



CITY OF GILLETTE

Administration
P.O. Box 3003 • Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3003
Phone (307) 686-5203
www.gillettewy.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: J. Carter Napier, City Administrator *JCN*

RE: General Information

DATE: June 16, 2017

The following meetings are scheduled for the week of **June 17th – June 23d**

Tuesday, June 20th

5:30 p.m. City Council Pre-Meeting, Agenda Attached

- Introduction of New Citizen Advisory Board Candidates
 - Personnel Review Board – Ann Neary
 - Mayor's Art Council – Stacey Moeller, Mark Paxton
 - Parks & Beautification Board – Pam Boger
 - Planning Commission – Ted Jerred (Full Term): Trevor Matson, Jennifer Tuomela, and Sheryl Martin (Partial Terms)
- Lakeland Hills Drainage – Dave Freeland
- Fiber Build Out and Enterprise Fund
- Fire Department Fleet Vehicle Discussion*
- E-Cite Demonstration – Chief Hloucal
- Review June 20th Agenda
- Executive Session
- City Hall – 3rd Floor Conference Room
- Dinner Served at 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

- City Hall - Council Chambers

Wednesday, Jun 21st

3:00 p.m. Open House for Carter Napier

- City Hall – 2nd Floor Community Room

Friday, June 23rd

5:30 p.m. Mayor's Art Council Avenues of Art Reception

- Gillette College Tech Center

Friday, June 23rd

3:00 p.m. Donkey Creek Festival

- Gillette College

1. Attached please find **Minutes** regarding the **Fire Department Fleet Discussions** held during the Pre-Meeting on **May 16, 2017** and the Work Session on **May 23, 2017**.
2. Attached please find a **letter** regarding **Belle Ayr Mine** dated **June 9, 2017** provided by the **United States Department of the Interior**.
3. Attached please find a **letter of resignation** regarding **Gillette Historic Preservation Commission** dated **June 13, 2017** provided by **Kimberly D. Roesser**.

4. Attached please find a **Washington Post news article** regarding **The Energy Capital of the Nation's Optimism in the Trump Era** dated **June 2, 2017**.
5. Attached please find a **flyer** regarding **Carter Napier Open House** on **June 21, 2017** from **3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** in the **City Hall 2nd Floor Community Room**.
6. Attached please find **information** regarding the **Donkey Creek Festival** on **June 23-24, 2017** at **Gillette College**.
7. Attached please find **thank you cards** related to the **2017 WAM Convention**.

* Item previously discussed by Council

JCN/adw



CITY OF GILLETTE

Administrative Services Department
City Clerk Division
Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk/Print Shop
P.O. Box 3003, Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3003
Phone (307) 686-5210 Fax (307) 686-4810
www.gillettewy.gov

Pre-Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
City Hall – 3rd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, June 20, 2017
Dinner Served at 5:00 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Topic(s):

- Introduction of New Citizen Advisory Board Candidates
 - Personnel Review Board – Ann Neary
 - Mayor's Art Council – Stacey Moeller & Mark Paxton
 - Parks & Beautification Board – Pam Boger
 - Planning Commission – Ted Jerred (Full Term); Trevor Matson, Jennifer Tuomela, and Sheryl Martin (Partial Terms)
- Lakeland Hills Drainage – Dave Freeland
- Fiber Build Out and Enterprise Fund
- Fire Department Fleet Vehicle Discussion*
- E-Cite Demonstration – Chief Hloucal
- Review June 20th Agenda
- Executive Session

* Item previously discussed by Council

A Pre-Meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday the 16th day of May 2017.

Present were Councilmen Barks, Carsrud, Kuntz, Lundvall, McGrath, Montgomery, and Mayor Carter-King; City Administrator Napier; Attorneys Davidson and Reyes; Directors Boger, Glover, Hamilton, Pitlick and Wilde; Lt. Deaton; Managers Palazzari and Davidsmeier; and City Clerk Abelseth.

Warm Up Items

Councilman Montgomery provided a report regarding the Impaired Driving Task Force meeting that he attended. He requested a Resolution to support the Draw the Line pilot program; Mayor Carter-King asked if Big Lost Meadery was in compliance. City Clerk Abelseth confirmed they were in compliance.

