

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Native American Day/Columbus Day is Monday

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The hometown newspaper of Glenn R. Miller, Rapid City, SD

Fixed fees for liquor operating agreements highlight lengthy discussion at city hall

At the October meeting of the Clark City Council all business operators who sell liquor, on or off sale, were invited to Monday's meeting.

The discussion dealt with a fixed fee for an operating agreement with all Clark liquor businesses. In a nutshell, currently the city receives 10 percent per drink for on sale and three percent per drink for off sale. The city is looking to go to a fixed (total) fee and the city also, by ordinance is cleaning up, or tweaking, the liquor ordinance, to be more in line with state codified law.

A city Clark's size is allowed three on-sale licenses and unlimited malt beverage licenses, according to Mayor Larry Dreher.

Dreher began the discussion with the business owners by saying that the city cannot do the 'invoice thing'

any more and would like to go to a flat fee for each business. "We want to get out of the 'bad people'/police business (with invoices) and go to a flat fee annually (or pro rated monthly)," said Dreher, and this fee is based on the amount paid to the city in liquor fees over the past five years.

The fixed fees for operating agreements proposed by the mayor and city council include: Dakota Butcher, \$11,000; Lookout, \$6,000; Sportsman's Bar, \$6,000; Clark Lanes, \$6,000; Ken's Food Fair, \$1,500; Dollar General, \$1,500; Casey's, \$1,500 and Big C Travel Plaza, \$1,500.

As the operating owners and council discussed fairness, reasoning for this to come about and why off sale fees would be \$1,500, Mayor

Dreher said that beginning in January, 2017, this would be a one-year trial year.

"We, the finance officer and the city council have caught a lot of flack out in the public," said Dreher. "We've struggled with this the last six weeks. We don't like this, but feel we are pushed into this."

Gayle Wookey of the Lookout and Mike O'Neill of Sportman's Bar both stated that bar numbers have not been on the increase, but rather the opposite is true. "It's a different world now," said Wookey.

City attorney Chad Fjelland asked the group if they are opposed to this concept - a fixed rate - versus invoices. The consensus of the owners was that they are not against

City hall
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Dorey Gross appreciates the people of Clark County

"Loved and appreciated." That's what the people of Clark County are to Dorey Gross. "I do love and appreciate so many people here. I've really been blessed with so many wonderful people in my life," she states with a smile.

"Clark County and the people of Clark, Bradley and Crocker, they are all 'home' to me.

"The wonderful people around here, that is the reason I enjoy living in Clark," admits Gross who has been a resident of the Wookey apartments since July of 2015.

"It's wonderful to go down for meals, I enjoy my apartment and they take good care of us here."

"Us" is Dorey and her older brother Kenny Bjerke, who is also a resident at Wookey's in the assisted living part of the facility.

"When we were growing up together near Lily and Crocker and would visit our aunt and uncle - Clifford and Mildred Bjerke near Clark, we would play softball with the Wookey boys at the school yard by their home, east and south of Clark. So I knew Gayle's relatives from way back when." Gayle Wookey is the administrator of the Fay Wookey Memorial Living Center which celebrates 20 years this Friday since they opened.

The familiar names and the small town atmosphere are part of what make Clark feel like home to the Bjerke siblings, Dorey and Kenny.



Dorey Gross is shown in her quaint apartment at the Fay Wookey Memorial Assisted Living Center in Clark - her hometown. Dorey grew up with seven siblings in the Lily and Crocker Hills areas, the daughter of Carl and Olga Bjerke.

She married John Gross and they raised seven children together in Crocker and later Atwater, Minn. John and Dorey moved back to Clark in 2000 when John entered the (GLC) Beverly Healthcare Center. He died in 2005.

Dorey enjoys living in her hometown and considers all of her family and friends "loved and appreciated". A quilt showing her heritage is on the wall in the background with her wedding picture to the left.

The Bjerke family

They are the oldest two children born to Carl and Olga (Warwick) Bjerke. Following them in birth order were Donald (Dunk), Faye, Jim, Roxie, Becky and Joey. Joey only lived to the age of two due to leukemia.

Currently four siblings remain,

Kenny and Dorey in Clark, Dunk in Watertown and Roxie in Mansfield.

