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# the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...

Issue No. 388 Aug. 3 2020

## COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARS TAX PROTESTS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a special meeting on Wednesday, July 29. All commissioners were present; Commissioner Sue Hansen led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from members of the public.

### COUNTY MANAGER

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

### BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Commissioners closed the

[Continued pg 4](#)



JC Penney was among the major Montrose retailers appealing property tax valuations last week.

## DMEA CLOSES READ OFFICE DUE TO MASK WEARING CONFLICTS



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The July 28 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, a Zoom webinar, was scheduled from 3 – 5:30 p.m. However, the meeting moved rapidly and at 3:50 p.m. the board finished with regular business and went into Executive Session.

Members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments; however, during the meeting itself microphones of attendees who are not on the board or on staff are muted. In order to take public comment, the board exited Executive Session at 5 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

Practicing social distancing, the board and staff participated on computers from offices and homes where face masks were not required.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum and approval of the consent agenda (Membership Report, Minutes from the regular June Board Meeting.) All board members were present.

### Board Committee Items

**Finance – Audit – Rate Committee (FAR)** – Brad Harding, Chair.

[Continued pg 21](#)

*Monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meetings will continue to be virtual meetings. Member who wish to attend Virtual Zoom meetings can contact Virginia Harman for meeting log in information. Email: [virginia.harman@dmea.com](mailto:virginia.harman@dmea.com) Photo by Gail Marvel.*

in this issue

[Reader Photo Spotlight: With Deb Reimann!](#)

[They Drove Themselves into History By Bob Cox!](#)

[Letters to the Editor Regional News Briefs!](#)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CELEBRATE COLORADO DAY WITH FREE ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS



*This free entry day provides an opportunity to experience Colorado's state parks and the diverse landscapes they showcase. Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – In celebration of Colorado Day, and the 144th birthday of the state, Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers free entry to 41 state parks on Monday, August 3. Although the state recognizes this annual holiday on the first of the month, state parks celebrate the occasion with free entrance on the first Monday of August. Colorado Day was created by the state legislature to mark the anniversary of statehood, granted in 1876 by President Ulysses S. Grant.

“Colorado Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the natural beauty of our

state and spend time outside,” said State Trails Program Manager Fletcher Jacobs. “Coloradans have a rich tradition of embracing an outdoor lifestyle, and our state parks offer a variety of outdoor activities that people of all ages and physical levels can enjoy.”

This free entry day provides an opportunity to experience Colorado’s state parks and the diverse landscapes they showcase. All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses.

To begin planning your unique Colorado adventure, visit the CPW park finder. State park outdoor recreation activities include: Water sports- boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming  
Wildlife and wildflower viewing, bird-watching and tours with naturalists  
Hiking, horseback riding, biking, and rock climbing  
Stargazing and geocaching  
Accessibility programs are available to people with disabilities

In an effort to thank military members for their service, CPW offers active duty and veterans free admission to all state parks for the entire month of August. Military members and veterans can pick up a free August Military Pass at any Colorado state park or CPW office by showing proof of military service. Passes become available on August 1, 2020.

Coloradans are encouraged to practice the Care for Colorado - Leave No Trace principles and trail safety etiquette when recreating outdoors, such as:

Plan ahead- visit individual park pages or use the Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app to learn about park closures and visitor center hours

Spread out on trails to avoid crowds  
Wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth when passing people on trails

Avoid dangerous outdoor activities that can result in a hospital visit

Pack out your trash  
For more information about Colorado’s state parks and outdoor recreation, visit the CPW website.

Learn more about Colorado's Outdoor Principles and how outdoor recreation should be enjoyed with thoughtful conservation.

# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer to a readership of over 13,500 residents of Western Colorado.

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

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT



Courtesy photos Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers.



Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers REGIONAL-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the involved person or persons who were photographed on surveillance footage from a residence off 6200 Road in Peach Valley.

On July 30, a diamond ring, silver bracelet, assorted necklaces, and around \$150 in cash were taken from the residence. Surveillance footage from the residence shows an individual who is traveling with a yellow lab in a black older model Nissan truck with Wis-

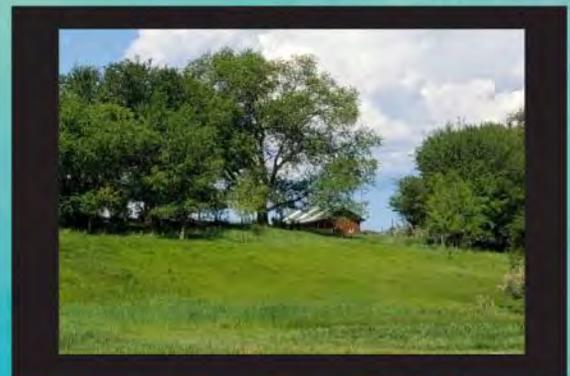
consin plates. Investigators would like to speak with this individual about the incident. Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity and location of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers](http://www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers). Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

**MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

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Youtube video: <https://youtu.be/a0fnzqegdiw>



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970-856-4425  
[linda@lindacharlick.com](mailto:linda@lindacharlick.com)

# COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARS TAX PROTESTS From pg 1

regular session and reconvened as the Board of Equalization.

Hearing Officer Chuck Trice presented recommendations for possible action on property tax appeals and abatement petitions.

Each was presented and approved or disapproved separately.

*Dun-Rite/Mike Lowe*-The property cannot be built on easily and would require special permits. "It's just a long, narrow strip of land...it's got 20-foot for an entrance," Trice said.

The Petitioner and Assessor had stipulated to a value of \$8K due to the limitations of the parcel. The Board of Equalization voted to approve the stipulation to a value of \$8K.

*JC Penney/River Landing*-The company did not provide a very good presentation for the property tax appeal, Trice said. The Board of Equalization voted to approve the recommendation of denial, supporting the Assessor's recommendation of No Change in Valuation.

*Linden Real Estate Holdings/Harbor Freight*-No documentation was provided in support of the appeal, Trice said; the recommendation was for administrative denial. The Board of Equalization voted to approve the administrative denial of the appeal.

*Stevens & Associates/15CentsLLC*-The Board of Equalization approved the recommendation of administrative denial.

*Stevens & Associates/Alpine Lumber*-The Board of Equalization approved the recommendation of administrative denial.

*Robert Hill Law/WalMart*-The Board of Equalization approved the recommendation of administrative denial. "I didn't get any information," Trice said.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy asked about the reasoning behind a request for administrative denial. "Why would they want a denial?"

"They know they're not going to get anywhere at the first level," Trice said.

"Because we can make a decision to deny it or they can go up—it costs them another

year. They'd rather just go up to the next level (State level) or just wait."

The session was briefly interrupted as Commissioners took a phone call from County Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield, but Canfield said the call was in error.

"I don't need that meeting, I'm out."

*Ryan Innovative Solutions/Blue Cougar Montrose LLC*-The Board of Equalization voted to approve the recommendation for administrative denial.

*Ryan Innovative Solutions/Burger King*-The Board of Equalization voted to approve the recommendation for administrative denial.

*Ryan Innovative Solutions/River Landing Joint Ventures*-The Board of Equalization voted to approve the recommendation for administrative denial.

"Thank you so much Mr. Trice for all your hard work," Caddy said.

Commissioners closed as the Board of Equalization and returned to regular session; with no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BCB&GC 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL STEM FAIR

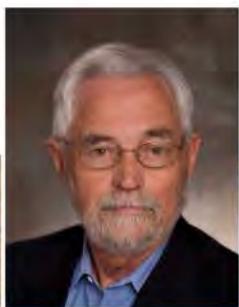
*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Join the members of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. for the BCBGC's Second Annual end of the summer session STEM Fair. The BCBGC members have been working hard all summer on their STEM projects and are excited to show the community what they made! Due to COVID-19 precautions and guidelines, the STEM Fair will not be in person. It will, instead, be streamed live on the BCBGC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/blackcanyonboysandgirls>). You can view all the projects and vote online for your favorites. The winning projects will be announced the following day on Facebook. Thank you for your support!

## CHARTING A DEPENDABLE COURSE IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

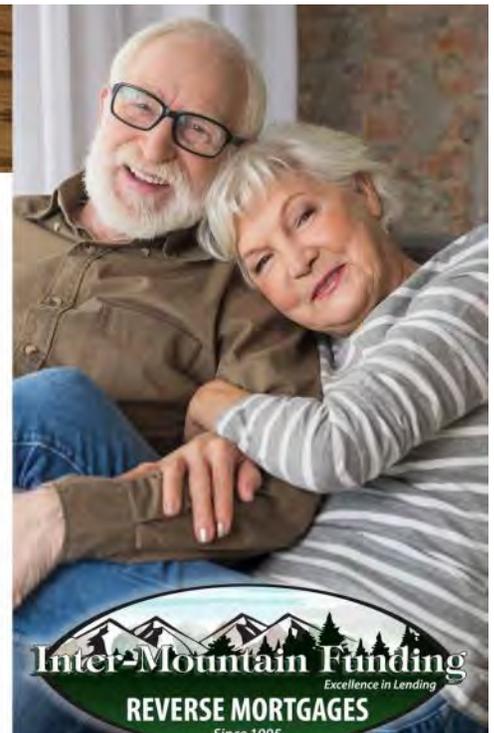
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## 9TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MAYOR'S CHALLENGE FOR WATER CONSERVATION, AUG. 1-31

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum joins mayors across the country in asking residents to make a long-term commitment to manage water resources more wisely by taking part in the 2020 Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. This year more than \$50,000 in prizes will be awarded to residents who make the commitment to conserve water. The annual challenge, held

Aug. 1-Aug. 31, is a non-profit national community service campaign to see which leaders can best inspire their residents to take informative, online pledges at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) to use water more efficiently, reduce pollution, and save energy. August is also National Water Quality month in the United States. The online pledge at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) takes less than one-minute to complete.

