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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting from West Central Colorado since 2010

@ Issue No. 367 March 9, 2020

TALMADGE RICHMOND JOINS MONTROSE COUNTY AS PLANNER, COMMISSIONERS POSTPONE DECISION ON SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR BLOW FLY SHOOTING GROUP

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Board of County Commissioners Chair Keith Caddy welcomed a room full of citizens to the regular BOCC meeting of Wednesday, March 4. "It looks like we've got a full house today."

Commissioner Sue Hansen was also present; BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash was absent. Pastor Robert Munday of All Saints Anglican Church delivered the invocation, mentioning Rash's wife Linda, who has health concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

[Continued pg 15](#)



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting drew a strong citizen turnout on Wednesday, March 4. A decision on the special use application for Blow Fly Shooting Group was continued until April 1.

CITY APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH UMB BANK, CARRASCO SAYS ROCKY MT. CHOCOLATE FACTORY CONSIDERING MONTROSE



At the City Council meeting of March 2, Youth Council Representative Clara Carrasco, right, reported that the Rocky Mt. Chocolate Factory is considering Montrose.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-There was a sizeable crowd for the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, March 3, but something was missing—a loud, distracting floor squeak that has been a feature of Council Chambers for years had been quieted. City Public Works Manager Jim Scheid and his team worked on the floor prior to the meeting, earning the appreciation of regular attendees and staff. All councilors were present for the meeting; Youth Council Representative was Clara Carrasco. There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

Mayor Dave Bowman recognized a visiting group of Trail Scouts on their way to becoming Eagle Scouts. "...Fine young men and welcome to Council!" Bowman said, "We're glad you're here and good luck on getting all the way to Eagle Scout."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON -AGENDA ITEMS

[Continued pg 27](#)

in this
issue

*Reader Photo Spotlight
With Deb Reimann!*

*A Fresh Point of View
with Jack Switzer!*

*Letters to the Editor!
Regional news briefs!*

*Mirror Classifieds!
Calendar of Events!*

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Vote for YVONNE MEEK

AT-LARGE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SEAT

I have been involved in the heart of Montrose downtown for many years. I participated in the City of Montrose Leadership program in 2009, worked for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, and have served on the Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA). I have also volunteered and served in local churches, music/arts, and civic organizations. My business experience include Meek Ranch Inc and The Lark & Sparrow Venue LLC. I desire to see all of Montrose thrive through the economic challenges of today.

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer, to a readership of over 13,000 residents of Western Colorado.

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CSP TROOPER TIPS: JUST CONCENTRATE



**Master Trooper
Gary Cutler.**
Courtesy photo.

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler
COLORADO-Recently I was fortunate enough to travel to New Zealand. I tell you this, not to make you envious (you should be though, it's an amazing country), but to of course bring to light new driving tips.

Now I have to say I've been driving for decades and have extensive additional emergency driver training, but I have never had to drive on the left side of the roadway, or sit on the right side of the car with a steering wheel in front of me.

The amount of concentration it takes to make a proper turn, or just driving back onto the roadway coming from say a parking lot and making sure I was on the correct side was huge. Every time I did some-

thing, I had to concentrate and give the action my full attention. Why? Because it was something new, and not just an old routine.

Even something as simple as using the turn signal lever took concentration. I found that the steering wheel is not the only thing not located on the "correct side." There were quite a few times I notified the drivers around me that I was going to turn by indicating it with a swoosh of the windshield wipers. I'm sure over the years New Zealanders have learned that if someone has their windshield wipers on when it's a clear day, they must be going to make a turn at some point.

With that said, I'm always thinking about what my next topic will be for Trooper Tips, and being on vacation doesn't deter that. So, while sitting in the hotel after a day of driving down the road with my windshield wipers on I thought how can I turn this into an article.

Concentration came to my mind. I

thought if we focused on driving more and didn't concern ourselves with the little things that take away that focus things on the road will be better. Concentration could eliminate many if not all of our crashes. Concentrating on your surroundings by looking for road debris, animals, pot holes, and stop signs, allows you to be able to react sooner than later, and thus eliminating a crash.

Concentrating on your speed, turn signals, and side view mirrors, instead of the radio, heater, phone, and the drink in the center console will continue to help eliminate those crashes.

Take that extra time to think about what you are doing and don't let it be a secondary thought or habit. Make it the priority. It is easy to let things we've been doing for years slide to the background and not something we concentrate on.

I know I give a lot more attention to my turn signal lever these days.

As always, safe travels!



Thoughtful: *Thinks about complex issues and the ramifications of decisions.*

Principled: *Acts with integrity and honesty, has a strong sense of fairness for individuals and community.*

Fiscal Conservative: *Dislikes deficit spending, advocate for a balanced budget.*

DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2020

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

SPECIAL EVENTS

LET'S TALK! Montrose City council candidate Yvonne Meek wants to know what you, the taxpayer, think are the important issues Montrose city council needs to address.

Let's Talk ... about the future of Montrose!

Thursdays at The Lark Venue, 511 East Main Street from 7:30 to 10 am

The one and only Colorado Mesa University Montrose Campus Student CLUB Write Club presents: **FREE-DOM WRITERS-FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO WRITE**, a public reading event. It takes place March 31 at 6:30 pm at CMU Montrose Cascade Hall. CMU Write Club members will be reading original pieces in a variety of genres with an opportunity for the attendees to ask questions and get answers from each writer. This is sure to be a great time, refreshments will be available and donations are accepted with free admittance. Don't miss this chance to hear some of the great up and coming writers of our community and support local culture and art- not to mention the budding Montrose Student life thanks to Write Club.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE POSITIONED TO PROMOTE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Editor:

Do you all remember a time when the City of Montrose and Montrose County couldn't get along? Do you remember a time when Montrose County and Montrose Memorial Hospital couldn't get along? Do you remember a time when everyone was fighting, hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted on lawsuits? Years were wasted while they argued and pointed fingers.

I would like us all just to pause, breathe and listen. There is no fighting among the city, county, airport, school district, and hospital. It is delightful. It is productive. And we are regaining our self-respect from the State of Colorado and neighboring communities.

This is all due to the people in leadership positions. The spirit of collaboration that is happening between the City of Montrose and Montrose County, Region 10, MEDC, Montrose Airport, CMU, the school district, and the hospital is magical. Big things are happening. You may not always see them.

The Montrose economy has had some of the strongest gains on record recently. The unemployment rate of 2.2% is also the lowest since statistics began being

tracked. In 2018, personal income was up 7.11%, while personal income per capita increased by 6.02% (and higher than the Colorado increase of 5.64%).

Business recruitment and retention is a key driver of our success. Higher paying, primary jobs expand the tax base and diversify our local economy so we can better control our future.

Montrose is now in the conversation for these higher wage, value added jobs. We ferociously compete with other states and cities for these businesses and jobs. Without targeted economic development, Montrose will be left behind. Local incentives are pay for performance; not performance for pay, and new industries balance our economy making us less vulnerable to fluctuations (case in point: Russell Stover).

Outdoor Recreation is now a \$2.2 billion dollar industry for the Western Slope, and it is vital for rural prosperity. Montrose is known for its landscapes and outdoor recreation activities, many of which drive tourism and business development. It is imperative to restore and protect the Uncompahgre River, and continue the huge effort of walkability and trail connectivity in our community.

Montrose is uniquely positioned to promote regional economic prosperity through outdoor recreation in several ways, including promoting health and wellness among locals by increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation, creating educational opportunities that lead to well-paying jobs in a fast-growing industry, and protecting natural assets that the outdoor recreation industry relies upon.

Montrose is either getting smaller or getting bigger. But it's not staying the same. If we don't work together, someone else will choose for us.

Please keep this momentum going and vote for **Barbara Bynum**, **Roy Anderson** and **Dave Frank** for City Council. They are thoughtful, decisive, and informed leaders in our community.

They all have proven track records of community collaboration, community development, and the leadership skills to keep up the momentum. They understand how to create jobs and protect open spaces. They all share a love for this community and have given countless hours of volunteer time to keep Montrose special.

Sincerely,

Colleen Aller, Montrose



249 8500

ANONYMOUS

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT TO FOLLOW FAA GUIDANCE ON CORONAVIRUS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Worldwide, headlines have been sounding the alarm over the growing coronavirus outbreak. *Bloomberg News* reported this morning that cases top 109,000 worldwide and deaths exceed 3,800. Though Colorado has seen its first cases in recent weeks, few impacts have yet been observed in Montrose and travel remains unrestricted. The March 4 *Colorado Flights Alliance* mailing included a brief note at the bottom of the page: "...we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and its effect on travel, which has been minimal in the domestic US to date."

Still, what if that should change? Montrose Regional Airport is a local resource as well as an economic driver. What precau-

tions are being taken to keep airport workers and travelers safe?

As always, there are hand sanitizing stations located throughout the airport, in every restroom and in the terminal. Now, areas that normally are cleaned once a day are being wiped and sanitized more frequently, including doorknobs, all surfaces, and arms of chairs, Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold said.

"We are paying more attention," Arnold said. "If the coronavirus becomes more widespread and the problem is more prevalent and enhances itself, some larger airports could close."

Montrose Regional Airport is a destination airport, rather than a hub, meaning that many passengers have been screened

for the coronavirus prior to arrival here, he said. In the event of a pandemic, Montrose Regional Airport would not be likely to close unless airports at hub locations were to close.

Also, while some airports are taking measures to actively screen passengers, "The responsibility is everybody's to be more sanitary," Arnold said. "Hand sanitizer and taking peoples' temperatures in public places are not 100 percent effective; you still need to wash your hands with hot, soapy water."

Montrose Board of County Commissioners Chair Keith Caddy said that the County is watching what happens with larger airports and will take its cue from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Time for City Council elections... Time to compare District 3 Candidates:

ISSUE	ROY ANDERSON	DAVID WHITE
1. Committing City's Reserve Funds to private business groups (\$245K for Vine Building)	Voted YES	NO – Private business should pay its own way
2. Spending City \$\$\$ on large, private business enterprises (CO Outdoors, Hotel, Apartment Complex, Retail Centers, etc.)	Voted YES	NO – This type of pure speculation is too risky
3. City Council securing \$10,000,000 direct bank loan (using City Hall & Pavilion as collateral)	Voted YES	NO – No loans to private, speculative developers
4. Cerise Park Amphitheater	Supports	NO – Project has limited use; huge \$3M+ price tag
5. New Tesla charging station in downtown Montrose	Supports	NO – There are already <u>15 stations</u> in Montrose
6. Providing financial incentives for people to purchase homes in Montrose	Has "entertained" giving incentives	NO – Qualify for and buy your own home



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGISTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS MARCH 23-27

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County RE-1J Early Childhood Centers will be having registrations for the 2020 – 2021 school year the week of March 23 – March 27 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 RE-1J 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, 2020. BRING ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO YOUR APPOINTMENT. WE WILL NOT PROCESS ANY APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE FOL-

LOWING 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
2019 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.



REGIONAL CITY TAX RATES

APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER SEASONAL JOBS AT COLORADO STATE PARKS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- Want to work outside in Colorado this summer? Then apply for any of the hundreds of seasonal positions available at Colorado's State Parks.

A variety of jobs are available, including seasonal ranger, visitor services, interpreter/education specialist and maintenance. Most jobs start in May and continue into September.

"Seasonal employees are really the life-blood of our parks during the summer," said Scott Elder, manager at Mancos State Park in southwest Colorado. "We couldn't do it without them."

Colorado operates 41 parks in every corner of the state. In 2019 more than 15 million people visited Colorado State Parks.

