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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...
Issue No. 387 July 27 2020

WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETING



Montrose Women's Giving Club Founding members Phoebe Benziger, left, and Julee Wolverton, right, say the Club will host a virtual meeting soon.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Unlike many meetings, the quarterly gatherings of the Montrose Women's Giving Club are exciting and fun. Expect the club's next meeting—and yes, it will be virtual—to be pure dynamite, as the members decide which of three competing non-profits will take home close to \$16K.

Though their quarterly meetings have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Montrose Women's Giving Club continues to grow—and to help other organizations grow and achieve their potential.

Founded in 2017 by Phoebe Benziger, Julee Wolverton, Sarah Fishing, Sue Hansen, and Kristy Barrett, the club has awarded roughly \$180,000 over the past three years.

Continued pg 3

MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATES FLEET

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE—Every government entity must deal with issues related to an aging fleet of vehicles. Some agencies have vehicles that are inadequate for the jobs they perform; the Montrose County Sheriff's Office is no different. The MCSO has had to work with vehicles that did not provide enough room for required equipment and for transporting arrested individuals.

Well over a year ago Sheriff Gene Lillard started the process of fixing that for his Deputies, with a slow replacement of the current fleet with more roomy vehicles that can hold all the equipment they need. The first two new vehicles have arrived and are ready for service. First is a Chevy Tahoe that is set up as a K9 Unit, the second a Chevy van for use as a prisoner transport.



New MCSO vehicles include a Chevy Tahoe that is set up as a K9 Unit. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

Continued pg 8

in this issue

City of Montrose Awards Business Incentives Package!

Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!

A Fresh Point of View With Jack Switzer!

BOCC Looks at Through-the-Fence airport access!

COUNTY LOOKS AT AIRPORT ACCESS IN WORK SESSION

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a public work session on July 20, and while they covered several topics, the bulk of the meeting dealt with Montrose Regional Airport and through-the-fence agreements.

Aviation Director Lloyd Arnold read a long memo about FAA guidance on through-the-fence operations and requirements for federal grant assurances. The FAA does not recommend any through-the-fence agreements, and having a business with one that does not comply with all FAA requirements can jeopardize federal grants for the airport.

Over the past decade the Montrose Regional Airport has received more than 40 million in federal money for capital improvements, with another 20 million on the way for planned airport expansion.

Sandy Head of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) questioned BOCC decisions with regard to through-the-fence agreements as well as the option for the county to purchase property that MEDC and other private citizens own on the airport.

The BOCC brought up the history of 13

years and 3.4 million in taxpayer money spent in lawsuits with a previous company that did not comply with FAA regulations. Other than the FAA recommending against through-the-fence agreements, this is another reason the BOCC does not support them.

Some voiced concern that the BOCC was standing against economic development at the airport, while the BOCC fired back that they were willing to work with businesses that are willing to work with them and suggested any business interested in working out of the airport contact Aviation Director Lloyd Arnold directly.

"If one more person says 'Don't let history decide the future,' I have to take issue with it, because if you don't look back to what happens ... our job as public servants is to balance the risk. We are not standing in the way of anybody developing at the airport," said Commissioner Hansen.

Commissioners continued on to say that



A property located by Montrose Regional Airport, above, was recently the subject of a "Through-the-Fence" access request. However, the FAA does not recommend any through-the-fence agreements. Mirror file photo by B. Switzer.

the secret plans and short time frames for decisions that MEDC and some companies required were not acceptable, with Commissioner Rash even pointing out that some of the previous deals were, "pretty shady."

"The bottom line is we are going to manage and take care of our airport as what's best for our citizens," Commissioner Rash said.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETING

From pg 1

The guidelines are simple; in the past, the Women's Giving Club has gathered in person, with each member bringing \$100 to donate. They hear pitches from three local charities, and vote on one of the presenting non-profits to receive the evening's donations.

The Club is not religious or political; at least \$10K is awarded at every meeting. Current funding priorities include organizations that meet community needs in the areas of childcare, housing, and education.

While past winners are welcome to attend, no organization can win more than once during a three-year period. Also, eligible organizations are those that will spend the funds within the Montrose community.

The Women's Giving Club met most recently in February, when members voted to award the donations to Girls on the

Run. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the postponement of the quarterly gatherings planned for spring and summer.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed for November," Founding member Phoebe Benziger said. "We really want people to know we're alive and well."

With plenty of money to give away and new donations coming in regularly, the club plans to hold the next event virtually. The format has not yet been chosen, but a decision will be made in the coming weeks.

"The members will be hearing from us via email," Founding member Julee Wolverton said.

The chance to give away significant funds to worthy organizations never grows stale, even for the founders. "It's exciting to me to see my \$100 donation multiply, and it's fun to collaborate on ideas," Wolverton said. "The recipients come back and tell us

how they spent the money—we get to see that it is meaningful and used in a productive way."

Over the years, as the number of members has grown, the club has become younger and more diverse. "Most people join because it's philanthropic, but they stay because it's fun," Wolverton said.

New members are always welcome—and there is no need to wait to donate, Benziger said. "We will have more than 100 women this time. They have skin in the game; this is very impactful in lots of ways."

For more information call Benziger at 970-209-9598, or email givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com. Members are free to pay during quarterly meetings or donate ahead of time by mail.

Send checks to the Women's Giving Club at Post Office Box 1403, Montrose CO 81402.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOOT STOMP BENEFIT POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 5, 2021

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Boot Stomp committee together with the Board of Directors of the San Juan Healthcare Foundation regret to inform the community that the Boot Stomp benefiting the San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Memorial Hospital will be postponed to June 5, 2021.

Concerns regarding Coronavirus cases lead to the decision to postpone.

Boot Stomp Montrose has been a fun event for the community to gather and benefit the San Juan Cancer Center. The committee wants to make sure that the 3rd annual Boot Stomp is as much fun as the first two. Not only fun, but as financially successful. As a result of Boot Stomp 1 & 2, \$50,000 dollars was raised and a significant balance yet exists in the Caring Friends Fund at the San Juan Can-

cer Center.

The CFF will be able to assist cancer patients with any non-medical needs over the next year. A special thank you to the sponsors that stepped up early this year and committed to make Boot Stomp Montrose 2021 a success. Now more than ever the San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Memorial needs the community support.

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MIRROR IMAGES...



The Mirror (almost) caught up with Ray last week, using the bike lane and taking a creative approach to his commute to and from Colorado Yurt Co.

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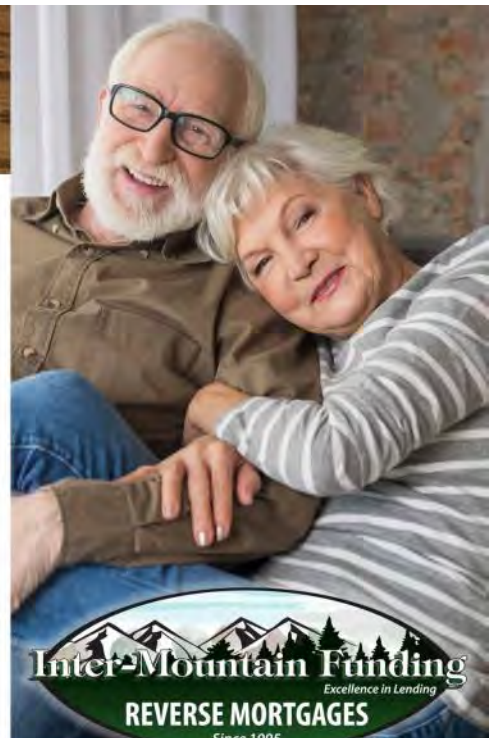
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGION-WIDE BRIDGE MAINTENANCE COMPLETED IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation has completed work on regional bridges requiring maintenance and repair. The project included improvements to six structures: US Highway 160/550 bridge (also known as the “high bridge”) in Durango over the Animas River at Mile Point 86 two US 550 bridges near the Colorado/New Mexico state line at MP 1 and 2 US 160 bridge over the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs at MP 144 CO Highway 151 bridge over the Piedra

River near Arboles at MP 18.5 US 550 bridge over the Hermosa Creek in the Animas Valley north of Durango at MP 32 Work was completed last week on the bridge at Hermosa, with some follow up items completed on the Pagosa Springs bridge on Monday, earlier this week. PROJECT BACKGROUND This region-wide bridge preventative maintenance project began last fall in September of 2019, addressing the high bridge over the Animas River in Durango and two US 550 bridges just north of the

New Mexico state line. Work on the Animas River structure included improved approaches at the north abutment, improved drainage structures and grading improvements with concrete and asphalt pavements. The US 550 structures received new and improved polyester concrete deck surfacing, drainage improvements, and repairs to wildlife fencing.

This spring, crews performed repair work on the US 160 Pagosa Springs and CO 151 Arboles bridges where they performed repair work including removal and replacement of asphalt membranes, bridge deck repairs, and bridge expansion joint repair and replacement.

