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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...
Issue No. 384 July 6 2020

SHERIFF ENACTS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS; MONTROSE COUNTY UPDATES PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER



Montrose County's public use facilities are now open to the public, including the event center and fairgrounds.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All Commissioners were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1. The meeting took place in the Commissioners meeting room; the session was open to the public with social distancing and mask guidelines in place. A variety of online viewing options were made available as well. Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation, asking that each commissioner be given wisdom in working through the agenda, "Lord we need you more than ever," he said.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

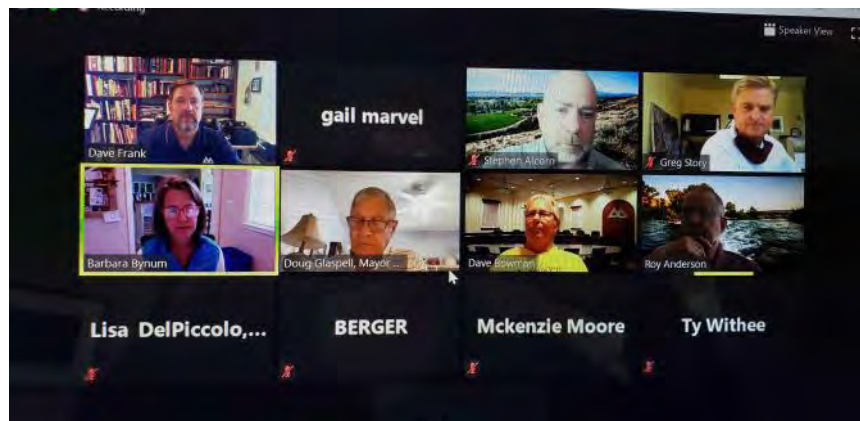
Continued pg 30

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS DIVOTS ALLEGATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On May 25 an article titled, "Former Mayor's Demands for Money Leave Foul Taste for Golf Course Liquor License Holder" was published in the *Montrose Mirror* (issue # 378). The article, with the subtitle, "Divot's Owner Seeks Ruling from Liquor Enforcement Division", was written by Paul Arbogast.

In the six weeks since the *Mirror* broke the story numerous letters-to-the-editor have been published. Brief coverage was also reported in the *Montrose Daily Press*; however, the City of Montrose and the Montrose City Council remained silent on the accusation that elected official Dave



A virtual Special City Council Meeting was held on July 1, 2020. The agenda calls for, "An executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f); and the following additional details are provided for information purposes: personnel matter." Screenshot by Gail Marvel.

Continued pg 10

in this
issue

*Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!*

*Letters to the Editor!
Regional News Briefs!*

*RE 1J Board of
Education!*

*History Sidetracks
With Bob Cox!*

Mirror staff report

Mirror staff report

WORK SESSION

ommendation for CM/GC for the Police Department Building; and Victim Assistant Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant Resolution. Items scheduled for future City Council meetings or work sessions include:

- July 7-Sinner Subdivision Combined Sketch Plan and Preliminary Plat; Hilltop Addition Annexation Hearing; River Crossing Annexation Hearing;
- July 21-DMEA Franchise Intent to Place Question on Ballot;
- Aug. 3-DMEA Franchise Agreement Ballot Language;
- Aug. 4-Restaurant Voucher Program Update;
- Aug. 18-DMEA Franchise Agreement Ballot Language.

As yet unscheduled are the Montrose Dermatology Business Expansion Project; DMEA Update to City Council; and Bureau of Land Management Update to City Council.

A recent report from the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning is included in the work session packet, revealing that Region 10 has charged off \$51,342.06 in bad loans from the Business Loan Fund in 2020.

also viewed live on the City of Montrose website, www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970.

REGULAR MEETING

Action items include consideration of Ordinance 2503 on second 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. Council will hold a hearing on annexation of the Hilltop Addition, and will consider adopting Resolution 2020-12, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition, as presented. Council will also consider approving Ordinance 2504 on first reading, for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition, and Ordinance 2505 on first reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition as an R-4, High Density District. Council will hold a hearing on the annexation of the River Crossing Addition; consider approving Resolution 2020-13, Findings of Fact for the River Crossing Addition; Ordinance 2506 on first reading, for the annexation of the River Crossing Addition; and Ordinance 2507 on first reading, zoning the River Crossing Addition as a "B-3", General Commercial District. Council will consider approving the Sinner Subdivision Combined Sketch Plan and Preliminary Plat as presented. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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ASSOCIATION**

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MIRROR IMAGES...PAUL ARBOGAST

MONTROSE SUNSET, JULY 2020



Photo by Paul Arbogast..

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

APPARENTLY, WE ARE CHILDREN

Editor:

Gov Polis just said all bars must shut down again. This is following two weeks of increased cases in Colorado. Yet the CDC has previously said the incubation is generally 14 days, yet bars have not been open 14 days, so it seems non-scientific to use that as a justification to shut down bars again.

What other reasoning could there be? According to Polis, "there is no way that we have found for them to be a reasonably safe part of people's lives." So it seems, like is so often the case, mother government knows what is best for us. If we decide we are adults and want to live,

they better nip that in the bud real quick and get control over the peasants.

One can argue the numbers, but the reality is that testing availability has dramatically increased, so of course the number of 'cases' is going to go up. But historically government grabbing power and controlling the citizens has been based on OUR 'safety', or what is 'good for us.' We are not children, though clearly those in government think we are.

Most businesses have been put through the wringer over the shutdowns, bars some of the businesses hit hardest, perhaps it's time for all of them in town to get a little pizza oven and become a restau-

rant so they can keep their doors open and not end up on the list of businesses permanently closed due to government interference.

Even without food, what grounds does the local government have to shut anyone down for non-compliance when for over a month they have remained silent on their own issues related to liquor licenses?

The reality is that if cases were increasing two weeks ago, that was before a single bar was allowed to be open, clearly they are not the problem.

It seems more often, the problem is the government.

Paul Arbogast, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A HOUSE DIVIDED WILL NOT STAND

Dear Editor; Montrose Mirror Newspaper, And to my esteemed fellow citizens:

I was born Joseph Darwin Clark in the year 1987, in this once-little town of Montrose, Colorado. I remember when Walmart was before East Oak Grove and that was the end of town. We had a junk yard here in town too. No one had a cell phone and I knew all my friends phone numbers by heart. My family used to live out in the country, and it sure felt like the country to me.

I know there's plenty of folks - those of generations prior to mine - who remember a lot farther back than that; a time when Montrose was even smaller. I grew up hearing about the history of this great valley we live in; stories about regular people just trying to make a living and find a little peace. My grandpa Tommy tells the best stories. And I think for that same reason, my grandpa loves country music.

And that's one of the reasons I like playing country music so much. Being a country singer, you get to tell so many great stories. I try to put that same story telling into the songs I write and perform with my band, *"Farmer in the Sky."* Sometimes you can tell a story better if you sing it. Sometimes music can just cut right to the heart of the matter.

Being a musician, and playing in a band in this small town has taught me a thing or two about community. The folks who play out in this town are classy, humble, and we support each other well. I see those folks on social media and they're usually the ones shining the light and bringing people together. And lord knows social media can be a rough space to be in right now. I wrote this song called *"The Fence"* back in 2018 as sort of a reaction to some of the political goings on. The song is on our new record *"Farmer in the Sky"* and you can go to spacehonkytonk.com and listen to it. But the hook is my attempt to bring the wholesome honesty of country music into our conversations with each other by wondering "where our humanity went?" And that brings me to the point of this letter. I remember a story about our world, when there weren't easily accessi-

ble social media platforms, run by huge corporations. I remember when that sort of thing came around though. MySpace was a thing. I remember what it did to some of the interactions I had with people. I also remember when Facebook started - for better or for worse - and brought us a whole new way to interact.

Now there is a generation coming up in this world that *doesn't* remember a time without Google or Spotify, without Facebook or Instagram. There's a whole generation that will never know the sheer joy of going to the local record store and buying a CD - and carefully examining the insert while jamming it full volume on your disc man. These young people growing up in this internet frenzy are developing a lot of social habits with their smart phones. And us older folks have shifted most of our social interactions to follow suit. The more social engagement that is converted to digital, online mediums and the more we keep our eyes on the screens, the less 'human' our interactions become, and consequently, the less 'human' we tend to treat one another. And I'm just wondering where our humanity went.

I've been one to get sucked into arguing and attacking every post I disagreed with, every meme I didn't like, and berating and degrading until I was blue in the face. I get it. I've had to take a step back from it more than once, and in doing so, I've seen how ridiculous all this online war waging really is. And I'm not saying that the internet is responsible for the decline in human decency or compassion in our society, but it has enabled ordinary people like me to watch in real-time our society's decline into polarity and ultimatums. I was always taught that if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all. I'm not saying we can't talk about tough issues and controversial topics, but I believe it's possible to do so without being unkind or dehumanizing others. We have reduced each other to buzz words and catch phrases. Whatever it is, this ain't it.

It's been said before that a house divided will not stand (Jesus said that actually) and there are a lot of forces at work trying to

divide us. By 'us' I mean the people that aren't cronies or politicians, who are actually supposed to be calling the shots in a representative democracy. 'We' are being pitted against each other. Like it or not, deny it if you choose, it benefits the ones pulling the strings if we bicker and fight on Twitter for hours every day. They want us to keep at it. And keep at it we shall, I suppose. These are troubled times in our world. And I think it's safe to say that we'll never get anywhere better in the way we're reacting to the times if we're constantly at war with each other. Like it or not, our economy will never be the same. Businesses we loved will never open again, communities will forever be traumatized by lockdowns and rioting, people will stay divided against something or someone regardless of how quick we reopen the economy or which lives we say matter. Humanity is racing toward the precipice. When we get there, we won't find ourselves winners of some cosmic prize; we will realize that we missed our chance.

We're all being staged by the same director - so to speak. And if we really want to do any good while we're still here, it's in my *humble opinion* that we need to start realizing we're not that different from each other; that a house divided will not stand (remember, Jesus said that). And the more we tear each other down, the more easily our governments can walk all over us. What we all need right now (however cliché) is love. Love and connection, to be precise, is what I think we need. And the way we humans stay connected is through stories. We need to immerse ourselves in others' stories, not buzz words or catch phrases, polarity or ultimatums. We need to turn off the news and get off Facebook and start making *in person, on purpose* connection. Then we will really *SEE* each other.

Like the late, great Johnny Cash said, *"ever since time, nothin's ever been found that's stronger than love."*

We can do better than we are right now. Whatever it is, this ain't it.

Truly,

Joe Clark, Local musician, songwriter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPT: 8,566 REGULAR INITIAL UI CLAIMS FILED FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 27

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- Today the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported that 8,566 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending June 27th. There were also 6,173 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Over the past 15 weeks, a total of 475,211 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 603,727 claims, including federal PUA benefits.*

The Department also announced it has paid out approximately \$3.0 billion in unemployment benefits since March 29th. That amount includes regular unemployment benefits, and those filing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) claims, which provides eligible claimants an extra \$600 in

federal benefits each week.

