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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...

© Issue No. 378 May 25, 2020

FORMER MAYOR'S DEMANDS FOR MONEY LEAVE GOLF COURSE LIQUOR LICENSE HOLDER CALLING FOUL

Divot's Owner Seeks Ruling from Liquor Enforcement Division



Divot's restaurant owner Janece Culver has contacted the state Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) concerning City Councilor Dave Bowman's demands that she pay him a fee for liquor sold during his Montrose Summer Music Series events. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE—When Divot's owner Janece Culver stood before the Montrose City Council on April 16, 2019 seeking a liquor license for her new restaurant at the Black Canyon Golf Course, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn asked Culver if she would be able to stand up to strong personalities demanding too many drinks. Culver said, "I don't have a problem with that."

Now, Culver is having to stand up to a strong personality on City Council—one who is demanding to profit from the liquor license she now holds.

If you don't know about Divot's, it is the exclusive restaurant and only licensed provider of alcoholic beverages located at the Black Canyon Golf Course. The city contracts out the space now occupied by Divot's, and in early 2019, Culver was awarded the contract to open her restaurant.

Most everyone in town also knows

[Continued pg 19](#)

RUSSELL STOVER PLANT CLOSING IN AUGUST

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—The Russell Stover Candies plant in Montrose, which was slated to close in the Spring of 2021, will now close at the end of August. The last day of production will be Aug. 28, 2020; however, the last day of the retail sales store may be sooner. That date has yet to be determined.

Russell Stover Vice President of Human Resources in the Kansas City/Missouri Office, Jim Kissinger, said,

"Back in January we announced we would be closing the plant in March of 2021, but no one could have anticipated COVID-19, or the impact on the economy."



Russell Stover Candies plant will close their doors on Aug. 28, 2020. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Continued pg 4](#)

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BOCC VOICES SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC REBOUND; VARIANCE APPLICATION APPROVED BY STATE MAY 23



Montrose County's request for variance from the Safe at Home order was approved Saturday night.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All Commissioners were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Wednesday, May 20. BOCC Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the meeting; Assistant County Attorney Julie Andress led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was delivered by Father Robert Munday of All Saints Anglican Church.

Munday asked for blessings on those less fortunate, expressed thanks for a new day, and asked that the meeting and decisions of the BOCC be blessed. Also, "...We pray that livelihoods may be restored quickly as well."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the

public on non-agenda items.

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, with Resolution Numbers 20-2020 and 21-2020 assigned respectively to item Nos 35 (Planning & Development Resolution for the Blow Fly Shooting Group outdoor shooting range Special Use Permit [SU-19-0086]) and 36 (Finance Resolution to assign the \$1,213,570.00 of 2020 Private Activity Bonds cap to Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHAFA)).

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

There were no General Business or Administrative items.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planner 1 Talmadge Richmond presented information on the Lot 1 Trujillo Intrafamily Subdivision [AM-20-0016] proposal to reduce the irrigation easement shown on the original plat from 70 to 35 feet wide at 6075 Road South of Falcon Road. Though originally there was a ditch, irrigation water now runs through an underground pipe, Richmond said. Staff recommended approval. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

Richmond also presented information on

the Lot 3 C & H Estates Minor Subdivision [AM-20-0017] proposal to vacate the existing 25-foot ditch and utility easement and to dedicate a new 25-foot ditch and utility easement at 6450 Road South of Courthouse Peak Lane.

Following some discussion, Commissioners agreed to continue the item until June 3 to allow time to verify that downstream water users have been notified of the change.

In other business, the BOCC voted to approve a request for a two-year extension of the time period to file a final plat for the River Stone Subdivision, located at the Southwest corner of Oak Grove and Chipeta Roads; and voted to approve a two-year extension in response to a request by the Bountiful Acres Subdivision to extend approval of a Preliminary Plan at 6355 Way and Joyful Way, off Jig Road.

Said Commissioner Rash, "I hope our economy rebounds and we fill up these developments sooner rather than later." "It will happen," Hansen said. "Hope's not a strategy...soon as we get these businesses back to cooking around and opening up, we'll be good."

"We had such a strong economy going into this," Caddy said, "We're going to come out on the other end just as strong."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25. While the city has been operating with limited public access due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open.

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, May 25, will instead be served on Tuesday, May 26, and Wednesday, May 27.

Monday customers located south of San Juan Avenue will be served Tuesday, May 26. Monday customers residing north of San Juan Avenue will be served Wednesday, May 27.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service Monday, May 25, will instead be served Friday, May 29.

For more information contact City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Trash.

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RUSSELL STOVER PLANT CLOSING IN AUGUST From pg 1

The Colorado Department of Labor, the City of Montrose, and Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) have been notified of the accelerated closing schedule. Kissinger said, "We had hoped to give a year's notice for closing the plant, but it has been eight months. Even with eight months we have more than exceeded the minimum required notice time needed for closing the plant."

The closing announcement in January affected 340 employees; however, the company has worked to accommodate employees with early retirements and voluntary exits. Today approximately 220 employees are affected by the early clo-

sure.

Kissinger said, "The employees were notified today. We have encouraged people to continue with Russell Stover and move to another of our plants if it fits with their plans. We appreciate all their skill and experience. We will honor all our commitments [bonuses, benefits, severance packages, etc.] to our employees."

Kissinger said, "The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has been very responsive. Now that we have a specific date, our employees will have the support they need. MEDC, as well as the City of Montrose Development Office, has been very helpful."

MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head said, "This was a perfect [economic] storm. Losing these jobs six months earlier than expected is one more fatality of COVID-19."

Head chose to look at the positives rather than the negatives.

She said, "This could open some doors. People are looking at Montrose, but right now we have a lack of commercial buildings. Some who were interested in the Stover building wanted it sooner than the Spring of 2021. I don't think this will end up being an empty building for years or being a white elephant."

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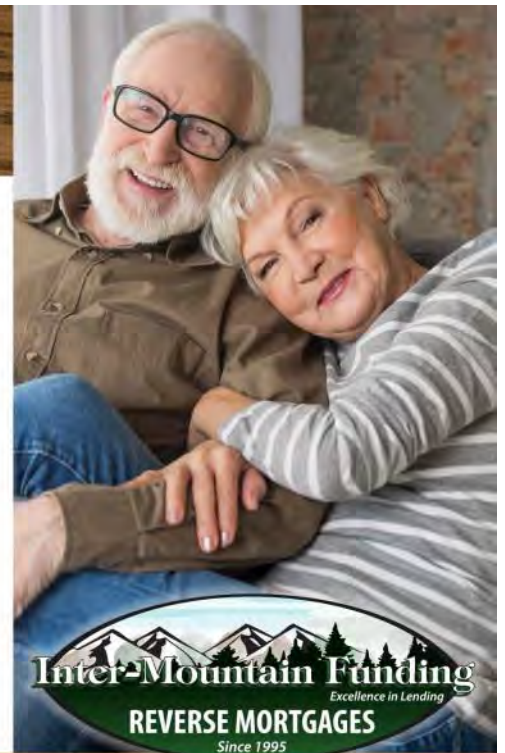


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS SHOULD NOT BE ON THE HOOK FOR RUSSELL STOVER CLEANUP

Editor:

As reported in the MDP of May 20, 2020, the Russell Stover factory is closing in August 2020 vs in 2021. I understand that a purchaser/lessee is being sought for the land and/or the buildings. Further it is my understanding that the environmental cleanup costs for the land and buildings may reach five to ten million dollars (or more). Certainly this is far in excess of an amount for which the taxpayers should be obligated to pay to clean up Russell Stover's possible environmental condition, now or later.

In my opinion many questions remain regarding a full public disclosure of whatever bargain is being struck prior to any agreement being formalized. This should include a report of inspection by the EPA, cost and transparency concerning any and all responsibilities of all parties to it (Russell Stover, its parent company, the city and ALL other parties). This includes conformance/non-conformance with all time frames included in the present con-

tract and any future contract detailing all mitigation required and the responsibility to pay for such mitigation.

All persons involved in marketing the building (city, middlemen and agents) and any potential purchaser should acknowledge in writing what the cleanup requirements are and what their financial obligation will be toward those expenses. Acknowledgement should extend to specific pollutants such as asbestos, lead paint, fuel and chemical leakage and other contaminants as well as the time frames for cleanup. This is necessary because these structures were built and operations begun before most environmental protection laws were written.

There is absolutely no conceivable reason or circumstance in which any costs emanating from environmental pollution mitigation or site cleanup, if you will, should accrue to the citizens of Montrose, now or in the future. Cleanup to Federal standards are presently the contractual responsibility of Russell Stover and its 'newly

found' parent company. If such a responsibility is to be transferred to another entity then there should be contracts binding that entity or entities to mitigation to current EPA standards and should be guaranteed by a performance bond if necessary. Money and time spent now in order to preclude misunderstanding (and hence litigation) by any party in the future would be well spent. We should not engage in weak or unenforceable business agreements now for our children to sort out years down the line.

