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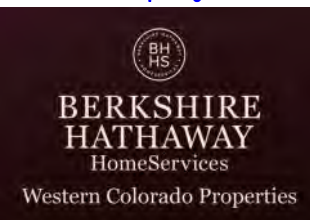


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Issue No. 338 Aug. 19, 2019

MONTROSE POLICE DEPT. TACKLING CHANGES WITH ILP MODEL, NEW CODE OFFICER, AGGRESSIVE APPROACH TO BLIGHT



With a new code officer, Heidi Trimble, on the job, areas of the City that are heavily blighted will see greater code enforcement efforts immediately, Police Chief Blaine Hall said last week. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a proposed Public Safety Sales Tax increase before the public in November, the Montrose Police Department hopes to fund 20 new positions and construct a new public safety facility to meet community needs now and in the future.

Still, as crimes against people and property multiply, the police department is not waiting to make essential changes and to share information with the community.

"We have been forced to look internally already," Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said. "Things have changed in Montrose...like it or not, we are dealing with some very serious drug issues and some very serious mental health issues.

"We have to face reality."

[Continued pg 3](#)

CAR CLUB SEEKS RETURN OF K9 DONATION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Earlier this year, at the regular meeting of May 22, Peggy Brahler of the Black Canyon Classics Car Club took time to address the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) about a Car Club donation that has not been given to its intended recipients. In August of 2018, Black Canyon Classics donated \$4,000 to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, to be used for K9 officers Oxx and Roo (now with the Delta Sheriff's Office), who attended the car show.

At that time, Brahler said, "Last year we gave K-9 Oxx and K-9 Roo \$4,000 donated from our car show," Brahler said, adding that the k9 officers had never received the donation. "... we would like that money to go to Oxx and Roo because that's what we raised it for. They were at the show representing the K9 unit." Though BOCC Chair Sue Hansen did follow up with a phone call, the BOCC did not have authority in [Continued pg 3](#)



In August of 2018, Black Canyon Classics Car Club donated \$4,000 to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, to be used for K9 officers Oxx and Roo (now with the Delta Sheriff's Office), who attended the car show. Courtesy photo.

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MURA & MRCOG
meeting coverage!

Olathe Student Gavin Lindsey to run
for National FBLA Presidency!

Letters to the Editor.
Regional news briefs!

CITY TO CONTINUE TALKS ON PUBLIC SAFETY, SHORT-TERM RENTALS



The City of Montrose will convene for a work session on Monday, Aug. 19 and a regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose will convene for a [work session on Monday, Aug. 19](#) and a [regular meeting](#) on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

WORK SESSION

Five new City employees will be introduced at the work session of Monday, Aug. 19.

Joining City staff are Facilities Maintenance Technician Rick Harris; Street Divi-

sion Worker Jerry Jones; Information Systems Director Greg Story; part-time Parks and Special Projects Worker Leah Schumacher; and Utilities Worker Justin Bacas. Discussion items will include the [Annual Report of the Montrose Community Foundation](#); a public safety sales tax update; and an update on the Riverbottom Drive Reconstruction project.

Items to be considered in future work sessions and meetings include:

Sept. 3-Second quarter police department report; continued short-term rental discussion; a community development block grant for Habitat for Humanity; and a City Hall Historic Preservation Designation Ordinance.

Sept. 16-Façade grant program

As yet unscheduled is a housing needs analysis report.

REGULAR MEETING

At the regular meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 20, Council will consider Resolution 2019-21, a Resolution authorizing filing of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Grant application for the Gray & Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program.

Council will consider awarding a construction contract in the amount of \$988,458.79 to Skip Huston Construction and an engineering support and survey stakeout contract in the amount of \$45,000.00 on an as-needed, time and materials basis to Del-Mont Consultants.

Council will consider awarding a construction contract with Con-Sy, Inc., in the amount of \$397,570.80 for replacement of the pedestrian bridge over the Uncompahgre River at Ogden Road.

Council will also consider an Intergovernmental Agreement between Montrose County and the City of Montrose for the 2019 Coordinated Election on Nov. 5, 2019.

Following staff reports and comments council will adjourn.



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CAR CLUB SEEKS RETURN OF K9 DONATION From pg 1

the matter, Brahler said, "She told me that the Sheriff is an elected official, and that he would call me back and explain what he did with the money."

Sheriff Gene Lillard never called, Brahler said, but at a Car Club meeting, at which K9 Oxx and Roo's Handler Keith Sanders was present, explained that he had sent the funds to Delta, where Sanders now serves with the Sheriff's Department. "Then he turned around and told Keith he was not allowed in Montrose County," Brahler said.

If Oxx and Roo do receive their donation, it will be used for training, care, and to purchase a vest for Roo, Brahler said. "That's a lot of money," Brahler said. "he definitely needs to give it back."

Calls to Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard for comment were not returned as of press time.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCSO K-9 TIGO TO RECEIVE DONATION OF BODY ARMOR



Deputy K-9 Tigo and K-9 Handler Searcy.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Deputy K-9 Tigo will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K-9 Tigo's vest

is sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by James Crouch of Bixbi Pet and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Bixbi Pet". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

"Deputy K-9 Tigo is an asset to the entire Seventh Judicial District, and this vest goes a long way to providing for K-9 Tigo's safety on the job," said Sergeant and K-9 Han-

dler Searcy. "K-9 Tigo is excited to work for his community and will soon be able to do so wearing the same protective body armor as deputies. Thank you to Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., and Bixbi Pet for the generous donation."

K-9 Tigo is a 22-month-old Dutch Shepherd who was purchased from Right Hand K-9 LLC in Utah earlier this spring. In just a few months of service, K-9 Tigo has successfully tracked several at-risk individuals, assisted multiple agencies with open-air sniffs, and helped seize illegal drugs.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, Mass., whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over

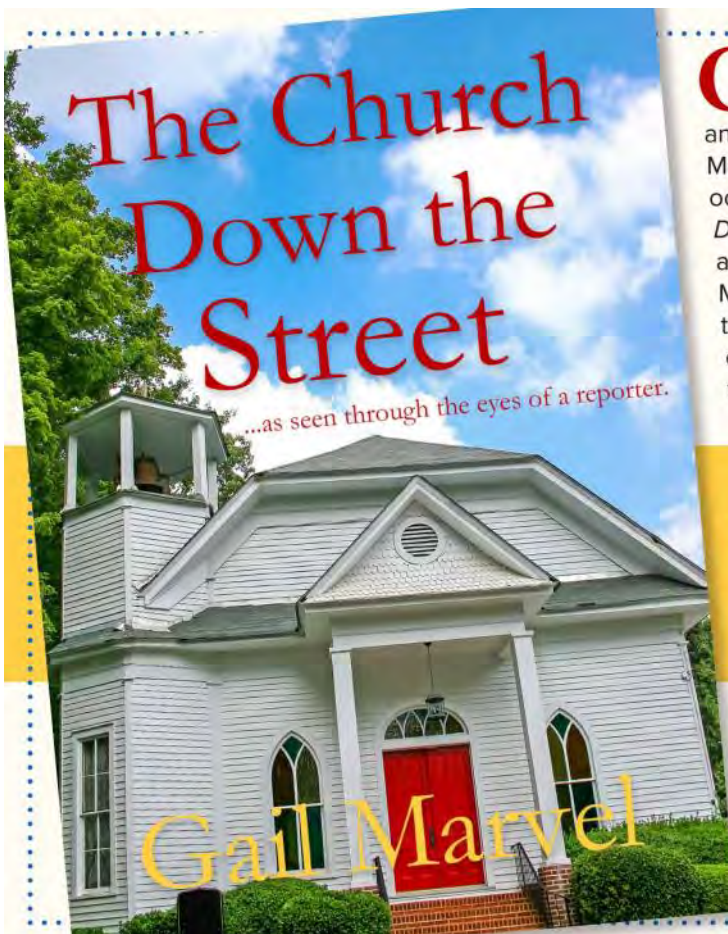
3,500 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$5.7 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.



On the Western Slope of Colorado, within a 20-mile radius of the City of Montrose, there are more than 70 churches and houses of worship. Over a 2½-year period, reporter Gail Marvel visited most of these congregations on two separate occasions, resulting in approximately 120 visits. *The Church Down the Street* is a compilation of these visits organized in a topical format — Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message. Similar to the Apostle Paul writing about the church through the eyes of an apostle, *The Church Down the Street* is about the church as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

Gail Marvel's new book, *The Church Down the Street*, is now available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter



The individual stories of these visits were published in *The Montrose Mirror* and the archived stories, *Experiencing the Church* series (issues 90–150); and *Houses of Worship* series (issues 197–250), can be found at www.montrose.mobi/.

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POLICE DEPT. ALREADY TACKLING CHANGES WITH ILP MODEL, NEW CODE OFFICER, AGGRESSIVE APPROACH TO BLIGHT From pg 1

To become more proactive, the Department has adopted an Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) model, an analytical approach that identifies and targets repeat offenders in an effort to increase public safety.

Under the ILP Model, police can disrupt the criminal activity that surrounds drug use by focusing on the top six percent of repeat offenders.

"We will build cases against those individuals," Hall said. "We will either disrupt their activity so much that they are always in jail, or they will tire of the resources being applied against them and leave."

In addition, a committee, to include representatives from patrol, investigations, records, and dispatch, will be formed in September to analyze all departmental processes and to streamline the process of completing reports.

"We're going to look at every single thing we do," Hall said. "We have redundant systems; if we can clear certain incidents with a code instead of having the office type a report, we can save time and be more proactive."

