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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...
Issue No. 382 June 22 2020

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 25K FOR RESTAURANT VOUCHER PROGRAM; VIDEO CAPTURES COUNCILOR SNICKERING DURING CITIZEN COMMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a virtual Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16. All councilors were present. Mayor Barbara Bynum called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Before Citizen Scott Damman addressed Council, Bynum read the rules for public comment and then took time to explain. "...That's a lot of legal language," she said, "But one of the things that means, if you come to us tonight and you want to talk about the dog park, for example, and that's not on our agenda, we're not going to have a back and forth conversation with you...we usually follow up...I see that Scott Damman would like to do public comment. Scott, I know you are aware but we usually limit this to three minutes just

[Continued pg 39](#)



A reminder from another time, a Downtown City of Montrose banner promises live music every weekend.

BOCC QUESTIONS FORMULA USED FOR AIRPORT RELIEF FUNDS AS SMALL FACILITIES WITH HIGH DEBT SCORE BIG



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) welcomes the public to meetings in the Commissioners' Room, with required social distancing and mask guidelines in place.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17. All commissioners were present. Though open to the public, the meeting was also available online in several formats. Pastor Mike Lundberg of Church on the Hill delivered the invocation. Before he began, Lundberg thanked commissioners for their recent variance application on behalf of places of worship. Once granted, "It will be wonderful to have a few more people gather for worship," he said.

During the invocation, Lundberg noted the length of the BOCC meeting agenda. "...We pray that you'll give them wisdom to make the right decisions... bless them and encourage them..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were heard from the public.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris

[Continued pg 31](#)

in this
issue

City & County
Government

Reporter Gail Marvel
On DMEA meetings!

Commentary &
Photos by Paul Arbogast!

Letters to the Editor!
Regional News Briefs!

OPINION/ EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHAT IS AN UNAFFILIATED VOTER TO DO?

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Colorado offers a unique opportunity to unaffiliated voters; we get to vote in the primary elections. You receive a ballot for both the Democrat and Republican primary, and may pick one of the two and cast your vote.

The numbers show that 40 percent of Colorado's voters are unaffiliated voters. That means those who do not register with or identify with one of the 'two big' parties hold the biggest hand in elections. So it makes sense that in a two-party system, both parties do a lot of fighting for that unaffiliated vote.

I wanted to know what each local party had to say with the current primaries in progress, if they would suggest you vote in their primary vs that of 'the other side,' would push certain candidates, or would remain neutral. So I headed out to the Montrose County Democrats and Montrose County Republicans to have conversations with them.

Both were very welcoming and I enjoyed my discussions with both of them.

From the Montrose County Democrats I talked to Kevin Kuns the party chair, and

for the Montrose Republican Party I talked to a party member that was manning their headquarters.

Neither party pushed that as an unaffiliated voter I should fill out their primary ballot over the other parties. Neither recommended one candidate over another for those where there were two choices to be made. Both had literature for various candidates on their beliefs and positions and clearly pushed doing our own research on each of them.

On the Democrat ballot there are two opposed positions. For the US Senate it is Andrew Romanoff vs John Hickenlooper. For US House, Colorado's 3rd Congressional District it is Diane Mitsch Bush vs James Iacino.

On the Republican ballot the only opposed position is for the US House, in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. That is between incumbent Scott Tipton (assumed position January 2011) and Lauren Boebert.



US House 3rd Congressional District Republican Challenger Lauren Boebert, above, spoke during a Republican Party flag waving event at Demoret Park Friday. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

Even if you do not vote for the primaries, as an unaffiliated voter it is important to research each of these people, their history, record where available, and their positions on issues important to you, for three of these six will be on the ballot in November. Once the primaries have been decided I intend to return to each party and discuss why they think the people on their ticket deserve a vote from the unaffiliated voters of Colorado.

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

SOS OFFERS BALLOT BOX PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced a program to provide funding for up to 100 additional ballot drop boxes for the upcoming Nov. 3 General Election. This is in addition to the 2019 Colorado Votes Act, through which the Secretary of State is helping to provide funding for 91 additional drop boxes across Colorado.

Through this grant program, counties may apply for funding to install additional ballot drop boxes. Each of Colorado's 64 counties is encouraged to add at least one drop box.

The Secretary of State's Office will reimburse the cost for each drop box, with counties eligible for up to \$10,000 per drop box. Counties have until Aug. 1 to submit applications.

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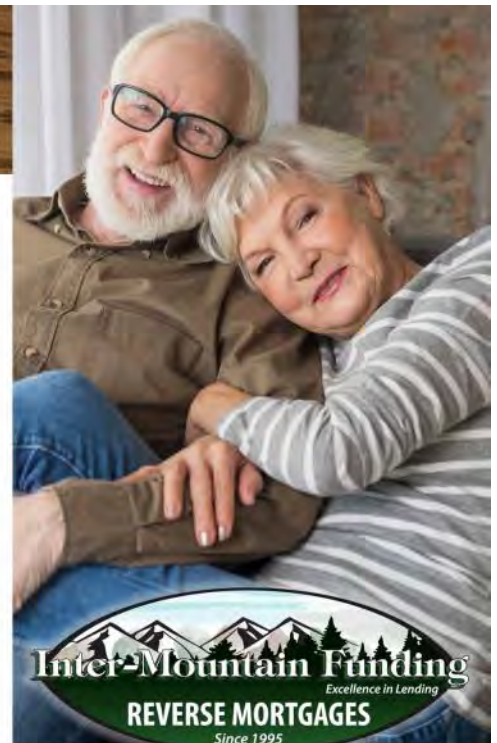
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY WAYNE SKIFF

*Submitted photo
MONTROSE-Skiff writes, "This
picture was taken while I was
playing golf on the Black Can-
yon golf course on the 8th
hole. These townhomes are
on Phillip's Court."*

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT DELTA INTERSECTION PROJECT ON US 50 AND CO 92 BEGINS JUNE 22

Special to the Mirror

DELTA - Starting June 22, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contractor Mountain Valley Contracting will begin work on the US Highway 50 and Colorado Highway 92 Delta Intersection Project. Throughout the project, construction will take place on US 50 from Confluence Drive to 2nd Street, and on CO 92 from US 50 to Grand Avenue.

Motorists should plan for a significant detour, lasting one day, on the first day of construction. Please see below for additional travel impacts.

Work throughout the project consists of adding a second left-turn lane from southbound US 50 to eastbound CO 92, concrete pavement, storm drain pipe replacement, traffic signal replacement, overhead sign structure removal, new signage and striping. The project will also include installation of a continuous raised median near City Market on US 50 and near Meeker Street on CO 92, in conformance with the City of Delta Access Control Plan.

The second left-turn lane, from southbound US 50 to eastbound CO 92, will allow more vehicles through the intersection. This will help prevent a line of vehicles extending north onto nearby railroad tracks. The raised median near City Market will provide additional safety by preventing left-turn accidents.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Work is scheduled to begin on June 22 and

is expected to last until late January 2021. Normal working hours will be Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TRAVEL IMPACTS

Thru traffic on US 50 (both directions) is encouraged to use Confluence Drive to bypass construction during the project. On the afternoon of Monday, June 22, there will be a detour for westbound traffic from CO 92 onto northbound US 50 (towards Grand Junction). The detour will guide westbound traffic through the inter-

section with US 50 onto 1st Street, right onto Palmer Street, then a right on Confluence Drive. Motorists can continue to the intersection with US 50, for traveling north or south, or use this detour to access City Market and nearby services. Additional detours will be in place later in the project.

Night work is also anticipated and will be necessary for removal of overhead signs, installation of new signal pole mast arms, and culvert installation.

MONTROSE BUSINESS UPDATE: BUSINESS SURVEY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 @ 8:30 AM

JOIN US ON THE ZOOM CALL: <https://tinyurl.com/MBUSurvey>

We want YOUR feedback

We want to hear your voice, how has COVID-19 affected your business? This call will be an interactive survey.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE MADE INTO CITY, MUSIC FESTIVAL

Dear Editor...

Thank you to Bill Bennett, Ben & Kay Alexander, Dee Laird and Bill Ramsey for your recent letters to The Montrose Mirror which intensify the pressure on Bill Bell, Dave Bowman and City Council to unwrap the secrecy and extortion attempts by Bowman's Music Festival. Transparent decisions by this administration do not seem to be its hallmark. An independent investigation involving the City and the Music Festival should occur.

Marge Morgenstern, Montrose

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Vehicle Registration

WED & FRI 8am

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

JANECE DESERVES JUSTICE!!

Editor:

Three weeks ago, the Bowman scandal broke in The Montrose Mirror. A follow up article was published in The Montrose Daily Press. In both articles, it was made clear that Bowman's demands for, and receipt of, a substantial portion of Janece Culver's liquor sales at last summer's music series were ILLEGAL!

Since this story became public, City Council has had five public meetings now, in which to address the reported news, and exercise some transparency on the issue. This situation involves an illegal action of the then Mayor, who pressured a female small business owner operating a City owned facility under specific City contract, for his own personal financial gain over a series of concerts.

As reported by both publications, we now

know City Hall was fully aware of Ms. Culver's concerns after the first concert last year. Yet we have had no comments from Council, which seems more concerned with covering up ethical and potentially criminal violations, instead of rectifying a wrong inflicted on Ms. Culver by our own Mayor.

Now, with this scandal brought into full public scrutiny, Council has shown an astounding lack of integrity and transparency in not addressing it publicly. Now, the entire City Council of last year, our newest Council member [since he has been aware of this for three weeks without speaking up], our City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Attorney are all complicit in the continuing cover up. Shouldn't we, as taxpayers, expect more from our elected officials and highest

ranking employees?

I am appalled by our previous Mayor's abuse of power and greed, and embarrassed by Council's gross display of inaction in standing up for a hard-working and well intentioned citizen with a City contract, broken by the Mayor!

Ms Culver stuck her neck out about Bowman's highly questionable scheme, that not only cost her about \$6,000 in revenue, but has cost her a substantial amount in attorney fees so far. She needs to know that a huge part of the Montrose community supports her courage and determination to fight what is clearly a corrupt City government. Her fight is a fight for us all!

It's clear now that the only JUSTICE FOR JANECE will come from the long arm of our legal system.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC TRANSITION

River Valley Family Health Center Takes
Over Title X Funds for Family Planning

FAMILY PLANNING

River Valley Family Health Center received Title X funding and will provide family planning services beginning July 1st. For questions through June 30th, or to obtain your family planning medical records, contact Carmen Mora at 252-7053 or cmora@montrosecounty.net

IMMUNIZATIONS

Public Health will discontinue administering immunizations after June 30th. A flyer with other immunization providers is available on our county website here: montrosecounty.net/immunizations

For questions through June 30th, or to obtain your immunization records, contact Linda Vandehey at 252-7048 or lvandehey@montrosecounty.net.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT DRUG TASK FORCE UPDATE

7th Judicial Drug Task Force

REGIONAL—During the first six months of 2020, the Seventh Judicial District Drug Task Force has been very busy. The Seventh Judicial District Drug Task Force is comprised of agents from the Montrose Police Department, Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Since January of 2020, agents of the Seventh Judicial District Drug Task Force have made fifteen

physical arrests and have seized three pounds of illegal narcotics. Those arrested by the Seventh Judicial Drug Task Force have consisted of individuals who have been indicted for the distribution of illegal narcotics as well as those who were actively trafficking illegal narcotics to our community.