Anyone interested should go on line to these sites to search for open positions:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Current-Openings.aspx>, or
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/>

REGIONAL CITY	SALES TAX	PROPERTY TAX (IN MILLS)
DELTA	7.90%	0.00
FRUITA*	8.27%	10.146
STEAMBOAT	8.40%	0.00
DURANGO	8.40%	5.007
GRAND JUNCTION*	8.52%	8.00
MONTROSE	8.53%	0.00
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	8.60%	6.513
TELLURIDE	8.65%	4.651
GUNNISON	8.90%	3.868
RIDGWAY	9.05%	8.651
OURAY	9.45%	16.25

*City exempts groceries from sales tax



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL A 2020 COLORADO TRAILBLAZER SCHOOL TO WATCH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Centennial Middle School has been recognized as a 2020 Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch! The Colorado Association of Middle Level Education is proud to honor Centennial with this distinguished designation. Centennial Middle School is one of 100+ schools that will be recognized nationwide at the National Schools to Watch Conference on Friday, June 26, 2020 in Washington, DC. "Centennial demonstrates that high-performance is the result of intentional

focus on the whole child. An inclusive environment that cultivates student inquiry, student empowerment, and intellectual rigor results in a dynamic school where students thrive!" explained Julie Shue, State Co-Director of the Colorado Schools to Watch program. "Centennial Middle School excels in providing active and engaging student learning for every child. They have built a powerful, high quality middle grades program that is a model for our state."

Selection is based on a written application

that requires schools to show how they met criteria developed by the Forum. State teams organized by the Colorado Schools to Watch (www.coloradoschoolstowatch.com) program conduct site visits in order to affirm that they have indeed met the rigorous requirements of the award. These teams observe classrooms, interview administrators, teachers, and parents, review achievement data, suspension rates, instructional quality, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years must repeat the process in order to be re-designated. This year six schools were designated as Colorado Schools to Watch: Centennial Middle School, Corwin International Magnet School, Jenkins Middle School, Leshar Middle School, Longs Peak Middle School, and Westview Middle School.

"These Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don't want to miss a day. They have proven that it is possible to achieve a high degree of educational excellence, and any middle-level school can truly learn from their example," said Ericka Uskali, Forum executive director. "We are pleased that our Schools to Watch program have shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment to healthy development and equity for all students," Uskali said.

Launched in 1999, Schools to Watch began as a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding 37 criteria developed by the Forum. The Forum developed a web site (www.middlegradesforum.org) that features online tours of schools, as well as detailed information about the selection criteria used in the recognition program. Nineteen states are currently involved in the program and the addition of these schools raises the total number of Schools to Watch to over 400 nationwide.

CITYBEAT For the Record
online onTV onsocial



You might have heard that the overall sales tax rate in Montrose has risen by 18%

It hasn't. Voters in November 2019 approved a 0.58% increase in retail sales taxes to pay for public safety. The sales tax rate increased from 7.95% to 8.53% to hire an additional 20 police officers and build a new police headquarters in downtown.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO BANS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HAIR STYLE, TEXTURE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—Last week, Governor Jared Polis signed The CROWN Act, prohibiting discrimination based on hair texture, hair type, protective hairstyles and headwraps in education, employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Sponsored by Rep. Herod, Representative Janet Buckner (D-Aurora) and Senator Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora), [House Bill 20-1048](#) comes on the heels of nationally publicized incidents of hair discrimination.

Colorado follows California, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia in passing the CROWN Act. It passed by a vote of 42-21 in the House and 23-11 in the Senate.

CROWN stands for "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION NAMES SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEW COMMITTEE; CANDIDATE MEET & GREET SET FOR MARCH 27

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District Re-1J board members wish to thank community members for their interest in helping to select the new superintendent. Thirty-eight people submitted their name and application to serve on an interview committee to assist the school board in selecting a candidate.

All 38 applicants were strong candidates; however, the process dictated the committee be limited to 16 participants. The sixteen selected volunteers represent school district staff, parents, retirees, and community leaders with a broad base of expertise, background and experience from Montrose and Olathe. Committee members selected are:

Jessica Beller	Linda Lohman
Mark Bray	Becky Moreno
Sandra Helken	James Pavlich
Jody Hovde	Daniel Rosentreter
Chad Huffman	Brandy Spencer
Suzi King	Jon Waschbusch
Linda Lake	Tom West
Chris Lehman	Shane Yanosky

The school board invites school staff and community members to interact and ask questions of the candidates at a Meet and Greet social event on Friday, March 27th at the MCSD Board Room, located at 930 Colorado Avenue. The event will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Alpine Bank Montrose brings one-stop banking to expanded South Townsend location



Alpine Bank Montrose is excited to announce the expansion of its south branch on Townsend Avenue which will provide one-stop banking for customers there by the end of 2020. "The timing of the project could not be better, the bank as a whole, and locally in Montrose, is coming off of several record-breaking years," stated Tyler Dahl, president of Alpine Bank Montrose.

Currently, some bank functions are split between Alpine's south branch and its east branch on Main Street in Montrose, requiring some customers to make two stops to do all of their banking. The east branch will close once consolidation of the bank's services is complete at the expanded south branch.



"We look forward to having all of Alpine's Montrose employees working together in a larger and more efficient and comfortable setting for them and our valued customers," said Dahl. "We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service, and these changes will ensure we can take even better care of our customers in the future."

All Alpine staff currently working at the east branch will work from the expanded south branch; there will be no reduction in the friendly staff who customers know and appreciate after the construction dust settles.

Dahl understands that the east branch is a more convenient location for some customers, and he and his team are committed to making the transition as easy and convenient as possible. The closure will be gradual, with an anticipated closing date of June, 2021.

"Alpine Bank's commitment to providing excellence to our customers and our commitment to support our community are and will remain our highest priorities," Dahl said.



Alpine Bank



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TALMADGE RICHMOND JOINS MONTROSE COUNTY AS PLANNER, COMMISSIONERS POSTPONE DECISION ON SPECIAL USE APPLICATION

From pg 1

Consent Agenda items were approved, with the inclusion of Resolution No. 10-2020 for Item 6, concerning the Sale of Surplus Property consisting of light fleet vehicles used by the Posse in the Sheriff's Office.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The BOCC voted to release retainage for Stryker & Company, Inc. in the amount of \$19,197.01 for the Holdroom Expansion project at Montrose Regional Airport.

"Stryker did a fantastic job on the holdroom expansion for us," Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold said.

Also approved was Resolution No. 11-2020, on the Grant Agreement with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Aeronautics Division Contract No. CDAG 20-MTJ-01, for the project known as Runway 13/31 Pavement Maintenance at Montrose Regional Airport, in the amount of \$600,000 with a County match of \$66,667.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners voted to continue the deliberation and decision on Item E-1, time-certain, a special use proposal to develop a shotgun shooting range for the Blow Fly Shooting Group on Parcel 3723-331-00-021, west of South River Road. The discussion will recommence at the April 1 BOCC meeting, at 9:30 a.m.

"Because Commissioner Rash is not here, this is a very serious situation we're looking at, something it's going to take all three of us to make a decision on...I am going to move this hearing," Caddy said. "Sorry for everybody coming out today; we didn't plan on this, it just happened."

No additional public comment will be taken April 1, as the public hearing portion has already been closed.

In other business, Commissioners approved a proposal by the Wallis Minor Subdivision and Boundary Line Adjustment [MI-19-0079] to divide a 5.96 acre lot into three lots at 21555 Highway 550;



Montrose County Planning & Development Director Steve White introduced new County Planner Talmadge Richmond at the BOCC meeting on March 4.

a proposal by the Mini Cooper Minor Subdivision [MI-19-0084] to divide three lots from a 43.55 acre parcel at 61900 Grand View Trail; a proposal by the Nieto Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0001] to divide a 3.07 acre lot into two lots at 55791 Fresa Lane; and a proposal by the Garrett Minor 3 Subdivision [MI-20-0002] to divide three lots from a 52.54 acre parcel at 7975 5425 Road.

MONTROSE COUNTY LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Closing regular session to reconvene as the local liquor licensing authority, Commissioners approved the renewal of the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 North 7th Street Montrose, CO. 81401 License #03-09744. All appropriate documents, reviews, inspection, background check and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-3-302. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or the Planning Department.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board returned to regular session as the BOCC. Planning & Development Director Steve White introduced new County Planner Talmadge Richmond.

"He used to work for the City of Montrose, he just started (with the County) on Monday," White said, noting that Richmond had been with the City for ten months. "We're grateful to have him...we appreciate that the City would train him...we feel he's going to be a great fit, and it's a great asset to me to be able to have time to address other issues with the County." Also, Richmond speaks Spanish, White said.

Noting that it was a momentous time for White and for the County's Planning & Development Department, "Enjoy your career with the County," Hansen said to Richmond.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

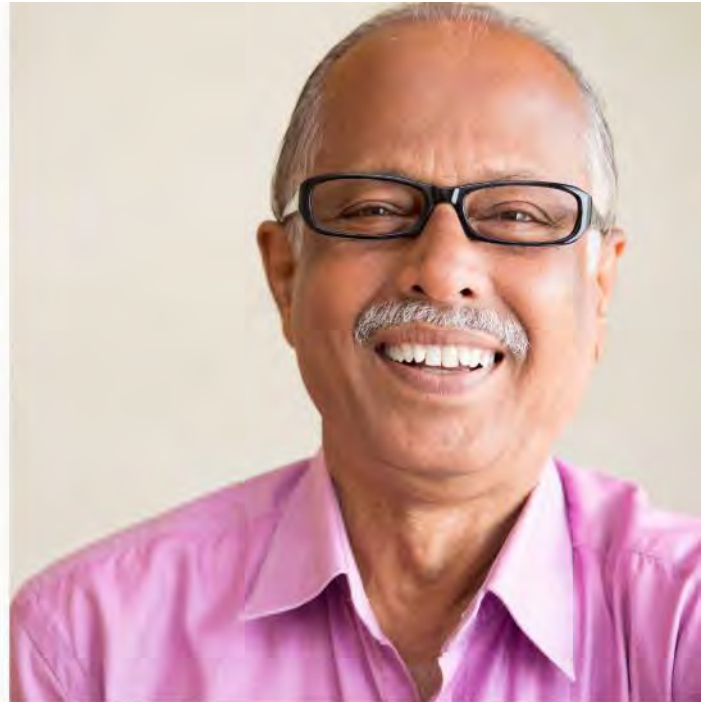
APPLY NOW FOR SHAUN PETER CASSIDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Applications for the Shaun Peter Cassidy Memorial Scholarship are due April 11. Available to MHS, OHS, Peak, Vista, and Delta/Montrose Votec. To be eligible for the \$1,000 scholarship appli-

cants must be graduating senior or former graduate of the RE-1J School District; must demonstrate financial need; must be entering an auto-mechanic field of study; can also be used for any accredited vocational/technical program. Submit complet-

ed common scholarship application plus required supplements including transcript, resume, financial information, letter of recommendation and essay. Questions? Email Colleen Countryman, Countryman@montrose.net



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CITY MEETS WITH RECOMMENDED OWNER'S REP FOR NEW MONTROSE POLICE FACILITY; LOOKS AT SITE PLAN, RIGHT OF WAY VACATIONS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as the Montrose City Council convened for a work session on Monday, March 2.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented the details on a possible resolution approving a **History Colorado State Historical Fund Grant Application for the Potato Growers Association Building**.

Also present for the discussion was building owner David Fishing of High Oasis LLC. The Potato Growers Building was completed in 1908 and served a vital role in establishing Montrose as an agricultural community during the early 20th Century, Cramer noted. "It's one of the most historic structures in Montrose."