A position within the records division has been eliminated, allowing a full-time position in customer service that includes some civilian report taking to lessen the burden on officers, Hall said. "That will help somewhat, but we still need two full-time civilian report takers."

Another change is to the way code violations are handled. "We have a new code enforcement officer," Hall said.

"Heidi Trimble will focus on code violations; she is very structure and process-oriented and will be stepping up code enforcement."

Areas of the City that are heavily blighted will see greater code enforcement efforts immediately, Hall said. And if the Public Safety Sales Tax increase is approved by voters, a dedicated public safety attorney

will target blight on the abatement side as well. "We can start civil actions; that's where the public safety attorney comes in," Hall said.

If voters do approve the Public Safety Sales Tax Increase in November, the first step will be hiring.

"We will fulfill our promise to the community, and really push to hire those 20 individuals," Hall said. "Right in conjunction with that we will have to move forward with architectural design for the new police facility."

In the current facility, space is tight. "Our detectives are overwhelmed," Hall said. "We have three detectives and the detective sergeant; right now, they've got four death investigations and a myriad of sexual assaults, an attempted murder on Main Street...also an armed robbery."

If approved, the new Public Safety Facility will allow more efficient use of space, and essential room to grow. "it will be designed to maximize space, and to maintain and increase our emergency response," Hall said. "It will provide a work environment sufficient to get our work done."

A Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee headed by local Attorney J. David Reed prepared the initial [report on public safety](#), and has been presenting information to groups and gatherings around town. Chief Hall is also happy to address questions and concerns.

"Come in and talk to me," he said. "Learn about the realities you don't understand are facing our community. I invite anyone to talk to me about our take-home car program—if we were to lose that, it would affect the public safety and our response times immensely."

Larger police forces maintain fleets of vehicles, but the costs of doing so are prohibitive for a City the size of Montrose.

"We would need full-time mechanics, and we would have to replace the vehicles every two years," Hall said. "As it is, we replace them every nine years."

Montrose Police Officers carry their own equipment in their cars, he said. "It's not to provide a luxury to our employees, it's to provide a critical response."

"Our take-home car program is critical to our response times."

Crime rates in Colorado are not expected to drop any time soon; the legalization of marijuana has had unintended consequences with regard to public safety. A [2018 report](#) by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice on the impacts of marijuana legalization in the state point to an overall increase in organized crime. Also, when citizens voted to legalize marijuana, most of the product available had THC levels of two to four percent, Chief Hall said. Now, "Edibles are averaging 45 to 50 percent," Hall said. "They have stuff called 'shatter' that is 100 percent THC—it looks like meth, but it's actually THC."

"The high is so much more potent," he said. "What comes with that is a loosening of inhibitions...it creates more of a danger."

Hall also expressed concern over a more recent change to Colorado law, the [de-felonization](#) of small amounts of hard drugs such as methamphetamine and heroin. "In March of 2020—next year—four ounces or less of methamphetamine or heroin will no longer be a felony," Hall said, noting that he expects the law to have unintended consequences statewide.

Still, Mesa County has taken a proactive approach to crime in recent years, with excellent results, Hall said.

He believes it would be irresponsible to ask for a tax increase without taking a strong, proactive approach.

"You have to have a plan," Hall said.

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LIBRARY PARKING DISCUSSED AT QUARTERLY MRCOG MEETING



The Montrose Regional Recreation District played host for the quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) which was held on Aug. 14. (Far side L to R) Josie Anders-Mize, Hilltop Director; Mike Stahl, Hilltop CEO; Jeremy Master, Montrose Recreation District Manager (Interim Executive Director); and Stephen Schiell, RE-1J School District Superintendent. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The Montrose Recreation District hosted the quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) on Aug. 14.

Organizations represented included the City of Montrose, Montrose County, Montrose Recreation District (MRD), RE-1J School District, Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Hilltop Family Resource Center, Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, and Montrose Regional Library.

The roundtable discussion is an opportunity for community leaders to report on their current projects, discuss collective issues and to see where they can collaborate with one another.

Organization Spotlighted:

Hilltop and Grand Valley Atrium, Inc., D.B.A. GVA Management, Inc. (GVA) – Mike Stahl, Hilltop CEO.

Hilltop has more than 550 employees, with 42 of those employees in the Montrose office. Stahl gave the history of Hilltop and the evolution of their mission over the years, “Next year Hilltop will cele-

brate its 70th year. Running a non-profit is about being creative in a lot of ways.”

Currently Hilltop has an annual budget of \$37M and in order to build a sustainable financial model they have created a for-profit piece to the organization. Stahl said, “We’re are in real-estate and we’ve become property managers for 200 residential units. We’re growing the for-profit arm so that we can put money into non-profit programs.”

The for-profit side of the organization brings in \$500,000 to \$600,000 a year. Stahl said, “We invest \$200,000 a year in domestic violence programs, we have a Residential Youth Program, and we are expanding our Senior Living Program.”

General Discussion:

Downtown Parking - Montrose Regional Library Executive Director Paul Paladino asked for discussion on the lack of Downtown parking.

Organizations in the civic center area of Downtown Montrose include the city, county, library, Colorado Mesa University (CMU), Region 10, All Points Transit, Montrose Police Department, the Post

Office, and the Office of Business and Tourism. Parking for employees and staff, as well as for patrons, is an increasing problem.

The library building is shared with CMU and busy times for both organizations can overlap. Paladino wondered if anyone had suggestions, “We could have nose-in parking on South 3rd, or the city and the county could put in a parking structure. It’s just an idea and this is a good place to throw out ideas. Are other groups having the same issues?” Paladino noted that the library could expand their parking lot, but it would mean losing their green space.

Montrose County Manager Ken Norris said, “We’ve looked at increasing parking. We can get some by simply re-striping.”

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said, “We’ve heard there is plenty of parking downtown. But that might be for people who are shopping rather than for employees needing a place to park.”

While others in attendance discussed the lack of parking for their organizations, no specific solutions or actions were brought forward.

Continued next pg

LIBRARY PARKING DISCUSSED AT QUARTERLY MRCOG MEETING

From previous pg

Montrose Recreation District (MRD) – Jeremy Master, Recreation Manager (Interim Executive Director).

Master said, “We have 1,100 people a day using the rec center and 8,000 members. With all our facilities (field house, sports fields) we have 1,300 people a day. In 2019 we’ll have over half a million visitors.”

Master said, “The Holly Park renovation bids did not come in as we had hoped. We will re-bid in late fall, October or November. If they come in within our budget we will start in March of 2020 and finish in June.”

Background: At the April MRCOG meeting, then rec center Executive Director Ken Sherbenou talked about the Holly Park renovations. Sherbenou said, “The Holly Park Development Project is fully-funded and it should be finished by the middle of 2020.” Sherbenou has since resigned and taken a position in Grand Junction.

At MRCOG, Master discussed the ongoing search for a new executive director. He said, “We will have interviews on August 26 and 27. Then on the 26th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., we will have a meet and greet for the candidates.” Master noted that the executive director position should be filled by mid-September, or the first of October, but it could also be after the first of the year.

Master said, “We are at capacity with the space we have. Demand will increase as the community grows. Our senior programs are growing.”

RE-1J School District – Stephen Schiell, School Superintendent.

Schiell joked, “School starts tomorrow for teachers and staff. We will have 750 staff members in the gym to get people pumped up and ready to go.” Over the summer the district focused on school safety. Schiell said, “We take it seriously. We’ve had ALICE Training (Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), installed fencing and done threat assessments. We’re working with mental health to make threat assessments county-wide. We’re trying to be proactive.”

City of Montrose – Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, City Councilpersons

Judy Ann Files and Doug Glaspell; and Chief of Police Blaine Hall.

Files said, “The Hillcrest/Miami roundabout and the Connect Trail will be completed in October.”

Morgenthaler highlighted the good participation and partnerships with FUNCFest. She said, “We’ll have a big celebration for the Connect Trail opening.”

Chief of Police Blaine Hall said, “Our number one priority is to inform the public. We’re facing a lot of challenges. Heroin is especially bad and we’re investigating two felonies a day.”

Hall is proud of the school district for providing ALICE Training. Hall said, “We will provide active shooter training to any organization. I was surprised when we had four active shooter incidents in one week and I didn’t get any calls [from organizations] for training. It’s an issue all over the US.”

The Police Department is looking for a grant to get an emotional support dog. Hall said, “We’ll get one next year.” He laughed and said, “So we’ll have a dog running around PD.”

Region 10 – Eva Veitch, Community Living Services Director.

Veitch said, “Christ’s Kitchen will be closing on Friday. They were doing a hot meal delivery program that we will lose. We are helping them find in-kind storage space. We have some good partnerships, especially with Sharing Ministries.”

Montrose Regional Library – Paul Paladino, Executive Director.

Paladino said, “The summer reading program just wrapped up. The youth program numbers are up by 20 percent. The fall programs start in a couple of weeks. We’re adding a new book van. A donor gave us a 19-foot van. I’d like to get out-reach out six days a week. We’ll have the book van one day and the Bookmobile the next.”

The library is getting a new Integrated Library System (ILS). Paladino said, “The new catalogue will aggregate our materials better and will be more user friendly. We’ve done a facilities assessment in Montrose and Naturita. The Montrose library is 21 years old and we need a new

roof. We have a hiring issue for the first time since I’ve been here. It has to do with the housing issues [lack of affordable housing].”

Montrose Economic Development

(MEDC) – Sandy Head, Executive Director. Head said, “We’ll have our 3rd Manufacturers Expo on November 8th at the Pavilion. This year’s expo will include a STEMposium.”