Benefits paid since March 29:

Regular UI \$1.05 Billion

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (gig workers/self-employed) \$352.4 Million

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(\$600/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants) Apx. \$1.61 Billion

Total \$3.02 Billion

lion

Claims by industry and benefits paid

Benefits paid: Regular UI

Week ending June 27: \$81.8 Million

Top 10 industries with highest initial claims for week ending June 13th

#1 Accommodation and Food Services: 1,138 (14.7% of claims for week)

#2 Healthcare and Social Service: 802 (10.3%)

#3 Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services: 794 (10.2%)

#4 Retail Trade: 760 (9.8%)

#5 Manufacturing: 520 (6.7%)

#6 Education Services: 512 (6.6%)

#7 Construction: 507 (6.5%)

#8 Professional and Technical Services: 409 (5.3%)

#9 Transportation and Warehousing: 370 (4.8%)

#10 Wholesale Trade: 318 (4.1%)

* Initial claims are claims filed to establish benefit eligibility. Initial claims are considered a reliable leading indicator of economic activity. All applications filed are those applications for benefits filed with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and may not have been through various eligibility determination e.g. wage verification, etc.

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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS DIVOTS ALLEGATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION From pg 1

Bowman, former Mayor, allegedly extorted \$6,000 from Divot's owner Janece Culver.

It wasn't until after local television stations ran interviews with Bowman and Culver that the city council called for a Special Meeting to consider the issue. City council members chose not to make comments to the *Mirror* until after their virtual Executive Session, which was held at 9 a.m. on July 1st.

The attendees included Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum, Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell, Councilman Roy Anderson, Councilman Dave Frank, Councilman Dave Bowman, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn, IT Specialist Greg Story, and City Clerk Lisa Del-Piccolo.

Citizen attendees included McKenzie Moore, Berger (no first name), Ty Withee, John Elloe, Valerie Meyers, and Gail Marvel. Following the call to order Mayor Bynum said, "We do not have anything on the agenda that we will be voting on, so we will not be voting [when we come out of Executive Session]."

Council members and the city attorney moved to a private chat room for the Executive Session, which lasted approximately 45 minutes. Exiting the Executive Session motions were made to reconvene to the regular meeting and to adjourn. Bynum said, "We did not discuss anything that was not on the agenda." Later in the day the city council put out a statement.

Following the meeting the *Mirror* contacted individual council members.

Councilman Dave Frank.

Frank first heard about the situation around the end of May. He said, "But up to this point the situation was between a non-profit board member [Bowman] and a business [Divots]. Council has not been involved in this." Frank indicated that the issue has not been discussed with council as a group. He said, "Bowman did not have to bring this before council at all. This isn't a city council issue."

Referring to the Executive Session Frank

said, "We'll put forth a statement and release it today. We take the allegations very seriously. We'll go through the Chief of Police and ask CBI [Colorado Bureau of Investigation] to open an investigation. We're doing this with Bowman's permission. If he used his position [as Mayor] wrong we need to know, but we don't want to rush to judgment. Council is not a judicial body, but a legislative body. We don't have any power to press charges against anyone or to convict."

When asked why it took so long for a response from the city Frank said, "We discussed [individually] with the attorney [City Attorney Stephen Alcorn] and his advice up to this point was it was not a council issue. In essence Council doesn't have a horse in this race. It had nothing to do with council. The advice from the attorney was to not comment. It was only after the TV interviews done by Bowman and Culver that I realized the situation was exploding. It was like not knowing there is a tornado until you hear it."

Frank explained council will be doing more than simply putting out a statement. He said, "This is not the end of it. We will contact the State Liquor Authorities and get an update [refresher] for the city to make sure we are all on board. We are also going to make this an agenda item for a work session and we'll be bringing up other issues. We will make a strong recommendation to council that we make a distinction between our duties as council and our personal activities."

When asked why City Manager Bill Bell did not participate in the Executive Session Frank said, "He was not in attendance because he is on vacation, but he is not involved in anything. Not in the contract with Divots. This is a staff issue."

Frank continued, "I want to stress that the city has not been sweeping this under the rug. We have tried to be patient and not rush to judgment. We want to make sure we have all the facts come out and that this is not tried in the court of public opinion."

Councilman Roy Anderson.

Anderson was not sure when he learned of the situation from a local news media source. When asked what action he took as an individual councilman Anderson said, "None really, other than to agree with a group discussion to have a meeting to produce a statement. This has nothing to do with council. I would refer you back to the statement put out by council."

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell.

Glaspell learned of the situation from reading the *Mirror*. He has not had any discussion with council as a group, or with individual council members. Glaspell said, "I really don't know at this point. I didn't give it a lot of thought until people started to ask questions. Most of us are in the dark about any activity. I did talk to one council person and ask if we needed to put something [statement] out."

Glaspell speculated the issue might have come up as a topic of discussion had the council been in regular meetings and work sessions. He said, "With these virtual meetings discussions are not the same."

Mayor Barbara Bynum.

Bynum said, "Now that we have a statement from council and an investigation started, I feel better if I have no comment. We'll see where the investigation takes us. We recognize the need for transparency. I'm looking forward to finding out the facts."

When asked why it took so long for council to have a meeting on the issue Bynum said, "People haven't contacted us. The first person to come to me was Mr. Damman at a council meeting during a call-to-the-public. Writing a letter-to-the-editor is not the same as contacting a council person."

During the interviews a majority of councilors noted they do not read the *Montrose Mirror*.

Councilman Dave Bowman.

As with all council members, the *Mirror* attempted to contact Bowman on July 1; however, he did not return our call.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL LETTER ON FORMER MAYOR BOWMAN

Editor:

The letter submitted to the Mirror by the Montrose City Council emphasizes just how out of touch and arrogant our “elected representatives” are.

Out of touch—the letter attempts to separate councilor (then mayor) Bowman’s role as mayor from his role as a “board member” of a local nonprofit in his relationship with Divots and owner, Ms. Culver. The reality is that it is impossible to separate those roles. I dare say, if Mr. Bowman were simply a “board member” of a local nonprofit and not the mayor, his ability to intimidate Ms. Culver into paying him “a buck a cup” would have been greatly diminished.

Kudos to the Publisher and Editor of the Montrose Daily Press for calling for Bowman to resign. He also needs to repay the \$5800 plus legal fees paid by Ms. Culver. Further, a criminal investigation into Bowman’s, as well as other members of the city administration’s actions, must be conducted.

Arrogant—I have never seen a group of “elected officials” so intent on avoiding a direct discussion of an issue that is such a blatant example of malfeasance. They refuse to put the issue on their agenda so they are not required, under their rules, to conduct a discussion of the issue. The current mayor has been offered the opportunity to have the council attend a town hall meeting to openly discuss the issue—as elected officials without the manager or attorney present to guide their responses. Instead they submit a letter, most probably drafted by their attorney, or possibly the manager, to “put the issue to rest”. It is becoming apparent that the city council is afraid to address this issue unless they are reading from a script provided by either the city manager or the city attorney. This is the most disgraceful display of arrogance and cowardice I have ever seen exhibited by a publicly elected body. Once again, Montrose deserves better. This issue as well as other concerns about how the city operates in general will not go away.

Ben Alexander, Montrose

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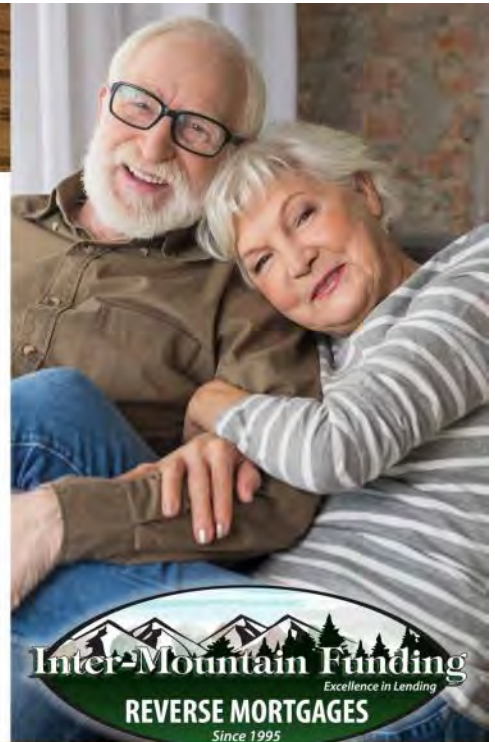


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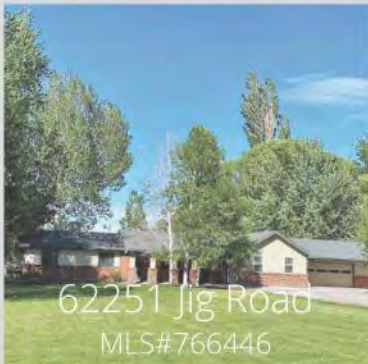
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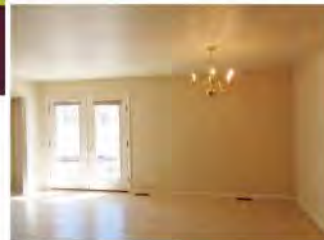
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE, DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION CLOSE ON WITHDRAWAL TRANSACTIONS

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER-Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) have completed the transactions for DMEA to withdraw as a member of Tri-State. The closing follows approvals required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

In April 2020, Tri-State and DMEA entered into a membership withdrawal agreement in accordance with a July 2019 settlement agreement. Tri-State and DMEA have entered into certain new contracts for the continued operation of

transmission and telecommunications systems.

"We wish DMEA and its consumer-members well," said Duane Highley, chief executive officer of Tri-State. "The separating of a distribution cooperative and a generation and transmission cooperative after 28 years together is complex, and we appreciate the efforts of our respective teams to complete this work."

"This separation marks a new chapter for both DMEA and for Tri-State, and as cooperatives we both know it's important to look forward for the benefit of our members," said DMEA's chief executive officer, Jasen Bronec. "We recognize our ongoing partnership with Tri-State in various areas,

such as transmission, and appreciate the importance of our continued cooperation. We wish Tri-State and its member-owners well." DMEA became a member of Tri-State in 1992.

About Tri-State

Tri-State is a not-for-profit cooperative of 45 members, including 42 member utility electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts in four states that together deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West. For more information about Tri-State and our Responsible Energy Plan, visit www.tristate.coop.

CLARIFICATION: MIRROR NO. 383



Editor's Note: In an article last week, one source for the story on Ridgway Law Enforcement Dysfunction, Tracy Hill, was identified as a "Two-time Hall of Famer and Ridgway basketball legend," as well as a former Ridgway Athletic Director. We missed some details. Tracy Hill is actually a three-time Hall of Famer, most recently included in the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2018. Tracy's fellow recipients that year included Alex Burl, Joe Glenn, Peyton Manning (Above), Sam Pagano, and Rashann Salaam. Courtesy photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALL POINTS TRANSIT TO BRING BACK MONTROSE PUBLIC BUS SERVICE WITH NEW TOWNSEND EXPRESS ROUTE JULY 6

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Starting Monday, July 6, All Points Transit will be reinstating limited public bus route service. A new route, the "Townsend Express" has been designed to travel up and down Townsend Avenue every half hour making stops at the most convenient locations. Hours of operation will be from 6:30 am to 7:00 pm.

Safety is the number one priority at All Points Transit. Due to COVID-19, passenger capacity is limited on buses and social

distancing will be practiced. Other safety measures will be instituted as well. Masks must be worn by drivers and passengers alike. Cleaning practices, in accordance with state guidelines for transit operations and national best practices, will be implemented throughout the day.

The public route service will be offered free of charge for the summer. Members of the community are encouraged to take advantage of this service to get to work, the grocery store, medical appointments,

and anywhere else they need to go! For those unfamiliar with the service, "Travel Training" is available. Telephone, virtual meeting and in-person options for training are available. The Mobility Manager will meet a new rider, learn about their travel needs and teach them how to use the bus service.

