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Fresh news for busy people... weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 328 June 10, 2019

MONTROSE WELCOMES 25TH ANNUAL COLORADO FIRE & INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ACADEMY (CWFIMA)

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Colorado Fire & Incident Management Academy (CWFIMA), one of the largest academies of its kind in the United States, marks its 25th year in serving the emergency response community. CWFIMA offers two training sessions during the year (summer and winter) and this year's summer academy was held in Montrose on June 1-7. As the host community, the positive economic impact to Montrose is estimated at \$500,000.



Columbine Middle School restrooms and showers were made available to CWFIMA students who pitched their tents on the campus for the weeklong wildlands fire academy. Incident Commander Dave Carter said, "Pitching a tent is just what we'd do in an incident." Photo by Gail Marvel.

Many local businesses supported the weeklong event through donations. Tracy LeClair, Community Risk Manager/Public Information Officer, said, "The academy is taking place at Columbine Middle School. It is an excellent facility and a perfect location for classes. Students, staff and instructors are staying at area hotels, as well as staying in tents and campers on the campus."

[Continued pg 3](#)

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON NOISE FROM JET ENGINE TESTS; SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTS FINDINGS, REPORT TO COUNCIL ON NEED FOR SALES TAX HIKE



Public Safety Advisory Committee member J. David Reed spoke at length while presenting the committee's report and findings at the City Council meeting of June 4.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The room was packed for the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, June 4. All Councilors were present. Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed everyone to the meeting, "It is so great to see so many people here interested in your city government."

"Thank you all for being here."

BIKE-TO-WORK DAY PROCLAMATION

Bowman read a proclamation in support of June 26 as Bike-to-Work Day in the City of Montrose, and posed for a photo with members of the Montrose Bicycle Alliance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

[Continued pg 7](#)

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*Art Goodtimes
Up Bear Creek!*

*Carole Ann McKelvey's
Rocky Mt. Cravings!*

*Reader Photo Spotlight
With Deb Reimann!*

*Altrusa names new Board,
welcomes new members!*



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COLORADO FIRE & INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

From pg 1



During the Colorado Fire & Incident Management Academy instructors Bob and Nancy Kittridge lead the L-280 class, "Followership to Leadership." Similar to fighting a fire, students experience how to react to multiple tasks going on all at once. Photo by Gail Marvel.



South Metro Fire firefighter Brandon Bole's full-time job is with Tower, an apparatus that has a 100' hydraulic, aerial ladder with a bucket at the tip to hold firefighters during fire suppression, rescue, and ventilation efforts. Photo by Gail Marvel.

The academy, which had a total of 542 participants (students, instructors, staff), is similar to enrolling in college courses. During Wednesday's session 400 students participated in some of the 28 classes offered. Students can receive certifications in specific areas when they meet classroom and hands-on requirements.

Attendees are served breakfast and lunch, and sack lunches are provided for students who are out in the field. Information Officer Trainee Kat Kirby said, "Food caterers serve well balanced meals, — fruits, vegetables, protein, but federal guidelines require meals to have almost 6,000 calories a day." Participants are on their own for dinner and are encouraged

Students taking the S230 (Single Resource) class shared their thoughts about the academy in sound bites:

"Decision makers give us situations and we come up with an action plan to meet the objectives."

"The scenarios are pretty realistic, but there is always something that will slip you up."

"We learn from one another. You learn what you don't know, and you learn what you do know [when you share your knowledge with others]."

"It helps us change our perspective. It lets us be smart and it lets us be stupid."

Brandon Bole, a professional firefighter with South Metro Fire said, "Many of us

to patronize local restaurants.

have other jobs and are called out when needed. This is my 10th wildlands fire academy. We come together to not only learn from fire instructors, but to learn from each other. The classroom instruction is invaluable."

When asked if there were any negative aspects to the academy Bole said, "No, everything is good. There are no toxic leaders and no toxic people. Everyone wants to be here. Some people think firefighting is a huge, glamorous job, but it's not really. We're an eclectic group of people coming together to fight a fire. What we do always involves people and how to take care of them."

The next Colorado Fire & Incident Management Academy will be held January 6-12, 2020 in Colorado Springs.



TROOPER TIPS: TRAILER TALK



Trooper Gary Cutler.
Courtesy photo.

By Trooper Gary Cutler
COLORADO- Well it's camping season again, and that means everyone is getting ready to head to the mountains with the family. A lot of you have camping trailers that you'll

be using on the weekends, so I wanted to talk a little about trailer safety.

It's very important to make sure you and your family make it to your favorite camp site. So here are a few tips on making it safe, fun, and ensuring that you get there on time.

First let's hit the basics. All trailers in Colorado must be registered and have a

license plate that is completely visible.

This means you can't put bikes or totes or anything else over the plate. It still needs to be visible to law enforcement and if it isn't, can get you pulled over.

While we're back there, make sure you have proper working lights on the trailer. You need brake lights and turn signals that can be seen for at least 500 feet.

Be sure to check your side view mirrors. You must be able to see at least 200 feet to the rear of your vehicle. This means the side view mirrors that came with your vehicle may not be adequate. You can get mirror extensions at a store if you need them, so check those mirrors prior to starting the trip.

The height of the trailer can't be more than 14' 6 inches, and the combined coupled units cannot have more than four units and can be no longer than a total of seventy feet.

As far as loading the truck and trailer, please don't overload the vehicles. None

of the load can project beyond four feet of the front grille. It can't extend beyond the sides of the vehicle and also can't block any of the driver's view.

Check your brakes prior to the trip and know that trailers with a weight of more than 3,000 pounds need to be equipped with brakes on all wheels.

As far as towing the trailer, make sure the distance between the vehicles doesn't exceed 15 feet.

Besides the drawbar, chains or cables are also required (unless it's a 5th wheel) to ensure the trailer can't break free from the power unit.

Last, but not least, while traveling, no one can ride in the trailer.

I know this has been a huge amount of information in a short space, but I want you to have a fun and safe camping filled summer. Remember, only you can prevent forest fires, so please be careful out there.

As always, safe travels!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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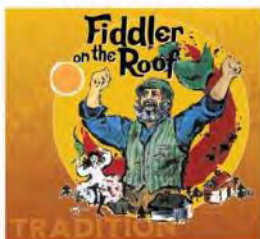
AUDITIONS: April 27 & 28

JANUARY 2020



AUDITIONS: November 2 & 3

MAY 2020



AUDITIONS: January 20 & 21

NOVEMBER 2019



AUDITIONS: August 10 & 11

MARCH 2020



AUDITIONS: November 17 & 18



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County RE-1J Early Childhood Centers will be accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year on June 11, 2019 at the MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Center, 900 Colorado Avenue, Unit #4, Montrose (north of the Bus Barn).

Registration will be by APPOINTMENT ONLY! REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR PART-DAY OR FULL DAY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING AT MCSD RE1J ECC. Please call 249-5858 and leave a message. You will receive a call back to make your appointment. Transportation services are not available at this time. All children must be 3 or 4 years of age on or before August 1, 2019.

BRING ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO YOUR APPOINTMENT. WE WILL NOT PROCESS ANY APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS.

Please bring:

Birth Certificate, a physician signed hospital record or a Baptismal record
Child's Up-to-Date Immunization Records
A copy of your child last physical
Medicaid card/CHP+ or Private insurance card

Court documentation proving foster care or kinship placement

Proof of Income for the last 12 months:
2018 Income Tax Return or an employer's statement for the Head Start child's parent(s)/ legal guardian(s) -AND- ALL supporting W2's

Documentation proving TANF, Child Support, Alimony, Military Compensation, Disability or SSI if applicable

1 month of pay stubs for the last 30 days of employment

Employment Verification Form (provided by ECC)

Please contact ECC if parents/guardians are NOT receiving ANY type of income.

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CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON NOISE FROM JET ENGINE TESTS; SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTS FINDINGS, REPORT TO COUNCIL From pg 1

Greg Haroldson addressed the subject of noise pollution in the City, specifically the sound of aircraft engines being tested at Western Skyways. Residents of nearby neighborhoods, such as the 55+ community of Bluff Harbor, are heavily impacted.

"We are concerned about how noise pollution is affecting the health and well-being of Montrose residents," Haroldson said. "And the possible effects also on our property values...specifically I am here about testing of the Turbo Prop engines... we are getting decibels that are up into destruction of hearing...the City has no decibel-level specific ordinance in place to protect citizens."

More than 100 signatures in support of a decibel-level specific noise ordinance were collected from neighbors in the impacted area during a three-hour period, he said.

"We are listening to cycling turbo prop engine testing eight to ten hours a day in my neighborhood."

Kathy Stanton spoke on the same issue; “About a month ago I thought that I had somehow been transported to Cape Kennedy, Florida,” she said. “Because there was this ungodly roar that began at 7 in the morning...sometimes it cycles, but this was a constant roar for several days. I couldn’t believe it...it came from Western Skyways.”

When Stanton called Western Skyways, "The man was unfortunately rude and arrogant...he asked me how long I had lived here...the noise level was so horrific that even with the doors and windows closed I wanted to move out of town.

“...What happens to seniors who want to take a nap?” Stanton asked. “What about babies and small children?”

"My dog ran into the closet," she said.

"This is a black eye on our community and needs to be addressed."

The situation has been going on for around five weeks, resident Ron Galterio said, for six to seven days per week. "It's pretty much unbearable for people who live in the area...well over 80 decibels on several occasions, which is well in excess of what the State statutes say."

Mayor Bowman thanked the speakers for bringing the matter to Council's attention.

Casa of the 7th Judicial District Executive Director Carlton Mason informed Council that Casa had received an [Eagle Award](#) from Housing Colorado. He thanked the City and the building department for their support. "...you've played an important part in helping us make

Former Mayor Bob Nicholson expounded on the City's decision to disband the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). "I believe it's time to recognize the DDA has not been able to accomplish its intended mission," Nicholson said. "The simple truth is that we just don't have enough financial density in our business district to support a DDA staff and accomplish our physical goals. While there's been expenditures of over \$1,000,000 ... little physical work has been accomplished."

Nicholson noted what he called the DDA's "meager" contribution to the purchase of two large Vic Payne sculptures currently on loan to the City. "There just isn't value in what we're doing...we're just chasing our tails, basically."

“...Wouldn't the business owners have fared better if they were spending that time on business?”

Nicholson continued talking until Mayor Bowman informed him that his time was up.

DDA Board Chair Scott Riba also spoke. "...It was discussed by Mrs. Bynum that there was an executive session in which the councilors had the opportunity to review the loan documents that are in question for the three businesses that seem to be the focus of these loan documents, and it was stated that Council was comfortable and accepting of the documents as pre-



At the City Council meeting of June 4, Mayor Dave Bowman read a proclamation in support of June 26 as Bike-to-Work Day.

sented by the City management to them for review.”

Riba asked whether Forms AD 1047, AD 1049, RD 400-1, and the “Credit Elsewhere Documentation Form” (which proves that the borrower had been denied credit by three other lending institutions before applying to the DDA revolving loan fund) had been provided as required by the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Ultimate Recipient Checklist. Riba asked about several additional documents, and about the minutes of the revolving loan fund committee.

“The reason I am asking those questions is that on the 17th of May, the DDA forwarded a request to the City finance department for the documents regarding those three loans, which are in question,” Riba said. “There was no response from the City’s finance department.”

City Manager Bill Bell had informed the DDA's executive director that no loan documents would be provided until the City had edited and redacted information from those documents, Riba said, adding that both he and the executive director are members of the revolving loan committee.

"It's our right to see the information," Riba said. "On the 29th of May, the USDA made a formal request for those documents; that document request was to be fulfilled by the close of business yesterday."

