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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...
Issue No. 379 June 1, 2020

4TH OF JULY TO LOOK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Since the City of Montrose was founded in 1882, Independence Day festivities have helped bring people of diverse backgrounds together to celebrate.

In her book, *Into the Valley They Came the Blue and the Gray* (Dona Mullikin Freeman 1996) Montrose historian and author Dona Freeman notes that the influx of newcomers who poured into the Uncompahgre Valley following the federal government's 1881 removal of the Ute people included numerous Civil War veterans, from both Union and Confederate armies. "Many were veterans broken in health from the War and plagued with injuries which would be with them the rest of their lives," Freeman wrote in her foreword. "How would each of us handle such adversities today?"



Though celebrating Independence Day is a local tradition, above, this year's festivities will not include a parade or fireworks display. Mirror file photo.

[Continued pg 13](#)

DMEA TO HOLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING; UNCONTESTED BOARD ELECTION JUNE 18



The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors appointed Enno Heuscher to fill the vacant District 7 Seat. Heuscher, whose appointment is for less than a month, will then run for election at the Annual Meeting on June 18.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, a Zoom webinar, was held from 3 – 5:30 p.m. on May 26.

Practicing social distancing, the board and staff participated on computers from offices and their homes. Members were afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments and the Rate Hearing segments; however, during the meeting itself microphones of those who are not on the board or on staff are muted.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum, and approval of the agenda. All board members were present.

ACTION ITEM:

In a unanimous decision Enno Heuscher was appointed to fill the vacant District 7 Seat. There was no discussion and no questions from the board. Board President Bill Patterson said, "Well, you're on the board Enno." Heuscher said, "I'm honored." It was noted that Heuscher's appointed term is less than a month in duration. He is then running as an unopposed candidate for the District 7 Seat and that election will take place at the Annual Meeting held at 3 p.m. on June 18.

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Spotlight with Deb Reimann!](#)

[Historical Writer Bob Cox
on the Western Slope Fair!](#)

[City of Montrose to Hold
Virtual Work Session, Meeting!](#)

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENTS CONNECTING HIGH-RISK PATIENTS TO CARE



Montrose Memorial Hospital.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— To make it easier for patients, Montrose Memorial Hospital has increased telehealth opportunities for those who are high-risk or who reside in an outlying area.

Telehealth is when a healthcare provider makes health-related services accessible by electronic means. Telehealth increases access for patients – requiring only an email address and either a webcam or a phone with a camera. Patients in the community are choosing telehealth services when they are considered “high-risk” for severe illness from COVID-19 – such as people 65 years and older, people with serious underlying medical conditions or people who are immunocompromised. Telehealth appointments are available at multiple MMH clinics and service lines, including:

- Alpine Women’s Centre
- Cardiology Clinic
- San Juan Cancer Center
- Pulmonology

Federal officials at the Department of Health & Human Services relaxed restrictions in March – allowing Medicare to pay for office, hospital and other visits by telehealth. These loosening guidelines have helped healthcare entities like Montrose Memorial Hospital offer patients care without having to leave their home or physically see a provider.

Telehealth is one way community members can take care of their important healthcare needs; MMH and its clinics are

also open and available for in-person appointments.

All MMH locations including clinics are following guidance to ensure people are protected from the COVID-19 virus including pre-screenings, social distancing measures, and more.

About Montrose Memorial Hospital (www.MontroseHospital.com)

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)3 nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties.

The health system offers an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including interventional cardiology, oncology, Robotic Assisted surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center, Acute Rehabilitation Unit and the family birthing center.

The health system partners with regional providers on joint ventures to meet local healthcare needs, including CareFlight air ambulance service, San Juan Cancer Center, and Black Canyon Surgical Center. Montrose Memorial Hospital is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 700 employees and 100 physicians who represent 23 medical specialties.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MOTORCYCLE/TRUCK COLLISION UNDER INVESTIGATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—During the late morning hours of Wednesday, May 27, 2020, a 59-year-old male from Olathe, Colo., Roger Ayres was killed in a motorcycle/truck collision. The cause and manner of death are pending the results of an autopsy which has been scheduled. The case is currently under investigation by the Olathe Police Department with the assistance of Colorado State Patrol and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation.

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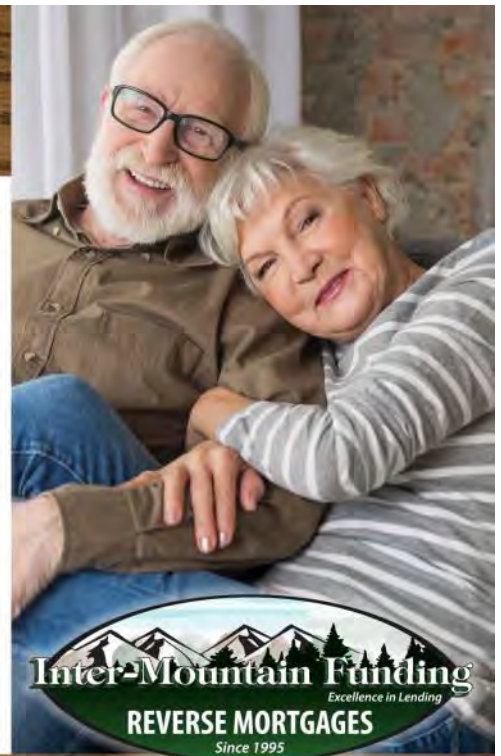
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE ISSUES RULES FOR BALLOT PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- Pursuant to Governor Polis's two Executive Orders ([here](#) and [here](#)) issued on May 15, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has issued a series of temporary rules that enable signature gathering for ballot petitions during the COVID-19 national health crisis. The rules lay out a series of innovative methods in which those collecting signatures can do so via email or mail.

"This country's core promise is government 'by and for the people.' That's why it's so important that Coloradans have access to participating in our democracy. I am proud to release new procedures that protect this fundamental right in these unprecedented times," said Secretary Griswold. "These procedures will allow Coloradans to exercise their right to petition by using email and mail to collect signatures for ballot access."

The rules outline provisions that will allow unaffiliated or independent candidates who file their petitions with the Secretary of State, as well as petitioners for state ballot initiatives, to utilize mail and email to gather requisite signatures in addition to normal in-person signature gathering. Those who do decide to gather signatures in-person are encouraged to follow local health guidelines.

The candidate or ballot initiative petitioners will send a form, approved by the Secretary of State's Office, via mail or email to supporters who are eligible to sign. The supporter must then physically print their name and address as well as sign the form, and in the case of a ballot initiative, have the form witnessed, and return an image of that signed form to the candidate or ballot initiative petitioner.

For the complete rules, click [here](#).

For more information on Colorado's ballot access process, please visit www.sos.state.co.us.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT BEGINS US 50 CHIP SEAL PROJECT ON JUNE 1

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON COUNTY - Starting Monday, June 1, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contract partner United Companies will begin a chip seal project on US Highway 50. The project will take place between Mile Point 116 (east of Montrose and Cimarron) and MP 182 (east of Gunnison). Project work will begin at MP 116. Throughout the project and during working hours, work will take place on more than one section of the roadway at a time. A total of approximately 44 miles will be improved, with the project anticipated to be completed in September 2020. Weekly updates about the project will alert motorists on which sections of US 50 will have road work and travel impacts.

As part of CDOT's "Whole System-Whole Safety" initiative, this project will focus on a chip seal application and crack filling to protect and prolong the surface of the roadway. Crews will also install rumble strips and new striping. The new surface will enhance safety for motorists by providing skid resistance and will prolong the life of the roadway surface and reduce overall cracking. The new striping will offer better visibility for drivers and rumble strips will alert drivers if they are leaving the roadway.

Crews will also remove the old epoxy striping and replace it with a temporary paint during construction. The chip seal does not adhere to the epoxy paint and to prevent future separation of the chip seal, the old epoxy is removed and temporary

striping is placed.

TRAVEL IMPACTS

Motorists can expect single-lane, alternating traffic in the work zones with 30 minute delays, and a 35 mph speed limit. The project will be in operation Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Those seeking more information about this project, or with questions or comments, can reach the project team at:

-Project hotline: (970) 765-0646

-Project email: chipsealproject@gmail.com

-Project website: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/us50-chipseal-montrose>

-See CDOT's scheduled lane closures: [codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](https://www.codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html)

ELECTION REMINDER:

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For assistance contact the Elections Office:

Phone: 970-249-3362 ext 3;

Email: elections@montrosecounty.net



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY CANCELS JULY 4 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The annual Independence Day fireworks display has been canceled due to the uncertainty of public health considerations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The display is coordinated and sponsored each year by the City of Montrose.

Other regional communities that have also canceled their fireworks displays include Grand Junction, Telluride, and Ouray.

City staff is considering the possibility of rescheduling the display to occur later in the year when some of the current uncertainties are resolved. Information about an alternative date will be released as soon as it is decided.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DOT ASK MOTORISTS TO PLAN FOR I-70 TRAFFIC HOLDS IN GLENWOOD CANYON WEEK OF JUNE 1

Special to the Mirror

GARFIELD COUNTY & EAGLE COUNTY - The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) encourages travelers to plan for traffic holds on I-70 in Glenwood Canyon during the week of June 1. Holds will allow CDOT and contract partner Casper Electric to stage equipment to do the necessary work for the No Name Tunnel control center and new lighting system for the No Name Tunnel lighting replacement project.

Traffic holds will also allow for work to be completed by construction crews with the Glenwood Canyon surface improvement project. Please see below for more information about both projects.