For passengers who cannot get to a bus stop, the bus will flex off route up to ¼ mile to pick up closer to their home. Passengers needing this service must call 970-249-0128 the day prior to their trip to schedule a flex. For passengers outside of this service area, the Dial a Ride service is also available with pre-scheduled reservations.

All Points Transit is a private 501c3 non-profit organization with the mission of providing safe and reliable transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities and the general public. To see the new route change, map and schedule, visit www.allpointstransit.org. For more information or to schedule travel training, contact Bill Towle at 970-249-6204.

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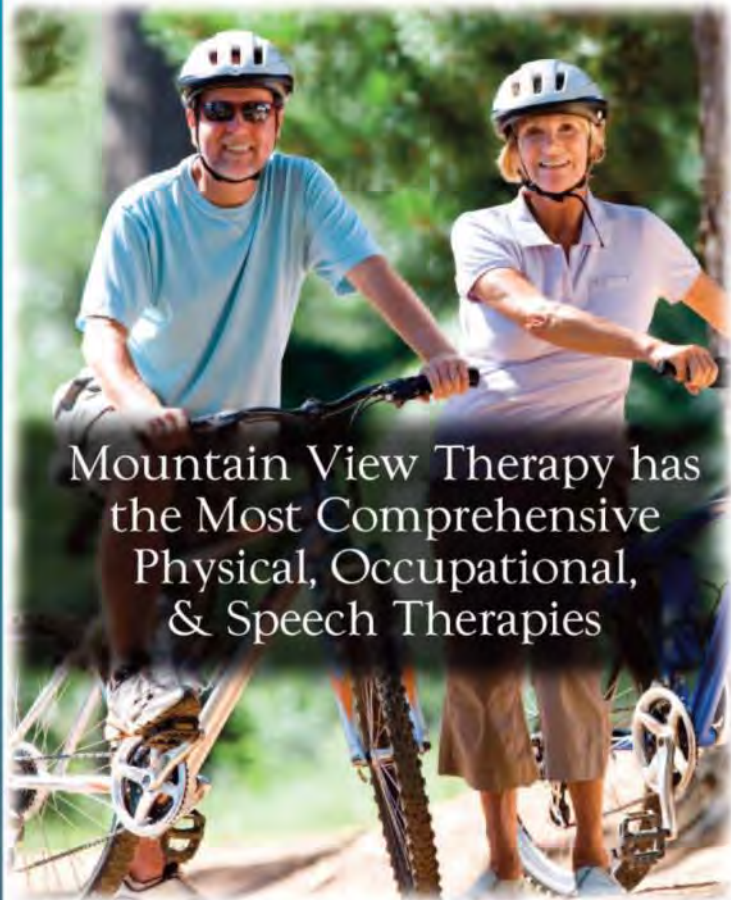
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY ANNOUNCES MANDATORY FACE COVERING ORDER

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-The Ouray County Board of Health has passed a Mandatory Mask Order that was recommended by the COVID-19 Policy Group (Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council). When you are out and about, wear a face covering when you can't maintain 6ft of physical distancing or when you enter a building. Your face covering protects those you encounter from potential asymptomatic transmission of the virus. Those who show no signs of illness can still transmit the COVID-19 virus from person-to-person. We remind our community members to continue doing their part in maintaining their physical

distance during the Safer at Home order. We live in a beautiful community and with the great weather many of us are wanting to get out and enjoy the sunshine. If you are outside exercising or taking care of essential errands, please continue to keep your distance from others and wear your face covering. This not only protects you, but protects others. This is our community's best way to continue to function in the midst of a deadly virus.

Ways that you can continue to protect yourselves, family members and community members:

- Stay home
- Wash your hands, often
- Disinfect hard surfaces frequently

- Cover your sneeze and coughs
 - Practice social distancing
 - Wear a mask if you go out and are around people
 - Avoid people who are sick
- And if you become sick:
- Self-Isolate. If possible, keep yourself isolated from other people in your household. If you develop a fever, cough or shortness of breath you may need to call your healthcare provider. But please call your healthcare provider first, do not show up unannounced. Ouray County Public Health Agency has testing available for symptomatic individuals and close contacts of confirmed cases by appointment only.



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OPINION/ EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL, TOP MANAGEMENT HAVE OPENED THE WAY TO MULTIPLE LEGAL ACTIONS

Editor:

Unfortunately, the City of Montrose has become a microcosm of what we see on a daily basis with our Federal Government in Washington, our State Government in Denver, and all too many cities and towns across this country. We expect truth, character, honesty, and integrity in our elected officials, but in far too many instances voters are short changed. All too frequently, once positions of power and authority are attained via the ballot box, those characteristics, if they ever existed, often fade, and corruption slowly raises its ugly head.

When that occurs, all too often transparency and accountability become just words that have lost any meaning. Sadly some basically good people are reluctant, for whatever reason, to address any hint of impropriety in a timely matter, or at all.

The most recent case in point here in Montrose, involves the BOWMAN/DIVOTS SCANDAL.

For 37 days, this issue has been front and center with the public, and has cast an indelible stain on not only our immediate past Mayor, but our entire City Council, as well as our top tier of City employees [Bell, Morgenthaler, and Alcorn]. Finally,

after unrelenting public pressure and a TV interview that went statewide, our City Council was forced to address the scandal on July 1st in a hastily called Executive Session. While that session was secret, City Council came out with a "statement" of the old "Cover Your Ass" variety, that, if it wasn't so serious and damaging to our City image, would be laughable!"

In that "statement", the City quickly tried to couch the scandal in terms of a "private dispute" between Bowman and Culver at Divots, disavowing any City responsibility, and attempting to implicate the victim. Pure unadulterated horse pockey from supposedly intelligent individuals who obviously think citizens aren't smart enough to see through their spin! The true facts, well known for 37 days, are: 1- Bowman, as sitting Mayor, demanded a portion of Culver's liquor sales, 2- Culver complained twice to Assistant City Manager Morgenthaler, who had to share that with City Manager Bell, yet NO ACTION WAS TAKEN to rectify an ILLEGAL action by Bowman, 3- Since the contract with Culver to operate Divots is a City contract with Morgenthaler's name on it and that contract was violated by Bowman on his own, there is no way this is a "private dispute" ! The City is up to their necks in this!

According to the City "statement"; "Councilors first learned that there were issues between Mr. Bowman and Ms. Culver when we read local media in late May 2020. Ms. Culver never contacted any City Councilors with her concerns". The last sentence is certainly true-she contacted the Assistant City Manager TWICE and no action was taken. If the first sentence is on your scouts honor true, then it becomes clear that both the City Manager and Assistant City Manager intentionally kept this ILLEGAL activity from Council. And, if you read that "statement" the City put out, you will see that they have attempted to protect both Bell and Morgenthaler by omitting any mention of their part in this scandal.

Asking the Montrose Police Chief to pursue the issue with CBI is too little and way too late. Ms Culver filed a formal complaint with the Montrose Sheriff's office three weeks ago!

No matter how the City tries to spin this story [their attempt is rivaled only by the national news media], Bowman, the entire City Council, and top City Management have opened themselves up for multiple legal actions.

JANECE MUST RECEIVE JUSTICE!

Dee Laird, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY DRAFT LAND USE REGULATIONS ROLL OUT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County has been working on a Land Use Regulations Update for more than a year, with many work sessions and several community input meetings; we are finally at the point to share the draft, from all the hard work that's been put forth. We believe we have found a nice balance, and are meeting the goals we set out to achieve; we are eager to hear feedback from the community.

We are planning a roll out that includes both a virtual meeting, and in-person open house events; below is a calendar of events for citizens to choose the meeting format that best meets their needs.

Thursday, July 9, the County will host a

virtual open house, to discuss and share: The **DRAFT** Land Use Code Guidance for how to use the draft code Instructions for how to provide feedback and input

Overview of next steps

To register for this virtual open house click [here](#). Community Open House Information: Monday, July 13, there will be an Open House community meeting in Delta from 5:30p – 7:30p. The meeting will be held in the new Human Services Building, located at 320 W. 5th St., in the Roubideau room.

Tuesday, July 14, there will be an Open House community meeting in Hotchkiss from 5:30p -7:30p, at Heritage Hall, locat-

ed at the Delta County Fairgrounds Wednesday, July 15, there will be an Open House community meeting in Cedaredge from 5:30p – 7:30p, at the Cedaredge Community Center, located at 140 NW 2nd St. All Draft documents including the land use code, the zoning maps, and guidance documents will be available to view at the end of the day on Monday, July 6 on DeltaCountyPlan.com, or can be obtained in person in the Planning Department at Delta County Courthouse, #115, on Tuesday, July 7. For any and all questions regarding Delta County's Land Use Regulations Update please contact Elyse Casselberry at 970-874-2105 or at ecasselberry@deltacounty.com.



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BOCC EXTENDS PUBLIC HEALTH CONTRACT; APPROVES AMBULANCES



Ambulance licensures and renewals were on the agenda for the BOCC Special Meeting of June 30.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-BOCC Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the June 30 special meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

There was no invocation; all commissioners were present.

The session was open to the public in the BOCC meeting room, with social distancing and mask guidelines in place.

A variety of online viewing options were available as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were heard from the public. Montrose Fire Protection District Chief Tad Rowan was present by phone.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda item was approved unanimously, "Consideration and possible adoption of Amendment #2 to original contract CT 2020*262 for another contract year, as reviewed by counsel. The purpose of the agreement is to upgrade our ability to effectively respond to a range of public health threats."

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

County Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins presented the first of seven items for approval, all of which required public hearings, "Consideration and possible action on the Montrose Fire Protection Dis-

trict Renewal Application for license and permits for (5) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted."

With no comments, the public hearing was closed and item D-1 was approved unanimously.

Also approved was

Item D-2, "consideration and possible action on the St. Mary's CareFlight Ambulance Service Renewal Application for license and permit for (1) Ambulance to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted." St. Mary's will be getting a new ambulance, Hawkins said. The inspection involves an application process, and a visit from Hawkins to check medications, kits, and equipment, "...We check to make sure that they've had a Department of Transportation inspection for the mechanicals of the vehicle as well."

Also approved were:

-Consideration and possible action on the Olathe Fire Protection District Renewal Application for license and permits for (4) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted. Olathe will retire and replace an ambulance, Hawkins said.

-consideration and possible action on the Norwood Fire Protection District Renewal Application for license and permits for (2) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Direc-

tor's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted;

-consideration and possible action on the Delta County Ambulance District Renewal Application for license and permits for (6) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted;

-consideration and possible action on the North Fork Ambulance Health Service District Renewal Application for license and permits for (5) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted;

- and, consideration and possible action on the Nucla/Naturita Fire Protection District Renewal Application for license and permits for (4) Ambulances to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All Insurance, Certifications, Medical Director's Affidavit and Inspections have been submitted.

Nucla/Naturita Fire Protection District will retire and replace an ambulance, Hawkins said.

"Really, they all do a great job...I was pretty impressed by all of them," Hawkins said.

"I want to thank each and every one of them, they all do an outstanding job and they protect our citizens," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, noting that his family has used ambulance services in recent years. "...We are very fortunate to have all of these people that work so hard to help keep us safe."

Hawkins noted that in the West End and portions of the North Fork region, ambulance crews and EMT's are volunteers.

"That's a lot of volunteer services," he said. "...They do a great job, they really do."