I cannot accept that the Covid-19 shutdown in any way permits or excuses significant public business such as this to be conducted without total transparency and openness between the city government and its constituents. In fact, I believe that the shutdown mandates extra effort for the elected and employed officials of the city to ensure all information about this negotiation is open and publicized---and not just after the fact.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

ELECTION REMINDER:

June 1st is the **LAST** day to
change your party affiliation for
the upcoming
June 30th Primary Election!

Please visit **govotecolorado.gov** to
update your voter information



For assistance contact the Elections Office:

Phone: 970-249-3362 ext 3;

Email: elections@montrosecounty.net





COLORADO STATE PATROL TROOPER TIPS-THANK YOU!



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

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler
COLORADO-With everything that has been going on around the world it is easy to get down. So, this month I'm not bringing up anything about Covid-

19. Instead I thought it was a good time to throw something positive into the mix. Each month I write about the proper way to drive here in Colorado. There is a lot of don't do this and don't do that in my articles. This month, on behalf of every State Trooper I wanted to take a few moments and thank those of you who are driving properly. Often the good drivers get passed over and we only focus on bad driving behav-

iors. I know there are a lot of drivers out there I will never talk to, for the simple reason they have good driving behaviors. For all of you who come to complete stops at stop signs and stop lights.

For those who obey speed limits and adjust their speed when conditions warrant it. For those who know the rules for driving... thank you for driving safely within the law.

As always, safe travels!

(970) 249-3362 EXTENSION 1

Vehicle Registration

WED & FRI 8am

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APPOINTMENTS**

In an effort to accommodate individuals in vulnerable or at risk populations, Vehicle Registration is now taking appointments on Wednesdays and Fridays at 8am for titling and vehicle registration. To make an appointment, please call (970) 249-3362 ext. 1.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION DONATES \$50,000 TO MMH COVID RELIEF FUND

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) received a \$50,000 donation from the San Juan Healthcare Foundation to assist with COVID-19 related expenses. Montrose Memorial Hospital has realized a substantial financial setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the cancellation of elective procedures and surgeries throughout the organization and the temporary closure or dramatic reduction of specific services, we are estimating substantial losses for the months of April and May. James Kiser, MMH CEO stated; "This has been a trying time for many of us. We have friends and loved ones who have had their health and their livelihood threatened by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in our country. This has truly been a crisis in every sense of the word, and we are grateful and blessed by this donation from the San Juan Healthcare Foundation.

The mission of the San Juan Healthcare Foundation is to develop resources that go towards the improvement of health and wellness in the Montrose region. These resources are then used for the advancement of charitable, scientific, or educational healthcare needs. "We are happy to support MMH during this pandemic and help to ensure our local quality hospital services," said Allison Nadel, Board Chair of the San Juan Healthcare Foundation.



San Juan Healthcare Foundation Members presenting check to MMH CEO, James Kiser. Left to Right: Mary Snyder, Executive Director of SJHF, Allison Nadel, SJHF Board President, Kathie Lower, SJHF Vice President, CoralAnn Hackett, MMH Chief Nursing Executive, James Kiser, MMH CEO, Erin Skees, MMH Chief HR Executive. Courtesy photo.



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MONTROSE BUSINESS UPDATE: RESTAURANT EDITION

Join us for information on liquor licensing for expanded premises as well as other updates for restaurants!

Featuring City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo, City Manager Bill Bell,
and Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen



**WEDNESDAY
MAY 27
8:30AM**

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CAREFUL INVESTING IN COVID-19 COMPANIES PROMISING TO SAVE THE DAY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Division of Securities, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), is warning the public that there has been an increase in investment schemes luring people to invest based on false promises that a company has produced an effective vaccine or treatment for COVID-19. Other scams include solicitations for investments in companies falsely promising to make a profit on N95 masks, other scarce medical protective equipment, ventilators, and test kits. These companies often promise big returns.

Historically, a national moment of crisis

creates the kind of uncertainty and disruption that can lure investors to invest in companies falsely promising to save the day. Add a stressed supply chain and stimulus money and you have the perfect storm for unscrupulous individuals to strike. These scammers manipulate people who have been negatively affected and are trying to either recover losses or are in fear of what their financial future holds. The Division wants to remind investors to be on the lookout for unscrupulous investment schemes involving COVID-19. We recommend some steps you can take to protect yourself before you invest:

Research the company. Read anything

they provide you and look them up on the Internet.

Check if it's a reported scam. If you type in the name of the company followed by the word "scam" in the search bar, you may pull up others who are reporting the investment as a scam.

Try the Internet "smell test." Shady companies often have websites and marketing materials with misspellings. They also often do not have clear contact information or they use stock photos of fake people running the company.

Check out the key leadership. A quick Internet search of the people running the company is wise before you hand over your hard-earned money.











Beware of promises of low risk and high returns on investment. All legitimate investments have some degree of risk. A good rule of thumb is: Anything that guarantees more, better, and faster is suspect. If it seems too good to be true, it likely is. Consider it a serious red flag.

Check with the legitimate sources. Vaccines and drug treatments have to be approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). Go to [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) to find out more about any approved vaccine or drug. Currently, there is no approved preventative vaccine for COVID-19. Anything claiming to prevent contracting the virus should be a red flag.


DORA's Division of Securities is Here to Help If you think you have fallen victim to an investment scam or you want to report one, contact the Division's enforcement branch for help. Email do-sec@state.co.us or call our main line phone number at 303-894-2320. For resources and more information, check out the Division website by [clicking here](#). DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to protecting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission. Visit dora.colorado.gov for more information or call 303-894-7855 / toll free 1-800-886-7675.


MAY NATIONAL Women's HEALTH MONTH

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE PROJECT SLATED TO MOVE FORWARD

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY – The Town of Ridgway is excited to announce that Ridgway Space to Create was recently awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funding from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). Ridgway Space to Create, led by the Town and nonprofit developer Artspace Projects, Inc. (Artspace) out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a development located in Ridgway's Creative District and is being supported by a public/private partnership which includes the Town of Ridgway, Artspace Projects, Inc., the Space to Create Colorado Program in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Affairs (OEDIT), the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and several private philanthropic organizations. More locally, five partners are engaged: Ridgway Chautauqua Society dba Sherbino Theater, Weehawken Creative Arts, Region 10, Telluride Foundation, and San Miguel Power Association. The building will include twenty-four one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units for a total of 30 units. The units will have flexible open floor plans with large windows and doors and will help address significant rental housing scarcity in the region. The building will also include 2,100 square feet of flexible community space that will be master leased by the Town for a variety of purposes.

The award, which is \$800,081 annually for ten years in federal 9 percent LIHTC, comes on the second attempt to secure LIHTC funding to support Ridgway Space to Create. Last fall, the first application fell short and by the time the solicitation began for the next round of 9 percent LIHTC funding, Artspace had revised the prior application to address CHFA's specific concerns and feedback they provided, in the hopes that this second application could be successful. In all, CHFA's competitive solicitation process in this round saw 29 applications submitted, seeking a total of

\$35.3 million in LIHTC. CHFA is awarding \$16.1 million in federal 9 percent LIHTC to 14 developments, which will support the construction of 940 affordable rental housing units.

"We are tremendously excited and grateful that our Space to Create Project was awarded LIHTC funding by CHFA," said Ridgway Mayor John Clark. "The award comes after years of planning, dating back to 2015, to move this affordable, mixed-use project forward. The process to get to this point has been comprehensive and collaborative and now that the project has

secured primary construction funding, we are eager to venture into the next phase of predevelopment."

To learn more about Ridgway Space to Create, please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/ridgway/space-create-ridgway> or contact Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator, at dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308, Ext. 215.

To learn more about CHFA and their work in affordable housing and community development, visit www.chfainfo.com or call 1-800-877-8450.

“My knowledge about nutrition really comes from hands-on experiences growing up with my aunt who did a lot of canning and would make everything from scratch. I always try to eat as clean as I can and I stay away from processed foods.”

- Amanda Hasto
Co-owner of Davito's Italian Restaurant in Delta, Colorado

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION APRIL 2020



Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado declined by 323,500 from March to April to 2,473,400 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Government declined by 12,100 payroll jobs and the private sector lost 311,400. March estimates were revised down to 2,796,900, and the over the month change from February to March was a decrease of 16,500 rather than the originally estimated decrease of 3,900.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate increased six and one-tenth of a percentage point in April to 11.3 percent. This is the highest unemployment rate for Colorado since comparable records began in 1976. The prior record high was 8.9 percent (September to December 2010). Additionally, the previously reported March 2020 unemployment rate of 4.5 percent was revised up to 5.2 percent.

The number of people actively participating in the labor force in April decreased 67,400 over the month to 3,069,200 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed decreased 251,200 to 2,721,300. The larger decrease in total employment than in labor force caused the number of unemployed to increase 183,800 and the unemployment rate to increase to 11.3 percent.

