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RE-1J MEETING GENERATES REQUESTS FOR BETTER SOUND QUALITY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The online requests for better audio quality began almost as soon as Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education President Gayle Johnson opened the regular board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Still, much of what was said during the meeting was not audible to the viewing public. Comments on the Facebook Live video consistently ask for better sound quality throughout the session.

Though the Board of Education and administrative staff met in person at District Offices, the meeting agenda notes, "Due to social distancing guidelines, there will be limited space for additional attendees. If you would like to address the board during the public comment time, the sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting." All school board members were

Continued pg 23



Montrose ECC Director Penny Harris, above, spoke into the mic and could actually be heard, unlike most of those at the RE-1J Board of Education meeting of Aug. 11..

BOCC APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO FBO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ATLANTIC AVIATION LLC



Montrose Regional Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold spoke to the BOCC at the Aug. 13 special meeting.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a special meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. All commissioners were present. BOCC Chair Keith Caddy called the meeting to order; Vice Chair Roger Rash led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public. **COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Montrose Regional Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold presented for consideration and possible approval a Second Amendment to the Fixed Base Operator Agreement and First Amendment to the Hangar Ground Lease between

Continued pg 12

Reader Photo spotlight with Deb Reimann!

Unknown Motorcycle Show photos!

at Aug. 17 Work Session!

<u>Council welcomes new employees</u> Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTIGATES AN OUTBREAK SITE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has informed Delta County Public Health of an outbreak site, El Tapatio restaurant. As a reminder, an outbreak is defined as two positive cases at the same location, within a 14-day period. A coordinated investigation team including Delta County Public Health and CDPHE worked to identify the positive cases, and immediately began contact tracing. The restaurant is closed temporarily for deep cleaning, and affected staff have been issued isolation and quarantine orders, and is being monitored. According to CDPHE guidelines, outbreak resolution is defined as 28 days after the onset of symptoms of the last case.

The best prevention against COVID-19 remains washing your hands thoroughly and often, maintaining six ft. of physical distance between you and others, and wearing a mask. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive, contact your primary care physician or Delta County Health Department at 970-874-2172 to make an appointment.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS GMUG OPENS FREE FUELWOOD HARVEST AREA

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD - The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood Ranger District has opened a free fuelwood harvest area of decked ponderosa pine on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Individuals interested in harvesting from these fuelwood decks can obtain a permit by contacting either the Norwood or Ouray Ranger District offices. Permits for personal usage are free, while commercial usage permits are available for \$5 per cord (four cord minimum). The harvest area will be open through Oct. 30, 2020. The fuelwood decks are remnants of the Horsefly Project and are located within the project area, approximately 20 miles northeast of Norwood. The Horsefly Project was implemented in partnership with the Mule Deer Foundation as a continuation of the Sanborn Park Treatment Project to reduce the potential for severe wildfires along the wildland-urban interface. As a result, the project area has re-

duced wildfire fuel loading, increased vegetation diversity and improved wildlife habitat. A valid Fuelwood Permit must be in the physical possession of any person harvesting firewood from National Forest System lands. Personal use firewood cannot be sold, commercial permits have been made available. Permits can be obtained by calling the following offices: Norwood Ranger District -

970-327-4261 Ouray Ranger District -970-240-5300

fire restrictions.

Please call the offices prior to showing up in-person as district office hours may vary. Forest visitors are also encouraged to "Know Before You Go" by calling the local ranger district for forest and road condi-

tions, along with regulations and current

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 73 RIDERS DONATE LAWN EQUIPMENT





On Aug. 14, American Legion Post 73 Riders donated a new 50-inch riding lawnmower to volunteer caretakers of Valley Lawn Cemetery. Photos by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Without an official caretaker, the maintenance and upkeep at the Valley Lawn Cemetery has fallen to volunteers.

On Aug. 14, friends and families of those laid to rest at Valley Lawn Cemetery were given a helping hand in their efforts when they received a new 50-inch riding lawnmower from American Legion Post 73 Riders.

The lawnmower has an estimated value of \$3,000. Post Commander Jeremy Rousseau said, "Home Depot supports Veterans and they gave us a considerable discount. The proceeds from our Thursday Night Bingo helps pay for this type of donation."

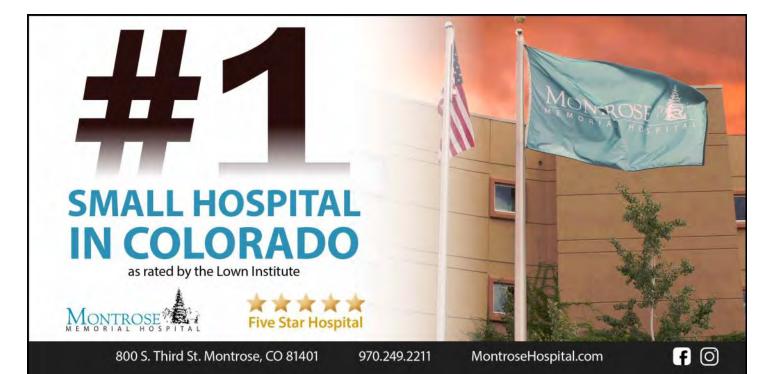
Referring to the Post's involvement with the cemetery project Rousseau said, "We've adopted Valley Lawn Cemetery. We put wreaths out at Christmas and on Memorial Day we put flags on the graves of Veterans."

Rousseau gave credit to volunteers for their restoration efforts, "Mark Keep and Dennis Goodhue are the two guys who keep this organized and who will run the mower."

During the presentation Retired Navy Chief John Boughton said, "There are Veterans buried here and this is sacred ground to us. We decided we needed to help the people who were working to clean it up."

American Legion Post 73, which has approximately 100 members, meets at the Montrose Events Center on the second Monday of the month from 6 – 7 p.m. For additional information Post Commander Jeremy Rousseau can be reached at 970-209-9336, or jeremy9336@gmail.com.

On Thursday, Aug. 20, Post 73 will make a cash donation to the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club for their new building. The ceremony will take place at the corner of 6700 Road and Niagara at 3 p.m.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

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or email Connie Williams at cb13williams@gmail.com

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Board of Directors of Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community non-profit corporation, is accepting applications for positions as Directors of that Colorado community non-profit corporation. Application packets are available for download at www.montrosehospital.com, by email request to BODapplications@montrosehospital.com, or pick up at the Montrose Memorial Hospital Administration office, located at 800 S 3rd Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The deadline for return of completed applications to the same location is Fri-

day, Sept. 4, 2020, at 5 p.m. Interviews will be conducted the week of Sept. 7, 2020, and elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annal meeting in October, date to be announced.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

URGE THE PUC TO REPRESENT YOUR COMMITMENT TO SOLAR ENERGY, AN ECONOMIC DRIVER

homeowners the option to join renewable

Dear Editor:

Access to renewable energy is vital to our state's climate and economy. In 2019, in a bi-partisan vote, our state legislature passed the Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act, with one hangnail: Who will receive the savings from using solar Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), those who have paid subscriptions into the solar garden programs, or the utility companies? Currently, the utilities hold a monopoly on the receipts of these credits. The legislature left the decision with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) commissioners, citizens from across the state who represent the people.