"As of this date, the City has not supplied

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON NOISE FROM JET ENGINE TESTS; SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTS FINDINGS, REPORT TO COUNCIL From previous pg



The room was packed for the Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, June 4.

us with those documents," Riba said. "I think it's important Council knows this, because the USDA has required them from the DDA to be delivered.

"I would appreciate your assistance in getting those documents forwarded to us."

DDA Vice Chair Zander Parker spoke as well. "...The problem in modern corporate America today is that managers are managing to the short term...on the flip side, government has the ability to take the long view on things, and it really probably should," Parker said. "The one thing that government and industry have in common are the attributes that make for highly effective organizations, such as an ability to identify and focus on your key competencies, good communication, and the ability to delegate," he said. "By the way, this is the relationship that the DDA and the City should have."

Civic resources are often the first to dwindle and disappear in the event of a recession, he said. "...does this current decision make sense for the long-term interest of the community?"

The current DDA board consists of business and property owners with a wealth of knowledge and expertise who are personally vested in the community, and who work on behalf of the City for free, he said.

"When circumstances change and those resources and efforts aren't there for the community of Montrose, will the community be better off in the longer term? Personally and professionally I don't believe that's the case," Parker said.

"Certainly, there are communications

and relationships that must be improved and problems to be solved," he said. "But I think that's the best path forward for the community of Montrose--not dissolving organizations like the DDA."

Ann Miller spoke to Council about dental sponges. She discussed her family background, circumstances, and the high incidence of periodontal disease. "I live in a van...toothbrushes remove only 50 percent of plaque...the only remineralization of teeth is Fluoride and saliva..." Miller said, listing medical conditions to which plaque has been linked. "It occurred to me that the only non-patented device would be a medical sponge...plain jane mouth sponges...I have four designs...all made with a piece of bamboo, a piece of sponge, and a rivet...I am hoping to find some interest in this...I think I could easily employ 300 people..."

"Thank you," Mayor Bowman said, noting that Miller's time was up.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council approved the minutes of the May 21 regular City Council meeting and May 29 special City Council meeting as presented. Bynum abstained from voting as she was not present for the meeting of May 21.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT PRESENTATION

Committee member and former Mayor J. David Reed presented the [Public Safety Committee's report](#) and summarized the findings for Council.

"Normally when I address a public body... I prefer to speak without notes and without a transcript or a script in front of me," Reed said. "...I think that the work that this committee did and the time and the effort that they put into it deserves to have the message properly delivered without missing anything...I unfortunately did write a little script to bore you with." Reed then gave a lengthy speech, outlining the committee's findings.

Resolution 2018-25 created the 17-member Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, Reed noted, which was tasked with investigating and evaluating the need for greater public safety resources and

making recommendations to Council. One committee member resigned for health reasons, Reed said. The final report recommends: that the City Council of the City of Montrose should pursue additional funding for the public safety initiative... beyond what is currently allocated through the General Fund through use of a ballot measure calling for a sales tax increase that would fund additional police operations including 20 additional FTE and new and renovated facilities; that the building currently located at 434 South 1st Street does not provide adequate space for current or future operations for the police department and ...that a ballot measure be put before the voters to increase the sales tax to pay for new and renovated facilities; that a ballot measure to increase the City sales tax be put before the voters for the purpose of paying for the additional police operations including 20 FTE and new and renovated facilities.

No specific percentage was recommended for the proposed sales tax increase but was left to Council's discretion.

"Thank you so much," Bowman said to Reed. "What a dedicated citizen of Montrose you are!"

Safety Committee member Phoebe Benziger said that the amount of information the committee was given was "mind boggling."

"Blaine (Police Chief Blaine Hall) and his guys...they did an amazing job," Benziger said. "They're rock stars. You have to be so proud of these guys...we all had a lot of opinions... at the end of the day it was a pretty easy decision," she said.

Citizens can read the full report online: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/Report>.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR NEW RETAIL LIQUOR STORE

Council unanimously approved a new retail store liquor license application at 86 Rose Lane, for Donald G. Morris, doing business as Wine for Life, for consumption off of the licensed premises. In the past, Morris has owned a number of liquor stores in Montrose. In 40 years in the liquor business, he has never had a liquor license violation. The new store will not

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON NOISE FROM JET ENGINE TESTS; SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTS FINDINGS, REPORT TO COUNCIL From previous pg

carry “pop” wines, Morris said. “We’ll carry the good wines, that normally the kids don’t like.”

RESOLUTION 2019-16

Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2019-16, authorizing assignment to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) of a private activity bond allocation of the City of Montrose, pursuant to the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act, as previously discussed in work session.

Background: According to the Council work session packet for Monday, May 20, the IRS allocates a per capita bonding authority annually for housing to each state, also known as PAB Volume Capacity or Cap. Colorado in turn allocates this authority to statewide authorities and local governments; in 2019 the allocation for the City of Montrose is \$1,032,83. Last year the city assigned its allocation to Col-

orado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). This year CHFA requested the City of Montrose assign the 2019 Private Activity Bond (PAB) allocation to CHFA to support the new construction of The Park at Colorado Outdoors, a 72-unit family housing project in the City of Montrose. Montrose County has also assigned its PAB allocation to CHFA.

CONTRACT APPROVAL

In other business, Council awarded a contract to Granite Inliner, LLC in the amount of \$148,890 for cured in place lining of sanitary sewers.

COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS

Police Chief Hall reminded those who have private alarm systems to check them regularly; call Dispatch first to let them know you are checking the alarm system. Hall praised the two officers whose work led to the arrest of the suspect in a string of burglaries. “Good job to them.”

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler provided an events update, including the Black Canyon Car Show, and June 14 will be Flag Day. Also June 14 will be the newcomer bus tour, from Noon to 4 p.m. Virgil Turner reminded Council that the Colorado Airstream Club, bringing a total of 26 trailers and 52 people, was coming to town and would be parking on South First for the weekend. Bowman promoted his summer concert series at Black Canyon Golf Course and upcoming Acoustic Tuesday event. Bynum invited the public to the informational forum at the Casa Facility on Wednesday mornings.

Councilor Roy Anderson thanked the members of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, and noted that the full report can be found online at <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/Report>.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EATERY 66 SELECTED AS JUNE 2019 RIDGWAY CHAMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



The Graves Family. Courtesy photo Emily Sellers.



Courtesy photo Emily Sellers.

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce
RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Eatery 66 as the June 2019 RACC Business of the Month. Eatery 66 owners Spencer and Katie Graves have traveled and lived in many places including Charles-

ton, S.C., San Diego, Calif., Telluride, and Santa Teresa, Costa Rica where they enjoyed years of surfing, cooking, yoga and raising three amazing sons!

Now settled in Ridgway, the Graves family owns and operates Eatery 66 with a mission to: “Be good. Live simple. Eat well.” The restaurant staff takes pride in offering locally sourced products and artisanal crafted food and drinks. With a large patio and their classic 1966 air stream trailer with bar service outside, the restaurant

will feature live music, specials and lots of happenings this summer. To learn more about Eatery 66, go online to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/394-june-2019-business-of-the-month-eatery-66>, call 970-626-5901 or email info@eatery66.com.

For information about places to stay in Ridgway, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/dining>.

The Ridgway Chamber is organized to achieve the objectives of promoting business and community growth and development in the Town of Ridgway and the surrounding area. The chamber’s Business of the Month program features a different member every month, and shares information about the business owners, mission, background, and other details to help the community and visitors stay in tune with local services and products.

CITY PLANS TO DISSOLVE DDA, MAY SPEND MONEY ON SCULPTURES

New standpipe water tank planned for Sunset Mesa

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council discussed the mechanics of **disbanding the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** at the work session on Monday, June 3. All Council members were present for the work session; lunch for Council and staff was catered by Backstreet Bagel.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

"We had an executive session," City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said, noting that Council had asked for legal advice concerning the City's role and responsibilities with regard to the DDA.

"We reviewed the last five grants to be sure the City and the DDA followed the requirements...the public can consult the packet," Alcorn said.

According to City Clerk Lisa Delpiccolo, the May 29 [Executive Session](#) was not posted online before it occurred, but was posted on the board outside of the City Hall as required.

The City has a lot of questions about the DDA, Mayor Dave Bowman said.

"Downtown business wants a lower tax; there's a lot of overlap with the City, the DDA, and Region 10.

"We're looking at multiple organizations essentially doing the same thing," Bowman said.

Mayor Pro tem Barbara Bynum said, "We were able to look at the loan documents; we are satisfied that the loans were all handled appropriately...when you look at the amount of tax the DDA has collected...they have spent more than \$1,000,000 running the organization and less than \$200,000 on capital improvements...we question how effective the DA is at capital expenditures, which is why they exist."

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked where the money would go if Council were to disband the DDA.

The money would stay with the City, City Manager Bill Bell said. "Council could put it into a fund for Downtown purposes or operational reserves...there's not a lot of legwork we would have to absorb...the programmatic things they have done

could easily be absorbed with our existing personnel."

Bynum questioned if a vote of the people was required to disband the DDA, which had formed through a public vote.

All that is required is a City ordinance, Alcorn said, which could be done as early as the next day.

Bowman said that property owners would save \$500 per year per \$100,000 in valuation if Council were to do

away with the DDA. "This may be a way we can all be comfortable funding the statues."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "Am I correct in understanding that the DDA Director has now resigned?"

"Nobody is going to lose a job," Bowman said. "There isn't one."

The DDA's revolving loan fund is "not that big a deal," Bell said. "We can consolidate funds."

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on the **Sunset Mesa Water Tank evaluation of alternatives**, including upfront, maintenance and operational costs. "The standpipe is the winner," Murphy said. "The others can be done, but they are not as robust." The standpipe tank could remain online in an emergency, and if growth continues, "There will probably be two of those side by side," Murphy said. "It will be a significant feature of the Montrose skyline."

Bynum asked why the standpipe could not be below grade. "Visually, below grade would be better." The City water system is set from grade, Murphy said.

Glaspell asked if the tank could be painted to be more visually appealing. City Manager Bell's preference to paint the tank bright yellow like a "minion" did not



Buying two large Vic Payne sculptures on display Downtown could be a better way to spend DDA funds, Mayor Dave Bowman said.

find favor with Council.

"I want to know who makes these color choices," Files said. "In the past these decisions were made without Council approval."

It is Council's role to represent the community, Bynum said. "We want the community to have buy-in."

City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo provided an update on the **Fourth of July fireworks display permit**. The permit will come before Council on June 17.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid presented information on the City's **Landfill Agreement with Waste Management**. "The last three years with them have been a great experience," Scheid said, noting that Waste Management is the only viable source available. "They have been great to work with."

Files asked, "Have we budgeted for a rate increase?"

"It will be in our 2020 budget," Bell said. "It's on our radar to talk about that."

Murphy provided an update on the **Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) for the US Hwy 550 Access Control Plan**. Also on hand to provide information and answer questions was Colorado Department of Transportation Access Manager Dan Rousin.

CITY PLANS TO DISSOLVE DDA, MAY SPEND MONEY ON SCULPTURES

From previous pg

CDOT has put together an access control plan for 550 South of Montrose to the Ouray County line, and the City and County have partnered on the plan, which will be adopted as an IGA at the regular Council meeting of June 17, Murphy said. "This is a planning tool...it establishes a vision as development comes."

"The plan gives us a vision of what that corridor is going to look like," Roussin said. "...it gives us the flexibility to make changes if we need to make changes...it's been a good process...this process allows us as a team to look at land use as well as transportation and how that affects the entire corridor."

COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS

Bynum said she is considering a run for the Colorado Municipal League and asked Council for a letter of support.