Winland Industrial Park Application to the Wyoming Business Council Discussion

Director Hamilton explained the application process and reported that the City's application will be submitted next week as there is a June 1st deadline.

Fire Department Fleet Funding Discussion

Corey Bryngelson approached the Council to request dollars from the vehicle replacement fund to replace Engines 9, 13, and 12, and a 2008 Chevy Tahoe. He explained that the engines would be replaced with tender pumper combos. He provided information regarding the age and hour usage for the vehicles. During the discussion, Council asked if the replacement of two (2) engines, rather than the replacement of three (3) engines, would be an option. Mr. Bryngelson stated that he would need to discuss this with the Chief, but he would not be opposed to that suggestion. Mayor Carter-King stated that the Council is not prepared to make a decision at this time regarding the request for funds to replace the vehicles. Mr. Bryngelson explained the capital funding request that includes extraction tools, thermal cameras, and concrete sealant. Mr. Napier reported that if Council is interested in funding the capital request, his recommendation would be to use capital dollars going into FY18, as a funding source. Mr. Bryngelson prioritized the capital requests as follows: the extrication tools as first priority, the thermal cameras as second priority, and the sealant as the last priority as he doesn't feel the sealant is necessary. Council inquired what the City's portion would be for the extrication tools and thermal cameras. Mr. Bryngelson stated that Council's portion would be approximately \$29,000. Administrator Napier stated that this dollar amount could be put into the FY18 budget. He then inquired if processes are in place to ensure better record keeping regarding the tools and vehicles. Mr. Bryngelson assured the group that better records will be kept regarding the tools and vehicles.

↓ \$25,740 included for this purpose in FY'18 Budget

Overtime Parking Fines Discussion

Director Boger provided a power point presentation and background information regarding overtime parking fines. General discussion ensued. The Council was in agreement that parking fines need to be increased, but didn't agree with the proposed \$20. It was the consensus of the Council to increase parking fines to \$15, and additional \$5 fine for extended hours.

City Employees Volunteering for High School Finals Rodeo Discussion

Director Aguirre provided background information regarding the volunteering efforts of City employees in the past, and recommended the same for this year. He explained that employees volunteer personal time, and would be allowed up to four (4) hours of scheduled paid time upon their supervisor's approval. Council supported staff's recommendation.

Review May 16th Agenda

The group reviewed the upcoming agenda items.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. An audio recording of this meeting is available in the City Clerk's Office.

associated with this test of approximately, \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Hamilton reported that, in working with WYDOT Planning, and with the support of the WYDOT District Engineer, there may be WYDOT Planning funds available, which would reduce the City's cost. Several downtown merchants spoke to the Council in favor of the proposed reduction in lanes. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the test.

Liquor Law Follow-Up Discussion

Attorney Davidson provided a power point presentation regarding the proposed changes to Chapter 3 of Gillette City Code. Highlights of the presentation included the challenge of balancing the issues with the various businesses that hold a retail liquor license, staff's recommendations for updated fees, and security interest in liquor licenses. Discussion ensued. Council had concerns regarding the affect the proposed language would have on package liquor stores next to grocery stores. After some discussion, staff informed the Council a revision to the language could be made. Discussion ensued regarding an increase to liquor license fees, and the additional fee for a drive-up window. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to decrease the proposed fee amount for Bar & Grill Licenses to \$3,000 rather than staff's recommendation of \$5,000, and it was the consensus of Council to go with staff's recommendation of the \$500 additional charge for a drive-up window. Attorney Davidson explained the pros and cons of using a retail liquor license as a security interest. Discussion ensued regarding the practice of pledging a retail liquor license as collateral. John Cosner explained the financial banking aspect of using a retail liquor license as collateral. He expressed his concern towards the language regarding security interest in liquor licenses, and he feels it is the City's responsibility to inform the banks and lending institutions of this proposed language. Attorney Davidson responded with two lines of thought: 1) fundamentally, there are no other licenses issued by the State or a municipality that can be used as a means for borrowing money; and 2) it is the responsibility of the licensee (borrower) to notify the lender regarding changes to the agreement. It is not the City's responsibility to notify the lender. Council asked Mr. Cosner, if a bank holds a liquor license as collateral and that liquor establishment goes under, is it the bank's understanding that the bank then owns the liquor license. Mr. Cosner doesn't believe this is a bank's understanding, but there is an established value tied to that liquor license. His hope would be that there would be a timely sale to the next buyer. Council asked, even knowing that the City still has to approve the transfer of that license? Mr. Cosner stated that's exactly right. Mr. Davidson informed the Council that the first reading of this Ordinance will be June 6th with additional readings on June 13th and June 20th in order for Chapter 3 of Gillette City Code to be in place by July 1, 2017.