Community Solar Gardens give renters or

energy programs and immediately access energy by buying subscriptions in solar gardens. The PUC should honor the investment made by the subscribers. Giving them a portion of the savings earned from their investment is only fair. Legislators trusted the PUC to come up with a compromise that would equitably serve both parties. In 2019, the PUC drew up draft rules allowing subscribers to choose whether or not they want to keep the RECs earned by their subscriptions. But this year, the PUC proposes to beg the question until 2022 at the earliest. The postponement favors the utility companies and has the appearance of trying to

undermine the continued growth of solar gardens.

Join me in pressuring the PUC to immediately allow subscribers to determine whether they want to keep their credits or sell them back to the utility companies. This decision harms no one; it does put choice back in the hands of Colorado consumers.

Urge the PUC to represent your commitment to solar energy. Community solar is an economic driver.

By expediting this decision, up to 100,000 homes could benefit from solar energy, while contributing to the economic stability of the state.

Ann-Marie Fleming, Montrose



DONATIONS:

To help Janece fight the injustice of CITY HALL, send any size donation to: Janece Culver Legal Fund C/O Divots 1350 Birch St. Montrose, CO 81401

JUSTICE FOR JANECE

Help Janece Fight City Hall

Montrose community members, it is time for City Councilor Dave Bowman to be held accountable for his unethical actions.

We need your support to find Justice for Janece. Please consider making a contribution to help Janece fight City Hall. Every small donation helps Ms. Culver pay for the legal work that is required to get the full story out and hold Bowman (and possibly others) accountable.

If you are fed up with the City of Montrose's political corruption, back scratching, and abuses of power that affect our CITIZENS, you can do something about it by helping support this cause. Your support is one step towards bringing accountability, fairness, and justice back to Montrose.

Please send a donation cbeck made out to JANECE CULVER LEGAL FUND and mail to the address provided.

MIRROR IMAGES...THE UNKNOWN MOTORCYCLE SHOW



Above, chopper. At right, vintage Indian Motorcycle, middle left vintage Honda. Photos by B. Switzer.







The Unknown Motorcycle Show roared into downtown Montrose over the weekend. Street scene at lower left by B. Switzer.





REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE FOR DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Department of Health is reporting the first human case of West Nile virus. This case is a resident from the Cedaredge region of the county. -The first case is a 67 year old male reported positive on Aug. 11

Residents should remember that COVID-19 is currently increasing in our community and some symptoms appear similar to West Nile, but that August through September are when most human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Colorado. "West Nile Virus can be a serious illness and residents should understand the health risks associated with this virus" said Delta County Environmental Health Director Ken Nordstrom "We continue to see mosquitoes collected from the Delta area testing positive for West Nile Virus. There continues to be a large amount of virus circulating in the valley this year. So, protect yourself from being bitten by a mosquito!"

Health officials say most people bitten by a West Nile virus infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness; however, some people may develop symptoms 3 to15 days after being bit by an infected mosquito. About 1-in-5 infected persons will have

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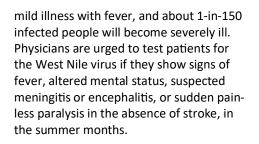
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-Dress in long sleeves and pants during dusk and dawn and in areas where mosquitoes are active and open windows tightly screened.

For more information:

www.fightthebitecolorado.com Phone: 1-877-462-2911

Also visit the CDC Prevention Page: https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/ prevention/index.html-



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA ON HIGH ALERT FOR FIRE PREVENTION Members may experience longer outages due to safety precautions

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-With the continued high temperatures and dry, windy weather, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has put in effect its fire prevention procedures. The precautionary measures rely more heavily on fieldwork by operations personnel and less on the use of DMEA's automated and remotely controlled equipment. This special mode of operations greatly reduces the risk of a fire being started by electrical equipment but does come with ramifications: DMEA members may find that power outages last longer than under normal conditions.

"Our fire precaution procedures can extend the length of power outages in some cases. For instance, under normal circumstances, we can reconnect equipment remotely from our office. In fire prevention mode, we require our crew members to have eyes on the equipment before any attempt at restoration. This reduces our fire risk, but does take more time," explained Troy Hall, DMEA Operations Manager.

DMEA asks for member patience and, when necessary, cooperation. It's especially important for members to report any issues or damage to DMEA immediately. In many cases, a single phone call can save hours of searching by helping the co-op narrow its focus and pinpoint the



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cause of an outage. DMEA asks members who observe anything that seems out of the ordinary concerning power lines or power equipment to:

1) first and foremost-stay clear of the area in question;

2) call DMEA's main line at 877-687-3632 to report the situation.

"Providing safe and reliable power to our members is our number one priority. But, outages will happen and members should always be prepared – weather, wildlife, cars hitting poles, and the like can all result in outages," said Hall. "We ask for our members' patience and assistance as we reduce fire risk and hopefully get through this time safely."

DMEA will return to normal operating procedures when the fire danger rating decreases to a safe level. DMEA reminds members to always report outages by calling 877-687-3632. Members are urged to report all outages and not rely on others to call in. Email and social media are not reliable for reporting outages, as they are not continuously monitored.



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ESA URO

BOCC APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO FBO LEASE From pg 1

Montrose County and Atlantic Aviation-Montrose, LLC. Atlantic will invest approximately \$2,800,000 in Fuel Farm improvements in exchange for a lease extension of 12 years.

The completed improvements would become the property of Montrose County and are of great benefit to the county, Arnold said, as the current system is more than 35 years old; the lining is coming off, and one tank is sinking. "We currently have issues with the pump attached to that and we have no backup tank," Arnold said. He said that the Fuel Farm improvements constitute a good trade for the 12year contract extension. "It really lets us know that Atlantic Aviation is committed

to upgrading the facilities of Montrose and helping Montrose County." Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Montrose Regional Airport was among the fastest growing airports in the State of Colorado, reaching 160,000 enplanements and serving 13 Hub locations across the United 12-year lease extension was appropriate States, he said.

"We anticipate that we are going to get back to those numbers and we're going to continue to grow," Arnold said. "...being able to service the airlines and general aviation traffic with an updated and better system for fueling would be an appropriate road to go down for us. With Atlantic willing to invest and have that initial capital outlay, the airport doesn't have to do

that."

Atlantic Aviation had initially asked for a 26-year lease extension, Arnold said in response to a question from Commissioner Sue Hansen.

"We renegotiated," he said, noting that a for the circumstances.

Following further discussion, commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Second Amendment to the Fixed Base Operator Agreement and First Amendment to the Hangar Ground Lease between Montrose County and Atlantic Aviation-Montrose, LLC.

With no further business, the special meeting was adjourned.



Look for the time and temperature sign at 315 South 12th Street - or visit us online at www.scottsprinting.com



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THIS WAS OUR STORY; THESE WERE AND ARE MY HEROES

Editor:

Your article given by the hospital and Dr Andrew Bolton were great- thank you for including it in your weekly. What I'd like to add is that everyone, including Dr Bolton volunteered to be assigned those patients in the COVID unit. I volunteered to serve as the COVID chaplain as I was a student studying to be a chaplain. I cannot tell you how honored I was to serve next to these professionals. They were there day in and out- not knowing for sure what would happen next. They donned their protective gear to care for the most frightened of people without family present- uncertain what could happen to them or heaven forbid their families. We had nothing compared to New York, but this was our story, and these were and are my heroes. And they are your neighbors. *Mary Vader, Montrose*





COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF DURANGO AWARDED GRANT TO ASSIST WITH REDEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO – On Friday, July 24 the City of Durango was awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist with planning and implementing affordable and attainable housing projects through the recently formed Urban Renewal Authority (URA), which is operating as the Durango Renewal Partnership.