Montrose County – Ken Norris, Montrose County Manager; Montrose County Commissioners Keith Caddy and Sue Hansen.

Caddy said, “We’re working on the missing link of the Rimrocker Trail. We’re planning a four-wheel drive road next to the highway and putting it out for bid. We just finished 21 miles of paving and we hope to do 28 miles next year. The Road and Bridge Department has been busy this year.”

Norris said, “The airport had 300,000 people passing through. This year is a new record. Our terminal is undersized, it should be about twice the size that it is. We’re looking for grants to expand. The [county] fair was successful again and there were over 2,000 at the rodeo.”

Upcoming events include the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association Finals (CPRA) to be held at the county fairgrounds Oct. 4-6 and a concert in February with a big-name band.

A company has been hired to do design for the renovation on the old courthouse. Norris said, “It should be finished in 2023. We told them we want it to last for another 100 years. It will be energy efficient. The second 100 years will be better than the first 100.” By the end of the year the commissioners will decide and construction could begin in 2021.

All Points Transit – Sarah Curtis, Executive Director.

Curtis said, “Our big fundraiser, Octoberfest, will be held on September 21st. We’re wrapping up summer and the Kids Ride Free Program. We want to thank the city and the rec district for the help and good partnership. Our strategic planning is winding down. We’ve received some funding from CDOT [Colorado Department of Transportation].”

LIBRARY PARKING DISCUSSED AT QUARTERLY MRCOG MEETING

From previous pg

Hilltop Family Resource Center – Josie Anders-Mize, Director.

Anders-Mize said, “We could not get organized for the Men in Heels Relay fund raiser this year, but we’re planning for next year.” The relay teams are made up of five men in high heels and, rather than passing a baton, the racers pass a purse. The relay is competitive and has the potential to pit organizations against one another, i.e. the fire department against the police department, or the city against the county. Anders-Mize said, “We want to do it well and have it well organized.”

Collaboration Discussion

Each organization discussed available grant funding and their pending applications.

The next MRCOG meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13, 3 -5 p.m., and it will be hosted by River Valley Family Health Center.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SETH RYAN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR DA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE --- At the August Montrose Republicans meeting held Wednesday evening, Seth Ryan announced his candidacy for District Attorney for the 7th Judicial District for the November 2020 election. Ryan is currently the chief deputy district attorney in the District Attorney’s Office. The cornerstone of his campaign will be “to promote an expanded approach to prosecution that is smarter, braver, and more community-oriented.”

“In my experience, successful convictions are not the result of a single person making one-sided decisions,” Ryan said. “They stem from the hard work and ideas of a

diverse team—from law enforcement, health and human services, victim advocacy groups, and victims themselves.”

For the past five years, Ryan has been the special prosecutor for the 7th Judicial District focusing on sex crimes. During this time, Rhonda Follman, former executive director of the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center, worked extensively with Ryan on such cases. “When we have a prosecutor who’s not afraid to go to trial on cases like these—ones that are gravely important and highly emotionally-charged—it’s not only a win for our community but a win for the victims of these atrocious crimes,” Follman said. “Seth’s approach to

prosecution has really helped victims go from surviving to thriving.”

Ryan envisions moving the Office forward by adopting modern business practices.

Ryan, who holds both law and business degrees, said, “Giving our attorneys the tools necessary to succeed and holding them accountable to a common goal is the foundation for any effective organization.”

Ryan welcomes public input to his campaign and ideas for improving the Office. For more information visit

ElectSethRyan.com. (Current DA Dan Hotsenpiller is term limited for this office.)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BE SAFE, REDUCE RISKS WITH SMART CYCLING 101 CLASS

To the Editor,

After a fatal bicycle crash, it is an important to have a conversation about safe cycling. When a person on a bike is hit and killed, it is easy to say, "Biking is so dangerous. We need to get those bicyclists off the roads!" At the *Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance*, we believe otherwise. We believe it is possible to ride smart, be safe, and significantly reduce the risks.

Start by being visible, predictable and defensive. Be visible by riding on the right side of the road (with the flow of traffic) and using lights at night. Be predictable by following the rules of the road, by defensively "driving" your bicycle as you would any vehicle.

Feeling fearful about bicycling? Consider

the data. Less than 20% of all bicycle crashes involve an automobile. Of the bike/car crashes, fault is split 50/50 between the motorist and bicyclist. Of the crashes caused by the bicyclist, most are the result of the cyclist disobeying the rules of the road (i.e., failing to yield when exiting a driveway, blowing a stop sign, or riding opposing traffic).

Of the crashes caused by the motorist – such as the left or right hook (when a motorist turns in front of a cyclist) -- the cyclist can help prevent these by being visible, with their lane positioning, and by being defensive. (Source: *League of American Bicyclists*)

Don't let this recent death make you swear off bicycling. Montrose has excel-

lent bicycle facilities and many low-volume streets providing access to most parts of town. If you would like to become more empowered and confident on your bicycle, the *Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance* offers educational opportunities including the *Smart Cycling 101* class this fall on Sept 14 via the Rec District (see our website for class listings, www.montrosebicycle.org). We hope to see you out there on your bicycle!

Tammy Zamoyski
Executive Director
Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance

Bevin Barber-Campbell
Education Program Manager
Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance

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OHS STUDENT RUNS FOR NATIONAL FBLA; NEW CHOIR TEACHER HIRED @ MHS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With the exception of District A Director Jeff Bachman, all directors were present for the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education [regular meeting](#) on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT-Gavin Lindsey

Olathe High School Student Gavin Lindsey, who hopes to attend Harvard after graduation, spoke about seeking the national presidency of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). "I went to state and saw how amazing 6,000 members from Colorado could be," Lindsey said. He ran for a statewide office, was elected 2019-2020 State Officer for Colorado FBLA District 9, and quickly launched ten new FBLA chapters on the Western Slope. "I wanted to make District 9 stand out," Lindsey said. "I wanted to make it not all about the Denver area."

The National Conference will be in Salt Lake City this year. Lindsey said he hopes to increase local FBLA participation from 24 students to 50. Next summer, he will travel to Croatia to start a chapter.

TEEN COURT-Municipal Court Judge Richard Brown

With Assistant Municipal Judge Anna Cooling, Teen Court Coordinator Lane Thomasson, Montrose High School (MHS) Government Teacher Mark Maloney, and court staff in attendance, Judge Brown introduced former Teen Court participant Colby Kennedy, who joined Teen Court while in high school.

"Teen Court was one of my favorite programs...it was super fun, and I gained experience with debate," Kennedy said, adding that he hopes to earn a law degree after first studying mechanical engineering. Cases often involved marijuana or alcohol, and roughly 75 percent of the incidents took place away from a school campus. "I would love to see Teen Court grow and prosper."

Brown gave a history of the program. "In 2004, (former MHS Teacher) Dan Tyler came to us...we developed a teen court. It is a real court with real consequences."

Teen Court cases involve low-level misdemeanors sent over from Municipal Court (defendants have already pleaded guilty) and are heard in a jury trial that is presided over by a Teen Court judge. Each

trial involves 10 to 12 teens, and there are 16 jury trials over the course of a year. Participants become involved through Maloney's MHS government class.

"Teen Court imposes real sentences," Brown said, noting that sentences may include Saturday school, useful public service, and essays.

Teen Court is an option for defendants who are currently enrolled in local schools; judgments are deferred, and so long as the defendant complies with Teen Court, records are expunged and charges dismissed after six months. As part of compliance efforts defendants pay \$100, write a letter of apology to victims and parents, and serve on one Teen Court jury.

"The rate of recidivism is very, very small," Brown said. The program is funded by the City of Montrose.

Maloney said that he has been thrilled with student response to the Teen Court program. "They get a real feel for how life works outside of school."

RE-1J Board Vice President Gayle Johnson said, "What a great civics lesson for everybody. What you are teaching in the classroom really brings it home."

Teen Court begins at 3:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday in October and takes place each month through April. Following brief advisory committee updates, Board President Tom West reviewed Board of Education goals for [2018-19](#) and discussed the need to set Board goals for 2019-20. "Do we need to change anything?" he asked. "Let's take it to work session."

COMMUNITY INPUT

There was no community feedback.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Stephen Schiell reviewed his Superintendent [goals for 2018-19](#), and goals for 2019-20. Achievement scores are down. "Just a little," Schiell said. "...in the big picture so many good things are going on." The budget was balanced in 2018-19 and will be in 2019-20, he said. Landscaping is the last step toward completion of the new Columbine Middle School building. Unused funds will be put toward a new track at Olathe High School.

Schiell discussed the hiring of Safety & Security Director James Pavlich. "He will collaborate with the police and with the



OHS student Gavin Lindsey spoke about his accomplishments and goals for the FBLA program.

sheriff and will be looking at our threat assessment program...we take very seriously the safety of our teachers and staff."

In 2019-20 Alice active shooter training will continue, Schiell said. "Staff will be recertifying this fall."

Schiell said he will continue to support "partnerships" that support continued goals.

OLD BUSINESS

District E Director Sarah Fishing presented two policies for review: [JFABE*-E, Memorandum of Understanding-School Stability for Students in Foster Care](#) and [JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility](#).

The policies were approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

[Consent Agenda items](#) were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Fishing presented [Board Policy BEDH](#) for first reading, clarifying options for public comment at Regular Business meetings. Said Schiell, "This clarifies the policy, so people understand that they can't just call to be put on the agenda." Fishing asked that the policy be printed and displayed. Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird said, "All policies are on the web site for any person to view."