The final structure receiving repairs was the US 550 Hermosa bridge in the Animas Valley north of Durango. Construction activities on the bridge were delayed when an active American Dipper nest, protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, was found on the bridge structure. Crews resumed work on the structure on June 15, after the young birds fledged, with repairs to the bridge deck, bridge joint, and removal and replacement of asphalt.

As part of CDOT’s Whole System — Whole Safety initiative, this project will create better and safer driving conditions for travelers, and help to extend the lifespan of the bridges.

CDOT along with American Civil Constructors would like to thank the Southwest Colorado communities for their patience and understanding during these construction efforts.

PROJECT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

For additional information about this project:

Call the project information line at 970-840-8517

Email the project team at R5BridgeRehab@yahoo.com

Visit the project website at www.codot.gov/projects/southwestern-colorado-bridge-maintenance.



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welcome
Julie Fournier
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Fournier will be joining the Internal Medicine and Premier Women’s Healthcare of Delta teams, providing primary care services to patients. For Julie the decision to join the health care team at DCMH allowed her to connect with her rural community roots.

For over 30 years Fournier has been a Registered Nurse working in various departments including emergency, home health and hospice. In 2010 she became a Nurse Practitioner and worked in Farmington, New Mexico at a Federally Qualified Health Center. Fournier has worked in Delta County before and is excited to work with new patients and previous patients again.



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MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATES FLEET From pg 1

I met Undersheriff George Jackson and was given a tour of the new vehicles and shown why they are important to the work the Sheriff's office does.

The new K9 Unit is divided into four compartments, with driver/passenger space, prisoner space, police dog space, and an equipment space in the back. This allows for all the electronics and miscellaneous equipment that may be needed on any given call, as well as a separate area to set a single individual who is arrested. The compartment for the police dog can be remotely triggered and opened wide via hydraulic assist.

The new K9 Unit is also decked out in a new paint scheme for MCSO, which will adorn all new fleet vehicles as they arrive.

The new transport van is also sectioned off into separate areas--the driver/passenger space which has a monitor for viewing the three spaces behind the driver, as well as three different prisoner transport sections. These are needed because different types of prisoners cannot be put together, be it based on age or gender. This van is not just a local



The new K9 Unit is divided into four compartments, with driver/passenger space, prisoner space, police dog space, and an equipment space in the back. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

transport; sheriffs in neighboring counties transport for each other as is needed and can be done, which helps bring down the

costs of long-haul transports.

Finally, eight more Chevy Tahoe's are coming to replace the aging fleet.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MORE INFORMATION ON SARA E LANE INCIDENT WOULD BE HELPFUL

Editor:

I recently read a brief article in the Daily Press and Mirror about a Montrose Police SWAT incident on Sara E Lane in eastern Montrose.

We also saw a very brief story on KKCO, but there was no followup beyond noting that two "bodies" were seen being removed from the premises. We drove by the home a couple of days later and saw

that all of the street-facing windows were boarded up (upstairs and downstairs. On the TV report we saw the metal garage door out on the driveway. It looked like it had exploded out from the home.

With national concern about "militarization" of our police departments, and widespread concern about police tactics, I think it would be very helpful to both citizens and our protectors to have

more information on what drove so massive and apparently violent response. Since we know the owner of the home and his son were the apparent victims it would seem that there's no excuse for the public not having more information.

Neighborhood gossip is not as satisfactory as appropriate official information.

Jim Isler, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG NATIONAL FORESTS ASK VISITORS TO RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests respectfully ask visitors to please assist us in protecting their natural resources by recreating responsibly.

We are asking everyone to please stay off wet roads, respect road and area closures, know the current fire restrictions and be respectful and courteous to other campers.

During this time of year, monsoons bring summer rains to the forest. Please do not drive on muddy roads. When vehicles drive on soft roadbeds, they cause rutting and permanent damage that could lead to additional closures.

Do not remove nature barriers on closed roads or enter closed areas.

With record-breaking levels of visitation, there is more demand for developed campsites, resulting in a limited number of available sites each weekend. Please do your part and know before you go.

Campers who want to camp in non-reservable developed sites should plan ahead and arrive early for their best chance at obtaining a site.

Pack It In and Pack It Out—Garbage facilities

are limited. Do not pile trash next to trash bins, leave it in your campsite or burn it in your fire pit. Campground trash receptacles are intended for campground guests, only. Please take your garbage home with you for disposal, and always adhere to Leave No Trace Principles.

Be respectful—Don't crowd your neighbors, drive slow in campgrounds, pick up after your pet, follow quiet hours and

don't walk through other campsites. Do not leave your campfire unattended or abandoned. Make sure to use the drown, stir and feel method. Ensure your campfire is DEADOUT!

For more information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug> or www.westslopefireinformation.com.

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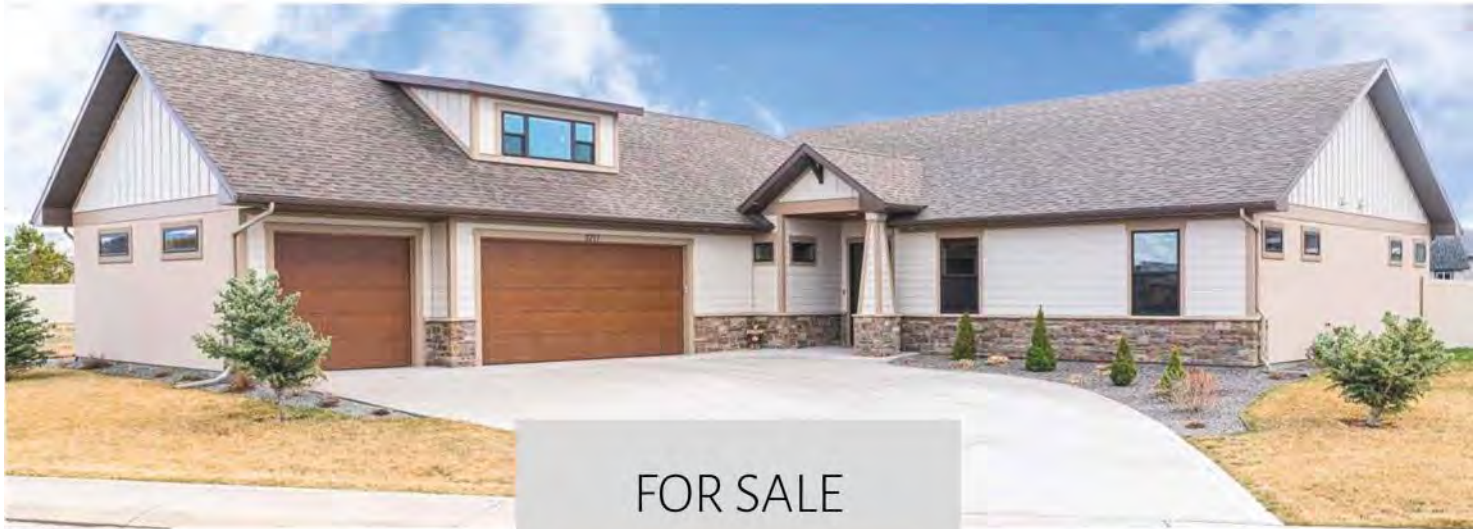
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DOCTORS HELP DEVELOP MONTROSE COUNTY RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Wednesday evening, July 22, Montrose County School District (MCSD) leadership convened the first of several focus groups designed to help develop back-to-school plans, inviting local doctors, pediatricians, and mental health providers to ask questions and provide feedback on the upcoming Return to Learn.

In a socially distanced forum, and adorning PPE, small groups met in the Columbine Middle School gym and were provided focus questions in a conversation moderated by MCSD Superintendent Dr. Carrie

Stephenson.

Content covered in the ninety-minute session included the susceptibility and transmission risk COVID-19 presents to Montrose and Olathe children and adults, Colorado Department of Education and Public Health mitigation strategies for staff and students, the physical and mental health impact of stay-at-home orders on children, and a range of other topics.

Practitioners and local public health leaders discussed measures educators should consider regarding the risks presented by the novel coronavirus ahead of the August 27 student start day. Community Focus

Groups will continue to meet next week, with at least four planned forums scheduled for the week of July 27. Over 750 MCSD parents, staff, and community members responded to a survey invitation indicating they wanted to participate in the planning process.

After soliciting input from stakeholders, MCSD expects to publish the final Return to Learn plan by August 1st.

On Aug. 3, instructional staff will indicate their teaching preference (on or off campus) and parents can select their child's instructional format (online or in-person) for the start of 2020-2021 school year.



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CITY CONSIDERS CONTRACT AWARDS @ WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council gathered for a “hybrid” work session on Monday, July 20. All Councilors were present; though members of the public are still not welcomed in person, four Councilors met in chambers together with key members of City staff, while Councilor Roy Anderson joined via Zoom call.