URAs are redevelopment tools used across Colorado to facilitate housing, mixed-use, light industrial, infrastructure and other types of development in underutilized areas. The grant is funded through DOLA's Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program.

The Durango Renewal Partnership is

working closely with Downtown Colorado, Commissioners, 9-R School District Board Inc. (DCI) through their Colorado Challenge Community Program. As one of the select communities in this program, the Durango Renewal Partnership is connected with DCI's network of statewide leaders in urban renewal and affordable housing development.

Katherine Correll, Executive Director of DCI, states, "Durango has taken great strides recently to support place-sensitive, creative redevelopment to address pressing community needs such as attainable and affordable housing. DCI is excited to continue working with the City of Durango and the Durango Renewal Partnership." After receiving several letters of support from the La Plata County Board of County

of Education, and other local economic development organizations, the Durango City Council unanimously passed a resolution to form the Durango Renewal Partnership on May 5th, 2020.

The Partnership Board, consisting of members of City Council and other local taxing entities, meets on the third Tuesday every month from 4:30 - 6 pm. This grant will help the Partnership learn

how urban renewal tools can be used to spur housing development. For more details about the Durango Renewal Partnership, please contact Scott Shine, City of Durango Planning Manager at (970) 375-4858 or scott.shine@durangogov.org.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE ENACTS NEW RULES FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Secretary of State's Office has adopted a set of new rules pertaining to campaign finance compliance and enforcement, including clarifying the process for filing complaints and for reaching settlement agreements for violations. The temporary rules go into effect immediately and will become permanent in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act at a later date. In 2019, the Colorado legislature passed the Campaign Finance Enforcement Act, which modernized Colorado's enforcement process to be more fair, efficient, and constitutional. A Campaign-Political Enforcement team was created in the Elections Division within the Secretary of State's Office and tasked with handling complaints. This includes investigating the complaints, resolving them through cure, dismissing them if no violation is found, or filing complaints with the Office of Administrative Courts (OAC).

The new rules clarify or provide additional details concerning the complaint process including that complaints must be filed in writing and can be submitted electronically or by hardcopy. They must also identify a respondent and a complainant, and

complaints may be consolidated, among other requirements.

The rules also outline a fine structure should the Elections Division and a complaint respondent arrive at a settlement agreement after an OAC complaint has been filed. The new fine structure creates clarity as well as consistency and includes provisions that can increase penalties based on egregious behavior or mitigate them based on a number of factors. For a complete list of the new and amended rules, please <u>click here</u>. For more information on Campaign-Political Finance, please <u>click here</u>.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S DECISION TO USE THE ATOM BOMB

Editor:

I read with interest Bill Bennett's letter about Pres. Truman's decision to use the atom bomb because at that time I was on a ship in the task force waiting in the Philippines for the Japanese to decide to surrender or fight. Had they chose the latter, that would have been our next landing and I probably would not be writing this latter. Using the bomb probably saved my life. *Bob Strong, Montrose*

U.S. Navy 1943- 1946

COMMENDS CORY GARDNER FOR TAKING A STAND

Editor:

I was surprised to read the letter to the editor by Scott Johnson of Loveland. He said in part that Cory Gardner doesn't support women because he voted to defund Planned Parenthood, and voted against allowing pharmacists to supply emergency contraception.

Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the US, was begun by Margaret Sanger. She was a proponent of eugenics, and its purpose was to eliminate the minority poor, for whom she had great disdain. Most of their clinics are located in minority neighborhoods. They are the largest abortion provider in America, at great profit. Their services other than abortion continue to steeply decline. They do 81 abortions for every adoption referral.

The harm done to women by having an abortion is well researched and documented. 10% report immediate physical complications, 2% of them serious. A large proportion of post-abortive women report feelings of self-hatred, depression, PTSD, lack of self esteem, anger at being lied to by the clinic, engaging in self-destructive behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse, getting involved in unhealthy relationships, and attempted suicide. In addition, in later pregnancies they have a greater risk of miscarriage, premature birth, labor complications, risk of death, and sexual disfunction, among other disorders. See the statistics on the website, "Abortion Hurts Women".

You can also watch the documentary movie, "Unplanned", a true account by a former worker in an abortion clinic. There have been over 61 million abortions in America since Roe vs. Wade. Science now is unquestionable clear that life begins at conception. Babies in the womb over 20 weeks and probably earlier, have been shown to feel excruciating pain, in numerous studies. It's time to end this barbaric practice that harms both the mother and her child.

Fortunately, most communities have a Pregnancy Center who will support women with an unplanned pregnancy, and help her and her baby have a healthy outcome. They also provide help for emotional healing for the women who have had abortions, and are suffering the consequences.

So I commend Cory Gardner for taking a stand against those things that harm women. That takes a lot of courage! Sandy Anderson, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PART I OF A SIX PART SERIES by Dee Laird

INTRODUCTION

MONTROSE-Many wonder how our city has fallen to the low point of the Bowman/Divots scandal, that has dominated public discussion now since May 25. It has highlighted the corruption, lack of transparency, and absence of accountability in city government, both at the council and management level. Make no mistake, it didn't just happen between 2019-20! This stain on city government is but one example of many concerning incidents accumulating over 9 years. In my personal opinion, it can all be traced directly back to the hiring of City Manager Bell in 2011. In order to support that opinion, I determined to undertake considerable research on various issues that have occurred during the Bell Administration. In that process I relied on city documents, CORA requests, input from past council members, input from numerous individuals with first hand knowledge, and documents I have personally saved over those years. As I began my research, it quickly became apparent that there was too much information for a single Letter To The Editor. Thanks to Caitlin Switzer at The Montrose Mirror for graciously agreeing to publish a six part series that will appear in successive issues of The Mirror! BELL COMES TO TOWN

One of the original interviewers for the city manager position told me Bell "interviewed really well, saying all the right things, and looked really good on paper".

Another interviewer told me Bell claimed to be "a good old boy from Delta, who was conservative, and one of you". When interviewers are trying to select the would often get incomplete information

best candidate for a position, all they have or stonewalled completely if I was digging to go on is the individuals resume, references, how the individual presents himself, and a gut feeling, but you never really know until you see how the new employee operates.

According to one previous council member, Bell utilized the time between hiring and the 2012 municipal election to familiarize himself with all city operations, assess his council, and city employees. Another previous council member indicated that after the 2012 elections, with a more malleable Council to manipulate, his true colors began to show.

I have always been concerned with how public funds are allocated and expended, and was frankly impressed early with Bell's ideas, and quickly became a strong supporter. Often we would meet for lunch to discuss budgets and other financial issues. Frequently I would contact the finance director for information and would receive what I asked for promptly. Once I posed a probing question to finance regarding the sales tax on food, and got an immediate call from Bell for lunch. At that point I realized his key people are required to report directly to him when someone probes too deeply into what goes on behind the scenes.