Prior to adjournment, Human Resources Director Michelle Pottorff briefly discussed the challenges of hiring for the 2019-20 school year. "We did get a choir teacher for the high school." [Monica Phillips](#) has been hired as Music/Vocal Teacher for Montrose High School.

The Board of Education will meet for a regular meeting/work session at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 27.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION HOSTS MEETING ON WESTERN SLOPE *COGCC Commissioners invite public to provide input in rulemakings*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) will host its monthly meeting in Glenwood Springs, Aug. 21-22, as its first venue outside of Denver to meet with stakeholders in the rulemaking process of SB-181.

"The COGCC Commissioners and I are committed to working with all stakeholders to learn their priorities and input during the SB 181 rulemaking process," said COGCC Director Jeff Robbins. "The Western Slope has unique issues and concerns and we are here to hear their voice."

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, members of the public may comment regarding the Commission's SB-181 rulemakings on:

Mission Change: To address public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife are invited to do so.

Cumulative Impacts: To address impacts of oil and gas development on public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife

Alternative Location Analysis: To adopt alternative location analysis rules

Flowlines: To adopt amended flowline rules.

The COGCC Commission August meetings will be held at the Hotel Colorado, 526 Pine Street, Glenwood Springs. The COGCC will host upcoming meetings in

Boulder and Weld County. To learn more about participating in the August meeting or future meetings, visit <https://cogcc.state.co.us/reg.html#/overview>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEFEAT PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX; HOLD CITY MANAGER ACCOUNTABLE FOR WASTEFUL SPENDING

Editor:

Mr. Thoe, in the *Montrose Press*, hit the nail squarely on 'la cabeza' !!!!! Our citizens, the people who pay the taxes, the ones I talk to, think the world and all of our police, their staff and their chief. No ifs, ands or buts. Those people concur that we need more cops, more equipment, better salaries and even maybe a better 'club house' (headquarters) for them.

What none of these people understand (or for that matter wish to tolerate) is why our police force is all of a sudden so short of people and equipment. All of their requirements could have been fulfilled very easily just by putting those requirements FIRST on the budget for the past five years at least---if not 10. Why, and by whose direction, has our police force been relegated to the status of a 'poor step-child'?

When we working stiffs (the ones who will pay more taxes) need something immediately, we put off something of less importance.

When we do not have the 'bucks' for a better car we put off buying one and spend what we do have on groceries or our kid's teeth. We prioritize! It is called discipline.

But not in Montrose! The 'daddy' of our city seems to pick and choose the winners

and losers in the 'city lottery' for funding. He has pushed PUBLIC SAFETY from FIRST place (where it belongs) to LAST place (where it is) until the police department is in extreme jeopardy. Into a position of being unable to fulfill its mission, unable to provide arms, ammunition, bullet proof vests, enough cars, improved salaries and training and last of all a modernized police station.

And because the department is in such a mess, the fix HAS TO BE RIGHT NOW!---- we immediately need MORE TAXES. Unless the City Manager and our city fathers and mothers were asleep, they have known of this need for years. They have indulged themselves in all the sweets and now want to know "where's the meat"?

If the situation was not so serious it would be hilarious. It is no laughing matter, not in the least. Not to the citizens and certainly not to the boys in blue who face the evil element on our behalf, daily. It is all fundable, or largely so, with existing funds. This has been a record year for sales tax receipts to the city.

Putting off this essential funding until the Police Department (and therefore the City of Montrose) wound up in this deep abyss is malfeasance at the best and dereliction of duty at its worse. They all knew it was coming or were asleep at the switch. They

put off taking required action until the City, your City, was in serious trouble. My opinion is that they let it happen in order to get the nice-to-have things they wanted or wanted to be known for. I would like to be able to say that the City Manager made a mistake. I cannot. The situation was and is, the result of mis-assigned priorities for which management must be held responsible.

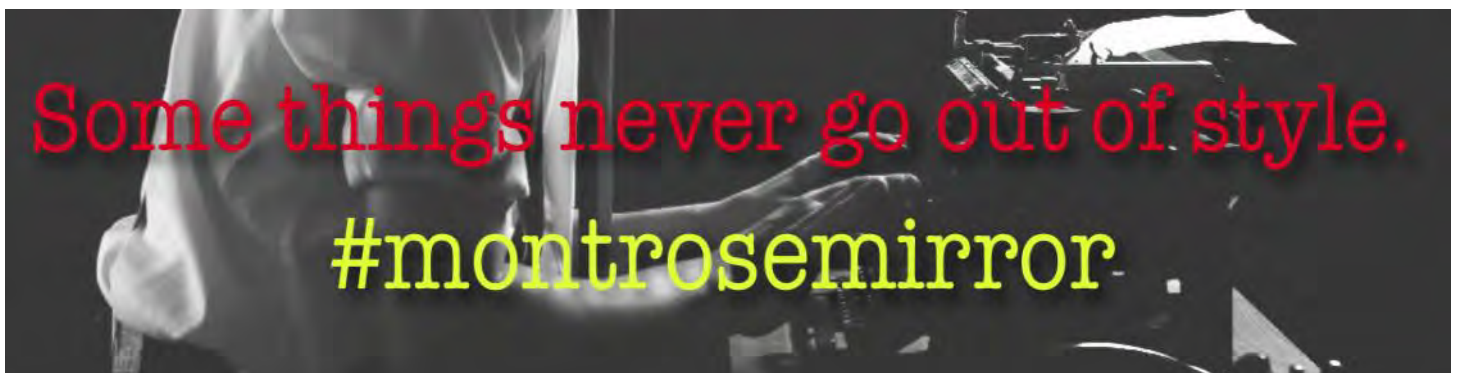
Because both parties are complicit in the dereliction, both must be held accountable, seriously accountable or this kind of mismanagement will continue.

The City Manager is supposed to be working for the City Council and in the City's best interest. In this case he obviously did not and is not.

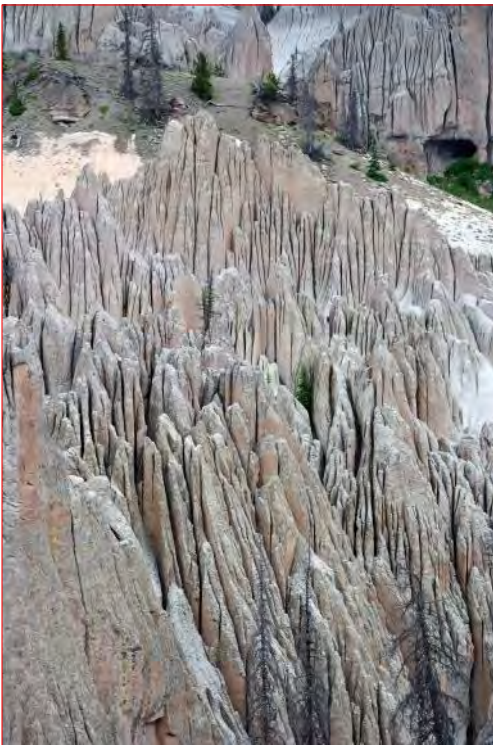
The City Council is supposed to be working in our best interest. I say that they are not doing either in relation to police funding or in controlling the City Manager. These people have put both the Police Department and the City of Montrose in a horrible position and they alone are responsible.

It is time to defeat the Public Safety Sales Tax and if the Manager and the City Council cannot or will not solve the problem out of current assets, get six people who can and will.

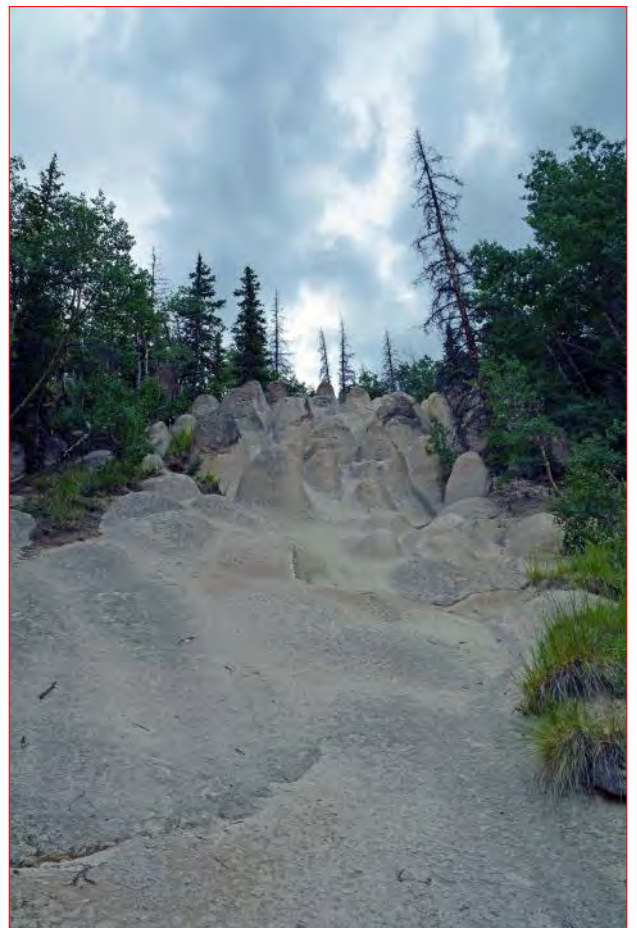
Bill Bennett, Montrose



READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped these photos on an adventure to the Wheeler Geologic Formations, La Garita Wilderness near Creede. From top left, Wheeler Geologic Formations; Wheeler Geologic Spires; Wheeler Geologic Formation; Wheeler Geologic Enchanted City. "A magical place," Deb said.