Grant funds of up to \$200,000 would be awarded and received by October. Funds will be paid directly to the project's contractor, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said.

Though the business plan for the restored facility has not been finalized, it will likely be a mixed-use retail space, Fishing said.

City Civil Engineer Ryan Cushenan discussed a possible **contract award to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$191,051.30 for the decorative shotcrete wall at the West Main Underpass**.

Background-As work progressed on the Connect Initiative Trail Project, it became necessary to modify the project design and construct the final wall as a decorative shotcrete face to better follow contours of the soil nail wall and avoid excessive loads. The contract was put out for bid Jan. 30, Cushenan said, and two responsive bids were received. Mountain Valley Contracting was the low bidder and staff recommends the award. The trail underpass at the West Main Bridge will be closed for approximately four weeks to maintain safety during construction; the closure is anticipated to start in April. The project is expected to be complete around the first week of June. An anti-graffiti coating will be applied.

Mayor Dave Bowman said that no grand opening has been set for the Connect Initiative

Trail, but people are already using it. "I have just heard lots and lots of people out there on the trail, biking, hiking, wheelchairs, kids in strollers," Bowman said, "It's really a fantastic asset to our community...so many people can use it and they're out there already, so that's fantastic."

City Council Candidate Yvonne Meek asked which budget the funds, which would be removed from the main contract with trail contractor Western Gravel, would come from. The \$191,051.30 would come from the same budget, Bowman said.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about a recommended contract award; according to the work session packet, Council will be asked to approve a **contract with Dynamic Program Management (DPM) to serve as Owner's Representative for all phases of the new Police Department Project**. Dynamic Program Management would begin working with the owner's team as soon as the contract is awarded. The owner's team includes City Manager William Bell, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn, Police Chief Blaine Hall, Public Works Manager Jim Scheid, and MWL Architecture (Technical Advisor), Jim McClaren.

An owner's rep is needed because of the scale of the project, Hall said. "We want to make sure the project stays on time and on task."

A Request for Qualifications was issued Jan. 30, Hall said, and four qualified proposals were received. Dynamic Program Management was selected by the owner's team as the consultant of choice following the interview process. Company Principal Colleen Kaneda and Senior Project Manager Ray Scott were present to talk about the project and answer detailed questions.

According to the packet, total hours estimated with the negotiated rates for the duration of the project from Phase I schematic design through Phase IX warranty total \$404,341. The owner's rep will focus on limiting risk for the City of Montrose,



Dynamic Program Management Principal Colleen Kaneda and Senior Project Manager Ray Scott were present to talk about the project and answer detailed questions at the City work session March 7.

Kaneda said, and will focus on budget, schedule, and quality.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that she had received the consultant's proposal as a separate document at 5 a.m. that morning. "Since this was not part of our packet, will it be available to the community?"

Morgenthaler said it would be added to the work session packet.

"Going forward, I would like to see this kind of information included in our packets, so we don't have to ask for it," Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said.

The contract award for owner's representative services for the new Montrose Police Department Facility will come before City Council March 17.

911 Systems Director Matt Goetsch and Paul Gottlieb of the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA) were present to discuss an **amended and restated Intergovernmental Agreement for METSA**. Changes were prompted by the dissolution of the Paradox Fire District, which was annexed into the Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District. The amended and restated IGA must be approved by 60 percent of METSA members, which presently include Montrose County; the City of Montrose; the Town of Olathe; the Town of Naturita; the Town of Nucla; the Montrose Fire Protection District; the Olathe Fire Protection District; the Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District; the Ouray County Emergency Telephone Service Authority; and the San Miguel Emergency

CITY MEETS WITH RECOMMENDED OWNER'S REP FOR NEW POLICE FACILITY; LOOKS AT SITE PLAN, RIGHT OF WAY VACATIONS From previous pg

Telephone Service Authority.

City Planner Garry Baker displayed information and maps, as Council considered the **site of the proposed Police Department Expansion**. Baker said. "...This is needed to set up the financing of the facility."

The packet notes that the 1.4-acre site incorporates several city-owned parcels, as well as a portion of the alley, a portion of S. 1st St., and Uncompahgre Avenue rights-of-way. If approved, a right-of-way Vacation ordinance would be scheduled for all three.

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked about the possible closure of South Uncompahgre between South First Street and the alley. "Is that something we may look at in the future?"

City Manager Bill Bell said that the area would become the location of the auxiliary building. "That would all be an auxiliary building...the squads would come in on Uncompahgre, go into a rollup door, so they have street access to get into their building."

Though rights-of-way can be vacated when the right-of-way is no longer needed, "I don't quite see how, on South First, that's no longer needed as a road," Bynum said. "Are we looking at changing the traffic on that or something?"

"We don't know what the future holds on that particular thoroughfare...we have quite a bit of time to talk about that," Bell said. "This is just to preserve that area for the borrowing issuance."

The new Police Facility will need two entrances, for public and auxiliary access, Chief Hall said.

"Closing off the front of the police department to vehicles makes it safer," Bell said. If all goes according to plan, a vacation ordinance should come before Council at the meeting on March 17, Baker said.

Baker also provided an overview of the 4152 North Townsend Addition Annexation; a resolution to set a hearing date will come before Council March 17.

COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS

Files said that the City's regular radio spot with Cherry Creek Radio has been discon-

tinued by the radio station. "I am sorry to see it go away...it was good to have it."

It was a great week for Montrose High School Basketball, she said.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said he would fix the squeaky floor in Council Chambers.

City Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty said that the City has launched a golf promotion package for all three local courses through Visit Montrose.

A Citizens Budget Advisory Committee will meet March 10 in the annex room above the Centennial Room at 5:30 p.m.

Bell said he has been busy with Colorado Health Foundation Leadership on-the-Ground training. Also, the City is working with Colorado Mesa University and the Montrose County Sheriff's Department to create a summer law enforcement academy at CMU's Montrose Campus, which is expected to launch in 2021. It will be the only summer academy offered in the region and will be an extension of CMU's Grand Junction academy.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO HOST CANDIDATE FORUM MARCH 10

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The League of Women Voters of Montrose County invites the community to attend the Montrose City Council candidate forum Tuesday, March 10 at 6pm City council chambers (above the visitors' center) 107 South Cascade Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE HEALTH FAIR WAS SPECIAL THIS YEAR!

Editor:

The Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) annual Health Fair is always beneficial but this year, it was very special for me. I met Mako, well, at least a cardboard stand-in, along with its operator, Jason McKee. For the first time in 3 months, I was walking without excruciating pain in my hip, thanks to Mako, its handler and an excellent surgeon, Dr. Thomas Dwyer. Mako and the DaVinci, their first robot, are two cutting-edge robots which assist surgeons as part of the Joint Replacement Center at MMH. Paired with compassionate and highly competent nurses like Mary Jane and Sarah, along with physical therapists Terri and Kevin of Mountain View Therapy, they comprise a truly winning team.

As one of the top 100 rural hospitals in the entire nation, along with the best food in Colorado hospital cafeterias, my positive experience came as no surprise. Mr. McKee located me later in the area and showed me on his laptop precisely what had been done and what had been accomplished. It was absolutely amazing. We live in a remarkable area, with dedicated intelligent local government, a multitude of non-profits and civic organizations, incredible natural surroundings and the expertise of a wide array of excellent medical services available.

If you require expert and compassionate medical services, Montrose has an ample supply. By anyone's standard, Montrose Memorial Hospital is one of the finest medical facilities anywhere.

John W. Nelson, Log Hill



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- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage



How?



Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.



Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.



Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

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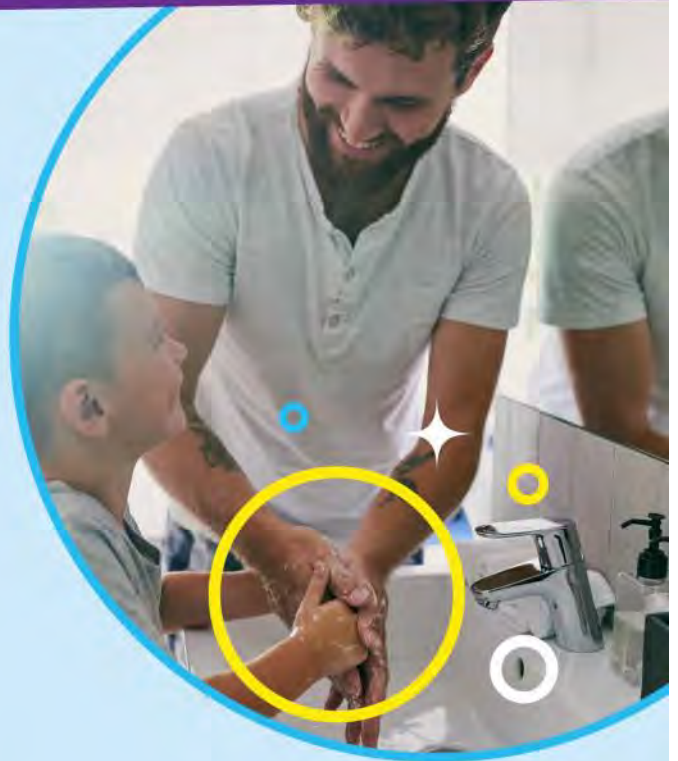


CS310027-A

¡Detenga los microbios! Lávese las manos

¿CUÁNDO?

- Después de ir al baño.
- Antes, durante y después de preparar alimentos.
- Antes de comer.
- Antes y después de cuidar a alguien que tenga vómitos o diarrea.
- Antes y después de tratar cortaduras o heridas.
- Después de cambiarle los pañales a un niño o limpiarlo después de que haya ido al baño.
- Después de sonarse la nariz, toser o estornudar.
- Después de tocar animales, sus alimentos o sus excrementos.
- Después de manipular alimentos o golosinas para mascotas.
- Después de tocar la basura.



¿CÓMO?



Mójese las manos con agua corriente limpia (tibia o fría), cierre el grifo y enjabóñese las manos.



Frótese las manos con el jabón hasta que haga espuma. Asegúrese de frotarse la espuma por el dorso de las manos, entre los dedos y debajo de las uñas.



Restriéguese las manos durante al menos 20 segundos. ¿Necesita algo para medir el tiempo? Tararee dos veces la canción de "Feliz cumpleaños" de principio a fin.



Enjuáguese bien las manos con agua corriente limpia.



Séquese Séquese las manos con una toalla limpia o al aire.

Mantener las manos limpias es una de las cosas más importantes que podemos hacer para detener la propagación de microbios y mantenernos sanos.

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MANOS LIMPIAS



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG SEEKS COMMENT ON ATLAS MINE/MILL AND TAILINGS REMOVAL & STREAM BANK STABILIZATION ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS (EE/CA)

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests is seeking public comment during a 30-day public comment period on the EE/CA for the Atlas Mill and Tailings site located approximately 7 miles southwest of Ouray on Camp Bird Road. The GMUG is evaluating a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) to address mill tailings that contain concentrations of metals that may be hazardous to human health and the environment, in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The Atlas Mill site features remnants of the historic mill structure on a hillside, an adjacent pile of coarse-grained waste rock, and two distinct fine-grained tailings deposits on the floodplain adjacent to the western side of Sneffels Creek. The tailings are partly located within the riparian wet-

land associated with Sneffels Creek. Mobilization of these contaminated materials off-site during rainfall or snowmelt events is of concern. The site footprint is approximately 7.5 acres and is largely devoid of vegetation. Assessment efforts have included a site inspection and separate data gap characterization of the former mine and mill areas, including sampling and chemical analyses of tailings, soil, sediment and adjacent streams. The results of these studies are presented in the EE/CA report, along with a human health and ecological risk screening. The objective of the EE/CA is to evaluate and select the removal action alternative that reduces the potential for exposure to acceptable levels, and to reduce the potential for contaminants to migrate or be released.