Montrose area residents are encouraged

to participate in the annual water conservation drive aimed at raising awareness, curbing excessive water use, and reducing the amount of hazardous waste entering watersheds and landfills. The communities with the highest percentage of residents participating in the challenge are ranked in the top 10. Last year, the City of Montrose finished sixth in the country out of all of the communities participating in the water challenge. Montrose finished behind fifth-placed Windsor, Colorado, in the 5,000 - 29,999 population category.

In addition to conserving water, results generated by Montrose pledges in 2019 included a reduction in the amount of hazardous waste entering watersheds (308 pounds) and household waste ending up at the local landfill (144,209 fewer pounds), with a carbon dioxide reduction of 22.7 million pounds.

"Since Montrose's founding in the arid landscapes of the Uncompahgre Valley, our residents have respected and conserved water as one of our most precious natural resources," Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum said. "The lifestyle we enjoy today is a result of forward-thinking and trail-blazing workers who planned and built canals, pipelines, reservoirs, and tunnels to store and deliver the water that quenches our thirst, grows our produce, beautifies our community, and supports a vast number of western Colorado's recreational delights. Please join me in the Mayor's Water Challenge to renew our commitment to preserving this resource that is vital to our region and our world."

This year the City of Montrose is giving away a Geyser portable shower system designed to run on a single gallon of water to one lucky Montrose area resident who completes the pledge.

Geyser Technologies who manufactures the shower system in Montrose, uses 10 times less water and is two times lighter than any other portable shower systems on the market.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MONTROSE HAS NOT TAKEN COVID SITUATION SERIOUSLY

Editor:

"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."

No, sir, the Montrose community has not taken this seriously. In June, I had to be in Longmont for my mom in hospice. Shopping in Target and City Market (King Soopers) was not a stressful situation. Everyone was required to wear a mask. People were respectful and considerate. This has not been so in Montrose. People refusing to wear a mask have been belligerent and scornful of those who do. Upon visiting a doctor's office, there were several un-

masked patients waiting. The behind the desk receptionist and bookkeeper did not have on their masks until saw that I did. Upon scheduling my next appointment, the bookkeeper took off her mask to talk.

The Montrose County Health Department posts once a week with different numbers than the official State website and the John Hopkins National website. When I questioned the frequency and why numbers were different, I was told the assumed cases or cases that were tested here but from residents in another county were not reported. That explanation made absolutely no sense. I was "assured" that if our numbers started escalating, the report would go back to daily. In a two week period there were 30 new cases. Per population that is alarming.

Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell's letter of the per-

sonal experience exemplifies concerns that are not being addressed. I appreciate the forthrightness. Not only does it show the growing concern with the health care of this community but the general response of the community.

With the financial impact of the closing of Russell Stover, the growing numbers of confirmed cases, the slow decision making of the school district and the lack of serious concern from many, I totally disagree that Montrose community takes it a little more seriously and is in a good financial position. To lose our variance because of putting our heads in the sand will devastate my favorite self-employed, owner businesses. I among many have legitimate concerns about the direction for Montrose.

AJ Smith, Montrose

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT TO CONDUCT HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

*Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON– The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District will be conducting hazard tree removal operations along US Highway 50, between mile markers 191 and 200. The project is projected to begin on August 3, 2020 and last through August 24, 2020.

The main objective of this project will be to mitigate known tree hazards and increase safety along US Highway 50. The trees target for removal are dead or dying and pose significant risk to passing motorists. The GMUG has retained the services of a professional sawyer crew to conduct felling of the targeted trees. Felled trees will be stripped and scattered, or piled, within the project area – approximately 150 feet on either side of US Highway 50.

In order to project the safety of passing motorist and the sawyer crew, a Colorado Department of Transportation approved traffic control plan will be implemented. All project work that will require traffic stops will be conducted on weekdays and limited to 15 minutes.

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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF>) or Twitter ([https://twitter.com/GMUG\\_NF](https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF))

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# STATE LABOR DEPT: 8,008 REGULAR INITIAL UI CLAIMS FILED FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 25

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has reported that 8,008 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending July 25th. There were also 9,727 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Since mid-March, a total of 510,065 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 664,532 claims, including federal PUA benefits. \* For the week ending July 18th there were 223,298 regular UI continued claims, the lowest weekly total since mid-April.

The Department also announced it has paid out over \$4 billion in unemployment benefits since March 29th. That amount includes regular unemployment benefits, those filing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims, and beginning in early July, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which extends unemployment benefits by an additional 13 weeks.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), the extra \$600/week

federal benefit payment, will be paid to all claimants eligible through the week ending July 25th (the expiration date set by Congress).

Some FPUC payments may be received after the 25th depending on a claimant's payment request schedule.

While regular unemployment benefits will continue unaffected, there will be a gap in payment of any additional benefits until Congress acts to extend the FPUC program, or passes a new program.

Claimants will be back paid for any weeks that are owed, depending on the effective date determined by Congress.

Benefits paid since March 29:

Regular UI: \$1.37 Billion

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (gig workers/self-employed): \$469.7 Million

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(\$600/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants): Apx. \$2.18 Billion

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation

(extends unemployment benefits by up to

13 weeks): \$6.0 Million

Total: \$4.02 Billion

Claims by industry and benefits paid

Benefits paid: Regular UI

Week ending July 25: \$76.6 Million

Top 10 industries with highest initial

claims for week ending July 11th

#1 Accommodation and Food Services: 793 (11.2% of claims for week)

#2 Healthcare and Social Service: 767

(10.9%)

#3 Administrative and Support and

Waste Management and Remediation

Services: 742 (10.5%)

#4 Manufacturing: 702 (10.0%)

#5 Retail Trade: 655 (9.3%)

#6 Construction: 563 (8.0%)

#7 Professional and Technical Services:

516 (7.3%)

#8 Education Services: 398 (5.6%)

#9 Wholesale Trade: 314 (4.5%)

#10 Other Services: 308 (4.4%)

Colorado county-level initial and continued unemployment claims data released

this week for the week ending July 11 is available [here](#).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES MILL LEVY RULEMAKING HEARING

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) invites the public and stakeholders to attend the Commission’s Mill Levy Rulemaking Hearing on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

“COGCC’s levy on oil and gas production, which is its main revenue source for carrying out its statutory responsibilities, has been impacted by a decrease in oil and gas production and prices,” said COGCC Director Julie Murphy. “We have reduced our expenditures and, along with this proposed levy increase, COGCC will balance its revenues and spending. As it historically has, COGCC will continue monitoring prices and production, and revisit the appropriate levy rates as conditions change.”  
Mill Levy Rulemaking Hearing Information:

Date: Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020  
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., or when adjourned  
Location: NOTE: There will not be an in-person location meeting for this Hearing.  
Remote Access (Zoom): NOTE: COGCC encourages attendees to join using the computer, not phone, for best participation and interaction.  
Phone: (669) 900-6833  
Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/2761805299>  
Meeting ID: 276 180 5299  
Further information & agenda: <https://cogcc.state.co.us/reg.html#/hearings>  
Mill Levy Rulemaking information: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/fold-ers/15tSI8z6p\\_yFkuMc\\_GV8lyEs4eFlqTz\\_p](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/fold-ers/15tSI8z6p_yFkuMc_GV8lyEs4eFlqTz_p)  
SB 19-181 ensures that oil and gas devel-

opment and operations in Colorado are regulated in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources. The COGCC is in the midst of reviewing its rules and procedures to evaluate what changes are required to reflect the new law’s requirements.

On Nov. 21, 2019, the Commission adopted Flowline rules and Wellbore Integrity rules on June 10. The Commission will take up additional SB 19-181 rulemakings at future Commission hearings, including rulemakings around Mission Change, Cumulative Impacts and Alternative Location Analysis, which begins Aug. 24, 2020.

To learn more about participating, upcoming hearings, the rulemaking schedule, and how to comment using the online portals, visit COGCC's website:

# My Mask Protects You



# Your Mask Protects Me



MONTROSE COUNTY COVID-19 INFORMATION AT [WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM](http://WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HUNTERS MARK YOUR CALENDARS: LEFTOVER DAY IS ALMOST HERE

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - Leftover Day is almost here! Hunters mark their calendars for the first Tuesday in August each year to take a shot at any big game hunting licenses remaining after the primary and secondary draws. These remaining licenses are placed on the leftover list, now available on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website, and become available for purchase on August 4 at 9 a.m., Mountain Time.

Many of the licenses that would have been available in previous years were issued this year through the new secondary draw - which gave all interested hunters a chance to skip the wait on Leftover Day to get their license.

CPW highly suggests hunters purchase their leftover licenses online this year. If you must go into a CPW office or a sales agent location to purchase a license, remember to bring a mask, respect public health orders and all staff requests.

Additionally, hunters who are used to going into a CPW office location should be aware that the licenses now go on sale

online, in our offices and at our sales agents all at once. If you're on a computer or mobile device at home, you have the same shot as someone standing in a CPW office. And during this year's pandemic, it's an even better idea to purchase these licenses from the comfort of your own home.

Just head to cpwshop.com and get logged in to your account a little before 9 a.m. on

August 4 so you're ready to purchase when the licenses go on sale. You can also call 1-800-244-5613, but know that there may be long wait times.

Over-the-counter unlimited licenses will be available for purchase starting Aug. 6 at 9 a.m. Mountain Time.

More information on the leftover list and over-the-counter licenses is available on the CPW website.