Amendment to Section 2-2(a) and (e) to Establish Management of the Assistant City Attorney

Attorney Davidson provided a brief explanation regarding the amendment.

Drive and Drop Debrief

Director Wilde provided a debrief regarding the recent Drive and Drop event. Due to the high volume of participants, actual tipping fee costs totaled \$7,973.60. The County Commissioners waived \$3,000 and therefore, there is balance of \$4,973.60. Discussion ensued regarding where the additional funds would come from. A suggestion was to use 1% funds.

Fire Department Fleet Discussion

Fleet Manager Byrd provided background information regarding the Fire Department's request to replace 3 engines and inquired of Council's intentions regarding the same. Discussion ensued regarding the replacement of the engines. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to approve the purchase of two (2) engines.

Review June 6th Council Agenda

The group discussed the upcoming agenda items.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. An audio recording of this meeting is available in the City Clerk's Office.

(S E A L)

ATTEST:


Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk
Publish date: May 31, 2017


Louise Carter-King, Mayor



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND
ENFORCEMENT
Western Region Office 1999
Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



June 9, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Belle Ayr Mine North Tract federal mining plan modification (the Project). The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review as of June 9, 2017. All comments must be received or postmarked by July 10, 2017, to be considered. For your convenience, the EA and the unsigned FONSI can be accessed on the OSMRE Western Region website at:

<https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/belleAyrMine.shtm>.

The lease and sale of the federal coal included in the Belle Ayr North LBA (WYW161248) was originally evaluated in the 2009 South Gillette Area Coal Lease Applications Environmental Impact Statement. The coal was offered for sale in a sealed-bid, competitive lease process on July 13, 2011. Following determination by the Bureau of Land Management that the highest bid at the sale met or exceeded the fair market value of the coal within the tract, the bid submitted by BTU Western Resources Inc. was accepted. The lease was subsequently transferred from BTU Western Resources to Alpha Wyoming Land Company (now Contura Energy, Inc.) in July of 2012. In accordance with Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) must approve the mining plan modification for federal coal lease WYW161248 before mining of the federal coal can occur.

OSMRE has prepared this EA to evaluate the environmental impacts resulting from the Project, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Belle Ayr Mine is located approximately 10 miles south-southeast of Gillette, Wyoming. Through the end of 2016, the total amount of federal coal remaining for removal at the Belle Ayr Mine was approximately 43.0 million tons (Mt). Based on remaining coal reserves and the estimated future production rate, mining of federal coal reserves at the Belle Ayr Mine would be completed in approximately 2.2 years if the Project is not approved. Under the currently approved State mine permit, approved in 2013, mining operations have disturbed 7,304 acres. Since 2010, the annual production rate has ranged from a high of about 25.8 Mt in 2010 to a low of about 14.9 Mt in 2016. Due to the uncertainty in determining the demand for coal, the EA has been prepared assuming that the average annual production rate would be 20 Mt. The amount of mineable federal coal to be added at this mine as a result of the Project is approximately 221.7 Mt and the proposed modification would add approximately 1,481.8 acres of disturbance. The approval would extend the life of mine by approximately 10.4 years. The coal would be mined using conventional surface-mining methods and shipped from an onsite railroad loading facility to various sites within the United States.