A public meeting is planned to present the EE/CA report and discuss the removal action alternatives evaluated:

Date and Time: March 17, 2020, 4 to 5 PM.

Meeting Location: Ouray County Event Center, 22739 Highway 550, Ridgway, CO (970) 626-3304.

The EE/CA report is available for review at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/AtlasMillEECA>

For further information, contact Curtis Cross, GMUG Forest Engineer, 970-874-6667, curtis.cross@usda.gov

All comments regarding the EE/CA report must be received by the Forest Service by April 4, 2020.

Comments may be: Mailed to the GMUG Forest Supervisor's Office, 2250 South Main St., Delta, CO 81416; Delivered to the Forest Supervisor's Office during business hours, Monday - Friday 8 AM to 1 PM, 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Submitted by email to: curtis.cross@usda.gov



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

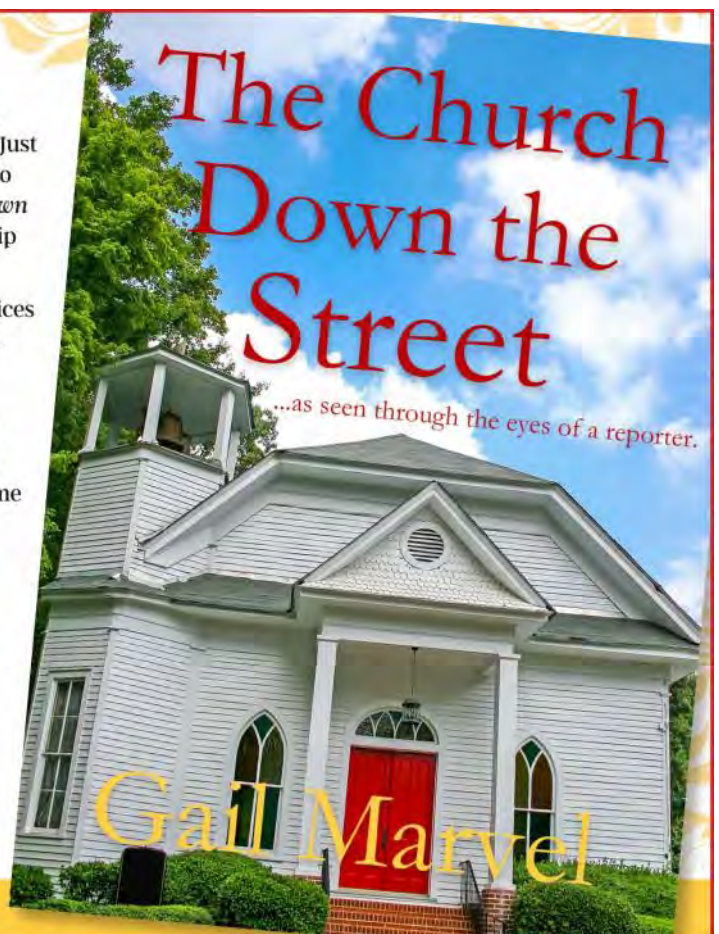
It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

The presence of a reporter in the worship services produced mixed reactions. While many church leaders were grateful for the publicity and exposure for their congregation, others were uneasy. One pastor said, "The minute I saw you

I knew this wasn't my best sermon!" Another pastor said, "We didn't like everything you wrote...but we've made some changes." One elder defended his congregation's lack of friendliness, "Maybe no one spoke to you because of the perfume you were wearing."

Excerpts and anecdotes from approximately 120 church visits are organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program and Source Material, Music, Meditations and Invitations, and Sermons) and include mainstream denominations, as well as Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Christian Science, New Age, and Quaker Silent Worship. *The Church Down the Street* is unbiased and reports on the worship experience, not on the denomination.

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CITY APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH UMB BANK, CARRASCO SAYS ROCKY MT. CHOCOLATE FACTORY CONSIDERING MONTROSE From pg 1

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT
Council voted to approve the appointment of Steve Mason, interviewed previously in work session, to the City Planning Commission for a term that expires Dec. 31.

ORDINANCE 2498-FIRST READING
Council approved Ordinance 2498 on first reading, authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$16,000,000 principal amount of certificates of participation, series 2020, in connection therewith; authorizing officials of the City to take all action necessary to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby; and related matters.

Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed Kyle Thomas of UMB Bank to present information on the site lease and lease purchase agreement process. There is a lot of volatility in the financial space right now, and borrowing rates are historically low, Thomas said. Annual debt service on the project would be \$900K. Community members will be able to purchase the certificates of participation as will other investors.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "We talked about the cost estimate of this building being \$16M...that's what we used to go out to give the public a conceptual idea of what we are building.

"We are really excited about this proposal because we are able to meet that commitment."

"...It ended up being the right time to do this project," Bell said, adding that extra cash flow generated through an interest-only lease structure the first few years of the site lease and lease purchase agreement will be used to cover "inflationary increases in construction costs."

"It won't be to add a bunch of extra stuff to the building, necessarily," he said.

The interest rate will be locked in the day the bonds are sold, Thomas said. April 7 is

the target release date with closing the first week of May.

Speaking in support of the proposal was City Council Candidate David Stockton, who served on the Public Safety Sales Tax Committee and the committee that helped to promote the sales tax increase to fund the new police facility.

"As a candidate for City Council I want to encourage you guys to go ahead and approve this on first reading as presented," Stockton said. "I read the package, I thought it was exciting, and I'm looking forward to it."

ORDINANCE 2495-FIRST READING
Council voted to approve Ordinance 2495 on first reading, regarding the Noxious Weed Management Program, as discussed previously in work session.

ORDINANCES 2496 AND ORDINANCE 2497-FIRST READING

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler presented both items, which were then voted upon and approved separately.

Ordinance 2496 designates the Missouri Building, located at 347 E. Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property; Ordinance 2497 designates the Block Building, located at 345 E. Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property. The buildings, which house the Vine Restaurant and Maggie's Books, are linked. "We are proposing separate designations because there are separate addresses," Morgenthaler said. The buildings were built separately and have separate histories, she noted.

Ordinance 2496 notes that the Missouri Building is more than fifty years old, is significant in its association with the history of commerce in Montrose, having been erected in 1898 as an influential brick building completed specifically to house commercial businesses. The building represents high artistic values in decorative brickwork and ornamental design and reflects the late 19th Century style in the decorated bracketed parapets.

Ordinance 2497 notes that the Block building is more than fifty years old and is significant in its association with the histo-

ry of commerce in Montrose, having been erected in 1886 as the first brick building completed specifically to house commercial businesses. The building is a notable example of the work of local contractors Buddecke & Diehl and was the first Masonic Lodge meeting hall in Montrose.

TRAVEL HOME PARK PERMIT

Council voted to approve a Travel Home Park Permit at 801 S. Hillcrest Drive for BPOE Lodge #1053. The final step in the official process, the permit for the Travel Home Park was explored at length by the Planning Commission and vetted in a lengthy de novo hearing before City Council prior to being officially approved with conditions on Jan. 21. Senior Planner Garry Baker displayed maps and photos and reviewed the process and conditions for approval of the park, which was reduced from the requested 32 sites to 28 sites as one of the conditions. An eight-foot privacy fence must be installed, and the permit carries only to the Elks Lodge and must come before Council for renewal if the property sells. The Travel Home Park is not open to the public, but to members of the Elks. All improvements must be installed as shown on the plan prior to opening.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARING

Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer conducted the hearing for review and comment on the City's performance in carrying out a federally funded Community Development Block Grant (Grant 18-042 - Woodgate Trails Senior Apartments) and to fulfill the programmatic closeout requirement of the grant.

Background-A memo prepared by Cramer for Council notes that in January of 2018 the City of Montrose submitted a grant application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) on behalf of Four Corners Development, LLC to secure \$500,000 for land acquisition costs associated with the Woodgate Trails Senior Apartments, a 50-unit senior housing project located at 1700 Odelle Road. The funding was secured and used to create a

CITY APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH UMB BANK, CARRASCO SAYS ROCKY MT. CHOCOLATE FACTORY CONSIDERING MONTROSE From previous pg

revolving loan fund for the aforementioned project and similar projects. Woodgate Trails, LLLP (Limited Liability Limited Partnership), will pay the loan back over 40 years. No direct funding was provided by the city. The project will assist those at many different income levels with five units for those earning 30 percent of the area median income (AMI), nine units for those earning 40 percent AMI, 23 units for those earning 50 percent AMI, and 13 units for those earning 60 percent AMI. The total project costs were \$13,381,650, including the \$500,000 CDBG. The project was completed in November 2019 and all units are leased. Woodgate Trails Manager Gini McNair was present to answer questions. "I am very excited to be the community manager at Woodgate Trails." There will be a waiting list for apartments should there be openings in the future, she said.

Mayor Bowman thanked McNair for giving Council a tour.

Said Councilor Roy Anderson, "I took the tour along with many of my colleagues, and it's a beautiful building. We got to actually visit with some residents, and it's really quite a stunning property.

"I was very impressed," Anderson said. "I was thinking as I was going through it that I wished my mother would have been able to live there."

Said Bowman, "It's a series of one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, very modern, very bright, just a wonderful feeling as soon as you walk in the front door. It's a wonderful asset for our community, particularly for our low-income senior citizens that can qualify for that.

"It's just beautiful," Bowman said.

Said Councilor Doug Glaspell, "The individuals that we had an opportunity to speak with that live there all seem to be very happy. And the one lady that fixed the cookies, they were excellent."

Youth Councilor Clara Carrasco said, "Given that our population at Montrose is growing and that we are seeing many young-at-heart retired folks coming into our county, I am glad that we see an elderly care center built."

CERRO RESERVOIR OUTLET WORKS REPLACEMENT CHANGE ORDER

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to approve contract change

orders totaling \$186,000 for completion of the Cerro Reservoir Outlet Works Replacement project, including \$146,000 to Mountain Valley Contracting for construction and \$40,000 to RJH Consultants for engineering support and construction oversight.

SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF RAPID DEPLOYMENT BOOM

As discussed previously in work session, Council approved a sole source purchase to Faris Machinery for a Rapid Deployment Boom for the City's Vactor® truck for the total price of \$62,056.63. The rapid deployment boom will increase both safety and efficiency of City crews, Utilities Manager David Bries noted.

Said Carrasco, "Essentially this would decrease safety hazards...it probably would be a good idea to essentially pass this, because at the end of the day a safety hazard could cost a lot more than this could cost."

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Council voted to approve: a sole source agreement with Centrisys Centrifuge Systems in an amount not to exceed \$57,085.00 for repairs to Centrifuge #2 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; an agreement with Carollo Engineers, Inc. to perform a nutrient removal optimization study at the City of Montrose Wastewater Treatment Plant for an amount not to exceed \$85,000; purchase of one greens mower, one grounds mower, and one self-propelled sprayer to L.L. Johnson of Denver for the total purchase price of \$116,296; and the purchase of 40 Axon In-Car and 45 Body-Worn Cameras with Aware+ for the Montrose Police Department for the total purchase price of \$135,862. All items have been previously discussed in City work sessions or meetings.

STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS

City Manager Bill Bell spoke. "I just wanted to highlight a training opportunity that three of us from the City participated in for the last couple of days over at the Ute Indian Museum," Bell said. "Ann and I and Bethany, our new community engagement specialist, took part in a leadership on the ground program."