As Council wore masks through the work session it was difficult at times to understand what was being said.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council discussed a **Manhole Rehabilitation Bid Award Recommendation**. Utilities Manager David Bries presented information. Two bids were received; the low bidder was Silverback Industries of Montrose. However, the company’s products do not meet the specifications detailed in the bid documents-- Spectrashield® manhole lining systems were specified in the bid request-- and staff recommended awarding the contract to Concrete Conservation, Inc. (CCI) for the rehabilitation of manholes with severe H2S Corrosion not to exceed \$100,000.

Also discussed was a **contract for janitorial services with Aspen Enterprises LLC**. Facilities Manager Mark Armstrong said that the contract does not have to go out for bid as it is a renewal. The current three-year contract reached term on July 12. The new \$78,689 contract will cover cleaning services for the “Civic Campus,” Public Works Shop, Lions Park Clubhouse, Black Canyon Golf Course, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION/STAFF COMMENTS

As the single virtual participant, Councilor Anderson thanked City Information Systems Director Greg Story and his team for their efforts.

“I feel like the lone wolf out here,” Anderson said, adding that he would be participating virtually in the Council meeting Tuesday night as well. “... Thanks all of you for accommodating me.”

Police Chief Blaine Hall gave an update on the local response to Governor Jared Polis’ statewide mask directive. “Law enforcement’s role, at least in my belief...we want to educate and inform...we certainly don’t want to be involved in any physical altercations over this order,” Hall said. Ten to 12 calls had already been received over the directive; those fell into three main categories, Hall said, including questions, concerns over a local business or lack of enforcement, and businesses concerned with non-compliant patrons. Caution tape was torn down at a local establishment in protest of the mask order, another individual became upset over having to wear a mask. “None have escalated to enforcement action...in general everyone is doing a pretty good job.”

City Engineer Scott Murphy said that a valve ordered nine months ago has finally arrived for the Cerro dam and is being installed. “We might get it at least half full this year...I can sleep again.”



Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum during the “hybrid” virtual work session July 20. Because Council wore masks through the work session it was difficult at times to understand what was being said.

Mayor Barbara Bynum responded, “It sounds like we don’t have any other engineering department questions, so good luck on the dam up at Cerro.”

There were no other departmental updates or questions.

“Your department heads and your staff did an excellent job in your absence,” Bynum said to City Manager Bill Bell, newly returned from vacation. “Business as usual, getting a lot done.”

Bell said that a portion of town literally caught fire while he was away. Bynum said, “Part of town did literally catch on fire while you were gone, but only a very small part, and it was capably handled.”

As she prepared to close the work session, “Important work of the City got done, thank you everyone for joining us,” Bynum said.

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Commercial Building Zoned Light Industrial. 7,560 square feet. Many business possibilities. Building is divided into 3 sections and includes 5 offices, manufacturing or fabrication space, warehouse space and restrooms. Two sections have hot water baseboard heating and the newer section to the north has in-floor radiant heat. 6 Evaporative coolers. One roll-up door. Three-phase power. Also includes a detached garage with 576 square feet. Great access off Park Avenue, very close to San Juan Bypass and Hwy 50 North. Nice grassy yard to the south side of the property, watered with HOA irrigation water. Irrigation pump is included. Business Elevate Fiber Optic internet is available at this location.

0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LINDA CHILDEARS ELECTED TO ALPINE BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS- Linda Childears, president emeritus of the Daniels Fund, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Alpine Bank, Board Chairman Bob Young announced today.

"With our recent addition of four Front Range Alpine Banks, we felt it important to find a board member that will make a valuable contribution to our organization," said Young. "We believe Linda Childears will do just that."

Childears brings extensive banking experience, having served as CEO of the Young Americans Bank, president of Equitable Bank of Littleton and vice president of the

First National Bank Corporation, as well as experience as a board member of the Colorado Bankers Association and the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado.

She is the past chair and a current board member of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she has served on over 25 state and local boards as well as five national boards, chairing nine of them.

"I am very honored to join the board," Childears said. "I've admired Alpine Bank and its leadership for a long time. It combines two things I love: the banking business and a genuine relationship with the communities it serves." Childears has re-

ceived several honors, most recently the Outstanding Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award from the Denver Business Journal. She has honorary doctorate degrees from Johnson & Wales University and the University of Denver.



Linda Childears. Courtesy photo.

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1,668 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2020

MLS 770432



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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-My phone felt hot in my hand, and my eyes were starting to feel numb. I had been scrolling social media for what felt like forever, even if it was only an hour. I remember almost every third post I saw was someone yelling at someone else about a mask, or a political view, or even just for using a different kind of dog food. I turned my phone over and set it on my desk.

Normally I wouldn't have thought about it too much afterwards, but I just couldn't stop thinking about how ready everyone is to jump down someone else's throat.

I don't understand that feeling, being so ready to tear someone down.

Why are we all so angry? Is it because we have the urge to defend the fact that we

are the ones on the right side of the argument and they're wrong? Is it because of our ego? Or is it just because we like to fight? I don't know, and I'm sure there are a thousand different reasons for that anger. I could never name all of them, that's for sure.

My question is, am I not normal for not wanting to? It feels like I should be angry too, like I should be fighting for one side or the other and stick to my guns. But when someone says something I don't agree with, I just tune it out. I don't even care.

I can't help but feel like something's wrong with me doing that, like I should fight to tell them they're wrong, but I just don't have the energy for it. I wouldn't win the argument, I could lose their re-

spect or even lose them as a friend, I should just shut up and not fuel the fire.

Do I value them as a person more than I value their opinions?

Or am I just too scared to speak up because I know they'll chop me down?

I don't know.

I just know that I feel lost in all of this conflict and I just want to sit on my bed and listen to Radiohead.



Jack Switzer, 17.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT TO CONDUCT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT WORK IN TAYLOR PARK

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District has begun work on a travel management project to decommission illegal, user-created roads and trails in the vicinity of Taylor Park. The targeted illegal, user-created routes have existed for some time, causing considerable resource damage, leading to the erosion of hillsides, watershed contamination and the degradation of wildlife and aquatic habitats. Additionally, illegal,

user-created routes do not receive regular maintenance causing public safety concerns, while increasing the need for unplanned resource impact repair.

"The intent of this notice is to inform the public in advance, so riders understand the underlying rationale and are not surprised when these illegal, though longstanding, routes are decommissioned," said Gunnison District Ranger Matt McCombs.

The project was planned and will be executed in accordance with the 2010 Gun-

nison National Forest Travel Management Plan and the work is anticipated to last through September. Work crews will also be performing maintenance and water drainage improvements to legal routes within both project areas.

For information on the project please contact the Gunnison Ranger District at 970-641-0471, visit the GMUG Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF>) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF)

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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL CONDUCTS PUBLIC BUSINESS IN MOSTLY INAUDIBLE 'HYBRID' MEETING



Montrose City Council has approved a \$30K business incentives package for Smart Start Daycare, above.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A [note on the video](#) of the July 21 regular Montrose City Council meeting states, "Due to a technical issue with the Zoom platform itself, the recording of the July 21 meeting suffered poor audio levels. We apologize for this inconvenience."

It was also difficult to understand what was being said behind the masks that the Councilors and staff who were present in chambers wore.

The meeting was held in a "hybrid" format, meaning that Council and key staff were present in person, while Councilor Roy Anderson joined via Zoom call. The public was not welcome in chambers but was invited to attend via Zoom as well.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard from the public on non-agenda items, though a faint voice identified on the video as John Renfrow could be heard asking when comment would take place on a specific item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of the July 7, 2020 Council meeting.

ORDINANCES 2504/2505 SECOND READING

Council voted unanimously to adopt the annexation and zoning ordinances for the Hilltop Addition, Ordinance 2504 on second reading for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition and Ordinance 2505 on

second reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition as an "R-4" High Density District.

Realtor John Renfrow spoke in opposition to the R-4 zoning, noting that he had collected 71 signatures of those opposed. The items were discussed previously in work session and on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2506/2507

Council voted unanimously to adopt the annexation and zoning ordinances for the River Crossing Addition, Ordinance 2506 on second reading for the annexation of the River Crossing Addition and Ordinance 2507 on second reading, zoning the River Crossing Addition as a "B-3" General Commercial District.

The ordinances were discussed previously in work session and on First Reading.

Councilor Roy Anderson said that the ordinances would not preclude public access to the Uncompahgre River.

ORDINANCE 2508

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented information on Ordinance 2508 on first reading, amending Title 5 -Chapter 15 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding sales and use tax. The ordinance was previously discussed in work session, and results from a coordinated statewide effort to simplify the sales tax process for vendors and enable consistent collection of sales tax from online retailers outside of the City.

"...This is something that really levels the playing field for vendors," Wittenberg said.

RESOLUTION 2020-14

Council voted to adopt Resolution 2020-14 as presented, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file a Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant through the 7th Judicial District Victims Assistance Board for \$28,000 to cover a portion of the Victim Advocate's Salary; authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as required; and authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police and Finance Director to sign the grant application and reporting

documents.

