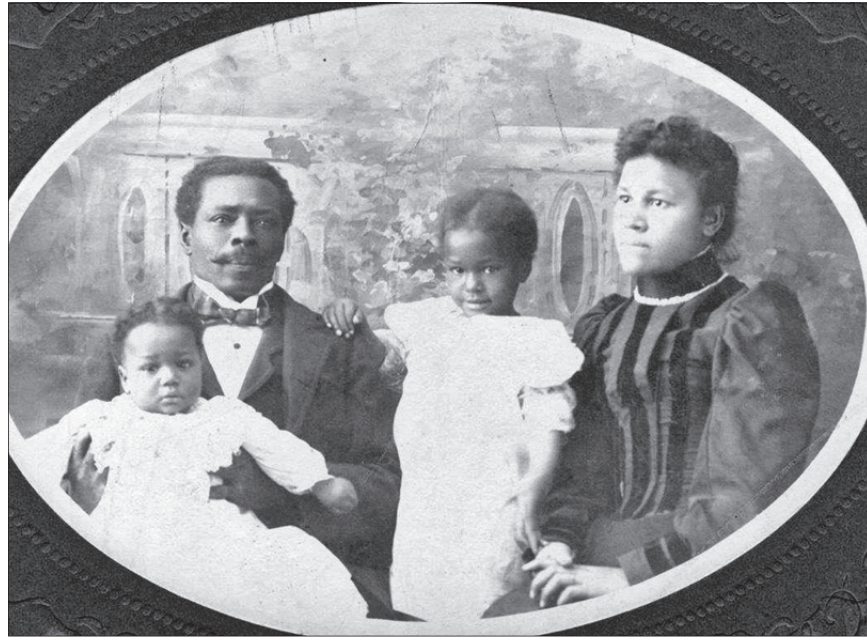
Willow Lake: Four positions will become vacant in Willow Lake. The present terms of office for council members that will expire are: Ward II - a one-year term held by Luke Zelinski; Ward I - a two-year term held by Lane Wirtjes and in Ward II - a two-year term held by Duane Seefeldt. The mayor's position, a two-year term held by Del Bratland is up for election.

Heidi Madsen is the finance officer for Willow Lake.

Raymond: One three-year term position currently held by incumbent Gale Filipek will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term.

Carrie Reis is the finance officer

Local boards (continued on page 3)



Cal and Rosa Simmons, early settlers of Clark County, are shown with their oldest children, Calvin 'Carl', born in 1900 and May Janet born in 1898. Mr. Simmons was the first African American to own land in Clark County in Garfield Township



Cal and Rosa Simmons are shown with their four children, May, Carl, William and Adaline outside of their home in Garfield Township, about two miles west of Clark Center Church. Going by the age and birth dates of their children, this photo is estimated to have been taken around 1907.

Cal Simmons homesteaded in Garfield Township

With February being black history month, the *Courier* is featuring the first black family to homestead in Clark County.

Records show that Calvin 'Cal' Simmons was the owner of 60 to 80 acres in Garfield Township approximately two miles west of the Clark

Center Church. He filed a homestead claim in 1887 and acquired more property in 1890.

As a young boy Calvin Green Simmons was the personal servant of Captain W. G. McSpadden who served under General Sherman during the Civil War. After Mc-

Spadden was discharged in 1864 he brought Cal with him to his home in Wisconsin.

In 1881, Mr. McSpadden came to Clark and filed on land one mile west of Clark and brought Mr. Simmons with him. McSpadden's wife and several of their 10 children

came the following spring. McSpadden began construction immediately on the Northwestern Hotel located on First Street.

Mr. Simmons was known in Clark for his plastering and ma-

Cal Simmons (continued on page 3)



The St. James Catholic Cemetery is located one mile west of Willow Lake. Nestled in between several bodies of water in the area, it is located just over the knoll on the west end of the cemetery land in which

both Collins Cemetery and St. James Catholic Cemetery share the location. Approximately 164 gravesites are located dating back to 1886.

St. James Catholic Cemetery shares with Collins

Located one mile west of Willow Lake is where the St. James Catholic Cemetery and the Collins Cemetery share the land.

Records show that back in December of 1889, Frank Sheldon and Adelia Sheldon deeded six acres, more or less to the city of Willow Lake to be used by both the Protestants and Catholics. In the early years, the cemetery was divided according to the churches and/or the Norwegians and Germans in the area.

The gravesites on the furthest west end of the cemetery, all sites

west of the furthest west road, make up the St. James Catholic Cemetery.

The St. James Catholic Church was a congregation of people many years before the church building was erected. Early settlers in the 1880s with family names such as Downe, Gully, Imlay, Gavin, McVey, Kenny, O'Connor, Frohlich and Donley were the early beginning of the St. James Church.

Priests from De Smet came to Willow Lake to hold mass in various places such as Ralya's Hall, the schoolhouse or in the John Foelech

or George Gavin homes. In 1898, St. Mary's Church was erected in Bryant and a St. James Catholic Church in Willow Lake became their mission.

Building started in 1904 with the St. James Church structure almost completed when a tornado that came through town demolished the building. Not giving up on their plans the congregation started again and rebuilt the church which was dedicated on June 23, 1909.

The St. James Catholic Cemetery
St. James Cemetery (continued on page 3)



Winter scenes add to the season's beauty

What's missing from this picture is a squirrel, so the caption writer could have fun in a Russian accent, telling of "moose and squirrel".

In October of 2014 this moose sighting could have had one take a double take as there actually was a moose on the loose in Clark County, spotted nine

miles north of Clark and then again down by Willow Lake near the Schmidt farms.

This picturesque back yard with its natural bird friendly habitat belongs to John and Barb Pollock in Clark.