TRAVEL IMPACTS

-*Westbound* travelers should be prepared for 30 minute delays during work hours until mid-June. Delays will be intermittent. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

-*Eastbound* motorists on I-70 in Glenwood

Canyon should plan for single 20 minute traffic holds on June 1 and June 8. One traffic hold is planned for each day. The holds will take place at the east entrance of No Name Tunnel and are anticipated to take place between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. -*Eastbound and westbound* motorists should plan for a single lane of traffic in each direction, in a head-to-head detour, between Hanging Lake Tunnel (Mile Point 125) and No Name Tunnel (MP 117.6). This detour will be in place through October.

Delay times will vary depending on travel volumes in the canyon. Plan for an additional 30 minutes to your travel time. On weekdays, travel times between Glenwood Springs and Dotsero have averaged between 25-35 minutes. Motorists should anticipate that travel times will get longer, especially on the weekends (Friday-Sunday), as more cars return to roadways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To hear approximate travel times, call 970

-618-5379. To view live road cameras, visit COTrip.org.

Motorists should use both lanes to the merge point, also called a zipper merge. Please be aware of posted speed limits throughout work zones, to keep both fellow motorists and crews safe.

PROJECT INFORMATION

I-70 No Name Tunnel Lighting Replacement Project

As part of CDOT's *Whole System — Whole Safety* initiative, this construction season crews are working on the westbound tunnel removing and replacing antiquated lighting controls and fixtures with new LED fixtures with a remote controllable lighting system. The new lighting system will be tied into the Hanging Lake Tunnel Operations Center so the lighting can be monitored and controlled by personnel in the Hanging Lake Tunnel. The updated lighting will use less power while allowing more light for the traveling public to have better visibility during the day and night.



CITY OF MONTROSE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 2 | 6 PM

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Full agenda can be found at CityofMontrose.org/CityCouncil

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

EXPECTED REVISIONS TO COLORADO NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Fourth quarter 2019 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) results indicate Colorado total nonfarm payroll jobs estimates will be revised down for this period with the release of benchmarked estimates in March 2021.

December 2019 estimates are expected to be revised down by about 5,700 nonfarm payroll jobs, or two-tenths of a percentage point. November 2019 estimates are expected to be revised down by about 300. October 2019 estimates are expected to be revised up by about 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs.

Applying these results through April 2020 brings estimated total nonfarm payroll jobs in April to 2,467,700. This change

brings over the year payroll job growth estimates through April 2020 to -301,900 or -10.9 percent.

The final March 2021 benchmarked series are expected to vary from these estimates due to new seasonal adjustment factors and new estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs not covered by the unemployment insurance program.

Industry sectors expected to undergo an upward revision to payroll jobs estimates in the 4th quarter¹ include financial services (~1,600) and information (~1,500). Leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and other services may also be revised up.

The industry sectors expected to undergo a downward revision to payroll jobs estimates are education and health services (~3,200), government (~2,600), profes-

sional and business services (~1,800), trade, transportation, and utilities (~1,200), and construction (~1,100). Payroll jobs estimates for mining and logging may also be revised down.

Payroll jobs estimates for the Boulder (~1,000) Metropolitan Statistical Area are expected to be revised up in the 4th quarter¹.

Payroll jobs estimates for the Pueblo and Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Areas may also be revised upward.

Total nonfarm payroll job estimates for Fort Collins (~2,100) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised down in the 4th quarter¹.

Estimates for the Denver, Greeley, and Grand Junction Metropolitan Statistical Area may also be revised downward.

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4TH OF JULY TO LOOK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR From pg 1

One way that people set aside their daily struggles in early Montrose was by celebrating the Fourth of July. On June 16, 1898, a newspaper brief shared by Freeman states, "A Fourth of July Celebration is announced for Zillmer's Grove...will see to it that all visitors get their share of pie, pickles and firecrackers..."

Even in 1918, the year of the Spanish Flu Pandemic, celebrating the Fourth of July was a given. Local festivities included a carnival, parades, and a Merry-Go-Round, Montrose County Historical Museum Director Sally Johnson said. Over the years, creative Fourth of July activities have ranged from bicycle, outhouse, and bathtub races to baseball games, boxing matches, concerts and dances—in 1920, the Fourth of July celebration lasted for three full days, Johnson said.

For a community that has always taken pride in celebrating the Fourth of July, the announcement last week that the annual Independence Day fireworks display will not be held as usual was a disappointment to many—even those tasked with making the tough decision.

"I love the Fourth of July," Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum said. "The decision wasn't made because we wanted to cancel fun...ultimately, we did it for the economy."

With a variance from the Governor's Safer at Home order recently granted to Montrose County, local restaurants and gyms are just beginning to reopen. And with fireworks already cancelled in Grand Junction, Telluride, and Ouray (the City of Gunnison has announced that it will hold a fireworks display), to hold them in Montrose could bring crowds to town and possibly imperil the status of the variance. "The long-term benefits of being able to

keep our restaurants and retail open go hand-in-hand with keeping people from getting sick," Bynum said.

Besides, the Fourth of July has not been cancelled—only the fireworks display and the parade will not be held, City Councilor Dave Frank said. Holding the fireworks display here would be problematic because similar displays are banned in neighboring communities, he said.

"We might be able to count on our citizens to sit in their chairs or stay in their cars, but we would not be able to control a huge influx of people from outside of the county," Frank said.

The COVID-19 restrictions are not imposed by the City or the County, but are handed down by the State of Colorado, he reminded. "If I get to ignore a state law, where do I stop?" Frank asked. "When you allow a politician to ignore laws to benefit a small set of businesses, what's to stop him from ignoring laws that bene-

fit other businesses to the detriment of yours?"

"That's the very definition of a corrupt politician," Frank said.

Though public gatherings are restricted, the City will allow fireworks vendors to open and operate as usual, he said. The only restriction on those sales would be a possible fire ban, something that is beyond City control.

"If citizens want to gather to have barbecues, there is not going to be a group from the City or County driving around to search for them," he said. "I plan on buying a whole bunch of sparklers for my granddaughter."

While nothing is certain at this point, there is a possibility that the fireworks display could be re-scheduled to take place at later in the year, Frank said.

"FUNC Fest is potentially a go...if we're not allowed to gather then, October is a possibility."

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AS RESTRICTIONS EASE ELSEWHERE, MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO HOST VIRTUAL WORK SESSION, MEETING DUE TO COVID-19



The City of Montrose will meet for a virtual work session and virtual meeting this week. Photo by B. Switzer.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a regular, virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 1 (attend via Zoom:<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=9PGLs4yQQE6h1Qr0mlcUvA>) On Tuesday, June 2, City Council will con-

vene for a regular, virtual meeting at 6 p.m. (This meeting will be held electronically as well and can be accessed at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=9PGLs4yQQE6h1Qr0mlcUvA>.)

The work session and meeting can also be viewed on cable channels 191 and 970

WORK SESSION

Discussion items will include a re-zone request from the Estates at Stone Ridge and a proposed restaurant voucher program.

Items to be considered in future City meetings or work sessions

include:

June 16- Private Activity Bond Allocation Resolution; Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report for April 2020;

July 7-Sinner Subdivision Combined Sketch Plan and Preliminary Plat;

As yet unscheduled are the Montrose

Dermatology Business Expansion Project; DMEA Update to City Council; and Bureau of Land Management Update to City Council.

COUNCIL MEETING

Action items include:

Consideration and possible approval of updates to the City of Montrose Youth Council Manual;

Consideration of Resolution 2020-09 setting July 7, 2020 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition;

Consideration of Resolution 2020-10 setting July 7, 2020 as the hearing date for the annexation of the River Crossing Addition;

Consideration of an amended and restated intergovernmental agreement (IGA) concerning the establishment of the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center providing emergency dispatch services throughout Western Colorado.

Following staff reports and Council/Staff comments, Council will adjourn.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA ANNUAL MEETING GOES VIRTUAL

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL— The 2020 Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Annual Meeting will still take place as planned on Thursday, June 18, 2020, with one major adjustment. Rather than gathering with DMEA board members and staffers in person, members will attend online.

"There's nothing we'd like more than to gather with our members in person, but we know that's not what's best for our communities right now. Instead, we're hosting a virtual annual meeting, so members can attend from the comfort—and safety—of their own home," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA Chief Executive Officer.

The DMEA Annual Meeting will take place Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 3 p.m. In order to attend the meeting, members must register in advance at www.dmea.com. Registration is now open and will close Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 1 p.m.

As is the case every year, the meeting will mark the conclusion of DMEA's 2020 Board of Directors Elections. This year, the race is uncontested with each board can-

didate running unopposed in his or her respective districts. The official candidates are as follows:

District 6 – Damon Lockhart, incumbent
District 7 – Enno Heuscher, appointed May 26, 2020*

North Region – Stacia Cannon, incumbent
** Per DMEA's bylaws, all board vacancies must be filled within four months of the date of the vacancy. After confirming Heuscher's uncontested candidacy, Heuscher was appointed as the DMEA District 7 Board Representative at DMEA's Regular Board Meeting on May 26, 2020, in order to remain in compliance with DMEA by-laws.*

DMEA's bylaws allow the cooperative to suspend the mailing of ballots in the event a board election is uncontested. Therefore, members will not receive a mail-in ballot. Rather, members will vote during the meeting on the virtual platform.

"I encourage every member to register for this year's Annual Meeting. While, we'll no doubt miss the face-to-face time with our members, we're still excited to review our accomplishments from 2019

and discuss what the future holds for DMEA and our members," said Bronec.