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MURA RIVER RESTORATION CONTRACT CONTESTED; SPECIAL MEETING PLANNED FOR AUG. 19



Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board of Commissioners, along with Mayfly Outdoors developers, listen to Todd Haynes, President of Haynes Excavation and Dan McCarty, Member/Owner of Stonefly Earthworks. Haynes and McCarty expressed frustration with the bidding process used for awarding the River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The regular meeting of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. in the Montrose City Council Chambers.

Board members present were Dave Bowman, Tad Rowan, Doug Glaspell, Judy Ann Files, Gayle Johnson, Roy Anderson, Brad Hughes and Mark Plantz. Absent were Executive Director Bill Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum.

Public Infrastructure Construction Update – Scott Murphy, City of Montrose City Engineer.

Murphy said, “We’re through Phase I. Essentially everything is complete except some landscaping.” Right-of-way and signage issues are being addressed. Murphy said, “Signs will be in the ground before snow hits. With financing everything is tracking very well. We haven’t spent a lot since the last meeting. When it is all said and done, we’ll probably be 10 percent under [budget].”

Murphy gave the commissioners an up-

date on the Connect Trail Project, “It is 99 percent complete within the URA boundary, which includes the 45 acres donated from Mayfly Outdoors.

to the city.” An aerial video of the trail was viewed and Murphy described the West Main underpass crossing as, “A work in progress.”

Anderson asked about the video cameras planned for the tunnel. Murphy said, “We’ve decided against putting cameras in there. After talking to the lawyers, they thought it would do more harm than good.”

Murphy noted the temporary trailheads are gravel, “Unofficially the trail is open to the public, but we don’t want to tout it to the public until the underpass is done.”

Consideration of River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract - Scott Murphy, City of Montrose City Engineer.

NOTE: This agenda item, which was scheduled for 15 minutes, took over an hour. After board discussion, public comment and a vote to not award the contract, members of the public left the meeting

and the commissioners went on to the other agenda items.

However, before the meeting adjourned Plantz asked that the board revisit this agenda item. Specifically, Plantz asked what information was lacking that caused the board to reject awarding the contract. Discussion then reconvened and it was determined that the MURA board would hold a Special Meeting on Monday, Aug. 19 at 1 p.m. in council chambers to reconsider awarding the Design-Build Contract to the construction company recommended by the city.

Murphy had submitted a five-page memo in the board packet that included background for the city’s recommendation in awarding the contract and the decision-making process used for the recommendation.

Typically, for large capital projects the city uses a **design-bid-build project delivery model**. In this approach the project design is taken to 100 percent and contracts are awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. Due to the dynamic character of

Continued next pg

MURA RIVER RESTORATION CONTRACT CONTESTED; SPECIAL MEETING PLANNED AUG. 19 From previous pg

of river systems this model does not fit well for the river project and the **design-build project delivery model** was implemented. The **design-build project delivery model** focuses on assembling a team of designers and contractors to work in a collaborative manner throughout both the design and the construction.

The city issued a Request For Qualification (RFQ), which did not ask for a price, but just for qualifications. The proposals were reviewed by a panel which consisted of City of Montrose Engineering Staff, City of Montrose Parks Staff, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It was noted that Ecological Resources Consultants (ERC), who was hired by the MURA in July of 2017, was not included in the review panel because they had previous work experience with Tezak Heavy Equipment, who submitted one of the proposals.

Based on the project criteria the panel assigned weighted scores between 0 and 4 to each proposal. The two highest rated bidders were Tezak Heavy Equipment (Canon City), with a score of 3.8; and Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation (Montrose) with a score of 3.7. The city notified the proposers of their intent to recommend Tezak Heavy Equipment for award of the contract.

After the city delivered its decision to Tezak to move forward with their company, the number two-rated contractor, Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation protested the decision.

Roy Anderson asked about local preference and Murphy indicated that local preference was factored in. Murphy said, "It was a tough decision to make because the second-rated company [Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation] thought they could do it cheaper. Our job is to pick who we think is best for the project."

In response the city went back to reevaluate the top two contractors and to ask them for cost proposals. Tezak responded that they did not intend to provide a cost proposal for the project, citing concerns that the procurement process had strayed too far from the original intent. Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation submitted

a cost proposal; however, their proposal was \$250K over the project budget.

In the second review of the two top-rated project proposals, the panel once again assigned weighted scores to each company. Tezak Heavy Equipment was given a score of 3.8; and Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation was given a score of 3.0.

The board of commissioners had multiple questions concerning the selection process and it became evident that some information needed for the board to make an informed decision had not been included in their packets.

When the discussion was opened for public comment Todd Haynes, President of Haynes Excavation and Dan McCarty, Member/Owner of Stonefly Earthworks spoke to the board.

Haynes said, "We don't have a team, but this is our backyard, our town, our taxpayer dollars. Our experience outweighs this... our fingerprints should be on this [project] because we care for this community. We have experience with the Waterpark, we've been here trying to work with the engineers. The qualifications we bring to the table and the local preference...really there is no local preference because it is only [maximum] \$50,000."

Haynes continued, "You'll get the best performance out of us. We love this community. We're invested in this community. No matter what we do we want to do the best."

McCarty said, "We submitted our numbers to the city on May 28th. Tezak did not submit their numbers in a timely manner, but they were awarded the contract. We all need to follow the same rules. If I lose the bid I'll step aside, but it should be an open playing field. We tried to show them where we could save money."

Haynes said, "Some of the engineering we questioned. We were set up for failure right off the bat. We [businesses] want to stay here, but you don't want us to succeed. We're MHS [Montrose High School] grads. This last three months; you need to make it so that this never happens again. What happened to Scott [Murphy] should

not happen again."

Brad Hughes asked Murphy, "Is there a family connection [between ERC and Tezak]?"

Murphy said, "No family that we know of."

Hughes asked McCarty, "What was in the second bid that wasn't in your first bid?"

McCarty said, "Man-hours were hard to put a number on. ERC is working so close with Tezak. ERC and Tezak have a relationship."

Haynes said, "The design is only 70-percent complete and it's tough to put a number on. We want to do a great job, but we had to give you a higher number. We don't feel the engineers were on board with us."

Hughes questioned Murphy about the project price. Judy Ann Files said, "Putting a price to this kind of work is really hard. It could be done for less."

Murphy said, "In 10-plus years I've never had a contested bid. I didn't take this lightly."

Tad Rowan asked Murphy, "Have you given this to the city attorney's office?"

Murphy said, "The city attorney is confident with the process."

A motion was made by Glaspell, seconded by Anderson, to award the River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract to Tezak. The motion was defeated when Anderson voted in favor and all other members voted against.

Colorado Outdoors Private Development and Marketing Update – Mayfly Outdoors.

In an update on recruitment, David Dragoo, President Mayfly Outdoors, used code names and general descriptions for companies that are interested locating their business in the development.

Doug Dragoo (father of David) said, "I know it doesn't look like it, but we've done a lot of work behind the scenes."

Colorado Outdoors Plan of Development Review and Financial Update - Mayfly Outdoors.

David Dragoo discussed working with HUD, closing loans and projections for the first of the year.

Continued next pg

MURA RIVER RESTORATION CONTRACT CONTESTED; SPECIAL MEETING PLANNED AUG. 19 From previous pg

Downtown Colorado INC September Re-investment and Redevelopment Symposium – Ann Morgenthaler, Assistant City Manager and Chelsea Rosty, Director of Business Innovation.

Morgenthaler and Rosty reported on recent meetings and upcoming opportunities.

Before Adjournment

Plantz asked the board to revisit agenda item # 7, **Consideration of River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract**. Specifically, Plantz asked what information was lacking that caused the board to reject awarding the contract. Discussion

reconvened and Plantz said, “I need more information. What do we need to make a decision?”

Murphy noted that if a contract is not awarded before November it would push the project off until 2020.

Doug Dragoo explained that putting the project off would affect Mayfly and their recruitment efforts. He said, “There are people coming here because we are going to restore the river. I don’t want to send the wrong message to prospective developers.”

Morgenthaler said, “Staff’s recommendation [to award the contract to Tezak] is not

going to change.”

It was determined that in the coming days the MURA board would be given more information on the bidding process. A Special Meeting was then scheduled for Monday, Aug. 19th at 1 p.m. in council chambers to reconsider awarding the Design-Build Contract to the construction company that is recommended by the city.

It is unclear if the MURA board must accept the city’s recommendation to award the \$1.5M contract to Tezak, or if the board has discretion to award the contract to Stonefly Earthworks/Haynes Excavation.