RESOLUTION 2020-15

Also adopted was Resolution 2020-15 to place a referred measure, "Granting a Franchise to Delta-Montrose Electric Association," before the electors in the November 2020 General Election. Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that DMEA and City staff will present ballot language to Council in August. Councilor Anderson asked whether DMEA subsidiary Elevate Broadband would be included in the franchise agreement; a masked individual who sounded like City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said that, no, it would not.

BUSINESS INCENTIVES PACKAGE-SMART START DAYCARE

Council approved a business expansion incentives package of \$30,000 for the establishment of Smart Start Daycare at the Gold's Gym Facility, 1840 E. Main Street. City Director of Business & Tourism Chelsea Rosty presented information; the incentives package was previously discussed at work session. The east side of the building located at 1840 E. Main Street will be remodeled into a childcare facility that will accommodate 48 children ages infant to seven. The remodel will include a fenced outdoor space component on the east side of the building that will have soft turf, playground equipment, and shade. Smart Start will employ eleven individuals to start who will all be licensed childcare providers.

The project supports adaptive re-use of an underused facility; the total cost of the remodel is \$300K; the \$30K will be paid directly to the contractor.

There was some discussion among councilors prior to the vote, but what was said and who was saying it was unclear.

UNREIN OUTLOT DIVISION OF PROPERTY

Council voted to approve the Unrein Division of Property. A memo prepared by Murphy for Council states, "The City entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Unrein Family outlining framework for this public-private partnership to divide the land and secure rights of

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL CONDUCTS PUBLIC BUSINESS IN MOSTLY INAUDIBLE 'HYBRID' MEETING From previous pg

way...the City would have financial contributions to this project mostly in the form of survey costs (\$15K) and the construction of a sewer stub (\$25K)...The plat includes 100-foot right of way dedications for both Ogden Road and Rio-Grande Avenue along the City's preferred alignment...By default in the code, developers are required to construct all infrastructure necessary to support the development; however, if Rio-Grande or Ogden Road are constructed as City capital projects beforehand, these would be available to support adjacent development..."

CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR CM/GC FOR THE POLICE FACILITY
Council approved a contract with SHAW Construction for construction management and general contractor services on all phases of the new Public Safety Com-

plex (PSC) Construction Project as presented. The contract is a very lengthy document, and is available in the meeting packet, Mayor Bynum said.

Councilor Dave Bowman said, "Since November, the City has made significant but small steps toward implementing 2A; this is a really big step...I wanna thank the community...it's really good to be able to vote on this and see a really big step."

STAFF REPORT

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the most recent Sales, Use & Excise tax report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER REPORT

"I went on vacation for a couple of weeks, I went across country," City Manager Bill Bell said. "We were able to see how different cities and states were responding to the COVID situation ...I am proud to say

that I think our Montrose community takes it a little more seriously...I think that's really important..."

Bell said that he has been talking with other local officials about the pandemic situation. Montrose is in a better financial position than other communities across the state, he said, and big box stores are an important part of the local economy. Local government and business should be partners.

"I am really proud to be from Montrose and be part of this," Bell said.

Councilor Dave Frank said that a morning business seminar, entitled "Sleeping with the Enemy," was well presented although he felt the title was misleading.

Following more conversation and inaudible comments from Mayor Bynum, the meeting was adjourned.



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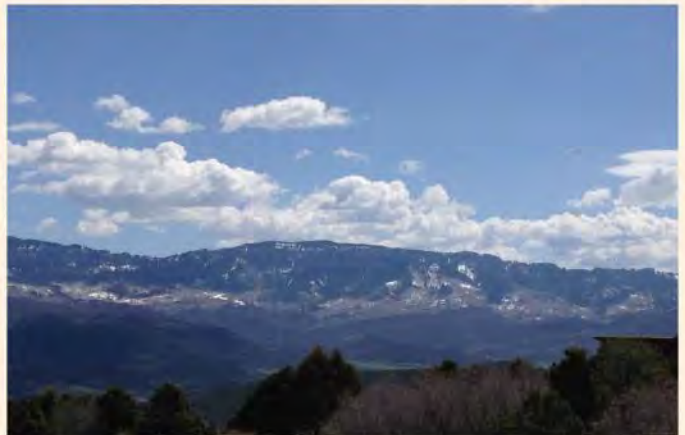
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931 N Park Avenue | Montrose, CO 81401

Commercial Building Zoned Light Industrial. 7,560 square feet. Many business possibilities. Building is divided into 3 sections and includes 5 offices, manufacturing or fabrication space, warehouse space and restrooms. Two sections have hot water baseboard heating and the newer section to the north has in-floor radiant heat. 6 Evaporative coolers. One roll-up door. Three-phase power. Also includes a detached garage with 576 square feet. Great access off Park Avenue, very close to San Juan Bypass and Hwy 50 North. Nice grassy yard to the south side of the property, watered with HOA irrigation water. Irrigation pump is included. Business Elevate Fiber Optic internet is available at this location.

0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUTH AND RULE OF LAW AT RISK: THE NEW 'KNOW NOTHING'S'

Editor:

Today's Republican Party under Donald Trump has emerged as heir to the far-right nativist Know Nothing party of the 1850s. Originally conceived as an anti-immigrant movement opposed to the large numbers of Catholic immigrants from Ireland and Germany, it became a xenophobic presence in mid-19th century American politics. The party was relatively short lived, dissolving over the slavery question, and many of its members later joined the Republican Party due to strong abolitionist sentiment in the north. It is difficult now for some to remember that in the Civil War period, the Republicans were the party of Lincoln and anti-slavery. Although the Know Nothings, as they were called, got their name from the "secret society" element of their movement, when they were supposed to respond "I know nothing" to questions about the party, the name could apply equally to the current remnants of what used to be the Republican Party, whose

members "know nothing" other than what Trump tells them.

I had an opportunity last week to hear a radio interview with a spokesman for the Republican Party of Montrose. In that interview, the party spokesman uttered two egregiously false and monumentally inane statements that illustrate my thesis. He said, "You're looking at a virus that is less lethal than your average flu." This statement defies all scientific evidence and is demonstrably false, given the current pandemic that is ravaging our country and the larger world. In Montrose County alone, the 7 day average of new cases from July 9 to July 22 rose from 2.0 to 7.7 per hundred thousand. Nationwide, we have seen 147,650 covid deaths through July 24, compared to an estimated 24,000 to 62,000 deaths annually from the flu. If anyone believes this virus is anything like the flu, they are deluding themselves and are part of Trump's New Know Nothings. The party spokesman went on to say, still talking about the pandemic

and the requirement to wear masks in public, "It's not the government's place to tell me what I can and can't do." Seriously? Most of us learn in our younger years that we live in a society of laws, not men. Is it necessary to point out the myriad ways in which government tells us daily what to do and not do in matters large and small? From traffic laws to license plates and driver licenses, from voter registration laws to paying income taxes, government, through our elected representatives, "tells" us what to do and not do all the time. Whether through naïve rhetoric or willful ignorance, this Republican party representative again illustrates the present state of affairs in the New Know Nothing world of Trumpism.

I am an independent voter, neither Democrat or Republican, but in the forthcoming presidential election, I will not vote for the leader of the New Know Nothings and his continued assault on truth and the rule of law.

George Bacon, Montrose

My Mask Protects You



Your Mask Protects Me



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

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\$35,000 • MLS 770234 • 3bd | Bk: 1 • 1,47 Apx, Total Acres
59406 Lone Eagle Road • Offered by: Kerri Noonan-Inda



\$330,000 • MLS 769306 • Bk: 5 | Bk: 3 • 2,488 sq. ft. • 0.3 Apx, Total Acres
100 Vista View • Offered by: Darrell Gilks



\$349,900 • MLS 762788 • Bk: 5 | Bk: 2 • 7560 sq. ft. • 0.85 Apx, Total Acres
5311 N Park Avenue • Offered by: Don Bailey



\$479,000 • MLS 769782 • Bk: 3 | Bk: 2 • 3,324 sq. ft. • 1.106 Apx, Total Acres
3382 West Court • Offered by: Jessamy Pressler & Jennifer Johnson



\$567,000 • MLS 764734 • Bk: 4 | Bk: 4 • 3,428 sq. ft. • 0.18 Apx, Total Acres
2141 Fair-Ted Wall Lane • Offered by: Jennifer Johnson & Jessamy Pressler



\$849,990 • MLS 772116 • Bk: 6 | Bk: 5 • 5,774 sq. ft. • 0.33 Apx, Total Acres
3331 Ivory Court • Offered by: Jeff L. Keehlfuss



\$1,475,000 • MLS 771043 • Bk: 5 | Bk: 2220 sq. ft. • 230 Apx, Total Acres
37061 Highway 145 • Offered by: Autumn Barrett

Your Forever Agents



\$230,000 • MLS 768255 • Bk: 4 | Bk: 1 • 1,075 sq. ft. • 0.34 Apx, Total Acres
808 Spring Creek Road • Offered by: Betsy Fernandez



\$330,000 • MLS 769116 • Bk: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,310 sq. ft. • 0.351 Apx, Total Acres
1721 Moonlight Drive • Offered by: Jamie Carver



