

Clark County Conservation District needs active interest

Supporters of conservation in Clark County are needed in one of two ways. First off, members are needed for the Clark County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Secondly, less than 20 acres of trees were planted last year compared to 140 acres three years ago. So, one can pursue tree plantings.

Clark County Conservation District manager Diane Erickson stated that if her office continues to move forward, a couple of people in Clark County need to "step up to the plate" and serve on the five-member Clark County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

"We need a full and diverse board with innovative ideas and visions to set the course for the successful operation of a conservation district," said Erickson.

"You cannot finance an operation just on income derived from trees," she continued. Tree plantings have gone from 140 acres in 2010 to less than 20 acres last year.

"I would like to see at least 60 acres planted to trees this spring. That is what we need as a district to be viable," Erickson stated. Reasons stated for a lack of continued

tree plantings include: a lack of conservation programs, high land and high rental sales and high crop prices.

Conservation districts follow county lines, but receive no direct state funding. Erickson again emphasized the importance of a strong board along with support by purchasing and planting more trees.

"Activities of the Clark County Conservation District include providing and/or referring providers for the needed technical assistance,

Conservation
(continued on page 3)

Community center continues to be pursued by city leaders

A good-sized crowd came to the Clark Municipal Golf Course clubhouse last Wednesday to talk about the city going forward with clubhouse/community center building plans.

This project is at a very preliminary stage and the purpose of the meeting was to see if there is a community need, a community interest and what the needs are going forward.

The city is proposing to apply for a CDBG grant to assist in the funding. It should be noted that this project more than likely will not

move forward without this grant being accepted and this hearing at the golf clubhouse is a starting point.

Clark Mayor Larry Dreher presided over the hour-long public meeting and he told the 70 or so in attendance that the only agenda item for discussion at this meeting is to find out if we (the city of Clark) should build a community center/event center/clubhouse.

"Is there a need?" queried Dreher to the group. "If we do proceed, a unified community effort of the entire community will be needed!

Taxes will not increase over this project."

During the course of the meeting Mayor Dreher and finance officer Jackie Luttrell fielded many questions, some without black and white answers, but at the end of the meeting there was overwhelming consensus to pursue going forward with this community center/clubhouse project.

Some of the discussion topics included:

- ▲ How big a facility are you proposing?

Community center
(continued on page 3)

Water rights again dominate legislative Cracker Barrel

The Clark Area 2014 Legislative Cracker Barrel was held Monday, President's Day, at the Ullyot Building.

The three District 2 legislators were in attendance: Sen. Chuck Welke, Rep. Brock Greenfield and Rep. Burt Tulson.

Discussion of water monopolized the 90 minute session and in particular Senate Bill 169 was the topic of conversation.

In a nutshell, SB 169: "Provide for access to and use of public waters on public and private property and to protect private property rights for the citizens of South Dakota.

After introductions, one of the 30 or so in attendance who spoke first was landowner John Arthur. Arthur asked the legislative trio: "Do

you really think this law is going to help?" Arthur has testified in years past out in Pierre at committee hearings on this matter and wanted to address a compromise regarding public access on floodwaters covering more than 40 acres of private land if the water can be reached by a public point.

"Give the landowner an area where you can post - so you don't have ice augers waking you up at 5:00 a.m.," he gave for an example.

Rep. Tulson explained how a week ago 13 landowners testified against SB 169 in Senate State Affairs Committee. He asked the group what they thought about this bill, because as of the present, both sides are against it, and this bill was supposed to be the best of both worlds, being worked on for over a

year.

Sen. Welke said that this bill came out of committee with a 6-3 'do pass' vote and the entire Senate will be voting on it Tuesday afternoon. He then mentioned that a couple amendments have been tacked onto the bill.

Rep. Greenfield commented that what he has been hearing is that SB 169 is seemingly unworkable to both groups and he then told of the last five years in the legislature of water bills and landowner rights.

Landowner Roy Gjerde commented, "When you're trying to compensate (the landowner for meandered water) there is no number high enough. It's insulting. We just want our land. Our property rights keep getting whittled away. It's so very frustrating to deal with hunt-



Valentine's Day celebrated with a scavenger hunt

"I found it," was Cade Gaikowski's exuberant response as the Little Explorers day care children found Clue #6 at the *Clark County Courier* on Friday.

For a fun Valentine's Day outing, Karla Claussen and her day care group went around to various businesses in Clark finding the red Valentine plates on their 'Love Bug Scavenger Hunt.' The sixth clue, found at the *Courier*, directed them to treats at a local cafe.

Shown from left to right behind Gaikowski are Trigg Felberg, Archer Felberg, Payten Bokinskie (partially

hidden), Kooper Wookey, Sullivan Felberg and Isaac Johnson. Guiding them on their hunt were Marianne Geise, Karla Claussen and Ashley Petersen. One may notice, although it appears so, Sullivan Felberg does not actually have a mustache.

Marianne Geise said of the hunt, "It was cold, but the children were good troopers. They looked for the next clue, then wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day as they left a package of cookies for the business owners."



Kristin Vandersnick on the left hands over the keys to the new owners of the "Out on a Limb Gifts and Home Decor" gift shop. Darcy Pommer and Erica Bratland are the new owners and partners in the shop located in the front of Lake Grocery in Willow Lake.