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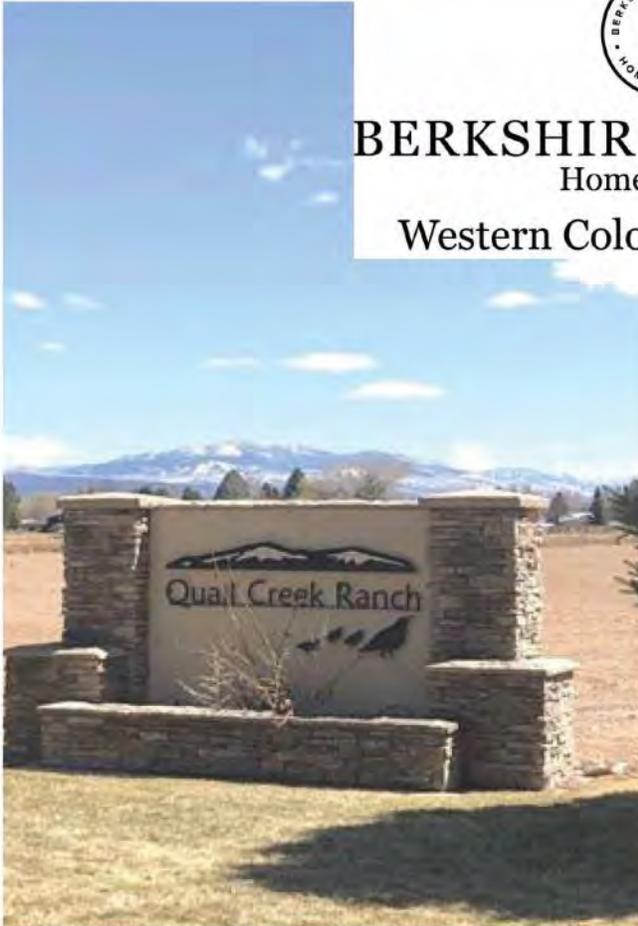
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1,884 sq. ft.  
Year Built: 2005**

**\$10,000 PRICE REDUCTION** Awesome home on corner lot across from park. Vacant, ready to move in. 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

**Don Bailey**

Broker Associate

970-209-8257

donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com

www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com



## COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RESTAURANT VOUCHERS

### Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 3 and for a virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

### WORK SESSION

The work session agenda notes, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vhxFIYFcQ8yPvIUUeq9DZA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vhxFIYFcQ8yPvIUUeq9DZA). Additional meeting access details are available at the end of the agenda. The meeting can also be viewed live on the City of Montrose website, [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org), on Channel 191, and on Channel 970.

### Discussion items

Discussion items include the possible appointment of Phoebe Benziger to the City Planning Commission.

Also to be discussed are:

- English Gardens 4 Subdivision Filing #5 Final Plat;
- Montrose Bucks Promotion;
- DMEA Franchise Agreement;
- DOLA REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Grant Application.

### Upcoming

Items to be considered in future City Council meetings and work sessions include:

- Aug. 17-Sinner Subdivision final plat;
- Aug. 18-DMEA Franchise Agreement; Ho-

tel and Restaurant Liquor License Application - Tacos and Beer Montrose; June 2020 Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report; Second Quarter Budget Review; 19th Amendment Day Proclamation; English Gardens 4 Subdivision Filing #5 Final Plat; Planning Commission Appointment.

Sept. 1- Lissencephaly Day Proclamation; Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License Application - Bonnie & Clyde's; Sinner Subdivision Final Plat. As yet unscheduled are updates from DMEA and from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

### REGULAR MEETING

The meeting agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically and can be accessed at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cTs1j5kQTyCzKLZyRbZh2g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cTs1j5kQTyCzKLZyRbZh2g)." The meeting can also be livestreamed on Channel 191 and Channel 970.

Action items include:

- Consideration of Ordinance 2508 on second reading, amending Title 5 Chapter 15 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding sales and use tax.
- Consideration of Resolution 2020-16 authorizing the filing of a Colorado Department of Local Affairs Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant Program application; authorizing a 50 percent matching contribution; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract with the Department of Local Affairs;



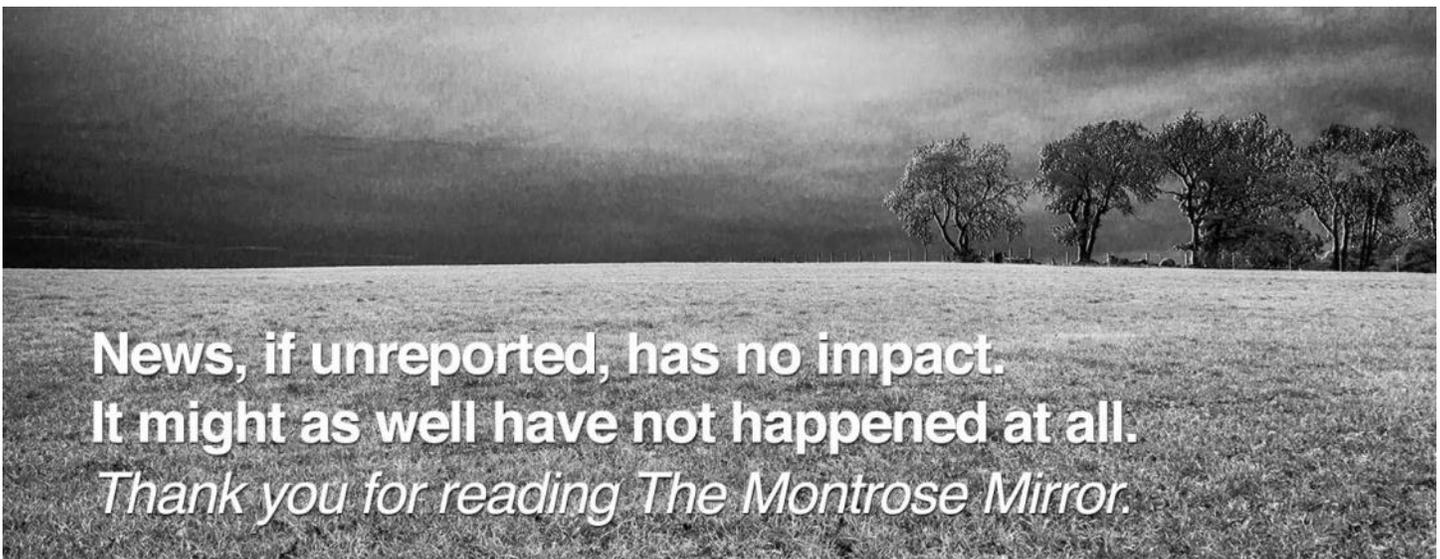
**Montrose City Council will meet for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 3 and for a virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Mirror file photo.**

and authorizing City staff to act on behalf of the grant agreement.

Consideration of an update regarding the City's contribution to the Help4Hope Restaurant Voucher Program and consideration of allocating additional funding to the program.

Consideration of a contract award for the Manhole Rehabilitation - Severe H2S Corrosion project.

Council will consider approving a contract renewal for Aspen Enterprises LLC for janitorial services for the total contract price of \$78,689.



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

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## STATEWIDE SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT CITES 1,695 DRIVERS FOR NOT BUCKLING UP

*Special to the Mirror*

STATEWIDE — With Coloradans starting to travel more, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and 59 law enforcement agencies across Colorado teamed up for a statewide *Click It or Ticket* enforcement from July 12-19.

A total of 1,695 drivers were cited during the enforcement for either the driver or passengers not wearing a seat belt. This includes 70 drivers who had an improperly restrained child under the age of 15 in their vehicle.

The *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement is a critical component of CDOT's *Whole System — Whole Safety* initiative and the agency's vision to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on Colorado roadways.

Among the agencies with the highest number of citations statewide was the Loveland Police Department with 173 citations, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office with 158 citations, and Greeley Police De-

partment with 129 citations. In addition, Colorado State Patrol cited 153 drivers. Results for all counties can be found at <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal>. Fines for not buckling up start at \$65, and parents or caregivers caught with an improperly restrained child can receive a minimum fine of \$82. "Using a seat belt is your best defense in a crash. It's an easy choice to protect yourself and those in your vehicle," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "Statistics show there's a 1 in 33 chance you'll be in a car crash in a given year and wearing a seat belt is the best way to prevent injury or death." In 2019, 196 unbuckled drivers and passengers were killed in crashes in the state, accounting for more than half of Colorado's 377 total passenger vehicle deaths. "So many lives could be saved if every person buckled up," said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the CSP. "This summer and beyond, we hope Coloradans think about the

risk of not wearing a seat belt. I assure you, it's not worth the gamble. It only takes a second to buckle up, but the impact is immeasurable when considering lives are at stake." CDOT's latest seat belt safety campaign, *Common Bond*, features a variety of contrasting images to underscore that, even though Coloradans may listen to different music, drive different cars, or root for different teams, a vast majority do wear their seat belts.

As a state, Colorado's seat belt use rate currently sits at 88% — slightly below the national average of 90%.

The *Common Bond* campaign highlights that while Coloradans hold passionate opinions and may not agree on everything, we can all get behind seat belts. CDOT's *Common Bond* campaign is featured on billboards, posters, bus tails, social media, and radio PSAs into August. To view campaign materials, visit: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c1bu6ktdw79jkoa/AADcw32hHrh1OHNv26mCSWkga?dl=0>

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\$129,900 – 1 Bed – 1.5 Bath – 898 SqFt  
Listing Agent: Michelle Martinez



4882 Colorow Rd Olathe, Co 81425  
\$470,000 – 3 Bed – 2 Bath – 2,526 SqFt  
Listing Agent: Michelle Martinez

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## ***DMEA CLOSES READ OFFICE DUE TO MASK WEARING CONFLICTS; PREPARES UPDATES TO FRANCHISE AGREEMENT From pg 1***

Harding said, "We did not meet in July. We will meet August 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and we'll have a long-term financial forecast."