"I will be happy to sign the letter," Bowman said.

Said Files, "We all support Barbara on there...it's pretty pricey. We all know

when Bill was on there it was pricey...so many trips over to the Front Range."

Said Bell, "It's really important to maintain our community's presence statewide."

Bowman promoted a "really important band" playing that night at Horsefly Brewing Co.

Police Chief Blaine Hall commended the officers who contacted a burglary suspect and obtained a confession. He also cautioned, "If you have an alarm system in your business, it's a good idea to test it so you know the response time...sometimes it takes longer than you expect." Officer Brett Suppes will be sworn in June 11.

City Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner said that Air-stream owners will rally on South First Street over the weekend. "It's really neat for me; I've been involved in the club a long time," Turner said. "I get to show off our town."

City staff and others went to Durango last

week for a redevelopment and reinvestment symposium, Turner said. "Chelsea Rosty, Bill Bell, Doug Dragoo, David Fisher, and myself...we talked about the excitement in Montrose and how we are all working together to fuel development and reinvestment in our community."

Americorps workers are doing a fantastic job helping with projects in the Tortilla Flats neighborhood, he said.

Murphy said that South Hillcrest will be paved before Bowman's summer concert series at the golf course begins. The Connect Trail is set for completion this fall; "We'll have a party," Murphy said.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that the Durango symposium was a "really great opportunity."

Business owner Sarah Fishing also attended the Durango symposium on behalf of the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART) Bell said. "She talked about how good it is to work with the City of Montrose," he said. "We're really proud."

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ESPENOZA NAMED TO CENSUS OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has appointed Cecelia Espenoza to the Census Outreach Grant Program Committee. HB19-1239, passed this legislative session, creates the 2020 Census Outreach Grant Program to provide grants to local governments, inter-governmental agencies, councils of government, housing authorities, school districts, and nonprofit organizations to support the accurate counting of Colorado's population during the 2020 census. The grant program committee, as outlined in the legislation, will work in conjunction with the Department of Local Affairs to implement and administer the grant program and develop policies and proce-

dures necessary for such implementation and administration.

"As a respected community leader, Cecelia Espenoza will be an important representative on the Census Outreach Grant Program Committee. A fair and accurate count in 2020 will ensure critical federal resources for our state and is necessary for Coloradans to have fair representation both locally and in Washington, D.C.," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

HB19-1239 authorizes the Colorado Secretary of State to make one appointment to this important committee. The other four members are appointed by legislative leadership from both majority and minority parties.

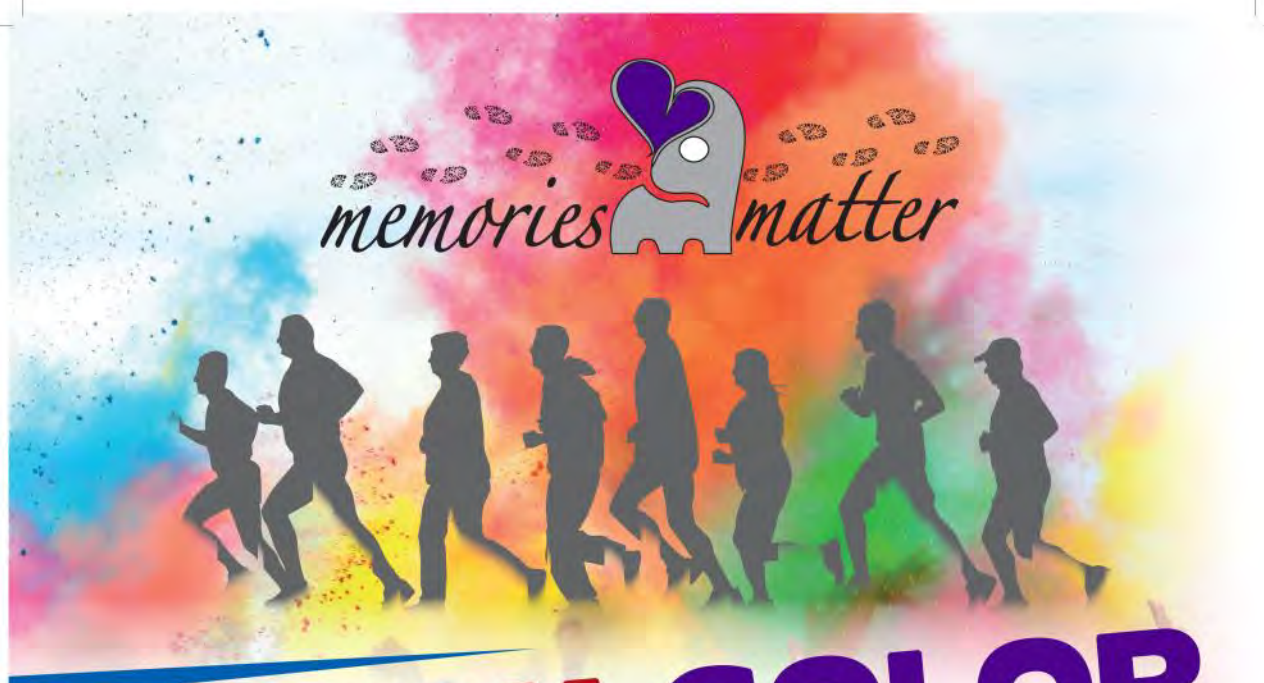
Espenoza will bring expertise and dedica-

tion to the Census Outreach Grant Program Committee. She retired from the United States Department of Justice after serving as a Senior Associate General Counsel and as the only Mexican American to serve as an Appellate Immigration Judge.

In addition, she has served on numerous local, state and national boards and as a professor of law.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on this committee. A fair and equitable count is essential to our state and required by the Constitution," said Espenoza.

The committee is responsible for awarding \$6 million of grant funding before Nov. 1 of this year.



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Races start
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KEN WATSON FAR AND AWAY THE BEST CHOICE FOR DMEA

Editor:

Unfortunately many DMEA members discount the importance of the current election. On the contrary, with major financial issues to be resolved, it's critical for every member to cast their vote.

For many, the most important race is Watson/White. Watson, as the incumbent, certainly has a much more in depth understanding of those issues that will affect each member.

His opponent touts "transparency" and

"fiscal responsibility" as reasons to cast our votes for him. But voters should reflect on his actual eight year record on the Montrose BOCC. "Transparency" was, at best, an occasional thing, and the claim of "fiscal responsibility" is almost laughable.

Even prior to election for his first BOCC term, White aligned himself with the Stuhmer/ JetAway crowd that cost Montrose taxpayers millions to defend and ultimately defeat baseless litigation. Then there was the "hospital fiasco" that wast-

ed additional huge sums of tax dollars to settle. And then, voters should maybe reflect on the Extra Aircraft debacle. More recently, White pushed through the Event Center project, with no valid business plan, that has encumbered taxpayers for years to come and is operating at an annual loss of over a million. Considering his opponents costly track record, Ken Watson is far and away the best choice in this race.

Dee Laird, Montrose

OUR NATION WAS BUILT ON LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, NOT ILLEGALS

Editor:

The delirious and incoherent rampage used by Ms. Hefferman to praise illegal immigration in the Montrose Daily Press doesn't reflect any truth or common sense. First, she mentions immigrants 10 times, but she never uses the words "legal immigrants". The truth is our Nation was built on "legal" immigrants helping the original settlers. But the extremist left likes to infer that illegal immigrants are such a blessing, but contribute nothing. That's why they won't differentiate between illegal and "legal" immigrants. And there's a reason for that. They want illegals here for the democrat party's future voters since they can't convince enough Americans to vote for their anti-American, unpatriotic, secret plots. Thousands of invaders are coming every month thanks to Democrats and their liberal judges.

This is not about innocent, poor refugees, this is an invasion! The corrupt Dems/Globalists want gun control of Americans while the US borders are open letting invaders in who have no trouble stealing guns. Americans are called terrorists while illegal immigrants are showered with sympathy and somehow respect. And the Dems focus on climate diversion while invaders swarm in. Dems control the me-

dia and report lies as they demand to bring them in, just not into their neighborhoods.

Has anyone noticed the new clothes all the invaders are wearing? How clean they are? One bunch was spotted to all have the same style and color of new tennis shoes. And they are supposed to all be so poor! Somebody is financing this whole fiasco. Could it be the democrat party? It must be since they are the ones fighting to keep the borders open.

Yes, Hefferman said we are a nation of immigrants, but they have been "legal" immigrants. That's what they don't want to talk about. And she mentioned the Statue of Liberty. Heaven knows our lady Liberty is crying rivers of tears watching the Dems destroy our Country. She says a nation does better with an infusion of immigrants! It's "legal" immigrants who contribute, not invaders! It's "Legal" immigrants who start new businesses, not invaders. Seventy percent of "legal" immigrants believe in the American dream, not invaders who are begging for everything they can get free.

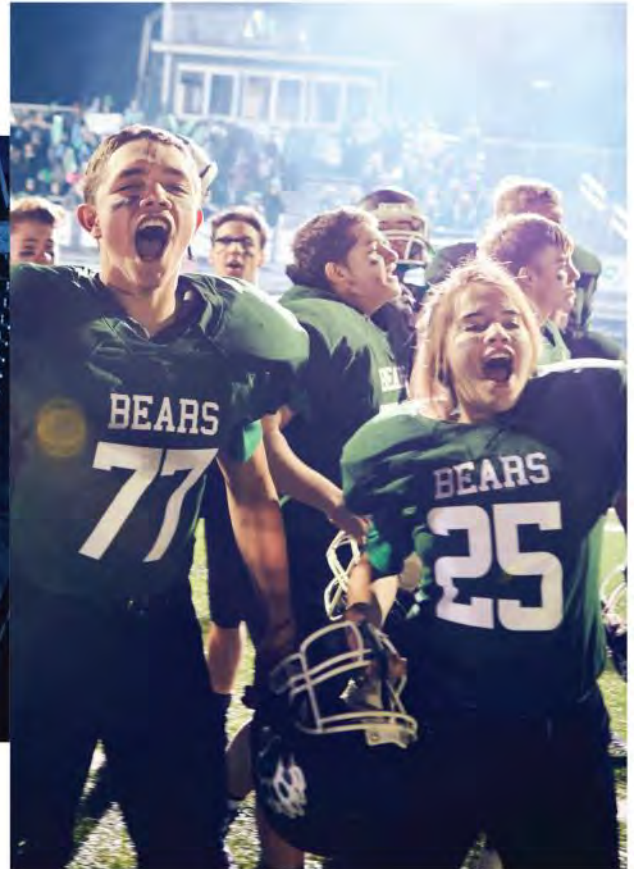
Let's talk about what the illegals cost the American taxpayer. As of 12-24-2018 they cost the Federal Govt. \$45,870,474,332, but they only contribut-

ed \$15,447,897,700 in taxes. State and local cost was \$88,992,981,032, but they only paid in \$3,520,960,000 in taxes. So the total National cost to the American taxpayer from illegals was \$134,863,455,364 and the Government only collected \$18,968,857,700 from illegals in taxes. That left a total of \$115,894,597,664 paid out by the good ol' American taxpayer which they will never recover! And these numbers are from 6 months ago which will be dwarfed by the numbers of today. Think they appreciate that?

Anyone who wants illegals here so badly should invite them to occupy their extra bedrooms, provide a diaper-changing room, take them to hospitals and doctors, buy them clothes, provide them with their homeland flag to hang on their front porch, and provide regular meals cooked to their homeland tradition. Now that would be a responsible and caring solution that would test their honesty and intentions!