"In these small rural areas that we live in, if it wasn't for volunteers nothing would get done," Caddy said.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

WANTED

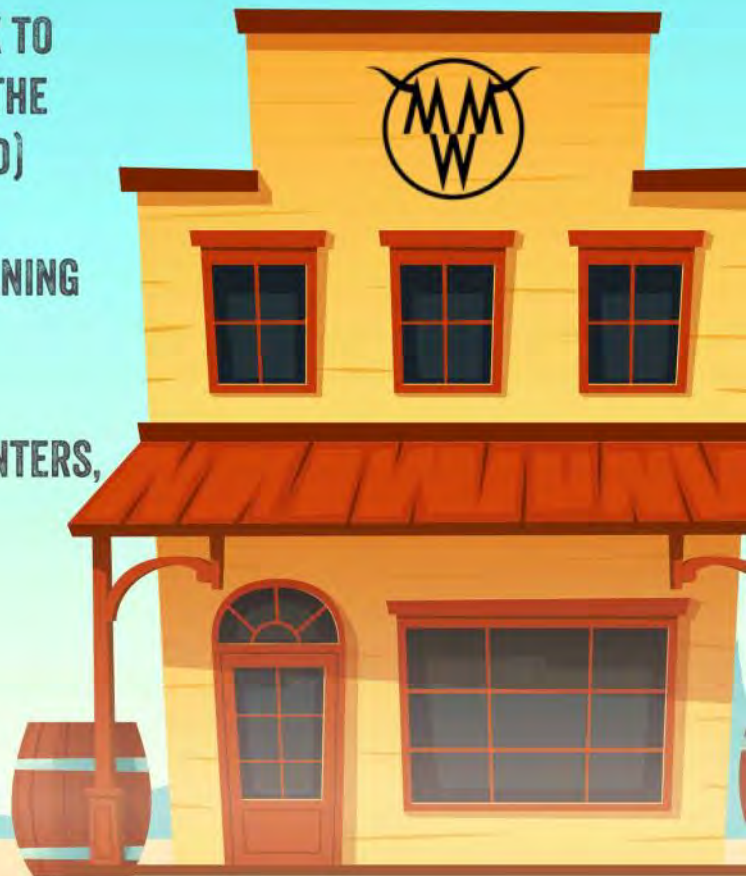
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SCHIELL SAYS GOODBYE, RE-1J FINALIZING NEGOTIATIONS WITH UVEA

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a brief virtual meeting on June 23, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education said goodbye to Superintendent Stephen Schiell and thanked him for his service. All directors were present for the meeting, which was held via Zoom and broadcast on Facebook live. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the [meeting agenda](#) was approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

District A Director Jeff Bachman gave an update on the Olathe Track Project. Trusses are going up on the new building, things are looking good and right on schedule, he said. "If you haven't been out there you need to take a drive out there and look around. Things have really transformed well."

Superintendent Stephen Schiell gave an update on the District's collaboration with Colorado Mesa University (CMU); RE-1J's Adult Education Program will now move to the CMU Montrose campus.

"We're very pleased that we have had such a great relationship with Colorado Mesa University...we're very excited about that, happy," Schiell said. "Because that's going to allow us to free up the building that is right next to the District Office, and we're looking at being able to do an engagement center for middle school students...kudos to CMU to make this work." He thanked district staff as well.

"CMU's relationship with us, can't beat it," he said. "...really appreciate all their efforts."

Schiell thanked the Board and said that it was likely the 300th school board meeting of his career; "It's a done deal, it's been a great 21 years of serving boards throughout the country, this board is the tops. Really appreciate it." He thanked the people of Montrose as well.

Said Board of Education President Gayle Johnson, "It has just been a pleasure to work with you, you have been a gift to all of us. Thank you so much."

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Director of Property Services Philip Bailey gave an update on use of BEST grant funds

at Johnson's request. With two new BEST grants that have resulted in an award of \$5.6M, Bailey said. "...I do have a certain amount of money that I can spend...we have a really good roofer on staff right now working, and we're going to try to squeeze another roof or two in under this summer working season...we're going to try and add a roof or two at Montrose High School with the current contractor; that saves us money and gets us more bang for our buck."

"Great work, thank you very much," Johnson said.

End of year building and departmental updates were not presented in person by principals, but were instead included in the [meeting packet](#), Superintendent Schiell noted.

Early Childhood Center Director Penny Harris gave an [ECE update](#).

Board of Education Vice President Sarah Fishing presented revised board policies for board approval. "I am going to keep this as brief as possible because I have 'Chip and Potato' in the background," Fishing, a parent, said before reviewing the following:

[GCHA/GCHB, Mentor Teachers/Administrators - minor legal reference update](#)

[GCHC, Professional Staff Induction Program - updated per CASB recommendations](#)

[GCQC/GCQD, Resignation of Instruction Staff/Administrative Staff - minor legal reference update](#)

[GCQE, Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff - minor legal reference update](#)

[GDQB, Resignation of Support Staff - minor legal reference update](#)



With RE-1J's Adult Education Program moving to the CMU Montrose campus, the current building next to District offices, above, can be repurposed as an engagement center for middle school students, retiring Superintendent Stephen Schiell said.

[GDQD, Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff - minor legal reference update](#)

The revised board policies were unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved as presented, including the [Personnel Report](#), information on recent [grant awards](#), and approval of possible lay-offs of non-certified staff in the event of school/district closing of more than 30 calendar days during the 2020-2021 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Directors voted to approve the [2020-2021 Budget](#) as presented by Finance Director Emily Imus, with associated budgetary resolutions. Imus thanked her staff for their hard work on the budget, "I couldn't ask for a better team."

Though the meeting agenda included approval of the Negotiated Settlement between the school district and the Uncompahgre Valley Education Association (UVEA) for 2020-2021, negotiations were not yet finalized, Human Resources Director Michelle Pottorff said.

The next meeting of the RE-1J Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11.

SHERIFF ENACTS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS; MONTROSE COUNTY UPDATES PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER From pg 1

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No.'s assigned as follows: Item C-13, Resolution No. 25-2020; C-14, Resolution 26-2020; C-15, Resolution 27-2020; C-16-Resolution 28-2020; C-17, Resolution 29-2020; and C-18, Resolution 30-2020.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard spoke about enacting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions as of July 2, which would allow no open burning. With the exception of Delta County, other counties are taking similar measures, he said, and asked for assistance in getting the message out to the community.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy commended the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse for their work in fighting several small fires near the Dave Wood Road. "They did a great job; we are lucky to have such a great sheriff's posse in this county."

Resolution 31-2020 to enact Stage 1 Fire Restrictions passed unanimously. Stage 1 fire restrictions do not allow open burning of any kind, including agricultural burning, open campfires, and fireworks. Smoking cigarettes outdoors is not allowed, unless in an enclosed vehicle or building or in a developed recreation site. Campfires in a pre-approved campground, State Park/ KOA, or enclosed fire pits are permitted. Fireworks on publicly managed lands are prohibited.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS-OLD BUSINESS

Planning & development Director Steve White opened a public hearing on the Lock, Stock and Barrel REVISED Special Use

[SU-20-0007] proposal to allow an existing building be used as a venue for wedding events, reunions, graduation party and non-profit events. Mathias H. Roth III and Beverly J. Roth are the owners and the location is 5328 Hwy 348. Zoning is General Agriculture. White clarified changes to the proposal, which had been continued from the previous session. The proposal came before the County Planning Commission May 28, White said. The applicant will provide a fence around the glamping site, with signage to inform gaps in fencing. Changes include a request to add fifth wheel and glamping tent and removal of restrictions on the number and timing of events.

Distance requirements were added for fire safety. The applicants, a volunteer firefighter and nurse, have recently purchased a third fire truck, White said, and take the possibility of fire very seriously.

Applicant Bev Roth was present to answer questions, noting that the maximum number of guests at the glamping site will be capped at six and no children will be allowed. The site has not yet been developed at all, she noted. "As we've had guests to our venue there's a lot of interest from out of the area...we've had several wedding couples that have asked if there was a place to stay on the property after the ceremony...we're cautious and wise with this...we have sufficiently addressed many of the concerns."

Neighbor Brenda Rowe voiced her concerns over lighting, placement of structures such as porta-pot and trash can, as well as cigarette butts, fireworks, noise, and children. She asked that fencing be chain link and include barbed wire at the top and raised concerns about future uses. "...You're still gonna have people climbing

over it unless you have barbed wire over it; it's a very nice area where I live...if someone comes in there and buys that, are they going to allow children and pets off the leash?

"...Those are the concerns I that have, and I would like them to be addressed."

The discussion continued; the video feed was briefly disrupted. Rowe continued to ask that the special use permit be written to ban children now and in the future.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said that concerns over trespassers are a matter for law enforcement, and children ultimately are the responsibility of their parents.

After further discussion of specific details, Commissioners unanimously approved the Lock, Stock and Barrel REVISED Special Use [SU-20-0007] proposal to allow an existing building to be used as a venue for wedding events, reunions, graduation party and non-profit events, pending updated wording as to conditions.

Also approved unanimously was a request to waive required building permit fees for the proposed bathroom structure at the Nucla Fairground facility.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health, approving an Amendment to the Local Public Health Order Amending the Declaration of Local Epidemic. The amendment allows elected officials to set amended hours for their respective offices as necessary for the duration of the declared epidemic and reopens Montrose County's public use facilities to the public, including the event center and fairgrounds.

With no further business, commissioners reconvened as the BOCC and the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COVID TESTING FOR SYMPTOMATIC PEOPLE HAS MOVED TO 800 SOUTH THIRD STREET

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – COVID testing for symptomatic people has moved from the Montrose County Event Center to Montrose Memorial Hospital's designated drive-thru testing area on 800 South Third St.

The designated testing area is near the corner of 800 South Third St. and Nevada St. between the times of 9 a.m. and Noon, Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-serve basis. Testing will only be done during this time frame. You must have a provider's order for the test. There is no charge for the nasopharyngeal swab at this time due to the current state-supported lab process. The testing site will serve nasopharyngeal COVID tests for patients who are symptomatic or receiving an elective procedure. Individuals who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, a provider's order, or need a test for travel or personal reasons can call Delta Public Health's free testing site at (970) 874-2165. For more information, call (970) 240-7220.

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CITY OF MONTROSE



Barbara Bynum, Mayor
 Doug Glaspell, Mayor Pro Tem
 Roy Anderson, City Council
 Dave Bowman, City Council
 Doug Frank, City Council
 Phone: 970.240.1400

July 1, 2020

What began as a private dispute between City Councilor Dave Bowman, as a board member of a local nonprofit, and Janece Culver, as the owner of Divot's restaurant, has continued to escalate to a level that necessitates a statement from the Montrose City Council.

Mr. Bowman's involvement with the nonprofit Montrose Summer Music Series is unrelated to his council position. If he attempted to use his city council position to influence, coerce or intimidate a local business owner we firmly condemn that behavior. We believe an investigation is warranted and have asked the Montrose Chief of Police to ask the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to investigate. It is our understanding that Ms. Culver has asked the state's Liquor Enforcement Division to investigate. Mr. Bowman also welcomes an investigation in order to establish the facts of the matter.

Mr. Bowman did not provide information about the Montrose Summer Music Series' internal operations to council, nor is he required to. Councilors first learned that there were issues between Mr. Bowman and Ms. Culver when we read local media in late May 2020. Ms. Culver never contacted any city councilors with her concerns.

The State and City of Montrose hold dual licensing authority for issuing liquor licenses. However, the state makes the general rules and regulations, special rulings and findings to regulate the proper manufacture, distribution and sale of alcohol beverages and to enforce the Beer and Liquor Code. Though the City Council and State did jointly grant the liquor license to Divot's, the State maintains oversight of their liquor sales. The City Council will schedule an upcoming work session with the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division in order to better understand the city's roles and responsibilities in regard to liquor licenses and enforcement.