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

Hauck said, "No meeting, no report."

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

Martinez said, "No meeting, no report."

**Executive Committee** – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "Executive committee had no meeting. Nothing to report."

**Safety and Occupational Health Report** - Virginia Harman, COO.

Harman said, "For the month of June we had one employee injury. A lineman was moving a burning log to a creek and injured his knee. No near misses. An employee had a company vehicle at his home and another vehicle backed into our vehicle. Their insurance will cover the damage." Harman reported on various training sessions and the annual field inspection with the insurance provider. Harman said, "No problems were identified. Building and plant facilities are getting new signage on fence gates."

**Financial Report with Variance Report** - Wade Pynes, CFO.

The YTD electric sales are running within 50 bps (basis points) of budget; however, Pynes warned the board to expect dampened sales figures in July. Pynes said, "The Elk Mine had a roof fall event that lasted from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some, but not all the legal bills [associated with Tri State] are in. Some will make it into next month."

The submitted written report states DMEA equity now sits at 22% unadjusted and 26% adjusted (covenant). Harding said, "With all the things we've gone through, 20% adjustment is very solid levels."

Patterson said, "We were told we could not do this [Tri State exit] and [also] Elevate. Wade, thanks for coming through on this."

**CEO Report** - Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec said, "You can see my submitted report. On August 17<sup>th</sup> we'll have a strate-

gy session. We have the results of the survey and we'll look at the questions staff pulled out and create a strategy. We'll have a benchmark going into the session. We'll get a lot done in a short amount of time. Hopefully everyone will think about these questions before coming to the session."

Bronec reported on other activities. He said, "Discussion on the EV [electric vehicle] charging station has resumed with the city, [also] the Tesla system charging station. The City of Montrose gave us short notice on having to approve the franchise agreement. We thought it was just the ballot language [that needed approval]; they want the franchise agreement approved. We will go through it later in executive session. There were 14 net meter applications [solar and hydro applications] in June; 107 for 2020; and 830 members on net metering to date."

Bronec said, "We had a couple of quick outages caused by switchovers, which we are completing at a great pace. Tri State had an outage that affects our hydro. It could have cost us \$150,000 in additional transmission costs, but since we are now under contract with Guzman, we do not have that cost."

Referring to services Bronec said, "Our front office is open, but we had to close the Read office because of member mask-wearing conflicts. We are trying to keep our offices open, but monitoring it day to day because we want to keep our employees safe. The 4-H auction was successful at the Montrose County Fair. We bid on a lot of animals."

**June 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.**

Bronec said, "Outages increased in May and June predominantly due to wind and tree outages. We are tracking very well. Even with these outages we have a very good outage record."

**Legal Report** - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "Jasen [Bronec] mentioned Tri State exit. One issue is valuation of assets. There were mistakes that affect some documents, but it does not affect the price. Expect legal bills to drop off quite

dramatically for the rest of the year now that Tri State is over. We collaborated with the City of Montrose on the franchise agreement and are getting close to a final draft. I'll reserve the rest of my report for executive session."

Patterson said, "We talked with [city] council and they want to move forward with the franchise agreement. I told them to watch out because everything you do costs citizens money."

**Representative Board Reports**

**WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association)** – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "We haven't had a meeting, but we will have a meeting in August. They are preventing supply chain issues. Most of their supplies come from here, almost all are American made. They really overstocked in January and February, so they are pretty well covered. They don't think they will have supply chain issues."

**CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association)** – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "There is nothing major. Their newsletter has a lot of info about COVID. There will not be a July or September meeting. In October the board will meet in person at Tri State. They did approve the 2019 audit. The next meeting is June 26<sup>th</sup>."

**Other Business**

Wanting some insight into the relationship with the new power supplier Hauck said, "I think we could get a feel for it if we could get a Guzman report."

Bronec said, "We will have a bi-annual meeting with Guzman. You'll see information on them in the Power Supply Report or the CEO Report. Some of this is information for executive session."

**Executive Session:**

The board went into executive session at 3:50 p.m. and agenda items included:

General Counsel Legal Update

Power Supply

DMEA Mosaic Dashboard Review

**Member Comments:**

At 5 p.m. the board exited executive session and resumed the regular meeting in order to take member comments.

***DMEA CLOSES READ OFFICE DUE TO MASK WEARING CONFLICTS; PREPARES UPDATES TO FRANCHISE AGREEMENT From previous pg***

Bernerd Humphry, who purchased his Spring Creek Mesa home from his parents, said, "I'm calling to let you know about three-and-a-half years ago Elevate moved to my Leather Ridge Subdivision. My parents lived there 36 years and never had a water problem. Elevate bored under the street and now I have underground water in my crawl space. I'm up for any answers you can give me."

Humphry speculated the irrigation water was off when the fiberoptic was installed and once irrigation water was turned on the water followed the trench made by Elevate.

Bronec said, "I feel like we've [DMEA] done a lot of work and given it a real try to fix the problem. We've done a lot to try to help you. Prior to Elevate coming in there were reports of water coming in. We're interested in trying to help, but we can't chase a ghost. Until we have an expert tell us what the problem is and how to fix it, it's going to be hard to fix. We're open to trying to resolve it. We've done what we can do."

Patterson said, "What I'm hearing from staff is that we don't have enough info to solve the problem. I think the impasse is on identifying the problem."

Humphrey said, "The water is following your trench and is funneling it into my lot." The staff noted that Elevate was installed in March of 2019. The water issues described by Humphry, which he stated began three-and-a-half years ago, and predates the fiberoptic installation.

Humphry suggested he could hire an expert, but wanted DMEA to commit to fixing the problem. Bronec said, "Water tables have come up on Spring Creek Mesa. We've done what we can do. We've spent money and resources on trying to solve it. If it [expert opinion] relates back to something we've done, we'll pay for it."

**Executive Session:**

The board returned to executive session and when exiting voted to unanimously approve the franchise agreement with the City of Montrose resolution as presented.

It was noted that during the review of the franchise agreement, if there had

been significant changes suggested, the board would have called for a special meeting to consider changes in the Charter.

However, there were no significant changes.

**DMEA Board Members**

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, [bpatterson@montrose.net](mailto:bpatterson@montrose.net)

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, [kyle@touchofcarepcp.com](mailto:kyle@touchofcarepcp.com)

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, [bharding@firstcoloradobank.com](mailto:bharding@firstcoloradobank.com)

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [ken-nethrwatson@gmail.com](mailto:ken-nethrwatson@gmail.com)

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, [lch@haucks.cc](mailto:lch@haucks.cc)

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)

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

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



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59406 Lone Eagle Road • Offered by: Kerri Noonan-Inda



**\$230,000** • MLS 769265 • Bdr. 4 | Bdr. 1 • 1075 sq. ft. • 0.34 Apx. Total Acres  
608 Spring Creek Road • Offered by: Betsy Fernandez



**\$330,000** • MLS 769206 • Bdr. 5 | Bdr. 3 • 2469 sq. ft. • 0.3 Apx. Total Acres  
100 Vista View • Offered by: Darrell Gilks



**\$330,000** • MLS 769116 • Bdr. 3 | Bdr. 2 • 1310 sq. ft. • 0.291 Apx. Total Acres  
1721 Moonlight Drive • Offered by: Jamie Carver



**\$349,900** • MLS 762786 • Bdr. | Bdr. • 7560 sq. ft. • 0.85 Apx. Total Acres  
631 N Park Avenue • Offered by: Don Bailey



**\$350,000** • MLS 770430 • Bdr. 3 | Bdr. 2 • 1009 sq. ft. • 0.22 Apx. Total Acres  
3024 Outlook Drive • Offered by: Linda Stiel



**\$479,000** • MLS 769782 • Bdr. 3 | Bdr. 2 • 3324 sq. ft. • 1.106 Apx. Total Acres  
3590 West Court • Offered by: Jessamyn Pressler & Jessamyn Johnson



**\$535,000** • MLS 757418 • Bdr. | Bdr. • sq. ft. • 160 Apx. Total Acres  
TBD County Road 22 • Offered by: Trena Unrein & Brian Unrein



**\$67,000** • MLS 764724 • Bdr. 4 | Bdr. 4 • 3423 sq. ft. • 0.18 Apx. Total Acres  
2141 Painted Wall Lane • Offered by: Jennifer Johnson & Jessamyn Pressler



**\$585,000** • MLS 767367 • Bdr. 5 | Bdr. 2 • 1600 sq. ft. • 29.88 Apx. Total Acres  
24125 Horsely • Offered by: Elizabeth J Spitzer



**\$849,990** • MLS 772116 • Bdr. 6 | Bdr. 5 • 5774 sq. ft. • 0.33 Apx. Total Acres  
3331 Ivory Court • Offered by: Jeff L. Keehuss



**\$1,195,000** • MLS 767843 • Bdr. 5 | Bdr. 5 • 5604 sq. ft. • 0.919 Apx. Total Acres  
442 Badger Trail South • Offered by: Patricia M Floyd



**\$1,475,000** • MLS 771043 • Bdr. 5 | Bdr. • 2220 sq. ft. • 230 Apx. Total Acres  
37661 Highway 145 • Offered by: Autumn Barrett



**\$1,599,000** • MLS 769500 • Bdr. 4 | Bdr. 4 • 5276 sq. ft. • 1.57 Apx. Total Acres  
67437 Oak Leaf Drive • Offered by: Kree Christie & Jeff Keehuss



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

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$12,500 GRANT FROM UNION PACIFIC FOR COVID RELIEF



**BUILDING AMERICA®**

*Special to the Mirror*  
MONTROSE – Montrose Memorial Hospital has been awarded a \$12,500 grant from Union Pacific’s Community Ties Giving Program to help offset costs endured during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant is not for a specific objective other than to help the hospital meet its mission during this difficult time.

