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Two long-time Clark businessmen have retired



John Olson has officially retired as of October 12, 2012 from Olson's Motors in Clark. He started as a salesman and bookkeeper working for his father Wayne Olson in March of 1973. John's grandfather Alfred Olson started Olson's Motor Company back in 1943 and before that Alfred started Community Oil.



John and his brother Jerry bought out their father in 1980. Jerry has been the parts man there since 1971. John states "I'm really enjoying doing what I want to do, although I'm still in the habit of waking up every day at 4:00 a.m."



Although the sign says Ritter's Repair, it will soon say Tony's Collision Center as the keys have been handed over from Merlyn and Marie Ritter (shown above) to Tony and Angie Werdel in Clark. The Ritters' next venture, along with continuing to manage Clark's storage units, will be to refurbish a

1980's trolley car. It will be a traveling concession stand offering multi-flavored ice creams and specialty drinks, ready for next summer's season. Ritter bought the business from Ken and Sandy Bell in January of 1978.

John Olson is looking forward to being a more 'hands-on' grandpa

At his retirement party on October 20, John Olson received a big telescope from his family. "I guess that will be a new hobby of mine. Up until now I haven't really had any hobbies, it's just been work. I am really enjoying doing what I

want to do now though," says Olson. "The telescope is pretty cool, you can see the rest of the moon when only a half moon is seen by everyone else. It will be fun learning more about astronomy."

From 1973 until October of this

year, Olson was the salesman/bookkeeper/co-owner of Olson's Motor in Clark. Now, 40 years later, he is officially retired.

The long-time Clark businessman

Olson
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Ritter's Repair is now in retirement

"We're not retired...we're just tired," kids Merlyn and Marie Ritter, former 35 year owners of Ritter's Repair in Clark.

"We will miss our customer the most. We have a lot of good memories here. I'll miss the work, I enjoy doing what I did. I just had to slow down a little bit and wanted to 'change gears' I guess," stated

Merlyn. "We had a lot of faithful customers and loyal customers from this area. I've noticed over the years that people who move here from somewhere else are very grateful to be able to do business in our own town. They are very loyal to local businesses. I will also miss the home baked goodies from the widows and single women who re-

ally appreciated our services and the fact we would do the extras like pick up their car for them or drop it off."

The Ritters took pride in taking the extra steps in pleasing their customers in the vehicle body shop and mechanic shop business and

Ritter
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Where are they now?

Music is now Mark Flora's life but he started as a Clark Courier writer

As the logo says, the Clark County Courier has been around for 132 years. For over three of those years, approximately 20 years ago, Mark Flora was the Courier writer. Just as the computer was coming into existence to help with putting the newspaper together, Flora was getting his journalism career started, in Clark.

If you have ever met Mark, because of his energy, passion and like-ability, he leaves a lasting impression. The community of Clark is somewhat responsible for his story:

"My time at the Courier was a gift from the Lord. It led me to the Finstad family," says Flora, "and now they're my family".

Saying the prayer, 'Dear Lord, please give me a job. I'll go anywhere, just make it an adventure,' happened minutes before a call from Bert Moritz, which led to a series of events that changed Flora's life from then on.

Mark Flora worked at the Clark County Courier from March of 1989 to December of 1992 alongside Bert Moritz as a reporter and photographer. He soon met Dave Finstad and with music in common, the two hit it off and Mark started sitting in with their band. Long story short, seven years later, Mark married Dave and Carol's daughter, Lisa, and he is now the father of their two granddaughters, McCartney and Sky.

Music remains his passion. "Music is 'it' for me. I keep coming back to it. I thought when I took the Courier job, I was done with music, but that wasn't the case."

Life in Iowa

Originally a city kid from Des Moines, Iowa, the son of Jerry and Bonnie Flora, he went on to Iowa State University getting his journalism degree in 1987. Growing up with a love of 50's music along with his father and taking guitar lessons, his passion steered him into joining a band while in college. A

punk band called 'The Law' was his part-time vocation along with working at the Iowa State Daily newspaper after college. He soon became the arts and entertainment editor at the college paper.