During the Parks Committee uproar, I continued to strongly support his position, yet continued to ask probing financial questions about issues that just seemed to me to be off base. When I finally probed too deeply on an issue, I was suddenly met with having to file a CORA request for information that should be readily available to the public. When that happened I

too deeply. When a taxpayer gets that kind of response, you can bet there is hidden information our city manager doesn't want any light shined on.

As incident after incident occurred that I and others questioned, it finally dawned on me that I had been craftily manipulated by Bell to his purposes. Now that I was beginning to more frequently call attention to what I considered improper actions, I was no longer any use to his agenda.

The final straw for me was when I asked a question I already had the facts on, and I got an answer devoid of true facts. If I was so easily manipulated, he could certainly do the same to council.

In my opinion, I think that in watching successive councils operate, he has been able to craftily manipulate the unwary to his continuing agenda. Fortunately many members of the public are now more vigilant about the machinations of city government under Bell. TO BE CONTINUED





OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE REALITY OF RIGHT NOW: THE VIRUS IS OUR ENEMY



Chris Romer is president & CEO of Vail Valley Partnership, the regional chamber of commerce. Learn more at VailValleyPartnership.com . Courtesy photo.

By Chris Romer

Colorado has a small window to turn this around, save lives, and prevent an increase to the already extensive economic damage caused by COVID-19. We are on the knife's edge -- and our neighboring states have shown us what will happen if we don't regain our footing.

Goldman Sachs recently came out with <u>a</u> <u>new study</u> that showed nationwide, universal mask-wearing would save 5% of the national GDP -- about a trillion dollars of economic activity. The reality of right now is that we need to follow statewide mask ordinances in order to support the economy.

The economy (and innumerable number of lives) depend on our citizens, both locals and visitors, taking this pandemic seriously. The numbers are showing that citizens of Colorado aren't taking this as seriously as we were in the spring. It may be showing up in your daily lives too -you're probably noticing a lot more interactions and having more interactions than you were a couple of months ago. It is our personal responsibility – guided by government – to attack the virus and not attack each other. We need to live the way we did in May - not the way we have been living the past few weeks.

The increasing narrative is that government is a faceless monster against the people that live here. But the government is made up of you and me and the elected and appointed leaders within it are people, too. Having seen the truly overwhelming amount of work and research that has gone into the response and mitigation efforts at a local and state level, I have immense respect for our officials that take quite a public beating simply because people disagree with one or more things they support or oppose. There is no way to please everyone but there is certainly a way to treat everyone with compassion and respect. What if we assumed good intent for our elected leaders and public health officials? What if we approached legislation and mandates

from a perspective of problem solving? Meaning, in order to better address these issues, understand that our local, county, and state officials have good and positive intent.

Our local officials are working with the reality of right now to ensure we have a ski season. Government doesn't go through the arduous process of entertaining mask mandates or social distancing requirements because they want more control, or they want us to have fewer rights.

These are our fellow citizens and they are universally working with the data available to them. Regardless of political affiliation, they choose to serve our towns, county, and state because they want to make our community better. They want to fix things that are broken and help us grow.

I challenge you to exercise compassion in your language and your behavior. Grant each other the assumption of good intent and understand we're on the same team. Spend time thinking about what you would do differently from whatever is proposed and how it addresses the problem and share your feedback in a productive and constructive manner, not in an adversarial way.

You might discover solutions for big problems often create more problems and what is being proposed is the better choice for the majority and for our community. Recognize that from local leaders to statewide elected officials, the people pushing for change have good intent. A successful community is built on its people.

The reality of right now is that the virus is our enemy and our elected officials are working tirelessly to support our community.

The Mirror: Coverage with vision for the future.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORMS IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- A group of local business leaders, headed by Tonya Maddox, CEO of Our Town Matters, have announced the formation of the Greater Montrose Area Chamber of Commerce. The non-profit organization was formed to advocate, promote, and protect business interests in Montrose.

In response to a growing belief among

business owners and professionals that business centric and pro-small business solutions and advocacy is needed in this area, the following individuals are investing their time and expertise as inaugural board members serving from Oct. 1, 2020 until Dec. 31, 2021: Tracy Baldwin, U.S. Bank John Bullington, Rose Bowl Entertainment Center



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Kathy McKie, DMEA

Tonya Maddox, Our Town Matters Selvin Sandoval, Sandoval Construction Megan Wilson, Shelter Insurance Sheree Wanner, Camelot Gardens When asked why she initiated the efforts to launch a chamber of commerce, Maddox stated, "local chambers of commerce are needed because when done well, they equally tackle issues and trends taking place in their community as well as offer resources and services to help local businesses succeed."

The inaugural board of directors will meet in the coming weeks to assign officers, finalize membership levels and benefits, and create a launch plan for October 1st. For more information about the launch of the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, visit

www.greatermontrosechamber.com or email in-

fo@greatermontrosechamber.com.



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RE-1J MEETING GENERATES REQUESTS FOR BETTER SOUND QUALITY <u>From pg 1</u>

in attendance except District A Director Jeff Bachman. District E Director Sarah Fishering participated from home via callin.

Following roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance, Johnson called the meeting to order and thanked all those who worked on the District's Return to Learn Plan.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird presented information on a recent donation; as noted in the <u>agenda</u>, "the Montrose Community Foundation Emergency Relief Fund made a donation of \$2,000 to the Food Service Program.

The grant is coming through the Montrose Community Foundation, however \$1,500 of the funds were granted from the Club at Cobble Creek and \$500 from a private donor. The funds will be used to help offset the costs of transportation for food for students."

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Johnson said she is on the Allergies Committee; this year, no outside food will be allowed in classrooms at all. "There are just so many other things going on," she said. At the next work session, the Board of Education will talk about board goals for the coming year.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Three high school seniors, Ashlee Green,virus undMichaela Gray, and Becca O'Donnell,The Distrshared feedback and concerns with theStudent ABoard of Education. Much of what wasfrom eachsaid was not loud enough to hear. Still, theselected.

final speaker, O'Donnell, said she will be a senior at Olathe High School this year. She thanked officials for the time and the effort that went into planning for the school year, but said she has questions and concerns.

Noting that survey responses were not due until after the July 31 plan was released; she asked if responses would be taken into account. Also, online learning presents new challenges. O'Donnell quoted a fellow student as saying, "...It's hard to learn something completely at home by yourself."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Specific plans have been published by each school, and parents will receive schedule information from their student's school. District administration is working to align teachers with students based on learning preference, Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said. She said that there has been a 90-percent increase in child COVID across the nation over the past month. 'We are told that children can more successfully tolerate the coronavirus, but they can still transmit the virus," she said. The number one priority is the safety of students and staff.

"We do have a responsibility to the entire community to do our part to keep this virus under control," Stephenson said. The District is accepting applications for a Student Advisory Group. Three students from each middle and high school will be selected.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

Montrose Early Childhood Center (ECC) Director Penny Harris gave an update and shared <u>an informational packet</u>.

The summer school program ran from July 6 through July 30; of 56 enrolled, 48 students showed up to participate. Those who took part will attend kindergarten in the coming year.

"...It's really cool that you were able to do that summer program," District E Director Sarah Fishering said.