“We understand every community has its own unique needs,” said Scott Moore, senior vice president-Corporate Relations and chief administrative officer, and Union Pacific Foundation President. “This funding will go directly to those impacted, providing the assistance they need to survive and recover from the outbreak.”

Given the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Pacific’s Community Ties Giving Program allocated additional funding for COVID-19 Relief Grants to address critical community needs associated with the pandemic. Union Pacific’s Community Ties Giving Program provides small-and medium-sized grants that align with the railroad’s priority cause areas in safety, workforce development and community spaces.

Surgeries and elective procedures are the primary source of revenue for hospitals. By following the American College of Surgeons guidelines during the pandemic and closing down these services, the hospital sustained a significant financial hit – ultimately causing a reduction in force of nineteen employees.

“We are doing all we can to recover from the financial losses due to COVID-19 and to ensure that MMH will be here to care for our communities in the future,” read a statement from Montrose Memorial Hospital CEO James Kiser in May.



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Move in Ready  
**\$395,000** | MLS# 759047  
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0  
1,922 sq. ft.



**Tbd Cedar Road**  
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Prime Hemp Location  
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS GET IN FREE TO COLORADO STATE PARKS IN AUGUST



**The free Military Passes become available on August 1.**

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – As a thank you to U.S. military members, Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers active duty military, veterans and the National Guard free admission to all state parks for the month of August.

Military members and veterans, resident and nonresident, can pick up a free August Military Pass at any Colorado state park or CPW office by showing proof of service. Passes become available on August 1, 2020.

“We want to honor the brave men and

women who currently serve or have served our country by hosting them at our state parks,” said Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Dan Prenzl. “This is an opportunity for our military and veterans to spend some quality time in nature and connect with the beautiful landscapes and natural wonders they protect.”

The free park pass provides a chance to experience Colorado’s state parks and the diverse wildlife and terrain they showcase. All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses.

To begin planning a unique Colorado adventure, visit the CPW park finder. State park outdoor recreation activities include: Water sports- boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming  
Wildlife and wildflower viewing, bird-watching and tours with naturalists  
Hiking, horseback riding, biking and rock climbing  
Stargazing and geocaching  
Accessibility programs are available to people with disabilities

CPW also offers military benefits for outdoor activities to active duty military, veterans, and disabled veterans. Programs include free admission to state parks on Veterans Day, year-round free entry to all state parks to residents with Colorado Disabled Veterans license plates and free small game and fishing combination licenses for qualified disabled veterans. CPW also offers a Columbine Pass which offers reduced park entrance fees to disabled Colorado residents.

“Our agency appreciates the sacrifices our military members make to secure our freedoms to enjoy an outdoor heritage,” said U.S Marine Corps Veteran and Southwest Region Manager Cory Chick. “This is a small token of our appreciation to thank our military and veterans for helping us protect our state lands for Coloradans to enjoy and cherish.”

For more information about Colorado’s state parks, visit the CPW website. Learn more about Care for Colorado - Leave No Trace principles on how to recreate responsibly.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ALLIE FREEBURG NAMED TO COLORADO COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO SPRINGS-- Allie Freeburg of Montrose has been named to Colorado College's 2019-20 Dean's List. Freeburg was a Junior at Colorado College during the 2019-20 academic year. Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.75 or higher are named to the Dean's List, which is released once a year. To qualify, a student must complete seven units in the academic year and those courses must be taken for a letter grade. Colorado College, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, operates on the Block Plan, in which students take one course at a time in three-and-a-half week segments.

### MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLISHES RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District RE-1J has published the back-to-school "Return to Learn" plan for the upcoming start of the 2020-2021 school year. The plan can be accessed on the District homepage, [www.mcsd.org](http://www.mcsd.org), social media pages, and through a message sent to all MCSD families.

After reading the comprehensive plan, parents have a deadline of Wednesday, August 5th, to select their child's preferred instructional model (online or in-person) for the start of the school year. MCSD staff will also have an August 5th deadline to select their preferred work model (online or in-person). Student and

staff selections can be made by clicking the survey link provided in the Return to Learn plan. Citing input from several Focus Groups made up of local doctors, pediatricians, mental health providers, teachers, school administrators, parents, community members, and small business owners, as well as the most up-to-date guidance from the Colorado Department of Education, Department of Public Health and Environment, and local public health officials, the plan includes sections on cleaning and screening protocols, mitigation strategies such as PPE (mask) student and staff use, quarantine procedures, and smaller student cohort groups that should allow MCSD to avoid mass school or dis-

trict closures due to COVID-19. After survey respondents select their preferred work and instructional model, schools will finalize their in-person and online work plans for each site, with building specific details based on the number of online and in-person student and staff responses published by August 14. MCSD welcomes back staff and students as we return to the joy of learning through a reopening plan based on science, logic, consideration and care. General questions and comments about the plan can be sent to [Questions@mcsd.org](mailto:Questions@mcsd.org) and public information requests can be sent to the MCSD Public Information Officer at [thomas.jenkins@mcsd.org](mailto:thomas.jenkins@mcsd.org).



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### AN ACTIVE AND INFORMED CITIZENRY MUST HOLD WATCH ON OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS GUIDED BY OUR CONSTITUTION

*Editor:*

In a rush to limit or speed up environmental analysis for favored projects there has been a widespread attack on long accepted regulations codified by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ). A fair and equitable government must either have a code of ethics or an enforceable set of rules to run by. This was the intent of our

Constitution.

The disturbance of these rules is tantamount to the thought of the elimination of many rules, and use of referees, for the fair and safe playing of American football, for instance. We all know how disastrous that would be. To eliminate some or weaken the CEQ regulations guiding NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) which

guides environmental documents is a real attack on our livable environment just for the short-term benefit of special interests. What we need most is an active and informed citizenry to hold watch on our democratic process guided by our Constitution. Let's hold our legislator's feet to the fire in support of these guidelines.

*Wayne Quade, Montrose*

### CITY OF MONTROSE NEEDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS, INACTIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN BOWMAN AFFAIR

*Editor:*

We have a fairly good idea of EX-mayor Bowman's involvement in the Divot's matter. The "who done it" part concerning the apparent notification by Ms. Janece Culver to Ms. Morgenthaler the Assistant Manager and the City's 'Divot's Contract Manager' of the situation. As the City Contract Manager she is responsible 'for the management and proper execution of the DIVOT'S contract with the City and Culver's report of the matter has apparently been ignored by the City Manager and the Council.

In my opinion: The city and Culver had a contract which demands certain things of both parties. Part of this is fair and impartial treatment by the city of both parties. But more importantly for the purpose of this Opinion piece the City, through its Contract Manager Ms. Morgenthaler, is obligated to act in the part of of 'mediator' between various parties doing business with the city.

EX-mayor Bowman was sponsoring a concert and Culver was providing refreshment, both for separate fees. Hence, the City, when notified of suspected irregularities, was and is obligated to take appropriate action to 'clear the air'. Therefore

something is remiss in the whole litany since no one admits that Morgenthaler passed the information 'uphill' and on the 'uphill side' no one will admit receiving any information. It is difficult to imagine that Ms. Morgenthaler is foolish enough to keep a matter as serious as this under her hat.

The Citizens should be privy to statements by Morgenthaler, Bell and every counselor as to when each were informed of what and by whom concerning this matter. The following questions beg answers by Mayor Bynum:

1. When did Ms. Culver first notify Ms. Morgenthaler of the Bowman matter?
2. What direction was provided to Ms. Culver by Ms. Morgenthaler as to how to proceed after she reported the Bowman matter?
3. When informed by Ms. Culver did Ms. Morgenthaler meet her contractual and positional responsibilities as the assistant city manager to take corrective action, or did she and Mr. Bell just ignore and stone-wall Ms. Culver's attempt to find the truth and have things corrected?
4. When informed of Ms. Culver's report did Morgenthaler, Bell or Bowman inform the city council as would have been pru-

dent?

5. Was City Council's attorney brought into the conversation and what was his opinion?

IN MY OPINION for the city to ignore the contract terms, conditions, actions or inactions of their employee's and then for the city council to state that the city is not involved or a party to this matter is beyond explanation. The CITY IS RESPONSIBLE for the official actions or inactions of their employees as are the individual employees (Ms. Morgenthaler and Mr. Bell) responsible for their own actions. The City Council is responsible to the electorate to perform their duties and to EXPLAIN their malfeasance or misfeasance, individually and collectively to us.

I recognize that Ms. Bynum's letter to the Mirror July 30, 2020 was not intended to address any issue except the findings of CBI, however the dereliction of the duties of the Mayor, the City Council as a whole and the city manager and his assistant regarding the treatment of Ms. Culver demands an explanation of their actions or inaction as required by their job descriptions.

Citizen Alert in effect.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR BOARD POSTPONES COLORADO PRO RODEO TO 2021

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose County Fair Board voted to postpone the bull riding and Colorado Pro Rodeo (CPRA) to 2021. The board hoped that an opportunity would exist to host a larger outdoor event, yet outdoor event capacities are limited to 175 attendees and typically the rodeo attracts 2,000 or more.

“We are heartbroken. The board spends a significant amount of time and energy to plan these events, and cancelling the 2020 rodeo was a hard decision,” said Rodeo Chair Kim Wilson. Chris Cohick, Fair Board President, echoed Wilson’s concerns as he said, “The competitors, stock contractor, rodeo personnel, and community look forward to this event every year. Having to cancel the event affects us all.”