The EA updates, clarifies, and provides new and additional environmental information for the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE has determined there are no significant environmental impacts and has issued an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The

ASLM will approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the mining plan approval document within the mining plan decision document, as required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

A hard copy of the EA and unsigned FONSI will also be available for review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202
Between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Campbell County Courthouse
500 S. Gillette Ave.
Gillette, WY 82716
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Campbell County Public Library
2101 S 4-J Rd
Gillette, WY 82718
Between the hours of 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday through Thursday, Friday and Saturday—Between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sunday - Closed

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to: ATTN: Belle Ayr North Tract EA, C/O: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE WR, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050. Comments may also be emailed to: osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov, ensure the subject line reads: **ATTN: OSMRE, Belle Ayr North Tract EA**. OSMRE requests that you refer to the specific chapter, section, and/or page number of the EA and/or FONSI that is associated with your comment. All comments must be received or postmarked by July 10, 2017 to be considered.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, businesses, or individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Ms. Gretchen Pinkham at (303) 293-5088 or at gpinkham@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager
Field Operations Branch



Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

Resignation from Preservation Commission

1 message

Kimberly D. Roesser <KDR72@ccgov.net>
To: "angelaw@gillettewy.gov" <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

Tue, Jun 13, 2017 at 10:57 AM

Good morning, Mayor Carter-King:

I unfortunately need to resign from my position as Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission Board. My husband's employer is transferring him out of state, so we will be moving from Gillette in late July of this year. My last meeting as Chair of the Commission was May 23rd.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve our community and to help get the Commission started. I hope the group will see a lot of success moving forward.

Thank you again. Sincerely,

Kim Roesser

Gillette Historic Preservation Commission

(920) 252-0546

Kdr72@ccgov.net

E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.



Patti Davidsmeier <patti@gillettewy.gov>

For Distribution -- Washington Post Article

1 message

Curt Pearson <cpearson@bepc.com>

To: Angela Magstadt <AMagstadt@bepc.com>

Cc: "DL: Media & Community Relations" <MediaCommunityRelations@bepc.com>, "Geno Palazzari (GenoP@gillettewy.gov)" <GenoP@gillettewy.gov>, "Patti Davidsmeier (patti@gillettewy.gov)" <patti@gillettewy.gov>, Beth Goodnough <BGoodnough@westernfuels.org>, Tom Stalcup <TStalcup@bepc.com>, Joe Leingang <JLeingang@bepc.com>

How 'the Energy Capital of the Nation' optimism in the Trump era

By Robert Samuels June 2



A train carrying cars full of coal cuts through Gillette, Wyo., which calls itself "the energy capital of the nation." (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

The resurrected feeling of American possibility came not from pontificating TV pundits or a radio host in a studio miles away. People were seeing: the unemployment lines getting shorter and their daily commutes getting longer.

Tom Gorton, 41, drove through those increasingly congested streets in his Arnold Machinery truck late on a spring afternoon, white from a spring snowstorm. As Gorton settled behind his desk, he was heartened to see how messy it was with orders, as nearby coal mines cost him his job and delivered a gut punch to a county that produces more than a third of the nation's ene

In another room at Arnold's, branch manager Adam Coleman fixed his eyes on statistics tracking economic trends. Electricity news.

"I can't put fully into words this feeling I'm feeling, but it is much better," he said. "I believe the economy as a whole is going will increase. It's not going down, so that's a good thing. We'll be back."



Adam Coleman of Arnold Machinery is reflected in a window as he works in his office. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

In Gillette and surrounding Campbell County, people were beginning to feel the comeback they voted for. Unemployment hit 2016, from 8.9 percent to 5.1 percent. Coal companies are rehiring workers, if only on contract or for temporary jobs. More people are buying the Prime Rib and buying a second scoop at the Ice Cream Cafe.

Maybe it was President Trump. Much was surely because of the market, after a colder winter led to increases in coal use and profits are mixed with politics, it was difficult for people here to see the difference.

"I'm back to work," Gorton said. "It's real. Did Trump do it all? I don't think so. But America voted in a man who was for ou

In a divided nation, optimism had bloomed here in a part of the country united in purpose and in support of the president. (presidential candidate, and 94 percent of the population is the same race. And everyone has some connection to the same in tangible effects of the Trump economy, which favors fossil fuels, and the theoretical ones, which favor how they see themsel become the centerpiece of Trump's American mythology.