The national unemployment rate increased ten and three-tenths of a percentage point in April to 14.7 percent. This is the highest unemployment rate for the

U.S. since comparable records began in 1948. The previous record high was 10.8 percent (November to December 1982).

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 32.7 to 32.8 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$30.35 to \$31.98.

Significant over the month private sector declines occurred in leisure and hospitality (-148,100), education and health services (-43,800), trade, transportation, and utilities (-41,800), professional and business services (-28,500), other services (-19,800), construction (-12,700), manufacturing (-10,300), financial activities (-5,500), and mining and logging (-1,000). There were no significant over the month private sector job gains in April.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 296,200, with a decline of 296,200 in the private sector and no change in government. The largest private sector job losses were in leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and trade, transportation, and utilities. There were no private sector over the year job gains.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is up eight and four-tenths of a percentage point from 2.9 percent. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force decreased 58,100, total employment decreased 315,100 and the number of unemployed increased 257,000. The national unemployment rate increased from 3.6 percent in April 2019 to 14.7 percent in April 2020.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WILDFIRE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE –To reduce wildfire risk while recreating on public lands, please consider the following:

- Practicing proper vehicle maintenance; ensuring that tow chains are secured, and a vehicle has no dragging parts, check tire pressure, and properly maintaining your breaks. Even chains dragging along the ground, such as those on ATVs, can spark fires.

- When target shooting taking a few simple precautions can prevent devastating results: place your target on dirt or gravel, switch to paper targets, avoid incendiary targets and exploding ammunition, bring a shovel and fire extinguisher, and report any fires by calling 911.

- Fireworks are never permitted on public lands.

- If you are camping and build a fire outside a designated fire ring make sure you clear the area of debris including, grasses and small vegetation. Clear your fire site perimeter approximately 10 feet in diameter and use rocks or a fire pan to contain your fire. Keep a shovel and water nearby at all times to extinguish the fire.

- Never leave a fire unattended and make sure that you completely put out your campfire before leaving your campsite. Practice the drown, stir, feel method when extinguishing your campfire. Use water or dirt to douse the fire, stir the ashes and if necessary, continue to add water or dirt until the fire is smothered.
- When smoking, always dispose of cigarette debris in an ashtray.

- Avoid driving and parking in tall grasses. Exhaust particles and hot exhaust pipes can start grass fires. Park your vehicles/trailers and off-highway vehicles away from dry grass or brush.

Even an accidental fire start can result in the individual being held responsible including fines and/or jail time. Visit One Less Spark (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prevent-Wildfire/>) for more great tips on how to prevent wildfire and be prepared for fire season. To learn more about campfire safety visit www.smokeybear.com.

Before heading outside, be sure to "Know Before You Go!" Helpful information about planning your trip can be found on the "Know Before You Go" [webpage](#). Regulations vary between land management agencies, learn what is permitted before you use fire.

Adhere to the [Leave No Trace Principles](#) of outdoor ethics to leave your favorite spot ready for the next visitors to enjoy. Keep yourself safe while recreating outdoors by checking the weather before you go, taking the appropriate equipment including maps, carrying enough food and water, letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back, and utilizing suggested or required safety equipment. Local fire restriction information can be found online at: <https://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>.

For more information on regulations for DFPC please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc>

www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc

For more information on regulations for the BLM-Uncompahgre Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/uncompahgre-field-office>

For more information on regulations for the BLM-Tres Rios Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/tres-rios-field-office>

For more information on regulations for the NPS, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/blca/index.htm>

For more information on regulations for the Curecanti National Recreation Area please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/cure/index.htm>

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\$189,900 • MLS 769503 • Bld: 2 | Bk: 1 • 936 sq. ft. • 0.140 Apx. Total Acres
524 N 3rd Street, Montrose • Offered by: Autumn Barrett



Price Improvement

\$189,900 • MLS 768701 • Bld: 2 | Bk: 1 • 1,169 sq. ft. • 3.023 Apx. Total Acres
61999 FALCON Road, Montrose • Offered by: Darrell Gilks



\$595,000 • MLS 767367 • Bld: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,690 sq. ft. • 79.600 Apx. Total Acres
84126 Hunterly, Montrose • Offered by: Elizabeth J. Spitzer



\$330,000 • MLS 769116 • Bld: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,310 sq. ft. • 0.391 Apx. Total Acres
1721 Moonlight Drive, Montrose • Offered by: Jamie Carver



\$310,000 • MLS 769179 • Bld: 2 | Bk: 1 • 981 sq. ft. • 5.600 Apx. Total Acres
56260 Elk Drive, Montrose • Offered by: Jennifer Johnson



\$530,000 • MLS 769155 • Bld: 3 | Bk: 3 • 2,526 sq. ft. • 5.600 Apx. Total Acres
12570 6100 Road, Montrose • Offered by: Kree Christie



\$1,195,000 • MLS 767843 • Bld: 5 | Bk: 5 • 5,924 sq. ft. • 0.915 Apx. Total Acres
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\$249,900 • MLS 768555 • Bld: 4 | Bk: 2 • 1,824 sq. ft. • 0.270 Apx. Total Acres
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR BOARD MOVES FORWARD WITH MODIFIED FAIR PREPARATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— At last week's regularly scheduled Montrose County Fair Board meeting, the board approved a modified fair schedule in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the current restrictions on gatherings of people, the board anticipates that some level of restrictions for larger events will still be in place at the time of fair. The modified schedule prioritizes the Jr. Show, allowing 4-H and FFA members the opportunity to continue preparations to show and sell their projects at the fair. As such, the fair board has made the difficult decision of eliminating free public entertainment, contests, and the Open Show. A decision on the status of the Colorado Pro Rodeo will be made later depending on restrictions.

"These are very uncertain times. As a fair board, we are working to ensure that our local youth have the opportunity to show. They have already invested time and money in their projects and we want to continue to reward their hard work," said Fair Board President Chris Cohick. "We are saddened to have to make these hard decisions, but understand that they are temporary for the 2020 Fair."

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Listed from left to right: Henry Algaco, Autumn Barrett, Keri Noonan-Inda, Sarah Guinan, Holly Hunsley, Brian & Trena Unrein, Elizabeth Spitzer, Linda Stell, Lisa Wood, Kree Christie, Jeff & Lark Keefhuss, Amy Hamsen, Patrice & Troy Floyd, Jessamy Pressler, Michael Scott Dosch, Don & Ellen Bailey, Jennifer Johnson, Betsy Fernandez, Darrell Gilks, Jamie Carver.

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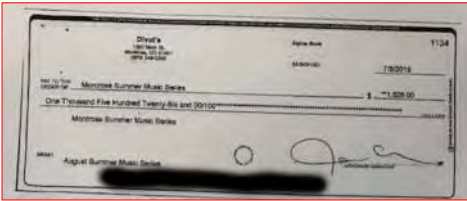


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FORMER MAYOR'S DEMANDS FOR MONEY LEAVE GOLF COURSE LIQUOR LICENSE HOLDER CALLING FOUL From pg 1



One of the checks Culver was required to write to Mayor Bowman.

about the Montrose Summer Music Series, a free monthly music event put on by Blue Sky Music Presents, LLC., which is owned and operated by City Council member and former Mayor Dave Bowman. Public records show Montrose Summer Music Series is also registered as a non-profit organization.

Though COVID-19 restrictions make this year's live music series uncertain, the Summer Music Series has become a local tradition. Usually around the first week of every month throughout the summer, the golf course is set up with a stage and equipment, and the driving range fills up with people out to enjoy a summer evening filled with music, friends, and family. For many concertgoers, a night of live music is complemented by the beverage served during the event. As Divot's holds the only liquor license permitted at the golf course, they provide the beverages.

This past summer Divot's took care of the license for the Montrose Summer Music Series so that beverages could be available on the golf course for the concerts. But even if virus restrictions are lifted, this coming summer that might not happen.

Culver says she was approached by Mayor Bowman last spring and told that he would be providing cups during the concerts, and she would pay him a dollar for each cup used and for each beer poured.

Being dictated what she had to pay from her own sales did not sit right with Culver, however, and after the first concert she went to the city, expressed her concerns, and related her story. During her first discussions with the city, Culver said it was suggested that if she did not want to continue her involvement, they would carve out an area for a special license/permit for that part of the golf course. Still, Colorado liquor laws require all alcohol sales to be



Divot's patrons on a recent afternoon at the Black Canyon Golf Course. Owner and liquor license holder Janece Culver says that City Councilor Dave Bowman has demanded a cut of her liquor sales during his Montrose Summer Music Series events. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

made by the license holder of that property, and only one license can be granted for any particular property, with very few exceptions.

Culver says that when the second concert of the summer came around, Bowman told her he wanted money from all of her canned beer sales as well. Though Culver informed the city of the situation, no action was taken on her behalf. Still, she decided to continue to sell beer because she had agreed early on to sell drinks for the event. She also begrudgingly continued to write checks to the Montrose Summer Music Series for the rest of the summer.