The meeting will follow a familiar agenda for DMEA members, with reports from Bronec and DMEA's Board President Bill Patterson. Members will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the member comments portion. In addition, DMEA will be giving away door prizes, randomly selecting from those members in attendance and then mailing the prizes to the winners.

Important Notes About the 2020 DMEA Virtual Annual Meeting

- Members must register in advance by Thursday, June 18 at 1 p.m.
- Late registrations cannot be admitted.
- The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020.
- Members can attend either online or by phone. Phone participants will not be able to participate in the vote (please note the election is uncontested).
- After a member has registered and been verified, they will receive a confirmation email with all the necessary information needed to attend the meeting.



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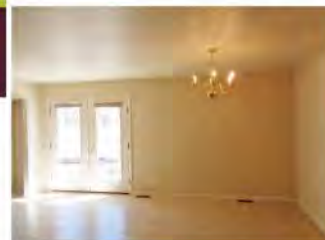
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL'S TEST CASE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Dear Editor,

The recent news story about City Councilor Dave Bowman's illegal involvement with the Divot's liquor license violation has many open questions that need to be vetted and addressed to the public. Fresh off an election where accountability and transparency were hot topics, I could not think of a more appropriate time for the City of Montrose elected to back up their words as candidates. What we cannot afford with this news is complacency or a cover up.

Scott Damman, Montrose

BOWMAN MATTER RAISES SERIOUS LEGAL, ETHICAL ISSUES FOR CITY

Editor:

If you missed reading Issue 378 in the Montrose Mirror last Monday, I would strongly suggest reading the article by Paul Arbogast. Last summer our ex mayor demanded a cut of liquor proceeds at the Montrose Summer Music Series, from the liquor license holder and operator of Divots, Janece Culver. It certainly seems to be indicative of highly questionable actions at the highest level of our city government.

In a meeting with Ms Culver, after reading the Monday Mirror article, she confirmed that then Mayor Bowman initially demanded \$2 on the first cup of beer sold and \$1 on any refills. This equates to seeking 40% of her revenue on the first beer and 20% on subsequent refills. Uncomfortable with that demand, after the first concert last year, she met with a City official

to express her concern, yet nothing was done in regard to her stated concerns. At the second concert, Mayor Bowman demanded his cut on canned beer sales as well. Again, no action was taken by the City to rectify the situation.

Demanding a significant cut of beer sales for Montrose Summer Music Series by Bowman, absent any such arrangement in her contract with the City, certainly casts a bad light on the then Mayor. Additionally, since Ms Culver's contract calls for paying the City a percentage of her net, the Mayor's demands for a cut of liquor sales had a detrimental affect on the proceeds the City received from that contract.

What is even more concerning to me is that in spite of being made aware of an unreasonable and highly questionable situation, no actions were taken by City

management to rectify the problem.

Montrose touts transparency in government, and this is one glaring case in which transparency is demanded. Citizens need to know who specifically in City management knew the details of this strong arm deal, yet took no action, sweeping this under the rug?

Why have there been no consequences for Bowman's actions?

According to my information, some members of City Council were unaware of the issue prior to the Mirror article. Why were they not appraised of the issue after questions were raised with a City official? This matter certainly seems to raise serious legal and ethical issues.

In my opinion Council needs to have a full investigation into this sordid affair.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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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
442 Badger Trail South, Ridgway • Offered by: Patricia M. Floyd



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-STRIPING OPERATIONS TO START JUNE 1

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST & SOUTH-CENTRAL COLORADO – The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin re-striping pavement marking throughout Region 5 in southwest and south-central Colorado. Straight Stripe Painting, Inc. of St. George, UT has been selected for this project. Re-striping operations will begin June 1 and will continue through August.

The re-striping project will replace existing pavement markings and enhance highway striping on both asphalt and concrete pavements. New yellow and white paint will improve visibility and help drivers stay in their lane; this will provide a safer roadway experience and highway system for the traveling public.

Please note striping operations are dependent on clear weather conditions. The targeted dates may fluctuate. Highways being re-striped and approximate dates include:

Southwest Colorado

June 1-3: U.S. 491 Colorado/New Mexico State Line through Cortez and Dove Creek to Colorado/Utah State Line

June 5: U.S. 160 Cortez to Mancos

June 8 CO 145 Lizard Head Pass from to Mountain Village

June 10: CO 62 from Placerville to Ridgway

June 12-29: U.S. 550 from Colorado/New Mexico State Line to Durango, over Red Mountain Pass to Colona

South-central Colorado

July 1-August 3: U.S. 160 from Mancos through Durango, Pagosa Springs, over Wolf Creek pass to Alamosa and finishes on La Veta Pass

August 4-5: U.S. 285 from Alder over Poncha Pass to Johnson Village

August 7-15: US 50 from the CO 114 intersection to Coal Dale

August 17: U.S. 291 from Salida to the US 24 Intersection

August 18-20: U.S. 24 from Granite to Antero Junction (U.S. 24/U.S. 285 intersection)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG TO BEGIN OPENING SOME DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will begin opening a limited number of developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, on Monday, June 1.

Some recreation sites will continue to remain closed and inaccessible, while others may experience a delayed opening. Dispersed camping remains open on National Forest System lands, subject to state and local public health orders.

“The GMUG is making every effort to expand recreation access while following CDC guidance and state and local government health and safety orders” said Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart.

“There is still work to be done – ensuring cleanliness of facilities, conducting proper maintenance, coordinating with local partners and assessing recreation areas for health and safety. Protecting the health and safety of our employees, volunteers, partners, recreation providers and the public is the primary concern in our decision to open recreation sites and services. We are working with local, state and fed-

eral partners to determine the best path forward to safely increasing access. We really want to extend our appreciation to our surrounding communities for their continued support as we navigate through these challenging times.”

The GMUG reminds everyone to stay close to home and to follow the latest federal, state and local health guidance.

Stay at least six feet from others, prepare for limited or no services, such as restroom facilities and garbage collection, pack out trash and human waste, avoid crowding in parking lots, trails, scenic overlooks, and other areas, and take [CDC precautions](#) to prevent illnesses like COVID-19.

The GMUG is asking visitors to recreation responsibly. This will help expand access to facilities and services.

Visitors are asked to plan accordingly as certain services, such as trailhead restrooms, will still be unavailable. The GMUG currently has no fire restrictions; however, please follow basic [fire safety guidelines](#).

For more information on the GMUG Na-

tional Forests, please visit the official GMUG website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF/>; Twitter: https://twitter.com/gmug_nf. Contact your local GMUG Office for area specific information:

- Forest Supervisor’s Office – Delta – 970-874-6600
 - Grand Valley Ranger District – Grand Junction – 970-242-8211
 - Paonia Ranger District – Paonia – 970-527-4131
 - Ouray Ranger District – Montrose – 970-240-5300
 - Norwood Ranger District – Norwood – 970-327-4261
 - Gunnison Ranger District – Gunnison – 970-641-0471
- For information on current fire restrictions, call the GMUG Fire Information line at 970-874-6602; visit the official GMUG website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/fireinfo>; GMUG Fire Information on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo/>. For information on local area fire restrictions, visit: <https://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>.

DMEA TO HOLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING; UNCONTESTED BOARD ELECTION JUNE 18 From pg 1

Finance – Audit – Rate Committee – Brad Harding, Chair.

Harding said, “We did not meet in May. There is nothing new to report this time.”

Engineering – Construction – Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair.

Hauck said, “We met May 14th. The minutes of the meeting are a detailed report.”

Reporting on the Vegetation Management Plan Hauck said, “We put out for bid to outside contractors for trimming vegetation under transmission lines [hot crews]. You have to have specialized training for trimming in proximity to energized lines. We hired local contractors to follow hot crews and trim after them. The hot crews had 136 trees trimmed and 95 removed. Crews with less training removed 385 trees. Customer complaints were minimal.”

Referring to the Construction Work Plan Hauck said, “We are reviewing maps, past plans and what has been done. There is a downturn of business with shutting down Russell Stover and the mines. Less aggressive work. One area on which we focused was the need to put one line underground. Last year there was a lawsuit with a snowmobiler when the snow was high and there was not enough distance between the snow and the line. TDS settled and there was no liability for DMEA.”

Reporting on Tri State substation ownership Hauck said, “Owning the equipment after the transfer, Tri State is somewhat reluctant to give us access to put in electronics. We’re pre-wiring as much as possible.” Chief Operating Officer (COO) Virginia Harman said, “This will not cause a delay in the transfer [to Guzman]. There are a few hiccups but we should be able to get it done.”

There are 700 members with self-generation capabilities and only half of them produce more than they are using. Addressing the upcoming annual reimbursement Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec said, “Net meter members self-supply and we net against the system. DMEA pays for the excess energy they

produce on their systems. We don’t want to pay back more than we save. We match what we are saving. We’re passing the savings on to members.”

Continuing his report Hauk said, “Poles are getting burned during ditch burning. It’s not covered by our insurance and we track down the property owners. A standard pole cost \$1,600 to \$2,500 and a three-phase pole costs \$3,500 to \$4,000. If we don’t collect it, it comes out of our pocket.”

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez gave a brief overview of Operation Round-Up, “Generally \$60,000 gets put back into the community.” Martinez turned the discussion about the Annual Meeting over to COO Harman. She said, “It will be a virtual style using Zoom. The board will be panelists and members can join as attendees. We have an election, but it is an uncontested election. Questions can be submitted in advance and we will have a Q & A feature on Zoom. We can answer questions live. We’re working on a few kinks. All attendees can vote, but if they call in on the phone, they won’t be able to participate in the polling.”