We can't bring nail clippers on a plane, but we're supposed to let hordes of illegal aliens cross our border every day unchecked. Thanks to the Democrats; our Nation is in trouble.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT AND SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF THE TELLURIDE LAWSON HILL PARKING & TRANSIT CENTER

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation recently celebrated the completion of a transit facility built near Telluride. A ribbon cutting event was held, Wednesday, May 29 at the new Telluride Lawson Hill Parking & Transit Center located along CO Highway 145 near Society Turn Business Center, just west of Telluride.

CDOT and San Miguel County officials say the center is important for local and regional travelers serving as a stop and transfer station for the local Galloping Goose and SMART (San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation) transit buses as well as Bustang, which provides broad statewide service.

"Not only can locals take advantage of this facility and its amenities when they ride the Galloping Goose and SMART buses, but regional travelers will benefit as well," said CDOT Southwest Regional Transportation Director, Mike McVaugh. "The Bustang Outrider program offers intrastate connections with bus service

from Durango all the way to Grand Junction and many stops beyond in between. This will be a pleasant stop for those traveling the Western Slope route."

The new regional transportation center, powered by solar panels, also has 120 paved parking spaces, an electric charging station and restrooms.

The construction cost is approximately \$1.5 million made available by the State of Colorado through Senate Bill 228 transit funding dollars.

The ribbon cutting event was hosted by SMART. Officials with CDOT and local agency partners and project contributors



San Miguel County Administrative Assistant Nina Kothe and CDOT Regional Transportation Director Mike McVaugh ceremoniously cut the red ribbon at the newly constructed Telluride Lawson hill Parking and Transit Center. Courtesy photo.

were in attendance including San Miguel County; SMART; Town of Telluride; Telluride Mountain Village; Russell Planning & Engineering; and Stryker & Company Commercial Contractors.

To view a video of the event visit CDOT's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/PgKu5AMMAE8>.

249 8500

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROCKY PITCH PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Grand Valley Ranger District plan to conduct the Rocky Pitch prescribed burn, beginning as early as Tuesday, June 11. Depending on weather conditions, appropriate ground and vegetation conditions burning will continue through the week of June 16. The project area is located 25 miles south of Grand Junction on the south rim of Unaweep Canyon. Approximately three days of ignitions are planned, with monitoring through the next several days pending forecasted precipitation. Approximately 600 acres are planned for treatment.

A prescribed burn is a wildland fire originating from a planned ignition and is used to improve wildlife habitat, reduce hazardous vegetation (fuels) build-up and increase stand health and diversity. Prescribed fire in these areas will burn much less intensely than a wildfire and better accomplish the desired outcome on the land.

Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists spend countless hours developing detailed prescribed fire plans that dictate weather conditions, staffing and safety requirements. Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn. Ignitions only occur if conditions are conducive to a safe, effective operation and within appropriate smoke dispersal parameters set by the State of Colorado. This prescribed burn will be accomplished using joint-agency fire resources.

For information and updates on prescribed burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at 970.874.6602, visit the GMUG Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF> or Twitter: https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OWL CREEK PASS ROAD REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL JUNE 30

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Owl Creek Pass road (NFSR 858) will remain closed until June 30:

Road will remain closed until June 30th due to above average snowpack.

Road will open on June 30 with 30-minute traffic delays.

Project consists of removing and replacing culverts and improving the road surface.

Heavy equipment will be encountered during the reconstruction process.

For additional information, project updates or questions please contact Chris Phelps at christopher.phelps@usda.gov.

BOARD OPENING

Effective immediately, there is (1) opening, fulfilling a position with an expiration of 01/14/2020. The purpose of the Roundtable is to support and advocate a collaborative effort to coordinate and facilitate the appropriate use of the State's waters; building an effective voluntary basin-wide program that fosters open communication and cooperation among stakeholders.

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LOOKING BACK ON MY FIRST YEAR OF CAT OWNERSHIP



Jack Switzer, 15

By Jack Switzer
MONTROSE- Almost an entire year ago, I adopted a small kitten who had been born under our porch during a hot summer. I wrote about the day I brought him in, and how

much of a pain it was the first few nights he was in my room, but things have changed.

He no longer meows at 3 am at the top of his kitty cat lungs, he goes to sleep at the same time I do, and he is much more friendly with me.

During that year, I have learned what it means to raise a cat, what they need and want, and NOT to let them near ANY cords because you will have to buy new ones.

Starting off with that, I think it's a good idea to talk about cat boundaries. It is perfectly fine to pet them, scratch their ears, and treat them as an equal.

Sometimes, they may even let you scratch their belly, if you're lucky. However, you can never, ever, not in a million

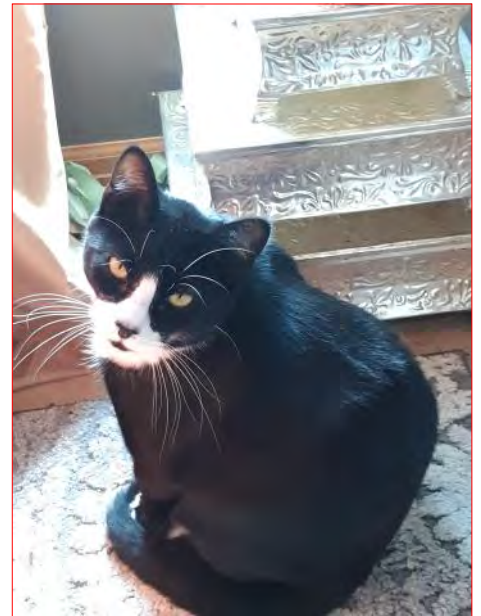


Above, Boots when I first found him. At right, Boots today.

years, call them a little fluff ball, a cutie patootie, or a poofy snoofy doop. Because not only does it make them angry, you have to remember this is not your little man, he is an independent man, who is strong and not at ALL fluffy or cute.

I once called my cat a poofy snoofy doop, and he hissed at me. And not just any hiss, it was a "call me that again and they will never find your eyes," hiss.

My cat, Boots, is very energetic, happy, and smart. He knows how to wake me up, by knocking over ALL of my stuff until I roll over, see him wreaking havoc, and let him out of my room to frolic. At night, he jumps up into bed with me, curls up next



to me, and purrs.

When he has his downtime, he loves to stare out the window at the cars and birds passing by.

Although, I have a fear that one day he will knock out the screen in my window and try to catch a pigeon.

Boots has been a very good companion to me this last year. I love him, and he's my best friend. I cannot wait to live many more years with him by my side.

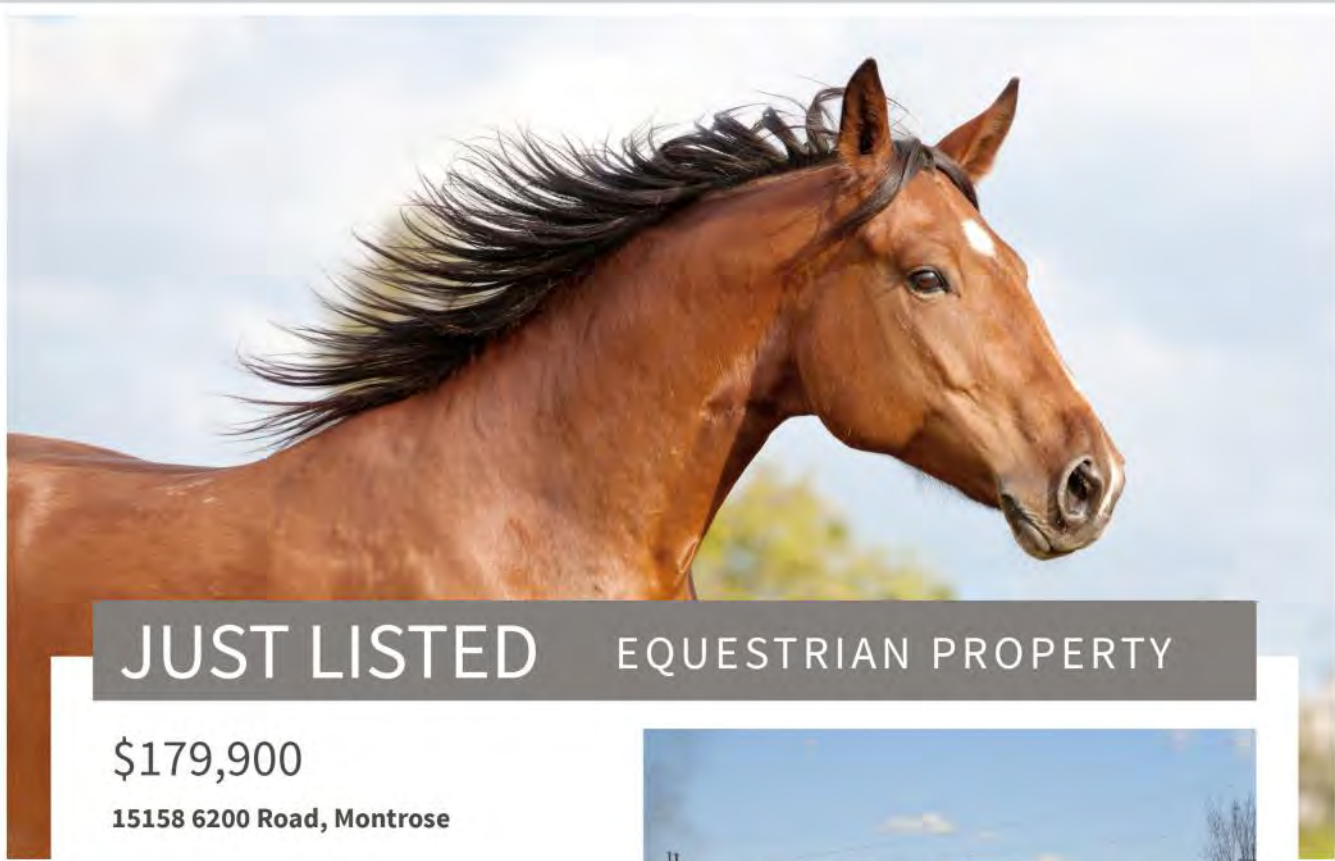


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO JUNE 3, 2019 ARTICLE IN THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Dear Ms. Switzer:

I'm writing in response to an article in the June 3, 2019 *Montrose Mirror*.

As an initial matter, we were glad the *Montrose Mirror* was able to attend and report on our May 28th board meeting. DMEA is always pleased to welcome the *Mirror* and other members of the press to our monthly board meetings.

Your reporting allows our member-owners who are otherwise busy to stay on top of developments in their cooperative. That said, I would like to respectfully address just a few items in the June 3 issue—particularly in the article titled “DMEA Considers Possible Rate Increase Proposal, Changes to Billing Cycle.” The first is that any rate increase is (as the article headline notes) a “possible” increase. Please note, much discussion and engagement with our member-owners remains. Second, I under-

stand the need for an “interesting” article, but the quotes from the various board members could use some context. The result is that your article suggests meanings that were never intended. For example, the article quotes DMEA's board president out of context and in a way that seems to imply (incorrectly) that Elevate-related investments are pressuring rates upwards.

In fact it is Tri-State's rate structure, particularly when applied to the changing profile of DMEA's load, which is primarily driving our wholesale costs (and in turn your retail rates) higher. There are other issues as well, but I'll leave them to the side.


My sincere hope is that in future articles the *Mirror* will resist the urge for a quick soundbite and instead provide readers with the context to better understand the

decisions the board makes. By my count, DMEA-related articles or opinion pieces appeared on nine different pages of the June 3 issue. This saturation reflects the critical importance of DMEA to our community and, again, I'm glad that the *Mirror* sees that.