With the limited information available to Montrose city councilors, it appears this is a private matter between a board member of a local nonprofit, who happens to be a city councilor, and a private business. Going forward, councilors will work to maintain a better separation between our private activities and our roles as city councilors. Councilors welcome a thorough investigation by appropriate state agencies to bring to light any possible inappropriate activity and to ensure the highest standard of professionalism is practiced by all city councilors.

We ask that all media inquiries about this matter be directed to City Communications Director Chelsea Rosty at (970) 250-2189. Thank you.

Barbara Bynum, Mayor
 Doug Glaspell, Mayor Pro Tem
 Roy Anderson, Councilor
 Dave Bowman, Councilor
 David Frank, Councilor



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY AWARDED \$284K FISHING IS FUN GRANT FOR RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Colorado Parks and Wildlife has selected the City of Montrose to receive a \$284,588 Fishing is Fun grant for the Uncompahgre River Improvements Project. The Fishing is Fun program provides federal and state matching funds to Colorado communities and organizations for the development and improvement of aquatic resources and angling opportunities. Grant funds will be used toward Phase 1 of river restoration improvements on 0.65 miles (3,400 feet) of the Uncompahgre River traversing through the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) development and adjacent to the recently completed Great Outdoors Colorado Connect Trail. The project will include reestab-

lishing a resilient channel, connecting the river to its floodplain, creating a stable riparian zone, improving fish and other aquatic habitats, stabilizing the river banks, and expanding river access for the public. "The members of the citizen-based River Improvement Committee and our Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer have developed an outstanding blueprint for improving the Uncompahgre River near the Colorado Outdoors development area," Montrose City Manager Bill Bell said. "We are very appreciative of the financial support we have been awarded by our state and non-profit partners, which has made this habitat restoration and bank stabilization project a reality."

Aerial imagery indicates the river's chan-

nel in the project area has moved approximately 400 feet over the past 50 years.

To date, the City of Montrose has secured \$784,588 in grants for the \$1.6 million project. The MURA board has approved funding the difference to complete the project. "This project delivers on the Montrose community's desire to see stewardship of the city's natural resources, which was identified as a top priority during the city's comprehensive planning process," said Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer. "The restoration of our river enhances aquatic and wildlife habitat provides new opportunities for anglers and other recreationists and will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in Montrose."

My Mask Protects You



Your Mask Protects Me



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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FORMER MAYOR BOWMAN SHOULD HAVE RETURNED \$6K IMMEDIATELY

Editor:

Mr. Bowman does not represent our community well. His use of his position on council has been questioned in the past. It has been swept under the rug by council and the city manager.

This episode would have been similarly swept as well had not a significant group of citizens made noise.

When one holds a public office his first official duty is to make sure he has no attachments to his skirts that will drag him into the mud. In other words he not only needs to be clean but he must appear clean.

Doing business with the city government of which he is a part, in any way, shape or form, is never likely to meet those two requirements.

And then to 'ask' for a percentage of the liquor sales at a concert he was agent for as if it were a condition of doing business, (pay to play) whether implied or demanded is unconscionable. It has to do with who he was at the time---Mayor---and what Ms. Culver took away from the conversation. I grew up in New Jersey where some of my neighbors made huge sums off the local businesses using just such an approach.

When it takes over two months for the

city council to figure out what they are going to do about it and then in their statement to be vague and self-serving---well folks that fosters considerable questions about what they might be hiding on their own and their moral integrity as well.

The big deal in council's statement is that Chief Blaine (who I believe is absolutely honest and forthright) will investigate. Blaine works for the city manager who is the puppet master of the city council, a VERY interested party in all of this, and who is Blaine's BOSS. Blaine who I see to be a very intelligent person, knows what Bell wants and he probably will not be able to give it to him. It will at least be intimidated to him how the investigation should lean.

Putting Blaine in charge of the investigation puts him in one hellava hot spot! He is far too valuable an asset to our community for us to see him compromised in this manner. This investigation belongs to the Sheriff or to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

As well the city facilitated Bowman's business. It provides Johns, site cleanup and what else for the concerts he sponsored. Who did he talk to in order to get those 'favors'? People in positions of TRUST such as Bowman in this case,

should not be able to say that he "takes care of everything at the end" when the cleanup WAS done free by the city. Such favors provided by the city just adds income to his pockets. Not-for-profit is a Federal and State TAX STATUS, IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE HIM FROM MAKING---(AND KEEPING)---ALL THE MONEY HE CAN.

A true man possessing true ethical standards would have engaged an attorney (a cost of doing business) BEFORE approaching Ms. Culver but Bowman did not. He just took a wild guess and assumed he would not get caught. That too appears to have been poor judgment.

Having not consulted council and having made the mistake, his proper course of action, the honest and forthright one, would have been to visit with Ms. Culver, humbly sought her forgiveness and given her a check for \$6,000 plus 10% interest. "I found that my taking that money was improper and I am returning it with interest". That would have been right, fairly simple, would probably have worked and cost a lot less than a lawyer.

At this point we know that Mr. Bowman did not do this which goes to prove the ancient axiom that 'elected officials will never admit that they are in the wrong!'

Bill Bennett, Montrose, Colorado



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW AWARDS GRANTS TO 8 COLORADO ANGLING PROJECTS



In-stream habitat improvements for brown trout on this section of the Conejos River in the San Luis Valley will occur thanks to this year's Fishing is Fun grants. This is one of eight projects providing funds to improve angling opportunities in Colorado. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-Colorado Parks and Wildlife has awarded \$650,000 to eight Fishing is Fun (FIF) projects, all geared to improve angling opportunities in the state of Colorado. The approved projects include improved angling access, habitat improvement, and trail and boat access. Funding recipients include projects in the San Luis Valley, on the Yampa and Crystal rivers, and in the northern Front Range in Denver and Mead. Among the projects approved for funding are:

Wolf Lake in El Paso County-Angling access will be significantly improved with the construction of two fishing piers on a newly constructed reservoir in a rapidly growing area on the northeastern side of Colorado Springs. The project will increase angling access on a 12-acre reservoir in a part of El Paso County that currently has limited angling options. "It is great to have a project like this that local kids can use to get introduced to the sport and that experienced anglers can use to stay engaged," said Jim Guthrie, CPW's Fishing Is Fun Program Coordinator.

Conejos Meadows in the San Luis Valley In-stream habitat improvements will occur on 1.75 miles of the Conejos River downstream from Platoro Reservoir in the

San Luis Valley. The project will address low-flow conditions during droughts and winter reservoir operations and will protect conditions for the existing self-sustaining brown trout population.

"The Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat project is a model for projects that benefit fish habitat and wild self-maintaining trout populations, while also providing benefits to irrigation water users below a working reservoir," said Kevin Terry, Rio Grande Basin Project Manager for Trout Unlimited. "Partnerships on the Conejos River between Trout Unlimited, CPW, and the Conejos Water Conservancy District ensure that each project identifies and maximizes benefits for the entire water community and the environment at the same time."

Uncompahgre River in Montrose

This grant will restore quality angling conditions along a 0.65-mile section of the Uncompahgre River in the heart of Montrose. The multi-year project will cover 1.6 miles of river and develop in-channel habitat, stabilize river banks and connect to a major new GOCO-funded trail system.

"This project delivers on the Montrose community's desire to see stewardship of the city's natural resources, which was identified as a top priority during the city's comprehensive planning process," said City of Montrose Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer. "The restoration of our river enhances aquatic and wildlife habitat, provides new opportunities for anglers and other recreationists, and will serve as a catalyst for economic growth, particularly in the outdoor industry sector in Montrose."

Fishing alone contributes \$2.4 billion dollars in economic output per year, supporting over 17,000 jobs in Colorado according to CPW's 2017 economic study. For over 30 years, FIF has supported more than 375 projects in nearly every county in the state, improving stream and river habitats, easing public access to angling waters, developing new angling opportunities for youth and seniors and

more. The program typically provides up to \$400,000 annually from the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFR). This year the program awarded an additional \$250,000 from revenue generated through the wildlife sporting license plate. "Sportsmen and women who have signed up for the license plate have helped make more projects possible. That is a big boost to making angling accessible to many more people," said Guthrie. The \$650,000 total was met with more than \$2 million in local support for the eight projects approved in 2020 (matching funds are required for the program).

[Additional Fishing is Fun program details and requirements can be found on CPW's website.](#)

Fishing is Fun 2020 grants include:

Denver Parks and Recreation

Lily Pond bank stabilization and habitat improvement

\$40,000

Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust

Planning for 0.8 mile of in-stream habitat improvement at Pleasant Valley

\$30,000

San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited

1.75 miles of in-stream habitat and low-flow improvement at Conejos Meadows

\$110,600

City of Montrose-In-channel habitat improvement and realignment on Uncompahgre River

\$284,588

Norwood Development Group, El Paso County-Fishing piers and angler platform at Wolf Lake

\$38,075

Town of Mead-Fishing pier and boat ramp at Highland Lake

\$89,625

Town of Carbondale-In-stream habitat and angler access at Crystal River Riverfront Park

\$30,000

Town of Parachute-2 vault toilets near boat ramps on Colorado River

\$27,112

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY CITY COUNCIL IMPLEMENTS STAGE ONE FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

OURAY- – Due to continued dry conditions in the City of Ouray and in neighboring areas, the Ouray City Council, in partnership with Ouray County, has implemented Stage One Fire Restrictions, effective July 1 at 12:00 A.M.

Ouray City Council asks residents and visitors to please be diligent and use extreme caution as fuels are dry and, as we have seen recently in other parts of Colorado, wildfire potential is very high.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE BANNED:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire EXCEPT in designated and signed campgrounds or developed recreation sites with provided fire grates.
- Open burning of ANY kind, including burning of trash or debris, burning of ditches, open charcoal or wood fires

• Use of ALL FIREWORKS and use of explosives.

• Smoking, EXCEPT in an enclosed vehicle, trailer, building or tent, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in a barren or cleared area at least 3 feet in diameter, and disposal of cigarette butts anywhere outdoors.

• Operating a chainsaw, without an approved spark arrester and without a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher and pointed shovel, kept within immediate reach of the operator.

• Welding or use of a torch with open flame EXCEPT in a barren or area cleared of all flammable materials at least 10 feet on all sides from the equipment.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE PERMITTED:

- Cooking on manufactured charcoal, liq-

uid fuel or propane grills or other manufactured liquid fuel cook stoves.

• Campfires with flame length NOT exceeding two feet in height in pre-fabricated concrete or metal fire enclosures in established campgrounds (USFS, NPS, privately owned).

• Fires in chiminea type manufactured enclosures on private property.

• Campers and drivers are asked to limit travel to designated roads and trails as much as possible, to avoid igniting sparks on grass and brush.

These restrictions will REMAIN IN PLACE until further notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to report any violations, please contact the Ouray County Sheriff's Office: 970-325-7272.

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6 FEET SAVES LIVES



SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER LATER

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UTILITY CUSTOMERS NEEDING ASSISTANCE HAVE OPTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - To avoid disconnection, customers who have fallen behind in their payments are encouraged to contact their electric or gas utility.