Martinez said, “By not using SBA [Survey & Ballot Systems] we’ll save about \$50,000 and about \$12,000 in mailing. By not having an in-person meeting we’ll save around \$60,000.”

The board voted unanimously to approve the Annual Meeting and Board Election Changes.

CEO Bronec gave a general review of Board Policy 16. He said, “This covers all the donations we do as an organization. This is modifications to the board policy.” Approved unanimously.

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson began by referencing discussions with the City of Montrose legal staff over continuing the franchise agreement with the city as DMEA transitions from Tri State G&T to Guzman Energy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is associated with that agreement.

CEO Bronec said, “We’ve not seen an amendment. We had agreed [with the city] that any amendments to the MOU would be minimal. I’ve had several calls into Bill Bell [city manager]. I called him today. He has not returned my calls.”

Legal expenses could mount for both DMEA and the City. Patterson said, “The problem is in the legal staff and Bill. I think the city attorney [Stephen Alcorn] just wants to spend money. I don’t think the city council is really strong enough to challenge their legal counsel.”

Bronec said, “I think we will come to a good resolution.”

Patterson said, “Legal is looking out for themselves [by hiring an outside firm].”

Note: Later in the meeting Harding revisited this discussion.

Harding said, “I was more optimistic when I left the meeting with the City of Montrose. I guess I’m a half-full type of guy. We’re anxious to have more frequent meetings. There is some ebb and flow in agreements. Our relationship is good.”

Patterson said, “It’s the legal staff. The city council is solid and will honor the MOU.”

Reporting on the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Patterson said, “With the move to Guzman, revenue to the water users could be substantial.”

Bronec said, “We are still working with the water users and we’ll report back when we have something.”

Patterson discussed the upcoming Strategic Planning Session and the need for a facilitator. He said, “We’ll probably have to have someone to guide us. This is going to be one of the most important strategy meetings. What are we going to do with future meetings now that we are out of Tri State? We hope to have an in-person meeting, but a flare-up of COVID could prevent meeting together. We can’t do anything official until we are out of Tri State. We’re looking at an August time frame.”

The topic of a 4-10 work schedule was addressed. Bronec said, “I’m still working on it. I need other input from other staff

DMEA TO HOLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING; UNCONTESTED BOARD ELECTION JUNE 18 From previous pg

members. We are still finalizing, but for the sake of the employees I'd rather not say. I expect it to be finalized by the end of the week."

Delinquent payments were discussed and it was mentioned that PPP (Payroll Protection Program) might be able to help out. Bronec said, "We know our delinquencies are increasing."

Hauck said, "The level of delinquencies is about the same as before, but it has gone up from over last year. Why don't we move quickly to deposits?"

Bronec said, "The reason we took the Policy for Delinquent Accounts off the agenda was there was no need to change or update. Our process we have in place are going to be sufficient for right now."

Highlighting DMEA's board-directed focus into economic development, Patterson said, "I'm glad Jasen is on that board [Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)]. MEDC's paid leadership seems to be running the show over there."

Other items of discussion included PUC hearings, La Plata and United considering pulling out of Tri State, upcoming elections in energy companies, and the deteriorating economic conditions of the homeless.

Safety and Occupational Health Report - Virginia Harman, COO.

Harman said, "In April one lineman injured his back when he fell through a hole in the back of his truck. It was not broken equipment. A CRS [Customer Service Representative] strained her back when lifting boxes. A car drove into one of our pickups. The employee was not injured and the other vehicle cited." Other items in the report included training, recertifications, review of drug and alcohol policies, and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Financial Report with Variance Report - Wade Pynes, CFO.

Pynes said, "Year to Date sales is good news, it's a mixed bag. No major deviations. There is a spike in past due accounts. We had a write-off of \$110,000 in

the budget, but it came in at \$81,000. This was a cleanup project to clean up the books."

CEO Report - Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec said, "With the last month a lot of our attention and work has been to foster our withdrawal from Tri State. You have my written report. It's pretty much business as normal. June 8th will be the first day DMEA is open to the public. There will be no more than 50 percent of the workforce. We'll have employees' cycle, with a certain number of employees working from home."

April 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report

Bronec said, "We had some outages over the weekend with strong winds. We had a large outage when a car hit a pole on Spring Creek. We rerouted power and got power back. Our SAIDI is not too bad. Better than the two previous years."

Legal Report - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "We are on track for July 1st exit. With plans and expectations, we will hit that date. We are still working on some agreements with regulators on our withdrawal and asset property. I will give more detail in Executive Session. The staff is looking at a revamp of our board numbering policy. A new numbering system is to be revamped and reorganized." Hurd touched briefly on issues previously brought up in the meeting, i.e. agreement with the city, the snowmobile lawsuit, the annual meeting with COVID related matters, and disconnects for non-payment.

Tri State Report - Kyle Martinez.

Martinez said, "Most of the meeting was in Executive Session. The move to FERC [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] has caused them problems they had not anticipated. In March and April Tri State experienced a five to seven percent load loss."

WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association) - Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "This is where we get the vast majority of our supplies. They continue to have a very strong financial report.

They have yet to be affected by COVID. I questioned the size of margins and lack of debt in the books. It's not on their agenda, so it looks like they want to ignore it."

CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association) - Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "We did not meet. We have a meeting on the 29th coming up. A legislative report was sent out early this morning."

Bronec said, "There are 43 members in CREA. We pay a fee to be a member. The benefits are safety programs, training, and legislative activities."

Review Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund

In 2020 there was \$98,482 in the Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund. The Boys & Girls Club was given \$16,000, leaving a balance of \$82,000. Bronec said, "After we pay out scholarship funds the fund will be below \$50,000."

Future Business

Martinez said, "Could we find a way for some directors to come together [for meetings] where we each have our own desk? Some of this stuff is a little easier when it's in person."

Bronec said, "It's a challenge. We could set up the community room with the 360 camera. We'll talk to IT to see if the equipment can be transferred from the board room to the larger room."

It was determined that the re-organizational meeting to determine committee assignments and officers will be held immediately after the Annual Meeting on June 18.

Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Vote on Rate Changes

A recap of the rate classes that are impacted was given. The power supply charge adjustments affect a small number of members, and for DMEA the across rate class revenue does not change.

Bronec said, "Under the new power supplier [Guzman] those rates are not available."

The City of Delta submitted written comments and city staff representative Betty Suerth joined the virtual meeting. Changes

DMEA TO HOLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING; UNCONTESTED BOARD ELECTION JUNE 18 From previous pg

to the rate mid-year will affect the Devil's Thumb Golf Course and the city's 2020 budget.

Martinez said, "They are asking for a hold off [on rate change] until 2021."

Hauk said, "Is the intent for us to forgive the increase?"

Suerth said, "Provide a way to forgive it for 2020."

Fleming said, "How much are we talking about here?"

Bronec said, "We don't want to disclose the dollar amount because of confidentiality. We can disclose confidentiality if we take it to Executive Session."

Harmon said, "The city could apply to Operation Round-up." Fleming noted that Operation Round-up funds can only go to members and the City of Delta is not a member of DMEA. Harman indicated that allowances could be made because, even though the City of Delta is not a member, they are in the DMEA service area.

Pynes cautioned that forgiving the increase might be seen as discriminating against other members.

It was decided the board would pass the rate change and then see if they can come up with a way to reduce the impact on the City of Delta. Approved unanimously.

Executive Session

A. General Counsel Legal Update

B. RDOF Funding

C. Power Supply

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kennethwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, 1ch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, epheuscher@gmail.com

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES ELECTION GUIDANCE FOR COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Secretary of State's Office has prepared and issued election guidance for county clerks and other election stakeholders outlining suggested procedures for conducting the June 30 State Primary during the COVID-19 national health crisis. The guidance addresses the operational provisions to assure the safety of both voters and elections personnel.

"Colorado's elections are the country's gold standard, and this health crisis will not change that," said Colorado Secretary of State **Jena Griswold**. "These guidelines are designed to help make voting as safe as possible for both voters and elections officials while maintaining the integrity of our elections. I appreciate the support of the Governor's Office as well as the collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment throughout the process of creating this guidance."

The guidance provides additional details that counties can utilize to ensure elections are conducted as safely as possible. For those voting in person, a series of detailed protocols lay out how Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC) should be sanitized. The guide also outlines suggested procedures for safely collecting ballots from drop-boxes, as well as creates the framework for alternative methods for issuing and collecting ballots, such as drive-through or curbside voting as well as electronic delivery of ballots for those who qualify.

The guidance complements the emergency rules issued by the Colorado Secretary of State's Office on May 8. For the June 30 Statewide Primary, voters are strongly encouraged to vote a mail ballot and to make sure their registration information is up-to-date at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov). Ballots will be mailed to every active registered voter by Colorado's county clerks beginning the week of June 8. Ballots for overseas and military voters were sent on or before May 16. For more information, please visit www.sos.state.co.us.

STAY APART IN PUBLIC

6 FEET SAVES LIVES

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a wooden park bench. Both are wearing face masks. The woman is on the left, wearing a light blue top and a yellow skirt, looking down at a book or tablet. The man is on the right, wearing a blue sweater and grey pants, looking at a smartphone. They are sitting with a significant gap between them, demonstrating social distancing. The background shows trees and a building.

SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER LATER





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT RESUMES CO 82 PAVING IN GLENWOOD SPRINGS, TRAFFIC IMPACTS EXPECTED

Special to the Mirror

GARFIELD COUNTY – As part of “[Whole System-Whole Safety](#)” program improvements for the Colorado Highway 82 corridor project, CO 82 southbound/eastbound (towards Aspen) motorists should anticipate significant travel impacts in Glenwood Springs associated with asphalt paving on Monday, June 1 through Sunday, June 7.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS PROJECT AREA AND WORK HOURS

Southbound/eastbound lane closures will be in effect in Glenwood Springs on CO 82 between 24th Street and the southern city limits (see map). The west side of the 27th Street and CO 82 intersection will also be closed for asphalt removal and paving. For alternate 27th Street access, motorists should use S. Grand Ave. at 23rd Street or Co Rd 154 at Buffalo Valley.

Work hours, lane closures and reduced speeds will be in effect daily from approximately 9 a.m. to dusk. Significant delays

are anticipated. Plan extra travel time especially during the morning and afternoon travel peaks.

These closures are required for construction crews to remove and replace asphalt on the two eastbound CO 82 travel lanes between 24th Street and the southern Glenwood Springs city limits and asphalt on the west side of the intersection of CO 82 and 27th Street. Work is weather dependent and subject to change.

WEST INTERSECTION AT 27TH STREET AND CO 82

Monday, June 1 through Wednesday, June 3, various closures will be required at the west side of the intersection of 27th Street and CO 82. The southbound right turn from CO 82 onto 27th Street will remain open.

On Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7, additional delays are anticipated for crews to install roadway striping. Motorists are recommended to use 8th Street as the impact will change daily. Whenever possi-

ble, crews will reopen lanes.

CO 82 AND CO 133 ASPHALT WORK

Construction crews will also be performing asphalt milling and paving work on eastbound CO 82 just east of the CO 82 intersection with CO 133 at Carbondale. This work will require lane closures from 9 a.m. to dusk on Tuesday, June 2 and Friday, June 5.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Monday 6/1: Asphalt removal on CO 82 and at 27th Street in Glenwood
- Tuesday 6/2: Asphalt removal on CO 82 in Glenwood and Carbondale
- Wednesday 6/3: Asphalt paving on CO 82 and at 27th Street in Glenwood
- Thursday 6/4: Asphalt paving on CO 82 in Glenwood
- Friday 6/5: Asphalt paving on CO 82 in Glenwood and Carbondale
- Saturday 6/6: Roadway striping in Glenwood and Carbondale
- Sunday 6/7: Roadway striping in Glenwood and Carbondale



**MONTROSE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

NEEDS YOUR HELP TO FIGHT COVID-19

**WASH
YOUR
HANDS!**

COVID-19 INFO AT WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM



MIRROR IMAGES: READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Wild Iris.



Cow Creek.



Cow.

Photos by B. Switzer.

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Busy Corner White Kitchen
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435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE PEACE SIGN: A SAFE GREETING AND SIGN OF VICTORY OVER COVID!



Laura Finley.
Photo courtesy of
Peace Voice.

by Laura Finley for
PeaceVoice

SOUTH FLORIDA--As the Age of COVID demands new rules of social interaction for the immediate future, a South Florida non-profit organization has an important suggestion for how we can greet one another

safely and pleasantly. The handshake is a memory, as are charming habits such as freely hugging anyone who seemed they might enjoy it and kisses on the cheek, so common in many cultures outside the United States especially.

The Humanity Project humbly offers a solution drawn from the hippie past. The two-finger vertical peace sign, which can also double as a V for victory over COVID. It's a win in every way!

According to the Daily Mirror newspaper in the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill was far from the first to use that famous World War Two symbol for victory over the Nazis: The "V for Victory" was first

used by English longbowmen in the 1415 Battle of Agincourt to mock the defeated French army. The longbowmen relied on these two fingers to fire their arrows to deadly effect upon the enemy, which was a key factor in the victory, even though there were more than double the number of French troops and, ironically and somehow appropriately, the English troops had been losing many to infectious disease, decimating their ranks leading into the famous battle. The V-sign represented a show of defiance and derision by the English soldiers, and showed the French army that all they needed was these two fingers to win the bloody battle. Even more ironically and timely to us is that the archery—unlike hand-to-hand combat the French were prepared for with few French archers—didn't require contact.

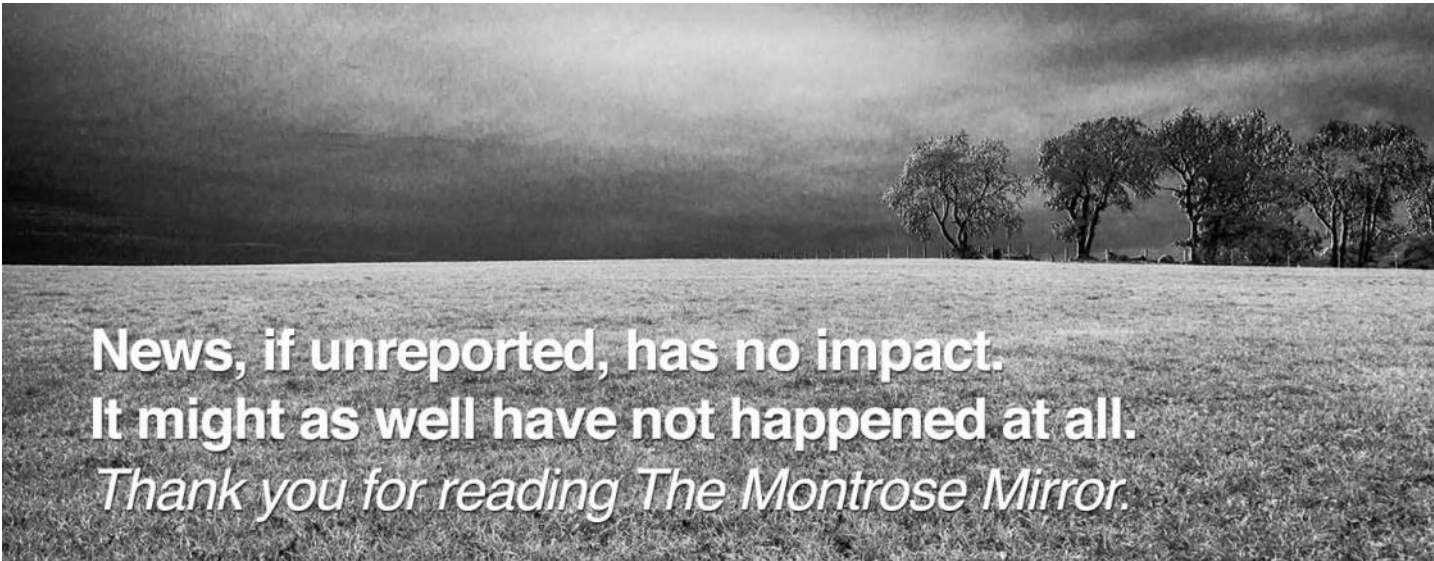
Once the martial V evolved into the 60s peace sign, it became a sweet symbol of togetherness, of a caring humanity. The Humanity Project founder Bob Knotts recalls those days and flashes back to them frequently, especially when greeting or leaving the company of other long-haired folks of the period. As he found himself

using the peace sign more, especially lately, he reflected that it still means "hello friend" or perhaps "goodbye friend." As such, it's a beautiful display of bonding among people.

As an organization devoted to "equality for each, respect for all," The Humanity Project aims to encourage people to use the peace sign to replace other warm gestures of greeting or goodbye. It is an all-purpose, post-Great Lockdown, socially distanced method of demonstrating our affection, friendliness or just general pleasantness. It might even provide a way to tap into the large reservoir of loving social consciousness that was one hallmark of the hippie era and that we are seeing globally among many as people cope with and create during the pandemic.

The world needs something joyful, something widely understood and widely shared to replace the handshake, the hug and the cheek kiss, doesn't it? The peace sign just could be it.

For more information about The Humanity Project, see our website, <http://www.thehumanityproject.com/>



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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT TO BEGIN CO 64 MEEKER WEST RURAL RESURFACING PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

RIO BLANCO COUNTY - Starting June 1, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contract partner United Companies will begin a surface treatment project on CO Highway 64. The project will take place on CO 64 from Mile Point 43 and will continue for 18 miles to MP 61 west of Meeker. The project has an anticipated completion date of October 2020.

As part of CDOT's "Whole System-Whole Safety" initiative, this project will focus on a 1" leveling, 1.5" hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay and installing guardrail that will meet the new safety standard requirements. The HMA will add approximately 10 years of life to the highway, create a smoother road surface and will eliminate ruts and road damage. The new guardrail will be 31" high instead of 27" high to help vehicles remain on the road more effectively, making the highway safer for the traveling public.