'We once powered the nation'



A train leaving a coal mine is seen in front of Dry Fork Station, a coal-fired power plant operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. (Matt McClain/The \



A truck carries coal at the Eagle Butte Coal Mine in Gillette. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

"I happen to love the coal miners," Trump said Thursday, when he announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate ac the global agreement, in part, because it "doesn't eliminate coal jobs. It just transfers those jobs . . . to foreign countries."

Even so, Trump's decision on Paris wasn't what many here wanted; they felt it was better for the United States to be part of :
livelihoods.

"Given that several of the coal companies in the Powder River Basin have expressed their desire for the U.S. to stay in the ac
said, "it would be prudent to heed the wishes of the industries to be most affected by the accord."



Gillette's mayor, Louise Carter-King, said the Obama administration's actions made it difficult for the city to develop more environmentally friendly ways to
McClain/The Washington Post)

At least, though, they had a president who was trying to protect their jobs.

When the mines laid off workers in March 2016, the city spiraled down into a period of job- and soul-searching. Environme
type of work as toxic. Democrats, led by presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, declared their jobs passe. Gillette had coal, oi
on wind and solar and turning miners into computer programmers. In an increasingly interwoven country, residents grapp
America for their kind of community — even if it kept the lights on.

"We once powered the nation," Gorton said. "But you got the feeling that things are not quite the same and that political forc
like they are willing to take away your town."

Now the fear of what might be taken away was carried by someone else. There was another side of this American story, a ten immigrant families worried about deportation raids and liberals marched with witty placards to protest the “war on science.

Far beyond the borders of this isolated town, many Americans were gripped by the latest evidence of the president’s coziness white working and middle classes hadn’t abandoned their increasingly unpopular president. In that America, the early optir poll released last month said that 52 percent of Americans were pessimistic about the country’s direction, 20 percent higher Friday’s anemic employment report, showing the country gained only 138,000 jobs in May, provided little consolation.

Gorton found it difficult to reconcile those two polarized feelings; it seemed that either you had to believe in the country’s pe
“I know there are people who are scared about where the country is headed, but before I was scared,” Gorton said. “Either th



A truck carries coal at Eagle Butte Coal Mine, a big open-pit mine seven miles north of Gillette. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

A 1970s boomtown

There was a time when residents here were thankful for big government.

In the 1970s, as the federal government stiffened environmental regulations, energy companies looked westward in search of the Powder River Basin, a prairie 4,500 feet above sea level, where coal was just below the surface. It created less energy than the carbon dioxide and sulfur. There was oil and gas under the city, too, and a place whose best-known landmark was literally a boomtown.

Strip malls and highways and schools and a Rockpile Museum were built, and over time the population swelled from a few thousand. Income in mining was about \$78,000.

The problem with being a one-industry town is that the economy lives and dies on how the market performs. During the oil price crash, a teacher came into school one day and seeing that half his class was missing.

“It’s just how it was,” Gorton said. “But by next year, the classes were filled back up again.”

Carter-King said the city didn’t despair too much in those down times because the market was cyclical. If oil and gas production companies were buying coal. If coal prices were too low, jobs in oil and gas provided some relief.



Bison wander at the Durham Bison Ranch outside Gillette. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

The last great boom came with the advent of fracking in the mid-2000s. Although most of the country reeled from a recession, workers from job-starved Michigan. Developers carved out subdivisions on the southern end of the city. The county and school recreation center, complete with indoor tennis courts, modern gym equipment and a 42-foot rock-climbing wall in the shape of a monument.

So confident was the city in its growth potential that officials spent \$2.5 million to purchase 320 acres of barren land from the federal government. They think beyond their wildest imaginations about what could be done with it. They built four softball fields and drafted plans for the "Field of Dreams."



People watch a baseball game at the Energy Capital Sports Complex on a Sunday in Gillette. The complex was paid for by money related to the energy industry. Yet it seemed the federal government had another vision, Carter-King said. In January 2016, President Barack Obama issued a coal exploration moratorium that was a direct hit to Gillette, where most mining was done on federal land. The environmental regulations are now stifling it.

Carter-King said Obama's antipathy toward fossil fuels stripped the city of the ability to develop more environmentally friendly energy. He said the city had spent millions of dollars from researching different uses for the material and complicated efforts to export the city's prized possession to China and other countries.