The narcotics seized have consisted of black market marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. These arrests

and seizures have been significant in identifying and dismantling the drug trafficking organizations that operate in our community.

The Seventh Judicial District Drug Task Force would like to thank all of the agencies who have assisted us so far and we look forward continuing our mission of apprehending and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking illegal narcotics into and within our community.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR FIREWORKS IN 2020?

- ☐ LABOR DAY
- ☐ FALL
(EXACT DATE TBD)
- ☐ NEW YEAR'S EVE

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IRS WARNS TAXPAYERS OF CONSUMER SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers to guard against tax fraud and other related financial scams related to COVID-19. In the last few months, the IRS Criminal Investigation division (CI) has seen a variety of Economic Impact Payment (EIP) scams and other financial schemes looking to take advantage of unsuspecting taxpayers.

Most of these new schemes are actively playing on the fear and unknown of the virus and the stimulus payments. Coronavirus-related (COVID-19) scams should be reported to the [National Center for Disaster Fraud \(NCDF\) Hotline](#) at 866-720-5721 or submitted through the [NCDF web Complaint Form](#). Taxpayers can also report fraud or theft of their Economic Impact Payments to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration \(TIGTA\)](#). Reports can be made online. TIGTA investigates external attempts to corruptly interfere with federal tax administration, including IRS-related coronavirus scams. Also, taxpayers can always report phishing attempts to the IRS. Those who receive unsolicited emails or social media attempts to gather information should forward those to phishing@irs.gov. Taxpayers are encouraged not to engage potential scammers online or on the phone.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE CITY HALL NEEDS AN EXORCIST- A GOOD ONE AND SOON

Editor:

Many in Montrose strongly suspect that 'Devious Dave' did, by word and/or deed, 'extort' money from a 'concessionaire' of the city for his personal (and possibly another's) benefit.

And we strongly suspect that at least one more of the Council and one of the managers knew about it (except possibly Mr. Frank) ahead of its exposure.

Over a month gone by and nothing has been said or happened.

In other words Devious Dave may have taken money to which he was not entitled by not telling the concessionaire the truth (lied?) Was there a threat, implied or direct? The concessionaire believed him, at least initially, after all he was the Mayor and therefore presumed by most to be an honest and upright citizen, eh what? Ms. Cutler is a layperson not versed in official and unofficial duties. Did Devious Dave not count on this? She forked over HER

money, all \$6,000 as directed. Should his nickname now be changed to 'Dishonest Devious Dave'?

How many 'unsung' incidents of this type behavior have occurred in the past? We need some 'canaries' to sing so we can know just how common this behavior is. And by whom?

But now at least this scheme has been exposed. Except that it is being covered up by the 'transparent, high integrity, accountable' city council, at least three of whom adopted this platform as their own during the recent election.

On our city council and with our city management there is no transparency, accountability or integrity no matter how much they say there is.

It shows. No transparency and no accountability. They have circled the wagons and are covering up for at least one of their members. Obviously no 'integrity' except to one of their own! But the next

question is obvious. Why are eight other members of city hall gathering to stone-wall this misbehavior?

Are some of them involved in this or similar activities? Since it is almost impossible to get eight people to agree upon anything any reasonably honest person can only suspect the motivation for this ominous silence.

This could very easily be a violation of the Federal RICO statute designed to prosecute just organized crime. Lessee if it really works for the people.

An internal investigation will provide only whitewash; it is time for a public one!

Do you think that when all eight have to tell the truth that the truth will out? I think that at least one bird will sing.

Pillars of the community, my butt!

Our city government needs an EXORCISM! City Council should be seeking outside investigation to disprove their culpability.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MEDC'S 2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION



Steve Anderson has been the Association's Manager since 2016 and he works with a nine member Board of Directors. In 2018, Steve was appointed by the Governor to the board of directors for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) representing the Gunnison/Uncompahgre Basin. UVWUA continues to develop and manage conservation programs such as piping and lining of their ditches to promote efficiencies and reduce waste. In addition, the board continually works to protect our water rights both on a State and Federal level in order to keep agriculture strong in our valley.

UVWUA has proven to be an innovative and forward-thinking organization. Over the past seven years through partnerships with both Delta Montrose Electric Association and private developers, UVWUA has added five clean energy hydroelectric generation plants to the system. These plants generate an average of 70 million kilowatt hours of electricity in a season which is enough to supply the power needs of 8300 average homes.

In addition, UVWUA and Gunnison County Electric Association have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a hydroelectric plant at Taylor Park dam. These projects not only produce renewable energy, but they also greatly reduce carbon emissions.

Agriculture is the largest industry in our Region. The quality leadership and innovative planning and conservation efforts of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association will enable us to sustain agriculture in our valley and thereby maintain our open green spaces and protect our quality of life.

MEDC's 2020 Economic Development Award goes to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association. The USDA Census shows a total of \$83.6M in Market Value of products sold and other farm related income within Montrose County alone. Courtesy photo MEDC.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-MEDC is pleased to present the 2020 Economic Development Award to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, (UVWUA) was created in 1902 to organize a plan to divert water from the Gunnison River into the Uncompahgre Valley. The Uncompahgre Project was created one year later and resulted in the drilling of the Gunnison Tunnel, a 5.8-mile tunnel through Vernal Mesa. The project was completed in 1909 and in 1927 the Bureau of Reclamation turned the project over to the UVWUA as the managing agent.

The UVWUA system is the largest irrigation system on the Western Slope of Colorado irrigating some 83,000 agricultural and domestic acres and includes over 700 miles of canals, laterals, and ditches. The project diverts a total of over 500,000-acre feet annually. Approximately 9,000-

acre feet of that are used for municipal water supply. The UVWUA serves over 3,500 shareholder/members who utilize the water for production of small grains, onions, corn, dry beans, forage crops, and other fruits and vegetables.

In 2014 when the State of Colorado legalized marijuana, the production of industrial hemp also became legal. UVWUA was the leading water district in the State that allowed producers to use irrigation water to raise hemp even though the water flows through Federal water projects. In 2019, an estimated 13,000 acres of hemp were planted in the valley.

UVWUA has 44 full time employees and the Association contributes over \$7M to our local economy through operations. The USDA Census shows a total of \$83.6M in Market Value of products sold and other farm related income within Montrose County alone.

These are new dollars coming into our community.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST AWARDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GRANT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-HopeWest of Delta, Colorado was recently awarded \$5000 of grant funding by the [Colorado COVID Relief Fund](#) to help respond to Delta County's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs for HopeWest care providers, and Delta County long term health care facilities, in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"We are incredibly pleased to receive this grant award to assist with the PPE needs for those on the frontline of COVID-19, in Delta County", said HopeWest Delta Program Director Dorothy Pew, "We are seeing firsthand how crucial having the ap-

propriate PPE can help our caregivers remain safe, while continuing to provide vital services in our community."

As HopeWest is a part of Delta County's Emergency Operations team, it has provided a unique opportunity for collaboration in this effort. "Preventing the transmission of COVID-19 is our highest priority" said Delta County Administrator Robbie LeValley, "Mitigating the number of positives in our County will assist in not overwhelming our local healthcare system. PPE allows HopeWest and those working in long term healthcare facilities to stay healthy, which in turn keeps those

that they serve healthy, as well."

There are more than 500 individuals being served by HopeWest and Delta County long term health care facilities; this generous grant from the Colorado Relief Fund assures approximately eight additional weeks of PPE for those workers.

Led by an executive committee in coordination with the Governor's Office, [the Colorado COVID Relief Fund](#) was developed to raise and coordinate allocation of funds based on COVID-19 prevention, impact and recovery needs of community-based organizations in Colorado. The Fund is organized to ensure that the most acute community needs across the state are being addressed and that community voice is reflected in all funding decisions made over time.

[HopeWest of Western Colorado](#) is celebrating 25 years of caring for friends and neighbors across the Western Slope. They serve more than 7,000 square miles with five offices and a state-of-the-art HopeWest Hospice Care Center. With a staff of 375 and more than 1,300 volunteers, they provide care to more than 2,500 patients and well-over 1,500 individuals coping with grief every year in the counties that they serve.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ISOLATION AND LONELINESS MAY LEAVE SENIORS VULNERABLE TO INVESTMENT FRAUD DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in the month of June, Colorado Securities Commissioner Tung Chan and Division of Securities, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), remind financial professionals and the public throughout Colorado that heightened isolation and loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic have created a perfect storm for senior financial exploitation.

"Social isolation has long been one of the leading factors contributing to the financial exploitation of older investors, and the unprecedented quarantines to protect against the spread of the novel coronavirus have taken social isolation to a new dimension for many seniors, making them more vulnerable to financial exploitation," Commissioner Chan said.

While financial abuse can happen at any time, perpetrators often strike during times in a senior's life when they may be more vulnerable, such as during a health crisis or after the death of a loved one. Scammers often gather personal details from obituaries and social media posts and use this information to target their victims. Some even will exploit trust within seniors' social and support groups to become more involved in their lives.

How You Can Help:

While in-person visits may not be possible yet, be sure to keep in touch with older family members, friends, and neighbors. Call or leave a note on their front door. If

they have the technology, send them a text or email, or contact them via Facetime, Skype, Zoom or other video apps. Contact is key to letting your loved ones know you are thinking of them and that they are not alone.

Let your older family members know that fraudsters and scammers have found ways to exploit the pandemic. Make them aware of the red flags of fraud, which remain consistent regardless of the fraud or scam. Information regarding COVID-19

scams can be found in a previously-released [DORA consumer advisory](#). Additional information on general red flags of fraud and exploitation can be found on the Division of Securities investor education website's "[Learn how to avoid being a victim](#)" section.

Commissioner Chan asks anyone with suspicions of possible senior financial exploitation to contact the Division of Securities by calling 303-894-2320 or emailing us at dora_SecuritiesWebsite@state.co.us.

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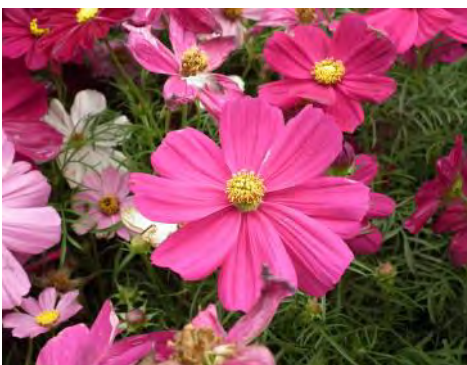
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DMEA CELEBRATES 2020 WITH VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING



DMEA's Annual meeting went online this year. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-The 2020 Annual Meeting of Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), held on June 18, was a virtual experience. The one-hour meeting consisted of introductions, reports from the president and the Chief Operating Officer (CEO), and written questions submitted by members to the board for Q & A.

All nine board of directors, as well as senior staff, were present. The by-laws for the annual meeting and election require a quorum of 50 members. The number of on-line attendees, which includes DMEA employee members, was not revealed. However, Secretary/Treasurer Brad Harding certified that a quorum was reached.