\$350,000 • MLS 770432 • Bk: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,938 sq. ft. • 0.22 Apx, Total Acres
3024 Outlook Drive • Offered by: Linda Stiel



\$535,000 • MLS 775418 • Bk: 1 | Bk: 3 • 1,100 sq. ft. • 100 Apx, Total Acres
750 County Road 22 • Offered by: Tiana Unrein & Brian Unrein



\$585,000 • MLS 767997 • Bk: 3 | Bk: 2 • 1,992 sq. ft. • 29.86 Apx, Total Acres
24125 Horseshoe • Offered by: Elizabeth J Spitzer



\$1,195,000 • MLS 767843 • Bk: 5 | Bk: 5 • 5,504 sq. ft. • 0.019 Apx, Total Acres
442 Badger Trail South • Offered by: Pamice M Floyd



\$1,599,000 • MLS 766500 • Bk: 4 | Bk: 3 • 5,276 sq. ft. • 1.57 Apx, Total Acres
67437 Oak Leaf Drive • Offered by: Kree Christie & Jeff Keehlfuss

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CREWS MOBILIZE TO US 550 SOUTH OF OURAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTEZUMA, DOLORES, OURAY COUNTIES -The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor Oldcastle SW Group, Inc., will mobilize crews to the third and final site next week, as the project to repair and reconstruct highway retaining walls, roadway surfaces and guardrail progresses on track.

On Monday, July 27, work begins on US Highway 550 at mile point 90, just two miles south of Ouray. Work items and the final anticipated schedule for the final site include:

US 550 South of Ouray (MP 90): Late July into October 2020

For two days, while crews mobilize, motorists will encounter travel impacts on Monday and Tuesday, July 27-28, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beginning Wednesday, July 29, a concrete barrier will be in place, and daytime single-lane traffic will be controlled by flaggers; nighttime traffic will be controlled by a temporary traffic signal

For the entire duration of the project, motorists will encounter single-lane, alternating travel and a 10-foot width restriction, 24/7

Work involves retaining wall removal and replacement of two failing roadway sections with a crib wall system; follow-up highway surface repair and installation of a new inlet and drainage culvert

For the past three months crews have been performing work at sites on CO Highway 145. Work was completed last week.

CO Highway 145 North of Rico (MP 49.5): COMPLETE!

Work involved removing the existing retaining wall material below the edge of the roadway; installing micro-piling and concrete pile caps with new back-fill material to secure the slope; highway surface repair; guardrail replacement

CO 145 North of Dolores (MP 24.5): COMPLETE!

Work involved a 'deep patch' repair of the roadway and installation of a new rock buttress that provides slope stability underneath the roadway; guardrail replacement The project, which began April 20th, was contracted to Oldcastle SW Group for \$1.5 million.

QUESTIONS Contact the project team at (970) 519-1759 or co145us550repairs@gmail.com. The project web site is www.codot.gov/projects/co145-us550-patchwallrepair.



Listed from left to right: Henny Algaps, Autumn Barrett, Kerri Noonan-Inda, Sarah Gulman, Holly Hensley, Brian & Trena Unrein, Elizabeth Spitzer, Linda Stiel, Lisa Wood, Kree Christie, Jeff & Lark Keehlfuss, 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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Delta, CO
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\$1,150,000 | MLS# 766932



14847 6175 Road
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\$179,000 | MLS# 767917
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 1.0
1,100 sq. ft.



Tbd Hwy 550
Montrose, CO
So many Possibilities

\$550,000 | MLS# 769472
Bedrooms: | Bathrooms:
sq. ft.



3700 Scarlet Court
Montrose, CO
Lock and Leave

\$439,990 | MLS# 765564
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0
1,746 sq. ft.



19250 Highway 550
Montrose, CO
Cute home with mature Landscape

\$239,990 | MLS# 768778
Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 1.0
891 sq. ft.



4225 Waterfall Drive
Montrose, CO

\$59,990 | MLS# 764109
Build your dream Home



Tbd One Bradley Way
Montrose, CO

\$135,000 | MLS# 769032
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59215 Spring Creek Road
Montrose, CO
Spring creek property!

\$109,000 | MLS# 766918



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Jeff Keehfuss

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VACANT - MOVE IN CONDITION Awesome home on corner lot across from park. Well-maintained. Spacious rooms. Loads of windows & storage. Living room has vaulted ceiling. Nice kitchen layout with breakfast bar, large pantry and laundry room with 1/2 bath. Separate dining with French Doors that open to back yard with sunny patio. Great Master Suite. Ceramic tile & plush carpet. All appliances included. Nicely landscaped. Automatic sprinklers. Garden shed. Covered patio. Located in The Glens. Elevate Fiber.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FOCUS OF OUR LOCAL MORADA SHOULD BE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FAITH, RATHER THAN POLITICS

To the Montrose Mirror:

In the recent Issue 386 of the Montrose Mirror, Chris Trujillo thanked the City of Montrose for the new historical sign placed at the morada north of town. I'm in full support. It's good to teach future generations about the rich history of various people groups who belong to our wonderful nation, the United States of America.

Though I appreciated Mr. Trujillo's gratitude, he took this positive sign from the city as a means to promote division. His quote, "*American society has to wake up to the fact that America is not the color of cream cheese,*" was unnecessary. The focus of our local morada should be on the history of the faith of the Penitentes, their practices, and their presence in our county – not on the politics of the day.

Mr. Trujillo did not present the full history of the Penitente movement which is a story that deserves to be told. The Penitentes of the Southwest originally descended from a group of people called Flagellantes, who appeared in Italy in 1210. They performed religious rites including the whipping of their bodies as an act of penitence. Thousands of followers across southern Europe joined their ranks. The exact date of their arrival in the Americas is uncertain, but there are records of its appearance in Mexico soon after the Spanish Conquest.

As the Spanish Conquest spread up into New Mexico, Don Juan de Onate (in 1598) and the Franciscans who were with him introduced the practices of the Flagellantes to local native residents. Their faith included the practice of atonement through physical suffering in a procession and crucifixion ceremony.

Digging deeper: In 1501, Queen Isabella of Spain declared Native Americans were subjects of the Spanish crown, which declared that enslaving natives was illegal except for specific circumstances. *Encomienda* was a legal labor system put into place in Spain's American colonies. It offered protections to indigenous popula-

tions with a focus on reducing the abuses of those who labored for the Spanish crown. Tribute was to be taken, either in gold or labor, in return for the physical protection of the Spanish government. They were also provided with instruction in the Christian faith. In Mexico, the *encomienda* system worked through community hierarchies that were already established. Natives were allowed to remain with their families, allowed to keep their homes and were allowed to retain their native lands.

The granting of an *encomienda* to conquistadors and officials started in 1503, a reward for their service to Spain. *Encomienda* was abolished in 1642, which was the first major step towards the abolition of slavery and indentured servanthood in the Western world.

Sadly, many conquistadors failed to fulfill these obligations to the indigenous people. The Spanish crown did attempt to end these abuses with the Laws of Burgos (1512-13) and the New Law of the Indies (1542) which failed because of the opposition by colonials. Eventually, this system collapsed and was replaced by the *hacienda* system.

The term *genizaro* is the Spanish word for *janissary* (captives of war who were trained to fight for the Ottoman Empire). This term first appeared after 1692 when the Spanish regained control of New Mexico after the Pueblo revolt against the Spanish colonizers. *Genizaros* were mainly indigenous Native Americans placed into indentured servitude for a certain length of time. Most *genizaros* were Navajo, Pawnee, Apache, Kiowa, Ute, Comanche and Pauite. It's interesting to note the Comanches (and other tribes who dominated the weaker tribes on the eastern plains) often sold *genizaro* children that were kidnapped from these tribes to Spanish villagers.

This is only a glimpse to understand the history behind our local morada. The history of the Penitente movement is rich

and *worldwide*.

Let's choose to tell the entire story of history when we communicate. Let's choose not to use history as a tool for political gain or cultural manipulation. Rewriting history drives a political narrative rather than honoring a people, which should be our goal. It also dishonors those of us who want to honor their history of struggle.

One truth has been seen throughout the entirety of world history: people groups of all colors have been abused wrongly by various political powers in every era.

The Vikings abused the Celts and the Celts abused the Vikings.

The Tutsi's abused the Hutu's of Rwanda. The Egyptians enslaved Israelites and the Israelites took Canaanites as slaves. The Pawnees abused the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho and the Uighurs of China are being abused right now at the hands of the Communist Chinese regime. The Chinese abuse their own people under a communist regime.

Color is not the motive for abuse. The motive for abuse is a desire for power, recognition, and a continuance of traditions of hate that would be best left behind. These motives are delivered by specific individuals *not* entire people groups. My prayer is that all people of all colors will love the diversity in our nation and will learn to honor each other with more grace and truth.

If you would like to learn more about the Penitente movement, this well-written article from the 1950s is deep and fascinating.