The fair wrapped up on Saturday, July 25 with the Junior Livestock Auction. Competitions were limited to 4-H and FFA participants and their immediate families. Overall, 245 market animals were shown in the event and 148 of those were sold in the Junior Livestock Auction. Beyond the livestock shows, participants were also able to compete in the dog, horse, and general project events. Event results are available at [fb.com/MCEventCenter](https://fb.com/MCEventCenter). Montrose County COVID-19 information is available at [montrosecountyjic.com](https://montrosecountyjic.com).

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MAKE SOME NOISE: DON'T LET TRUMP, GOP DISRUPT UPCOMING ELECTION

*Dear Editor:*

Trump has refused to come out with a comprehensive plan, or any kind of plan, as to how the United States will attempt to curtail the Corona virus pandemic. His rhetoric is to let the states themselves deal individually with COVID-19. Yet if a state, primarily a "Blue" state, does something he is not in agreement with, he threatens to withhold ventilators, testing, and personal protective equipment. Now it is coming out that his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who put together a team of his friends, who know nothing about pandemics, decided to scrap their proposed plan to combat the virus. Why? Because at the time the main states affected were the "Blue" states. So the decision was not to help those states. Now look where our country is in regards to dealing with the virus. We are number one in a very bad way. We are the country with the most cases and most deaths.

So how is Trump dealing with both the rising cases of COVID-19 and the our spiraling economy? By attacking our voter laws. Before COVID, he stated that because of his impeachment, his term should be extended another year. Now he has said, due to COVID, that maybe the presidential election should be postponed.

Trump, and the GOP, are doing all that they can to disrupt this upcoming election. They spout voter fraud, but without any substantial proof. Ironically, the most recent cases of voter fraud turned out to involve Republicans. Trump keeps pushing his agenda that mail-in voting is corrupt. Colorado is a shining example that mail-in voting works. In 2016, nearly three out of four Colorado voters returned their mail-in ballots. In 2018, Colorado had the second largest voter turnout nationwide.

So what is Trump and the GOP doing to

encourage voter suppression? First, Trump has been attacking the US Postal Service not because he feels that Amazon is getting too good a deal with the Post Office. He is attacking it because he wants to undermine mail-in voting. He wants to keep cutting funding so that the Post Office will not be able to handle the high influx of voter ballots. It is not outrageous to expect governors from "Red" states to use such means as the National Guard to confiscate and seize mail-in ballots at postal centers at the time of the election.

Polling places are being eliminated. Different states are trying to make it harder and harder, not only to vote, but to even register to vote in the first place. Gerrymandering continues, giving unfair advantages to one specific party.

During the last major election in India, voter pollsters were sent to the faraway borders to ensure that even small groups of people were able to vote. At times not more than five to ten people outside a village, were visited by a pollster. The first time an election was held in Iraq, our American troops were there to help. Taliban and Al Qaeda threatened to disrupt the election process. Yet Iraqis promptly stepped forward, men and women, and voted in force. Afterwards they proudly showed their purple thumbs proving they had voted.

A short and brief history of voting in the United States: Our nation, and our Constitution, started out by allowing only white male landowners the right to vote. Some states also added a test so that only Christian men could vote. With the 15th Amendment, African-Americans finally were given the right to vote (although some southern states used poll taxes and "trumped" up criminal charges to prevent Blacks from voting). In 1920, with passage of the 19th Amendment, women were

now allowed to vote. In 1924, the Snyder Act gave full citizenship to Native Americans. However, it allowed individual states to determine if Native Americans could vote. It was not until 1962, that the last state, New Mexico, finally allowed Indians to vote. The 26th Amendment changed the voting age from 21 to 18.

Now, with the full backing of this administration and the GOP, voting rights in various states are becoming more and more strict and confining. With the overall goal and effect to reduce minority voting. We, as a Nation, are going backwards.

Do not be tricked by Trump as he keeps shouting out claims of voter fraud. Remember way back at the start of his horrible four years, he had a committee put together to prove voter fraud. That committee disbanded after finding no evidence. Trump is trying to promote chaos and dissention. He is trying to get you to believe that mail-in voting is full of fraud and those promoting mail-in voting, especially due to the pandemic, is simply "fake news".

So as American citizens, we should all want our voting rights protected. Our democracy must be guaranteed first and foremost. We should demand a comprehensive and fully implementable plan as to how the federal government will handle COVID-19". And finally, a plan on how we will safely start up our economy and **SAFELY** protect our children and grandkids in our schools.

Our thanks to the late Congressman John Lewis who said, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." If Trump and the GOP try to take over the November election with dishonesty, fragrant violations of the law and morality, and chaos - all Americans need "to make some noise."

*Jon Sering, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## CITY COUNCIL IGNORES APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY



*By Paul Arbogast*  
 In late May of this year I submitted the story about the issue with Councilman Bowman and Divot's. It took over a month for the Montrose City Council to even publicly comment

**Paul Arbogast.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

on the issue, and that was in the form of a press release sent to local media only July 1st, but not shared on their website or social media.

One claim from the City Council was that it was a private dispute. The problem with that is any elected official is a representative of their position, at all times. Just as when I was in the Navy, my actions, in or out of uniform, during the work day or on free time, were always seen as a representative of the Navy.

There can be cases where an official does nothing wrong, but it is the appearance of impropriety that matters, and is to be avoided at all costs. Many upper level management in private industry, as well as elected officials, have stepped down from their positions because they did not avoid such things.

As an update from the City Council, on July 30<sup>th</sup> they put out another press release that states:

“After reviewing documents from the

Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Department of Revenue, Liquor Enforcement Division and after conducting an interview with Ms. Culver, Mr. Collin L. Reeses, Agent-in-Charge with the Colorado Bureau of Investigate declined to initiate a criminal investigation into allegations of illegal activity of David Bowman.”

I contacted the CBI for a comment on them declining to initiate a criminal investigation, the response was:

“Thank you for contacting the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with your question regarding the events that took place between Councilor David Bowman and Ms. Culver. The CBI did indeed look into the matter and learned that the State of Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division had already conducted an investigation of the incident and presented its findings to the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office for review. The DA's Office declined to file criminal charges in the incident based on the information presented during that investigation.

The CBI fully reviewed what had already been submitted and found there to be no additional elements that warranted further investigation. The Montrose Police Department and Montrose Sheriff's Office were advised of that determination; therefore, our role in this inquiry is complete.”

According to the CBI they looked into it

and saw an investigation was already done and passed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office (Dan Hotsenpiller), who declined to file criminal charges. So while an investigation happened by Liquor Enforcement, it was the local DA that made the determination. This is not the impartial investigation that many called for, and certainly can be seen as yet another conflict of interest based on the relationship between the city and the DA.

Conflict or not, refusal to file charges is not indicative that an individual is innocent of what was being investigated. There are many potential reasons a prosecutor will refuse to file charges. I reached out to the the DA's office for comment and received no comment. In addition lack of criminal charges does not negate the possibility of civil charges or lawsuits down the road.

While the City Council, through their statement and public posts by at least one council member, seems to celebrate a victory of some sort, many people already frustrated with a lack of transparency and accountability with local government, now add a lack of integrity to what frustrates them about the City of Montrose Government.

Unfortunately for those in government, the appearance of impropriety by one person, affects them all negatively when they refuse to speak out quickly, or at all, against it.



ISSUE 274 Aug. 3, 2020

# ART & SOL

## THEY DROVE THEMSELVES INTO HISTORY

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-In the earliest days of the 20th century Americans began being almost mesmerized by the automobile. There was even talk of an electric car. In late 1899 a company was formed in New York claiming they could provide supply power in a 12-grain capsule that could power a light "all night." The founder of the company, John Post, said he could use the technology to power automobiles with a battery that weighed "only 360 lbs."

The then small town of Montrose was not exempt from the automobile craze and two companies stand out in the infancy of personal travel machines.

C. S. Spurr came to Montrose from Nebraska via Julesburg in late 1907 with the intention of building an alfalfa mill. He is also reputed to have looked into the establishment of a sugar factory and started the Montrose Stock Food Company. He was the president, F. D. Catlin was vice president, and C. H. Reid was the secretary and treasurer.

Spurr and Reid also owned the Spurr-Reid Brokerage Company, dealing in real estate, insurance, and brokerage. That company was started in early 1908.

In April of 1908, the two businessmen, along with L. E. Grauel, also started the Western Slope Automobile Co., which sold Maxwell touring cars.

The company was adept in making headlines. The *Montrose Press* followed almost



*A major storm stopped the paving of Main Street in Montrose. Half of the street was under water and a small dirt dyke was the only protection the new Hartman Bros. building had. The building, in the right center of the photo, is still recognizable today. Photo by Walker Art Studios, and used by permission of the Denver Public Library.*

every move of the Western Slope Automobile Company. One headline, in the Jan. 24 edition, announced that the company had taken on a new line in the form of the Bubble, and stated, "...the streets of this city and the country lanes adjoining will soon be echoing to the merry honk of the automobile horn and the nags of the val-

ley will soon be city broke."

A huge headline in the May 15 edition of the *Montrose Press* declared, "2 Car Loads of Maxwell Automobiles will arrive this week for Spurr & Reid. Watch for the big parade of these cars." The company accepted another shipment less than one month later. The advertisements for Spurr

*Continued next pg*

## **THEY DROVE THEMSELVES INTO HISTORY From previous pg**

& Reid read like they truly did have an eye on the future. They claimed that the Maxwell Automobile was the simplest, most efficient, and most desirable motor car on the market and was not just a hobby toy, but a time and money saver. Their biggest advertisement by far was their offer to give anyone who requested it a ride to demonstrate the machine's "exhilarating and healthful pleasure."

