

Support The Broken Spoke Saloon

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From Rogue, I received the following story. Most of us in the industry know South Dakota Jay Allen, owner of the Broken Spoke Saloon and owner/developer of Broken Spoke Saloon and Sturgis County Line Campground. And a lot of you have spent time at his places during motorcycle rallies. At a December 5, 2007 review session with the commissioners of Meade County, Jay Allen, was denied the renewal of his liquor license. He purchased the Broken Spoke Saloon in Sturgis on Lazelle Street in 1993. In the almost 15 years since he took ownership, he has gone without one liquor infraction ever in South Dakota. The reason stated for the denial was Mr. Allen's "moral character" allegedly stemming from a dispute with contractors involved in the Sturgis County Line project. Having initially invested millions in Sturgis County Line, in less than two years Mr. Allen reduced his total construction debt from \$1.4 million to under \$90,000. All the while he has stayed in close communication with the people and businesses he owed. The only contention is with two contractors, which remains to be resolved in court. Mr. Allen supplied the commission with all the documentation regarding the two in contention. This included a letter exhibited by Allen's attorney from August 2006 requesting documentation for an exorbitant invoice. The contractors have yet to produce the requested information. Of the five total members of The Meade County, S.D. commission, one is known to be good




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friends and close neighbors with one of the contractors in dispute. This commissioner sided with the contractor despite the lack of any evidence in their favor. "Commissioner Dean Wink was asked by Mr. Allen to please look at the evidence and not judge this on business relationships or on the basis of his being, as they referred to him, "an outsider." Allen employs mostly all locals at the annual motorcycle rally and has committed millions of dollars to the county with both The Broken Spoke and Sturgis County Line locations.

Along with the biggest icons in the motorcycle business, he has helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for Kids and Chrome Charity and the South Dakota Make-a-Wish foundation as well as raised thousands of dollars for Foothills Assisted Living, a local rest home. He helped pay for the lights at the nearby Fort Meade ballpark and has received multiple awards for what he's done for Veterans through Broken Spoke over the years. Allen's business and community efforts extend well beyond Sturgis. How does it benefit anyone, especially Meade County residents and business-owners, to take away the income-earning potential of someone who's contributed so much, both financially and philanthropically to the community in which he not only does business, but has considered his second home since the 1980s? If you want to support Jay Allen, you can contact Mead County at meade@meadecounty.org. Feel free to speak out and let the commissioners know what you think! You can also support Jay Allen by writing to supportjay-allen@cyclesource.com



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