Additional work will consist of rumble strip installation and pavement markings.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

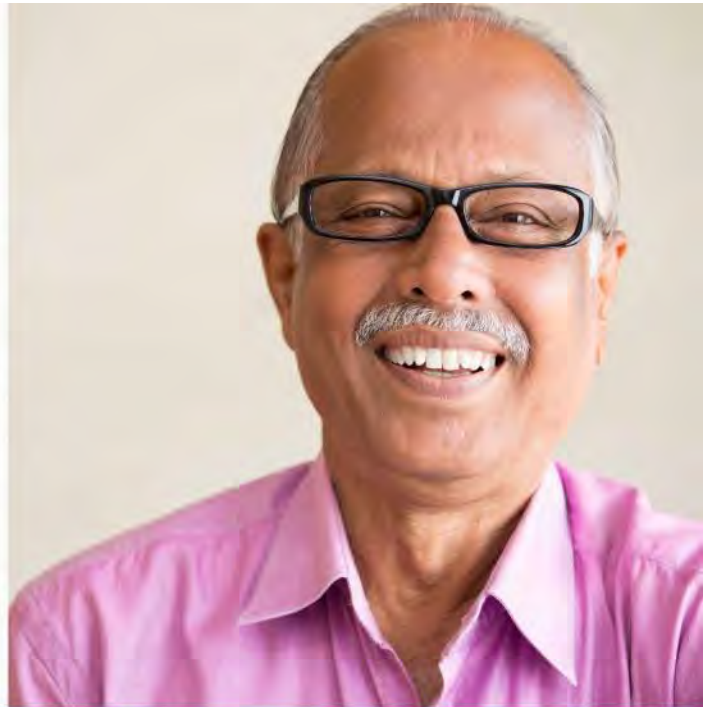
RE-1J KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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 of age before Aug. 1st should register their student online at

www.mcscd.org. Call (970) 249-7726 to schedule alternative kindergarten registration arrangements. You will need to include all household demographic information, student health information, various parental authorizations, and other

relevant application details to register. The process should take less than thirty minutes and can be completed entirely online. Please register early to expedite processing and school / teacher assignments.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT IN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office is seeking public input on the proposed Special Recreation Permit from the Cimarron Mountain Club (CMC) to conduct commercially guided hikes, snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding, and avalanche mitigation on public lands managed by the BLM in Montrose County.

“Public input is vital to our decision-making process as it helps us make more informed decision,” stated Acting Uncompahgre Field Manager Amy Carmichael. “The BLM appreciates the public taking time to provide substantive comments.” CMC is a private club and residential

community in the south San Juan Mountains, about 10 miles northeast of Ridgeway, Colo. CMC’s professional guides would lead year-round commercial trips, except during elk calving season from May 1 through June 15. CMC’s permit application seeks to use two parcels of approximately 3,475 acres of BLM-managed public land. Trips would vary in frequency and party size depending on the activity and weather conditions. Group sizes will range from 3-12 individuals per trip. Comments must be received or postmarked by June 29. A map of the proposed permit area and associated documents are available on the BLM ePlanning website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/>

[epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?method=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=1505681&dctmId=0b0003e88167c538](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?method=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=1505681&dctmId=0b0003e88167c538). Please submit comments electronically on the ePlanning site or via hard copy to the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: Angela Losasso, 2465 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401. 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.

My Mask Protects You



Your Mask Protects Me



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

Recent activity in your neighborhood...

The real estate market in western Colorado is alive and well. Increasing property values and low interest rates are creating a vibrant atmosphere for both sellers and buyers. Here are a few properties that may be of great interest to you.



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Western Colorado Properties

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25+ Acres w/ Irrigation Water
Build your dream home here!
\$164,900

**SALE
PENDING**



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Undeniably Charming!
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**SALE
PENDING**



1776 S Apple Drive, Delta
3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Irrigation Water
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620 Main Street, Ouray
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**JUST
LISTED!**



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY DOES NOT REPRESENT PROGRESS

Editor;

It seems Colorado's embarrassing Governor never misses a chance to circumvent the rule of law when it comes to protecting the illegal alien population. On May 20, he quietly issued a new policy guidance directing state agencies to not provide personal data to federal entities for the sole purpose of preventing immigration enforcement. It took a four-page order for Polis to do this and he slyly kept it from the media until Friday, the 22nd. The data restricted in this order includes social security numbers, birthdays, driver's licenses, and names and addresses of aliens if it involves federal immigration enforcement. This is just another expected insane order by this Democrat Governor to eliminate ICE's ability to enforce federal immigration laws in Colorado and insure the state remains a sanctuary state.

One of the state agencies affected by this insane order will be the state patrol. They will be severely crippled in their attempt to accomplish one of their responsibilities they are trained for, making the highways safe for the citizens of Colorado. And this latest directive isn't the only one to handicap law enforcement. In May of 2019, Polis signed a bill into law prohibiting state law enforcement from arresting an illegal alien based on an ICE request and mandates police to read illegal aliens their

Miranda rights! This is insanity! History has shown, though, democrat Governors are not fond of law enforcement and it's disgraceful they can handicap state police forces.

The results of all this insanity is local police jurisdictions in Colorado are forced to release criminals back into society. In Boulder for example, a criminal living in the U.S. illegally was arrested for multiple sexual assaults on a child but was released back into the public and has never showed up for his court date. Surprise!, surprise! This madness is occurring all over this state and in all the so-called Democrat sanctuary states and cities. Immigration laws are the only laws that are discussed in terms of how to help people who break them! The Colorado Legislature and of course the governor are under control of the "progressive" Democratic party and that's where the problem lies. There is nothing in their ideology that represents "progress" for the good as they insinuate. In fact, their agenda is just the opposite of progress for the good of America and her hard-working vulnerable taxpayers. Democrats show no concern for protecting the American citizen, but get all bent out'a shape to protect a non-citizen. They are hell-bent on destroying all the advancements and protections our Constitutional Republic has provided for the American

citizen over the centuries and decades. Our law enforcement officers are trained in the latest methods of detection and apprehension, but we have democrat governors and Legislatures who are nullifying all their efforts by giving orders where they can't enforce the law equally on all people. Instead, it forces police to practice favoritism for certain people. Americans are imprisoned, but illegals go free! This is lunatic behavior by democrats.

This is discrimination against Americans who are bearing the attacks and expenses from the democrats' protected peoples. Their agenda is to regress backwards to the horse and buggy days where there was no civilized law enforcement and where no-one was safe to walk the streets. We have capable and brave police forces in America who will do their jobs fairly to make America safe if only democrats will let them. When was the last time anyone has heard these leftists say he/she loves America? Or that they are proud to be American? I can remember when mentally ill people were put in hospitals, not Congress!

This November Americans will have a choice in the direction they want to go. All democrats should be voted out of office so America can return to sane policies and politics.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

NOT ALL OPINIONS ARE WORTHY, INCLUDING MR. BARTHOLME'S

Editor:

Never expected to read such crap in the Montrose Mirror. Issue 377 with an "editorial/opinion" piece on all the things Obama did "illegally" when he was president. 32 "illegal" acts, none with any supporting evidence from Mr. Bartholome. Don't you think if this was actually worthy of the news, there would have been coverage of this criminal activity at the time? With investigations and possibly indictments? Somehow 5-10 years later Mr. Bartholome is on to some important evidence that apparently was overlooked by

every law enforcement agency in the United States.

Just an opinion you say? As should be obvious these days, not every opinion is worth giving a platform to. Especially when it's filled with nothing but divisive rhetoric, accusations without evidence, and frankly rantings from someone incapable of distinguishing between actual facts vs. fairy tales. I bet his primary source of information is his neighbor, or his facebook group. Thanks for printing more material intended to divide this country even further. You have complete-

ly discredited yourself as a news agency by showing your willingness to print garbage like this.

The editorial/opinion piece written by Mr. Wall on the pros/cons of COVID closures was excellent and worthy of a public audience.

It even had links to support the statements made - what a novel idea!

If you think people enjoy reading stuff like Mr. Bartholome's tantrum about Obama's illegal presidency, well count your readership down one person.

Erik Knight, Grand Junction

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TWO CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11: HOUSE RACE FOR DISTRICT 3 PRIMARY + OURAY COUNTY SHERIFF RECALL

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-It is approximately 150 days until the November election, and it is only a stone's throw away from the June 30 local election and primary. It's time to meet your candidates, ask the tough questions and learn how your elected officials will stand up for you as a local constituent in Ouray County, and how they will represent you in Washington D.C. as a citizen of Colorado's 3rd Congressional District.

D3 Colorado will host two candidate forums via Zoom on June 11. Both events will be moderated by local Ouray County attorney, Roger Sagal, and are open for questions from the public. In the interest of security, details for the online forum will not be released until the day of the event.

Ouray County Sheriff Candidate Forum – Recall Election, 5:30 – 6:30pm

On the evening of June 11 at 5:30pm, Ouray County residents will have an opportunity to hear from Justin Perry and Ted Wolfe, two candidates vying for Sheriff in the recall election taking place on June 30. This event is co-presented by *D3 Colorado, Ridgway Ouray Community Council, Victim Advocacy Support Alliance and Safer More Affirming Communities*. Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/sheriff.

Please visit D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/SHERIFF after 4pm on June 11 to access the forum. Questions for the candidates may be submitted in advance at: D3COLORADO.ORG/FORUMS. Written questions will also be accepted during the forum with directions for digital submission provided at the start of the event. Candidates will discuss why they are the

best fit for the Ouray County Sheriff position and will take questions from the public. Justin Perry began his law enforcement career in 2002 in the City of Montrose and has served as a Patrol Officer, Detective and Sergeant. In 2013, he was appointed as the City of Ouray Chief of Police. Ted Wolfe is the current undersheriff, has 36 years of experience in law enforcement and is a retired Master Sergeant.

Colorado House Candidates Forum – District 3 Primary, 7 – 8pm

Following the Sheriff Forum, citizens will hear from the two Democratic contenders, James Jacino and Diane Mitsch Bush, who are vying for a place on the ticket for House Candidate in the June 30 primary. Voters around Colorado's 3rd Congressional District and beyond are encouraged to ask questions and participate in this live online discussion. Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/house.