When the concert series ended for the summer, Culver returned to the city and let them know that she wanted no part of providing alcohol for this summer's concerts if she would be required to pay the Montrose Summer Music Series. Culver says the city suggested she could turn in her liquor license for the day of the concerts, and then have it reinstated the following day each time there was a concert. Convinced that she was being treated unfairly, Culver ultimately hired an attorney. After consulting with her attorney, she realized that the arrangement with Montrose Summer Music Series seemed to be in violation of the law, and with no other alternative being offered by the city, she turned herself in to the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division (LED).

One of the statutes that applies (44-33-301 (3) C.R.S.) states that licenses are separate and distinct and that only the license holder can exercise the license's privileges. According to the Liquor Enforcement Division, "Outside entities that want to hire the licensee or rent out space would have to pay the licensee for the alcohol and the service, as it would be the licensee's responsibility for the alcohol service on that particular premises."

Culver says it would have been different had Bowman asked for a donation, since the Montrose Summer Music Series is registered as a non-profit. But according to her this was not someone asking for a donation; this was her being told what she needed to pay.

Licensing to sell/serve alcoholic beverages in this state requires approval from both the City of Montrose and the State of Colorado. The City Council has the deciding vote on the local level because they are in fact, the local Liquor Control Board, and are responsible for ensuring compliance with state liquor laws. The issue is now in the hands of the Liquor Enforcement Division (LED). Culver has not been granted any sort of hearing and she does not know where the case stands. For now, she is unsure if she will be serving beverages for this summer's concert series, if it does take place. Alcorn and Bowman were both contacted for comment, but no response was received by press time.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SOPER TAKES SEAT ON DELTA HOSPITAL'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – The Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) Board of Directors welcomed newest member, Matthew Soper, Colorado House of Representatives for District 54, at Monday night's meeting after Soper toured the hospital.

"I am excited to be joining the DCMH board," said Soper. "We have challenges ahead of us, but also opportunities. We have a secret [here in Delta County] that the world should know. We have some of the best doctors and nurses in all of Colorado, excellent care and a focus on good health and affordability."

During the tour the Matt Heyn, CEO and Jody Roeber, CCO introduced and explained the main functions of the hospital to Soper. The group discussed some of the challenges that rural hospitals are now facing as they begin to address the financial ramifications of the pandemic.

"Hospitals across the country have quickly adapted to the effects of the pandemic on their health care systems, and DCMH is

doing the same," said Matt Heyn, CEO for DCMH. "We have taken active measures at the hospital and our clinics and avoiding layoffs. We have been managing overtime, low census, and more. We are confident in our ability to recover as a hospital and a community."

After the hospital tour, Soper and returning Board Member, Jean Ceriani, were both sworn in to their board positions. Recognition of service for the Chairman of the board, David Lane, was also given.

"David has been a great asset to the Hospital Board of Directors and to the community," Larry Vincent, DCMH CFO. "He has always kept his priorities surrounding the health and well-being of Delta County and continues to uphold the hospital's mission to provide affordable, accessible, high-quality care."

This year, the Board of Director's focus will be on financial stability, growing service lines and bringing back patients who have gone outside the area to receive care.



During the tour the Matt Heyn, CEO and Jody Roeber, CCO introduced and explained the main functions of the hospital to Soper. Courtesy photo.

"This has been a challenging time for our hospital and community, but DCMH remains strong in our efforts to fulfill our mission of keeping Delta County safe and healthy," said Heyn. "We are excited about this year's Board of Directors and know that will continue adapting to better fit the needs of our patients and community."

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT: MORE THAN 25,000 UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FILED MAY 10 - MAY 16

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- Today the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) announced there were 17,825 initial regular unemployment claims filed the week ending May 16. This is compared to 22,483 the week prior (week ending May 9). This is the fifth week in a row of gradual declines in regular unemployment claims.

In addition, there were 7,633 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial unemployment claims (gig worker, self-employed) filed May 10 - 16. Over the past nine weeks a total of 405,800 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 476,613 claims including federal PUA benefits.*

Claims by industry and benefits paid
Top 5 industries with highest claims:**
Accommodation and Food Services: 4,008
Retail Trade: 2,811
Healthcare and Social Service: 2,288
Administrative and Support and

Waste Management and Remediation Services:*** 1,666
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: 1,542

Benefits paid: Regular UI
Week ending May 16: \$88.8 Million
Week ending May 9: \$96.0 Million
Week ending May 2: \$84.8 Million
Week ending April 25: \$86.1 Million
Week ending April 18: \$74.1 Million
Week ending April 11: \$62.0 Million
Week ending April 4: \$29.8 Million
Average 2020 weekly benefits paid for weeks prior: \$8.7 Million
Benefits paid and claims filed April 20 - May 16:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (gig workers/self employed) \$132.4 Million
Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Approx. \$700 Million
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance initial claims since April 20: 70,813
Recession comparison of regular UI benefits paid:

During the height of the Great Recession (2009-10), \$19 million in regular UI benefits were paid out on an average weekly basis. \$102.8 million in benefits were paid out in May 2009, the previous highest monthly total on record. Approximately \$315 million in regular UI benefits were paid out in April 2020.

* Initial claims are those claims filed to establish benefit eligibility. Initial claims are considered a reliable leading indicator of economic activity.

All applications filed are those applications for benefits filed with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and may not have been through various eligibility determination e.g. wage verification, etc.

** Most recent industry-level claims data is for the week ending May 2nd.

*** Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services include temporary help services, telemarketing centers, janitorial and landscaping services, etc.

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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOG HILL RESIDENTS RACE TO THE FINISH...



*Submitted photo by Nancy Falline
LOG HILL-With the local La Zona Colona coffee house closed, several Log Hill residents resort to self-help coffee, watching the Covid-19 race to the finish. Pictured are Richard Wojciechowski and John W. Nelson. Sign by Linda Nelson.*

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL WEATHERS FINANCIAL RAMIFICATIONS FROM PANDEMIC

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— As hospitals nationwide respond to the financial ramifications of COVID-19, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) said they are continuing to move forward while taking the necessary steps to keep the hospital sustainable.

Many regional hospitals have already announced layoffs to help mitigate the large amounts of revenue lost due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“DCMH is doing our best to maintain the staff that we have by avoiding layoffs and finding other areas to remedy the loss in revenue,” said Matt Heyn, CEO for DCMH. “Our human resources are the most important asset that we have. As the largest employer in Delta County, we don’t take lightly the people and lives that depend on us.”

The hospital is taking other multiple measures to help contain and control costs.

DCMH is utilizing low census, managing

overtime, stopping the use of traveling/contract labor, adjusting the surgical schedule for more efficiency, continuing efforts to qualify for the 340b prescription program and will not be matching the 2019 employee 403b retirement contributions to name a few.

The American Hospital Association estimates that hospitals across the country will lose a collective \$202.6 billion from March 1 to June 30 due to a sharp revenue decline coupled with higher costs of labor, supplies and treatment of COVID-19 patients. DCMH said it has already experienced those losses.

In March net patient revenue was down 20% from the budget, resulting in a 1.8 million dollar loss, and in April it was down 46%, resulting in a 2.8 million dollar loss. The stimulus money that DCMH received in April was 1.5 million and 4.8 million in May could be used to offset those losses. DCMH is also waiting to receive their accelerated payment, a loan by CMS the

hospital would have to pay off in a year and would not have to start paying on for 120 days after receiving.

“Like most other healthcare systems we noticed almost immediately that patients were staying away from doctors’ offices,” said Heyn.

“Many people were also forced to postpone or cancel non-urgent surgeries during March and April which resulted in financial losses for the hospital.”

As the recovery process begins, Heyn says he wants to remind patients that DCMH and its clinics still remain safe, reliable places for community members to receive health care.

“We are still facing a lot of unknowns,” said Heyn. “Although we haven’t yet recovered from the pandemic, and it looks like that is still a ways off, we are working hard every day to keep our hospital viable. Our concern remains with the health, safety and well-being of our staff, and we will continue to keep that focus.”



**MONTROSE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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COVID-19 INFO AT WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY VARIANCE APPLICATION APPROVED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Executive Director Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH, has approved the county's variance to portions of Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home and Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home. The variance pertains to houses of worship, restaurants, and gyms. Specifically, the variance approves 50 percent of the posted occupancy code limit not to exceed 50 people at any given time.

Per the approval letter, if the county is to exceed a 15 percent positive rate or more than 42 cases in a two-week period, the variance will be automatically rescinded by the State. Variance specific operational requirements for gyms, restaurants and houses of worship are attached and available at <https://www.montrosecountyjic.com/business-guidance/>.

For more information on COVID-19 in Montrose County, please visit montrosecountyjic.com. To view the variance letter, please visit [here](#).