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/18004631/april-1950-desert-magazine-of-the-southwest>

This article is also helpful:

<https://www.npr.org/2016/12/29/505271148/descendants-of-native-american-slaves-in-new-mexico-emerge-from-obscurity>

Sincerely,

Kathy Bergman, Montrose



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.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE BOCC EXEMPLIFIES PARTICIPATORY GOVERNMENT

Editor:

The Monday 21 July work session was largely devoted to the THRU THE FENCE OPERATION discussion and the BOCC position regarding them.

On Monday we witnessed, not for the first time, but certainly a rarity in past local government, where an elected governmental body (in this case our BOCC) called a meeting to lay waste to a long contentious issue, mainly that a TTFO is OK with the FAA, that Montrose should allow one (or more) of them at our airport and that such an action would be good for Montrose County, its citizens and the airport itself. After all the speakers spoke (everyone who wanted to did) it was unequivocally proven not to be the case, in fact just the opposite is the truth.

Basically the FAA position is that 'if you want to risk the repercussions you may be approved for one'. In short, the financial rewards of providing one of these authorizations to an operator has far more potential of costing the county over \$60,000,000 in lost FAA grants than of providing more than miniscule return on the potential business to be realized.

To gather a fair and substantial return from airport business the answer is to cause all airport business to be conducted 'on-airport' land by leasing portions of airport owned property for businesses to be operated from. For the foreseeable future there is NO shortage of airport land available for that purpose. When the business is operated 'on-airport', the air-

port (county) has significant control over the behavior of the operator. Experience has shown that they do not have such adequate control with a TTFO. Significantly only 2 airports in the United States (out of around 450 airports) have TTFOs in place illustrating that the FAA does NOT encourage their use and that TTFOs are not quite as popular as the local proponents would like the public and the BOCC to believe.

Recent airport litigation (in Montrose) with an off-airport operator over airport access took several years of litigation and around seven million dollars of litigation costs to resolve. No one can justify putting our County at risk for such expense and disruption if there is not an absolutely overwhelming reason to do so.

The county has been asked to approve another TTFO. They rightly refused, based on the evidence and general misunderstanding of the matter. The BOCC held this work session to explain their unanimous reticence to do so and their decision. They found NO overwhelming need to use a TTFO to benefit the airport or its profitability and found that the airport has 50 acres of land ON-AIRPORT available for use of airport businesses.

Our three commissioners cited justification after justification, over and over pronouncing that they would not request the FAA to permit a TTFO on the Montrose County airport. The FAA does not recommend such TTFOs and out of 400+ airports in the United States, only two of them

have TTFOs in force.

They also noted that they wanted anyone proposing to do business with the airport to apply directly to either the BOCC or the airport manager and not to a third party. They repeatedly reiterated that they and their staff had the ability and willingness to vet and otherwise deal with ON-AIRPORT business. They are, in fact, doing so this week with the issuance of two RFPs, one for a motel and one for a parking garage.

THIS IS THE WAY THAT POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SHOULD BE HANDLED. Out in the open, in public discussion for all the citizens to see and hear---and comment on.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude and admiration to the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners for their openness about their decision. I complement them for holding a public meeting where all with comment could participate. Since this is not how decisions of this nature have been undertaken in the past, (a cause of misunderstanding, hate and discontent) our BOCC took the 'high road' of good leadership and effectively put to rest a long standing misbehavior of county government.

We can all be proud of our three commissioners for exemplifying participatory government at the county level.

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY---not a bad way to run a government.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL HAS ALLOWED HOSTILE TAKEOVER BY CITY MANAGER

Editor:

I, and many other citizens are concerned, in fact extremely so, at what appears to be the takeover of our city government from the elected city council by the city manager, Mr. Bell.

It is now long past time for the citizens of Montrose to get intimately involved and reexamine virtually every action of the current city manager with special attention to the purpose and outcomes of his actions.

Further it is astounding to witness a city council that was elected, and is paid, to oversee city government to see the five of them abrogating the oversight of the city

manager almost entirely. They permit him to operate almost as he wishes.

This matter must be discussed by the citizens and council publicly, in the open and with 'no holds barred.'

City Council needs to have a completely open forum where the citizenry may ask THEM questions and without the interference of staff answer those questions on the spot and without coaching. To take all questions from the public and reply forthwith so that we, the public may know what our council members really know about the issues over which they preside.

Perhaps council could request someone of stature to preside (like maybe a retired

judge) so that the conduct of the forum would be conducted in a fair and impartial manner within the realm of proper courtesy and decorum.

A good issue upon which to start would be Mayfly. Why, after four years of their contract, has the city seen NO development in return for our \$10 million (plus or minus) investment with them?

The county just did this on particularly divisive issues in their bailiwick. It was an exemplary meeting with a splendid outcome. What excuse can there be for the city not to act similarly?

We do have a right to know, you know.
Bill Ramsey, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FACED WITH POSSIBLE CASE OF COVID-19, LOCAL CLINIC, STAFF DISPLAY DENIAL, SHODDY PREPAREDNESS

Editor:

Coping with the COVID outbreak has been a challenge for my western Colorado community. Neither the people themselves, nor the local clinics, seem very well prepared. My experience of coronavirus has been alarming and discouraging. Right now there seems to be a culture in place here of denial and shoddy preparedness that does not bode well for the prevention of community transmission in the next several weeks. So, for those interested, here is my sad tale.

On the morning of July 9th, I awoke feeling great and put in ½ day of heavy physical labor by noon. By 2:00 PM, out of the blue with not warning whatsoever, I was vomiting and experiencing diarrhea like never before in my life, even with food poisoning. I was disoriented, dizzy, and started have alternating sweats and chills. The bottoms of my feet throbbed all night long and a headache came and went. Although I never had a true fever, aching joints or even extreme shortness of breath, I knew what this was. Despite all precautions, hand sanitizing, mask wearing, and social distancing, I had COVID. The timing was right for it to have come from a liquor store in Montrose, where I was the only customer wearing a mask and social distancing, early in the morning on July 2nd.

By Friday mid-day July 10th, I felt well enough to look up local COVID testing sites. There was a map that indicated testing could be done in Olathe. I decided to see what was required and called the number provided on the website. I was connected to an administrator who seemed professional and courteous, but was not a doctor and couldn't answer any of the basic and straightforward questions about the current state of community transmission. He asked if I gotten his number from the state website. I confirmed that I had indeed. He commented that he really had to get around to chang-

ing that sometime, because he was not the correct person to speak with. I got a funny feeling in my gut at this, and rightly so, for worse was yet to come.

I called the small local clinic in Olathe doing the testing. They set me up with an appointment for Monday, which was fine with me. When I asked what the protocol was to keep myself and the clinic staff safe, the young woman seemed confused by the question. She put me on hold for several minutes, and then came back with the answer that they would have walkie talkies. When it was my turn, my walkie talkie would tell me to proceed to the back of the clinic and the RN would meet me there. Sort of like being called to your table at a crowded restaurant. My gut feeling grew worse, and not from the COVID. Still, it was a unique solution, and I was game.

On Monday at the appointed time, I arrived and entered wearing my own mask. I was pleased to see that masks and hand sanitizer were offered right inside the entryway. I was directed to the sick patient waiting area. There were no walkie talkies in sight. After the appointed time had come and gone by 10 minutes in the entirely deserted clinic waiting room, a young woman approached me with a clip board and a contactless thermometer. The fact that this medical staffer had a loosely attached mask that covered only her mouth and left her nose uncovered didn't just make my gut churn, it made me seriously alarmed. She leaned over and took my temperature from a safe distance with the 'temp gun'. Then she read the results and frowned. She took the reading again and frowned then wrote the results on a card and handed it to me with instructions to hand it to the RN. The card read 97.1. The average human temperature fluctuates quite naturally within .2 degrees of 98.6. But 97.1? No wonder she frowned. Then she came from behind the counter once again with a second and

different thermometer. Using this one, with the mask still firmly below her nose, she measured a third time, bringing the thermometer in contact with my skin in several places and standing within 3 feet of me to do so. She concluded that it was not instrument error, but my actual temperature. Fair enough, but the casual risks that she took during this vetting told me that even though I presented as symptomatic in some ways, in general it was nothing for her to worry about. If she is still COVID negative and at her post at the time of this writing, I will eat my hat, as soon as I am better, and can accomplish such a task.