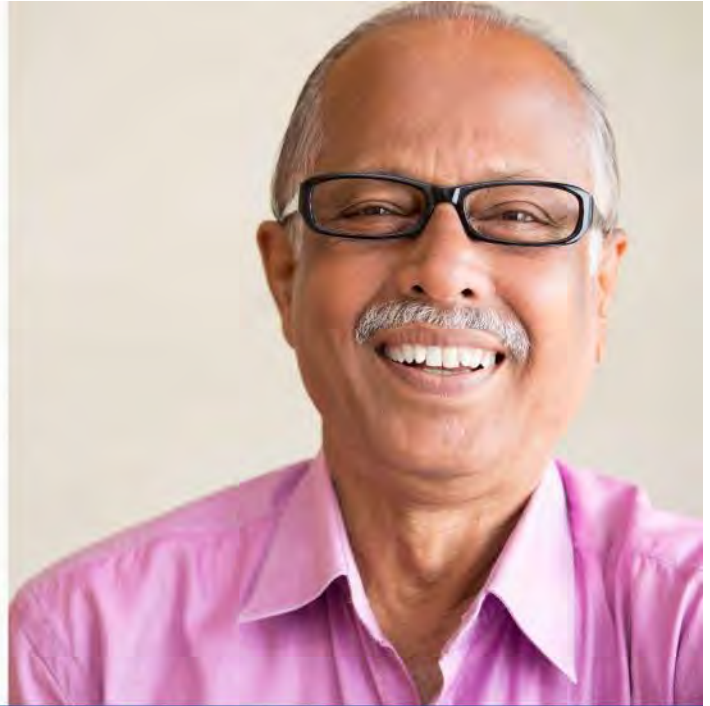
Information about how to contact the utility can be found on the customer's bill,

the utility's website or the PUC's website at "[Colorado Electric & Gas Utility Contact Information](#)."

Individuals can call toll free 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to get assistance.

For more information visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/leap>.

Energy Outreach Colorado, a non-profit organization, provides payment assistance beyond that offered by the utilities and LEAP to help customers with their energy costs. For more information visit <https://www.energyoutreach.org/programs-for-individuals/bill-payment-assistance/>.



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Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet



Allowed

Fires in permanent fire pits, fire rings in private residences, or within developed recreational sites such as a campground or picnic area.



Fire features, chimineas and tiki torches at private residences supervised by a responsible adult.



Fires contained within liquid fueled or gas fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices.



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.



NOT Allowed



The personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.

Any fire or campfire, not within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed park, campground, private residence, or picnic area.



Smoking, EXCEPT within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least six feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.

Agricultural burning is not allowed.



Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame EXCEPT in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.

Operating or using any internal combustion engine, such as chainsaws, without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order.



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHERIFF ENACTS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Due to the extremely dry conditions and the additional dry weather that is projected for the area, Sheriff Gene Lillard recommended Stage 1 Fire Restrictions as of Thursday, July 2nd. Moisture levels are dropping daily--federal land partners have reported several unattended campfires--and are already at critical levels in lower elevations with wind, lightning storms, and potential for storms at high elevations. On July 1, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2020-31 that authorizes the sheriff, the fire warden for the county, to implement and lift fire restrictions as necessary through the summer months.

"Unfortunately we have reached a point where enacting stage 1 restrictions is necessary to reduce the risk of wildfire," said Sheriff Gene Lillard. "We have been working closely with our federal land partners and adjoining counties constantly monitoring conditions and watching available resources. We appreciate the public's assistance in working to mitigate wildfire."

The restrictions apply to the unincorporated county area and do not include the City of Montrose, Town of Olathe, Town of Naturita, and Town of Nucla. The stage 1 fire restrictions do not allow open burning of any kind to include agricultural burning, open campfires, and fireworks. Smoking cigarettes outdoors is not allowed, unless in an enclosed vehicle or building or in a developed recreation site. Campfires in a pre-approved campground, State Park/KOA, or enclosed fire pits are permitted. As a reminder, fireworks on publicly managed lands are prohibited.

Please be advised that penalties for violating the fire ban include: Class-2 petty offense with fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 depending on the number of offenses. If a fire causes damage to another individual's property, additional criminal charges may apply. These fire restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

TRUMP NEEDS TO STOP DIVIDING US, AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Dear Editor:

As our world is turned upside down during the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself escaping reality and gravitating to a Hallmark series on Netflix called, "When the Heart Calls". It is a story that takes place in British Columbia in the early 1900s. It focuses on a young school teacher who comes to Hope Valley and meets the local North West Mounted Police constable, in his red serge uniform jacket, whom the school kids call "Mountie Jack". But hooked as I was on the blooming romance, the beauty of Canada, and how the townspeople always seemed to work together, a line from one episode struck home.

"Bad things happen if good people do nothing."

Our country has more cases of COVID-19 than any other. And now quickly, as the president and various governors try to speedily jumpstart our economy and "open up", the Corona virus strikes back with a vengeance.

We have been told over and over, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask when out in the public. I hate to go grocery shopping. I limit my trips to the grocery stores and I wear a mask. The other day I had to go to Walmart for prescriptions. I was pleasantly surprised. The Walmart employee offered free masks to people entering. As I walked in (wearing my mask), I heard the greeter offer a mask to an unmasked shopper behind me. The shopper gruffly answered, "No," and walked on in.

It's simple. No shoes, no shirt, no mask, no service. Wear a mask for other people. If you don't think it's cool to wear a mask, wear a bandana. As kids we always wanted to play an outlaw, or be Rowdy Yates in Rawhide riding drag behind a herd of cattle.

I finished the Hallmark series and found the old western (1962) with John Wayne, James Stewart and Lee Marvin, "The Man

Who Shot Liberty Valance". I had forgotten a famous line from the movie, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend." In other words, if you keep repeating a legend or lie enough times, it becomes fact and that becomes history.

As I finished the movie I switched to watch Mr. Trump's speech at Mount Rushmore on July 3rd. He stated, as he looked up at the carved faces of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln that he would, "tell you and, most importantly, the youth of our nation, the true stories of these great, great men." Unfortunately, he gave only abbreviated and one-sided histories of these men.

Were these great Americans? Yes they were. But as any man, as any person, they too had their faults and their failings.

George Washington was a plantation owner and with his marriage to Martha his ownership of slaves increased dramatically. He always struggled with the institution of slavery. At the end of his life in 1799, via his will, he freed his slaves. Yet still he was a slave owner for 56 years.

Thomas Jefferson wrote of the horrors of slavery and the injustices, yet he kept slaves until the day he died. This, the man who wrote, that "all men are created equal." The Marquis de Lafayette, who was like a son to Washington and a close friend of Jefferson, begged both men to end slavery. Economics won out.

Abraham Lincoln tried to unite our country in a time of civil unrest. Our current president points to Lincoln with pride, yet does all that he can to divide our country. And as Mr. Trump praises Theodore Roosevelt for helping establish many of our national parks, he tears down our national monuments - Bears Ears and Escalante - Grand Staircase in Utah. The only monuments he wishes to save are those celebrating "heroes" (mostly statues), not our natural environmental treasures. He is more concerned about Confederate statues, or the proposal to rename military

bases presently named after the traitors to our Union; Confederate officers. Yet he does not speak about the growing evidence that the Russians were paying bounties to kill members of our military. Denying or playing dumb does not excuse him from taking immediate action towards the Russians and Vladimir Putin.

He attacked protestors with his rhetoric that they are out solely to destroy the United States. Then he named "great" Americans and how they added to America's spirit. Yet not once did Trump refer to our indigenous people. Those who inhabited these lands before Europeans took over the land. Trump stood at the base of Mount Rushmore, which the Sioux called the Six Grandfathers, and glorified Manifest Destiny and the Winning of the West. He made no mention of any great Native American nor talked of the spiritualness of the Black Hills.

At a time when scientists, physicians, and now even the governor of Texas are calling for masks and social distancing, Trump pushed for a rally at Mount Rushmore that placed American citizens shoulder to shoulder. As the camera panned the audience, maybe one in a hundred wore a mask, if even that many.

If Trump were strong he would have used that moment to celebrate America's history. He would have done what Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt and hundreds of other leaders of the United States would have done. He would have tried to unite our country. He would have recognized all races of Americans as brothers and sisters. He would have called for a concerted fight against not only racism, but the current pandemic. Not with excuses, or blame on others, but to be in this all together. At that moment, as the Blue Angels flew overhead, he should have pulled a mask out of his pocket and worn it during his entire speech. That is strength. Being strong by example.

Jon Sering, Montrose

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE WILDLIFE AREAS ADOPT NEW RULES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recently adopted a rule change, requiring all visitors 18 or older to possess a valid hunting or fishing license to access any State Wildlife Area or State Trust Land leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This new rule will be in effect beginning July 1, 2020. Because these properties have always been open to the public, not just to the hunters and anglers that purchased them and pay for their maintenance, many people visit these properties and use them as they would any other public land. As Colorado's population – and desire for outdoor recreation – has continued to grow, a significant increase in traffic to these SWAs and STLs has disrupted wildlife, the habitat the areas were acquired to protect, and the hunters and anglers whose contributions were critical to acquiring these properties.

Because funding for these properties is specifically generated by hunting and fishing license sales and the resulting federal match, requested options such as "hiking

licenses" or "conservation permits" would not allow for the maintenance and management needed. Any funding from one of these conceptual licenses or permits would reduce the federal grant dollar for dollar and thus fail to increase CPW's ability to protect and manage the properties. This new rule change will help our agency begin to address some of the unintended uses we're seeing at many of our State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands," said CPW Director Dan Prenzl. "We have seen so much more non-wildlife related use of these properties that we need to bring it back to the intended use – conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitat."

"We do anticipate some confusion based on how the properties are funded, and the high amount of unintended use over time in these areas. We plan to spend a good amount of time educating the public on this change," said Ackerman. "But in its simplest form, it is just as any other user-funded access works. You cannot use a fishing license to enter a state park, be-

cause the park is not purchased and developed specifically for fishing. Similarly, you cannot use a park pass to enter lands that are intended for the sole purpose of wildlife conservation, because a park pass is designed to pay for parks." State law requires that the agency keep these funding sources separated. CPW is a user-funded agency and, unlike most government agencies, receives very little money from the general fund. The new rule requires all users to contribute to the source of funding that makes the acquisition and maintenance of these properties possible. But the activities that interfere with wildlife-related uses or that negatively impact wildlife habitat don't become acceptable just because an individual possesses a hunting or fishing license. Each SWA and STL is unique and only certain activities are compatible with each property. Many questions on the new rule are answered through our [State Wildlife Area Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. Visit cpw.state.co.us for additional information on agency projects and funding



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THOSE WHO WATCH OTHERS DRAGGED OFF BY THE MOB WILL BE DESTROYED BY IT AS WELL

Editor -

VISUALIZE THIS... Your HOME is under Siege. Threatened by a month-long raging, thousand acre forest fire that will destroy your home, kill your family, your pets/animals and all that is precious, your LIFE. Provided to YOU by all that is right and good, all that YOU and your loved ones have worked for, maybe for generations. It crosses all social, political and religious barriers, especially here in the USA where so much has been previously fought and died for on the same ground. Just as you were attempting to cut shrubbery, limit fire fuels and desperately using your garden hose to soak the grounds around your house and lastly, spraying the water desperately on the actual house itself as the flames are approaching. The Fire Department/Volunteers are stretched and cannot be everywhere at once. You and your Family are left to fend for yourself before the evacuation notices or parish trying to save your own lives, because YOU are all that is between the threat and certain annihilation. You cannot reason or negotiate the imminent threat with a FIRE. You fight or flight. NOW, replace the FIRE threat with the threat of **Human Inflicted Violence**.