Sponsored by the Colorado Health Foundation and Center for Creative Leadership, the event drew 24 participants, he said.

"We will be spending six whole days together... we are going to start working as a cohort group within the community...we spent the last two days really just getting to know each other, building our network, and learning about inclusion and equity and diversity," he said, "and then learning a bit about our behavioral traits and how we can learn to get along with our people, especially people that might have different political philosophies than all of us, because there's a lot of different people in the community representing different groups and ideas."

Montrose Police Commander Matt Smith discussed the Police Department awards ceremony held the night before. "It was a great time for our administration to showcase and highlight and recognize our officers for the great work they do in the community every single day," Smith said. He thanked Council members for attending the ceremony.

Youth Council Representative Clara Carrasco said that Youth Council would host a Rock the Rec event at the Community Rec Center March 6. "We are expecting multiple teens to come," she said. Carrasco also said she had spoken to Colorado District 58 Representative Marc Catlin. "...I talked about how Russell Stover is closing down and what he planned on doing to help us," she said. "And he talked about how there is speech going between the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, like they might want to move to our town...they might want to expand here and take over the previous factory.

"I also spoke to Senator Coram," she added, "HE mostly spoke to ME about water rights."

Mayor Bowman said that City Manager Bill Bell has received his annual evaluation, and will continue to be the City Manager for at least the next year.

"Congratulations, you've done a super job in 2019," he said to Bell, "2019 was a super year and much of that was due to your leadership, sir."

"We're lucky to have you," Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said.

Bowman said that the next day was Bynum's birthday, and led Council and attendees in singing Happy Birthday to her. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

EXPECTED MAXIMUM HOSPITAL-SPECIFIC RATES UNDER COLORADO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE OPTION RELEASED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI) (part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies) and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing have provided the expected reimbursement rates for all Colorado hospitals under the proposed Colorado Affordable Health Care Option (HB20-1349). These reimbursement rates are derived from a proposed formula developed by the DOI and the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing as the final part of the recommendation delivered to the Legislature as required by HB19-1004.

"This formula provides fair reimbursement rates to hospitals across the state while also ensuring a reduction in premiums for Coloradans who would buy the Colorado Affordable Healthcare Option. Colorado has the 5th highest hospital prices and the 2nd highest hospital profits in the nation. At the same time, this formula is responsive to the fact that our critical access and independent hospitals are pillars in our communities, especially in rural parts of the state," said Michael Conway, Colorado's Commissioner of Insurance. On average, Colorado hospitals are able to cover their costs when they are reimbursed at 143% of Medicare rates. This number is calculated from annual data

that Colorado hospitals submit to the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA). CHA submits this data to the Colorado Health Care Affordability Sustainability Enterprise (CHASE) board, which includes the data in an annual report. The formula sets a base rate at 155% of Medicare rates, then considers a number of unique characteristics of each individual hospital to increase the reimbursement for that hospital.

- Is the hospital Independent or Critical Access? (20% increase for one of these, or 40% for both)
- Does the hospital serve a high percentage of Medicare or Medicaid patients? (Up to 30% increase for having a high share of such patients)
- Does the hospital do a good job managing administrative costs, the underlying costs of care, and/or are they already charging reasonable rates? (Up to 40% increase)

This formula is applied on a hospital by hospital basis, to establish the maximum reimbursement rate for that hospital. The amount is described as a percentage of the payment rate that each hospital receives from Medicare.

Examples:

These examples work through the base rate of 155% of Medicare rates, adding in the percentage increases for each hospi-

tal's unique characteristics, arriving at the expected reimbursement rates for the Colorado Affordable Health Care Option.

Denver Health Medical Center

Per the formula, Denver Health gets 20% added to the 155% base for being an independent hospital. Then 12% is added for having a high percentage of Medicaid / Medicare patients, and then another 21% for managing the underlying costs of care.

Boulder Community Health

Boulder Community Health gets 20% added to the 155% base for being an independent hospital. Then 18% is added for managing the underlying costs of care.

Montrose Memorial Hospital

Montrose Memorial gets 20% added to the 155% base for being an independent hospital. Then 12 % is added for having a high percentage of Medicaid / Medicare patients, and then another 25% for managing the underlying costs of care.

San Luis Valley Health Conejos County Hospital

Conejos County Hospital gets 40% added to the 155% base for being both a critical access hospital and an independent hospital. Then 15% is added for having a high percentage of Medicaid / Medicare patients, and then another 15% for managing the underlying costs of care.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

CITY CONTINUES TO EVADE, IGNORE PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR TRANSPARENCY

Editor:

Increasingly more and more taxpayers have become aware of concerns many have had for quite some time, regarding issues revolving around the lack of transparency within many facets of our City government. The fact that there are eleven citizens running for three Council seats is indicative of the great concern many have with the direction of our City government on this particular issue, as well as other serious issues regarding highly questionable allocations of tax dollars in lieu of bonafide priority spending.

I personally have experienced the frustration of being stonewalled by the City for having the audacity to seek the answers to direct probing questions regarding City financial information. Late last year I determined to research the differences [if any] in the salary/benefit packages of the County Manager vs the City Manager. My first visit was to the County office where I simply requested that information, which was promptly provided that very day. With the City, I had to go through the Colorado Open Records Act [CORA] and a multi day waiting period [background check??] to gain financial information, that one would certainly expect to be readily available just for the asking.

In comparing the two salary/benefit packages it became quite clear that there was great disparity between the two, which certainly should raise taxpayer eyebrows. The County Manager base salary is \$120,200, with benefits of \$17,403 [14.4% of base salary], for managing an employee base of roughly 375 employees. The result is a per employee management cost of \$320 for Montrose County.

The City Manager base salary, however, is \$170,000 [\$49,800 greater than the County Manager], with benefits of \$55,221 [\$37,818 greater than the County Manager, and a whopping 32.5% of base salary for benefits]. With an employee base of roughly 165 employees [half the size of the County], the City management cost per employee is \$1,030, over three times the County cost. Taxpayers may want to question that great difference.

With such glaring disparity between City

and County, part of the problem, in my opinion, lies in the methodology the City utilizes to determine "comparable" manager salaries. The City surveys manager salaries in 17 Western Slope communities comparable to Montrose. But then, for some 'strange' reason, the City surveys salaries of 7 Front Range communities, none of which bear any valid comparability to Montrose, and include those in the evaluation process, thereby inflating the "considered" City Manager salary.

Front Range average salaries of communities surveyed are \$176,757, while Western Slope average manager salaries are \$143,255. By including non Western Slope communities, our City Manager base salary is grossly inflated by at least \$34,000, and when compared to the County Manager, is inflated by almost \$50,000. Remember, this is Montrose and not a more affluent Front Range city. No public employee is worth 4-5 times the average household income of those paying the bills.

Looking further, I determined to attempt finding out the makeup of the City Manager benefits, so accomplishing that dictated another CORA request. The first response received was that, "the City of Montrose is not in possession of a specific record pertaining to this request". My first indication of being stonewalled! My response was for the Clerk to check with the City Finance Director, who would of necessity have that information as a part of the budget. The next response from the City was an email stating they received my "most recent request for public records.." and it would be available after research. What suddenly happened to the claim of having no such record?? Ahah! Confirmation of being stonewalled! Later the next week, the information I was seeking arrived, but in my opinion it was incomplete. My followup email questioned glaring benefit omissions such as bonus amounts, a \$60+K vehicle for business and personal use, vacations, and the value of any family Rec Center membership. The response from the Clerk's office was, "questions and answers to questions do not fall under the Colorado Open Records Act". In other words, we are not answering any more

questions relative to this. A follow up email on February 14 reiterated the information I was seeking to fulfill my request, but as of this date I have not received the courtesy of a reply. How's that for transparency from your City government?

Now, in defense of the good ladies in the Clerk's office, I can tell you that stonewalling the public IS NOT in their DNA! Since they operate directly under the authority of the City Manager, their marching orders undoubtedly come directly from that office, and I seriously doubt any Council member is fully aware of how that authority is wielded in house. Since being hired in 2012, the Manager has gradually solidified his position of authority. In 2014, City Charter changes were promoted that gave the Manager complete authority over the Police Chief and the City Clerk. Council members at that time essentially agreed to abdicate their oversight responsibility to the City Manager in these respects. With jobs clearly at risk, no City employee will go but so far in taking a position in opposition to that of the City Manager. Just for kicks, GOOGLE "The average tenure of a City manager in Colorado" and see where we stand.

Much is on the line in the April municipal election, just as it is in the November national election. If you think the City of Montrose needs to be REINED in and infused with new direction, it is critical to understand that to affect that change it will be necessary to elect THREE NEW citizens who have a clear understanding of the current City problems, the ability to detect attempted manipulation, and the backbone to address needed changes of direction. Of eleven candidates, two [Bynum & Anderson], are incumbents, good folks, but whose reelection guarantees more of the same. Two other candidates [Frank & Stockton] were strong supporters of an 18% sales tax hike in November, absent any real due diligence, also good folks, but a vote for either of them would likely not be productive in securing the needed change of direction.

Voters are urged to attend candidate forums and make your best determination after learning where each stands.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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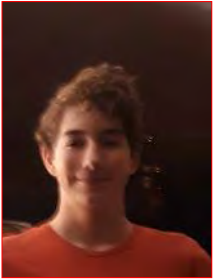
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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

AT LEAST THE LIGHTSABER BATTLES WERE COOL...



Jack Switzer, 16

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-Sitting in the theatre, my mind was filled with wonder, intrigue, and excitement. The new Star Wars movie had finally arrived. I had been watching Star Wars ever since I was but a wee, young lad.

The epic and thrilling lightsaber clashes, the incredible and mystical abilities of the force, the incredible and heart-wrenching stories, and last but not least, r2d2's funny screams.

And as the yellow text began to scroll, my eyes that had once been filled with an overflowing joy, fell.

Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker, directed

by J.J Abrams is a hot mess that did enough to wrap up the sequel trilogy, but it becomes evident that its overarching narrative wasn't clearly outlined.

Palpatine? Alive? Even though I watched that old, grey, character get literally disintegrated in front of my young eyes so many years ago? How old even is he? He has no real character motivation other than "I wanna rule the galaxy again and I'm sorta mad I got (almost) killed a while ago."

Palpatine also suddenly has an armada of death star laser star destroyers; despite the fact that he lost his army and workers a long time ago, he found a way to build them anyway.