While Spurr & Reid were promoting their Maxwells and giving rides, another very diversified company was on its way to a much longer history in the valley; a history that, to date, has gone on for 116 years. On March 6, 1908 another significant headline appeared in the *Montrose Press*. This one gave no indication of any intent to sell automobiles. It read, "**Hartman Bros. Branching Out.**" The accompanying article described that Hartman Bros. who were in business as machinists and plumbers, had purchased the wiring and supply part of the Montrose Electric Company and would be performing wiring jobs. That same year Hartman Bros. became the agents for the Ford Automobile Company. If there were any doubts that Joe and Sid Hartman were serious, those doubts faded in April of 1909, when the brothers announced that they had purchased lot 16 in block 62 on Main Street from the Masonic Building Association, and that they would immediately begin building a brick and concrete building 25 feet wide and 125 feet long to house their new garage and to enhance their Ford dealership. Hartman's Fords were soon to be the most popular automobile in the valley.

When the Chalmers Company sent H. G. Wimbush to Montrose to promote the Chalmers automobiles, they were obviously challenging the Ford's reputation in Montrose, but were doing so in a subtle way. Their letter to the *Montrose Enterprise*, printed on March 31, 1910 said, in part, "**We do not knock any other man's car, it is not necessary...We rely upon the intelligence of the customer to grasp points that are as clear as the nose on his face.**" The ownership of Chalmers automobiles did not take hold in Montrose,

although records do indicate a few being sold in the Delta area.

In July of 1911 Joe Hartman impressed the automobile world when his picture appeared in the *Denver Times* with an article describing his amazing feat of traveling by automobile from Ouray to the town of Red Mountain over the famous Ouray-Red Mountain Toll Road. Dr. L. G. Crosby, E. A. Finney and Walter Walker were passengers in the Ford, which was owned by Crosby and Finney. Hartman was not the first to travel the road in an automobile, in fact a prominent Denver druggist, Dr. Mechlin, drove his Targe Crockston-Keating machine from Silverton to Ouray nearly one year before Hartman made his trip. His intent was evidently to impress J. A. Maguire, the editor of *Out-door Life* magazine, but Maguire did not take the trip; his wife did. The *Plaindealer* reported the trip and chronicled the celebration held at the Beaumont Hotel. Not only did the sellers of various automobiles get good press, but also the buyers were also included in many news stories. When Hartman Bros. was temporarily out of stock, in July of 1912, the delivery of three Fords made the front page of the *Montrose Daily Press* along with the purchasers, F. W. Reckmeyer and Otto Becker. The next notable delivery consisted of 10 new Fords in February 1913. The company told the press that Ford had reduced the cost of their machines and that they would be sold in Montrose for \$865 each. They also said that Ford had agreed to supply a total of 60 more cars during that year.

In 1913 the Maxwell Motor Company reorganized and tried to respond to the low-priced automobiles being produced by Ford, Oldsmobile and others. Ultimately the company was taken over by Walter P. Chrysler, and the Maxwells, and C. S. Spurr were relegated to history. Spurr evidently moved to California.

The automobile provided seed for many other business enterprises. Real estate agents began to brag that they could take clients to remote properties and garages began to spring up everywhere. In June of

1914 the Rainbow Garage received accolades from the *Montrose Enterprise* when they installed a new sign and started selling gasoline. The sign was described, in part: "**The sign represents a rainbow with all of its gorgeous hues. At night the electrical effect is gorgeous, being arranged so as to give an animated light effect in rainbow colors.**"

The Wortman's Garage joined in the entrepreneurial spirit and expanded their plumbing and heating business to offer service to motorcycles and bicycles, and later, motor vehicles.

Motor vehicle laws began to be more common in 1916, and drivers were warned to license their cars and obey traffic ordinances. And, of course, there came the demand for better roads and streets.

In 1919 Hartmans began selling Dodges, the O'Haver agency started offering Chevrolets, and Montrose began a serious effort to pave the streets. As Main Street was being paved, a major storm system moved through the area, causing flooding in many of the towns and putting a temporary halt to the paving project.

In February of 1920, Montrose County boasted that 746 licenses for automobiles had been issued, but evidently not everyone was complying with the license laws. J. J. Hickey, the "automobile inspector" for Montrose issued a statement warning that "Auto driving minus a license is dangerous." By July of that year the county reported that, statewide, approximately \$700,000 had been collected in automobile license fees. At about the same time, J. H. Mashisky purchased the Cascade garage from Henry T. Smith and began selling the Hupmobile and Barsch Bicycle shop changed its name to Barsch Motor Company and began selling Pan automobiles and servicing all makes. The Pan, of all things, featured reclining seats that could be converted to a bed. Enough said.

The *Montrose Daily Press*, in the Oct. 8, 1920 issue, summed up what was happening in one simple headline: **AUTO IS MASTERED BY THOUSANDS OF OWNERS EACH DAY.**

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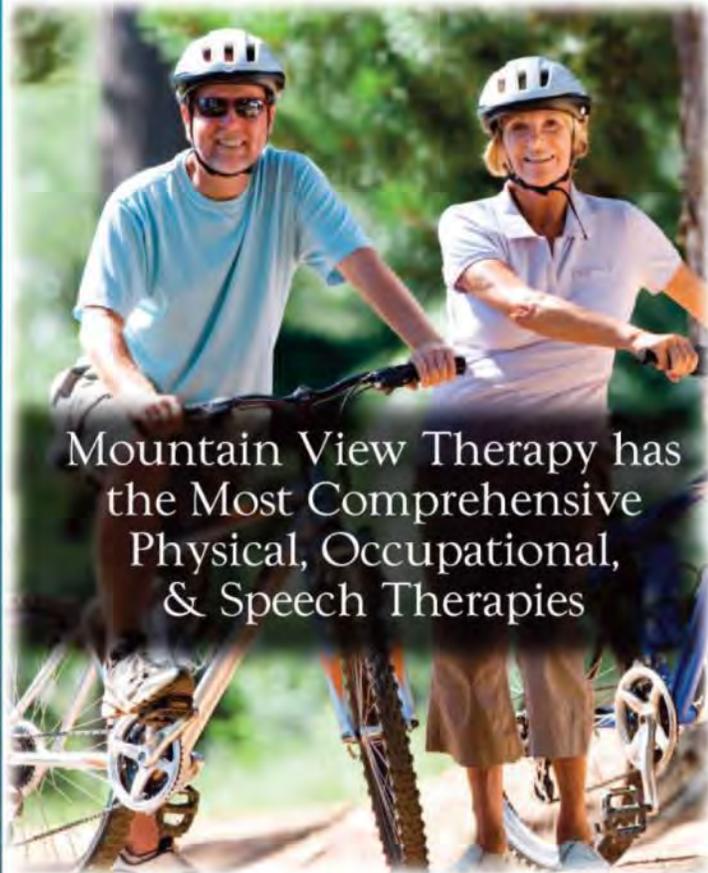
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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN JUAN BALLOON ADVENTURES SELECTED AS AUGUST 2020 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH

*Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected San Juan Balloon Adventures as August 2020 RACC Member of the Month.

San Juan Balloon Adventures co-owner Gary Woods was introduced to ballooning during a 4th of July Festival in Montrose. Within a year of his 10-minute flight, he earned his commercial pilot license and secured a position as pilot for a scenic ride balloon business in Park City, Utah where he met Carolyn, who was assigned as his crew chief. Working successfully as a team, they decided to get married and start a business of their own in 1987.

“Far beyond being a job, ballooning has always been a passion in our lives. That passion for the sport includes sharing the fascinating balloon experience with others. Whether it is a young first timer, a bucket list seeker or a seasoned Aeronaut,

it is genuinely rewarding to see each person excited about the adventure,” explained Gary. He is one of the founders of the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC), and served on the board for many years. “I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with others who care about the quality of life and the prosperity of our small business community, and now appreciate the hard work and dedication of those who currently serve our business community,” he said.

San Juan Balloon Adventures is offering September-only discounts, where adventurers can save up to 20% on space-available flights.

For more about the company and its service, go online to <https://www.sanjuanballoon.com/>, email [sanjuanballoon@msn.com](mailto:sanjuanballoon@msn.com), and call 970-626-5495. To read the full interview about San Juan Balloon Adventures, go to [https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/august-2020-racc-member-of-the-](https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/august-2020-racc-member-of-the-month-san-juan-balloon-adventures)



*San Juan Balloon Adventures October flight. Courtesy photo.*

[month-san-juan-balloon-adventures](https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/august-2020-racc-member-of-the-month-san-juan-balloon-adventures)

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Wine & Food Festival held an online silent auction July 1 through July 8 on the Festival's Facebook page, with all proceeds going to the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC). This auction raised more than \$4,500 for the BCBGC. The Montrose Wine & Food Festival, held annually in May, had to cancel its 17<sup>th</sup> year in order to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. The Festival is the BCBGC's largest fundraiser raising approximately a quarter of the BCBGC's annual operating funds. Although the silent auction does not make up for not having the Festival this year, it did indeed help! Thank you to all those individuals

and businesses who donated items to the online silent auction as well as those who bid on items. The BCBGC appreciates your help in making great futures start here! Here is a list of the wonderful silent auction donors: Camp Robber, Tiny Bites Desserts, Dunkin/Baskin Robbins - Montrose, Salon Polished - Kelsey Deines, Katie's Wickless Warmers - Katie Griffith Independent Scentsy Consultant, Little Flower Hemp Company, Crash Burger, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., San Juan Bee Supply, The Liquor Store, Enstrom Candies, Get Air at the Silo, Black Canyon Golf Course, Jimmy John's - Montrose, Holiman Hounds, LLC, The Body Shop Therapeutic Massage'N Spa, Peak Perform-

mance Hemp, Durango/Silverton Train Station, The Escape House GJ, The Sudsy Pup Dog Grooming, BPetersonDesign, Lost Scots Lass, Dliciousfoodco, Storm King Distilling Co., Cobble Creek, Colorado West Jeep Rentals and Tours, Bubbles Photography by Katie Griffith, Iron Mountain Hot Springs, Solve It Escape Games, Heaven Scent, Bosque Bees, Kay Donley, Good's Processing LLC, Black Canyon Landscape Maintenance and Installation, Glen Hinshaw, Sasquatch IronWorks, BarkArtCo. - Andrea Box, Chow Down Pet Supplies Inc. - Montrose, Rick & Teresa Sherman, Matt Boisen, Randy & Penny Leonard, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, and Telluride Ski Resort.