Please visit D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/HOUSE after 4pm on June 11th to access the forum. Questions for the candidates may be submitted in advance at: D3COLORADO.ORG/FORUMS. Written questions will also be accepted during the forum with directions for digital submission provided at the start of the event. James is a 3rd generation Coloradan and owner of Seattle Fish Company, a business born in Colorado in 1918 and operating in the state ever since. He is a leader on sustainability and was named 2016 EY Entrepreneur of the Year and Colorado State University's Graduate of the last decade. Governor John Hickenlooper recognized James' accomplishments and appointed him to the Governor's Fellowship Program from 2017-2018 to enlist his help

in solving the state's most challenging issues and leading opportunities for growth and innovation.

Diane Mitsch Bush is a former tenured professor, Routt County Commissioner, and State Representative. She has lived and worked in Colorado's Western Slope for over 43 years. She first served the community as a social science policy researcher and through citizen advocacy in numerous non-profit groups for years before running for office and winning her first election for Routt County Commissioner. She worked as a Colorado State House Representative from 2013-2017.

Representative Scott Tipton and challenger Lauren Boevert were invited to participate in the forum and did not respond for comment.

Public Forums, Thursday, June 11 – live via Zoom

5:30 – 6:30pm Sheriff Candidate Forum
Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/sheriff

7 – 8pm – State House Representative Forum – District 3 Colorado
Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/house

In the interest of security, details for the online forum will not be released until the day of the event. Please visit D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/SHERIFF and/or D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/HOUSE after 4pm on June 11 to access the forums.

Questions for the candidates may be submitted in advance at: D3COLORADO.ORG/FORUMS. Written questions will also be accepted during the forum with directions for digital submission provided at the start of the event.



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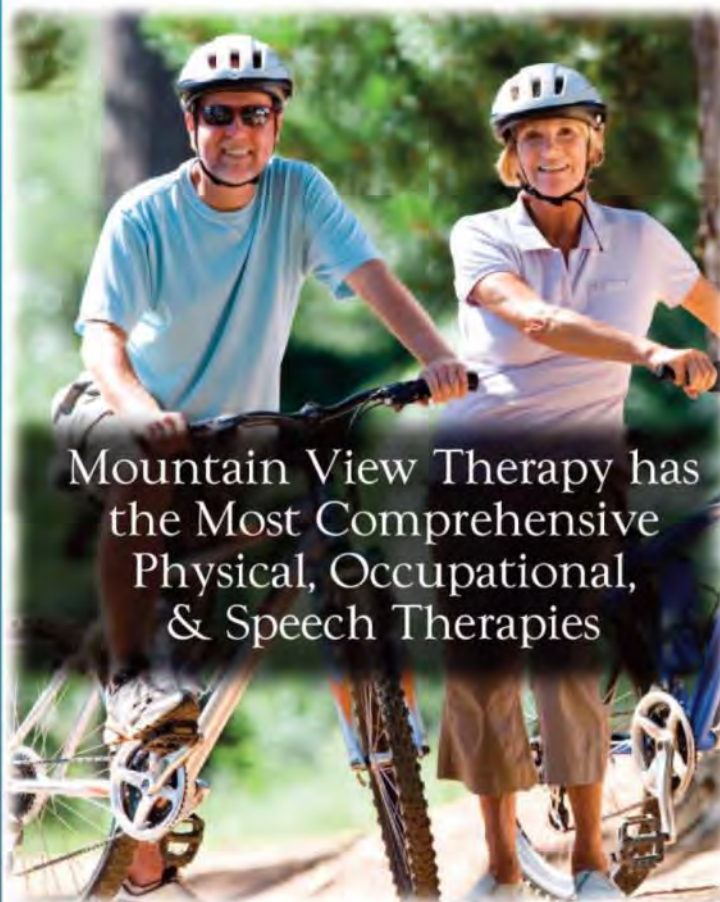
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Mountain View Therapy
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Recreation Center
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MORE THAN 22,000 REGULAR AND FEDERAL UI CLAIMS FILED MAY 17-23

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced there were 15,603 initial regular unemployment claims filed the week ending May 23.

This is compared to 17,825 the week prior (week ending May 16). This is the sixth week in a row of gradual declines in regular unemployment claims.

In addition, there were 6,635 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial unemployment claims (gig worker, self-employed) filed May 17 - 23. Over the past ten weeks a total of 421,403 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 498,851 claims including federal PUA benefits.* Claims by industry and benefits paid Top 5 industries with highest claims:** Accommodation and Food Services: 3,005 Retail Trade: 2,143

Healthcare and Social Service: 1,704 Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services:*** 1,377

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: 1,118

Benefits paid: Regular UI

Week ending May 23: \$95.3 Million
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
Total regular UI benefits paid March 29 - May 23 \$616.8 Million

Average 2020 weekly benefits paid for weeks prior: \$8.7 Million

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.

Federal benefits paid and claims filed April 20 - May 23:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (gig workers/self-employed) \$161.8 Million

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (\$600/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants) Apx. \$868 Million

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance initial claims since April 20: 77,448

* 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 9.

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



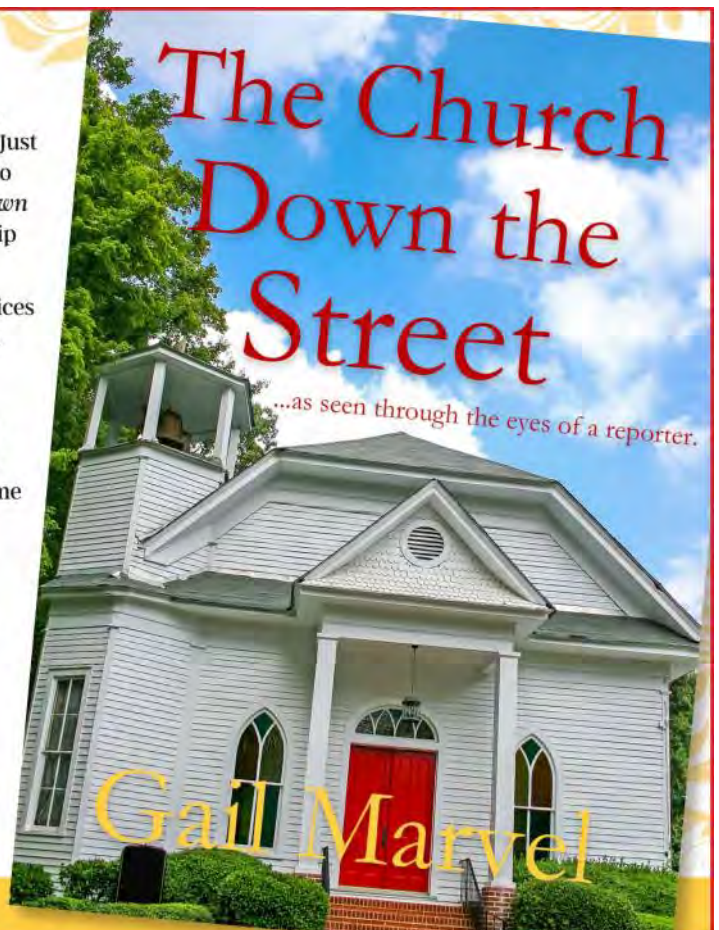
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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.



ISSUE 265 June 1, 2020

ART & SOL

MONTROSE STORES TO CLOSE: IT WAS A 'FAIR' THING TO DO

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-On September 16, 1896, a group of Montrose area businessmen met under the auspices of the Western Slope Fair Association. After a short discussion, the secretary was instructed to prepare a letter for publication and distribution, requesting that all Montrose businesses close during the afternoon hours of September 23, 24 and 25, and that those businesses decorate their stores in a 'neat and attractive manner' in recognition of the Western Slope Fair.

The Western Slope Fair was held in Montrose for many years, but the executive committee of the Western Slope Fair Association vowed that the 1896 fair would be the best possible and would set the stage for similar success in future years. A nominal amount was to be charged to attend, with children getting a special rate. The committee pointed out that the children's rate would not apply to high school pupils. Their letter stated, 'Any fellow who is old enough to go with a young lady is big enough to pay full admission, and the same is true of the young ladies.'

The 1896 fair proved a huge success and the next year promised to be even better. Again, the merchants adorned their facades with appropriate decor, and the committee announced that the fair premiums were raised to \$4,000, with the purse

for just one horse race placed at \$250. Two state championship bicycle races attracted a lot of attention.

The fair of 1901 brought famed balloonist Ivy Baldwin to town. Baldwin made several ascensions and performed some of his circus-style demonstrations while aloft in the basket. During one ascension Baldwin took a camera belonging to Will Torrence, hoping to get birds eye photographs of Montrose. He failed to do so. Later, he convinced a photographer to ascend with him over the Ophir Loop. That endeavor proved to be more productive. Baldwin was well liked and very popular with the Western Slope crowds. He performed many times over several years.

As the 1903 fair dates approached, Baldwin was again an attraction and the committee prepared for a special amusement, in the form of a thrill ride, billed as the 'flying horses.' An exhibition match between the Ouray and Montrose football



Despite the rainy weather, a crowd filled the grandstands and circled around the racetrack to see Ivy Baldwin inflate his hot air balloon at the 1905 Western Slope Fair. The Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, [Call # X-10395].

teams was scheduled and proved to be another crowd builder. The fair was a great success, according to all accounts. There were acrobats, trapeze artists, and foot races, but the thing that brought the most publicity was the great display of local agricultural products. One of the missives from the fair board stated, "The producers of these fruits of the earth show how they have managed to make barren land teem with life..."