Board President Bill Patterson introduced the three unopposed candidates running for District 6, 7 and 8.

DMEA attorney Jeff Hurd facilitated the board election by opening the polls, letting members vote electronically, and then closing the polls. Rather than announcing the actual number of votes, the election tabulation presented was 98 percent of the participants voted "yes" and

two percent abstained.

Those elected were Damon Lockhart (District 6), Enno Heuscher (District 7), and Stacia Cannon (District 8 - North Region).

President's Report – Bill Patterson.

Patterson said, "We are leaving Tri State for a new power supply. When we started Elevate we wanted high speed internet for all our members. We estimated it would take 12 years and we are halfway through in less than six years. We've built out 46 percent. We've connected 325 families for better internet service during COVID-19. We're providing service to local school districts so they aren't held back on the internet."

In 2019 Elevate installed 748 miles of fiber. Patterson said, "We have 6,944 internet customers, 1,186 phone customers and 575 television customers. We have 48.2 percent overall take-rate in areas of service. We have a positive cash flow at this time and a tremendous lead compared to other internet companies."

CEO Report – Jasen Bronec.

Bronec said. "This is my 6th year as CEO for DMEA and Elevate. I'm excited to report DMEA is very stable organizationally and financially. We are accomplishing great things. We have 35,008 meters, an annual revenue of \$69 M and 114 DMEA and Elevate employees. We are member owned and governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees."

Bronec continued, "I am proud of how our employees serve our customers. The prices of power are a primary concern and for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021 we do not anticipate a rate increase."

However, DMEA recently lost two of their largest customers (coal mines and Russell Stover).

Speculating on the loss of another coal mine Bronec said, "It would likely trigger a rate increase."

Sixty-five percent of DMEA's annual cost is for power supply and July 1st they will

transition from Tri State to Guzman Energy. Bronec said, "Our plans began in 2018. Guzman Energy is a local based wholesale company and we have a shared vision. The term of our contract with Guzman is a fixed rate for 12.5 years."

Bronec recapped the costs associated with the exit from Tri State, but noted transmission cost will continue to increase and DMEA will stay with Tri State for transmission. Bronec said, "Over last year DMEA is better off for our efforts [securing a new power supply]."

Member comments and questions

Patterson, Bronec and senior staff fielded approximately a dozen written questions relating to both DMEA and Elevate. There were no member comments.

Announcement of door prize winners –

Kyle Martinez, Member Relations Chair.

Martinez announced a lengthy list of winners of gift cards and shopping sprees. Winners will receive their gift cards and awards in the mail.

Adjourned

The 2020 Annual meeting was adjourned and followed by the Board Organizational meeting.

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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DMEA ELECTS BOARD OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2020

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-Immediately following the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Annual Meeting on June 18, the Board of Directors convened for an Organizational Meeting. All board members were present for the virtual Zoom meeting.

Election of Board Officers – Attorney Jeff Hurd.

Hurd, who facilitated the election of the president, said, “No second is needed for a nomination and people can self-nominate. Individual votes are not seen and votes will be done electronically.” Only one candidate was nominated for each position and all positions were elected unanimously.

DMEA Board Officers for 2020:

President – Bill Patterson

Vice President – Kyle Martinez

Secretary/Treasurer – Brad Harding

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Hauck

Election of Representative Board Members – Bill Patterson, President.

Board committee assignments are at the discretion of Board President Bill Patterson.

Western United Electric Supply Corporation (WUES) Representative – Jock Fleming.

Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Representative – Damon Lockhart.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), National Bank for Cooperatives (CoBank), Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Federated Rural Insurance (Federated), and National Information Solution Cooperative (NISC) Representative – Stacia Cannon.

Legal Engagement Letter – Bill Patterson, President.

The board unanimously approved to retain the legal services of attorney Jeff Hurd, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC.

The next regular DMEA monthly meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on June 23, 2020.

MIRROR IMAGES: REPUBLICAN FLAG WAVING



Photos by Paul Arbogast



The Montrose Republican Party held a Flag Waving at Demoret Park on Friday, June 19. US House candidate Lauren Boebert was there and spoke to the enthusiastic crowd.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SQUARE DEAL ON DISPLAY AT MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Center for the Arts is now open! Currently, we have a unique art exhibit and silent auction called "A SQUARE DEAL". Sixty-three pieces have been created and generously donated by local artists on 8x8 canvases. This fundraiser will help support your Art Center. Please stop by to view the exhibit between June 13 and July 3, and bid on your favorite piece of art in the silent auction - minimum bids \$20. Our First Friday reception is on July 3rd from 5 to 8pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park, Montrose. Silent auction bidding will end at 7 pm (Social distancing rules will be encouraged)

For an extra treat, pastelist, Barbara Kendrick, from Ridgway will also be exhibiting her outstanding pastel landscapes for the month of July, from July 3-31.



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Gary Cutler.**

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler
COLORADO-The word "Yield" has many meanings throughout the English language. You can yield to the next speaker, or the land can yield food from the garden. But today I bring up yield as in the road sign.

Too often I find that drivers treat a yield sign as a free for all to go through intersections or turns onto other roads without even slowing.

A yield sign allows a driver to reduce speed instead of having to come to a complete stop. Call a yield sign a small-time saver. But remember, it doesn't mean you may not have to come to complete stop if necessary to yield right of

way to any traffic on the roadway you are going to cross or enter.

So, when approaching a yield sign it means slowing to a reasonable speed, which allows you the ability to ascertain what is happening in the area. Ask yourself, did you give yourself enough time to accurately see if traffic is coming? Are there any pedestrians using the crosswalks? Do you have an acceleration lane or does it go directly into the lane of travel?

In my opinion a good speed for a yield sign is quite often what I see when someone rolls through a stop sign. So quick refresher there. Stop at a stop sign, and slow roll through the yield sign if its safe to do so.

Are you aware that when entering a roadway, that to do it safely and legally, you cannot alter the other vehicle's pathway.

This means causing them to slow from the speed they were going. Make sure you can get your vehicle up to the speed limit prior to another car coming up behind you as you enter that new road.

Now let's talk about what to do when an intersection has flashing yellow lights. This is another area I've seen drivers never even slow their speed when going through the intersection.

This is highly dangerous. You need to know if the lights have malfunctioned and are showing yellow in all directions or if the road crossing your path is flashing red.

Either way, those flashing lights require a driver to slow to a reasonable and safe speed to be able to once again ascertain how safe it is to proceed through the intersection.

"I now yield the floor."

As always, safe travels!



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606 Spring Creek Road, Montrose • Offered by: Betsy Fernandez



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



\$59,000 • MLS 748707 • LAND • 0.35 Apx. Total Acres
3169 Silver Fox Drive, Montrose • Offered by: Don Bailey



\$595,000 • MLS 767367 • Bld: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,690 sq. ft. • 79.600 Apx. Total Acres
24126 Huronville, Montrose • Offered by: Elizabeth J. Spitzer



\$249,900 • MLS 768555 • Bld: 4 | Bk: 2 • 1,824 sq. ft. • 0.270 Apx. Total Acres
18 Aspen Street, Montrose • Offered by: Holly L. Hunsley



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



\$239,990 • MLS 768776 • Bld: 2 | Bk: 1 • 891 sq. ft. • 2.000 Apx. Total Acres
19250 Highway 550, Paoana • Offered by: Jeff L. Koehfuss



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



Price Improvement
\$437,500 • MLS 766446 • Bld: 4 | Bk: 2 • 2,617 sq. ft. • 1.240 Apx. Total Acres
62251 Jig Road, Montrose • Offered by: Keri Noonan-Inda



\$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



\$925,000 • MLS 767582 • Investor Opportunity
620 Main Street, Duray USPS • Offered by: Linda Stell



\$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: Patrice M. Floyd



\$75,000 • MLS 766028 • LAND • 0.36 Apx. Total Acres
TBD Majestic Circle, Montrose • Offered by: Trena Unrein & Brian Unrein

OPINION/ EDITORIAL: LETTERS

Editor:

I appreciate our two Senators promoting the Land & Water Conservation Fund's (LWCF) full funding through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). LWCF was established over 50 years ago, and although never fully funded, it has benefitted nearly every U.S. county for parks and recreation projects (including all of those in Colorado). It is sad, however, that Cory Gardner didn't address the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE) demanded by a majority of Coloradoans and suggested by Sen. Bennet to be added to GAOA. As a matter of fact some believe that Gardner's promotion of the GAOA may be an effort to ignore the public demand for CORE Act support. The CORE Act would protect approx. 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado needing further legacy protection and is supported by a majority of Coloradoans. Call and let your voice be heard,
Wayne Quade, Montrose

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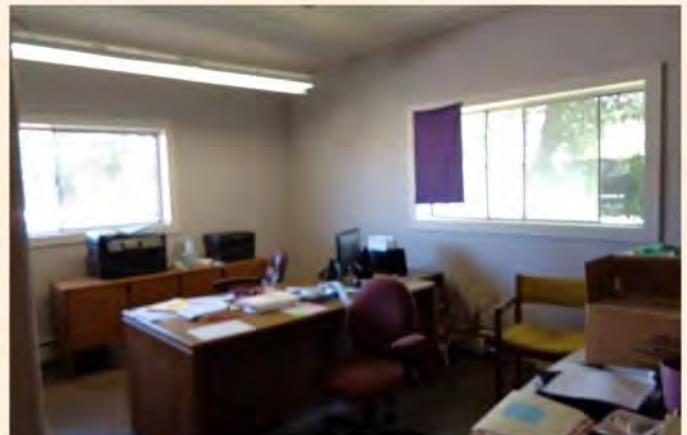
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUC OPENS PROCEEDING TO EXAMINE ELECTRIC UTILITY RETAIL RATES IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Wednesday opened a proceeding to conduct a survey of electric public utility retail rates as specified in legislation approved last year.

Senate Bill 19-236 directed the PUC to open a proceeding to examine retail rates of electric utilities in Colorado, and specifically consider recommendations that would result in rate relief for certificated electric utility territories with retail rates materially greater than the state average. The PUC is required to file a report on its findings to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2021.

To complete the survey, PUC staff intends to issue survey questions to regulated electric utilities on basic cost, rate structure usage and demographic statistics, as

well as survey questions on factors that may provide context and meaningful correlation with rates.

Although rural electric cooperatives are excluded from the survey by statute, the PUC also will solicit voluntary survey responses from those entities and municipal utilities to provide a more complete picture of the state of electric retail rates in Colorado.

Data from survey responses and publicly available sources will be used to determine the average state retail rate and to develop a proposed definition for rates that qualify as “materially greater” than the state average.

PUC staff will solicit stakeholder input on the results of the survey, the proposed definition of “materially greater,” and rate

relief options.

Commissioner Megan Gilman was designated as Hearing Commissioner and will work with PUC staff, stakeholders and other interested participants to collect and organize information required by statute.

Parties interested in participating in this proceeding are required to file a notice of participation by July 10. Individuals may also submit written comments by using the PUC’s on-line comment form at www.dora.state.co.us/pacific/puc/puccomments under proceeding number 20M-0251E.

Visit <https://www.colorado.gov/dora/puc-legislation-implementation> for updates on PUC proceedings related to 2019 legislation.