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- Zoned Light Industrial
- Opportunity Zone Location
- Manufacturing, Fabrication, Office & Warehouse spaces



TBD E. Main Street, Montrose

MLS #748708

\$199,000

- 1.04 Acres B2 Zoning
- High Traffic Count & Visibility
- Hwy 50 Frontage Road
- Signaled Intersection



B-2 Zoning Includes:

- Rental Storage Units
- Retail Building Materials Supply
- Child Care Facility,
- Convenience Store
- B-1 uses
- Plus Conditional Uses



Light Industrial Zoning includes:

- Food Processing
- Metal Finishing & Fabrication
- Paper, Plastic, Wood or Fabric Mfg
- Warehouse & Wholesale Distributing
- Government, Utility, Energy
- Plus Similar Activities



B-1 Zoning Includes:

- Multi-Family Residential
- Retail Store
- Professional Service
- Offices
- Restaurants
- Plus Many Other Uses



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM ISSUES LEASING NOTICE TO ENHANCE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a notice today to lease approximately 44 acres of public land to Montrose County to develop the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area just west of Montrose.

The new area will improve recreation opportunities and experiences on the western slope and will be part of the popular 4x4 Rimrocker Trail that runs from Montrose, Colorado, to Moab, Utah. Improvements will include a staging area with an off-highway vehicle obstacle and training course, trailhead parking, restrooms, barbecues, cabanas and picnic sites. Twenty miles of single-track trails will be developed on public lands adjacent to the area which will accommodate large group events.

"This project enhances our community's recreational opportunities on their public lands and supports our commitment to be

a good neighbor," said Greg Larson, Uncompahgre Field Office Manager. "We will continue to improve access to public lands while supporting social and economic development of the area."

The BLM and Montrose County collaborated with the Western Slope 4 Wheelers, Back Country 4x4's, Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders, and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association to design the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area's facilities. The improvements and facilities will support the Dry Creek Recreation Area trails, Rimrocker Trail and the new 20-mile single track trail system.

Ultimately, the BLM may convey this public land to Montrose County under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, which allows a land transfer following a successful lease period. Secretarial Order 3373 ensures land transactions aid in public access and recreation opportunities.

The notice is available for review online at

<https://go.usa.gov/xvSve> open to public comments. Comments must be submitted by July 6, 2020.

Please send written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Jana Moe, 2465 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401, or submit electronically to Jana Moe at jpmoe@blm.gov.

In Fiscal Year 2018, recreation on BLM-managed lands in Colorado generated \$618 million and supported more than 5,000 jobs.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



CITY COUNCIL HEARS POLICE FACILITY PRICING DETAILS; COUNCILOR FRANK ASKS STAFF TO LOOK AT REOPENING PUBLIC RESTROOMS TO THE PUBLIC



Councilor Dave Frank has asked City staff to look at re-opening public restrooms (like the one at Baldridge Park, above) to the public.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council convened for a regular virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 18. Speaking from Council Chambers, Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the work session by reminding all that the City does not vote on matters in work session and does not take or respond to comments from the public. "There will be opportunity for public comment like there always is at tomorrow evening's City Council meeting," Bynum said.

POST PRICING DETAILS-MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY

Bynum said that City Council's packet has documentation related to work session items, "It has all the supporting documents." Although detailed information on this item does not appear to be included in the public packets, it was shared on-screen during the work session by Kyle Thomas of D.A. Davidson, who gave an update on pricing of the City's Certificates of Participation to help fund the new police facility.

The issuance was successfully priced on April 23, Thomas said. There has been a lot of volatility in the market. "...Overall, a more stabilizing effect over the last month," he said. "We talked about having the City in a position to price the COPS if market conditions would be at a level where we could generate the project proceeds that were desired to build the facility

and in the interest-rate expectations that were expected by the City. That's why we priced on that day is we were able to deliver on those."

Adjustments were made to coupons based on investor interest; \$16.5 in investor orders were received, he said. "We had retail orders from the community of \$2.1M...that was really fantastic, the amount of support that was shown from the community purchasing these bonds," Thomas said.

The first two years were sold as interest-only; excess cash flow generated in those years can be put toward the project. Interest earnings are the City's to spend. Final bond maturity will be reached in 2049.

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND (PAB) ALLOCATION DISCUSSION-CHFA

Council also heard a presentation by Shannon Friel of the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) regarding Private Activity Bonds (PAB's). At the June 2 City Council meeting CHFA will request that the City assign its 2020 PAB cap (\$1,030,342) to CHFA to be used locally by first-time home buyers through CHFA's single family home ownership program known as FirstStep.

The City has previously assigned its annual PAB cap to CHFA for use at The Park at Colorado Outdoors project. Private Activity Bonds are not cash, but "like a permission slip to issue tax-exempt bonds," Friel said. Montrose home buyers would learn about and access the program through their mortgage lender, she said.

Background-A memo prepared by Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthau states, "The IRS allocates a per capita bonding authority annually for housing to each state, also known as PAB Volume Capacity or "Cap." Colorado in turn allocates this authority to statewide authorities and local governments. In 2019 the allocation for the City of Montrose was \$1,032,833. In 2020, the allocation for the City of Montrose is \$1,030,342. For the past two years, the City of Montrose has assigned our allocation of PAB to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). In 2019, the City Council requested that CHFA use the City's PAB to support

the construction of a low-income housing development in the Colorado Outdoors."

YOUTH COUNCIL MANUAL UPDATE

Assistant City Clerk Mikayla Unruh and City Marketing Specialist Kailey Rivensburgh discussed the proposed changes to the City's Youth Council Manual, which has not been updated since 2016.

The recruitment timeline has now been moved to the end of the school year rather than the start, and the role of ex-officio membership has been removed. In addition to the Youth Council Mayor, there will be a Mayor Pro Tem, Public Information Officer, and Treasurer. Youth Council will now meet weekly; meetings take place in the Centennial Room. Youth Council members must attend or volunteer for two or more City events to be eligible for scholarships. The Youth Council Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem must attend or volunteer at four or more City events.

Montrose Youth Council was created to generate more youth participation in City government, and to allow young people greater opportunities for involvement.

Councilor Dave Frank said that he was very impressed with the professionalism on display in the manual. Councilor Roy Anderson, who serves as liaison to Youth Council, said that all Youth Council members had reviewed and approved the proposed changes.

"Great work, fantastic, and thank you very much for keeping us in the loop on that," Mayor Bynum said.

HILLTOP ADDITION ANNEXATION

Council heard a presentation by Senior Planner Amy Sharp on the proposed Hilltop Addition Annexation, where owners hope to develop a senior living community with townhomes.

Background-A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The Hilltop Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 15.75 acres in size. The parcel is located north of Locust Rd and between 6600 Rd. & 6650 Rd. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the Tri-County Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. The owner would like to develop a senior living community with approximately 125 townhome units."

Continued next pg

CITY COUNCIL HEARS POLICE FACILITY PRICING DETAILS; COUNCILOR FRANK ASKS STAFF TO LOOK AT REOPENING PUBLIC RESTROOMS From pg 1

Councilor Dave Frank said, "In the County zoning, it's currently zoned agricultural... when we annex, we are creating an entirely new zoning for that parcel of land."

RIVER CROSSING ADDITION ANNEXATION

The annexation schedule for the River Crossing Addition is the same as that for the Hilltop Addition, Sharp said.

Background-A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The River Crossing Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 36.33 acres in size. The parcel is located west of S. Townsend Avenue and between Ogden Road and S. Rio Grande Avenue. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. The owner would like to develop residential (multi-family) units and general commercial/retail."

Mayor Bynum asked how the annexation would affect long-range plans to extend Rio Grande Avenue through the parcel.

"That's such an obvious question."

An easement for the Rio Grande extension was previously deeded to the City, City Engineer Scott Murphy said, noting that the annexation "further memorializes" what was already in place.

Councilor Frank asked if the easement is reflected in the annexation platting. "I would love to make sure that that's reflected in that platting."

Sharp shared the annexation map on screen.

Said Councilor Roy Anderson, "It precludes the developer from putting a building in the middle of where we want a road to go someday...that whole Rio Grande extension is such an important part of the future of the community, that it's good to preserve those right-of-ways."

"We've seen a number of cases historically where the City did not maintain that right-of-way in a really proprietary way," Frank said, "and it caused a lot of problems for our road alignments later on. I am very excited to see this...memorialized with an adequate enough of right-of-way

that will guarantee us flexibility on location of that.

"Thank you."

SINNER SUBDIVISION COMBINED SKETCH PLAN AND PRELIMINARY PLAT

The Sinner Subdivision Combined sketch plan and preliminary plat will go before the City Planning Commission June 10, for a recommendation for Council to approve or deny the plat, and on July 7 Council will hold a hearing and will vote to approve or deny, Sharp said.

Background-A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The proposed plat will subdivide Lot 2 of the Marbella Minor Subdivision which consists of 12.8 acres into 5 new lots. These lots will range in size from 1.7 acres up to 3 acres. Lot 1 will front on the existing 6840 Road and the rest of the lots will front on the existing East Oak Grove Road. There is an existing City force main sewer line that runs along the east and north lines of the property that each lot will be able to connect to. There is existing Tri-County Water out in East Oak Grove Road that each lot will tap onto for water. Since no engineering is needed, this project was given the approval to proceed with as a combined Sketch Plan and Preliminary Plat."