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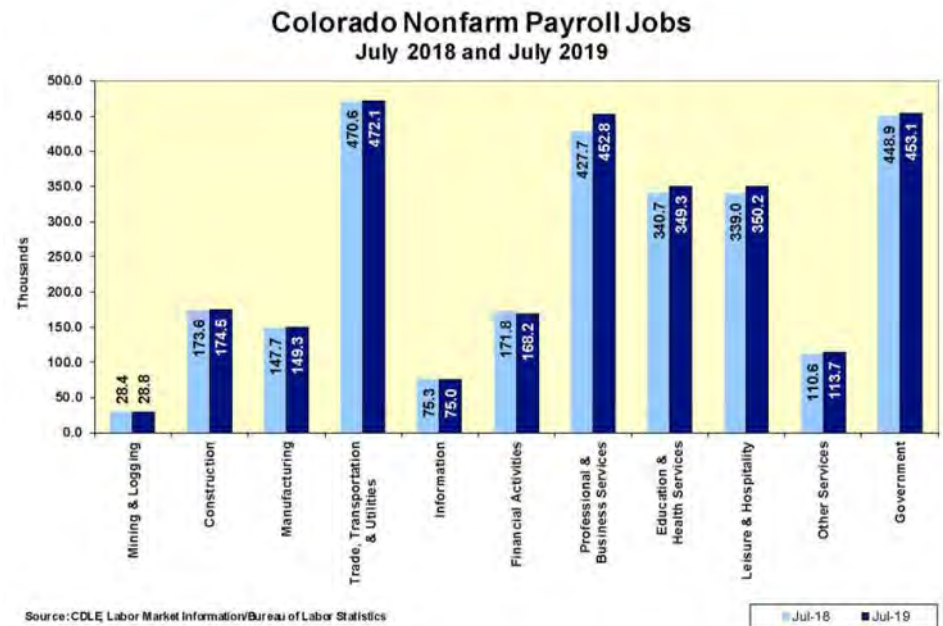
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS: COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION JULY 2019

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Employers in Colorado added 7,200 nonfarm payroll jobs from June to July for a total of 2,787,000 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 5,700 and government increased 1,500. June estimates were revised up to 2,779,800, and the over the month change from May to June was an increase of 8,500 rather than the originally estimated increase of 8,100.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from June to July to 2.9 percent. The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 5,800 over the month to 3,149,200 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 9,400 to 3,058,600, causing the number of unemployed to decrease 3,600 and the unemployment rate to decline to 2.9 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged in July at 3.7 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34.4 to 33.6 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$28.78 to \$30.24. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and educational and



health services. There were no significant private sector over the month declines.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 52,700, with an increase of 48,500 in the private sector and an increase of 4,200 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and educational and health services. Financial activities declined over the year.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down four-tenths of a percentage point from 3.3 percent. The number of Color-

dans participating in the labor force increased 47,900, total employment increased 59,800 and the number of unemployed decreased 12,000. The national unemployment rate declined from 3.9 percent in July 2018 to 3.7 percent in July 2019. All Colorado estimates from the establishment and household surveys, including greater geographic detail, are available at: <http://www.colmigateway.com>. Estimates for all states and the nation are available at: <http://www.bls.gov>.

DELTA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PLEASD WITH 2018 AUDIT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County is pleased to release the 2018 Budget audit conducted by independent auditor Blair & Associates, who has years of experience annually auditing over 40 governmental entities including numerous counties and municipalities. The audit confirms that Delta County ended 2018 stronger. The County saw increased revenues from grants and sales tax, allowing the County to make reinvestments in its assets including roads, buildings, vehicle and heavy equipment. Delta County has \$18.7 million in reserves 88.8 percent of which is dedicated to projects such as construction in progress, buildings, machinery, equipment, and public infrastructure which include the County's road and bridge systems. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens; consequently, they are not available for future spending. The Board of County Commissioners is quite pleased with the audit results, and would like to thank Margaret Davey for the hard work and diligence of the finance department, in addition to all department heads and elected officials.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM AND FOREST SERVICE ISSUE OIL & GAS DECISIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests issued respective decisions on a proposed oil and gas development project on existing Federal leases 12 miles northeast of Paonia, Colo.

“The natural gas wells that would be drilled under the North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan would make additional energy reserves available for the American public and generate additional jobs in our local communities,” BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager Greg Larson said.

“Public lands managed by the BLM and National Forest are managed for multiple-uses, including mineral development,” said GMUG Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart. “Both agencies took a hard look at potential impacts through our environmental analysis.” The BLM issued a final decision approving the drilling of up to 14 new wells into federal minerals from two well pads on private surface (one new, one existing) using only one drilling rig at a time. The BLM also approved a right-of-way for a surface pipeline to transport fresh water to well pads to help reduce truck traffic.

The Forest Service issued a draft decision that would approve the expansion of one existing well pad and construction of two new well pads on National Forest System lands, from which up to 21 new wells would be drilled. The draft decision also would approve the use of National Forest System lands for access roads and pipelines. A 45-day objection period follows the Forest Service's draft decision. The BLM will issue its decision on the portions of the proposal on National Forest System lands following the Forest Service's final decision.

If developed, these proposed wells could produce up to 700 billion cubic feet of natural gas over the 30-year life of the project. Gunnison Energy expects to employ 135 workers during the six years of well development. The State of Colorado receives 48 percent of revenues from leases issued on public lands in Colorado, which could result in up to \$27 million in payments.

More details, including maps are available at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaq>. Additional information about the Forest Service's objection period is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50966>.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS; LET'S SHOW LEADERSHIP

Editor:

I reject the table-turning efforts of the current administration to vilify any criticism of Israeli policies and to denigrate our Muslim sisters and brothers. We are, of course, a nation of immigrants and our Constitution proclaims us all as equals in the eyes of the law. We need to establish ourselves as a peace-loving democratic nation. We also need to show leadership in the world in establishing these values. Let's not allow media rhetoric to destroy our vision.

Wayne Quade, Montrose

LADY LIBERTY IS SMILING DOWN ON PRESIDENT TRUMP

Editor:

Gee, I bet Al Read could benefit from some of those prayers he wrote about to help cure his delirious name-calling of President Trump in his letter in the Montrose Press on Aug. 11. It seems all the comments the radical political Left have remaining for President Trump are the hateful and childish name calling he indulged in! One has to wonder how he chooses which vile and immature remark to make about our President. Maybe he just looks in the mirror!

Thank God we have a President who loves America enough to withstand the rampage of madness coming from the Left! Lady Liberty is smiling down on President Trump.

Diane Bartholome, Montrose

AMERICAN CITIZEN UNNERVED AT BEING ASKED TO 'PROVE' STATUS

Editor:

Now this is unnerving. I was born in Frankfurt a.m., in what was then West Germany, 10 years after the war ended.

My father, a bombardier in the U S Army Air Corps had gone on to work for the military newspaper, *Stars & Stripes* after WWII.

As a dependent of a WWII veteran still working for the US government one would not think my American citizenship would ever come under question.

However, last winter while applying for heating assistance I was required to provide proof of citizenship by obtaining a very specific letter from the State Department. The first time ever since I moved back to the United States in 1976 that being born on an American military base in an American military hospital overseas was not understood at face value.

I'm just glad I had my birth certificate and the letter from the State Department attached to it at the time, because that

'birth letter' was necessary to obtain the required proof letter from the State Department.

I wonder how many people no longer have their original birth certificate, not to mention that birth letter now, some 60 odd years later?

Could I be subject to deportation at the whim of this administration? Given that I've already been asked to prove my status, this is frightening stuff.

Shelley Neth, Fort Collins



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT WILL BE SEPT. 7

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City of Montrose Public Works Shop located at 1221 64.50 Road.

Items collected will include:

- Batteries
- Household chemicals
- Aerosols
- Fertilizer
- Paint supplies
- Flammable gas tanks and liquid fuels
- Light bulbs

"In an effort to promote safety, beautify the community and expand public ser-

vices, the City of Montrose and Montrose County desire to host a one-time combined Residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event that will include City and County residents," notes a joint Memorandum of Understanding Montrose County and the City of Montrose signed in April. "The goal of this event is to encourage citizens to properly collect, handle, and dispose of common household hazardous waste materials."

Volumes and quantities shall be limited to a maximum of 20 gallons of liquid waste material, 50 pounds of dry, granular palletized, or powder waste material, and 20 aerosol cans per customer.

Fee Schedule published at:

www.cityofmontrose.org/337/Household-Hazardous-Waste

The following will **NOT** be collected:

- Unidentifiable chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- Non-Residential household hazardous wastes;
- Excessive volumes or quantities of residential household hazardous wastes that reasonably indicate the material was generated from a commercial or industrial facility;
- Explosive or radioactive material;
- Electronic waste;
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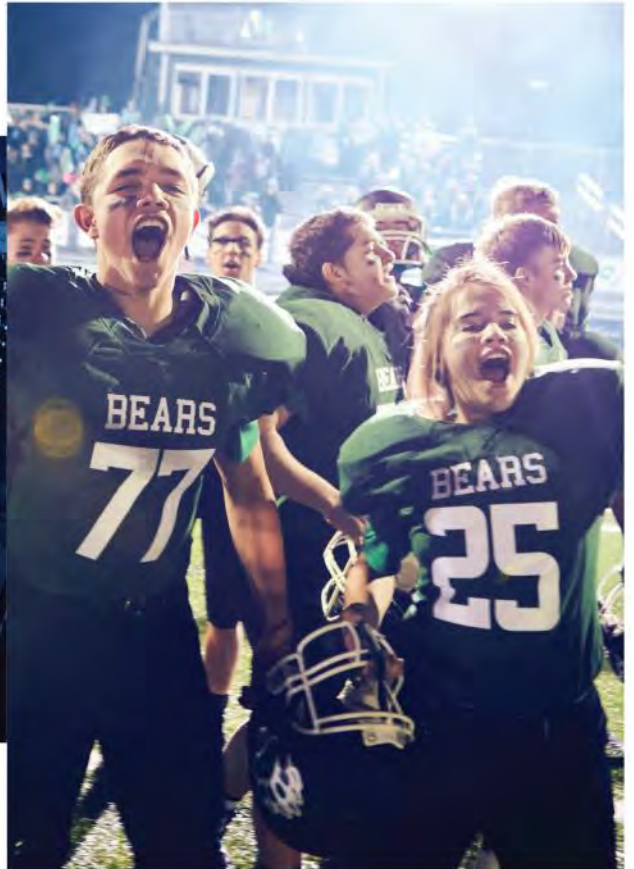
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELP IDENTIFY SUSPECTS IN ROAD SIGN VANDALISM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens in identifying the subject(s) responsible for removing road signs along the right-of-way in recent weeks.