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

At Volunteers of America senior living and care communities, the health and safety of our residents, staff and extended community is of utmost importance. We're working around the clock to monitor the situation, following the current recommendations of the CDC and other state and local health officials on response efforts and reinforcing our policies and procedures.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT NEWS UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

The Montrose Regional Library District is pleased to announce Phase 3 of our reopening plan, the limited reopening of our facilities. Our goal is to allow our patrons access to materials from the library, including computers, while maintaining a safe environment for customers and staff through social distancing. All staff will be wearing masks for your safety and we hope you will wear them while visiting the library.

The Montrose Regional Library will be reopening with limited services on Monday, June 22, 2020.

Hours of Operation (excluding holidays):

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

Curbside 10am to 12pm

Library 2pm to 6pm

Thursday/Friday/Saturday

No curbside

Library 10am to 2pm

The following services will be available during limited reopening hours:

Browsing, requests and pick up of items.

Public use computers with limited timed sessions of 50 minutes with no extensions.

Library card and account set up.

Copying and printing.

Home delivery service via the Outreach Van.

No item returns via the Outreach Van.

Online and virtual programming.

Proctored exams.

Limited donations will be accepted.

Please no more than 3 boxes of items at a time. These items must be quarantined and we simply don't have much space. We are working on getting our courier up and running so we can borrow books from other libraries.

Services Unavailable with Limited Opening:

No in-person programming or events.

No study room or meeting room reservations.

No in-person Book-a-Librarian sessions



Mirror photo by Gail Marvel. Youth Services Librarian Elizabeth Cook helping with curbside service at the library last week.

No in-person gatherings of more than 10 while ensuring social distancing guidelines.

No passport reservations.

No item returns via the Outreach Van.

Limited reopening will look different from the library experience before the shutdown for the virus. The first difference is at the front door. In order to follow state and local health guidelines, we will be strongly encouraging people to wear face masks in the library for your health and the health of other patrons and staff. The lobby will be divided in half by a plastic curtain so we can separate the incoming and outgoing flow of patrons. This keeps people from breathing on each other at the choke point of our single entrance and exit. There will be no furniture in the lobby and no gathering or waiting in the lobby during this phase. When you enter the library proper, you will notice there is a plastic sneeze guard above the Ask Here desk in front of you. We have put these on all of our public service desks to help protect patrons and staff.

Going further you will see that there are fewer computers for public use. This is to maintain social distancing. There is no

access to work rooms or study rooms, again due to restrictions on gathering and social distancing. We also need this space so we can quarantine our returned books for 72 hours. The meeting room and story hour room are closed due to restrictions on gathering and because we need space to put together bags for how we are doing summer reading programs and to store furniture. There are only a few chairs left in the library in order to accomplish our goal of allowing access to materials and computers and encourage social distancing. Most of the furniture is being stored in the story hour room and the meeting room. Please be patient as we work our way into this. While we are doing limited opening we are also continuing home delivery and curbside service. We only have the staff we had before we began all of these services, so we are having to limit the hours of each service. Thus far we have been able to do this successfully but again it is a work in progress. Hopefully we will continue to wear masks and social distance in order to keep the cases of Covid in Montrose low. If so, then we can move to Phase 4, which will be fully reopened.



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BOCC QUESTIONS FORMULA USED FOR AIRPORT RELIEF FUNDS; SMALL FACILITIES WITH HIGH DEBT SCORE BIG From pg 1

read a correction to figures stated in Item D-1, consideration and possible action on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Grant Agreement #3-08-0043-053-2020 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$2,047,443 (\$2,027,443 for Montrose Regional Airport and \$20,000 for Nucla's Hopkins Field Airport) to help offset reduced airport revenue resulting from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as reviewed by Counsel.

Norris moved Consent Agenda Item C-19, consideration of a resolution to declare real property as surplus as reviewed by Counsel (the subject property is located within the corporate limits of the Town of Naturita), to D-2 under General Business & Administrative items.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as amended, with Item D-17 given Resolution No. 23-2020.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners approved Item D-1, consideration and possible action on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Grant Agreement #3-08-0043-053-2020 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$2,047,443 (\$2,027,443 for Montrose Regional Airport and \$20,000 for Nucla Hopkins Field Airport) to help offset reduced airport revenue resulting from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, after some discussion.

Montrose County Airport manager Lloyd Arnold said that the funds may be used for operational expenses such as payroll and small item purchases, "There really are no restrictions." The money will help to offset a loss of airport revenues during the COVID-19 restrictions, as the Airport has waived fees for local companies and deferred some airline payments to help the community and the airport.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said that smaller airports with significant debt loads were given higher levels of funding than Montrose Regional Airport, and asked Arnold if he knew why that was the case.

"Has the FAA looked into the distribution of these funds?"

Said Arnold, "They say that they are looking into that. There was a mathematical ratio that they applied to airport financing. And so, if your airport was in a good position and financially healthy and doing well, you were actually penalized. If you were in a poor position, you received more money per their formula.

"...we have been doing very well and in a great financial position," Arnold said.

"Therefore, we did not receive as much funding." Some small airports with high debt received millions, enough money to fund operations for 18 to 20 years, Arnold said, adding that he had already filed a complaint regarding the formula.

"Hopefully they are looking into that and correcting that...we had zero debt and that was one of the things that worked against us."

"Thank you," Caddy said, "It's nice that the government recognizes poor performance." He thanked Arnold for his hard work in keeping the airport viable.

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "Thank you for your leadership...we're in such good financial shape out there and that's due to you and your staff...I want to send out kudos. Please let your staff know that we do appreciate all the work they do."

Passenger traffic has been increasing at a decent pace, Arnold said.

"...We're in a good financial position, we will be able to weather that storm and come out the other end still doing quite well."

Also approved unanimously was Resolution 24-2020, formerly Consent Agenda Item C-19, declaring real property as surplus as reviewed by Counsel.

The subject property, acquired in 1975 by a treasurer's deed, is located within the corporate limits of the Town of Naturita and will be put up for sale, Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch said.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners unanimously approved a proposal to vacate a road right-of-way for a property located between 5800 and Colorow roads.

Also approved was an application to update a special use permit granted to Camp V in June of 2019, to construct a campground/RV Park on a 40-acre site, located on the north and south sides of Highway 141 with the San Miguel River on the northern boundary.

The area is also known as Vancorum.2.

The original application approved a 22-acre campground/RV Park north of Highway 141; the applicant now proposed to increase the size and scope of the project.

"I love this project, I think it's very creative and very cool," Commissioner Sue Hansen said.

Applicant Natalie Binder, whose father once lived at the site, said that the original baseball park will be restored and late-night movies will be shown there.

"Thank you for investing your time and dollars into refurbishing these old cabins," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, noting that he remembered seeing them as a youth.

A proposed amendment to an existing Special Use for the Lock Stock and Barrel venue, to allow year-round use of the facility and to add an RV site and one glamping campsite, was tabled until the BOCC meeting of July 1 to allow time for additional public comment.

Commissioners also approved:

A proposal to rezone from Business to Residential for San Juan Meadows Subdivision Lot 1, 3767-332-06-001;

A special use application by Krystal Kerr to operate a daycare facility for up to 12 children at a property on the southeast corner of 6300 Road and Jordan Court;

A proposal by Ranger Ranchettes Minor Subdivision [MI-19-0037] to divide a 9.15-acre lot into three lots at 399318203002;

A proposal by Penasa Family Trust Minor Subdivision [MI-19-0077] to divide a 19.32-acre lot into three lots at 16177 6400 Road;

A proposal by Blue Sky Minor Subdivision to divide a 38.76-acre lot into three lots at 59478 Joey Road;

A proposal by P.T. Sarnstrom Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0010] to divide two lots from a 44-acre parcel at 63345 Ida Road;

Continued next pg

BOCC QUESTIONS FORMULA USED FOR AIRPORT RELIEF FUNDS; SMALL FACILITIES WITH HIGH DEBT SCORE BIG From previous pg

A proposal by Peterson Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0011] to divide an 18-acre lot into three lots at 14611 6100 Road;
 A proposal by San Juan Meadows 2 Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0013] to divide a 23,539 square-ft lot into two lots at San Juan Meadows Subdivision Lot 1 3767-332-06-001;
 A proposal by B&C Brown Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0015] to divide a 15.5-acre lot into three lots at 18436 6415 Court and 64567 Ranger Road;
 A proposal by Willis Minor Subdivision [MI-20-0018] to divide a 9.397-acre lot into three lots at 376715304001.
 All of the listed items were presented in detail by County Planner 1 Talmadge Richmond.
 With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE COMMISSION SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING OF FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- On June 12, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved a resolution voicing [support for the secure, long-term and dedicated funding for land and water conservation, wildlife management, parks and outdoor recreation](#). Full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was subsequently granted on June 17 when the U.S. Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).

The resolution, presented to the CPW Commission by Outgoing Chairwoman Michelle Zimmerman, supported full funding of the LWCF, federal funding to reduce the maintenance backlog on public lands, and respectfully requested the Colorado Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation that achieves these aims. With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the LWCF is guaranteed to receive the maximum \$900 million annual allotment advocated for in the resolution.

"We applaud the U.S. Senate for passing this historic act which supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife's mission to conserve wildlife and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities," said CPW Director Dan Prenzlöw. "As the resolution highlighted, full and permanent funding of the LWCF is

key to helping us manage our state parks and shared wildlife resources so that more people can enjoy the outdoors far into the future."

Colorado uses LWCF federal funds to increase recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors. Since 1965, CPW has provided over 1,025 LWCF state matching grants totaling more than \$61 million to fund local government and state park outdoor investments.

The LWCF program was enacted by Congress in 1965 to create parks and open spaces; protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges; preserve wildlife habitat; and enhance recreational opportunities. Funds are allocated through both a federal program and a state-managed matching grant



Full and permanent funding of the LWCF supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife's mission to conserve wildlife and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. Courtesy photo.

program and are derived from offshore oil and gas leasing revenues. While the LWCF program can be funded up to \$900 million annually, it has only received maximum funding twice in its history prior to the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act.

To learn more about the [LWCF](#) and the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission](#), visit our website at <https://cpw.state.co.us/>.

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**Lot 41 Divide Road
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Horsefly Subdivision
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**Lot 63 Barnes Point Drive
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY TALKS ABOUT TRANSPARENCY BUT ARE THEY TRANSPARENT?



Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast
MONTROSE-When people talk about transparency in government, there is no commonly agreed definition of what they mean. Is it just open meetings? Is it free

and unfettered access to all information on finances and decisions they make that should be public? Is it acknowledging and addressing citizens' concerns?

It seems generally that most people think all of the above. In order to keep the government accountable, promote good governance, and combat corruption we need transparency. As one of the candidates that ran for the 'at large' position on Montrose City Council, I was constantly asked about it. At all the events held for candidates to speak, it was one of the top and most frequent questions. Not a single candidate stood against transparency, all voiced support that the City of Montrose needed to be transparent.

I watch comments in various media, and social media where many railed that the city was not transparent at all. In some cases they claimed inability to access information or lack of responses from the city. I am not them, and was not there, so maybe they did indeed have negative

dealings with the city. However I asked different people in local government for information others claimed they could not get, and I got quick and mostly thorough answers.