The Bjerke family grew up near Lily on the east side of Cottonwood Lake in their early years. Their grandparents Ole and Johanna Warwick lived on the west side of

Gross
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Carpenter's first postmaster began duties in April of 1899



From the early Clark County Postcard collection of Greg Furness, this postcard shows Carpenter's downtown district, early in the 20th century, with the Carpenter Post Office building on the right.

A spring of cold water was the reason John C. Opsahl settled and built a creamery using the cool water to cool their cream and butter in what soon came to be the town of Carpenter in 1894.

The first store in town was built by Ed Baker and Frank Herbst who also moved a small granary into town. In this store was where the first post office was established with J.C. Opsahl as postmaster. It was also known later as the Opsahl Store.

From there the Post Office moved into the Chambers Store, when C.W. Chambers was postmaster up until 1909. When Nellie Cressey had the postmaster position next in

Carpenter
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Bob Mack, right and son John own Mack's Service Center in Clark and this Friday is their 60th business anniversary celebration. They are arguably the oldest family owned business in Clark, starting in 1956.

Mack's Service Center has been in Clark for 60 years

Sixty years ago, the late Gene Mack opened Mack's Standard, in Clark. This Friday, Mack's Service is celebrating 60 years in service.

In those sixty years many things have changed, but what hasn't changed is the emphasis on 'service' at Mack's Service, a family owned auto service station and repair shop.

"When I was in high school much of our winter business was starting

cars that wouldn't start and putting snow tires on vehicles," said Bob Mack. "Fuel injection changed much of starting cars and now with front-wheel drive, tires are completely different and it's not real popular to put snow tires on all four," he said.

Bob joined his father Gene in the business, after high school and college, in the late 1970s.

John started with his dad in 2008

and shortly after John started, the father-son duo remodeled both the office and the shop. "I'm kind of a sign guy, can't you tell," said John, as the office exterior and interior is pretty much 'maxed out' with auto repair related signage.

At Mack's Service, they do oil changes and auto repair, as well as provide gas. "Basically, it's your

Mack's
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Civil marriages no longer available at the courthouse

As September ended, so did Clark County Courthouse marriages.

All counties in the South Dakota Third Judicial Circuit adopted this practice to not allow the county clerk magistrates to perform civil wedding ceremonies. About half of the judicial circuits in the state no longer provide the service, citing heavy work loads in county offices.

Counties in the Third Judicial Circuit include: Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Brookings, Kingsbury, Beadle, Hand, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Lake and Moody.

Presiding Judge Gregory J. Stollenburg, in a released statement, noted that an increase in caseload management, other administrative duties and budgetary restraints brought about his decision to eliminate this administrative function from clerk duties in Third Judicial Court counties.

Management of court calendars and caseloads remain the first priority of the clerks' offices and pri-

Civil marriages
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WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 27.....	68	39	0
Sept. 28.....	61	41	0
Sept. 29.....	63	42	0
Sept. 30.....	68	45	0
Oct. 1.....	70	46	0
Oct. 2.....	72	51	0
Oct. 3.....	73	55	.25
2016 precipitation to date	17.29		
2015 precipitation to date	18.86		



H.H.S. Homecoming royalty

During Henry High School coronation which was held on September 26, 2016, Queen Cassidy Ford and King Kory Lane were selected to reign over the 2016 Homecoming festivities.

Cassidy's parents are Susan Wagner and Jeb Ford. Kory is the son of Mike and Shauna Lane.

Public Ballot Measures Forum to be held Thursday, Oct. 13

A Ballot Measures Forum is scheduled to be held at the Ulyot Building Community Room on Thursday, October 13 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a light lunch. The Forum will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Moderator for the Forum will be Watertown radio broadcaster David J. Law. The following ballot measures will be presented with someone speaking pro and con on each measure.

Initiated Measure 22 would revise state campaign finance laws, lobbying laws and reporting,, cre-

ating a taxpayer funded campaign finance program, create an ethics commission and appropriate up to \$12 million for each election cycle. This proposed measure was brought to South Dakota by a Massachusetts group.

Initiated Measure 23 is a South Dakota law to allow certain organizations and groups to charge fees for services. This would end the South Dakota Right to Work laws as we know. There is also out of

Ballot Measures
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