Please also know that we at DMEA are happy to answer questions about stories or provide comments that may assist your reporter (and in turn your readers) in understanding why DMEA is making the decisions it is making. DMEA respectfully requests that, space permitting, this letter be printed in the June 10 issue so that your readers may be more informed. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jasen R. Bronec



**News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REPUBLICAN PARTY SHOULD NOT POLITICIZE DMEA BOARD ELECTION

Editor:

If I voted for David White because he is a republican as Ray demands, I would be doing my fellow citizens, both republican and democrat a vast injustice. First of all, having witnessed his behavior for the past ten years, eight of which were in public office, I could not do it. His performance was horrific. To say terrible would be to vastly understate his performance and behavior. Then to vote for him because the erstwhile leader of the republican party hereabouts says to simply because he is a republican would be an absolute miscarriage of justice. He is a member of a 'rat pack' in Montrose that puts Frank Sinatra's rat pack to shame. Can't call him a leader of the pack because he could not lead a horse out of a flaming barn. And just because he is a republican I should vote for him? If David White is all the GOP has to offer in Montrose we are in deep trouble.

But for all of that said, the whole discussion begs the question. Why are we politicizing a corporation's board of directors election. Directors should be elected solely based on merit and their ability to get things done. First of all, all that Mr. White has ever done in elected office is to cause trouble, hate and discontent and waste copious quantities of taxpayer and private money. He is totally unfit for any position where monies, public or private, are being spent. It seems from his history that anytime he is in a jam in office (often) he just throws other people's money at the problem. The hospital, Jetaway, the FBO and the Arena to name a few. Overall likely ten million of public and private money spent on zero victories and for no reward during his eight years as a commissioner.

His 'election' signs are all BLUE. Has he turned democrat? Why should we support a guy who cannot even use the color of his party on his signs? To quote Doc Holiday in a Wyatt Earp movie, this person is a 'rascal' of the first order!

The President of the Republican Party does not need to be politicizing the DMEA board election.

Compare the knowledge, integrity, and character of the two candidates and most importantly the motivation for seeking a seat on the DMEA board.

Vote for Watson.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DMEA IS NOT ASHAMED OF PAYING A FAIR WAGE

Editor:

Commitment is defined as “the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity.” At DMEA, we have made our communities the central focus of our 80+ year commitment. A commitment that is born out in the hundreds of thousands of dollars we give to community programs, schools, and non-profits each year; the tens of millions we have invested to bring fiber internet to our service territory; the decades-long negotiating battle we have engaged in for more affordable, local, and cleaner power generation; and the compensation of each and every DMEA employee. And it is my final point of commitment on which I would like to speak.

As a cornerstone of the communities that make up Delta and Montrose counties, DMEA has the opportunity to provide good jobs in two of the poorest counties in Western Colorado. This is a fact that many know and that we are not ashamed of. Rather, it is a source of pride and honor to be able to offer competitive yet fair wages, excellent benefits, and paid holidays to the 120 families that make up our DMEA and Elevate team.

So, let’s talk about money. DMEA provides competitive pay that is well in line with electric utility industry standards. DMEA’s board-approved compensation plans are vetted carefully according to nationwide, statewide, and region-wide industry standards. It is a delicate balancing act to ensure that DMEA offers competitive wages, so we can attract and retain the right talent to get the job done while also spending member resources wisely. DMEA consistently sets compensation for every position using the median salaries of our industry across all levels of our cooperative. That means whether someone is a lineman, an accounting clerk, or the CEO for DMEA, they are paid a fair wage for the job they do.

For example, we start our customer service representatives off at \$24.70/hour. This is a great starting wage for a customer service representative. We also expect great things from them, such as answering 16,565 phone calls, making more than 2,500 outbound calls, replying to over

1,000 emails, and ensuring that all of our 28,137 DMEA members and 6,038 Elevate customers are cared for each and every month.

Now let’s talk opportunity. Collectively, the folks that make up the DMEA and Elevate crews bring to the table no less than 287 years of education and more than 1,032 years of experience. It has always been our goal to keep talented and educated people within our communities, as well as attract and retain quality folks that may come from elsewhere.

As a parent and grandparent myself, I find (and I bet you would agree) that it is reassuring to know that exceptional employment opportunities exist right here at home. Our children, mine and yours, could, and hopefully will, one day have an opportunity to work for DMEA or one of our fellow local leading businesses that also offer gainful employment.

Now, let’s talk community. The DMEA family is made up of 120 community-minded families who buy local goods, coach your kids’ soccer teams, raise money, pay taxes, participate in local civic groups, volunteer, and go to church with you.

Among the organizations that DMEA employees have volunteered for and invested in include Boys and Girls Club, volunteer firefighting crews, Girls on the Run, Sharing Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, food banks, churches, homeless shelters, school fundraisers, Special Olympics, and the Salvation Army. Further, our employees take it upon themselves to anonymously donate thousands of dollars annually to local families in need. All this is only possible because DMEA employees earn good wages, and they actively look for opportunities to give back.

Finally, I would like to address the elephant in the room. Recently, some in our community have taken it upon themselves to disparage our employees and their salaries, specifically our executive team whose salaries and benefits are posted publicly on our website. Many inaccuracies and rumors have circulated through our communities as a result of this attack; such as the rumor that our executive team mem-

bers receive a \$100,000 bonus each year. That is simply not true.

Our CEO, Jasen Bronec, earns a salary of \$290,000 annually. You might have seen on Instagram that LaPlata Electric Association hired a new CEO last month and her salary is \$285,000. While we recognize these salaries, and those of the rest of our executive team, are higher than the average local wage, they are fair and fully in line with the wages paid for these positions in the electric utility industry across the nation and right here in Colorado.

Our executive team is blessed to earn a comfortable living, and we know this is a reality not everyone gets to experience. Like all roles within DMEA, there are tremendous expectations that come with being the CEO, COO, CFO, and CTO, just like in any business. Our executive team is honored to lead this cooperative—a cooperative that is taking on multiple colossal undertakings, all thanks to the vision of our board and members like you. DMEA is now a pioneer for how to successfully build a fiber network in rural America, thanks to members like you. We are determined in our efforts to secure a more affordable and flexible power supply, thanks to members like you. We as a board have entrusted the executive team to lead DMEA, and all those who work here, successfully through these ventures. DMEA couldn’t be an industry leader without the talent, experience, and commitment that our team members bring to you. We appreciate the support of the majority who embrace the commitments DMEA has made to both its members and its employees. Our communities benefit from leading employers, like DMEA among others. Our employees, the people who serve you, have hearts for the communities in which they live and they have the economic ability to eagerly support our local businesses, friends, programs, institutions, and non-profits.

I can say without a doubt that the DMEA team working for you today is one of the finest co-op teams I’ve had the honor to work with. Thank you for embracing and challenging us every step of the way.
Bill Patterson, DMEA Board President

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND DUI ENFORCEMENT CITES 322 DRIVERS

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — While many Coloradans spent the Memorial Day weekend with family and friends, law enforcement agencies across the state worked overtime to apprehend impaired drivers and keep our roads safe. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Colorado State Patrol (CSP) joined 105 law enforcement agencies across the state from May 24 through May 28 for *The Heat Is On* Memorial Day impaired driving enforcement period.

During the five-day enforcement stretch, 322 impaired drivers were arrested for suspected impaired driving, an increase from the 301 arrests made over the same period in 2018. DUI enforcement is a key component of CDOT's *Whole System Whole Safety* approach to reducing deaths and injuries on Colorado's roads. Last May, there were 19 impairment-related

fatalities on Colorado's roads.

"Impaired drivers are a significant safety risk across our transportation network not only to motorists but also pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists," said Shoshana Lew, Executive Director of CDOT. "It's a risk that is entirely preventable, which is why rigorous enforcement and robust education are so important to eliminating such drivers from our system."

Among the 102 participating agencies, the Colorado Springs Police Department (32 arrests), Denver Police Department (30 arrests) and El Paso County Sheriff's Office (23 arrests) recorded the highest arrest totals. Visit <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal> to view all arrest results throughout Colorado. CSP troops made 39 DUI arrests.

"The number of impaired drivers arrested over Memorial Day weekend is an on-

going reminder of the risk impaired drivers impose to our state. Make sure you and the people around you are not getting in a vehicle unless it's with a sober driver," said Col. Matthew Packard, Chief of the CSP. "*The Heat Is On* enforcement periods help stop impaired drivers from putting both themselves and others in danger, thereby potentially saving lives."

An average of 60 impaired drivers are arrested for DUI in Colorado every day. The Colorado blood-alcohol limit for a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge is 0.08 percent or higher, and for a Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) charge, it is 0.05 percent or higher. First-time DUI offenders can be punished with up to one year in jail, license suspension and thousands of dollars in fines.

The Heat Is On will return on June 14 for the 10-day Summer Blitz enforcement period.

COLORADO SKI COUNTRY USA SEES DOUBLE DIGIT INCREASE IN SKIER VISITS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) announced at its 56th Annual Meeting in Denver on June 6 that skier visits at its now 23-member ski resorts increased 13 percent over last year's total, which is nearly 12 percent above the five-year average. Using publicly available information, CSCUSA is projecting a new statewide record for skier visits of 13.8 million. Today's announcement reflects a percentage increase that includes the current makeup of the association and is adjusted for the departure of Crested Butte from the membership in 2018-19.

"The 2018-19 season was one for the history books," Colorado Ski Country USA President and CEO Melanie Mills said. "Not only did the industry set a new statewide record for skier visits, but there were substantial investments in capital

improvements across our member resorts and snowfall was plentiful across the entire state."

All regions of Colorado received significant snowfall throughout the season with the northern, central and southern mountains all blanketed in white. The early season was marked by significant resort investment with six new chairlifts whisking skiers and riders up the mountain, five new restaurants across the state, the new Limelight Hotel in Snowmass and other new activities and offerings. January and February saw additional snowfall and increased industry wide advocacy on climate change with the formation of the Outdoor Business Climate Partnership and a joint statement from eight state ski trade associations in support of increased climate action. Late February and March featured record or near record snow to-

als and set up a strong end to the season with five CSCUSA member ski areas announcing season extensions with Aspen Mountain and Arapahoe Basin still spinning lifts on weekends.

"Colorado Ski Country member ski areas have shown a commitment to improving and enhancing the guest experience with new lifts, new restaurants, new lodging properties and new activities and offerings," continued Mills. "Combined with a long, strong season and geographically diverse snowfall, our members were able to deliver a record-setting year."

Skier visits are the metric used to track participation in skiing and snowboarding. A skier visit represents a person participating in the sport of skiing or snowboarding for any part of one day at a mountain resort. These numbers are preliminary and subject to final adjustment.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE FOR KNOWLEDGE, LEADERSHIP, INTELLECT ON DMEA BOARD-NOT DAVID WHITE

Editor:

The Chairman of the Republican party is supporting David White for the position of a DMEA director over the objections of informed Republicans---solely because he is a Republican. How convenient! Obviously Ken Langston was not here ten years ago when White was running the Board of County Commissioners. One could say that if you don't know what you are talking about, don't open your mouth. That BOCC was an abomination below all abominations insofar as decent government was concerned and no one should ever propose that this county begin a repetition of those years---for any reason. Citizens, I implore you---don't ever vote for David White again for any political office! No-matter-what!

Boards of directors should be chosen because of what they can bring to the board in knowledge, leadership and intellect. Reading and hearing Mr. White's diatribes in the paper and on the radio about the Tri-State issue, one can unequivocally determine that knowledge about that matter is not White's forte. That said, it is never wise to elect a board member because of his stand on one issue alone. And leadership? We who have been around here since before his tenure on the BOCC can attest that his leadership is based on "it's my way or the highway" and "a lack of respect for the voters once elected." Neither of these traits are suitable or desired on a board where open discussion, debate, idea swapping, thoughtfulness, deliberation and finally united action are mandatory for the operation of a sound business. As for intellect.....