"Having a gift shop in town benefits those who want to shop locally versus having to travel and it also benefits the grocery store with their commission percentage to help with ongoing repairs," stated Vandersnick.

Out on a Limb changes hands in Willow Lake

"I just knew they'd be really good at it," said Kristin Vandersnick with a smile as she spoke of the new owners of Out on a Limb Gifts and Home Decor. The shop is located in the front of Lake Grocery in Willow Lake.

Darcy Pommer and Erica Bratland took over the reins officially

in November and have been remodeling a little with texturing and painting to give the storefront a new look.

"We're also going to be adding some baby gifts and shower gifts to our collection," said Bratland. "In a small town, you need variety for people to choose from. We're adding

items like crocheted hats and bath sets, and hope to get more blankets and booties for baby shower gifts.

Currently, the store has a nice collection of purses, home decor, jewelry and kitchen items. Modern yet rustic could describe the decor and

Out on a Limb
(continued on page 14)

ers. I let my wife do that."

Landowner Tom Hallberg commented that he has 400 acres under water and in the last 72 hours said he has kicked 18 people off. "They can't understand why they can't fish it. They were nice about it, but there is no public access to this body of water."

The group then acknowledged that they haven't heard the end of discussion on public water over private land.

Ramona Kirkeby wanted to talk Common Core, as this is the educational model replacing the federally mandated No Child Left Behind. Legislators Tulson and Welke stated that even though there are faults



The three legislators from District 2, left to right, Rep. Brock Greenfield, Rep. Burt Tulson and Sen. Chuck Welke, were in Clark Monday to meet with their local constituents. Gail Temple, not pictured, of Clark County Farmers Union, made the introductions.

Propane prices an unpleasant surprise

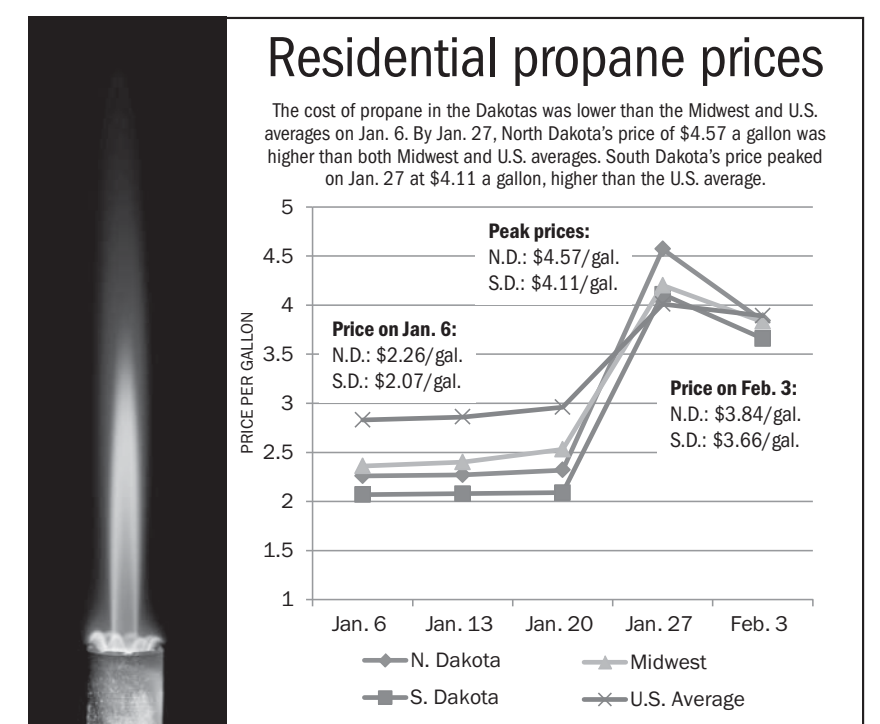
A story by **Dakotafire**
dakotafire.net

By Jessica Giard, Dakotafire Media
Reporting by Doug Card, Britton Journal and Garrick Moritz, Faulk County Record

The continued draw on the national propane supply that started in October has finally hit local pocketbooks in the midst of an extended cold snap.

To explain how end consumer prices reached nearly \$5 a gallon at the end of January, you have to look at how propane reaches the Dakotas and consider the demands at a national and regional level.

The short explanation is this: Higher demand from farmers to



WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Feb. 11	23	2	tr	
Feb. 12	30	8	0	
Feb. 13	32	2	tr	
Feb. 14	17	-3	0	
Feb. 15	27	-3	tr	
Feb. 16	28	-7	tr	
Feb. 17	36	18	0	
2014 precipitation to date		.24"		
2013 precipitation to date		1.15"		

dry grain during a wet fall harvest on top of increased exports and one less Midwest pipeline in operation. Add in increased demand in southern states that rarely see cold temperatures plus extended cold temperatures in the Dakotas, and you have prices that more than doubled in less than a week.

"Two events, the need to dry more crops and the need to run home furnaces these last three months, have made the demand very high. Places south of us, who (usually) only run their furnaces a few days out of the year, have suddenly been using them every day," said Jim Sluneka of Northern Plains Cooperative of Faulkton, S.D. "Nobody, or at least not very many folks, saw this record winter coming."

Sluneka watched the price of propane start to spike Jan. 16 then watched it leap upward by \$2.52 in seven days.

"That's just nuts," he said. "Since, it's gone down about \$1.50, but for a while propane was going for rough-

Propane
(continued on page 3)