

Healthy summer discussions during a pandemic, by city council

The July meeting of the Clark City Council lasted two hours in length. Summer events and summer activities were discussed in detail, with Public Input and Department Updates needing the majority of the council's time.

Speaking during Public Input were John Mack, Riley Dandurand, Glenn Handke and Don and Lisa Tesch.

With no Potato Day in Clark this summer, Mack wanted to see the Car Show continue and the council agreed that the Car show could go on.

Dandurand wanted city backing in his Dakota Style sponsorship of Hole in one insurance for the Sept. 26 Clark Chamber Golf Tourna-

ment.

Glenn Handke is pursuing a tractor museum to be located directly west of the Clark County Historical Society Museum grounds. Handke was informed of the vacation/zoning process that would be involved to make this a reality.

Don and Lisa Tesch own their home on N. Idaho Street in Clark and have some issues with golf course sprinklers located on their property. They want them moved. Also, a fire hydrant does not meet state code being far enough above ground, said D. Tesch. The mayor and council will put these matters on the council's agenda to fix the problem, was the consensus, voiced by city attorney Chad Fjelland.

Regarding department updates, the Horace Bennett Memorial Swimming Pool in Clark has been a busy place this summer and the high diving board has come into question.

City employee Darin Altfillisch began the discussion talking about accidents and incidents, involving 'slipping' as kids are always in a rush and that led to Altfillisch pricing a lower diving board, wanting to take out what currently is there.

Fjelland shared that state standards and area pools should be researched and noted that risk responsibility is basically up to the

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One killed in two vehicle crash east of Clark

A two-vehicle fatal crash occurred late Sunday night, six miles east of Clark on US Highway 212.

At the intersection of US 212 and 428th Avenue, at 10:47 p.m., Sunday, a 47-year-old female with her 15-year-old son in the backseat, in a 2007 Chrysler van, collided with a 2016 semi truck and trailer, driven by a 24-year-old female.

According to South Dakota Department of Public Safety information, Nancy Berendes, age 47, of

Doland, died in the crash. The driver of the semi was Kianna Gause of Norcross, Ga.

The 2016 International TR semi truck and trailer was making a left turn onto U.S. Highway 212 from 428th Avenue to go east. A 2007 Town and Country Chrysler van, which was westbound on U.S. Highway 212, collided with the semi truck.

The 47-year-old female driver of the van had to be extricated and

later died of her injuries at the Watertown hospital. She was wearing a seat belt.

A 15-year-old passenger was taken to the Watertown hospital with serious non-life threatening injuries. He was not wearing a seat belt.

The 24-year-old female driver of the semi truck was not injured. She was wearing a seat belt.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol continues to investigate the crash.



New Chevy truck front at Mack's Service

As Mack's Service has continued to use automotive decor at their business, the latest upgrade is the counter.

A 1957 Chevrolet 6500 truck front has been customized and raised, with wheels, to serve as Bob Mack, left and John Mack's new counter. Bob's son-in-law, Tim Steffensen's office is where

this truck front was located prior to the move to Clark. Tim is married to Kristi and sells crop insurance.

Said John, "Now we need a bumper and need to get the headlights working on it." Old barn wood has the Mack's Service sign on it.



Willow Lake parade honors July 4th

Corey and Jennifer Tellinghuisen and family were one of the first floats to line up for the Willow Lake July 4th parade.

Patriotism is very evident, honoring Independence

Day. The Willow Lake parade was again well attended with very summer-like, hot weather.

4-H activities will be modified this summer

This is a summer like no other. With COVID-19 shutting down most public events due to social distancing, Clark County 4-H adviser Kimberly McGraw was asked about 4-H summer programs.

When she uses terms like 'virtual model' that means the Internet and 'essential individuals' means participants and individuals needed to run the event.

Regarding Achievement Days and the 4-H Rodeo, said McGraw:

"Over the last few months our local 4-H program has been using a 100% virtual model. With this model many events were put on hold, canceled, or modified to be conducted over computer. During this time youth have continued to be busy taking care of livestock projects and

preparing for 4-H events. Our local 4-H youth have been participating in virtual public presentation days, special foods, and fashion revue all by computer. Using a computer, they have been able to keep their 4-H summer activities going. Clubs meetings have even been held over Facebook or the computer.