Then came a warm 2015 winter, which led to less demand for fuel. “I’ve never seen low oil and gas prices and low coal prices president who didn’t want to help us. It was a perfect storm for things to get downright depressing.”

By all accounts, it did. After the warm winter, Arch Coal and Peabody Energy laid off close to 500 people in two of the area’s dropped by 34 percent during the first half of 2016, according to state data and news reports, and the state lost nearly \$300

This downturn didn’t seem like the ones people here once knew. It felt intentional, political, personal — caused by people w/ them. Many seethed at “the environmentalists.”

“I love to fish and hike and hunt,” Gorton said. “Why would I work in an industry that would hurt my family? I try to avoid a facts are my sky is blue and my water is clean.”

Two months after the layoffs, more than 400 houses were placed on the market and about 500 children left the local school the city’s sales tax revenue plummeted 40 percent. Nearly one in 10 people were unemployed.

The city cut 10 percent of its staff, and plans for the water park were indefinitely tabled. There would be no more developme



A pedestrian walks by a mural on the side of a building in Gillette. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

A tenuous optimism

Five months after Gorton returned to work, he was sitting at Pizza Carrello with his co-workers and boss.

“A round of jalapeño poppers!” Coleman demanded as the place buzzed. Coleman was feeling bullish and told his staff that it was on the horizon.

“Even Hillary couldn’t have changed this short term,” he said, noting that coal prices were up again after a colder winter. But companies more confident to invest in coal, he said. “Long term, Trump will be the difference.”

The restaurant’s co-owner, Ariane Jimison, came to greet him. She moved here from small-town Montana and achieved her biggest in the city.

She made some history here, too. In 2014, she and the restaurant’s co-owner, Rachel Kalenberg, became the first same-sex couple to receive a liquor license. They were nervous about how a conservative city would feel about them and their business.

Her customers responded by heading to the restaurant armed with cards and balloons. That was the Gillette she loved. Now fading.

As Trump rose to the presidency, Jimison said more customers mocked her sexual orientation. Someone recently etched “Bitch” on the wooden tables. She wondered whether Trump’s rhetoric excavated a hate that lingered as close to the surface as the coal.

“You have so much support here,” Coleman told her. “No one here cares if you’re LGBT, or a woman — I mean, person — own. It’s all positive now that things are better.”



Chris Tryon, left, talks to Pizza Carrello co-owner Ariane Jimison while Janine Dunbar works at right. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

“But there are people still hurting,” Jimison said. One of them was the man pouring their beer. He could make \$39 an hour need for his services. A local furniture shop and clothing store were closing downtown, and the city has lost a Sears and a Sp social service agencies were all losing money.

In Gillette, the new American optimism was tenuous and shaky. Its bedrock was that age-old patriotism, preached by its lea against the ingenuity of the American intellect or the industriousness of the American worker.

Gorton considered himself one of those industrious American workers. When he was laid off, he considered brewing beer or state for a more stable life. But that seemed as if he was betting against himself.

“What choice do we have but to be optimistic?” Gorton said, almost embarrassed to invoke the president’s trademarked phr be great again.”

“Without coal, Wyoming is over,” said a man sitting next to him, as he gripped his beer with oil-stained fingertips. Mike O’C company and that his industry was still on edge.

Coleman jumped in to explain the marketing statistics he had read that day. It will get better as the economy improves, he said. O'Connell told Coleman that his unstable industry had little to do with the markets. It was all politics.

"What's been wrong with this country is the EPA," the welder retorted. "And Obama. Obama ruined everything. He stopped Gorton interjected: "But remember, he didn't do it by himself. He had a Republican Congress. I mean, I'm a Republican, I wasn't his fault. Why wasn't Congress there?"

"Why are you making excuses for him?" O'Connell asked, raising his voice. "You know what, you're probably a politician. The people voted him in."

"All right," Coleman said. "I'm done arguing."

He shoved another jalapeño popper in his mouth.



Adam Coleman of Arnold Machinery stands in front of an excavator. "Trump will be good for all of us in the long term," he said. "He's not scaring people away." O'Connell wrapped his hands around his beer and sulked.