WESTCO DISPATCH AMENDED AND RE-STATEMENT IGA

Council also discussed the WestCO Dispatch Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), a housekeeping item needed because three new agencies (Montrose County, Ouray County and Olathe Fire) have joined WestCo Dispatch, Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilor Frank said that he had initiated a discussion with City Manager Bill Bell about re-opening public restrooms to the public, and had asked staff for a comparison of the costs for restroom facilities to the costs for the temporary facilities that have been in place during the COVID-19 shutdown.

Bell said, "This morning we received some

info just showing us that the final (cost) on the portable toilets and handwashing stations and the cleaning associated with those has been just shy of \$3,000 per month for us...we'll start transitioning back to opening our public restrooms... when we go back to a daily, daytime cleaning of 13 park restrooms it'll be about \$3,600.

"...One of our issues with the public restrooms, one reason we're a little leery to just open those up in a free fashion, is that the homeless do get into those restrooms," Bell said, "and sometimes they bathe in the public restrooms, and sometimes they sleep in the public restrooms, and we've heard of just vandalism and things like that as well."

Still, "We are going to work toward over the next week to two weeks getting our public restrooms open and useful again."

Frank thanked staff for the rapid response to his request.

Council spent time discussing the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the City's move from Tier Four to Tier Three restrictions.

Councilor Dave Bowman congratulated 2020 high school graduates.

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell said it's great to see so many locals using the City's trail system.

Work on the Connect Initiative Trail underpasses is essentially complete, City Engineer Scott Murphy said, and the contractor will re-landscape the West Main Trail. Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that pothole fixes and normal street repairs are ongoing.

On May 26 at 5 p.m. there will be a virtual meeting to finalize the City's Historic Resources Survey Plan, Morgenthaler said.

Following further discussion, Mayor Bynum thanked everyone who helped organize the high school graduation caravan May 17.

"The parade was really fun."

She reminded all to stay safe and thanked everyone for attending the work session.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DO MORE THAN PAUSE TO REMEMBER THIS MEMORIAL DAY

Editor:

It's the Friday before Memorial Day and I have already received four Happy Memorial Day wishes from various businesses, three Memorial Day sales notifications and a phone call wishing me a Happy Memorial Day. I simply don't get it. The word memorial means *something that honors a person who has died or serves as a reminder of an event in which many people died*.

Memorial Day is meant to be a DAY of

remembrance and somberness, not a day of picnics, sales and happy, happy. You wouldn't wish somebody a happy funeral graveside ceremony, right?

When I was a teen, my family lived in Australia for several years. My sister's birthday falls on April 25th. She didn't have a birthday party on that day while in Australia as it was considered inappropriate. April 25th is Anzac Day. It is a day that honors those who gave their lives in service to Australia and New Zealand. It is

celebrated each year with solemnity.

Please do more than pause to remember this Memorial Day. It is easy to talk patriotism and much harder to actually demonstrate it through sacrifice and inconvenience.

While you are at it, please show your patriotism by wearing a mask in public to protect your fellow citizens during this pandemic.

SUSAN P. ZANOL, Lt Col, USAF (ret)
Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

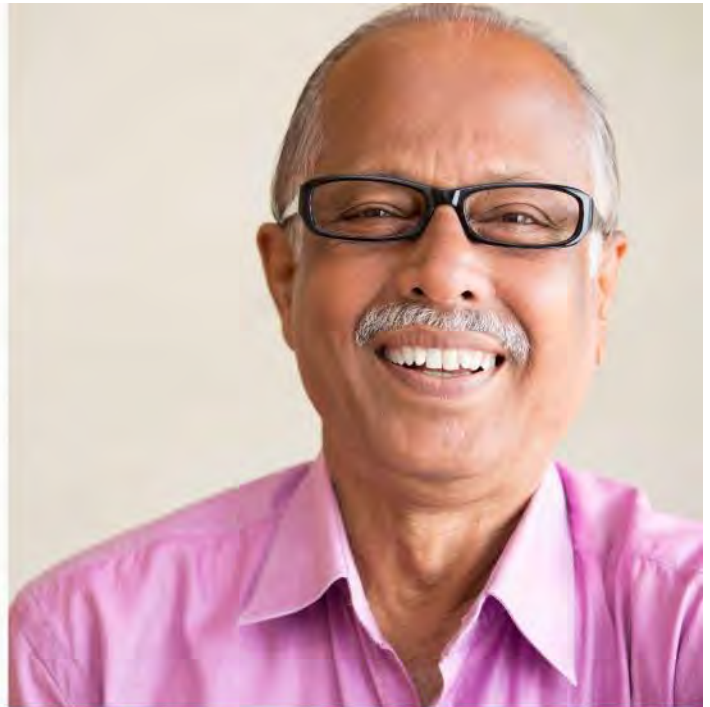
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2020-2021 school year. All families with children who will turn five years old before Aug. 1st should register their student online at www.mcscd.org. Families with limited or

no internet service can call (970) 249-7726 to schedule alternative kindergarten registration arrangements. To register, you will need to include all household demographic information, student health information, parental authorizations, and other relevant application details. The process

should take less than thirty minutes and can be completed entirely online. Please register early to expedite processing and school / teacher assignments. We look forward to welcoming your child to kindergarten next school year and hope to receive your application soon.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: RECOGNITION

FARMERS INSURANCE® NAMES JESSE DRYER AGENCY LLC AGENT OF THE YEAR



Jesse Dryer. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION – Farmers Insurance® announced Jesse Dryer Agency LLC as the 2019 Agency of the Year, Farmers® Spe-

cialty Agency of the Year and Farmers Financial Solutions® Agency of the Year for outstanding business achievements and offering customers exceptional service.

"The customers are the most important part of our agency. We would like to thank them for allowing us to help them and supporting our local business. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the local real estate community. We work on referrals from local realtors and mortgage lenders and we appreciate the opportunity to provide service to those local professionals and their clients," said agency owner Jesse Dryer. "My team also deserves a ton of credit. We have developed a great culture of teamwork and high performance here in the agency. Our goal is to provide customers with consistent first-

class service every time they interact with us, and the team really does a great job of hitting that mark."

About Jesse Dryer Agency LLC

As a full-service insurance agency, Jesse Dryer Agency LLC offers a wide range of products that include auto insurance, home insurance, life insurance, business insurance, specialty insurance, financial services and more.

Jesse Dryer Agency LLC has offices in Grand Junction and Montrose, Colorado. The Grand Junction office is located at 700 Belford Avenue, Suite 102, Grand Junction, CO 81501, and the Montrose office is located at 1551 Ogden Road, Montrose, CO. The agency is also accessible via phone at 970-241-9474, email at jdryer@farmersagent.com, or online at www.jessedryeragency.com

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MONTROSE COUNTY COVID-19 INFORMATION AT WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM

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**SALE
PENDING**



539 S 3rd Street, Montrose
Beautifully remodeled bungalow!
Undeniably Charming!
\$245,000

**SALE
PENDING**



1776 S Apple Drive, Delta
3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Irrigation Water
Meticulous! Views of Grand Mesa!
\$200,000

**JUST
LISTED!**



620 Main Street, Ouray
Investor Opportunity!
Only one tenant since the 1960's!
The US Postal Service.
\$925,000

**JUST
LISTED!**



734 Main Street, Ouray
Ouray Commercial Historic District
Zoned C-1, Commercial/Residential
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CITY HOLDS HEARING ON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT; AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR CRACK SEALING, PAVEMENT MARKING



Montrose City Council continues to meet virtually. Mirror file photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All councilors were present when the Montrose City Council met for a regular, virtual ZOOM format meeting broadcast from Council chambers and elsewhere at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Youth Council Representative Claire Wilson gave the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting began.

TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barbara Bynum explained the rules for public comment; no members of the public asked to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of the May 5, 2020 regular Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GRANT

Bynum opened a public hearing to allow citizens to review and comment on the performance of the City of Montrose in carrying out their responsibilities with Center for Mental Health project #19-507, which was financed with federal Community Development Block Grant funds through the State of Colorado.

City of Montrose Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer and Center for Mental Health Deputy Director of Operations Ed Hagins were both present via ZOOM link to answer questions; no comments were heard from the public.

City Councilor Roy Anderson thanked Cramer, as well as the Center for Mental Health for their work in the community.

CONTRACT AWARDS-PAVEMENT MARK-

ING/CRACK SEALING

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to award a contract for pavement marking to Stripe-a-Lot of Montrose for the not-to-exceed amount of \$135K; and a contract to Armor ProSeal to install crack seal materials on City streets for the not-to-exceed amount of \$120K.

STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented a Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report as well as First Quarter Budget review.