Same threat, PEOPLE replace the threat of nonnegotiable FIRE. Without provocation, PEOPLE are openly threatening to burn

you down (kids and all), kill you, your family and your pets/animals in the interest of SOCIAL JUSTICE, and it's all recorded on VIDEO. Pretty conclusively damning on the part of perpetrators. You are now faced with replacing your garden hose with the weapons you possess. YOU have made the CALL to the local Police via the 911 line and perhaps repeatedly. And the police just don't show up just like the impending FIRE asks for no quarter and takes no prisoners.

The FIRE is no less forgiving because it has no reasoning, nothing in the way of risk of being in jeopardy of loss of blood, life itself. It rolls over whatever is in its path, like a ruthless MOB of blood thirsty anarchists that for no particular reason, just want death and destruction and will not be denied.

Hence, a couple of citizens, just like those people fighting the onslaught of Hell's inescapable fiery demise, they openly and publicly announce that they will not allow the THREAT to have them as a mere tasty treat in the path of the anarchist's destruction, just like the Nazi Brown Shirts of 1940.

Later, add insult to injury by having citizen, tax-paid government prosecutors wage legal war on these survivors for doing what all of mankind have been doing since the stone age! Protect, Protect, Pro-

tect at all cost! It is purely instinctive and without it mankind would have become extinct in the beginning of human existence. The government is going to PROSECUTE those survivors that are granted the legally sanctioned, constitutional right of fighting to LIVE to SURVIVE to see another day?

Why would a form of lawless, murderous hatred by a destructive mob be condoned by those that are sworn to uphold the RULE OF LAW in a civilized constitutional republic? You know the answer to the rhetorical question. Just remember. People that watch horrific things happen to fellow citizens may be temporarily safe as they watch others dragged off by the mob thugs; until they eventually come around to their door. We as the freest country of the world just celebrated our bloody founding nearly two and a half centuries ago, but this time we did it with wide, gaping lacerations and continue to bleed profusely. Degenerate and wickedly corrupt ideology is attempting to tear us down; this more perfect union has improved over the decades and yes, we have miles to go. But NOT on this trajectory that we are currently traveling. Now what are you willing to do about it as the November elections approach? GOD BLESS AMERICA.

R. L. Michaels, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOUGH CROWD STAND TALL, BE COUNTED AND CONTINUE TO DEMAND HONEST MONTROSE GOVERNMENT

Editor:

Saturday MDP 'OPINION' page article: Janece, the mayor and the music series ".

In my opinion, Mr. Anderson, the Publisher of the MDP swallowed the city claim that the Culver/Bowman issue is solely between the two of them. By not standing up for proper governance early on in this matter, the city got up to its eyeballs in this tangle. In other words, they knew, they ignored, they failed. Let's break that one down.

1. My information is that the City and Ms. Culver have a management contract between the city and Ms. Culver. (NOT Mr. Bowman and Ms. Culver). Mr. Bowman the mayor, councilman, liquor board member had an obligation to know that and adhere to the contract "Terms and Conditions" that from what I understand are very specific and require all applicable laws and regulations to be followed. "STOP LOOK AND LISTEN". It is further my understanding that Ms. Culver reported these violations not once but had more than one conversation with Ms. Morgenthaller the Asst City Manager. Now get this, Ms. Morgenthaller is also the "CONTRACT MANGER". The contract manager has specific duties and obligations to perform on behalf of the city. She is therefore responsible to enforce all provisions of the contract and take into account all concerns by any and all parties to the contract. THE CITY IS A PARTY IN THIS

MATTER.

2. SECOND PHASE INVESTIGATION AND ANSWERS WARRANTED BY CBI.

OPINION: It is Ms. Culver responsibility to report all VIOLATIONS of the conditions of the contract to the City's Contract Manager.

QUESTIONS: What was Ms. Culver instructed to do about the content of her report? The \$6,000 incident with Mr. Bowman?

Did either Ms. Morgenthaller inform Mr. Bell? Did Mr. Bill Bell make any further demands or suggestions to Ms. Culver either directly or through Ms. Morgenthaller? Did they consider any additional type funding schemes? A temporary suspension of Ms. Culver's liquor license? How long? Why? Did either report the matter to council in a public setting. If not, why not?

OPINION: Ms. Morgenthaller and Mr. Bell are very much a part of this situation (in other words, involved in the whole deal) and should be named as parties to it. A second investigation is warranted.

Ms. Culver may or may not have been "INTIMIDATED" by Mr. Bowman but she did state that Mr. Bowman did not ask her for payment but "DEMANDED" it and gave her instructions on how to charge and collect the money. This was done by the mayor, on city property. The garbage the city was a sponsor had nothing to do with Ms. Culver. All can speculate what Ms. Culver should of or not done but for

sure but reporting the violation of a \$6,000.00 payoff to Mr. Bowman was a proper step to take and was failed by the city management.

Tough Crowd? I know many of those who did not win in the last election. That is not of any significance as eleven people ran for three seats. This tough crowd you mention wants clean city government--- not just free from criminal activity and shake downs ---but free from public funds for buying business to come to Montrose. They believe that the streets need fixing as an example, before funding concerts, amphitheatres, and more parks. None of the three I supported wanted a position on council for the money that it pays or the favors they might gain from those seats. The ran to serve. They are tough, tenacious, and persistent. They and their supporters are the "truth to power" and deserve our thanks and gratitude for being the beacon of light and transparency because without them there would be none in Montrose. The facts have yet to be determined by the legal system and not by the city's spin doctors or coverup proponents in the press that never get around to asking all the questions. If we the people do not hold those in office and staff to account, then we will have a government that we do not want nor to recognize. It is our government. Be involved and continue to see to Justice for Janece.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose





SOME HISTORY SIDETRACKS...



Then and Now (see also photo next page). The Civilian Conservation Corps camp (above) was described at the time as being one half mile north of town. It was located in what is now the city shops and complex. CCC photo from the National Archives. Contemporary photo by Bob Cox

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-I rarely write newspaper stuff in first person, but sometimes it just fits better, so bear with me on this.

Anyone who has researched family history, or for that matter any history, can identify with the fact that a researcher can easily be sidetracked. That fact is especially true when it comes to perusing old newspapers. I cannot count the times when I have been sitting in front of a microfilm reader or carefully turning the

pages of archived newspapers looking for a specific name, place or incident only to have some completely unrelated topic catch my eye. Before I know it I have set aside my original goal and found myself with an entirely new topic. What follows are the fruits of some of those encounters with the past.

While researching a piece about the Western Slope Fair, I came upon the name, C. F. Hafley, better known as California Frank. In 1918 Hafley purchased

some land from the Marlowe family at the mouth of Cow Creek. There are some who still remember the home, which was upstream on the Uncompahgre River.

California Frank was a showman who produced a wild west show, had more than a dozen trained horses and, more importantly to him, had a wife who used the name Mary Francis. Hafley claimed several times that Mary could shoot every bit as well as Annie Oakley.

He also had a daughter, Reine Hafley,

Continued next pg

SOME HISTORY SIDETRACKS...From previous pg



The location of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp is now home to the city shops and complex.

who was an accomplished trick rider. My parry in this case revealed that California Frank was adept in promoting both his wife and his daughter. In one instance, several of the New York newspapers evidently erred in listing Reine's success in a trick-riding event. Hafley pointed out the problem in a letter to the *New York Clipper*, saying that, other than the *Clipper*, other publications, "willfully or ignorantly" printed the incorrect information. On January 4, 1924, the *Clipper* reprinted the correct information and pointed out that California Frank was at his winter quarters near Ridgway, Colorado.

One of the most intriguing old newspapers is *The Messenger*, circa 1890s. Copies are extremely difficult to find. They claimed at the time to be "The only steam newspaper plant in Western Colorado."

While doing some research at the library in Denver, I happened upon an article that used the word "Asmodeus" I got sidetracked again. I found that *The Messenger* writer(s) used the word quite often and, as was the case many times back then, newspapers tended to disparage one another on a regular basis. The *Gunnison Champion* also picked up on the word and, in 1889, wrote: "Give us a rest. There is neither wit nor wisdom in the persistent and incorrect use of a Greek word that has never been incorporated into the English language." *The Messenger* responded, saying that the *Champion* had out of date dictionaries and said the editor needed an Asmodeus. Incidentally, I found the word

in my fourth edition Webster's, but the Microsoft Word spellchecker still does not like it. You might look in your own dictionary, but be careful about getting sidetracked. The next word in my dictionary is "Aso." That could send you off looking at places in Japan.

We often hear about the bias of today's news sources, but it is nothing new. *The Plaindealer*, a well-known publication in the late 1800's was quite

different from the newspaper of the same name today. The entire front page of the *Plaindealer* was often filled with snippets of news/comments. While doing some research on another matter, I came across this front-page article in the April 11, 1890 edition:

Otto Mears succeeded in stuffing Telluride's mayor - the new one - to perfection last week. The idea of Job Cooper being re-nominated for governor is equally as preposterous as that of the Montezuma Valley furnishing vegetables for this side of the San Juan. Otto is an admirable judge of human nature, to say nothing of profound stupidity.

And, in the November 4, 1890 edition of *The Solid Muldoon*, I noted this dig that would not look unusual in one of today's publications: *The partisan prejudice of the present age is getting too strong a hold upon judges, courts and law makers. Let rascality be rebuked whether the perpetrator be friend or foe.*

My third great grandfather, James Castello, is credited with founding the town of Florissant, Colorado. He established a trading post there and his friendship with the Ute Indians is well documented. Both Colorow and Ouray were frequent visitors. While doing some family research, I stepped aside for an extended period as I looked into the background of an article in a Colorado Springs newspaper, *The Weekly Gazette*, dated in September of 1878. The article gave credit to the *Ouray Times*. I found it interesting in several ways:

Ouray had built for him at his place about ten miles from the Los Piños Agency on the Uncompahgre River, by the government, an adobe house, thirty by forty, finished in good style, with American furniture and carpets. He has a farm of three hundred acres enclosed and upwards of sixty acres under cultivation, in hay, vegetables and grain.

The article went on in detail to describe Ouray's residence, ranch, and marketing, along with his lifestyle and habits.

Much has been written about the Civilian Conservation Corps camp, which was described as being "one half mile north of Montrose. While doing some unrelated research, I came upon an article in the *Daily Press* that described the arrival of the first group of young men from Oklahoma who were part of that program. It seems that one group traveled by standard gauge rail with all the amenities, while another came by the narrow gauge route with very little comfort. The story also included the unbelievable. None of the young men were allowed to have coats. Why? Because the powers-that-be thought that not allowing coats would discourage "deserters" in the mountains of Colorado.

Lastly, at least for purposes of this mis-sive, it was the *Plaindealer* that piqued my interest in a certain advertisement that I found also in several other papers around the country. I don't know why it caught my eye, but it did. The ad was for a medicine distributed by Dr. W. R. Brown in St. Louis. The claim was that this White Ribbon Remedy would cure the "curse of drink." In part, the ad stated, *No taste. No odor. Any woman can give it in a glass of water, tea, coffee or food without the patient's knowledge.* This stuff claimed to be effective on people who were confirmed "inebriates, tipplers, social drinkers and drunkards." I looked for testimonials in the Ouray and Montrose area, but never did find any. Oh well.

With permission of some special people, I will do this again someday. I have a lot more stuff cluttering up various files, both paper and digital, but I have to set aside a substantial amount of time to go through it all. I keep getting sidetracked.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

\$10,000 IN PRIZE MONEY AT SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNEY

RIDGWAY— If you need an extra excuse to go fishing, head over to Ridgway State Park July 11 – Aug. 9 to participate in the Sixth Annual Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

CPW is reducing the population of smallmouth bass in the reservoir and needs help from anglers. To get that help, the state agency is providing major incentives to anglers: \$10,000 in prize money. The more fish you catch, the more chances you'll have for prizes.