It is true that all meetings (other than executive sessions) are recorded and released for the public to view. The public is invited to the in-person meetings and the online meetings. I have sat in on them and seen them put out information that I later see people complain about them NOT putting out. On that I think there is a two-way street; if you want to be informed, you need to pay attention.

But on the flip side, The City of Montrose website is not always clear, nor easy to find what you are looking for. A lot of information that should be easily available to the public is not, and at times you need to put in a request for information, which comes with a price. Montrose County is much better than the city at this, just about everything is online, so they are neither profiting off of the public for providing information that should be freely available, nor are they controlling the nozzle on the spigot of information. Knowledge of what governments do is fundamental to the power of people to hold them accountable and improve the government that works for the people.

When it comes to corruption in govern-

ment, free and guaranteed access to information enables everyone to keep tabs on what their elected leaders are doing and call them out when the records show wrongdoing. Withholding information or controlling its flow only increases distrust in the honesty and integrity of those elected to serve the people. Silence makes them complicit.

The Montrose City government knows of the Divot's/Bowman situation which was reported by the *Montrose Mirror*. Three weeks later and four gatherings of the city council, and they have yet to comment or release a statement, not even one that they are aware of the issue and are investigating it.

That is not transparency. That is what fuels distrust in government.

So while I commend the City of Montrose for doing some things to be more transparent, there is room for improvement. They should investigate the system that Montrose County uses for free public access to all records and information, and if there is even a suggestion of an issue of ethics from someone within government, they need to respond, and take appropriate action.

I was there; you all campaigned and supported more transparency, so were they just words, or did you mean it? Mayor Bynum, the citizens want to know.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

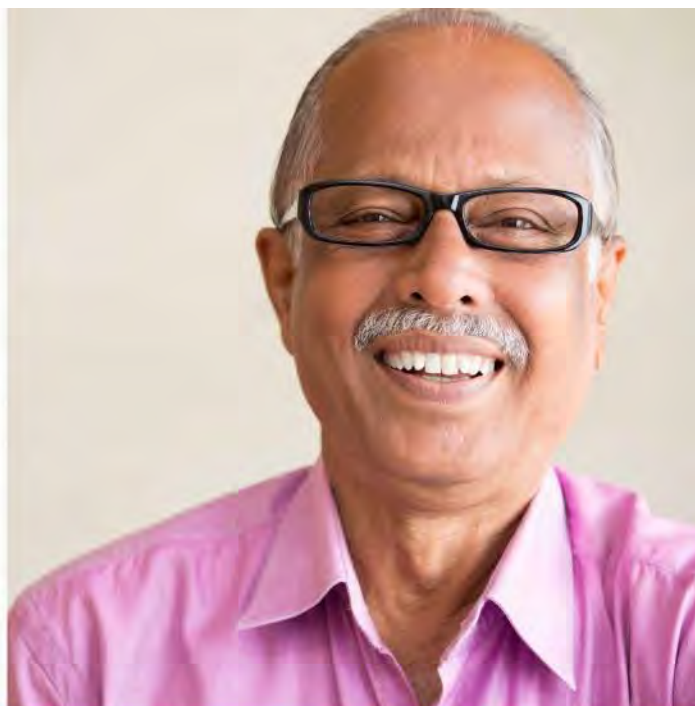
DONATE TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB ONLINE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Donate to online silent auction for Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club, on the Montrose Wine and Food

Festival's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MontroseWineandFoodFestival> to raise funds for the BCBGC. If you are

an individual or business who is interested in donating to this online auction, please contact Amy Taylor at ataylor@bcbgc.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COVID-19 FORCES CANCELLATION OF COLORADO TRIBUTE TO AVIATION AT MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Airport Director, Lloyd Arnold and Montrose County Commissioners have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Colorado Tribute to Aviation scheduled for September 19 and 20, at the Montrose Regional Airport. This action is necessary in order to protect the public health of our community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The safety of our supporters, volunteers, and participants is our top priority. Unfortunately, it has become apparent we will not be able to proceed given restrictions on an event of this size," said Lloyd Arnold, Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation. "I would like to thank our sponsors, vendors, volunteers and fans for their continued support. On behalf of Montrose Regional Airport and the Colorado Tribute to Aviation, we wish everyone and their families the very best of health during these difficult times."

Montrose Regional Airport has been following the guidelines of our local, state and national leaders very carefully and the planning team was hopeful that Tribute might be able to proceed in some fashion. Given that the event typically attracts crowds over 20,000 spectators throughout the weekend, canceling was the only remaining option.

"We wanted to provide our community with an event to look forward to, but unfortunately that's not an option at this time," said Commissioner Roger Rash. "This is a signature event for not only the airport, but the entire western slope and canceling was not an easy decision."

The Colorado Tribute to Aviation's mission each year is to provide a free community event that is a safe, family-oriented, and educational while highlighting aviation and Montrose Regional Airport's capabilities. Despite this year's cancellation, organizers are already working on planning for the 2021 event and working to make it even more memorable for aviation enthusiasts and the public alike. At this time, the Colorado Tribute to Aviation is scheduled at Montrose Regional Airport September 18 and 19, 2021.

For updated information, please go to our website www.tributetoaviation.com

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 25K FOR RESTAURANT VOUCHER PROGRAM

From pg 1

so we can continue on with our meeting, so with that I will turn the floor over to you, please introduce yourself and for the record we need you to give us your address."

Damman complied. He said, "...Myself and many, many other citizens are patiently awaiting City Council to make a statement related to the Divot's situation with then Mayor Bowman...along with what happened when this was messaged into City Hall after the first concert last year, June 2019."

Bynum said, "Great. Thank you very much Mr. Damman. For all those reasons I explained prior to your comments, you'll understand we're not being rude by not saying anything but moving on with our meeting...so we're going to continue on with our agenda."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of the regular and special City Council meetings of June 2.

ORDINANCE 2503- 1ST READING

Council considered Ordinance 2503 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lots 1-10, 13, 15-28, and 36-56 in the Estates at Stone Ridge from R-2, Low Density District to R-3, Medium Density District. The City's Planning Commission had already considered the requested zoning amendment and unanimously recommended approval; documents and comments related to the matter can be found in the [meeting packet](#).

Given the sudden disappearance from City staff of longtime Senior Planner Garry Baker, the City's newly-named Senior Planner Amy Sharp, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, City Engineer Scott Murphy, and City Attorney Stephen Alcorn all attempted to clarify the issues surrounding the requested zoning amendment with varying degrees of success. Mayor Bynum opened a public hearing. First to speak was Otter Pond resident Becky Waugh. "...it would seem reasonable that any prospective purchaser of land, especially a large parcel for building homes, would be cognizant of the zoning that would dictate its developmental potential."

Her concerns focused on public safety,

traffic, and zoning, Waugh said.

"Apparently, from what was said during the Planning Commission meeting for this rezoning request, Montrose has chosen to disregard the importance of viewing these two elements as interrelated, placing zoning before traffic concerns," Waugh said, "it seems a bit like putting the cart before the horse...it seems much more reasonable and prudent to weigh all the possible ramifications of zoning or rezoning decisions when they are discussed."

Otter Pond resident David Beard spoke. "...Once a lot or parcel is rezoned R3, the owner of the property has a use by right, and the City must adhere to its R3 zoning definition, which adds the ability to build a duplex on a single lot.

"...this is why so many of us feel the decision to rezone should not be taken lightly," Beard said.

Said Wade Pynes of Otter Pond, "As CFO of a local not-for-profit...bottom line for me is, this is a money thing...I am a staunch, staunch supporter of capitalism...at the same time, I love Montrose and I don't want it to change...the City's road infrastructure is being taxed by an abundance of traffic and it's beginning to show through congestion and road damage...the traffic information presented this evening may be misleading...I cannot support the proposed rezoning."

Others who spoke included Chris Shima, who noted the regular traffic congestion in the immediate area, particularly around Cottonwood Elementary School. "It is not a good situation...there is no compelling reason to change the zoning...we ask the City Council to please stick with the original plan for Stoneridge, and we ask that you deny this proposal."

Otter Pond resident David White spoke, noting that when the development was originally platted and zoned in 2005, he was serving on City Council and had recused himself from the decision. "I was a resident, and the City Attorney at the time recommended that... things are different today I guess...this should not be



Former Mayor Dave Bowman was not shy about snickering during a citizen's comments on June 16. Meeting screen shot, above.

approved."

Mayor Bynum and Councilor Roy Anderson, who live in or near Otter Pond, discussed why they did not recuse themselves from the decision.

Applicant David Coker said that when he took over the development two years ago, he mistakenly assumed that the entire subdivision was rezoned R3, but later realized that R2 zoning was in place.

Councilor Dave Bowman said that in recommending approval, the Planning Commission had done its job. "We have a housing crisis in this community...we really haven't seen a lot of good options. I view what Mr. Coker is bringing to us as creative and something that will meet the needs of the community...right now I have no problem with the Planning Commission's decision," Bowman said.

Mayor Bynum said, "...I think the Planning Commission, that we asked to do this kind of work, did their job in this case...I think it's incumbent on us to accept their recommendation."

Council voted unanimously to approve [Ordinance 2503](#) on first reading.

RESOLUTION 2020-11

As discussed previously in work session, Council also voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-11 authorizing assignment to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) of a private activity bond allocation of the City of Montrose pursuant to the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act.

Background: A memo prepared by Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler for

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 25K FOR RESTAURANT VOUCHER PROGRAM

From previous pg

Council notes, "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...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."

More information can be found in the [meeting packet](#).

FUNDING FOR RESTAURANT VOUCHER PROGRAM

City Community Engagement Specialist Bethany Maher discussed the proposed program, which would allocate up to \$25K from the Small Business Emergency Response Fund for the Montrose Community Foundation's Help4Hope program to distribute restaurant vouchers based upon financial need.

A memo prepared by Maher for Council notes staff recommendations include the following:

- That the Montrose Community Foundation track the City of Montrose cards through unique identifying numbers attached to each card, to be followed by a report to council on the program's impact;
- That the City of Montrose allocate up to \$25,000 for this program, funded out of the remaining Small Business Emergency Response Fund.

Councilor Roy Anderson noted that need in Montrose is great and suggested doubling the funding.

Councilors Dave Bowman and Dave Frank expressed support for doubling the requested funding.

Bynum opened the floor to public comment. Citizen Scott Damman addressed Council on the issue.

"...We certainly have a feel-good story, that is important, that helps the needs of many families in one business category," he said. "I think City Council needs to be very careful about selecting a certain busi-

ness category at the expense of others.

"This is also a business category that was able to actually do some sort of business in March, April, and May," Damman said. "Of course, I know it's going to be a five-to-zero vote. What continues to not be addressed are the daily needs of working-class Montrose, which you all know is 80 percent of this community. The 2020 year brought us a lot of stuff, including an 18-percent City sales tax increase in a City where the median income is less than \$25,000."

Councilor Bowman snickered audibly as Damman continued to speak and was captured doing so on the [meeting video](#).

Damman asked Council to consider the real impact on working families of the City's sales tax on groceries.