Preparing for the program took an enormous amount of work, Harris said. Still, "The minute they showed up and I heard them laugh it was all worth it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Noting that "it seems like a lot of money," District F Director Eric Kelley asked about Item 10, "a recommendation to approve the purchase of 13- touchless time clock kiosks for 13 locations throughout the District in the amount of \$28,151.11. The devices will replace the current kiosks that require touch (bio-metric) and are not compliant with current COVID-19 sanitary standards." Human Resources Director Michelle Pottorff discussed the reasons for the purchase, which will replace aging equipment.

Also included in the Consent Agenda was the <u>Personnel Report</u>.

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

With no further business, the Board of Education voted to adjourn.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CUSTOMERS FALLING BEHIND ON UTILITY BILLS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS OR APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – With the moratorium on utility disconnections no longer in effect, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) wants consumers to be aware of their options for assistance in paying their energy bills.

To avoid disconnection, customers who have fallen behind in their payments are encouraged to contact their electric or gas utility. Information about how to contact the utility can be found on the customer's bill, the utility's website or the PUC's website at "<u>Colorado Electric & Gas Utility</u> <u>Contact Information</u>."

Most utilities will work with customers who are having difficulties in paying their bills to make payment arrangements, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The payment arrangements can spread

payments across multiple months giving customers the opportunity to become current. Residential customers of investorowned utilities (Xcel Energy, Black Hills Energy, Atmos Energy, Colorado Natural Gas) also may prevent a shutoff by providing the utility company a "medical certification" from a doctor, or health practitioner acting under a doctor's supervision, stating that disconnecting service would be especially dangerous to the health or safety of the customer or a permanent resident of the customer's household. If a medical certification is given to the company, no shut off of service will occur for up to 90 days from the date of the certificate. A medical certificate can delay a disconnection for no more than 90 days during any consecutive 12-month period. If customers cannot reach an agreement

with their utility, they may contact the PUC consumer affairs unit for assistance at 303-894-2070 or by filing a complaint via the PUC website. If a customer is having difficulty paying their energy bill or receives a disconnection notice, they may be eligible for assistance from Colorado's Low -Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) or Energy Outreach Colorado. To determine eligibility or to apply online, go to the Colorado Department of Human Services or call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to apply over the phone. Energy Outreach Colorado, a non-profit organization, provides payment assistance beyond that offered by the utilities and LEAP to help customers with their energy costs. For information visit: https:// www.energyoutreach.org/programs-forindividuals/bill-payment-assistance/.

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COUNCIL TO WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES AT CITY WORK SESSION

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a <u>work session</u> at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 17 and for a <u>regular</u> <u>meeting</u> on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. **WORK SESSION**

The <u>work session agenda</u> says, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https:// us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN_iKbdUkVzTg6NFeGIQbzF6Q...The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website,

www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

New employees will be introduced to Council. Joining the City team are Guest Services and DART Coordinator Kate Adams: Customer Service Representative Kennah Baecker; Assistant to Golf Course Superintendent Walter Felton; Street Division Worker Nikolas Pridy; and Parks & Special Project Division Worker James Hendricks. Discussion items will include the Sinner Subdivision Final Plat; Unrein Addition II Annexation; Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the 2020 General Election; Sanitary Sewer Cured in Place Pipe Contract Extension; Sunset Mesa Tank and Booster Pump Station Contract Award; Contract Award Recommendation for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Police Department; **Business Incentives Package for Chow** Down Pet Supplies; and DART Façade Grant Program. Items to be discussed in future meetings and work sessions include:

Aug. 31-Liquor Enforcement Division Presentation; Community Foundation Update; Gray and Black Market Marijuana Grant Resolution; Lease Agreement for the Historic Depot Building;

Sept. 1-Special Meeting/Executive Session for Property Acquisition; Lissencephaly Day Proclamation; Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License Application - Bonnie & Clyde's; Sinner Subdivision Final Plat. Sept. 15-Fermented Malt Beverage License Application - Golden Gate Gas. Oct. 5-Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Interviews

Oct. 6-Youth Council Applicant Interviews. Oct. 20-Youth Council Appointments; Historic Preservation Commission Appointments. As yet unscheduled are a DMEA Update to City Council and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Update to City Council

REGULAR MEETING

The <u>regularly scheduled</u> meeting of Aug. 18 states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically and can be accessed at: <u>https:// us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN --KulEuOR m1Bd5TyUjLTg</u>."

Action items will include the possible appointment of Phoebe Benziger to the City's Planning Commission, for a term that begins immediately and ends on Dec. 31, 2020.

Council will consider approving additional funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2020 Montrose Bucks Program.

Council will consider approving a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 3410 Williams Drive, Suite 400, for Tacos and Beer Montrose, LLC, doing business as Tacos and Beer Montrose for consumption on the licensed premises.

Council will consider adopting Resolution 2020-17 as presented, granting a franchise



Montrose City Council will convene for a <u>work session</u> at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 17 and for a <u>regular meeting</u> on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. Mirror file photo by B. Switzer.

to Delta-Montrose Electric Association in the November 2020 General Election. Also to be considered is an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Montrose County and the City of Montrose for the 2020 General Election. The City will consider approving the English Gardens 4 Subdivision Filing #5 Final Plat, expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to the execution of the Final Plat.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT TO BREAK GROUND ON US 550—US 160 CONNECTION SOUTH



Courtesy image.

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin construction of the US 550-US 160 Connection South this month. The project will complete the US Highway 160 interchange by connecting the existing bridge over US 160 to US 550 to the south. CDOT will construct this project using the design-build process, partnering with a contracted team led by Lawrence Construction Company and RS&H, Inc. The interchange is scheduled for completion by the spring of 2023. "I want to congratulate our team in southwest Colorado (Region 5) on reaching a tremendous milestone," CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew said. "This project reflects years of hard work and planning, and I am proud of their accomplishments and successful partnerships that made it a reality."

Director Lew also praised the collaboration and innovation among the partners involved with the planning and development of the project, which has garnered tremendous support from local, state and federal governments.

"The list of local agencies investing in this project is quite impressive," Lew said.

"The City of Durango, La Plata County and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe have all stepped forward to make a commitment to the project's success. Colorado's Transportation Commission and Department of Local Affairs have also provided funding. And most significant is the successful \$12.3 million federal FASTLANE grant award sought after by La Plata County." The total cost of the project is \$98.6 million (this includes the total of both CDOT project management and the contractor award).

"Director Lew referred to the innovations in regard to funding. The design and construction of this project will also be built with innovation as a key component," CDOT Region 5 Transportation Director Mike McVaugh said. "The construction team (Lawrence Construction Company and RS&H, Inc.) was chosen and awarded this contract because of their ideas and innovation on minimizing impacts to the environment, residents and businesses in the area, while maximizing the project scope."

SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS, SAVINGS, THROUGH DESIGN-BUILD PROCESS The initial scope of the project would have constructed a new 1.1-mile, four-lane section of US 550 north of La Plata County Road 220 to connect the major highway with the existing US 160 interchange. By using the design-build process the contractor was able to stretch funding, which allowed for the widening of an additional 3.3-mile section of US 550 south of CR 220 to four lanes, tying into the existing fourlane highway at the CR 302 intersection.