Each year the fair drew more attention

Continued next pg

MONTROSE STORES TO CLOSE: IT WAS A 'FAIR' THING TO DO

From previous pg

and became bigger. In fact, it became so successful that some people in Grand Junction began to try to copy the format. The *Grand Junction Sentinel*, in early 1905 opined that Grand Junction was the proper place for a western slope fair and that the Peach Fair gave that community prior right to call their celebration the Western Slope Fair. All indications are that Montrose prevailed when Major Hooper, the general freight and passenger agent for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, sent a letter to W.O. Redding stating that the railroad would not give priority to any other community on the dates that the fair was to be held in Montrose.

The rivalry between Montrose and Grand Junction continued even to the time of the 1908 fair when there was again talk about Grand Junction forming a Western Slope Fair Association. The *Montrose Press* editorialized, asking, "Can it be possible that our Mesa County friends do not know that a Western Slope Fair has been in full blast (in Montrose) for the past twenty years?"

The Montrose committee simply responded by inviting all the counties, including Mesa, to become part of the fair by bringing their products to compete in various categories. By then the fairgrounds consisted of a line track, grandstand, multiple stock pens, and several exhibition halls. Many began comparing The Western

Slope Fair to the Colorado State Fair, held in Pueblo.

In 1916 the state fairgrounds in Pueblo was being used as a military training grounds and the state changed the date of the state fair to a date that directly conflicted with the Western Slope Fair. The conflict did little to harm the Western Slope Fair, but seemed to cause problems with the attendance and participation in Pueblo.

The 1917 Colorado State Fair and the Western Slope Fair were once again set for the same dates. After Colorado State Fair board member John J. Tobin learned how successful the Western Slope fair had been, he met with Governor Gunter and recommended that the state's endeavor for that year be abandoned.

Ivy Baldwin was once again promoted as a major attraction for the 1918 fair. The *Montrose Press* gave Baldwin a flattering preview: *Ivy Baldwin, the greatest aeronaut not aviator - who ever combed the clouds in a hot air balloon, will be here all during the fair week to give one of his great exhibits each and every day.*

Just five days later it was announced that Ivy would not be allowed to make ascension. It seems that Baldwin did not have the required license from the Signal Corps to conduct exhibition balloon ascension. The Signal Corps representative, Edward E.

Dean, sent Baldwin a letter informing him of the situation. Baldwin forwarded the letter to the Western Slope Fair president with a note saying it would not be possible for him to do any ballooning in Montrose during the fair. Baldwin explained that the licensing requirement was the result of a proclamation issued by President Woodrow Wilson limiting civilian aircraft flights to experimental craft only.

Just prior to the 1918 fair, C. F. Hafley, who was known as "California Frank," announced that he had purchased a piece of the Marlow property at the mouth of Cow Creek. California Frank was in the wild west show business and had some of the best trick horses and bucking stock in the country. He told local newspapers that he intended to ship 15 of his celebrated horses to Ridgway in time for the Western Slope Fair. Hafley became a well-known figure in both Ridgway and Montrose.

The Western Slope fair morphed into the Montrose County Fair with the Montrose Board of County Commissioners being responsible for the yearly event, which is accomplished through a fair board appointed by the commissioners.

The fair is still a statement of pride in the agricultural community and it features the accomplishments of the agricultural community, especially those youngsters involved in the various 4H and FFA projects.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY VISITOR CENTER CLOSED FOR 2020

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Visitor Center will remain closed in 2020, due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The center, which has historically opened on May 1 and closed in October, is staffed by volunteers but the majority of volunteers will not be available this year, and it's not possible to meet the stringent safety guidelines required to make the Ridgway Visitor Center with decreased staffing.

The board and staff of the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC), which operates the Visitor Center, will be working with the Town of Ridgway and Ridgway Railroad Museum to ensure information resources are available. Changes to the outside of the Visitor Center will include a dispenser for the 2020 Ouray-Ridgway Visitor Guide and a poster with website information and a QR code that will send mobile phone users to RidgwayColorado.com.

The safety of volunteers and visitors to Ridgway is the number one priority of the RACC Board of Directors, who unanimously voted at their May 18 meeting to close the Visitor Center. The board had a long

discussion, weighing many options, before finally coming to their decision.

Visitor Center Volunteer Coordinator Jeanne Robertson asked volunteers if they are able to work if the center opens up this season, and the majority replied negatively due to safety concerns. Most volunteers are in the vulnerable age demographic, considered at high risk for COVID-19. These are dedicated, mostly long-term volunteers, so they did not make their responses lightly.

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) closed their state Welcome Centers until further notice, and issued suggested guidelines for visitor center openings. Those guidelines include: sanitizing high-touch surfaces every 30 minutes, deep cleaning the center two times per shift, installation of plexi-glass at the front desk, collecting all physical materials for visitors, and limiting visitors into the center (see link for guidelines below).

The RACC board realized it was too much to ask a decreased pool of volunteers to complete all suggestions in the guidelines, and does not have sufficient funding in its budget to hire additional cleaning staff for

the increased needs.

The chamber is also on a severely restricted budget due to the loss of lodging occupancy tax revenues from mid-March to mid-May, and expects reduced revenues throughout 2020.

The Town of Ridgway will be making improvements to the property around the Visitor Center, funded by a \$5,000 CTO grant with a \$1,250 town match. Improvements include removing the shed and old signage, grading the site, adding gravel, and installing picnic tables.

The town and chamber have a long-term plan for other updates and renovations of the center and Heritage Park on the corner of Highways 550 and 62, based on designs created in 2019 from a previous CTO grant.

See the guidelines for visitor centers from the Colorado Tourism Office: (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1mNd_uqDjuWpt2tyLirhS29iaDsEmox/view?usp=sharing)

See the Plan for the Ridgway Gateway Design: <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/ridgway-visitor-center-and-heritage-park-to-be-revamped>



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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 11-Ouray County Sheriff Candidate Forum – Recall Election, 5:30 – 6:30pm. On June 11 at 5:30pm, Ouray County residents will have an opportunity to hear from Justin Perry and Ted Wolfe, two candidates vying for Sheriff in the recall election taking place on June 30. This event is co-presented by *D3 Colorado*, *Ridgway Ouray Community Council*, *Victim Advocacy Support Alliance* and *Saf-er More Affirming Communities*. Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/sheriff. Please visit D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/SHERIFF after 4pm on June 11 to access the forum.

June 11-Colorado House Candidates Forum – District 3 Primary, 7 – 8pm. Hear from the two Democratic contenders, James Iacino and Diane Mitsch Bush, who are vying for a place on the ticket for House Candidate in the June 30 primary. Voters around Colorado's 3rd Congressional District and beyond are encouraged to ask questions and participate in this live online discussion. Zoom details at d3colorado.org/events/house. Please visit D3COLORADO.ORG/EVENTS/HOUSE after 4pm on June 11 to access the forum.

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/>

June 18-The DMEA Annual Meeting will take place virtually on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 3 p.m. In order to attend the meeting, members must register in advance at www.dmea.com. Registration is now open and will close Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 1 p.m.

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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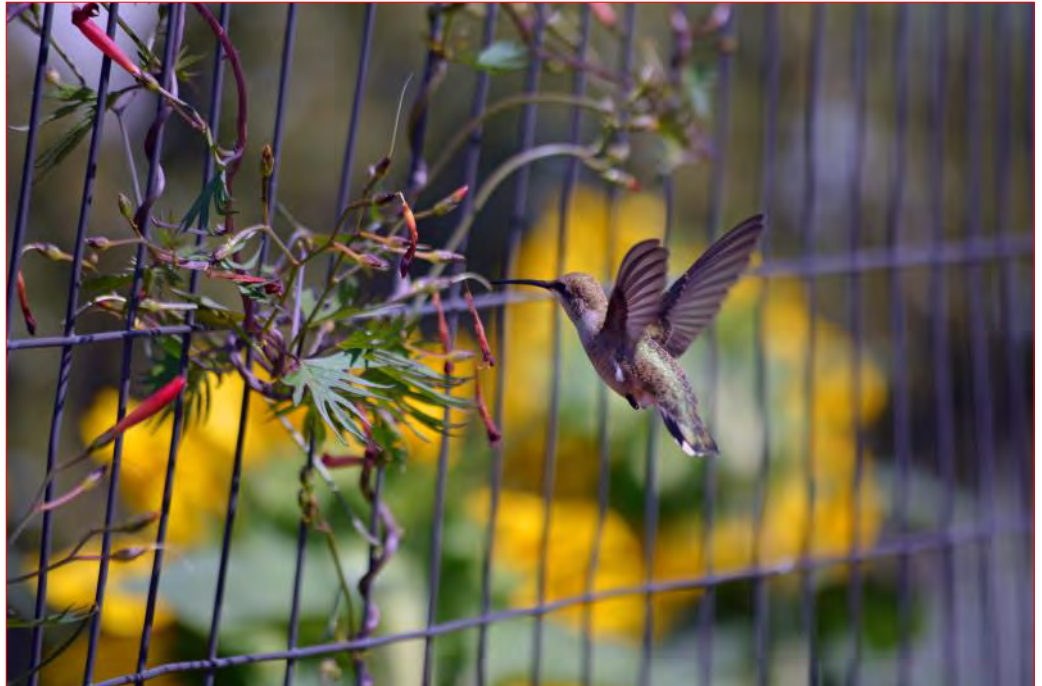
Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

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www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



*Photographer Deb Reimann
shared this photo of a Costa Hum-
mer feeding on Cardinal Climber
Flowers in her garden.*

A black bear is shown from the chest up, holding a tablet computer with its paws. The bear is looking at the screen. The background is a scenic mountain landscape with green hills and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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