"I just want things to change quick," he said. "For the first time in 10 years, I'm afraid of losing my job. I have suffered so m

"We just need another boom," his wife, Brandy, interjected. "We used to eat steaks! Now it's ramen and hot dogs."

"I know," Coleman responded after swallowing. "Let me tell you, when I was laying people off, I was teary-eyed. . . . But Tru He's not scaring people away from us."

O'Connell apologized for losing his temper. And if only for a moment, he, too, felt a whiff of new American possibility.

He extended his oil-stained hand to Coleman and looked into his eyes. "Maybe, one day," he said, "you can hire me."



A worker is seen inside Dry Fork Station, a coal-fired power plant operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The plant gets coal via a conveyor system from a nearby

Please join us for an Open House

*Date: June 21, 2017
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

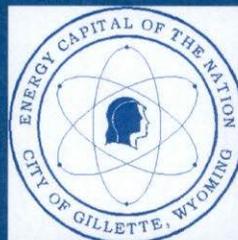
Join us as we say

*City Hall
2nd Floor
Community Room*

farewell to

City Administrator

Carter Napier



Schedule Of Events

Music

Friday

3:00pm The Unknown
Knowns
4:00pm Karajack
5:00pm The Hold Up
6:00pm The Two Tracks
7:15pm World's Finest
8:30pm Ryan Shupe

Saturday

10:00am Big Horn Big Band
11:00am Ambitious
Premonition
12:00pm Freddy Rodriguez
1:00pm Victor and Penny
2:00pm Jake Edwards
3:15pm Dirty Revival
4:30pm Last Revel
5:45pm Brand 307
7:00pm Ghost Town Blues
Band
8:30pm The Americans

For a complete and updated list of events please visit

www.donkeycreekfestival.com

Charlie & Teri Anderson, Healthsource of
Gillette Inc./Dr. Matt Arnio, 1st National
Bank, Tarno Trucking, Medicap
Pharmacy, Dental Care Center,
Big Iron Auction, Ice Cream Café,
Expresso Lube, Real Estate Systems,
Mike & Claudia Urlaub, Vintage Hippy,
Jim Hastings, Tracy & Donna Crippen,
Gillette Printing & Engraving Co.,
Alignment Pro's-Point S, Debbie
Knutson, EK AG Services, Eastside
Motors & RV

donkeycreekfestival

June 23-24

FREE ADMISSION

Friday

Avenues of Art Reception
5:30pm-7:00pm
Quick Draw Competition
5:00pm
Laser Tag
6:00pm-9:00pm
5K Glow run
10pm

Saturday

Car and Motorcycle Show
8:00 am- registration
Show Times
10:00am-3:00pm
Fun on the Go
11:00am-4:00pm

Art Vendors
Friday 3pm until 7pm
Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm

Food Vendors
Friday 12 pm_ 8pm
Saturday 10am-8pm

AVA Kids Art Tent
1:00-3:00 pm

 GilletteCollege

 CLOUD PEAK
ENERGY

 Campbell County
WYOMING

 GILLETTE-WRIGHT

 Big D Sanitation



 CULTURAL
TRUST FUND

Mayor Louise Carter-Kings,

Thank you to you and your
exceptional staff for hosting the
WAM Conference in Gillette!

Thank you for all your
hard work and dedication, you
all made it a great conference.

Sincerely,
Mayor George Sigfus
Town of Single

Thank
you for all
you did.
Gail

All of your efforts
are appreciated and
so much thank you.
Best To You All
Aunt

Thank you!
Jaune

I felt like we were
working with Rock Stars!
Thank you
Katie

Mayor Carter-King and Gillette City Council,

On behalf of the WAM Board and membership, thank you for hosting one of WAM's best conventions yet! We have heard great things so far and anticipate more wonderful feedback from our survey. People loved the opportunity to ride the BNSF train and raved about the Razor City Restaurant Romp. This event was a great example for future host cities. Thank you for all your efforts!

♥ The WAM Family



...you're the best!

Jeff & I would just like to say
Thank you for dinner the other
evening. It was great to get to visit
with our friends and totally
unexpected for the treat.
Thank you - Charlene Bess