In his words he went through a spiritual crisis at that time. "You could say I rebelled I guess. When I left home, I left the church as well. All that changed when I gave my life to the Lord. I heard him calling. It was December 13, 1988, I wrote it down in a Bible. I quit the band and the lifestyle that went with it after that and lived with my parents for a while, searching for a new job."

Getting the Courier job

He first interviewed in South Dakota at Redfield for an editor position. Although not getting the job due to a lack of experience, the publisher said, "I'll float your name around here." Flora's name landed on the ears of Bert Moritz who called Flora at home and wanted to meet at a mall in Des Moines for an interview. "I'll be the elderly fellow in a jacket with my wife," said Bert.

After an hour and a half of asking every elderly couple 'are you Bert and Helen?' in the mall, Flora went home feeling slightly dejected. That's when he prayed for a job with an adventure. Then who should call minutes later, but Bert. I think I told you the wrong mall, he apologized profusely. Still in his suit and tie, Flora went to the interview and hit it off right away with Bert and got the job.

Two weeks later he was in Clark working as a reporter and photographer at the Courier with Bert, Marlys Moritz, Sara Heig and Joan Furness. David Moritz should be named with the aforementioned Courier 'folk', as he has printed in the same spot since 1972. "Mark was one of dad's good 'finds,'" David said with a smile. "Flora brought energy, a positive spin and a great

Flora

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If anyone remembers some of the catchy headlines in the Clark County Courier from 1989 - 1992, they might have been written by this reporter/photographer Mark Flora. He worked under Bert Moritz at the time and was originally from Des Moines, Iowa. He is now a family man and a 'Rockabilly tour guide to the 50's' musician in a Minneapolis band called Holy Rocka Rollaz.

Shown at the bale stack on the Dave and Carol Finstad farm are the Floras, left to right, Lisa, McCartney, Mark and Sky. Completing the family with a smile is their border collie Zero.

East River deer season has successful opening weekend

Even with fewer deer available in 2012 the opening weekend for the South Dakota East River deer season was a positive.

"This being my first year as a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks conservation officer, I didn't have former years for comparison, but I know it made for a busy weekend," said Kyle Lenzner, the Clark County game warden.

What kept Lenzner busy were road hunting and trespassing violations.

Normally, somewhere around fifty percent of the deer are harvested by Saturday noon, but Lenzner said that he has no idea if that is the case as he hasn't seen any numbers.

"On the one side, I know quite a few deer were harvested over the weekend, but the weather was a little warm and a little windy for optimum deer movement. For the most part hunters saw deer and those who didn't fill a tag were probably being a little more selective because it is the opening weekend. Lenzner said with the reduced

number of licenses available, he speculated that there were probably less hunters out than years past, but for those with tags the weekend hunt went successfully, probably surpassing expectations. "I saw quite a few out of county license plates, as hunters 'jumped one county over', because of the fewer tags," said Lenzner.

There were some decent bucks

Deer season (continued on page 6)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 13	36	17	0
Nov. 14	47	22	0
Nov. 15	37	17	0
Nov. 16	45	18	0
Nov. 17	52	32	0
Nov. 18	59	30	0
Nov. 19	51	26	0
2012 precipitation to date	17.64"		
2011 precipitation to date	21.42"		

Special services planned for this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful. It has been noted that if one would keep a gratitude journal daily, listing only three things to be grateful for, it would change one's way of thinking on a daily basis. Keeping in mind for one to look for the positives of life.

As our ancestors came together to give thanks, many churches in the area are doing the same.

Clark

In Clark, the ministerial committee in Clark decided on a Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7:00 p.m. at the Assembly of God Church on Wednesday, November 21 with all members' clergy having a part in the service.

Also in Clark, Peace Lutheran will have their worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, the eve of Thanksgiving.

Willow Lake

Note: In Willow Lake, there is a



community service being planned at the United Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21.

At the Willow Lake Evangelical Church, there is a 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving worship planned on Wednesday evening, Nov. 21.

Bradley

At the St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley a Thanksgiving service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve, also inviting members of Crocker Lutheran Church.