

Downtown parking

I have strong disagreement with John W. Ebert's (Letters, Jan. 15) statements concerning downtown parking.

I also have been a citizen of Rapid City for some 20 years. I work in the downtown area and can relate personally to the parking inadequacy on a daily basis.

Many people say walk from the Civic Center (it's good exercise). Sure, it's fine for most people, but consider individuals such as the elderly and the handicapped. Walking from the Civic Center or even several blocks down from their destination could be difficult under the best conditions. Picture this occurring during sub-zero weather or late at night.

Besides helping the elderly and the handicapped, the parking ramp will provide adequate space for the patrons and the employees of the downtown area. I think the one-half cent sales tax increase is a small price to pay for the benefits the town will receive.

If the people of Rapid City consider this tax too much of a sacrifice, they don't give a "beep" for the downtown area!

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