MCSO is investigating several instances of Montrose County Road and Bridge signs that were pulled out of the ground and set on the ground along the right-of-way. Signs have been reported down near 6100 Road and West Oak Grove Road over the past few weeks. Tampering with official signs carries criminal charges and potential felony charges if accidents occur.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Courtesy photos Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers.

SUSPECTS SOUGHT IN MULTIPLE THEFT AND FRAUD CRIMES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose Police Department are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate suspects that are responsible for multiple theft and fraud crimes in the City of Montrose.

The individuals depicted below are suspected of the theft of several credit cards and I.D. documents, as well as multiple fraudulent charges at several local stores. Their vehicle is also depicted in one of the photos.



Courtesy photos Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.



ISSUE 224 Aug. 19, 2019

ART & SOL

SAVOR THE SAN JUANS HOME TOUR FEATURES CENTENNIAL RANCH

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Featured in Architectural Digest, Centennial Ranch is showcased in this year's Savor the San Juans home tour. Both Dashwood House and the ranch's line cabin will be open to tour. "We are excited to offer the opportunity to share such an historic property. It is a window into the old west, not to be missed", says organizer Carol Parker. A booklet published by owner Vince Kontny will be given to each attendee. It details the history and the artisans involved in constructing both the craftsman style main home and the log line cabin. Created with a passion for authenticity, history comes alive at this 100-year-old working ranch.

Four other diverse and carefully curated homes round out the 6th Savor the San Juans tour including Hartman Gardens, Pearl of the Orient at The Bridges, Heavenly Haven at Cobble Creek and Canyon Creek Bed and Breakfast and carriage house. Attendees tour at their own pace, starting with a breakfast sampler at 9:30 am prepared by the Montrose High School Catering class.

The tour showcases local agriculture and over 60 other local businesses. The craftsmanship of local contractors, florists, and table decorators will be on full display at each decorated home. A full array of re-

gional culinary talent is featured as chefs prepare seasonal tastings from the farms and ranches of Valley Food Partners. The brunch sampler at Cobble Creek Golf Club and a local wine, beer, cider and dessert tasting reception at the Ute Museum make for a complete culinary and design adventure.

Participating chefs this year are from Creekside, Remington's at the Bridges, Delicious Food Co., True Grit Café, and Climb, an elevated eatery in Lake City, CO. Tastings are sourced from local farms and include peaches, sweet corn, bison, tomatoes, and roasted chilies. A limited number of tickets are available at the following Montrose locations: Tiffany's, ETC., ElderAdo Financial, San Juan Gardens, Honey Acre Farmstand and select days at the Montrose Farmers Market.

Full details and tickets are also available online at valleyfoodpartnership.org.



The craftsmanship of local contractors, florists, and table decorators will be on full display at each decorated home. Courtesy photo.

The tour benefits the Valley Food Partnership and is presented by Alpine Bank and Alpine Bank Wealth Management, with special thanks to the David and Gaynelle Mize Family, TEI Rock Drills, ElderAdo Financial, Budget Blinds and the Montrose Daily Press, as well as many other fine sponsors. The tour benefits the Valley Food Partnership and its beginning farmer rancher program. As a mission driven organization, the Valley Food Partnership is committed to working together to grow a healthy community by connecting local farms to forks.

NEW MEXICO NEWS BRIEFS

SEPTEMBER IN TAOS: GLOBAL SUPERSTARS, FUTURISTIC FESTIVALS AND ARTS

Taos brings out all the stops for events every weekend throughout the month



Visit Taos courtesy photo by Rebecca Arnold.

Special to Art & Soul

TAOS, NM- This September, Taos, New Mexico will celebrate music and art in all of their forms with a variety of events throughout the month. 16-time Grammy Award winner Sting will perform a sold-out show at Kit Carson Park on Sept. 2, before Michael Hearne's Big Barn Dance, Sept. 5 – 7, experiential art festival The PASEO, Sept. 13 – 14, and the 45th annual

Taos Fall Arts Festival, Sept. 20 – 29.

Music and Concerts

More than 8,000 people are expected to be in attendance at Kit Carson Park as Sting performs some of the biggest songs from his career on Labor Day. Later that week, Thursday through Saturday, Michael Hearne's Big Barn Dance will take over Kit Carson Park with three days of folk and Americana music from some of the most well-respected names in the industry, as well as up-and-coming songwriters. Festival events include a Taos Art Gallery Stroll with Michael Hearne, two days of listening room performances, songwriting work-

shops, dance lessons and Saturday's Big Barn Dance. Three-day and single day passes are sold out, but "Barn Dance Only" tickets are available for entrance on Saturday after 7 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://bigbardance.com/>.

Art Festivals

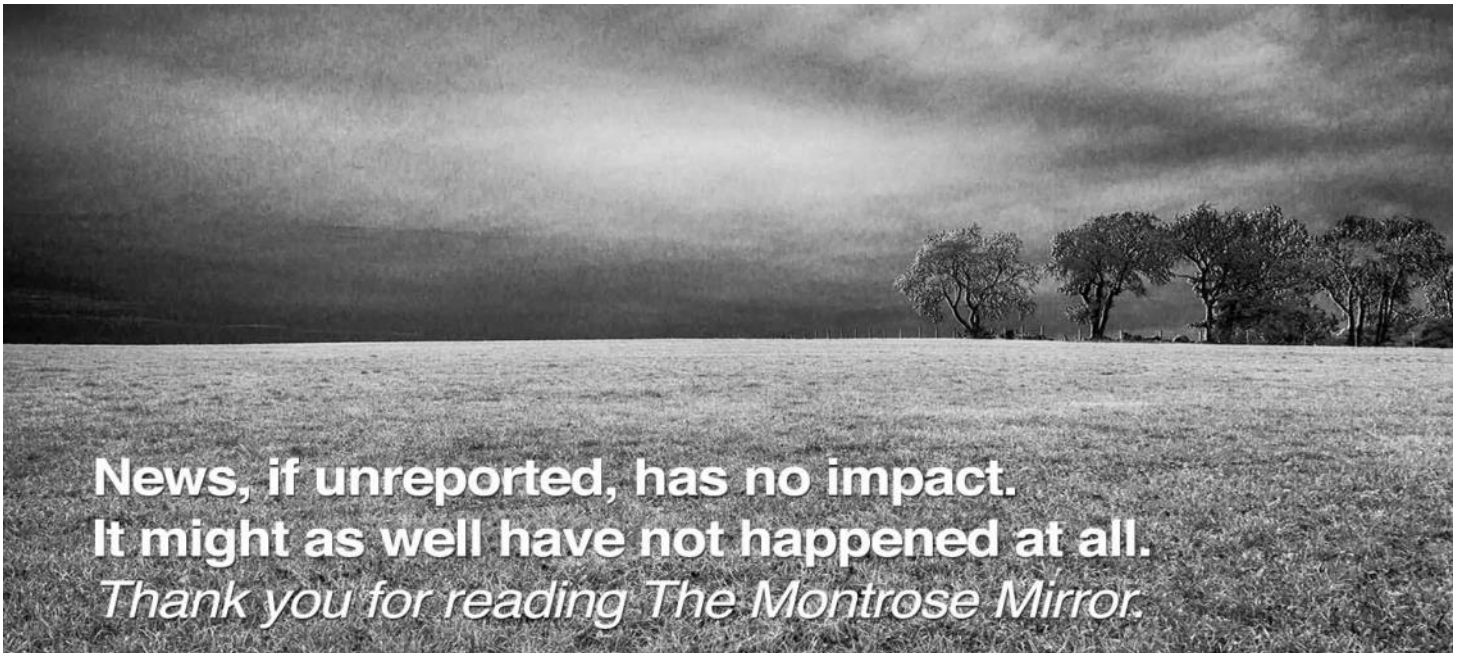
Beginning September 13, The PASEO, an interactive art festival dedicated to bring-

ing experiential installation, performance and projection art to the streets of Taos' historic district, will bring more than 30 artists from across New Mexico, the U.S. and the world to Taos as a part of its "Connections" theme. This year's festival will include the *Living Museum of Fetishized Identities*, a large-scale interactive performance/installation from a group in San Francisco, as well as *Water-light Graffiti*, an interactive installation from Paris that utilizes water and light, among many others performances and installations.

The following weekend, beginning on September 20, the 10-day Taos Fall Arts Festival will begin. The festival works to celebrate the visual art and artists in Taos County, while encouraging the growth of emerging artists.

This year's festival will include the Taos Open Exhibition, featuring Taos County artists working in multiple mediums, a two-day, multi-venue symposium with former *Newsweek* art critic, Peter Plagens, and more. Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information on The PASEO, visit <https://paseoproject.org/>. To learn more about the Taos Fall Arts Festival, visit <http://taosfallarts.com/>.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AUGUST 26TH IS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Monday, Aug. 26th is the 99th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that granted women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, also founded in 1920, celebrates Women's Equality Day by remembering this historic achievement.

The decades-long fight for women's equality at the ballot box is an important part of American history and our nation's journey toward elections that are free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters.

Our foremothers understood that voting provides all citizens with the ability to have an impact on the critical issues facing their communities, states and the nation--a voice.

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta counties, will mark the occasion with an informative exhibit in the Montrose Library. Local members will parade around the Montrose courthouse in period costumes with signage at 5 pm on Tuesday, August 27.