The visit itself with the nurse and the doctor were relatively smooth, and I thought the set-up for the telemedicine consultation and testing went smoothly and safely. I did sense that the staff, both doctor and nurse, were really, really hesitant to pre-qualify me for COVID testing, since my temperature did not behave correctly. Even though I was plainly somewhat short of breath, I was on the cusp of being rejected for testing. The doctor even made mention of the fact that I could speak without wheezing. That was true, for up to 2-3 minutes, after which I had to pause and breath to be able to continue. I have no underlying conditions except mild exercise related asthma. This felt the sort of the same, yet different somehow, deeper down. I described it as a 'tuggy' feeling in my chest that went away with resting, but then roared back quickly. During the examination I kept feeling as though the doctor and nurse didn't want to test me, they wanted me to take two aspirins and call them next week. Was cost a factor? I asked outright and got a vague answer that yes the tests were pricey. And then the subject was changed. The subject became contacts, among other topics. The doctor made it plain that just in case it did turn out to be COVID, it was my responsibility to inform

FACED WITH POSSIBLE CASE OF COVID-19, LOCAL CLINIC, STAFF DISPLAY DENIAL, SHODDY PREPAREDNESS From previous pg

anyone I thought might have been exposed and caution them to isolate. No effort at contact tracing was done, and all was put on me. I did it because I am a decent person. But the data on who those people are was never collected. One of those individuals refuses to wear a mask anywhere, and goes to garage sales several times a week as entertainment. Her info would have been helpful, as would a phone call from an authority figure. The implication from these medical personnel was agreement that this was indeed highly risky behavior, and it was implied, gently, that it was my job to intervene. No requests for contact information so someone could eventually follow up were requested from me, even though I had all three people's numbers in my phone. The swabs were performed and I left the office with a free sample of a nasal antihistamine, which has turned out to be great and ultimately was the best thing about the experience.

I self-isolated and waited. On Friday I received a voice mail from a nurse associated with the clinic to say that well, um, it seems that um, they had been 'unable to run' my swabs and could I please come back in and do everything over again. I must admit it, I was horrified and ener-

getic enough to go completely ballistic. I assumed that this was code for, 'we lost them,' but it could easily have been code for cross contamination or other misadventures with those swabs. I informed the nurse via voicemail that this was a travesty and I absolutely would not be coming back in. I thought my chances of staying safe and keeping the staff safe were much better if I did not repeat this experience. Then I immediately called the administrator I had spoken to originally. I left a message. He did call me back, at 4:30 PM in the afternoon, and told me he was going on vacation for a while, had passed my concerns on to another administrator, and to have a nice weekend.

As Colorado prepares for a new outbreak that may be worse than April, this cavalier attitude was inexcusable. I did hear back from another admin person. We played phone tag a little, until I suggested that we schedule a phone meeting at a specific time. As of this writing, I have not heard back.

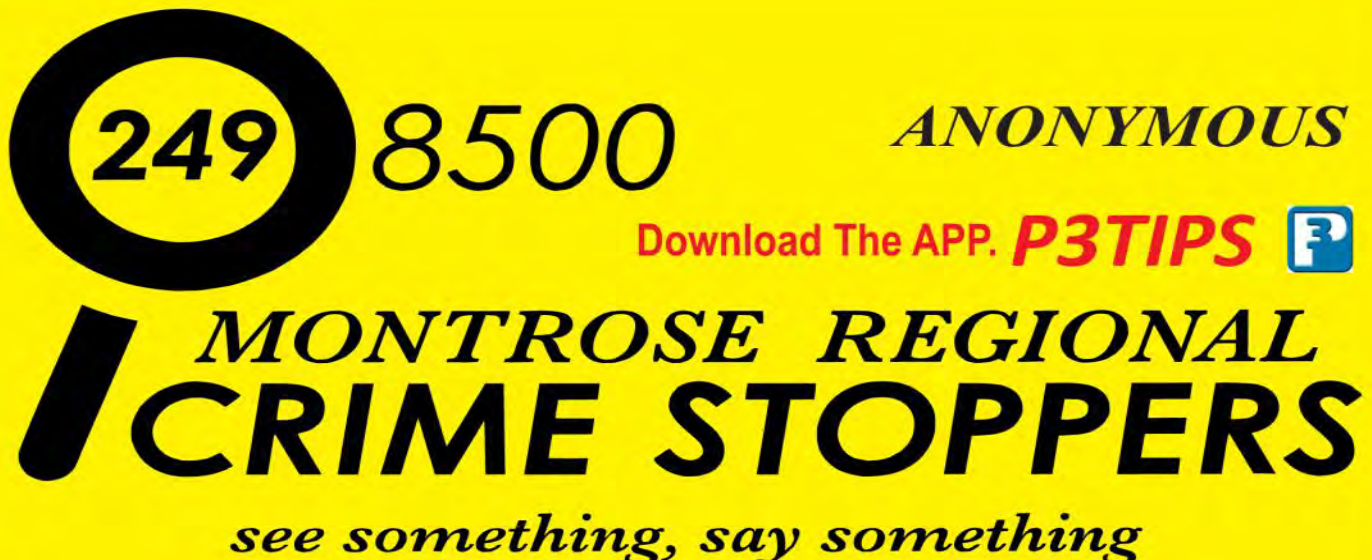
I am recovering nicely, due to prudence, and advance preparation should this event ever take me down. I exercise every morning, lightly. It makes the afternoons challenging, but new data out of Britain suggests that moderate exercise is one

very effective means of continuing therapy for long term cases. I am still only at 85% - 90% of my usual vigor, but at 65, I am OK with moderation in the interest of an ultimate return to perfect health. But my experience with the local clinic indicated such a lack of oversight, training, and organization, that I feel that a severe community outbreak on the western slope is inevitable.


It may even be centered around a clinic or clinics that are responsible for identifying the presence of the disease and contact tracing. Rural medicine always faces enormous challenges, but how difficult would it be for someone in authority to direct office staff to put the mask on properly when dealing with sick patients, whether it's COVID or the flu? I share this experience in the hope that this information makes it into the right hands, so that both the public, the medical profession and politicians at the local and state levels understand that there are steps that can be taken to lessen the spread, beginning with the medical professionals themselves.

In retrospect, would I have gone to that clinic to be tested after the symptoms began lessening. In a word, no.

Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

8,486 REGULAR INITIAL UI CLAIMS FILED FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 18

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has reported that 8,486 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending July 18th. There were also 7,912 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Since mid-March, a total of 502,057 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 646,797 claims, including federal PUA benefits.*

The Department also announced it has paid out over \$3.7 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.

In addition, Colorado county-level initial and continued unemployment claims data released Tuesday for the week ending July 4th is available [here](#).

Benefits paid since March 29:

Regular UI: **\$1.30 Billion**

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

(gig workers/self-employed): **\$428.6 Million**

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(\$600/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants): **Apx. \$2.04 Billion**

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation

(extends unemployment benefits by up to 13 weeks): **\$748,000**

Total: \$3.77 Billion

Claims by industry and benefits paid

Benefits paid: Regular UI

Week ending July 18: **\$80.9 Million**

Top 10 industries with highest initial claims for week ending July 4th

#1 Accommodation and Food Services: **825 (11.5% of claims for week)**

#2 Healthcare and Social Service: **772 (10.8%)**

#3 Administrative and Support and

Waste Management and Remediation Services: **764 (10.7%)**

#4 Retail Trade: **645 (9.0%)**

#5 Education Services: **561 (7.8%)**

#6 Professional and Technical Services: **536 (7.5%)**

#7 Manufacturing: **531 (7.4%)**

#8 Construction: **491 (6.9%)**

#9 Transportation and Warehousing: **340 (4.7%)**

#10 Wholesale Trade: **283 (4.0%)**





GOOD NEWS FOR COLORADO'S LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS



Lesser prairie-chickens had nearly vanished from the Colorado landscape, but a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Kansas State University has bolstered populations in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion. Land-owners and support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture also help provide important habitat for lesser prairie-chickens in the region. Courtesy photos.

The lesser prairie-chicken is proving to be a Colorado conservation success story, with a higher estimated number of birds on the landscape. These increased numbers have been reported in studies from both the Western Agency of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Courtesy photo.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

COLORADO SPRINGS – Recently published estimates on lesser prairie-chickens from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) indicate good news for the species across its range which includes the states of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. The latest lesser prairie-chicken aerial survey from WAFWA shows that bird population estimates remain stable from the previous survey and, more importantly, that the estimated number of birds has increased since surveys began in 2012. These estimates are further bolstered by the detailed ground surveys performed this spring by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Colorado's lesser prairie-chickens are found in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion, which includes parts of SE Colorado, SW Kansas, and the Oklahoma Panhandle. Although the estimate from the WAFWA

aerial surveys shows a decrease in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion, CPW's higher ground counts in that region indicate that Colorado lesser prairie-chicken numbers have actually increased from the past several years. As reported this spring, CPW estimates that there were over 300 breeding adults in Colorado at the time of the ground surveys.

Why do the numbers look so different? One explanation for the discrepancy in estimates may include a shift in the bird's distribution and the fact that the aerial surveys no longer cover portions of occupied habitat. Recently, CPW has documented new breeding areas resulting from a translocation effort as well as a natural shift to the north. Survey design also plays a role - the aerial surveys are designed to measure long-term, range-wide trends. For long-term trends, it is important to survey the same areas

through time. In addition, the aerial surveys were designed to provide accurate annual estimates for the range-wide population, however, yearly estimates can be quite variable for low-density areas such as the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion. Biologists often refer to 3-year rolling averages as a way to smooth out this annual variation, and the goal of the surveys was to document trend over 10 years.