Following further discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve the restaurant voucher program, with an initial allocation of \$25K, and a report to be given to Council within 45 days or expenditure of the \$25K, whichever comes first.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH MONTROSE COUNTY ON VIRUS RELIEF FUNDS

As discussed in work session, Council voted to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Montrose and Montrose County for application to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for Coronavirus relief funds.

Background-City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented information on the MOU. A memo from Cramer to Council notes, "The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is responsible for managing the distribution of \$275 million in CVRF monies. The portion of funds dedicated to Colorado counties and municipalities is \$219,120,000. Each county will receive an allocation based on the per capita population. Montrose County's allocation is \$3,668,055. Counties and municipalities must collaborate and form an agreement

to distribute the allocation. Municipalities will then opt-in to the program and request reimbursement for eligible expenses directly from DOLA. Under the proposed MOU, the City will be eligible to receive \$1.1 million in reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses for the period March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020."

Councilors considered the possibility of partnering with other organizations when spending the funds.

Said Mayor Bynum, "...We have been able to get more done when we work collaboratively; I think relationships across the community are really at an all-time high."

STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the [Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report](#) for April.

Grant Coordinator Cramer reported that a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist with the construction of a new club facility in Montrose has been funded. He thanked BCB&G grant writer Lori Sharp for her work. "It's a team effort," Cramer said. Construction will break ground next spring.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said that he met with four local Black Lives Matters members and will meet with them again in May.

"We're going to work together to try to accomplish some things."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler updated Council on activities planned for the Fourth of July, including free red, white, and blue popsicles from mobile vendors while supplies last; encouraging residents to decorate their homes or buildings; a poetry contest for grades 3 to 8; and an America the Beautiful Photo Contest. Recipes will be shared online as well.

Following further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.





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SUNSET MESA DRIVE STARTING TO SINK, GLASPELL WARNS

Council considers return to chambers in July



Montrose City Council is considering a return to Council Chambers in July.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Monday, June 15 the Montrose City Council met at 10 a.m. for a virtual work session via Zoom. All Councilors were present. Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the work session and welcomed all viewers.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY STAFF

New employees introduced at the work session include part-time Animal Shelter Technician Donna Maurer and Police Officers Peter Chell; Connor Gibbs; Joshua Lamphere; Jordan Hewitt; and Cameron Pensyl.

Chell grew up in Canyon City, joined the Marines after high school, and went on to college after that. When his family moved to Montrose he came to visit. "I just really fell in love with the community here."

Born and raised in Chicago, Maurer was a librarian and taught art and computers in the public schools. She came to Montrose when her husband took a job with the hospital. She volunteered at the Animal Shelter before being hired. "I was lucky enough to get a job here," she said.

Gibbs was born in Cincinnati, moved to Alabama after graduation, joined the Army, and later earned a Criminal Justice degree. He worked as a bar back before being hired as a police officer. "I have been here about a month and I am really enjoying it."

Hewitt is from Littleton and worked for the Regional Transportation District (RTD) before coming to Montrose. "I'm really excited about the new ice-skating rink we're going to get here if I can get everybody on board."

After graduating in Gunnison, Lamphere was already on the Western Slope, working at the County Jail when he was hired by the City of Montrose.

Pensyl was working his shift at the time of the work session; Police Chief Blaine Hall brought the camera to him for a brief hello, "I am happy to be in Montrose," he said.

Mayor Bynum said, "Welcome to our City team; we are excited to have you."

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council spent time talking about a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montrose County to Apply for Coronavirus Relief Funds through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer spoke about the \$275M in funds allotted to the state and how those will be distributed based on a per capita allocation. Montrose County Deputy Manager Jon Waschbusch has taken the lead on the application. Montrose County would receive \$3.6M. The City of Montrose would receive approximately \$1.1M. Funds must be expended or used by Dec. 31. Expenses should be substantially related to coronavirus relief and must be incurred between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2020. The program does not require a match.

Discussion also focused on whether Cares Act funds could be used to augment the City's support for the Montrose Community Foundation's voucher program to generate restaurant business and help low-income citizens.

Spending decisions must be reviewed by legal counsel, Cramer said.

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said, "What is eligible and what isn't is so slippery right now, it's like trying to catch Jello with your hand...what we don't want to do is commit money and then find out that we're on the hook for it."

City Manager Bill Bell said, "I was trying to get creative and use it on housing devel-

opment...we could put the money to good use in our community. DOLA's response was 'Check with your attorney.'"

The restaurant voucher program would be eligible, Bell said, but there has not yet been an answer on a possible housing development.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid updated Council on the City's annual spring cleanup event and improvements to bicycle infrastructure at Cerro and the Pump track at Riverbottom. Baseball fields on Sunset Mesa should be ready by July 1. Crack sealing and patching are going strong.

Utilities Manager David Bries discussed the water main break at Main Street and Cedar Avenue. A temporary fix was made but ultimately a "pretty significant" patch will be required.

Work has started on a water line for the Cerise Amphitheater Project; pipe will be laid over the next month, Bries said.

The water line is not just for the amphitheater but has been planned for a long time, Bell said, and is needed to meet demand and possibly provide a water feature at the Montrose Dog Park.

Police Chief Blaine Hall gave an update as well, noting the state's Enhanced Law Enforcement Integrity Bill, calling it "very, very good," though more civil litigation could result. Black Lives Matters protests in Montrose have been peaceful and Chief Hall had a meeting with members of the group scheduled for the following day.

Mayor Bynum suggested that a live demonstration or video of the new body cameras would be welcome. The cameras will be on during all citizen contact.

Councilor Roy Anderson expressed support for the idea of a camera demonstration and asked that it be done at a venue where the public is able to ask questions. Councilor Dave Frank said, "The Montrose PD is the platinum standard and is acknowledged as such." A video could be a valuable tool, he said. "I am absolutely in support of that."

Councilor Dave Bowman thanked the community for its support of Measure 2A to fund public safety needs.

"We're a platinum status police force!"

SUNSET MESA DRIVE STARTING TO SINK, GLASPELL WARNS

Council considers return to chambers in July From previous pg

Mayor Bynum said, "That isn't to say in any of those areas that we aren't always looking for ways that we can strive to do things better, to be better, to think of things we might not have thought of, to listen to our community and their input as well....we feel very confident with the way the City is fiscally managed and we have a great police department but we continue to welcome community members who reach out on a daily basis...I really want people to know we appreciate and listen to those phone calls and emails."

City Manager Bell said that the youth baseball program is a partnership with the local schools and the rec district. "We've all met quite a bit over the last several weeks...we will have a (four-week) short-

ened season for our competitive youth baseball program." No concessions will be provided; there will be strict guidelines including temperature taking and social distancing. "There's a lot of work to make it happen...we're going to be doing things like moving out the bleachers so people can't congregate there...I think it's worth it for the kids and families in our community," Bell said. He thanked staff for their efforts. He mentioned an upcoming Downtown Colorado, Inc. symposium for those interested, and asked Council for consensus on holding work sessions and meetings in Council Chambers starting in July, on a limited basis with social distancing.

"The public would be virtual for a little

while longer...let's see how it goes for a couple meetings before we bring a bunch of people back in."

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell asked whether baseball concessions could be provided by a food truck and asked that staff check on the condition of Sunset Mesa Drive.

"It seems like it's starting to sink a little about where the curve is. It looks like it's starting to give way a little bit. Might need to check that before we start getting a lot of traffic."

Bynum talked about moving the time for council executive sessions; Frank asked about getting a projector screen for Council chambers to increase public visibility of documents.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MARCH TO BETTER LIVES WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITY



In South Montrose, kids can walk to the nearby recreation center on new trails. Meanwhile, sidewalks are scarce on the north side above, where kids must walk by a giant mag chloride storage facility just to get to school. Mirror file photo.

By Yvonne Meek

I have been stewing on the latest trend to protest. Protest is good. Protest can incite change; hopefully change for the better. The first amendment reads, *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

The first amendment guarantees “the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” I am all for that, always have been. That guarantee applies to assembly on a local level in small towns and communities across the United States. The recent assemblies in our own town, Montrose, CO, are a testament to the exercise of that right by concerned citizens. The first example happened in April. A small number of people gathered at Demoret Park to peaceably protest the continued restrictions by Governor Polis over the covid pandemic. Restrictions which our own city councilmembers and county supervisors have enforced on the community initially for the purpose “flattening the curve” so that our hospital

and medical services would not be flooded with covid cases. But as the curve had never really peaked, it seemed to many that the purpose of remaining closed had more to do with obtaining future covid funding from the state. The protestors were concerned about the effects on our local economy and the real threat that local small businesses might not be able to recover if they could not fully reopen. The protestors held up signs, cheered supporters that drove past and honked, and mingled with their fellow protestors masked and unmasked. Many hugged and were thrilled to see each other uniting, speaking out, and taking a stand for a cause they shared.

At one point, an upset woman with bicycle in tow made her way across the street into the crowd of people to express her anger at how all the folks on that corner were endangering her spouse and their livelihood and other lives by protesting. She raged at the crowd that if any of them showed up to the only local hospital’s emergency room that they should be refused care. One wife of a medical professional was quite shocked at the woman’s rage and aggressiveness; a woman she had mistakenly considered a friend by nature of a professional association.

Fast forward about a month when the tragic murder of a black man by an alleged police officer who happened to be white ignited national protests against racism. The radical activist group ‘black lives matter’ wasted no time in accelerating the narrative that all police are guilty of brutality and worst of all are the white police officers. With rage festering, vandalism, destruction, and death soon followed.

Let us look again to our rather small local community. From the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) 2020 Annual Report, the population of Montrose County was 42,214 (v2018). The city population was 19,512 (v2018). Since the racism narrative centers around skin color as a descriptor for race, I am going to try to describe our community in the shades of color often referenced on social media

and the mainstream media, if only to prove a point. In my opinion, the discussion of race/racism is inaccurate from point one because humans are one race separated by geography and a multitude of ethnicities and cultures.

But let us focus the microscope on Montrose, CO. The demographic of the city of Montrose is made up of 74.8% white (alone), 21.4% brown (Hispanic/Latino/Mexican), 1.5% red (American Indian/Alaska Native), 0.9% light yellow (Asian, alone), 0.5% dark yellow (native Hawaiian /pacific islander, and 0.3% black (black/African alone). Of these statistics, 2.2% claim two or more races.

My husband is a perfect example of what some might consider white; his family in the late 1800’s came to the area and eventually settled in Maher at the edge of the Black Mesa which is part of Montrose county. They are predominantly of white descent tracing their roots to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Grandpa/Grandma Meek eventually owned a 1700-acre ranch in Montrose county. At the time of our property sale in 2014 the ranch was past the 100-year milestone of ownership by one family. Our children, though of mixed ethnicity by way of me their mother, were born in either Montrose or Delta counties. They are natives of this area as many other ‘whites’ are native.