The design-build process is a two-step project delivery method where the design and build phases are combined into one contract. It represents a risk-sharing approach that assigns the inherent risks to the party that is best suited to mitigate, transfer or absorb those risks that are a part of any construction project. Designbuild encourages innovation and efficiency to leverage the project budget, extend cost savings and add value to the contract. The work will involve the following key construction steps, which include several notable innovations designed by the contractor team to dramatically reduce construction impacts for the traveling public. With regard to the design-build process, some elements of these key steps are likely to evolve as the work progresses.

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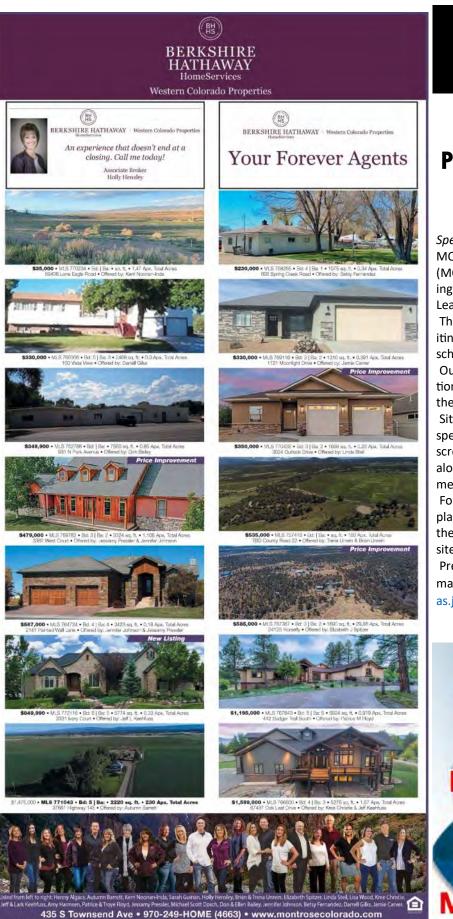
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INDIVIDUAL SITE PLANS PUBLISHED FOR MONTROSE & OLATHE SCHOOLS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- All Montrose County School District (MCSD) elementary, middle, and high school buildings have published their site-specific Return to Learn plans.

The plans can be viewed and downloaded by visiting the school website, or by navigating to the school homepage via www.mcsd.org.

Our hope is that many of the school-specific questions parents may have will be answered by reading their site's Return to Learn document.

Site plans will include a range of different schoolspecific details, such as pick-up and drop-off times, screening locations, lunch and cohorting plans, along with various information regarding adjustments and protocols resulting from COVID-19. For questions regarding school Return to Learn plans, please contact the school directly by using the contact information listed on their school website.

Press inquiries can be sent to MCSD Public Information Officer, Matt Jenkins, at thomas.jenkins@mcsd.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTABLE TO PUBLIC SINCE ELECTION DAY

Editor:

This is an OPINION, start to finish, We have a problem with our 'civic leadership'. We have none! Leadership that is. We have a councilman who apparently took money from a city contractor. He claims it was ignorance of the law that allowed him to do it. Ignorance when he had access to the city attorney to consult?

To quote President Harry S. Truman, "Public office is a privilege, not a right, and people who accept the privilege of holding office in the Government must of necessity accept that THEIR ENTIRE CON-DUCT SHOULD BE OPEN TO INSPECTION (author's emphasis) by the people they are serving". Truman was a Democrat and one of the finest of U.S. Presidents. One might expect the Ex-mayor and the present mayor, both democrats, to honor his LEADERSHIP, even his remarks. Well, maybe not in Montrose!

Then there is the quiet 'leadership' of our illustrious mayor. From a novel I extracted a saying by a chap called E.B. Farnham who said, "Silence is not always golden; sometimes it is just plain yellow". Citizens have publicly asked council for the past fourteen months for the answers to a plethora of questions about where our taxes go and why they go there. We have been ignored. Perhaps our silent mayor is not 'golden', just plain 'yellow' and that my fellow citizens is not LEADERSHIP; at least not the kind my fellow citizens deserve. The last time the mayor was accountable to you was on election day and after that she rubber stamps Bell's desires and ignores the public. Maybe I am wrong to think our questions mean a damn thing. Maybe the noise I generate is inadvertently providing cover for what is really going on. The philosophy of Sun Tsu is to make a 'noise in

the west and attack in the east. Perhaps this applies to the mayor's behavior.

Positive leadership might start with these five so called 'civic leaders' holding a neutral forum such as the county commissioners held last month and clear up these ignored but most irritating questions. That is not likely to happen because it does not fit the puppet master's modus operande (sp?). Spelled right or not, you get the point. Civic leadership in Montrose is five puppets wielding rubber stamps as the city manager jerks their strings. The councilors are afraid to meet the public face to face and take their questions directly without a gavel in their hands or a clock to shut up the questioner when three minutes are up.

I guess it is true, that "Only the mediocre will always be at their best." Neil Boortz, commentator.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose



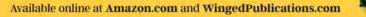
GAIL MARVEL Montrose Author & Reporter

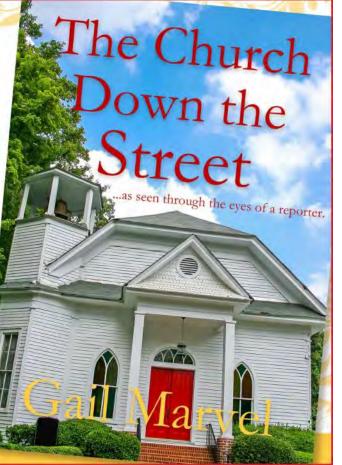
I t is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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.







CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED WITH CRITICAL RESOURCES

those we all serve.

helps get the right

stuff done efficiently

at the right time by

As the CRN enters

the live phase, QHN

is working diligent-

ly to establish the

the right people."

Simply put, CRN



Jackie Sievers, CRN . Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Quality Health Network (QHN) is excited to announce that after several months of testing by early adopters, the new Community Resource Network (CRN) is officially live. Since January of 2020, several local organizations have been testing the network infrastructure, which enables them to provide critical resources to individuals more efficiently. "CRN is at the forefront of a really exciting community collaboration breakthrough that will transform how people in crisis or at risk get the care they need, whether those needs are of a medical, behavioral or social services nature – most likely it is a combination of the three," said Dick Thompson, Executive Director and CEO of QHN. "CRN helps service providers of all types understand an individual's needs from a whole person perspective, leverage the work and the relationships that are already in place, reduce duplication of services and data entry, and prioritize actions that make a real difference for



Dick Thompson, CEO.

network in dozens of organizations across western Colorado by the end of the year. "Connecting people with the right care at the right time is critical, and that's what CRN does," added **Jackie Sievers**, CRN Director of Implementation. "We are working to get medical, behavioral and social agencies plugged into the network. The more organizations utilizing CRN, the better the outcomes will be."

The ability to address an individual's unmet social determinant needs, like housing and food insecurity, can contribute materially (+50%) to a person's health and well-being. Helping those in need earlier and in a more coordinated way can improve healthcare outcomes and reduce the cost burden born by taxpayers and businesses. According to an analysis of the Accountable Health Communities Model project, 4 out of 10 individuals who completed the survey in western Colorado reported they are struggling with a major need. "That's where CRN can help. Our technology connects the dots. Helping to efficiently connect individuals to the right

services makes a huge difference for all involved," explains **Sievers**.