In CPW's surveys, not only did surveyors count more chickens on breeding grounds, known as leks, but they found them in new locations. For example, birds were counted in Prowers County where lesser prairie-chickens haven't been seen in years, but now appear to be making a comeback. Lekking birds were also found in areas north of known lesser prairie-chicken range, where they'd never been

Continued next pg

GOOD NEWS FOR COLORADO'S LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS From previous pg

documented before. So what explains this turnaround in chicken numbers and range expansion?

The success of the lesser prairie-chicken in this ecoregion depends on a number of factors, including precipitation, size and the right grass species in the habitat, and solid working partnerships formed between federal and state agencies and private landowners.

Just four years ago, Colorado's lesser prairie-chickens were on the brink of disappearing from the landscape. Due to a massive blizzard followed by several years of extreme drought, the population had declined to an estimate of 50 lesser prairie-chickens in the state. However, extreme southeast Colorado has experienced four years with relatively good spring and early summer precipitation and overall good annual rainfall. This weather provided suitable bunchgrass nesting cover and increased numbers of insects for prairie-chicken chicks to eat.

While precipitation is a necessary driver in habitat quality for prairie-chickens, there must also be grasslands of sufficient size with the right grass species available to provide suitable habitat. Landowners

provide habitat on their rangelands and partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This program helps to conserve soil and water, prevent erosion, and provide wildlife habitat by paying farmers to keep some of their croplands in grassland habitat instead of farm production. CPW also provides funding through the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Improvement Program for grass establishment, maintenance, and improvement. In southeast Colorado a significant proportion of CRP fields provide lesser prairie-chickens with good habitat on which to live and breed. All eight of the new leks found in 2020 were located on grassland fields enrolled in CRP. The range expansion to the north in Colorado is similar to activity in neighboring Kansas, where lesser prairie-chicken populations are also expanding in the Short-grass/CRP Ecoregion.

Another likely driver of the population increase is a four-year conservation project carried out by CPW and partners to provide for a sustainable population in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion. From 2016-2019, CPW, Kansas Department of Wild-

life, Parks and Tourism (KDWP), and Kansas State University (KSU) caught over 400 wild lesser prairie-chickens in central Kansas and translocated them to the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands in SE Colorado and SW Kansas. In 2016, the population had gotten so low on the Comanche National Grasslands and all of Baca County, Colorado that only one lek with two males was observed. This spring, one year after the translocation project was completed, there were 46 males found across 6 new leks in Baca County. CPW and our partners are optimistic about the long-term implications of the new leks in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion. Overall, the spring 2020 lesser prairie-chicken lek counts show that, together with our partners in Kansas, CPW's efforts to recover and restore this iconic species to SE Colorado and SW Kansas are working. [This video captures the effort and dedication](#) of these partnerships to ensure the future health of the lesser prairie-chicken in Colorado. For additional information on the lesser prairie-chicken and other wildlife conservation efforts in the state, visit cpw.state.co.us.



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16989 6450 Road | Montrose, CO 81403

Are you ready to move into the perfect home before summer? Here it is. This 3-bedroom 3 bath Ranch level sits on an acre and a half. It is zoned county with the surrounding properties in the city! Custom built by Chris Sjoden. Feel welcomed just as soon as you enter the home. The kitchen is charming with its oak cabinetry, granite counters and a gas range. The separate dining room provides a space to sit and reflect on your day as you enjoy dinner. The bedrooms have ample space as well as storage. Just like the rest of this home, the interior as well as the exterior have been impeccably cared for. In fact, the pristine carpet has never even been walked on with shoes! The magnificent outdoor patio beacons entertaining. What a great space to gather with all those dear to you.

Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 3.0 | 2,014 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1994

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS



MAKE MONTROSE ELKS BINGO YOUR DESTINATION FOR FUN!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.

Bingo Tuesday July 28, 2020

ELKS LODGE BINGO!!

There are some things in life that make you laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger, and just live life better! One such place is Montrose Elks Bingo.

Finally, laughter was heard echoing in Elks Bingo! We are wearing masks except when eating or drinking, but it didn't slow us down. Seems for every win there was a

small celebration.

JACKPOTS!

Progressive Game #2 is worth and \$397 and Progressive Game #4 is worth \$764.

Either game can be won by reaching Bingo in 37 numbers or less. Meanwhile the big game Progressive Game #6 has a decent Jackpot worth \$6,526 and can be won by reaching Bingo in 53 numbers or fewer.

The kitchen will be open & have hot dogs, nachos, and popcorn for players. Masks are required, hand sanitizer will be available, and seating will provide safe spacing. Only families can sit together. Due to restricted seating no children under the age

of 12 allowed until restrictions are lifted.

Bingo doors open at 5 PM. Card sales begins at 6:00 PM and an "Early Bird" set of 5 quick games begins at 6:30. The main Bingo session of 8 games, including 3 Progressives starts at 7 PM.

Cost for Early Bird is \$4 per pack and cost for the main Bingo session is \$10 per Bingo pack that includes all 3 Progressive Bingo games.

Make Montrose Elks Bingo your destination to get away and laugh with old friends or make new ones. (Montrose Elks Bingo is open to the public. Funds raised support local charities)



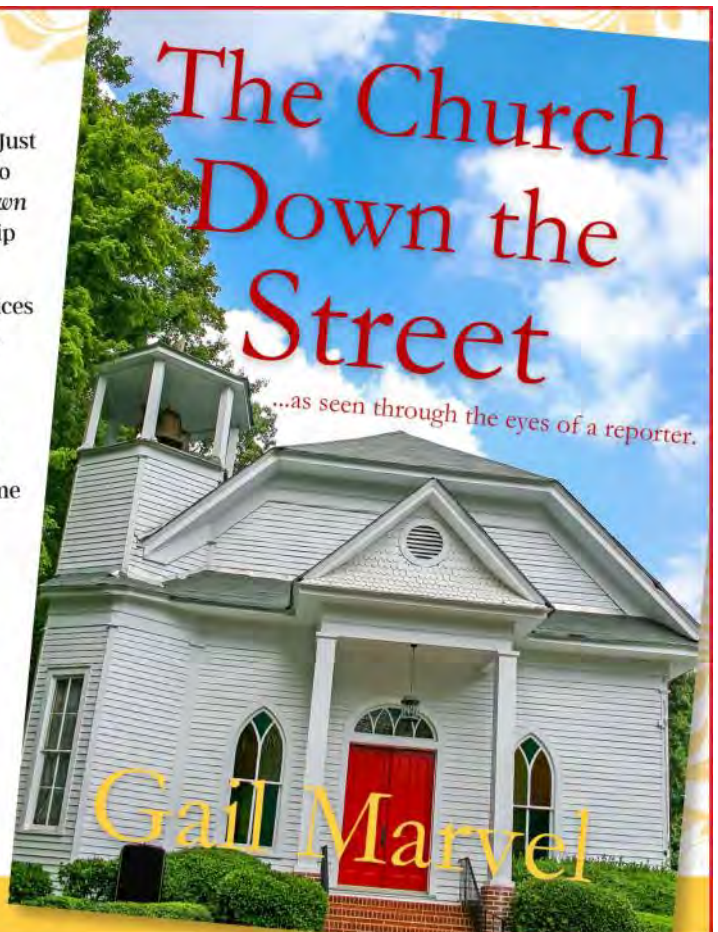
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



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12951 Minerich Road | Paonia, CO 81428

What a spectacular home! This property is beyond compare with 2 acres of useable land plus 2,100 square feet of space, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. There is sufficient space outside to create your own hobby farm or build another garage. With the plenty of irrigation water and useable acreage, you could always start up that crop you've been wanting to plant. To the East of the home is a section of land, belonging to this property, that was once already designated for horses and is set up and ready for more. To the south of the property you'll find established raised garden beds ready to be utilized. Just a little further down the road is Lone Cabin Reservoir with hiking, biking, fishing and hunting.

Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms:
2,104 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1978

\$399,000
MLS# 764115

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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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-

Aug. 1The Scout Scarf Day organizing committee is requesting that Scouts around the world wear a Scout scarf or neckerchief on Aug. 1 in recognition and celebration of the Spirit of Scouting and universal brotherhood.

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

Sept. 21-24-Tenth annual San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference. Location: Online with local, state, national and international guests. Details: An interactive mix of networking happy hours, short presentations, and expert panels (1.5 to 3 hours daily over four days) bringing key stakeholders together to advance the science and policy of mining and mine lands remediation, as it relates to reducing non-point source pollution and addressing water quality impairments. Organized by Mountain Studies Institute, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and Headwaters Alliance.

Cost: \$55 per person (scholarships and sponsorships with benefits available) Information & Registration: <http://www.mountainstudies.org/sjmrc> Contact: Kelly Northcutt, kelly@mountainstudies.org, 970.387.5161

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

Below, nose deep in wildflowers, by Deb Reimann.



Above, wildflowers in Eureka Gulch, by Deb Reimann.

A photograph of a black bear holding a tablet. The bear is in the foreground, facing left, with its head up. It is holding a tablet in its paws. The background shows a mountain range under a cloudy sky.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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