Citizens and voters beware. Elections can have severe consequences.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POLICE MAKE ARREST IN BURGLARY CASE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Jeremy Veith, 35, was taken into custody by Montrose Police on May 31 on charges related to three recent burglaries in Montrose. Veith has been charged in connection with incidents at the Sunset Mesa Youth Sports Complex, at a local church, and at an office building. The items stolen at these locations amounted to felony level theft. In addition, Veith is charged with burglary in the second degree, possession of burglary tools, and criminal mischief. Bond was set at \$5,000.

The Montrose Police Department reminds citizens and community members, homeowners, and business owners to always secure their properties and report any burglaries immediately. Additionally, they advise that property owners itemize their possessions and document them by serial number and photograph in the event they fall victim to crimes of this nature.

If anyone has any information about any recent burglary, they are encouraged to contact the dispatch center at 970.249-9110.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPANDED COMMON CONSUMPTION AREA BEGINS IN MT. VILLAGE

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE – The Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association will celebrate the kick-off of Mountain Village's newly expanded Common Consumption Area (CCA) with a party and live music in Heritage Plaza on Saturday, June 15 from 12-4 p.m. The party will feature live music from local band, Alan Booradley and the NIA.

In its May monthly meeting, Mountain Village Town Council approved the Mountain Village Promotional Association's request to expand its Common Consumption Area (CCA) throughout the majority of the Village Center.

The Village Center currently has a smaller CCA in the Sunset Plaza area during concerts, but last month's approval significantly expands the footprint and operating hours throughout the summer season.

Similar to concerts in Sunset Plaza, the newly expanded CCA will allow for the purchase of alcoholic beverages in approved cups from participating licensed establishments and enables for consumption throughout much of the plazas in the Village Center.

No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed into the area and only beverages

purchased from participating licensed establishments in approved cups may be allowed throughout the plazas.

Drinks purchased from one licensed liquor establishment will only be permitted in the Common Consumption Area and cannot be brought into another liquor establishment. (For example, a drink purchased from Telluride Distillery will not be allowed in Reflection Plaza, where the Hotel Madeline holds the liquor license, but drinks from both establishments may be enjoyed in the common area of Heritage Plaza.)

The Common Consumption Area will be in effect beginning June 15 and will run through the close of the gondola on Oct. 20, 2019 with occasional blackout dates due to special events. It will then operate concurrently with the 2019/2020 gondola schedule. The hours will be noon to 9 p.m. daily.

"We wanted to build on the vitality that the Sunset Plaza businesses have experienced with the Common Consumption Area and summer concerts," said TMVOA President and CEO Anton Benitez.

Seven of the Village Center's 10 liquor licensed establishments will be participating, and 22 non-liquor licensed businesses are participating, allowing guests

to take their beverage into the retail establishments while shopping. All retailers in the Center will be clearly marked to indicate their participation in the CCA.

Telluride Distillery is one of the participating businesses.

"The dynamic of Mountain Village will change considerably with the newly expanded Common Consumption Area," said Abbott Smith, owner of the Distillery, which opened a tasting room in the Village Center this past winter. "It will create a more inviting experience for shopping, dining, nightlife, walking around and even watching the sunset."

The CCA map encompasses Sunset Plaza and Heritage Plaza, and people with a drink from an approved establishment will not be permitted to cross any roadways. Security and signage will be put in place to enforce the boundaries and rules of this new Common Consumption Area.

"We are looking forward to an exciting and successful summer," Benitez said. "We are happy to partner with our local merchants and the Town of Mountain Village to make this happen."

For more information on the Common Consumption Area, and to view a map of its boundaries, please visit townofmountainvillage.com/ccs.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DANGERS PRESENT ON COLORADO'S RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—Following a strong winter and wet spring that overloaded the mountain snowpack, the statewide levels on Thursday were 625 percent above the median. That can entice and excite whitewater enthusiasts, but Colorado Parks and Wildlife warns of the dangers that will be present this summer on Colorado's rivers, streams and lakes.

It is not just the experienced whitewater kayaker that needs to be wary, the dangers of high water levels and swift-moving rapids extend to river rafters, tubers, anglers, swimmers as well as families who picnic by the water.

"You should always wear a life vest, paddle with a buddy, know your limitations and scout rapids prior to floating them," said Grant Brown, boating safety program manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

River water exerts a very powerful and constant force against any fixed object. Just six inches of water can knock a person off their feet.

Water flowing at seven miles per hour has the equivalent force per unit area as air blowing above 200 miles per hour.

If you are swept off your feet or tossed out of your tube, kayak or raft, you could be traveling down river for a long time. Respect how cold that water will be. If you fall into that cold water, it doesn't take long to get yourself into serious trouble.

Eric Krause, a ranger and visitor relations coordinator with Jefferson County Open Space, issues permits with river rafting companies along Clear Creek. Clear Creek is likely the most dangerous river in the Northeast section of the state. "It takes remarkably little water moving at a fast speed to sweep an adult or child off of



If you are swept off your feet or tossed out of your tube, kayak or raft, you could be traveling down river for a long time. CPW Courtesy photo.

their feet, and once in the water, it is extremely difficult to reach shore and regain control," Krause said. "Anyone near moving water (particularly Clear Creek) should be wary, and only those with high levels of experience and competence in white-water should enter the river."

Safety tips:

- We encourage the use of a personal flotation device (PFD) that is properly fitted and designed for whitewater boating or paddling. A ski vest is not appropriate for whitewater boating. Wear a helmet.
- Dress accordingly: though the air temperature may be hot, the water is very cold.
- We encourage that people research and check current river conditions of the stretches they intend to run.

- Don't get in over your head, paddle in conditions you are comfortable and confident paddling in.
- We encourage people to raft with a buddy and avoid floating alone, especially during high flows.
- If you fall into swift water, do not attempt to stand up, as doing so may result in a foot entrapment. Point your feet down river in fast water and as soon as possible swim to shore.
- Keep an eye on your children. Never leave them unattended by a river.
- Scout rapids and unknown sections of the river. Rapids change at varying water levels. Spring floods can carry trees and other debris and jam up a section of a river causing a strainer (water flows through but solids do not).

Some things never go out of style.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

JUNE IS WORKPLACE SAFETY MONTH IN COLORADO

Division of Workers Compensation to spotlight exemplary companies throughout the month

Co. Dept. of Labor & Employment

DENVER-June is National Safety Month and the Division of Workers Compensation (a part of the Department of Labor and Employment) is using this annual focus on safety to stress the importance of workplace safety. Governor Polis has issued a proclamation declaring June as Workplace Safety Month.

Employers, risk managers and safety professionals know that when an employee is injured on the job, the resulting medical bills and lost productivity can dig deep into the bottom line. They know that the best way to avoid the costs associated with workplace accidents is by avoiding an injury in the first place.

That is the philosophy behind the Division of Workers Compensation's Premium Cost Containment Program. The Division uses Workplace Safety Month to urge more companies to participate in its Premium Cost Containment Program which offers technical assistance at no cost and conducts a comprehensive risk assessment of participating companies' safety practices.

Companies with an interest in strengthening workplace safety can be certified by the Division of Workers Compensation's Premium Cost Containment Program that

guides employers in establishing safety practices to reduce work-related injuries. Companies that are granted certification in the Premium Cost Containment Program are eligible for reductions of 5 to 10% on their workers' compensation premiums.

Throughout June, the Division of Workers Compensation will showcase some of these exemplary companies that are working to constantly identify and implement corrective actions necessary to prevent incidents. Workplace stories and commendations will be posted on social media (facebook.com/ColoradoLabor and twitter.com/ColoradoLabor) and at the Division of Workers Compensation website (colorado.gov/cdle/dwc).

The employers to be profiled are a diverse group from a wide range of industries, but they share a common trait. They all strive for a safe workplace because they value their employees and want to keep them happy and healthy.

Success can't happen within a static, rigid safety culture, says Department of Labor and Employment Executive Director Joe Barela. "Making sure that staff is complying with a list of safety regulations isn't enough," he says, "because most workplace accidents aren't caused by careless

workers. They are the result of an unabated hazard."

What's needed, he stresses, is a safety culture that evolves over time as staff continues to learn and respond to changing hazards. "Our Premium Cost Containment Program helps workers and employers build a dynamic safety culture that results in heightened employee productivity and morale, making the program well worth the effort."

The Premium Cost Containment Program has certified 7,800 companies since 1991. Currently, a little over 4,200 Colorado businesses are active in the program. And there are currently 478,000 Colorado workers employed at companies that are certified in this program.

Companies interested in learning more about the Premium Cost Containment Program should call 303-318-8644 or visit the website at www.colorado.gov/cdle/dwc/safety-and-loss-control. In addition, the Division of Workers Compensation will be sharing stories of workplace safety during June.

People are encouraged to go to @ColoradoLabor on Twitter and Facebook and use the hashtag #safeatworkCO to share videos or stories of how they are safe at work.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG ISSUES DECISION FOR CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT SKI AREA PROJECTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests has approved Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) Ski Area Projects. The CBMR project analysis and Deputy Forest Supervisor, Chad Stewart's, decision addresses the existing constraints and conditions and further improves the skiing and mountain biking experience at CBMR. The goals of the projects include:

- Meeting increased public demand for developed intermediate and expert ski terrain by developing the Main Mountain at CBMR;
- Increasing the amount of developed and undeveloped terrain and ski pods, with an emphasis on intermediate, advanced, and

- expert ability levels and improving skier circulation and opportunities;
- Offering additional recreational activities for year-round utilization of existing facilities; and
- Improving the quality of the facilities to meet the ever-increasing expectations of the local, regional, and destination skier markets.

Specific activities associated with the project include: adjusting CMBR permit boundary, adding 500 acres of ski terrain, installing/upgrading chairlifts, improving ski terrain access, adding 32 acres of snowmaking from existing water rights, adding a ski patrol building/warming hut, and constructing 15 miles of mountain bike trails. The proposed improvements

on the Main Mountain are the result of many years of public processes and coordination between CBMR, the community and the GMUG staff.

"I'm happy to see the progress that has been made to ensure that Forest resources will be protected and visitor expectations and services at CBMR will continue to be met into the future," said GMUG Deputy Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart.

Implementation of the specific proposed activities at CBMR is estimated to begin as early as summer 2019.

The FEIS and Record of Decision are available to the public on the GMUG's website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46904>.

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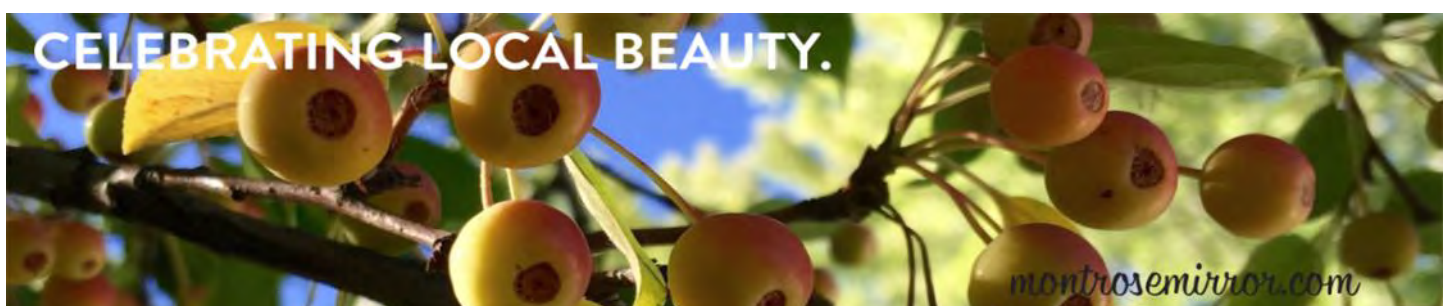
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF MONTROSE NAMES NEW BOARD, WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM NEW MEMBERS



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Altrusa International of Montrose has named a new board of directors, and new members with a heart for community service are welcome as well. Elaine Hale Jones will serve as President of Altrusa in 2019-2020, with Eva Veitch as President-Elect. First Vice President will be Kim Lundgren, Second Vice President will be Debbie Blanchard. Nadine Souders will serve as Secretary, Ginny Spaven will serve as Treasurer, and Linda Fuller will serve as Treasurer-Elect. Val Burnell and Lori Michaels will serve as Directors. For new membership, please contact Kim Lundgren or Elaine Hale Jones at 970-249-3887, or elainejhjones@gmail.com.