During his Public Information Officer report, City Manager Bill Bell reminded all that the City has moved from Tier Four to Tier Three emergency status. "We're able to provide some services on a more personal level...it's a good sign that we're trying to work our way back to a more normal way of operation."

Hours of operation are available on the City web site.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell, Bell spoke about the COVAXX company, which had proposed to purchase the property at One Creative Place for a vaccine development and testing operation. COVAXX has withdrawn its request to purchase the building, Bell said. "It doesn't look like they will be coming to Montrose."

With social distancing restrictions imposed on re-opening restaurants, Councilor Dave Bowman asked if the City has the authority to extend the limits of liquor licenses if needed. Right now the answer is no--every business must file a perimeter of where they are allowed to serve alcohol, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said, noting, "That's one of the areas that could be relatively easy for the state...they could alter for a specific amount of time some of the requirements as to where they could expand or where they could serve...so that the local liquor licensing authority can extend an outdoor area to serve alcohol that is privately owned by the business."

The State of Colorado has cut the fee for modifying premises in half, City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said. "If somebody wanted to modify a premise they just file to modify

it...The Clerks are definitely pushing for local control on that...there's a lot of people asking for that to happen."

Bell said, "Once it gets further along, I was going to request that Council allow us to cover the cost of that fee through the Office of Business & Tourism as an incentive."

Local golf courses are already licensed for the entire course, Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell said.

Bynum asked staff to keep Council updated on the issue.

Bowman said, "I read about a program that Aspen's doing...Aspen City Council set \$55K aside and identified people in the community with low incomes and gave them a voucher for local restaurants...you might want to look into what Aspen's doing and see if that is something we might be interested in doing in Montrose."

Mayor Bynum said, "The Community Foundation is already doing that, actually, partnering with local restaurants. I believe the City is helping make that happen as well."

Councilor Frank said that the Montrose Community Foundation program is primarily aimed at giving gift cards to first responders. "I don't think it's really focused on low income so much..."

Bynum thanked Frank for the information. She thanked all youth councilors and noted that four had graduated from high school over the weekend--Claire Wilson, Clara Carrasco, Olivia Haga, and Catherine Borner.

"My hats are off to them, they are all amazing young women who are fantastic scholars as well," Bynum said.

Claire Wilson thanked Council for the experience and said that Youth Council is partnering with other youth councils in Colorado to create a statewide network.

Youth Councilor Clara Carrasco promised to stay involved even though she has now graduated from high school. "I will bring the Montrose perspective to Los Angeles."

Bynum congratulated all seniors in the 2020 graduating class.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 5 NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department officially welcomed five new police officers to its ranks May 18. Officers Cameron Pensyl, Joshua Lamphere, Jordan Hewitt, Connor Gibbs, and Peter Chell all recently completed an 18-week law enforcement academy in Grand Junction.

Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with Commander Matt Smith, hosted a swearing-in ceremony for the officers on the city campus with limited public access to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The ceremony was broadcast online so friends and family members of the new officers could watch and voice their support. Officers removed their protective facemasks to take the department oath.

Chief Hall told the officers that the job they were hired to do was about “helping people and helping this community,” by working as a department-wide team to reduce crime, social harm to citizens, and the number of drugs circulating in the community.

Following the ceremony, the officers were dismissed to begin additional training within Police Department headquarters.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE RETURNS CAPITAL TO ITS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER— Demonstrating the value of the cooperative business model and its strong financial position, not-for-profit power supply cooperative Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association announced it has completed payment of approximately \$30 million in patronage capital refunds to its members for 2019, and allocated an additional \$45 million patronage capital to its members.

In the cooperative business model, patronage capital is each member's share of the net margins earned by the cooperative and allocated to its members. Allocated patronage capital is refunded to cooperative members over time.

Tri-State returned \$30 million in patronage capital to its members for 2019, and has returned \$100 million over the past four years. "The allocation and return of capital is one of the significant benefits of cooperative membership and a hallmark of the cooperative business model," said Rick Gordon, chairman of the Tri-State board and director of the Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colo.

"The allocation and payment of patronage capital contributes to each members' financial health by strengthening their balance sheets and providing an inflow of cash." Tri-State's has allocated patronage capital to its members from its net margins each year, and has returned patronage for 37 straight years. "The return of patronage capital provides our member distribution systems with the opportunity to return capital directly to their consumer-members, or address other needs that will allow them to continue to provide reliable, affordable and responsible energy services," Gordon said.

Tri-State's wholesale rates have not increased in the past four years, and are forecasted to remain stable or decrease over the next decade. Through 2050, Tri-State forecasts rate changes to be below the rate of inflation.



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MIRROR IMAGES...MEMORIAL DAY 2020



As we celebrate Memorial Day 2020, please take time to remember those who gave their lives in service to our nation. Freedom is never free, and a life given can never be repaid.



ISSUE 264 May 25, 2020

ART & SOL

FRIENDS OF YOUTH & NATURE: ESCAPE TO THE OUTDOORS
ON THESE LOCAL KID-FRIENDLY HIKEs

A "Colorado little" rock scrambling and exploring on one of our local trails. Photo Courtesy Christine Reed

Lynea Schultz-Ela,
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Want to get your kids out for some fresh air, exercise, and most importantly an escape to the outdoors? We have all been waiting, and it's finally here – hiking season! Here are three easy spring hikes close to home. Go ahead, take the littlest of your family hikers and explore a new trail.

A super engaging hike for kids in Mesa County is the Mica Mine Trail. This easy

round-trip hike is 2.6 miles. It includes some welcome shade and minor rocks for scrambling, making it enjoyable for both adults and energetic kids. The trailhead for Mica Mine is shared with Rough Canyon and is located on Little Park Road (for a map and route description go to GJhikes.com). Why choose this hike to get out with your kids? Oh so many reasons! There are some outstanding vistas of towering cliffs, and the trail crosses the tiny Ladder Creek enough times that everyone gets to hone their stone stepping skills if the creek is running; there are wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and birds to identify; and at the end, there is the holy grail of mica! Enough slivered mica crunches under-foot at the mine to prompt a fun, tactile science opportunity. No child has been disappointed in my experience. There was recently a rock fall near the trail, but it hasn't hampered access, and it could be a good geology conversation about the rocky hillside's "angle of repose" or slope and potential slide triggers. Jumping into imaginative scenarios with kids adds to the fun.

Near Delta, check out the 3.1 mile (round trip) Crystal Overlook hike above the northern edge of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison (just outside the National Park's North Rim). Travel on Hwy 92 through Crawford towards Black Mesa, past the turn off for the Black Canyon National

Park. Sixteen miles south of Crawford you'll see the turn off and trailhead for Crystal Overlook. Park there and head on a lightly trafficked out and back trail. Although a Curecanti National Recreation Area sign at the trailhead depicts the trail as strenuous and five miles long, it is actually only 3.1 miles, and considered an easy to moderate hike. There are three short pitches where you will indeed feel the climb, but there are well-placed benches for resting and enjoying the sweeping views along the way. Why choose this hike? The visual rewards are exceptional! Views of the West Elk Mountains, the San Juan Mountains, and the Cimarron Valley are inspiring. And, for the younger hikers, the destination holds the magic. The trail ends at the (safely guard-railed) overlook allowing you to gaze down 1800 feet into the Crystal Reservoir of the Black Canyon. The trail forks along the way. An unmarked fork on the left will take you to a dead-end lookout point with a bench.

Stay on the main trail to the overlook. Consider packing a picnic lunch and heading out in the morning to escape the heat of the day. Make sure to pack sunscreen and enough water for everyone. For more information on Crystal Creek Trail visit: [All Trails](#).

Near Montrose, young hikers will enjoy the Black Canyon National Park's aptly named Oak Flat Loop. This trail departs

Continued next pg

ESCAPE TO THE OUTDOORS ON THESE LOCAL KID-FRIENDLY HIKES

From previous pg

from the main visitor center of the south rim. Approximately two miles in length, it takes you to outstanding vistas of the canyon over mostly easy terrain through rock and gambel oak trees. Definitely take this hike counterclockwise so that the steepest part is in the downhill direction with a much easier ascent. You don't go to the

bottom of the canyon—but you do get inspiring views interspersed with inviting shady areas. Why choose Oak Flat Loop? The river and rock vistas; the “below-the-rim” experience; the sense of adventure; and the occasional fly-overs of eagles or peregrine falcons. As of Memorial Day weekend, the park will be open for day

use activities. The East Portal Road is closed. Please check [the Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP website](#) for updates.

You don't have to go far to enjoy these three easy hikes.

Explore a new area with your kids and enjoy the local “sweet” rewards brought to you by Mother Nature.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DENVER FIFTH-GRADER WINS 2020 COLORADO ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

Special to Art & Sol

BROOMFIELD — A panel of judges from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) has selected Kayla Romer, a fifth-grader from Creativity Challenge Community (C3) in Denver, as the winner of its 2020 Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Kayla's poster, which depicts the importance of trees and how they benefit communities, competed against posters from 12 schools participating in the contest this year. The schools selected one poster to enter into the statewide contest, so the 12 finalists in the contest represented hundreds of fifth-grade students and their posters. The panel of judges from the CTC selected Kayla's poster as the winner after two close rounds of virtual judging this past week.