"COVID-19 put a cease on all in person events for the SD 4-H program back on March 13, but that has not ended the program. Starting July 2, SD 4-H and our local program now have the opportunity to resume modified in person 4-H activities. With guidelines and expectations, we will be able to move

4-H
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Pandemic threatens fragile rural health-care system in South Dakota

By Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Editor's note: This article is the second of three parts of a special report by South Dakota News Watch called "Small Towns, Big Challenges." See the entire series at sdnews-watch.org.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a significant and unexpected financial burden on rural health-care providers who were already struggling to maintain hospitals and clinics that help keep small-town residents — and their communities — alive and well.

A slowdown in patient visits and drop in medical procedures due to fears of spreading the virus have

led to a major loss of revenues for medical providers and health-care systems that serve rural areas. While the virus has not led to mass infections in small towns, the drop-off in activity and billable services has put stress on the already fragile financial state of many rural clinics, small hospitals and dental offices.

With the first wave of the pandemic possibly over, more safety measures in place and life returning somewhat to normal, most clinics and hospitals in rural South Dakota have headed off any imminent concern of closure.

Yet in a rural health-care system made up of a patchwork of providers and hospital systems, the loss-

es from the pandemic could curtail the hiring of health-care workers, slow plans to expand services, and further restrict access to health care for hundreds of thousands of small-town and rural residents of the state.

In a state of 885,000 people spread out over roughly 76,000 square miles, and with only nine of 66 counties having more than 20,000 people, South Dakota is among the most rural of all states and home to a heavily diffused population. Even before the pandemic, that equation presented a major challenge for health-care providers to serve small-town and remote populations, and do so in a finan-

cially viable manner. Likewise, rural residents have a hard time getting adequate preventive, maintenance, emergency and palliative health care.

"Do I think rural health care is at risk? Absolutely," said Thomas Worsley, president of Spearfish Hospital and Hills Markets for Monument Health, the largest medical system in West River. "It's always going to be at risk because it's not a profitable endeavor or something that is going to attract big dollars, but it's something that fills a real need in these rural communities."

Worsley, who also serves on the

Misty Riter is ICAP Community Service Worker

Helping people and changing lives is the mission of Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership.

The ICAP programs goals as it says on its brochures, is America's Poverty Fighting Network and the Clark office at 116 N. Commercial Street has a new Community Service Worker.

Misty Riter of Henry is looking forward to getting re-acquainted with the people of Clark. "Don't I know you from somewhere?" is a comment she's been hearing lately from local Clark residents.

"That's because I worked as a Post Office mail carrier here from 2016 to 2017," explained Riter.

"I'd rather meet with people in person if it's possible. Over the phone is just not the same," said the personable Riter.

"I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and hope to have a meet and greet open house in the near future when things improve with this pandemic we're in.

"Actually, we have some COVID-19 funding that's been received to help out those in need even more during this time.

"All of Clark County is my district and we have various programs to help those who may find themselves needing our help."

Help with food as with the Food Pantry in the back of the Used 2B New Store; help with rent and utilities; mortgages and even the purchasing of a new home with home buyer education.

Foreclosure prevention mitigation services and advice on manag-



One my recognize this smiling face as from 2016 to 2017, Misty Riter was a mail carrier in the City of Clark. On June 22, Misty became the Clark County ICAP Community Service Worker and will be working out of her office within the Used 2B New Stores on North Commercial Street in Clark.

ing income and debt, developing an action plan are also services offered.

Home buyer education classes help one understand the mortgage approval process and can help with down payment assistance and other details to make buying a home as easy as possible.

"We are in need of mentors for our Volunteer Mentoring Mom program," added Riter. "I'm not sure people know about this program."

This program matches mentors with experience in motherhood (25 and older) who are willing to be a friend and listening ear to support young mothers. "The program matches consenting pregnant and experienced parenting adults one-on-one with volunteer mentor

mothers who offer friendship and support, advocacy, resources and education."

Riter
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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 30	83	68	0
July 1	89	63	.04
July 2	85	62	0
July 3	89	68	0
July 4	88	69	0
July 5	89	70	.04
July 6	86	66	.07
2020 precipitation to date			9.24
2019 precipitation to date			17.31

Pandemic
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