My ethnicity is a blend of red (native American 34%), brown (European 54%), black (Africa 5%), brown (Middle East 5%), and yellow (Asian/Pacific Islander 2%). I grew up in southern California just outside of Los Angeles. I was always ashamed of my ethnic heritage as a child. My great grandparents were immigrants as children. My parents were born in the US but had experienced racism toward their own families. My father did not want his children to experience the same, so we moved to the suburbs. We attended both private and public schools in mixed ethnicity communities; our friends were white, brown, black, and yellow. There were gangs from each group and the odd kids

Continued next pg

MARCH TO BETTER LIVES WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITY

From previous pg

were those who did not want to belong to an ethnic focused 'club' because most of the 'clubs' centered their relational skills around racism, intimidation, vandalism and violence. That is truth.

I married a 'white' guy. That 'white' guy married a mixed-race gal. That white guy worked for a brown family, who happened to drive home through the Rodney King riots in the early 90's. Those grown men, a mix of brown guys and a lone white guy were terrified that day driving through an enraged black and brown community. They rejoiced to make it home that afternoon without incident; I rejoiced as well.

Not long after that we decided that we did not want to raise our children in such a volatile area as California. We escaped to his family home in Maher, CO, to a relatively white community; the North Fork comprised of Hotchkiss, Paonia, Crawford, and Maher. I was told that there was not really any racism in Colorado, well not a lot. But I noticed it in the grocery store and just about anywhere I went. First, by the lack of color. Next, by the odd looks at brown me with my fair-skinned, fair-haired, white children. And finally, in realizing that the brown families were mostly viewed as 'migrants' even if some of them were in the community almost as long as my white family.

After three years back in Colorado, we moved to Montrose. The colors were a bit better here, more diversity but still rather limited. To my shame, when I saw a black person, I would stare. First, because I was so happy to see one, they were rare here. Then out of genuine curiosity I would ask

what brought them to Montrose? I noticed the chasm of ethnicities but no one talked about those realities. The brown folks stayed north of Main Street around Northside elementary and Tortilla Flats, some lived on ranches outside of town toward Olathe and Pea Green. We would see many more brown people when we went to the county fair each year because most of the lifelong families were farmers and ranchers.

Over the years Montrose has grown in population; it was about 10,000 when we first moved here. The ethnic diversity has changed somewhat too but this community is still predominantly white if we're talking about color.

Back to the point ... which lives matter? When and should we march?

Montrose does exhibit ethnic intolerance, popularly called racism. LOOK DEEPER, there is an ethnic group in our community that has always been here since the beginnings of Montrose ... they are brown with a little red mixed in. They have been and continue to be overlooked and sometimes disregarded.

So, if folks are going to get out and march about black lives that matter, maybe those same folks should look a little closer to home first and march about the brown/red lives that matter too.

Let me get your attention ... the virtue signaling white people, LGBTQ-friendly, progressive liberals with a few confused conservatives and pseudo-religious people mixed in ... you have fostered ethnic intolerance, and even hate, in Montrose long enough. You need to wake up and LOOK DEEPER at your neighbors on the

other side of the tracks. LOOK DEEPER at your neighbors behind that hideous and health-endangering mag chloride facility that the city took no action to stop. LOOK DEEPER at your neighbors across the tracks whose streets and crosswalks are ignored for a multimillion-dollar commercial development that may never see any real development. LOOK DEEPER at your neighbors that regional nonprofit organizations only see as a source of grant funding for salaries and to waste on studies, endless meetings, and empty conversations, rather than doing anything for those neighbors. LOOK DEEPER at the rusty playground equipment and crumbling sidewalks, the weed infested grass. Now march for the betterment of the lives in your own community.

You want to end systemic ethnic intolerance ... begin in your own town with your own neighbors across the tracks. The city wastes money ... protest their waste and demand they manage all the city assets, all the city neighborhoods ... not just the ones in which the councilmembers live.

Racism or ethnic intolerance is systemic in the heart of humanity; racism or ethnic intolerance is systemic throughout the world.

We would all like to believe that at our core we are good and kind and want the best for each other, but often we just want to talk about being such.

How about we LOOK DEEPER and finally do something about it ... here ... in our own community. Silence your mouths, drop your banners, take off your masks. Show your neighbors of all colors that you really care.



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The Montrose Mirror

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: B. SWITZER



Scenes from the Uncompahgre Wilderness near the recent burn area, and day lilies.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COVER-UPS ARE NOT THE PURVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL

Editor:

It is not in the job description for any of the City Hall's elected or employed so-called 'officials' to cover-up wrongdoing. In fact, it is against the law. They must request an investigation of allegations and not 'next year.'

The city council and city management know full well that Mr. Bowman treated the city's concessionaire (Liquor purveyor) at DIVOTS with total disregard to the laws that Bowman was supposed to know (being on the committee to grant liquor licenses) and uphold. That act and its attempted cover-up taints any semblance of honor and honesty that the city council and city management might still have.

Giving back his ill-gotten gain might have been a good start to resolution of this matter but such should 'do no good'. After all guy that robs a liquor store can't give the money back and walk away scot free---or steals a car, or shoots someone. Just because he was an "official" does not provide Mr. Bowman with an excuse---actually it makes him even more guilty because he could easily have consulted with the city attorney beforehand. Or did he know better and just wanted to play ignorant?

But we all know that elected officials never own up to their own mistakes. They can never be wrong because when elected

they get a degree in 'knowing everything'. So the answer is to stonewall the public until the public forgets about it and it goes away. Then poor Mr. Bowman will not be hurt or pay for his possible indiscretions. Just let the 'barkeep' hang for it. That is the way the elites always work; they make the crap flow downhill onto those who can least afford it; the little guy who can least afford the loss or to make waves about it.

If the citizens of Montrose do not demand accountability, this kind of misbehavior will become acceptable and city hall will continue for at least the next five years.

Ms. Culver, the aggrieved individual, deserves our genuine, and possibly our monetary support, in this matter.

After all, your city fathers and mothers will, given the chance, spend the entire city treasury fighting any attempt to hold Mr. Bowman or themselves accountable. The MONTROSE CITY HALL PROTECTION SOCIETY is alive and well. An honest citizen might well ask, "WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF?" Exposure is the answer to that question. And that exposure may be the most interesting part of the investigation. Indeed there may well be more going on behind the scenes here than just this one incident of possible extortion.

Mr. Bowman should reap no protection from the public purse; this man was, as the legal beagles put it, engaged in a "lark

of his own", not conducting official city business.

Simply put, a public official cannot commit crimes as a public official but only for himself. And I might opine that any other official that conspires or attempts to cover for him is similarly operating on a "lark of his or her own". If this is so let them pay for their own defense. Does the City have an E&O policy for their City Council? Fact is those policies exclude payment for criminal activity.

WE THE PEOPLE do not have the answer (s) but we aim to get them.

All of them.

Any governmental agency more interested in covering up the dirty laundry of one of its members rather than standing up for RIGHT is absolutely WRONG.

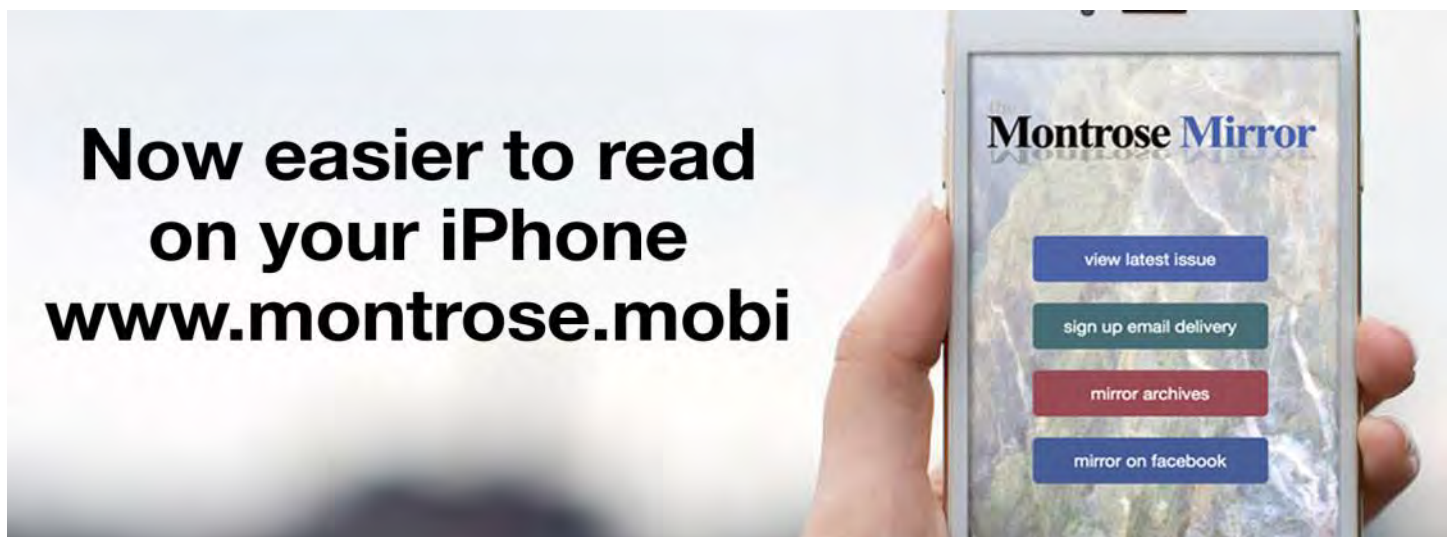
Since the lack of action of the past month is indicative of a full scale cover-up by the City perhaps this investigation should be elevated to a higher authority so that the TRUTH may be known by all of us about these kinds of activities by all of the Council and management.

Meanwhile I note that someone last week "ASKED THE CITY MANAGER" in response to his offer to answer questions from the public to answer a few of his questions.

So far, no response. Is there no truth in this city government?

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MADANI CEUS SENTENCED TO TWO CONSECUTIVE 32-YEAR SENTENCES FOR ROLE IN 2017 CHILD MURDERS

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY – Madani Ceus has received two consecutive 32-year sentences for her role in the 2017 Norwood child deaths from Judicial District Court Judge Keri Yoder.

Ceus was previously convicted of two counts of class two felony child abuse convictions resulting in death, knowingly and recklessly. Sisters Makayla Roberts, 10, and Hannah Marshall, 8, were found dead inside of a tarped vehicle parked on a farm in Norwood in the summer of 2017.

Sheriff Bill Masters said the citizens of San Miguel County should have good faith in

our justice system. "Ms. Ceus had a competent defense team, and we had competent investigators, prosecutors, and ultimately, she met our judge for her sentencing."

Due to COVID-19, only a few persons were allowed in the courtroom while others associated with or interested in the case, viewed the sentencing online. San Miguel Sergeant Dan Covault, lead investigator in the children's deaths, was advisory witness to the sentencing. He was in the courtroom as Ms. Ceus made a lengthy closing statement.

"Ms. Ceus said a number of things that basically corroborated our testimony. For

example, she said from a young age, she has thought of herself as a creator.

She also referred to the two girls as 'little bitches.'

She stated that the girls were unclean, and she didn't want them around her children," Sergeant Covault said.

Following sentencing, Ms. Ceus was transported back to the San Miguel County Jail where she will remain until transfer to Colorado Department of Corrections.

"This cult found their way to our county and committed horrific, abuse to these little girls who died as a result of the inhumanity of Ms. Ceus and her associates," Sheriff Masters said.