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THE STOCKYARDS, DELTA *NOW, THAT'S SOME YUMMY BBQ*

DELTA— Now, I'm not usually someone who gravitates to BBQ and beef, as you all know. But my friend Michael and I were headed through this little neighbor of Montrose and just had to try the grub at The Stockyards Restaurant and Lounge as it was just about dinner time. This place has quite a history in Delta, originally built in 1949 by Allison Vanderpool and known as the Coffee Pot. For awhile it was known as Callaway's Coffee Pot as Wiley Callaway added onto the building with the lounge in 1960. For 17 years Jack and Dorothy Dufelder ran the Captains Lounge and Restaurant. And that's the short history. The current owners Jeri and Dianne purchased it in 2001 and it became the Stockyards, which it's been for 15 years now, surviving the ups and downs of local economy. At this time the Stockyards Restaurant and Lounge appears to be thriving. They proudly serve Callaway Packing Meat. "Texas Style Smoked BBQ" caught our eye for some reason and it just seemed right to indulge in such a place with old-fashioned wood framed booths. Now, as you know, we're not big eaters, so we decided to split what looked like plenty of food – given the portions served today I highly recommend this strategy for savings and good eatin.' (All this eating gets to the waistline, you know.) The Stockyard offers a Combo Platter with your choice of two meats for just \$16.99. So, we decided to split the platter and or-

dered smoked sliced brisket (dry rubbed and slow smoked) and smoked pork ribs, also dry rubbed with in-house seasonings and slow smoked. The platter came with our choice of two sides and we picked potato salad and coleslaw. It wasn't a small amount of food either. Even left a little room to sample homemade pies calling our name.

Now, this choice was delicious! Real, slow-smoked meat with sides of what appeared to be homemade slaw and potato salad. BBQ sauce was also great, with a hint of fire, but just right.

Other choices here run for breakfast, and lunch, with specials for the kiddos. The breakfast menu is extensive and runs from the standard cowboy biscuits and gravy to sweets like French toast and homemade cinnamon rolls; you can also get spicy if you like your breakfast on the wild side. Prices on the morning menu are very reasonable running from \$3.99 to \$12.99 if you want a hearty steak and two eggs. Now, you can always get away with a ½ bowl of oatmeal for \$2.79. Why? That's up to you.

You can come in or take out at the Stockyards from breakfast to dinner. Breakfast is served from 6 – 11 a.m.; then the lunch menu kicks in with hamburgers, other hot sandwiches and open face sandwiches and baskets. Lunch runs from \$7.79 to \$11.99. Kids can get away for only \$6.95. Now, we went for dinner – they have a "Watering Hole" (remember the added



lounge?) and appetizers as well. Well, we were driving, so lemonade and iced tea only please.

Dinner choices run from the BBQ (\$12.99 - \$16.99) to your choice of steaks, either smothered in gravy or grilled from \$18.99 to \$28.99 for a Plains and Sea dish with a sirloin and deep-fried shrimp. You can also get salads and soup of the day, red or green chili, specialty salads, a Ute taco and the special J & D Salad (seasoned ground beef with onions and pintos on top of lettuce with tomatoes and cheddar cheese) \$9.45.

Then, trust me, don't skip pie. Many homemade choices.

You will find the Stockyard Restaurant and Lounge on Main Street in Delta, just on the left as you drive into town from Montrose, at 1205 Main St, Delta, Colorado. Call (970) 874-4222.

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Linda Steil

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Trying to revive my spud patch

LATE SPRING ... It's been almost 30 years that I've been growing potatoes at Cloud Acre in Norwood. I was lucky not long after I bought my place that I was able to get a water right for waste water from the ag fields above me (thank you dear brother-in-law, Wayne Goin). And for most years that was plenty to keep my spuds happy ... I learned early on not to plant before late May, at the earliest, where I live. Even if the weather is fine, the soil temperature is not warm enough. Early plantings regularly get stunted and do poorly ... At one point I was up to growing 59 varieties of *Solanum tuberosum*. Since I raised tubers as seed as well as a food-stuff, I didn't have to worry about cross-pollination. All tubers are clones of the original plant. While 59 may sound like a lot of varieties, according to *National Geographic* there are close to 4000 varieties in culinary or agricultural production worldwide ... Last year, however, was a disaster in Colorado -- thanks to one of the worst droughts in local memory. I lost all but 6 varieties. Only the hardiest survived. So, this year, with ample water, is a rebuilding year at my Cloud Acre Spud Patch. I'm transitioning to raised beds to better control my soil and watering regimens. It's unlikely I'll have much product to sell or trade, as I have done locally for years. But I hope to get new raised beds installed and expand my production slowly ... As for my old fields, I'm salvaging them and mixing them into expanded compost bins, where I'm hoping to remove the weeds and improve the soil's tilth, in order to fill the new beds. Because potatoes are subject to a plethora of smuts, rots, rusts, scab, scale, wilts, blight, molds, cankers, scurfs and other maladies, and since most of those diseases persist in soil for several years, it's common horticultural practice to alternate potato crops among four fields -- not growing tuber seeds in the same field for three years. So, I have multiple fields to "harvest" for compost ... Cloud Acre is in a relic streambed of a wa-



David Temple
(courtesy photo).



Pink flowering tree at Trail Canyon Ranch in McElmo Canyon.
(courtesy photo).

tercourse that meandered across Wrights Mesa centuries ago. The water has been channelized and moved into ditches, but during high water years (like this one), the water table at my place is just a couple feet below the surface. Nutrients in the fields I've been working regularly get leached out, and I'm left with clay and hardpan. I'm hoping raised beds will neutralize that effect, and allow me to improve my soil as well as grow bountiful potatoes ... I just finished my planting this week in three large raised beds I've been growing cover crops in for the last couple years. We'll see how well things work ... Gardening is always risky business. One can only wait and see what surprises climate change will spring on me and my spud patch this year.

PRE-RIVER FEST PARTY ... Had a great time in Dolores at a party one of my friends hosted -- meeting all kinds of people who remembered me from years ago. One year I emceed the Dolores River Fest. Since I never got invited back I figured I hadn't done a very good job, but someone said they change emcees every year. So that was nice to hear ... Val at the lumber yard was gone, so I couldn't buy any wood, but I loaded up on old sawdust that I used for my compost toilet. New sawdust is too raw, and you need aged sawdust to break things down and balance alkaline and acid appropriately ... And then I got to visit Trail Canyon Ranch in McElmo Canyon (www.treesoftrailcanyon.com), where master arborist David Temple gave me a



White flowering tree at Trail Canyon Ranch in McElmo Canyon. (courtesy photo).

marvelous tour of his tree farm. So many unusual varieties that do well in our climate. I got one large tree and a couple small ones. If you want to have special trees for your landscaping needs, David is the one to contact. I got a black walnut cultivar and I'm very excited to see how it does. It almost dulls the pain of losing three 15-year-old spruce, a 20-foot narrowleaf cottonwood and significant die-off in my elms and coyote willows to last year's drought.

BROKE DOWN ... Of course, my trusty Nissan decided to die in Cortez on my way home. Thanks to CJ of Mancos Towing, I got a jump that worked. But I only got as far as Dolores, when -- turning on the lights -- the pickup lost all power again. And I couldn't get it to jumpstart going down a hill. Figured it was the alternator, not the battery ... So I called AAA again, and CJ came and rescued me a second time. If you need help for a vehicle down south of us, I'd highly recommend Mancos Towing. Drove me up to Telluride, where I left the vehicle with my new trees in the back (hoping it wasn't a freezing night, and it wasn't) ... In the morning, the

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

battery took a jump again, and I made it to Norwood, where the Nissan is awaiting an alternator replacement. Ah, the adventures of living in the mountains.

CHARLES GOODMAN ... This Telluride icon just passed away. There was an obit in the Telluride papers. A physicist who had a

home in the Ski Ranches, I remember working with him on a couple projects back in early Telluride. He put on several physicist gatherings in the Eighties – even let me and my buddy Rick Hollinbeck sit in on one session at the Opera House, in exchange for helping with publicity (I worked for the paper back then). A physic

major in college, Rick said he understood about 10% of what was said. I caught almost nothing. But it was interesting high tech nothing ... Charles set the stage for scientific gatherings that the Telluride Science Research Center has been carrying on for over 30 years now ... A good man for sure. May he rest in peace.

THE TALKING GOURD

Do Not Shoot an Old Bear Tied to a Willow Tree

Dear Mr. Trump,

You do not listen to us.
You keep insisting on gagging the scientists,
the judges, and journalists.
Remember what happened mid-November in Mississippi
during a shooting party in 1902.
It involved hunters, and shouting, and a shivering bear.
We as a people warn you,
do not shoot an old black bear tied to a willow tree.
Our country is not a gun you carefully aim at the foreheads
of young women and men
whose fathers or mothers immigrated from Iran.
Burkas, homosexuality, and abortion
are large words,
more powerful than you.
The American people are not your coon dogs,
baying at the smell of blood.
Lynching is not a casual afternoon activity before sherry.
It's just a strong rope,
and weak men.
Roosevelt refused to fire,
and became a national hero.
To own a teddy bear was every child's wish.
Do you think freedom is a bullet?
Or the ability to choose your own health insurance.
Mr. President, you should think
about the huge power
a soft, cuddly teddy bear has in one of its black, wide paws.

-Nancy Melmon
Sedona (AZ)

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

4TH ANNUAL CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES BEGINS IN JUNE

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is proud to present the Fourth Annual Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert series leading off with a performance by soprano Abigail Fischer, tenor Jason Slayden and pianist Susan Ellinger as they present selections from Johannes Brahms, Henri Duparc and Richard Wagner on Saturday, June 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Wright Opera House in Ouray.

Abigail Fischer is not only a trained cellist; her versatile soprano voice is celebrated as well. Known for her “serenely captivating” work in opera, “and disarming intimacy,” (*NY Times*), she has been cast in a long list of leading operatic roles both nationally and internationally. A graduate of Eastman School of Music (MM), and Vassar College (BA), Lorenzo di Medici in Florence, Italy (Certificate in Italian language and literature), Ms. Fischer also traversed the summer scenes of Tanglewood Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, Songfest, and the Chautauqua Voice Program, among others. Her performance for the evening will be selections from German composer Richard Wagner.

Tenor Jason Slayden is a recent addition to the evening’s presentation since OCPAG’s original concert announcement. He has been celebrated for the warmth and beauty of his voice, as well as demon-



Tenor Jason Slayden, above, at right are pianist Susan Ellinger (center) and Soprano Abigail Fischer. Courtesy photos.



strating “considerable subtlety as an actor”. He was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera in the 2009 and 2010 seasons, where he was awarded the Donald Gramm Memorial Award and the Richard Tucker Memorial Award for apprentices. Since then he has sung in operas and all over the United States and made appearances internationally. He has had great success as as Rodolfo in Puccini’s *La Bohème*, a role he has most recently performed at the Pacifica Opera Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia; the Vancouver Opera, Arizona Opera, and Virginia Opera. Slayden will sing works by French composer Henri Duparc.