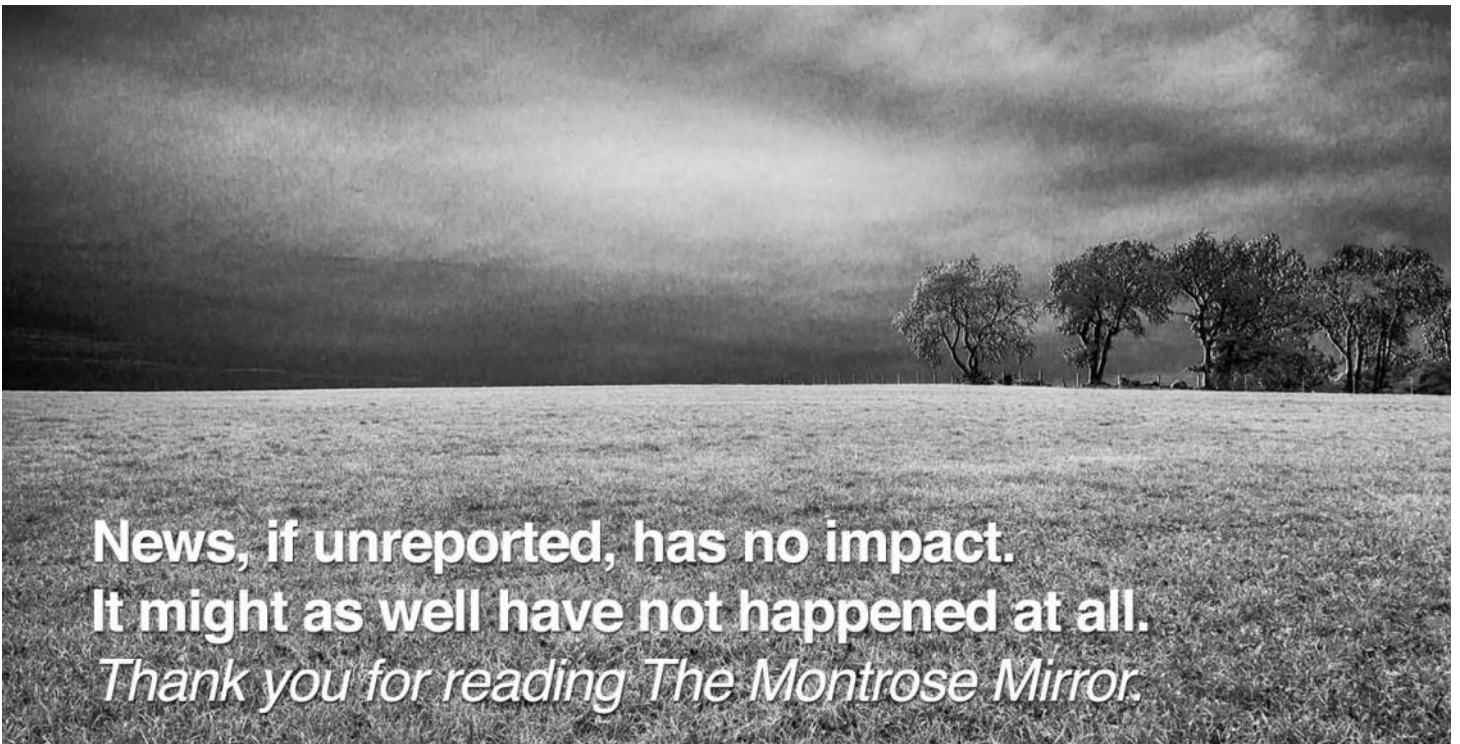
Did he order a star destroyer kit online and make them himself?

What was the deal with Rey? There was a

five-minute long training sequence at the beginning of the movie and suddenly she's stronger with the force than Luke Skywalker. Being able to accidentally shoot force lightning out of her fingers even though it took Palpatine and Dooku years and years of training to reach that level of power with the dark side, she gets a smidge angry and just lets it rip without a second thought or an ounce of dark-side training.

The only character that stood out to me in this movie was Kylo Ren, played by Adam Driver. Who despite having a watered down mediocre script, did his best to play the character and it really shows. He felt like a real person, and not your average movie bad guy like Palpatine. Driver's motivation is clearly outlined, and his redemption doesn't feel forced.

At least the lightsaber battles were cool.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE WEEK IN REVIEW-JUST A COUPLE OF SHORT COMMENTS

Editor:

Democracy cannot survive without transparency and accountability. Dee Laird continues to be stonewalled about Mr. Bell's total remuneration. Why? It is a public record and should be accessible with the key stroke on the computer. The city continues to stonewall which is just the opposite of Transparency. Is this because they do not want to be held accountable?

Would a question about Bell's use of his county credit card be likewise stonewalled?

There was a splendid interview of all candidates at the "Turn of the Century". Ms. Bynam and Mr. Anderson (incumbents) stood firmly behind the 2A sales tax on groceries. Msrs. Stockton and Frank seem to quiver and waiver at the question and the remaining seven candidates soundly said NO to it.

During the discussion where Bynum and Anderson firmly said that they, the council, absolutely needed the funds so generated by the grocery tax, Bennett replied, essentially, that it should be done away with and that it was council's job to find alternative methods of funding that covers the need. I would opine, that just because Mrs. Jones wants a new house, it does not excuse Mr. Jones to rob a bank, or a citizen or to pick a pocket to make her wish come true.

The question, "Do you support economic development?" Of course, yes, we all do;

that was a dumb question. But at what price? The interrogators drilled down on that and polling took place on the grocery tax (2A) issue. Same results were had when it was a question of achieving economic development by means of 'incentives for private industry'. All seven of the candidates voting NO on the grocery tax voiced a loud and resounding NO on incentives when individually polled. Same thing happened when the candidates were asked what the city should do to help business get started and the answer was another but much more resounding "Get out of the Way". Simply put, this says that these seven candidates, and I presume their constituents want their city to concentrate on Water, Police, Sewers, Roads and maybe Parks. Not incentives.

The issue of the chemical tank next to Tortilla Flats was addressed by a guest inquisitor from that neighborhood. He was indignant, and rightly so, because the citizens were not included in any discussion of the matter prior to construction. While no one offered a reason 'why the residents were not' consulted it is quite obvious that 'non-upscale' communities in Montrose are entitled to less 'upscale' considerations than others. This attitude, and I have heard it quietly mumbled often, absolutely disgusts me. I did not serve my country for 21 wonderful Marine Corps years to see my fellow American Marines' kinfolk treated with contempt. Such behavior is insidious and un-American.

havior is insidious and un-American.

I saw in the MDP that the city offered a placebo; a 'card stacked' meeting like the one offered to the 2A opponents a couple of weeks ago. I understand that Tortilla Flats is inflamed.

Finally, from the silence (stonewalling) over at city hall there might just be some kind of a secret (or should I say 'quiet') deal in the works between the city and Russell Stover candies. Like a super good deal for the city to buy the factory if the city will just buy it quickly and quietly. If I were Russell Stover I would love that idea. Cheap and quick and out of their hair and pocket-book. WELL THAT SHOULD BE A NO, NO, NO! From my sources, and I hope to have more evidence within the week, I am convinced that the Russell Stover building and the land around it are a Federal Hazardous Waste site that needs between 10 and 20 million dollars in remediation (clean up) before it can be TORN DOWN or used for anything. The owner pays for all of that.

THE CITY OF MONTROSE DOES NOT WANT THAT OBLIGATION AND I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NOT ANYONE IN THE CITY ADMINISTRATION CAPABLE OF HANDLING IT. LET THE RUSSELL STOVER PEOPLE CLEAN IT UP TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND THEN LET SOMEONE ELSE BUY IT. It is my opinion that the building will never be able to be used for anything.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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THE MIRROR,

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

ARE YOU HAPPY AND CONTENT WITH THE DIRECTION THE CITY OF MONTROSE IS GOING?

Editor:

As a candidate for the Montrose City Council (District 3), I participated in a public question and answer forum last Thursday night, March 5, 2020 sponsored by the Pizza & Politics group. With 11 candidates running for three seats, we have quite a choice to make in this year's election. The simple question you, as a voter, must ask yourself is: Am I happy and content with the direction the City of Montrose is going?

During the forum, the candidates basically split into two groups – the incumbents (Barbara Bynum and Roy Anderson) and two active volunteers for City committees or task forces (David Stockton and Dave Frank) formed one group. This group of candidates expressed their satisfaction with the decisions that have been made by the current City Council and the progressive agenda that has been followed over these last 4-6 years as the City has fought back from the last economic recession. The other seven (7) candidates were generally concerned with the decisions of the incumbents and their allies and what it means for the future of our City.

Success stories cited by the "group of four" included the sales tax increase to build the Rec Center (which passed by roughly 100 votes of City residents in an election that excluded County residents who live within the Rec District boundaries) and which effort was led by Councilor Barbara Bynum; the Public Safety Sales Tax effort led by Ouray County resident John Nelson and the "Blue Ribbon Task

Force" the City Council created with appointed members Stockton and Frank proudly supporting and endorsing an effort known as "One Community Safer Together" to build a new police operations center and hire more officer's with a permanent sales tax increase – an effort which passed by just 69 votes of City residents; the Colorado Outdoors project along with numerous giveaways to a variety of private companies for infrastructure, landscaping, subsidized jobs, etc. resulting in millions of dollars of City "investment" of your tax money in these speculative ventures. There were more "success stories" like trails, bike paths, water parks, etc., but I'll stop there.

In contrast to this group were most of the other candidates. As a vocal opponent of the policies and direction of the current City Council and their followers, I made it clear that the public's health, safety and welfare MUST come first. We can have the "nice to have" amenities, but only after the necessities are taken care of. Millions of dollars have been squandered as our roads have fallen into disrepair resulting in almost \$40,000,000 of deferred maintenance as evidenced by potholed streets, failing sidewalks, curbs, etc.; neglect of our public safety as tax money went out the door for non-essential projects without adequate funding to law enforcement; budget allocation for a new \$3,000,000 amphitheater to be used in the warmer months; in-kind exchange of services with various public entities that cost the taxpayer's money; environmental cleanup of

the Russell Stover candy factory site which sits on land owned by the City is coming and there's more. The list is long and concerning.

Incumbent Councilor Roy Anderson stated in a recent newspaper interview that "having tax dollars sitting in a bank account is not very productive." Really? Giving it away to speculative businesses, hotel projects, apartment complex developers, daycare providers and so many others has been the pattern of him and his colleagues. When they run short, they call on us to give them more money to operate on. They apply sales tax to our essentials like food, electricity, natural gas, cars, etc. You get to pay even more if you like to eat out as they tack on another 8¢ to the tax bill for every dollar spent. They double tax us by making us pay sales tax on the additional fees they impose upon us and yet it's never enough! City of Montrose taxes are higher than 92% of all Colorado municipalities (<https://www.salestaxhandbook.com/colorado/rates/montrose>). God help us if there's another financial crash!

For these reasons and so many more, I encourage you to take this year's election seriously. We live in a wonderful and vibrant community. I don't want to see it slip away. A vote for David White is one that will help restore some balance to the City's priorities and direction. We're heading for a financial shipwreck folks. You have the chance to help stop it with your vote.

David White, Montrose



**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

AS IF IT WASN'T INSULTING ENOUGH THE FIRST TIME

Editor:

And in case anybody failed to notice, the usually vociferous city manager has opted to leave the master of ceremony duties to his subordinates to execute the potentially volatile and combative elements of a less-than-welcoming audience.

That 'audience' is regularly referred to and insinuated in the City Pravda newspaper as the "torches and pitchfork crowd" (yellow journalism code-word for "you unappreciative, stinkin' tax payers") simply because a large number of the populace has awakened from dormancy after noticing that the tax and spend city council led by their Hail Caesar-City Manager can't sleep at night without fantasies of the next city sales tax to be enacted. You know, those pesky things that pop up

overnight because a city government is incapable of planning and forecasting expenses like law enforcement, streets and sidewalks, etc., when you are blinded by the important and really expensive entertainment promotion facilities (amphitheater), and multi-million dollar economic development addictions (MURA) that you just can't kick. After all, government is always reinventing itself into doing so much more than just that boring, unchallenging stuff like law enforcement, health and safety and infrastructure.

These government types go into this line of work aka public sector, because they are very proficient at working one side of the financial ledger because they think they have the luxury of knowing that the

TAX PAYER will take care of the REVENUE SIDE which will in turn allow them to take victory laps and slap each other on the back for all of the tax payer money they just blew on a giant, speculative private sector scheme.

Maybe you-the tax payer should line up outside Bill Bell's office with your speculative business plan and demand your "piece of the proverbial pie".