As the statewide poster contest winner, Kayla will be awarded a framed copy of her winning poster, a \$100 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble and prizes from the CTC. In addition, Kayla's poster was a win-

ner of a separate poster contest through the City and County of Denver. As a Denver poster contest winner, both Kayla and her art teacher, BJ Kittleson, will receive gift cards from Meininger Art Supply, and Denver will plant a tree in her honor at a city park. Following social distance protocols, Kayla, her parents Jeremy and Karen Romer, and Kittleson may have the opportunity to be present at the tree planting.

The CTC thanks *all* students, teachers and parents for their support of this fun and educational contest recognizing Colorado's urban and community forests. The beautiful trees that grace our streets, parks, yards and open spaces provide economic, social and ecological services that we all can enjoy!

The Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by Above & Beyond Services, Arborscape Services, the CTC, City and County of Denver and the Colorado State Forest Service. For more info on the contest, please contact Kyle Sylvester, open



2020 Winning poster by Kayla Romer.

space manager for the City of Brighton and chair of the CTC's Arbor Day poster contest, at (303) 655-2089.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: RECOGNITION

SHANIA SNOW OF REDVALE GRADUATES FROM WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Special to Art & Sol

OGDEN, UT-- Shania Snow of Redvale has graduated, earning an Associate's Degree in Radiologic Sciences from Weber State University.

Although official commencement ceremonies were postponed to Aug. 29, Snow was part of a historic class of graduates. Weber State awarded 5,558 degrees in the 2019-20 academic year, which includes summer, fall, and spring semesters. Snow is one of 2,697 graduates honored in spring, 2020.

"I finally accomplished one of my goals of graduating from the radiology program. I couldn't have done it without my support system of my mom, dad, brother, boy-

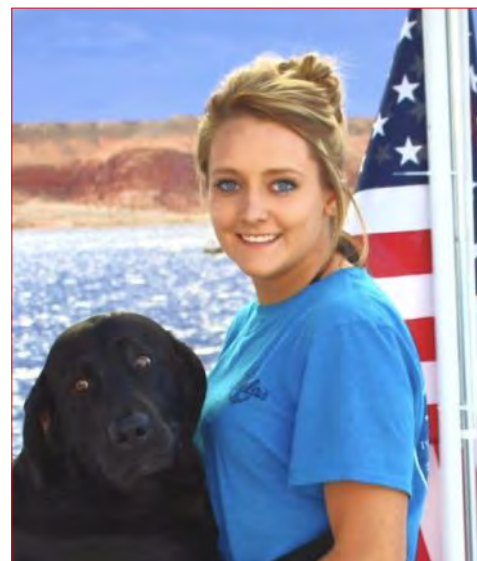
friend, and friends. I love you all!" said Snow.

The class of 2020 included 332 master's degrees; 2,579 bachelor's; 2,579 associate's; and 153 certificates, including graduate certificates.

Of the graduates, 3,299 were females and 2,259 males.

"The graduating class of 2020 will always be remembered as those who had the determination to complete their college education during a time of historic tumult," said WSU President Brad Mortensen.

"I applaud their grit and tenacity and know they will use these strengths to continue to lead and succeed."



2020 graduate Shania Snow of Redvale.



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

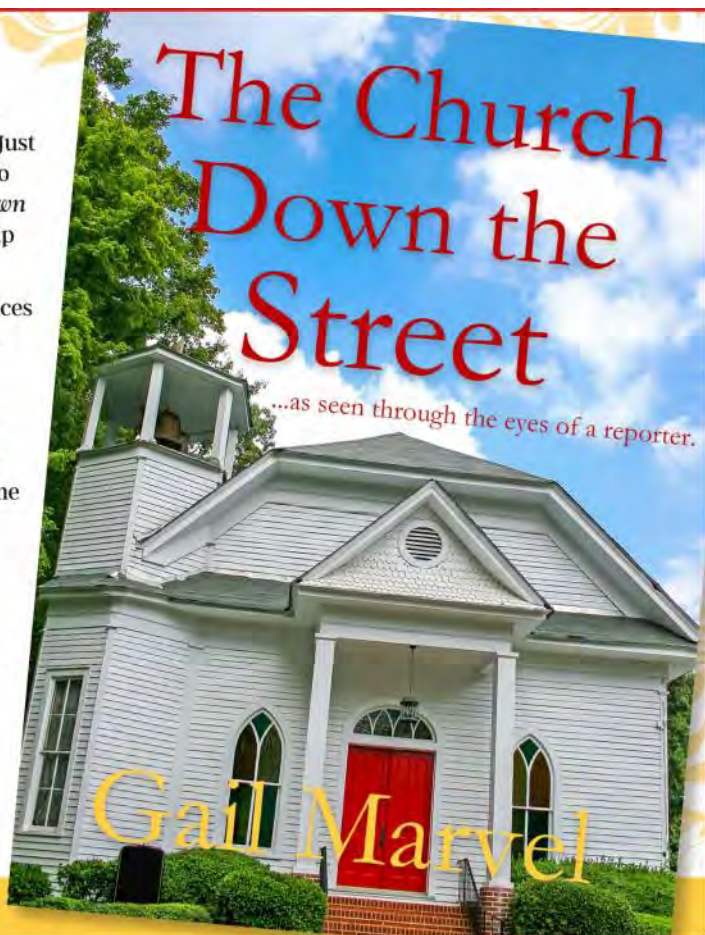
It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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.

Available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [WingedPublications.com](https://www.WingedPublications.com)



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAMES BALANCE NATURAL MEDICINE AS MAY 2020 MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Balance Natural Medicine as May 2020 RACC Member of the Month.

Dr. Jason Bojar and Dr. Jessica Balbo have owned and operated Balance Natural Medicine for 13 years in Ridgway and 10 years in Telluride. Balance Natural Medicine is an integrative medical clinic with the focus of achieving patients' health-related goals, which include reducing and eliminating their pain and improving their physical performance and longevity. Jason and Jess strive to provide the highest quality of personalized care in all aspects of service.

"We are always striving to stay up to date on new research, treatment modalities and technology that can improve patient outcomes and help people to heal faster. At this time as the world emerges from the novel coronavirus crisis, we are planning to offer a new regenerative therapeutic

service in office that we think will transform treatment outcomes and improve the rate of healing for soft-tissue injury, degenerative disc disease and arthritis. Stay tuned!" Jason said.

"We are always adding to and refining our online supplement store offerings at BalanceNaturalVitamins.com. With the COVID-19 crisis, we have fine-tuned and added a bunch of immune-boosting products and foundational nutritional products, which will help build healthy immune systems and support people as we start to get back into the world again," he added.

Realizing how emotionally and financially stressful the pandemic has been for everyone, Balance Natural Medicine is happy to offer \$10 off all appointments during May. They are also offering a 10% discount on all supplement orders on BalanceNaturalVitamins.com, with Promo Code: IMMUNE.

To learn more, call 970-626-7317, email info@balancenaturalmedicine.com, or go online to BalanceNaturalMedicine.com and facebook.com/



Dr. Jason Bojar and Dr. Jessica Balbo have owned and operated Balance Natural Medicine for 13 years in Ridgway and 10 years in Telluride. Courtesy photo.



8500

ANONYMOUS

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-The Montrose Farmers' Market is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more, on Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm, May 9 – Oct. 31 at Centennial Plaza, 433 S 1st St. in Montrose.

MONTHLY-

June 13-Adopt-A-Park Clean Up at Rollans Park, Ridgway, Saturday, June 13, 2020 @ 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Join UWP for a volunteer work morning at Rollans Park, picking up litter and branches along the Uncompahgre River, to make it a great place to visit. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 *Information:* <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

July 25-San Juan Mountains Guided Wildflower Walk, Saturday, July 25, 2020 @ 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Walk among the native plants of the subalpine vegetation zone with guide Mary Menz. Co-author of *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains*, Mary will identify wildflowers, share historical uses of native plants, and talk about the role native plants play in the ecosystem—including areas with acid mine runoff. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 *Information:* <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

Sept. 12-Love Your Gorge-Sat., Sept. 12, 2020, Uncompahgre River Gorge. Volunteer with the Ouray Ice Park and Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership to make improvements to the riparian areas of the Uncompahgre River Gorge in Ouray. Then, enjoy a picnic and party to celebrate our efforts. Funded by the Frank L. Massard Trust. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 *Information:* <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

Sept. 25-27-The Ridgway Old West Fest will be Sept 25-27, 2020

Nov. 2--Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Top right, Deb captured this image near the the Uncompahgre Wilderness. Below, a wild mushroom (amanita muscaria)



Reimann reminds us of the words of John Muir... "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."



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