Accomplished pianist Susan Ellinger returns having shared the Wright stage with many wonderful artists. Ellinger has performed extensively as both as soloist and chamber musician, presenting recitals at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center’s Bruno Walter Auditorium, Har-

vard University and many more. She has won top prizes as both as soloist and chamber musician at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music. She joined the Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia as the Artistic Director in 2012 to create and direct a comprehensive concert series program. She will feature selections from German composer Johannes Brahms.

Advance tickets are \$25, \$28 at the door and \$5 for students (18 years and under). A cash bar will be available. More information and tickets may be found at www.ocpag.org.

The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is a not-for-profit organization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to the local area. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County’s residents and visitors.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

GUITAR HERO TINSLEY ELLIS TO PERFORM IN CRAWFORD

Special to Art & Sol

CRAWFORD-On June 27, Blues-rock guitar wizard, vocalist and songwriter Tinsley Ellis will give a free performance as part of The Mad Dog Summer Concert Series (300 Hwy 92) in Crawford on Thursday, June 27, 2019. Ellis' latest Alligator Records release, WINNING HAND, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Blues Chart. Since his first Alligator album 30 years ago, Tinsley Ellis has become a bona fide worldwide guitar hero. The Chicago Sun-Times says, "It's hard to overstate the raw power of his music." Armed with his signature molten licks, melodic riffs and rousing, intense solos, Ellis, as his legions of fans will attest, is among the blues world's best loved, hardest working and most well-traveled statesmen. Concert information is as follows: Phone: 970-260-6493

Showtime: 7 pm

Ticket price: Free admission

Website: www.pickinproductions.com

PAONIA'S 12TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES BEGINS AUG. 1

Special to Art & Sol

PAONIA-Pickin' in the Park, Paonia's 12th annual FREE summer concert series begins Aug. 1 and continues Thursday evenings thru Aug. 22.

Concerts begin at 6pm sharp, featuring local, regional and national touring acts. Local draft beer, wines and award-winning

hard cider, plus several food vendors are on sight. Family friendly and kid's activities.

2019 LINEUP (HEADLINER, MIDDLE BAND, OPENER)

AUGUST 1 – I DRAW SLOW, HONEY DON'T, HARD PRESSED

August 8 – BATTLE OF SANTIAGO, JON

STICKLEY TRIO, THE BLUEGRASS OFFENDERS

August 15 – THE BROTHERS COMATOSE, 3HATTRIO, ZEB ETTER

August 22 – RON ARTIS II & THE TRUTH, SPIDERCAT, LUKE POWERS

More information at www.pickinproductions.com

THE WOOLLY WEST: COLORADO'S HIDDEN HISTORY OF SHEEPSCAPES

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. in the Montrose Library Community Room, Fort Lewis College Professor Andrew Gulliford explores the sheep industry's place in the history of Colorado and the American West. Competition, often violent, between the early sheep and cattle industries in our local region is addressed without bias. Book sales and signing following the presentation, hosted by Maggie's Books. Co-hosted by Montrose County Historical Society and Montrose Regional Library District as part of the Library Voices series.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

EXPLORE HISTORY OF SHEEP RANCHING IN COLORADO

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Come explore the history of raising sheep in Colorado and learn the true story of early, often violent, competition between the sheep and cattle industries in our local area. Dr. Andrew Gulliford, history professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, will share the "Hidden History of Colorado's Sheepscapes" as

presented in his book, "The Woolly West."

Co-hosted by the Montrose County Historical Society, the Montrose Regional Library and Maggie's Books, the program

is open to all and offered free of charge in the Library Community Room on June 12th at 7pm. Book sales and signing will be available following the program.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY CALL TO ARTISTS FOR PUBLIC ART REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-An Artist is being sought by the Town of Ridgway and its creative district to design, construct, deliver and install custom outdoor public art (2-D, 3-D, or mixed media) in a highly visible location that will reflect the spirit and goals of the Ridgway Space to Create project, as well as complement Ridgway's unique and creative identity. This public art will serve to activate the Space to Create lot and elevate community awareness and support for the project, including during an unveiling event in October. The full RFP package is available at www.colorado.gov/ridgway/requests-proposals-bids. Proposal submissions must be received by Tuesday, July 16th, 2019 at 4pm.



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

ARTISTS ALPINE HOLIDAY--Artist Registration is open for Ouray County Arts Association's 59th Artists' Alpine Holiday Art Show now through June 24. Go to ourayarts.org for details and a link to register.

BOSOM BUDDIES OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets every Wednesday from noon till 1 pm at 645 South 5th Street in Montrose. For more info email info@bosombuddiesswc.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP meets every third Tuesday of each month at the Centennial Meeting Room at 6pm, behind City Hall. New Watch Groups are formed and guest speakers alert us to safety issues. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact Joyce Loss at 970-249-4217 or 970-275-1329 for details.

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING--second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Centennial Room, 431 South First in Montrose.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM--"Montrose County Historical Society Presents" is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING

6:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-765-7406.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

BINGO AT OURAY ELKS--Every Wednesday night, June 5-Aug. 28, @ 7 p.m. Light refreshments available, open to the public.

MONTHLY-

June 1 -- Sept. 28--Ridgway Railroad Museum -- free rides on RGS Motor 1 (Galloping Goose prototype) 9 am -- 3 pm. 200 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway.

June 10--Join the non-partisan Citizens Climate Lobby and make a difference--the next meeting is at the Montrose Library on June 10, at 6:30 p.m. citizensclimatelobby.org.

June 10--Basic Outdoor First Aid, taught by Ruth Stewart of Ouray County EMS, 6-8 p.m., UWP Office, Ridgway, CO. Learn skills and knowledge to help summer visitors to our area get help and help themselves when experiencing a health emergency due to weather, climate, terrain, etc. Info/registration: <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/2019/05/29/basic-outdoor-first-aid/>

June 12--The Ouray County Historical Society offers its annual Geology Field Trip Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Led by local geologists Larry Meckel and Robert Stoufer, the popular, all-day trip will make nine stops along US 550 from Ridgway to Red Mountain Pass. The \$135 fee includes transportation, lunch, beverages, park admission at the Box Canyon and a guidebook. For more information or to register for the field trip, please call (970) 325-4576 or e-mail ochs@ouraynet.com. Registration for the trip will remain open until all spaces are filled.

June 13--The Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Resource Advisory Council will meet Thursday, June 13 in Grand Junction at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506. The meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public, with a public comment period scheduled for 11 a.m.

June 14--On Fri. June 14th Yoga for Cyclists... at the Brewery! Cost: \$10. Experience a deep release for those tight legs, hips & back! This unique class will take place on the outdoor patio at 2 Rascals Brewing Co. All mats and props will be provided by Yoga House. All abilities are welcome! After class, grab a cold brew and talk cycling with us!

June 15--7:30 p.m. -- OCPAG presents Susan Ellinger, piano; Abigail Fischer, soprano and Jason Slayden, tenor at the Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray. Advance tickets \$25, \$28 at the door and \$5 students (18 and under) at www.ocpag.org.

June 16--Full Moon Cruiser Ride. Cruise around town under the full moon while spinnin' to some awesome tunes! The ride is FREE and will be approximately 5-10 miles around town on various bike paths and streets. All ages and bicycle varieties welcome! Remember to bring your lights and ride responsibly!

June 19--Bicycling Commuting 101 Lunch 'N Learn. Your bicycle is calling and waiting to help you become healthier! This class will help you get over the hump and get back in shape by simply using your bicycle for transportation. Taught by a seasoned bicycle commuter and certified cycling instructor, you will address your concerns and barriers with helpful tips and tricks to make bicycle transportation easier and safer.

June 20--DMEA Annual meeting to be held at Hotchkiss High School, 5 to 9 p.m. (438 Bulldog Street)

June 26--Bike-to-Work Day Breakfast. Stop by Centennial Plaza or the Montrose Community Rec Center for FREE breakfast and swag during your morning commute! Bike mechanics from Bicycle Outfitters will be at the Centennial Plaza breakfast station to help get you on your way.

June 26--Bike From Work Happy Hour. Let's celebrate Bike to Work Day with Happy Hour on the patio at Ginger & Gin!

June 29--12th annual Ridgway RiverFest, Saturday, June 29, 2019 @ 10 a.m. -- 6 p.m., Rollans Park, Ridgway. This free, outdoor celebration of the Uncompahgre River Watershed is organized by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership. Come to enjoy river races, live music by Sugar & The Mint, and lots of family-friendly activities. Sponsors, silent auction donors, vendors and volunteers needed! To find out about the fun, free outdoor festival for the whole family, go to ridgwayriverfest.org or call 970-325-3010.

July 4--Free Patriotic Concert Come and enjoy music to get us ready for the 4th of July. Sunday, June 30th, 3 p.m., Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr.

July 22-27--Montrose County Fair & Rodeo, Montrose County Fairgrounds.

Aug. 3--Olathe Sweet Corn Festival is proud to announce that BBR Music Group singer-songwriter Craig Campbell will headline the 28th Annual event on Aug. 3, 2019 at the Montrose County Event Center in Montrose. Tickets are now on sale and include General Admission and VIP, with VIP including preferred seating, drinks and dinner. For more information and online ticket sales please visit www.olathesweetcornfest.com.

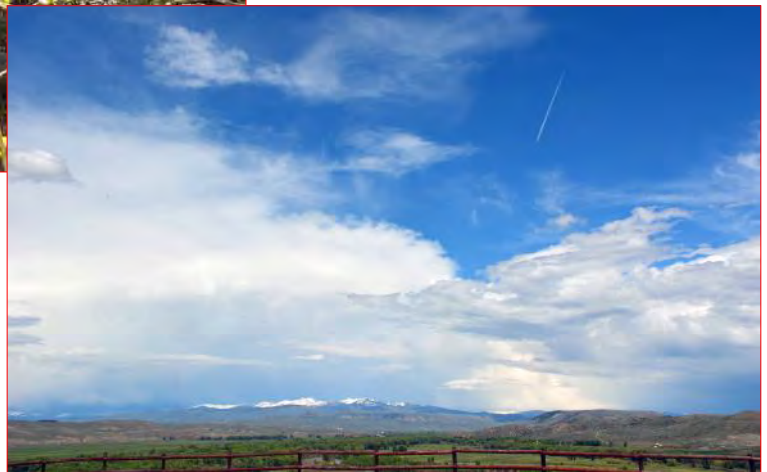
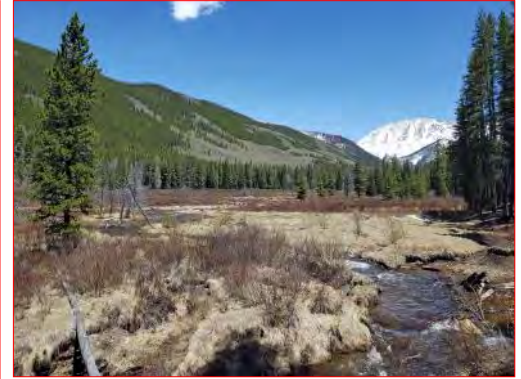
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT... DEB REIMANN!



Photographer Deb Reimann captured these photos (from top left) of a young bull moose near Black Sage Pass; Beaver ponds on Tomichi Creek near White Pine, CO; and rain clouds over Gunnison.

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