April is *We the People's* opportunity to turn this ship back to mature, pragmatic, principled and 'left brained' government as opposed to this progressive insanity that has befallen the City of Montrose. Please, if you live in the city, vote by marking your ballot for David White, Yvonne Meek and Bill Bennett.

R. L. Michaels, Montrose



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ISSUE 253 March 9, 2020

ART & SOL

NICOLA FUCIGNA TO PRESENT AT MARCH POETRY CLUB



Nicola Fucigna.
Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
TELLURIDE ... The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club presents Nicole Fucigna on Tuesday March 17th at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts HQ Gallery located at 135 West Pacific Ave.,

across the street from the Wilkinson Public Library.

Longtime on-and-off-again local, Nicola Fucigna will be reading from her work-in-progress, *Doorways*, a series of prose poems centered on real and literary doorways.

This project unites her background in creative writing and architecture. The poems range from autobiographical to research-based; from the woods of Norwood, Colorado, to Peter Zumthor's Thermal Baths in Vals, Switzerland; from the Sultan Shahryar in *One Thousand and One Nights* to Kafka's gatekeeper in *The Trial*; from the performance artists Tehching Hsieh and Linda Montano's "Rope Piece" to Dr. Kevorkian's "medicide" machines.

Nicola will give a multi-media presentation to help contextualize her poems and

to allow images to play with words.

Nicola Fucigna has been coming to Telluride since the early '80s. Her father Roberto was a hairdresser in town. His shop, Roberto of Italy, is now Bliss Bang Bang. During her salad days, Nicola worked at Between The Covers as a barista and bookseller. In 2006, she was awarded a grant via the "Write Here: Telluride's Literary Mirror" contest and developed a project, Human Topography, on the living history of Telluride.

Since then she has earned an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in architecture from the University of Oregon. She is co-editor in chief of the online literary magazine Construction, in which she edits and contributes to a column on literary architecture, the poetics of real and imagined spaces. Her poetry has appeared in *Camas: The Nature of the West*, *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, and *Country Dog Review*, among other venues. She is a freelance copyeditor for Fall Line Editing.

The theme/prompt for those wanting to share poems during the Passing of the Gourd is "Madness!". And a special treat: There will be a jazz musician present, available to play with readers during the gourd circle open reading!

Poetry Club readings in Telluride start at 6 p.m. beginning with Club News & Other

Business. Following that, the featured readers share work for 30 to 45 minutes. There's a short break. And then we pass the Gourd, and everyone has the opportunity to share their own poem (on any topic) -- or a piece by a favorite author on the month's theme.

Up-to-date paid members of the Poetry Club are eligible for a free broadside copy of a select poem of the featured reader(s) crafted by Daiva Chesonis -- co-owner of another of our partners, independently-owned Between the Covers Bookstore. Non-members can purchase the broadsides at the store.

Membership forms are available at the club meeting, and help support the continuation of the program. But Poetry Club events are free and open to all.

In May we're planning to have poets Bonnie Emerick and Elizabeth Lara as our featured readers -- on the 12th. Mark your calendars.

This past December Talking Gourds sponsored a new student poetry contest, the Rella Awards, thanks to a grant from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund.

The contest is named for Ettore Rella (1903-1988), a poet and playwright who was born in Telluride, studied in Rome, and went on to become a celebrity in New York City.

Contest winners and their marvelous poems can be found [here](#).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE'S MARKET ON THE PLAZA NOW ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 DATES

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE— The Town of Mountain Village is now accepting applications for the 2020 Market on the Plaza. Applications for regional vendors are due April 1, 2020.

Market on the Plaza is held on Wednesdays in mid-summer from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Heritage Plaza, the center of Mountain Village. Heritage Plaza is steps from the free gondola and is adjacent to Sunset Plaza, where the popular free Summer Concert Series brings noteworthy, high-caliber musicians of all genres to Mountain Village throughout the summer.

"With the wildly popular Telluride Bike Park opening last summer, and the busiest market season we've seen in 2019, we are very excited for a fun and busy summer season in Mountain Village," said Zoe Dohnal, business development and sustainability senior manager for the Town of Mountain Village.

The Market runs every Wednesday, June 17 through Sept. 2, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Market on the Plaza and to apply, please visit marketingontheplaza.com by April 1, 2020.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SEE THE GUNNY SONS LIVE IN CONCERT AT THE RADIO ROOM



The Radio Room proudly presents the Gunny Sons live In Concert , Friday, April 3. Courtesy image.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The Radio Room proudly presents the Gunny Sons live In Concert , Friday, April 3. Doors at 7 p.m. Show at 7:30 PM. Originally from Detroit, Michigan and Nashville, Tennessee, Eric Kelly and Ian Fondrk formed the Gunny Sons where the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers meet in Grand Junction, Colorado. Their unique two guitar front with an extra helping of heavy harmonies and "one man band" style drums is a fresh ap-

proach to the Americana/Folk/Blues Genre. Kelly's previous bands have shared stages with The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Lucero, Shooter Jennings, and Eric Church, to name a few. Fondrk's band was a regular in the Nashville club scene before his

move to Colorado. Come see The Gunny Sons! Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.



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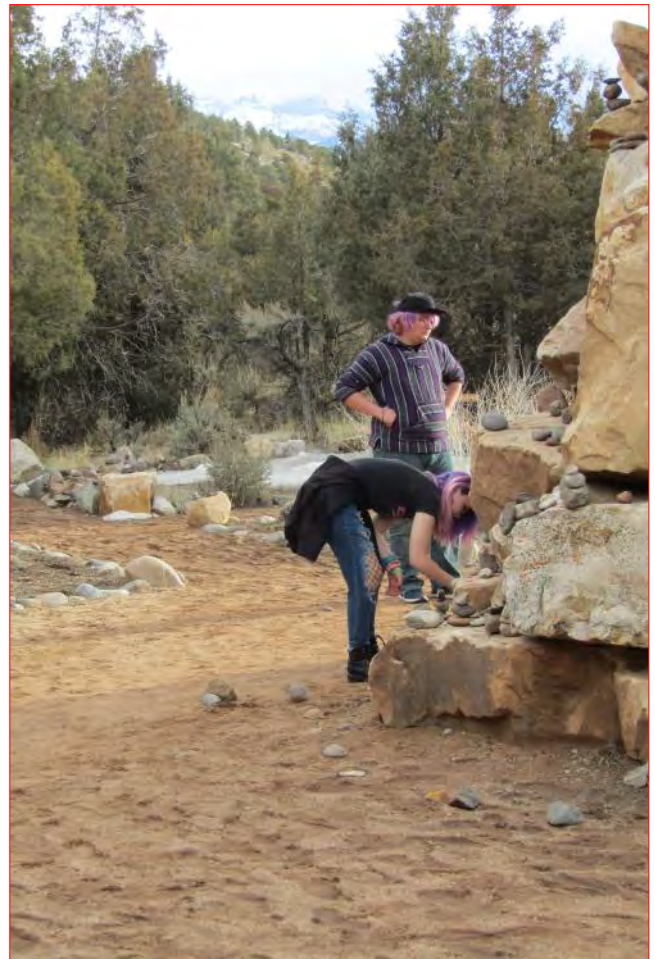
At right, Brad and Harry Switzer took advantage of Sunday's warm weather to get in a day of almost-spring skiing at Telluride.



Taking photos for his early high school graduation, Jacob Gibbons of Montrose, below, stood in front of an appropriate sign in Ridgway State Park Saturday. Photo by Nanci Gibbons.



Below, Jacob and Annie at the Dennis Weaver Memorial in Ridgway.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LEARN ABOUT COLORADO'S FRONTIER FORTS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-During the 19th century the United States Government built forts throughout the West, first for economic trade and then to protect white settlements. Learn about the various types of forts in Colorado, particularly the western Colorado sites of Fort Davy Crockett, Fort Crawford, Fort Lewis, Fort Roubideaux and Fort Peabody. The history of frontier forts, while interesting in itself, also illuminates trends in the commerce, exploration, and ethnic diversity of the American West. Terence Hammer is a lifelong Western Colorado resident, Army veteran, and local historical enthusiast, who specializes in Colorado military history. Terence Hammer presents "Frontier Forts of Colorado," March 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Montrose Library Meeting Room.

ZEBULON MIRACLE TO PRESENT TALK ABOUT HISTORICAL MAPS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Area historian Zebulon Miracle will present a talk about historical maps on March 18 at the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society meeting in Montrose. Maps are invaluable for understanding historical communities and sites. This talk will show hundreds of years of western Colorado history though maps included early exploration, General Land Office surveys, and Sanborn maps. Each of these resources are available online and brief instructions and tips on using these databases will be given.

Zebulon Miracle is a historian and anthropologist who specializes in connecting audiences to the people, places, and events that make up the American West. A western Colorado native, Zeb was a curator at the Museums of Western Colorado for a dozen years before going to Gateway Canyons where he was the director of the Gateway Auto Museum and educational programs. He is currently the Corporate Partner Manager for the Forever Our Rivers Foundation. The public is invited to the presentation which will be at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Street, Montrose.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO LIBRARIES HELP PEOPLE CHECK OUT STATE PARKS



CPW courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER – Looking for ideas to help you plan your next outdoor adventure? Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in partnership with the Colorado State Library, offers the “Check Out State Parks” program to help Coloradans visit state parks at no cost and experience everything the great outdoors has to offer through hands-on learning.

The program is available statewide, makes Colorado state parks easily accessi-

ble, and provides a backpack filled with educational materials that recommend a range of outdoor activities to help you decide how to spend your time in nature.

Nearly 300 Colorado libraries are participating in the “Check Out State Parks” program, including all public libraries, three military base libraries and publically funded academic libraries.

Local libraries promote the program with seasonal displays, and have one or two adventure backpacks available for check out. Each backpack contains the following:

- Annual Colorado State Park Pass for free park entry (hang tag)
- Your Guide to Colorado’s State Parks*
- An activity ideas list
- Binoculars
- Leave No Trace - Outdoor Ethics Card
- Educational materials: *Fishing Basics Instruction Sheet*, *Colorado Trees and Wild-*

flower Guide, *Colorado Wildlife Guide*, *Night Sky Guide*, etc.

Library patrons can check out the backpack and park pass for up to seven days and use it to visit any Colorado state park. Colorado’s 41 state parks are as diverse as the state itself, and they offer something for everyone.

CPW asks participants to please share their experiences on social media by tagging [#CheckOutColorado](#).

These interactive backpacks encourage you to immerse yourself in nature and develop new skills as you explore different environments.

From selecting the park and activity, to navigating park maps, observing wildlife and enjoying new landscapes, the opportunity to put nature theory into real-world practice can teach a variety of valuable life lessons.

For more information on educational programs, visit the [CPW website](#). To learn more about supporting conservation through outdoor recreation, visit [live-lifeoutside.co](#).



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SHED ANTLER COLLECTION PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC LANDS WEST OF I-25 THROUGH APRIL 30



Annual shed collection closures to protect wintering wildlife remain in place on all public lands west of I-25 through April 30. Fines and license suspension points are assessed for those violating the closures. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MOFFAT COUNTY-- Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds shed hunters that the collection and possession of antlers or horns on all public lands west of I-25 is prohibited between January 1 and April 30 each year.

[This closure, in place since 2018](#), is intended to protect wintering animals from unnecessary human disturbance during the late winter months when ungulate body condition is at its worst.

"The closure has been very successful in protecting wildlife during the late winter, however, there are still some who have ignored the closures," said wildlife officer

Garrett Smith. "The driving force for shed collection is money, and when you put a price tag on something, you will have people who will go to great lengths to exploit that."

This closure is for public lands only; the collection of antlers and horns on private lands is still permitted. However, permission to access private lands is always required regardless of the time of year.