"Women's Equality Day is the perfect

time to get ready and commit to vote and participate in the greatest democracy in the world," said local League president, Jan Edwards. For more information about

the League of Women Voters, or to learn how to become a member of the League of Women Voters of Montrose County, please visit www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org/



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DAVID ROGERS @ HEALTHY RHYTHM GALLERY AUG. 31

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Solo guitarist **David Rogers** performs Saturday, August 31st at 7:30pm at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 (323) 270-6284. \$15 - \$20.

healthyrhythm@gmail.com

<http://www.healthyrhythm.net>

<https://>

healthyrhythmartgallery.bigcartel.com/product/hrms-presents-david-rogers-an-evening-of-classical-guitar-at-healthy-rhythm

David will play a program based around Spanish, Flamenco, Up-Tempo Latin, original settings of Leonard Cohen, Rolling Stones', Neil Young songs, as well as music by the Beatles, J.S. Bach and original compositions.

HIKING WITH CHILDREN 101...A FEW TIPS & TRICKS



Courtesy photos [Friends of Youth and Nature](#).

By Anne Janik,

[Friends of Youth and Nature](#)

REGIONAL-Fresh air, exercise, family bonding, and exploring nature are just some of the benefits of hiking with your children. If you are at all uneasy about this family outing, here are a few tips and tricks that will help you have fun and ensure your kids will want to go again and again!

For the kick-off hike, pick an easy and interesting trail, go slow, and be enthused – it's contagious! A destination hike can motivate kids to keep going to reach an endpoint - an overlook, cave, rock art, or waterfall. When you reach that point, have lunch, a special treat, or a fun activity like an energizing jump into a swimming hole. Also, at the end of your hike, have a good refreshing treat waiting in the cooler.

Plan lots of stops to observe and play. The best kid-friendly hikes usually involve scrambling over rocks or boulders, wading through shallow creeks, or walking around a lake. Your kids can practice skipping stones, discovering aquatic bugs under wet rocks, naming wildflowers, or spying fish darting about. Definitely have dry socks and shoes at the car!

Glance off-trail and look around often. A shiny object can get a curious child off

course - that's a good thing! Observation is a great skill and improves with practice. The more you look, the more things you will see. Point out a lizard scurrying in the shade of a rock, a strange sound in the forest, the soft feel of moss on a log, the earthy scents of a decomposing log. Guide your child's interaction with nature and try to appeal to all their senses.

A hike can combine the best parts of being in nature – freedom, adventure and discovery. Take breaks often. Pick a boulder or a log to rest, enjoy the view, and have a snack -the best part of a hike! Pack lots of light snacks – nuts, protein bars, and fruit. Surprise your kids with a few unexpected incentives to keep them going like Skittles, gummy worms, or Smarties. Take more water than you think your family will drink and drink it often.

Remain upbeat through the meltdowns and whines. Your kids will feed off of your energy, but be **flexible**. Change your plans if things are not working out. Remember that you are trying to introduce your family to a nature outing; they won't want to go again if they aren't having fun.

When boredom sets in, distraction is the name of the game, and there are lots of trail games to keep everyone occupied and hiking. Your family is also having fun together! Here are a few to keep in mind.

Who doesn't love a scavenger hunt? Make a list of items everyone has to find such as four different shades of green, something smooth, rough, or wet; something blue; an animal track or animal sign; something made by humans.

Guess the animal – Take turns thinking of an animal; everyone asks questions to figure out what that animal is.

I Spy - you pick something along the trail and give hints until kids guess it.

A fistful of sounds – With a minute of silence and eyes closed, each person tallies all the sounds they hear using their fingers. After a minute, eyes open, and everyone sees who has heard the most sounds.

Let them talk – ask questions about their favorite animal, place, food, or game. Share stories. Enjoy this priceless bonding time. Life is busy; but when you are unplugged and surrounded by nature, this is a perfect time to just let your kids talk while you listen. They will love this undivided attention from you, and what they have to say may surprise you!

Some additional trail tips:

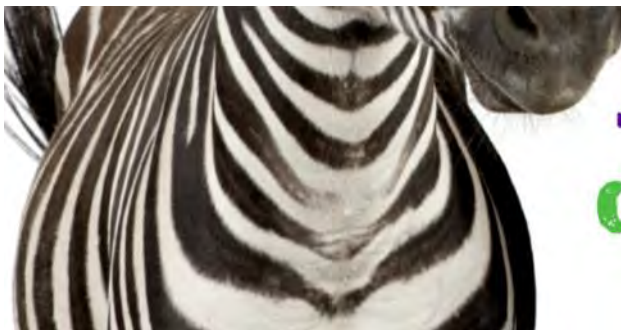
Keep a simple first aid kit in your pack
Dress in layers, and have raingear for everyone

Keep track of the time - make stops, but keep moving so you can get to your destination

Know before you go – check the trail and weather conditions.

Cancel your plans if the weather is not working in your favor. *For more outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, and hiking trails, visit the Friends of Youth and Nature website:*

(www.friendsofyouthandnature.org). FOY-AN is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experiencing outdoor activities and exploring nature.



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

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 Chris Hebert at 970-901-5876 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

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Brookdale Sunrise Creek, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

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 Wednesday 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-

Aug. 19-WHY WALK THE CAMINO de SANTIAGO? 1 p.m. Slide presentation with true stories of life lessons learned by walking this historic pilgrims' path. Presenter: Kit Riley Cassingham

Aug. 19--10 a.m. – Free Children's Concert, Ouray County Performing Arts Guild San Juan Chamber MusicFest – United Church of the San Juans, 295 N Lena, Ridgway. Free concert for children, their families and the community.

Aug. 20-7:30 p.m. – Classical Café' Concert, Ouray County Performing Arts Guild San Juan Chamber MusicFest – 4H Center in Ridgway, 22739 US-550, Ridgway. Tickets \$20 adults, \$5 students (18 years and under) www.ocpag.org

Aug. 23-7:30 p.m. "Elk: Nature and Management, by CPW researcher, Nathaniel Rayl. Join us for a talk about his Elk research in Colorado with some of the equipment he uses.

Aug. 24-9:30a.m. "Nature Detectives". Nature Journaling and Nature Art. Meet at the Visitor Center and practice drawing specimens from nature and create your own journal.

Aug. 24-7:30 p.m. "Mining History around Telluride and The Lewis Mill" by Ken Sloan, geologist. Visitor Center.

Aug. 25-MAPA Annual Dog Splash will be at the outdoor pool at the Montrose Field House 1-4 p.m. Aug. 25. Well-behaved, leashed dogs from St. Bernard's to chihuahua's. Co-sponsored by Re and MAPA. Dogs are \$5, people are free.

Aug. 27-DMEA Rate Hearing, 5 p.m., Delta-Montrose Electric Association Headquarters, multi-purpose room.

Aug. 31-Solo guitarist David Rogers performs Saturday, Aug. 31 at 7:30 pm at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 (323) 270-6284. \$15 - \$20. To learn more visit <http://www.healthyrhythm.net> or <http://www.davidrogersguitar.com/>

Sept. 4--Boomers & Bicycling 10. Sept. 4 @ 9 am - Noon Free. Montrose Senior Center, You are never too old to ride a bicycle... or get back on one! This FREE 3-hour class includes an indoor discussion on bicycle safety and rules of the road, tips for selecting the right gear, and time on your bicycle practicing bicycle handling and balance skills.

Sept.7-The 2019 Montrose County/City of Montrose Household Hazardous Waste Event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City of Montrose Public Works Shop located at 1221 64.50 Road. Fee Schedule published at: www.cityofmontrose.org/337/Household-Hazardous-Waste

Sept. 8-Savor the San Juans Home Tour: Local Foods, Chefs, Homes. The 6th Savor the San Juans home tour features Centennial Ranch. Taste your way through six inspiring properties, each with chef prepared gourmet bites from local farms and decorated tables by local designers. Toast the tour with local libations at the Ute Museum. More info and tickets at valleyfoodpartnership.org, Tiffany, Etc., Honey Acre Farm Stand, ElderAdo Financial, and San Juan Gardens. (781)264-1882.

Sept. 10-ROCK ART OF THE PARADOX VALLEY, 1 p.m. @ Montrose Senior Center (1800 East Pavilion Place).

Take this picturesque journey through the ancient lives in Paradox Valley through the rock carvings they left behind. Presenter: Glade Hadden, geologist.

Sept. 11-Wednesday, Sept. 11th at 6 pm. Yoga for Cyclists, at the Brewery! Cost: \$10 (cash only). 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!

Sept. 14- 'ALIVE AND STILL KICKIN' VARIETY SHOW, 11 a.m., \$5. This VARIETY SHOW is full of surprises, great talent and good BBQ along with all the fix in's. Start at 11 PM with BBQ and entertainment that includes Cheryl Clapton, Bruce Pollard, The Huck, Tim Veazey, a Magic Show, Barber Shop Choir, comedy skits and much more!!!! JOIN THE FUN as All donations support our 'Pay It Forward' Senior Lunch Fund. Info: Marilyn Huseby 970 901 9914.

Sept. 14-Smart Cycling 101. Sept. 14 @ 9 am - 3 pm \$25. Montrose Rec Center. Become empowered to ride your bicycle on the road with confidence and competence! This course combines indoor instruction and discussion, a bike handling practice session, and a guided ride around Montrose to experience and discuss the principles of vehicular cycling.

Sept 21-Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival! For more information visit www.lakecityfestival.org

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

MIRROR IMAGES...SUMMER SIGHTS



From top left, motorcycles rest outside Sampler Square Aug. 14; amanita muscaria by Brad Switzer; the Montrose Fire Protection District welcomed youth and families to the firehouse for Youth Appreciation Day Saturday.

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