Last year, CRN won second place in the national <u>Robert Wood Johnson Founda-</u> <u>tion Social Determinants of Health Innova-</u> <u>tion Challenge</u> out of more than 110 teams. CRN's development has been funded by QS Systems, which is a joint venture between QHN and Stella Technology. CRN leverages the extensive knowledge and assets of QHN's award-winning health information exchange infrastructures and Stella's strong technology platforms.

"We're using CRN to better coordinate care for our clients at the Family Resource Center," said **Christie Higgins**, Community Access Director at Hilltop Community Resources, one of western Colorado's largest social service providers.

"We can quickly make and send electronic referrals to find the help they need fast and with less paperwork. We find we have more time to spend working directly with clients when we can see all their info in one place. We love the visual way the CRN shows us where to focus our efforts first, and we're so happy to finally have an easy way to message and connect with the other people and organizations helping care for our clients. We all get to succeed together!"

For more information about CRN, please visit <u>https://communityresourcenet.org/</u> or to schedule an interview with Dick Thompson, please contact Charity Meinhart at (970) 248-0033 or (970) 216-3673.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

REGIONAL TRAUMA NURSE COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO DELTA HOSPITAL NURSE

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA- Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) announced today that Jillian Emmons, Trauma Coordinator in the DCMH Emergency Department, received the Trauma Nurse Coordinator of the Year Award from the Western Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (WRETAC). "It is an honor to be recognized by the Western Region EMS and Trauma Advisory Council for being Trauma Nurse of the Year," said Emmons. "I was surprised but I am also thankful to have worked alongside this council for the last two years. The tients at DCMH. Emmons also plays an Council and the Western Slope Trauma Collaborative have been a tremendous help in shaping me into the Trauma Nurse Coordinator that I am today."

The WRETAC promotes emergency medical and trauma care for patients in the counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel in Western Colorado. Their mission is to promote, foster and support cooperative organization of emergency medical and trauma services in the region and state of Colora-

do.

"Jillian's expertise has prompted quality care for the trauma patients DCMH serves," said Merri Brennecke, Manager for the DCMH Emergency Department. "She acts as a liaison for patients, families, physicians, and clinical staff. Jillian is a driving force in keeping DCMH a Level IV Trauma Center."

Emmons' role in the WRETAC includes participating in meetings and continuing the education and trainings necessary to provide exceptional care to trauma painstrumental role in leading the annual Trauma Conference that DCMH has provided to local hospitals for the past 12 years.

"Jillian enhances the education and development of trauma services by actively participating in caring for trauma patients," said Brennecke, "and her receiving this award is a true acknowledgement of her dedication to trauma services and high standards of patient care that we have at Delta Hospital."



Jillian Emmons, Trauma Coordinator in the DCMH Emergency Department, received the Trauma Nurse Coordinator of the Year Award from the Western Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (WRETAC). Courtesy photo.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING 970-249-8500 ANONYMOUS CALL

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2020 COLORADO MANUFACTURING AWARDS PRESENTED VIA VIRTUAL EVENT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Winners were announced last week for the fifth annual <u>Colorado Manufacturing Awards</u>, with participants convening at a virtual event after two pandemic-related postponements. Company executives from around the state were on hand as finalists competed for top honors in 14 industry and achievement categories.

The event was co-hosted by <u>Company-</u> <u>Week</u>, digital media reporting on America's manufacturing economy, and <u>Manu-</u> <u>facturer's Edge</u>, Colorado's NISTsponsored Manufacturing Extension Part-

ner.

Aurora's Dry Dock Brewing Co. broke the ice on the program, winning Outstanding Craft Brewer for its efforts in Colorado's standout craft beer industry. Dry Dock co-founder Kevin DeLange accepted the award alongside mask-clad colleagues, a fitting start to the pandemic-delayed program.

Award presenters then settled in to preview finalists and reveal winners in a full schedule of categories, highlighted by remarks from executives at the winning companies.

The full list of CMA winners:

- Bioscience Manufacturer of the Year: Molecular Products, Louisville
- Aerospace Manufacturer of the Year: Barber-Nichols Inc., Arvada
- Outstanding Food Brand/Co-Packer: American Outdoor Products, Boulder

• Outstanding Craft Distiller: Dry Land Distillers, Longmont

- Innovative Product of the Year: Guerrilla Gravity, Denver
- Industrial & Equipment Manufacturer
- of the Year: TEI Rock Drills, Montrose
- Outstanding Craft Brewer: Dry Dock Brewing, Aurora
- Consumer Brand of the Year: Meier Skis, Denver
- Winery of the Year: Carboy Winery, Littleton

• Cannabis Manufacturer of the Year: Hemp Depot, Colorado Springs

• Advanced Manufacturing & Machining Award: StickerGiant, Longmont

• Building/Construction Manufacturer of the Year: RK Mission Critical, Denver

• Manufacturing Woman of the Year: Sue Frank, TEI Rock Drills, Montrose

• Energy & Environmental Manufacturer of the Year: VAIREX air systems, Boulder CMA founder and CompanyWeek publisher Bart Taylor opened the program by refocusing attendees on an awards program three months removed from the original date. "COVID reminds us again of the importance of U.S. manufacturing. And with so many positive developments underway here, there's never been a better time to recognize the people and companies that are leading a striking transformation of the sector."

Executives from several of the winning companies shared Taylor's enthusiasm for highlighting the sector. And most spoke effusively about the work of their employees and staff, work that's led to noteworthy outcomes for many of the winners. "It was a massive team effort," said Will Montague, president of Guerrilla Gravity, winner of the new-for-2020 Innovative Product of the Year. Montague acknowledged the work of employees in developing a new production platform that promises cycling OEMs more options to source frames domestically.

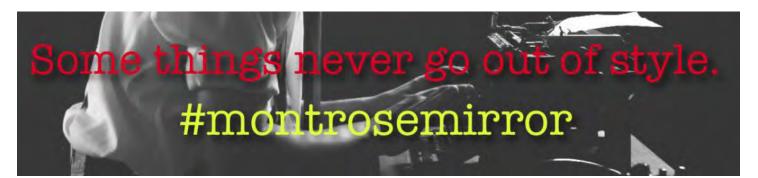
Troy Rhudy and Molecular Products emerged from a tough field to win Bioscience Manufacturer of the Year. Rhudy was equally generous, noting his employees "are the driving force behind our success, every day bringing passion, grit, and innovation to our mission."

Molecular Products Manufacturing Operations Manager Angie Hellstern was also a finalist for Colorado Manufacturing Woman of the Year.

Hellstern was edged out by TEI Rock Drills CEO Sue Frank, whose company completed a first-ever CMA "double" by also winning Industrial & Equipment Manufacturer of the Year.

Several winners proved Awards' judges right, pointing to recent success and positive outlooks for future growth. Dan Thoren with Barber-Nichols, Joel Oakman from VAIREX, and Marc Staats from Dry Land Distillers were among executives touting recent success.