Due to a recently approved increase in wildlife-related fines, the possession of a single antler or horn will cost you \$137 and 5 license suspension points. Accumulation of 20 or more points may lead to suspensions of hunting and fishing privi-

leges in Colorado and 48 other states, which include all of Colorado's neighboring states.

As two people in Moffat County recently discovered, CPW is taking the closure very seriously.

The two individuals were identified as Lucas Price and Bobby Higginbotham of Vernal, Utah.

Both were convicted for the possession of 17 elk antlers in March of 2019 and have had their hunting and fishing privileges suspended for one year as of January 2020. Both individuals also received a fine of \$1,233 for possessing the antlers.

Price and Higginbotham were contacted by wildlife officials while on snowmobile in game management unit 10, an area that is managed for quality hunting opportunity by CPW.

Wildlife officer Smith also stated that this area has seen a large amount of attention by shed collectors due to the size of elk and deer antlers known to be in this unit.

In this case, the individuals were found to have collected the antlers on BLM land, while others have resorted to trespassing on private property to try and escape the closure rules. In conjunction with the closure, if a person is found to be in possession of shed antlers while trespassing they will be charged for the possession of those antlers as well.

CPW encourages people with information about illegal shed collection to call their local CPW office or the [Operation Game Thief \(OGT\)](#) hotline at 1-877-265-6648.

Tips to OGT may earn you monetary rewards, individuals who call OGT may remain anonymous.



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The Montrose Mirror

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BCBGC YOUTHS OF THE MONTH



Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month is Kolter. Courtesy photo.



Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month is Yarelli. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Check out the latest Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) Youths of the Month! Kolter was chosen as the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Kolter has been attending Club for a few months now. After his first week of Club, his mother was so surprised by his progress report of his awesome attitude and helpfulness. Kolter had been having some trouble at school and at home, so his mom was so happy when something about the Club clicked with Kolter; after just a couple months of mentoring at Club, his overall behavior improved and he has not been in any more trouble. Yarelli was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. She is always willing to help out her fellow Club members and the Club staff, often without being asked, and has a positive, kind attitude.

Way to go Kolter and Yarelli - we are proud of you!



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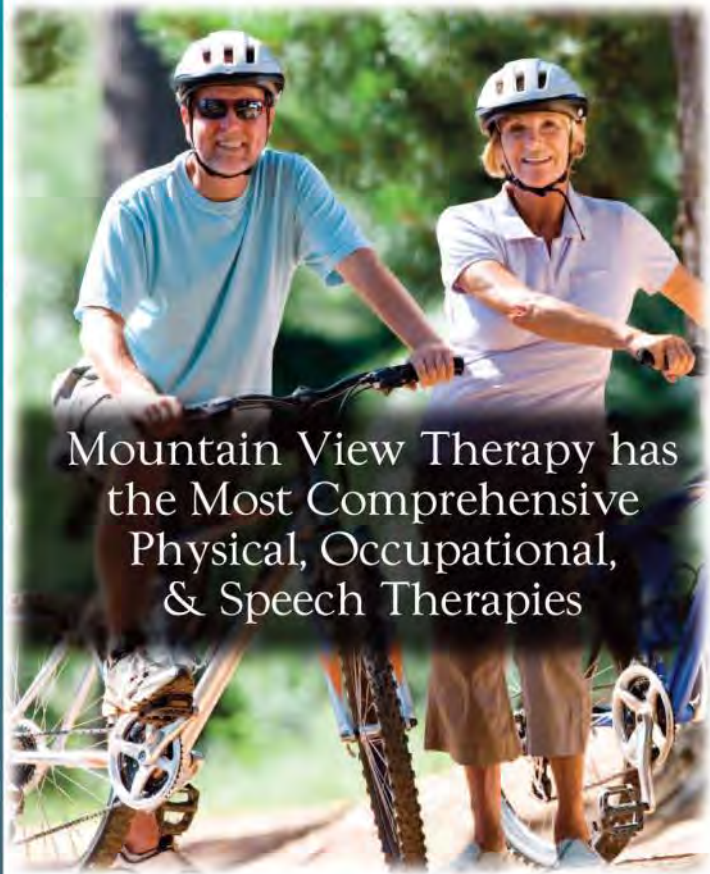
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON GORGE RAINBOW FEATURED IN 2020 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR



Matt McCannel, the head guide at RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, shows off a rainbow trout in the film, "Project Rainbow", showing in the 2020 Fly Fishing Film Tour. The tour makes a stop in Ridgway on March 14. Photo courtesy of Hog Leg Fly Fishing Productions.

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-While many people have heard of the Gunnison River that flows through the Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge, not many have heard the story of the Gunnison River Rainbow. The story describes how, following the accidental introduction of whirling disease in 1993, these rainbows went from nearly 10,000 fish in a two-mile stretch of river to only 86 fish a decade later. Now, these fish have started to make a strong comeback. The resurgence of the Gunnison River Rainbow serves as a beacon of hope for other fisheries around North America that are feeling the impact of whirling disease. Be inspired by the story and scenery in 2020 Fly Fishing Film Tour Official Selection, "Project Rainbow", a Hog Leg Fly Fishing Production directed by Ben Bortner.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour returns to Ridgway with A Benefit for the Uncompahgre River on Saturday, March 14, 6–9 p.m., at the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton Street.

The benefit supports projects that protect and restore our local river while entertaining with films about outdoor adventure and conservation through the lens of fly fishing. At the benefit, attendees can increase their contributions and fun by entering drawings for great river gear from national event sponsors and local outfitters.

Sponsored by RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, 100 percent of proceeds from event tickets and drawings go to the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) for its efforts to preserve and improve riparian areas, fish habitat and recreation areas. UWP is a Ouray County-based nonprofit with a mission of protecting and restoring the natural, scenic and economic values of the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed.

Current UWP activities that benefit the community and the Uncompahgre River include maintaining plants and picking up litter and debris in riparian areas, monitoring water quality monthly, offering river

and watershed ecology education, and providing scientific and community stakeholder input for stormwater, stream and public land management planning.

As a longtime supporter of watershed protection and improvement, RIGS recognizes access to quality waters as one of the most important resources for our community. RIGS is pleased to bring back this FT3 Film Tour as a fundraiser for the UWP, said RIGS owners Tim and Heather Patterson.

Other films in the 2020 Tour include "Common Thread" from Thrive Visuals, where fly fishing is the glue that holds several generations of a Texas family together through the loss of a beloved family member; and "Time" from Fly Lords, which profiles Lefty Kreh and Flip Pallot, who both taught and inspired thousands of anglers.

A selection of short films totaling two hours will be presented at the Ridgway showing of F3T, and the following are possible inclusions: "Machaca - A Botanical Tale," "Expectations," "Baja Lines," "Downunder," "Whitewater," "Cosmoledo Junkie," "Relentless Pursuit," and "Hank Patterson's Guide School." For more details about the films, go to: <https://flyfilmtour.com/watch-trailers/>.

On Saturday, March 14, doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton Street, Ridgway. The program will start at 6 p.m. with pizza slices and a short talk about Protecting your Local Fishery - Conservation & Restoration Efforts on the Uncompahgre Watershed by Cary Denison of Trout Unlimited. Films start at 6:30 p.m., intermission and drawings at approximately 7:30, and final films from 8 to 9.

For tickets (\$20 online in advance; \$25 event day at the door), go to <https://shop.fishrigs.com/film-tour-tickets/>.

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY WORD WEAVERS -Calling all writers, scribblers, poets, and fans of the aforementioned! The library is hosting Word Weavers, a spoken word open-mic on the first Thursday of each month! From 6 to 8 pm, join your fellow word enthusiasts and read your work to a supportive audience, or just attend as a fan of the spoken word! Settle in next to the library's cozy fireplace and be inspired by all the Montrose writing scene has to offer. Young and old, novices and experts, all are welcome!

GARDENING IN THE UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY SERIES-MONDAYS, FEB. 17 - APRIL 6

This free 8-session series meets Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 17 - April 6 at the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Topics will include seed starting; hands-on outdoor planting; early, growing, and late season activities & challenges; fall harvesting; improving soil health; and trees. Time will be available for questions and discussion. Sessions taught by Larry Wobeter, Dave Dearstyne and Reed Irwin. For more information visit www.montroselibrary.org.

READING LITE STORYTIME-Every Wednesday, Jan. 15 - May 6, 10am - 10:30am. Enjoy Singing, playing, reading, and a craft all in about 30 minutes. Ages 2-6.

READING TO ROVER-Montrose Regional Library, Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 3:30 - 4:30pm. Read to a Morningstar Therapy Dog. Call 970.249.9656 option 2 or visit the children's desk to sign up for a 15-minute reading time.

MONTROSE LIBRARY-CHESS CLUB Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 4pm - 5pm. Join us in the library meeting room for once monthly chess club, chess boards and pieces provided. Children under age 7 must have an adult with them, no sign-ups required.

MONTROSE FREE THINKERS meet the first Sunday of each month. Call 417-4183 for more information & location.

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.

MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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 Montage Creek Senior Living, 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 970-209-8173.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

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

MONTHLY-

March 10-The Alpine Photography Club Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 7pm at Colorado Mesa University 245 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, Room 206. Presentation: Rodeo/Action. Photography By: Ryan McGehee. Sharing Theme: Puddles (up to three images) The public is welcome!

March 11- Montrose Neighborhood Watch meeting; topic is "Fire Department First Responders and Medical First Responders." Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

March 12-Metaphysical Class at Mother Earth, 321 East Main Street, 6 to 7:30 p.m. For information call 970-787-9305, @motherearthcolorado

March 12-Andrea von Kampen and her trio will be playing at Healthy Rhythm Listening Room on Thursday, March 12 at 7 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM and Jason McCue will be opening the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance here: <https://bit.ly/36qH7MX>

Mar 12-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "China's Road into Latin America." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

March 14-The Ouray Elks lodge will host a St. Patrick's Day all-you-can-eat corned beef and cabbage dinner and "green bingo" Saturday night, March 14. The event is open to the public. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm, with bingo starting at 7 pm. Dinner \$10 Bingo \$10

March 16-Montrose Toastmasters OPEN HOUSE. March 16, 2020, Monday, 6-7 PM. Meet and greet @ 5:45PM, 2nd Floor, Montage Creek Senior Living, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, CO 81401.

March 17-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club presents Nicole Fucigna on Tuesday March 17th at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts HQ Gallery located at 135 West Pacific Ave., across the street from the Wilkinson Public Library. Longtime on-and-off-again local, Nicola Fucigna will be reading from her work-in-progress, *Doorways*, a series of prose poems centered on real and literary doorways.

March 18-Area historian Zebulon Miracle will present a talk about historical maps on March 18 at the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society meeting in Montrose. The public is invited to the presentation which will be at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Street, Montrose.

Mar 19-6:30-8:30 pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "The Philippines and the U.S." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

March 22-Music of Stage and Screen! Relive the movies of Fiddler on the Roof, Pirates of the Caribbean, Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, The Lone Ranger, Blues Brothers and more. Sponsored by TEI Rockdrill. Sunday, March 22, 3 p.m. Montrose Pavilion. The concert is free! For more information visit www.montroseband.com.

March 24-During the 19th century the United States Government built forts throughout the West, first for economic trade and then to protect white settlements. Terence Hammer presents "Frontier Forts of Colorado," March 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Montrose Library Meeting Room.

Mar 26-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "Artificial Intelligence and Data." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Below, Mountain Sheep at the Colorado National Monument. Photo by Deb Reimann.



Above, the beautiful Colorado National Monument. Photo by Deb Reimann.

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