No registration fee is required and all anglers over 16 years old must have a fishing license.

"Anglers have really helped us during the past five years and for the 6th annual tournament we're again offering cash incentives for anglers," said Eric Gardunio, aquatic biologist for CPW in Montrose.

A raffle category and a skills category for prizes will be offered. To qualify for any of the prizes, anglers must turn in a smallmouth bass head or the whole fish at the drop box located at the fish-cleaning station near the boat ramp. Every time an angler turns in fish he or she must fill out the registration card, sign it and place it with the fish in the plastic bags provided. Anglers can only turn in fish they've caught; anglers are not allowed to pool their catch.

All anglers who enter the tournament are eligible for the raffle and will receive one entry for every fish they catch. The raffle grand prize winner will receive \$1,000, and ten second-tier prizes of \$100 will also be awarded. All kids 12 and under who turn in a smallmouth bass will receive a package of fishing lures.

"Anyone who catches even one fish has a chance to win a big prize," Gardunio said.

Anglers who catch a lot of fish could be rewarded generously: \$5,000 for catching the most smallmouth bass; \$2,000 for the second place finisher; \$1,000 for third place. Each of the top three finishers will also receive a Colorado State Parks Pass good for all 41 parks. The winners in this category are not eligible for the raffle.

All fish must be in the drop box by 6 p.m., Aug. 9. Winners will be notified by Aug. 14 and prizes will be mailed.

The purpose of the annual tournament is to protect native fish and water users downstream of the reservoir. Smallmouth bass, introduced illegally to Ridgway Reservoir more than a decade ago, are predator fish that can survive in Western Slope rivers, including the Uncompahgre River which flows from the reservoir. There is a significant risk of smallmouth bass escaping from the reservoir into the river where they could reproduce and consume native fish species that are found nowhere else in the world. Smallmouth bass have escaped other impoundments in western Colorado and are adversely affecting populations of native fish in several rivers.

"By participating in the tournament and removing smallmouth bass, anglers will be actively helping with wildlife management in Colorado," Gardunio said. "Anglers have been very effective at removing these fish in prior tournaments and we appreciate their assistance. There are no bag or possession limits on smallmouth bass at Ridgway."

If you've never fished for smallmouth bass, or if you want to improve your



The 6th Annual Ridgway State Park Smallmouth Bass Tournament is July 11-Aug. 9. Courtesy photo.

chances of catching them, CPW has posted a web page that explains the best ways to catch smallmouth bass. The web page also includes tournament rules and an in-depth explanation of issues related to smallmouth bass at Ridgway Reservoir: <https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/Tournament.aspx>.

Ridgway State Park, located about 20 miles south of Montrose in southwest Colorado is one of the state's most beautiful parks. Camping, playgrounds, hiking trails, picnic areas, a swim beach, boating and river fishing are available. Entry to the park is \$9 per vehicle; rates for camping range from \$24-\$36. An \$80 annual pass provides entrance to all 41 Colorado State Parks.

Boaters are reminded that their craft must be cleaned, drained and dry before entering the reservoir at Ridgway State Park. All boats are subject to inspection for aquatic nuisance species.

For more information about the park and to make camping reservations, go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway/Pages/default.aspx>





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PEAK MOUNTAIN GUIDES NAMED JULY 2020 RACC MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Peak Mountain Guides as July 2020 RACC Member of the Month. Peak Mountain Guides was founded in 2008, and has been owned since 2018 by Lance Sullins, who is passionate about climbing and skiing, and strives to help clients and staff meet their goals. Based out of an office at 160 Liddell St #C3, Ridgway, Colo., the company guides rock, ice, and alpine climbing, and backcountry skiing.

"Peak specializes in listening to our guests and creating custom trips based on each individual's profile," said Sullins. "One primary value of climbing or skiing with a guide is their ability to tailor the objective to the client's desired level of difficulty. We enjoy the mountains with first-time climbers, experienced climbers and skiers, and everyone in between."

Peak offers a year-round 10 percent discount to Ouray and Ridgway residents.

"Like most everyone else, Peak as a company is learning on the fly to navigate life and business in a pandemic. Growth and financial goals have shifted to a focus of the well-being of our staff and community," he said.

To learn more about Peak Mountain Guides, go online to <https://peakguides.com/>,



Ridgway Chamber of Commerce courtesy photo.



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

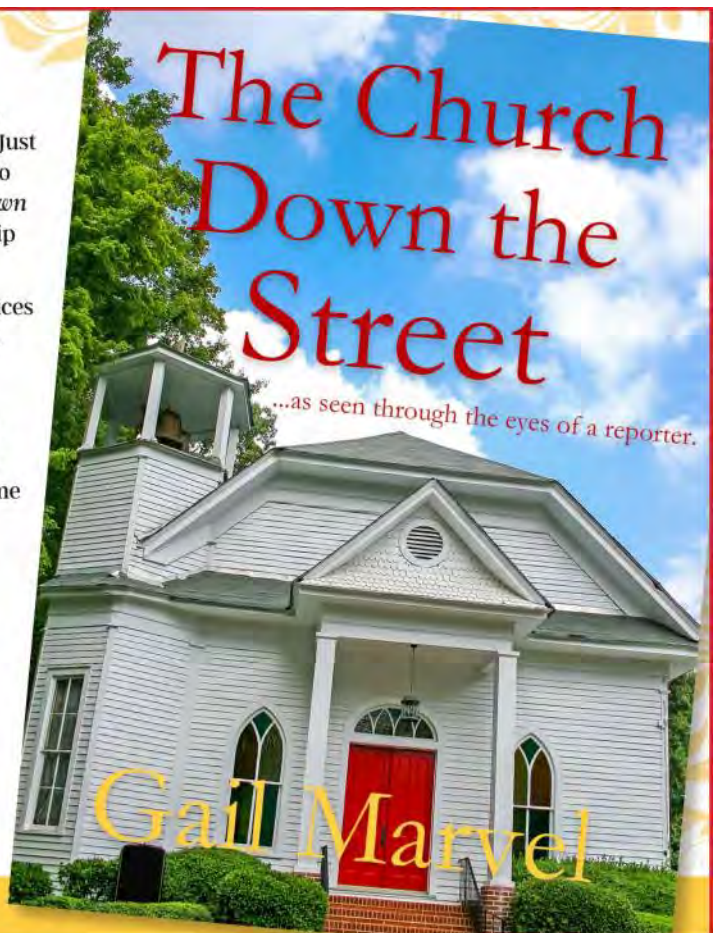
It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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

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

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

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LISA PETERSON OF MONTROSE NAMED TO SPRING DEANS' LIST AT NEBRASKA

Special to Art & Sol

LINCOLN, NE- Lisa Renee Peterson of Montrose has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the spring semester of the 2019-20 academic year. Peterson, a sophomore finance major, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Business. Nearly 7,500 students at Nebraska have been named to the Deans' List for the spring semester.

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO-- More than 450 Skyhawks graduated from Fort Lewis College in a virtual commencement on Friday, May 29, 2020. Erik Weihe, adventurer and author, gave the commencement address.

The ceremony premiered online, featuring videos of graduates moving their tassels as their names were read by faculty from their departments. From every department, students were lauded for their resilience and courage, many faculty expressing how proud they were of their students' accomplishments. Graduates received Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Education degrees, as well as certificates in Pre-Health, Geographic Information System, and Digital Marketing.

-Elise Hill of Montrose
-Caitlin McKinney of Montrose
-Audrey Stansberry of Montrose

As the Four Corners' stronghold of academic excellence, Fort Lewis College blends small class sizes, engaged faculty, and unparalleled research opportunities to help students earn college degrees and chase dreams. Guided by real-world experiences and a bountiful landscape, our students develop critical thinking and communication skills to fuel further studies or rewarding careers.



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\$240,000 • MLS 759212 • Bdr: 3 | Ba: 1 • 2,676 sq. ft. • 0.149 Apx. Total Acres
302 W Main Street, Hotchkiss • Offered by: Trena Unrein & Brian Unrein



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



\$365,000 • MLS 770432 • Bdr: 3 | Ba: 2 • 1,868 sq. ft. • 0.220 Apx. Total Acres
3024 Outlook Drive, Montrose • Offered by: Linda Stiel



\$514,990 • MLS 762945 • Bdr: 4 | Ba: 5 • 2,765 sq. ft. • 0.200 Apx. Total Acres
2919 Outlook Road, Montrose • Offered by: Jeff L. Keenhus



\$595,000 • MLS 767367 • Bdr: 3 | Ba: 2 • 1,690 sq. ft. • 29.860 Apx. Total Acres
24125 Horseshoe, Montrose • Offered by: Elizabeth J Spitzer



\$1,475,000 • MLS 771043 • Bdr: 5 • FARM FRANCH • 2,220 sq. ft. • 230.00 Apx. Total Acres
37681 Highway 145, Rockvale • Offered by: Autumn Garrett



\$230,000 • MLS 766265 • Bdr: 4 | Ba: 1 • 1,075 sq. ft. • 0.340 Apx. Total Acres
606 Spring Creek Road, Montrose • Offered by: Betsy Fernandez



\$330,000 • MLS 766306 • Bdr: 5 | Ba: 3 • 2,468 sq. ft. • 0.300 Apx. Total Acres
100 Vista View, Montrose • Offered by: Darrell Gilks



\$349,900 • MLS 762788 • COMMERCIAL • 7,560 sq. ft. • 0.86 Apx. Total Acres
931 N Park Avenue, Montrose • Offered by: Don Bailey



\$499,000 • MLS 769752 • Bdr: 5 | Ba: 2 • 3,324 sq. ft. • 1.106 Apx. Total Acres
3362 West Court, Montrose • Offered by: Jessamy Pressler & Jennifer Johnson



\$630,000 • MLS 769155 • Bdr: 3 | Ba: 3 • 2,526 sq. ft. • 5.600 Apx. Total Acres
12670 8100 Road, Montrose • Offered by: Kree Christie



\$666,900 • MLS 769040 • Bdr: 3 | Ba: 2 • 3,097 sq. ft. • 45.663 Apx. Total Acres
60545 Kansas Road, Montrose • Offered by: Kerri Noonan-Inda



\$2,140,000 • MLS 756442 • Bdr: 4 | Ba: 5 • 7,334 sq. ft. • 0.960 Apx. Total Acres
30 S Badger Trail, Ridgway • Offered by: Patricia M Floyd



Listed from left to right: Henny Algaes, Autumn Barrett, Kerri Noonan-Inda, Sarah Gulman, Holly Hensley, Brian & Trena Unrein, Elizabeth Spitzer, Linda Stiel, Lisa Wood, Kree Christie, Jeff & Lark Keenhus, Amy Harmsen, Patrice & Troye Floyd, Jessamy Pressler, Michael Scott Dosch, Don & Ellen Bailey, Jennifer Johnson, Betsy Fernandez, Darrell Gilks, Jamie Carver.

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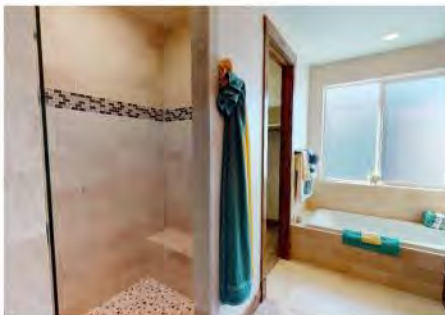
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1,746 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2019



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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.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Hampton Inn conference room at Noon.

MONTHLY-

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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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured this image of the Buck Moon over the Cimarrons July 4.

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