For more coverage of the event, visit <u>CompanyWeek.com</u> to read an awards recap and previews of the categories. Visit <u>Colo-</u><u>radoManufacturingAwards.com</u> for information about the program, including nomination criteria and links to articles and photographs from past awards presentations.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON BALDY MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY & HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Mullin's Ranch, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado State Forest Service, is seeking scoping comments on the Baldy Mountain Landscape Resiliency and Habitat Improvement Project.

The primary purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat for multiple species, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

The project proposes to treat approximately 3,839 acres through mechanical vegetation thinning and prescribed burning.

The long-term absence of fire on the landscape has caused a buildup of vegetation that has resulted in unhealthy conditions. These conditions have made the area more vulnerable to disturbances such as beetle and disease outbreaks, soil erosion and flooding, and uncharacteristically catastrophic wildfires.

"Considering the whole landscape and

not limiting activities to just National Forest lands enables us to work collaboratively toward achieving benefits for both the land and wildlife" said Ouray District Ranger Dana Gardunio.

"Having willing landowners like the Mullins, who share similar interests to improve forest health and wildlife habitat, is instrumental to the success of this project."

"Whenever the BLM has an opportunity to collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries on a project with so many resource benefits—including decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improving habitat for a wide range of species—it's a win for all of us," added Acting BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager Amy Carmichael.

"Revitalizing the landscape is a key aspect of both the private landowners and the multi agency team " said NRCS Range Management Specialist Amanda James. "It's imperative for a project like this to have landowners like the Mullins whose goals and ideas are aligned with the agencies. With this level of cooperation, we are able to more successfully and efficiently restore the land to a healthy state." "Bringing together multiple agencies, private landowners and conservation organizations for this size treatment, with the widespread benefits that are expected, is truly outstanding. We hope that this project will become the showcase habitat improvement project for what can be done with this type of collaboration," added Renzo DelPiccolo, Area Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The project proposal, maps, and additional information are available on the project webpage: <u>https://</u> www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gmug/ landmanagement/projects.

Comments on the project will be accepted for 30 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the Montrose Daily Press, the newspaper of record, or by Sept. 15, whichever date occurs later.

Comments can be submitted electronically through the project webpage, by accessing the "Comment/Object on Project" link found on the right-hand side of the page. For more options to submit comments see the Interested Party Letter on the project webpage.

For additional questions, please contact Luke Holguin, Wildlife Biologist at 970-642 -4436; email <u>luke.holguin@usda.gov.</u>

ANONYMOUS Download The APP. P3TIPS MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS see something, say something

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

5TH ANNUAL LOG HILL HUSTLE "VIRTUALLY" AUG. 30-SEPT. 8

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Fortuna Tierra Club, please join us for the 5th Annual Log Hill Hustle! This is a FUN fundraising event to support Ridgway high school graduates and the Ridgway schools.

This year's event will be changed to a "virtual" walk/run due to concerns for the health and safety of everyone involved. Racers may walk/run/jog a 5K/3.1 mile or 10K/6.2 mile course anytime from Aug. 30 through Sept. 8. Choose your own course or run the Log Hill Hustle courses. After completion of your race, report your time and receive a certificate of participation along with race results. There is also an opportunity for student racers to win a cash prize for gathering donations to the fundraiser.

For more information about the event and maps of the Log Hill Hustle courses, go to <u>www.fortunatierra.com</u>. You can also go directly to <u>https://tinyurl.com/loghillhustle</u> to register for the race. To make a donation go to <u>www.fortunatierra.com/donation-</u> page.html.



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Horsefly Brewing Full Menu & Growlers to Go 970-249-6889

Busy Corner White Kitchen 970-323-6215

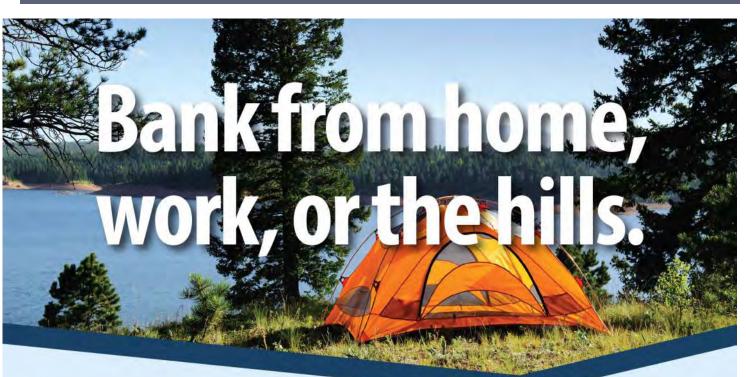
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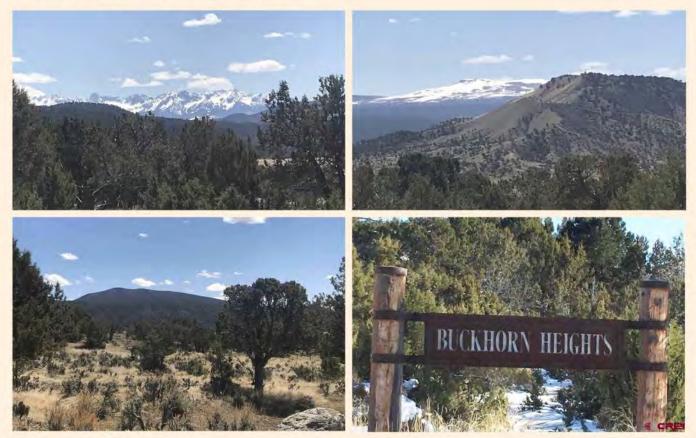
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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Every Wednesday beginning Sept. 2, 2020, through April, 2021 - Community Bible Study live virtual meetings mornings and evenings: gospel of John. Classes for women and children. Call 720-635-0091 for more information or to register.

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. 18-New Moon Wig Cruiser Ride, Riverbottom to Storm King. 7 p.m.

Aug. 25-UNDERSTANDING SIGNS & STAGES OF DEMENTIA; Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2 pm, mt

Online VIA Zoom-Register In Advance: <u>https://tinyurl.com/y5ho77qq</u>. First 10 to register receive a Coffee Trader "It's Our Treat Card" to exchange for any medium drink.

Aug. 26-Wednesday, August 26 - Community Bible Study drive-through registration for 2020-2021 virtual study of gospel of John. First Presbyterian Church, 1840 E. Niagara St., Montrose 9: to 11 AM and 6 to 7 PM or call 720-635-0091.

Sept. 2-The Montrose County Historical Society will attempt to return to monthly meetings Sept. 2, 2020 and will feature Pam Friend discussing the history of the Star Drive-in. The public is invited, admission is free. This meeting will be held in the Events Center at the Montrose County Fair Grounds complex.

Sept. 12-Love Your Gorge-Sat., Sept. 12, 2020, Uncompany River Gorge. Volunteer with the Ouray Ice Park and Uncompany Watershed Partnership to make improvements to the riparian areas of the Uncompany 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, <u>uwpcommunica-</u> tions@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 Information: <u>http://www.uncompanyrewatershed.org/events/</u>

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, Uncompany Watershed Partnership, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and Headwaters Alliance.

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





Contact the Montrose Mirror: 970-275-0646 Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Full Moon on the Uncompanyre Plateau, by Deb Reimann.