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

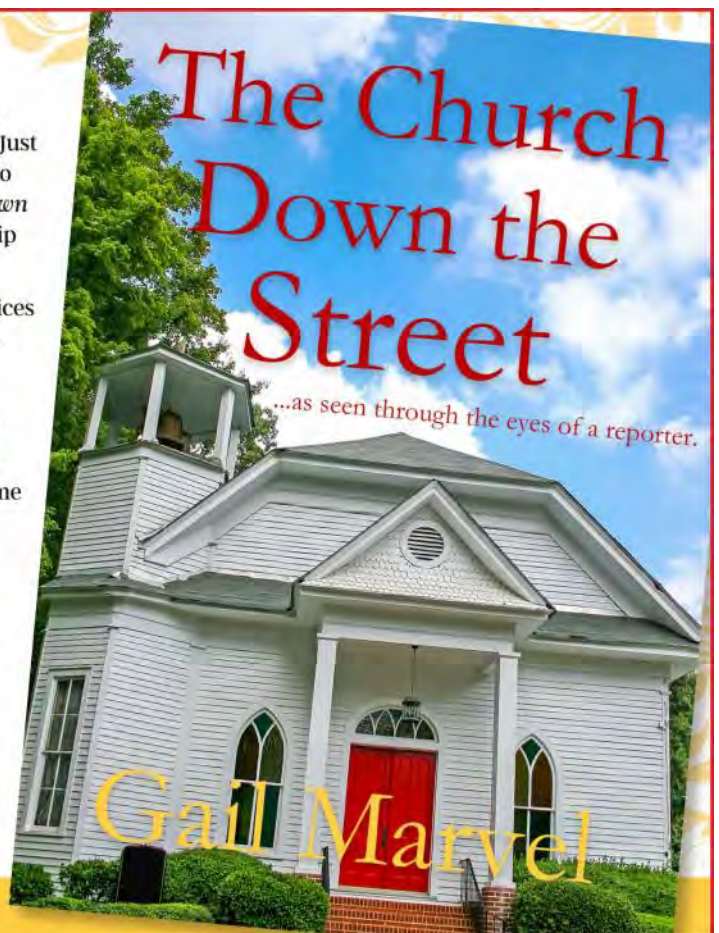
It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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

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

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

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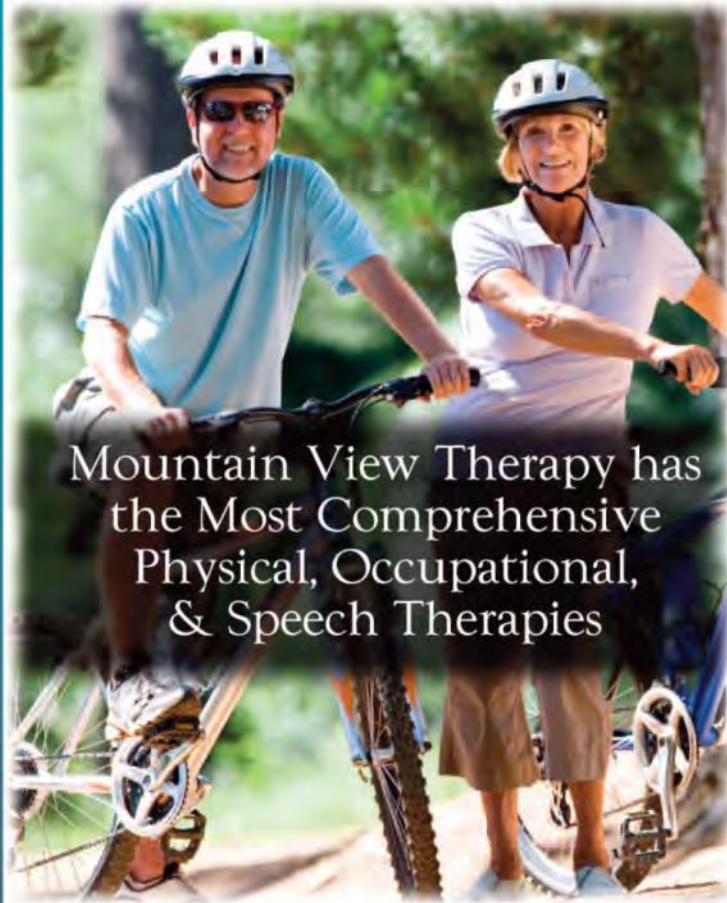
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ISSUE 268 June 22, 2020

ART & SOL

HISTORIC WALKER CABIN RESTORATION UNDERWAY



Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-Restoration of the Historic Walker Cabin officially underway. Project is being funded by History Colorado 75 percent and Western Co. Interpretive Association 25 percent. The cabin is owned by Colorado Parks & Wildlife. The Historic cabin was built by Harry Walker in 1911. Roof raising took place the week of June 13th. The contractor, Back Again Restoration, will return in the next several weeks to work on restoring the floors, windows and doors. Plans are also to restore the fireplace that was heavily damaged by vandals. Preserving historic structures for future generations...the intent is to restore and re-purpose the cabin for use as a Learning Center to be used by K-12 students when Colorado Canyons Association hosts their annual outdoor programs in Escalante Canyon. For more information please contact Chris Miller, Executive Director, WCIA at 874-8349. Courtesy photo.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

QR CODE PROJECT-A NEW WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE OLD WAYS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Museum has received a completed Eagle Scout project from Callum Jakeman, consisting of QR-coded signs for guests to access videos on how some of the farm equipment was used.

"It was a great project," Museum Director Sally Johnson said.

For those who wish to support the Historical Society and its mission of preserving local history, the Montrose Historical Museum will host the annual yard sale on July 3rd and 4th.



Courtesy photos Montrose County Historical Society.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BEAR RESCUED BY COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE FROM EAST CANYON FIRE



This bear was rescued on Tuesday from the East Canyon fire in southwest Colorado by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers. It is shown at CPW's rehabilitation facility in the San Luis Valley. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO-A bear whose feet were badly burned during the East Canyon fire was rescued Tuesday by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers and is now being cared for at a CPW facility in Del Norte. The bear is expected to make a full recovery.

"We always hate to see injured animals, but we're pleased we were able to rescue this bear so we can nurse it back to health and return it to the wild," said Matt Thorpe, area wildlife manager in Durango. CPW's Durango wildlife office received a call from the fire dispatch center late Tuesday afternoon explaining that firefighters saw a bear that appeared to be

injured. It walked across a meadow and into reeds next to a pond. The location was on the east side of the Cherry Creek Road which is on the east side of the fire. The fire is burning about 30 miles west of Durango.

Wildlife officers Steve McClung, Andy Brown and Thorpe left as soon as they received the call and arrived on scene at 5:40 p.m. When the officers approached, the bear did not move.

"You could tell it was really hurting," McClung said.

The bear was sitting in reeds and the officers used poles to push back the veg-

etation. That allowed them to administer a tranquilizer dart to sedate the bear. The officers examined the bear and found that its feet were burned. The bear was then placed in a trap and transported to the Frisco Creek wildlife rehabilitation facility for evaluation and treatment.

The bear is a male yearling, which means it was born during the winter in 2019 and is now living on its own. Bears usually stay with their mothers for a year. It was moving alone when it was spotted by the firefighters. "Across the road from where we found it the area was burned heavily," McClung said. "There were little spot fires and some stumps burning. We can't say

exactly what happened, but it probably got caught and had to move across some hot spots."

Michael Sirochman, veterinary manager at Frisco Creek, said the bear's paws were burned, but not so deeply that the animal was permanently injured.

"The prognosis is good and the underlying tissue is healthy," Sirochman said. "We cut off the burned tissue that was sloughing off and we put on bandages."

He said the bear weighed 43 pounds and was quite thin, but that's not unusual for yearlings at this time of year. He expects that the bear will be ready for release in about eight weeks. The bear is being kept in a cage with concrete floors to assure the wounds will stay clean.

Bears that are taken in for rehabilitation are usually released near the same area where they were found.

This is the second rescue of a burned bear that Durango wildlife officers have been involved with in the past two years. A bear cub, whose feet were burned, was found during the 416 Fire north of Durango in 2018. It was also taken to Frisco Creek where it made a full recovery thanks to the care that it received from CPW veterinary staff. After it went into hibernation the bear was placed in a man-made den with another cub in the mountains west of Durango in January 2019. Game cameras showed that the bears emerged successfully from the den. No other information is known about those bears.


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MONTROSE REGIONAL

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS NOW OPEN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Center for the Arts is now open! Currently, we have a unique art exhibit and silent auction called "A SQUARE DEAL." Sixty-three pieces have been created and generously donated by local artists on 8x8 canvases. This fundraiser will help support your Art Center. Please stop by to view the exhibit between June 13 and July 3, and bid on your favorite piece of art in the silent auction - minimum bids \$20. Our First Friday reception is on July 3rd from 5 to 8pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park, Montrose. Silent auction bidding will end at 7 pm (Social distancing rules will be encouraged)

For an extra treat, pastelist, Barbara Kendrick, from Ridgway will also be exhibiting her outstanding pastel landscapes for the month of July, from July 3-31. Her exquisite artwork is not to be missed!

Hours for The Art Center are Tuesday - Friday, 11-5, & Saturday, 10-4. Closed Sunday and Monday. (Masks are required).

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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-

July 1-Donate to online silent auction for Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club, on the Montrose Wine and Food Festival's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MontroseWineandFoodFestival> to raise funds for the BCBGC. If you are an individual or business who is interested in donating to this online auction, please contact Amy Taylor at ataylor@bcbgc.org.

July 3-First Friday reception is on July 3rd from 5 to 8pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park, Montrose. Silent auction bidding will end at 7 pm (Social distancing rules will be encouraged) For an extra treat, pastelists, Barbara Kendrick, from Ridgway will also be exhibiting her outstanding pastel landscapes for the month of July, from July 3-31.

July 4-Independence Day! Free popsicles in Montrose while supplies last. Fireworks displays planned in Gunnison, Delta. Check with municipalities for details.

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/>

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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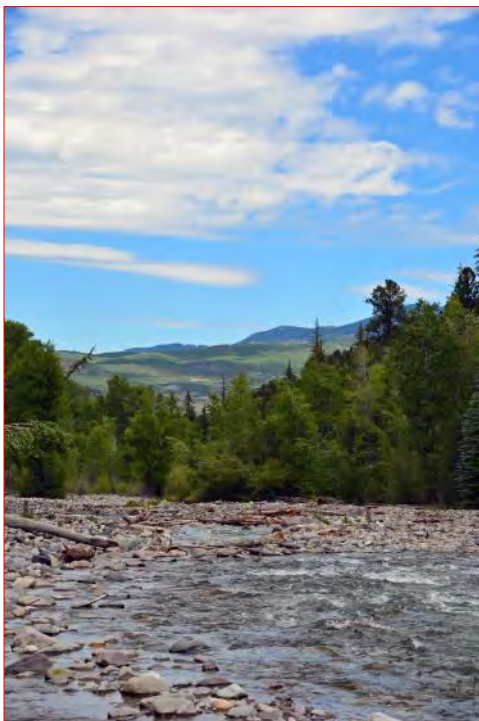
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann took these photos of Cow Creek, left, and Horsefly Mesa framed by hay meadows and clouds, above.

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