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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**

# \$485,000

MLS# 767906

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## GET IN GEAR FOR MOTOR ART MADNESS



*Special to Art & Sol*

**MONTROSE**-Get in gear for Motor Art Madness! This cool show opens Friday, Aug. 7 at the Montrose Center for the Arts. Come see many artist's interpretations of everything motor from vintage to new. The show will be on display from August 7-28. Opening Reception is Aug. 7, 5-7pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 South Park Avenue. Masks are required, except when enjoying refreshments. Social distancing will also be encouraged. Also, the Unknown Motorcycle Show will be Saturday, August 15 in downtown Montrose on S. First St.

*At left, Montrose Artist Gina Grundemann's entry, "Velocette."*

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**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author  
& Reporter

**I**t 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.

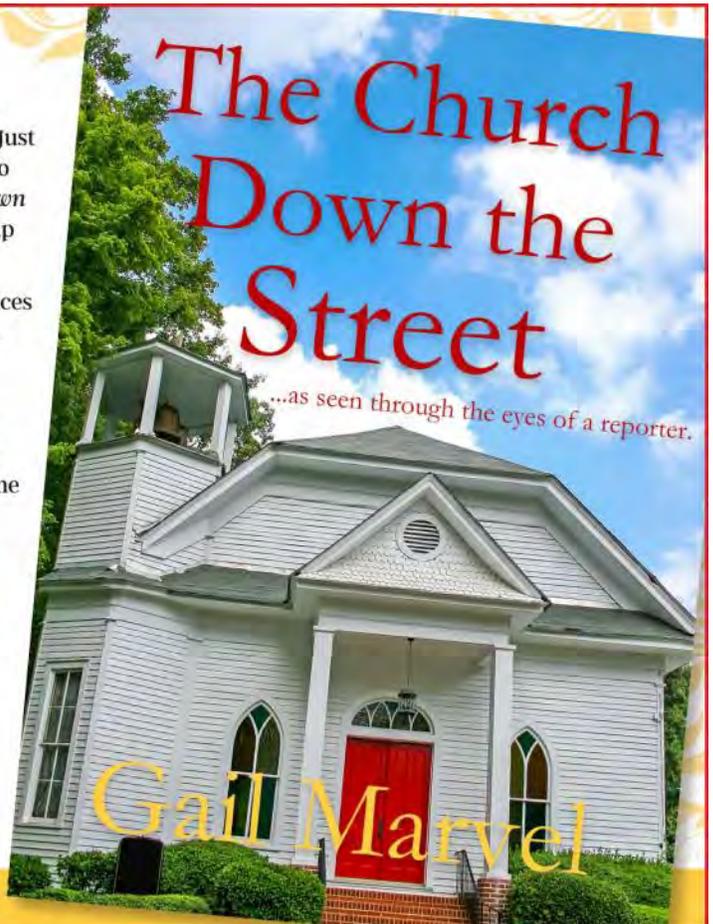
The presence of a reporter in the worship services produced mixed reactions. While many church leaders were grateful for the publicity and exposure for their congregation, others were uneasy. One pastor said, "The minute I saw you

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.

# The Church Down the Street

...as seen through the eyes of a reporter.



Gail Marvel

## FRIENDS OF YOUTH & NATURE: DIY SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS



Courtesy photo Friends of Youth & Nature.

By Anne Janik,  
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Are you scrambling to find engaging activities for your kids this summer? With many summer camps cancelled, families are developing their own set of weeklong activities for smaller groups of children. Some are hiring a neighborhood teen as a camp counselor to bring energy and ideas.

To get started, ask your kids what they most look forward to about camp – then help them figure out which aspects you can re-create at home. That may mean field games like capture the flag or flashlight tag, mini cereal boxes at breakfast, camp songs, arts and craft projects, cooking experiments, trying a new outdoor sport and learning something new about the environment with a nature lesson! “Summer” and “outside” go hand in hand. Take advantage of the local opportunities! Head to a park in a nearby town that you’ve never visited and try a hike there. Your kids will be intrigued by the change of scenery. Never gone geocaching before? Then grab your phone, download the app, and give it a try.

Although many national and state parks and museums are not offering their usual summer youth and family activities, there are still plenty of opportunities to learn about nature from the experts.

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is offering evening programs each night (except Monday) at 7:30 pm on various nature topics such as clouds, sound-

scapes, night skies, unloved birds and more. Spaces are limited because of social distancing so call ahead to make a reservation (970) 249-1914 x423. Gather a picnic dinner, arrive at the South Rim Visitor Center by 5:30-6 pm to pick up a junior ranger booklet and badge. You will have plenty of time to drive to one of the overlooks for a picnic, a short hike and arrive at the amphitheater by 7:30 pm for the 45 minute interpretive talk. Follow up with activities from the booklet. The Park also offers a one hour geology talk every day at 9 am– meet at the South Rim Visitor Center (reservations required).

In addition to the Junior Ranger program offered year-round, Colorado National Monument will be offering a self-guided family program at the visitor center that incorporates, wildlife, STEM experiments and paper crafts. Due to COVID-19, programs may adjust with little notice. Call ahead to learn more - 970-858-3617 x360. Ridgway State Park is an Agents of Discovery Mission Site with three trails offering nature-based challenge questions. It is a mobile educational gaming platform similar to “Pokémon Go” creatively using augmented reality to encourage youth and their families to explore the park in a fun, new way. The park also provides age specific junior ranger booklets that offer a more traditional way for kids to explore. Stop off at the visitor center for more information.

Family naturalist hikes are being offered by The Nature Connection to various local spots. Learn about flowers, fungi and flying friends along the Crag Crest Trail, Grand Mesa National Forest on August 1. Another family naturalist hike to Flowing Park, Grand Mesa National Forest is scheduled for August 15. Call ahead to make reservations at (970) 872-5910.

Can you imagine what might have lived here during the ice age? Museums of the West offer some amazing resources for parents to engage their children in the curiosities of the past. The teacher resources on their website (<https://museumofwesternco.com/visit/>) are great for parents too. You can find online tours, interpretative videos, and trail guides to several dinosaur trails filled with fossils and tracks. Each museum has down-

loadable activities to extend the experience like scavenger hunts, and designing your own pottery.

Nature often can bring out the inner artist in your child. There are plenty of ideas for nature inspired arts and crafts. Splurge on some supplies! “Your True Nature” provides unique art and writing ideas inspired by the natural world such as creating a nature guide, camera-less photos, “A,B,C What do I see?”, leaf drawings, and more.

Summer is also a great time to teach your child basic outdoor survival skills. Turn a day hike or a camping trip into a teachable moment. There are several websites describing the outdoor survival skills such as how to find clean water, how to build a shelter, how to build a fire (with a flint) and properly extinguish it, how to dress for weather and the environment, how to find your way, and most importantly to “hug a tree” if you get lost ([nasar.org](http://nasar.org)).

Bird nests and baby birds are sure to grab your young one’s attention during the summer. Now is a great time to encourage broader observations of birds and even learn the basics of birding. Start by identifying nine local birds. Friends of Youth and Nature is sponsoring a “Birds of a feather contest” for ages 5-19. Download and complete the bird ID worksheet, and send it in! The contest ends Aug. 8 and winners are awarded binoculars! More information at <https://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org/>

Every kid under 12 needs to make sure they are checking off activities on *The List!* It’s the list of 100 things every kid absolutely has to do before they are 12. No doubt there are a few things that can be checked off this summer such as making a worm hotel, or a sock garden, baking some tasty s’mores in a sun oven or making a soda bottle sprinkler. Need *The List*? You can download it from [generation-wild.com](http://generation-wild.com). Also, get video instructions on some pretty cool backyard hacks.

Check our website at [www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org) under “providers” and “resources for teachers and parents” for more ideas. With a bit of planning and preparation, an activity filled DIY camp for kids is as easy as a walk in a park! [www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org)

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

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# SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

## ONGOING-

**EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH OCTOBER**-Ridgway Railroad Museum – free rides on RGS Motor 1 (Galloping Goose prototype) 9 am – noon. 200 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway.

**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. 5**-Join the members of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) on Wednesday Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. for the BCBGC's Second Annual end of the summer session STEM Fair. The BCBGC members have been working hard all summer on their STEM projects and are excited to show the community what they made! Due to COVID-19 precautions and guidelines, the STEM Fair will not be in person. It will, instead, be streamed live on the BCBGC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/blackcanyonboysandgirls>). You can view all the projects and vote online for your favorites. The winning projects will be announced the following day on Facebook.

**Aug. 7**-Get in gear for Motor Art Madness! This cool show opens Friday, Aug. 7 at the Montrose Center for the Arts. Come see many artist's interpretations of everything motor from vintage to new. The show will be on display from August 7-28. Opening Reception is Aug. 7, 5-7pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 South Park Avenue. Masks are required, except when enjoying refreshments. Social distancing will also be encouraged. Also, the Unknown Motorcycle Show will be Saturday, August 15 in downtown Montrose on S. First St.

**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, [uwppcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:uwppcommunications@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](mailto: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

*Deb took this photo last week, of a brooding sunrise overshadowed by heavy storm clouds and falling rain.*



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