

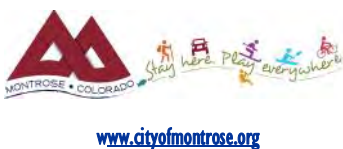
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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People...
Issue No. 392 Aug. 31 2020

"PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD REFLECT THE PUBLIC" Superintendent emphasizes outreach, communications



RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson, above, reviewed 2020-2021 Board Goals and strategic planning efforts at the regular board of education work session on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As members of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education began to arrive for the regular meeting/work session on Tuesday, Aug. 25, Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird checked each new arrival's temperature, in keeping with current state laws. Board President Gayle Johnson told a little joke as each director arrived, before calling the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS--SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson reviewed the 2020-2021 Board Goals. Goals for 2019-2020 were impacted by COVID, she noted. "Some (goals) are easier to measure than others," Stephenson said.

[*Continued pg 20*](#)

DMEA LOOKS @ LONG TERM FINANCIALS; CITY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT A MILESTONE FOR COOPERATION, ATTORNEY SAYS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Aug. 25 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, a Zoom webinar, was called to order at 3 p.m. However, there was general discussion among the board prior to the call to order. DMEA Board President Bill Patterson said, "...they are after the City of Montrose, so the *Mirror* is leaving us [DMEA] alone."

DMEA Executive Assistant Amy Taylor quickly interjected that the *Mirror* had joined the Zoom meeting.

Practicing social distancing, the board and staff participated on computers from offices and homes and 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 July Board Meeting.) All board members were present.

[*Continued pg 32*](#)



Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will pursue negotiations with Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) on the South Canal Hydro facilities. DMEA President Bill Patterson said, "We talked about the Drop 5 Power Purchase Agreement and the impact. The [DMEA] Water Users payment will decrease \$100 to \$200 thousand. The [executive] committee recommended staff negotiate with the Water Users." Photo by Gail Marvel.

in this
issue

[*Reader Photo
Spotlight!*](#)

[*A Fresh Point of View
with Jack Switzer!*](#)

[*Walking with Goats:
Dr. Lauren Hall Rudell!*](#)

[*San Miguel County Parks & Open
Space Builds deck @ Ilium!*](#)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MMHI Board of Directors - Notice of Director Applications

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 **Friday, September 4, 2020**, at 5 p.m.

Interviews will be conducted the week of September 7, 2020, and elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October, date to be announced.



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

ANGEL CREEK CAMPGROUND AND NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE ROAD CLOSED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Angel Creek Campground and National Forest Service Road (NFSR) #853.1A will be temporarily closed for construction from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31, 2020.

-The purpose of this project is to make improvements to Angel Creek Campground by adding eight new campsites, relocating two existing campsites, adding a new vault toilet and improving the drainage for NFSR #853.1A.

-Visitors and recreationalists should expect construction traffic, and additional noise and dust in the vicinity. We appreciate your cooperation and un-

derstanding during this short-term closure.

For questions concerning this closure, please call the Ouray Ranger District at 970-240-5300. For information on National Forest System lands call the Grand Me-

sa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests at 970-874-6600, visit the GMUG Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF>) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF)



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Alpine Bank's Teacher Reimbursement Program



In support of our teachers, Alpine Bank will reimburse teachers for school supplies up to \$200 before November 1, 2020!*

Please contact Jane Marie Amundson for details:
JaneMarieAmundson@AlpineBank.com

*In order to be reimbursed you must have an existing account or open a new account with Alpine Bank and currently be employed as a teacher with Montrose or Delta County School Districts. Reimbursement will be made within two weeks of presentation of valid receipts dated between 8/1/2020 – 11/1/2020.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD COVID-19 TESTING SUPPORT TEAM COMING TO OURAY COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY-Ouray County Public Health Agency is pleased to announce that the Colorado National Guard's COVID-19 testing support team arrived in Ouray County on Sunday, Aug. 30 to set-up a community testing site to be operational on Monday, Aug. 31 and Tuesday, Sept. 1. Anyone who thinks they might have been exposed to COVID-19 and wants a COVID-19 test can get a test.

The Ouray County 4-H Event Center (OC4-HEC) and Fairgrounds, located in Ridgway, CO will be the site for testing.

The plan is to operate the site from 8am to 6pm on Monday and Tuesday.

This will be a drive-through type of set-up, so plan to be in your vehicle for testing.

Please also be prepared to wait, as we expect demand to be high.

Testing is voluntary and will be done on a first-come basis, no appointments will be required.

Daily updates are provided on the Ouray County website:

www.ouraycountyco.gov as well as Ouray

County Public Health Facebook page: Facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency.

Please remember there are ways that you can continue to protect yourselves, family members and community members:

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

-Practice social distancing

-Wear a mask if you go out and are around people

If you have questions related to the community testing site being organized or general COVID-19 questions, please call the Ouray County COVID-19 Hotline at 970-626-5484 or call Public Health at 970-325-4670.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY CAN'T RURAL AND URBAN LEADERS MEET FACE-TO-FACE, FIND SOLUTIONS FOR A COHESIVE COLORADO?

Editor:

I lament the state of polarization that we find in Colorado. The extreme voices are the prevalent ones and seem to drive wedges between rural and urban, between rich and poor, blue collar and white collar, between preservationists and land stewards, between white, black, brown, between the genders, between young and old, and between conservatives and progressives, and the list goes on... And I detest the angry results, and I miss the civil dialogue.

I miss seeing people coming together. I miss the Montrose civic forum where all sides were welcome. I am sure that it will

begin anew eventually.

I miss the learning and leadership that occurred within Club 20 – www.club20.org - a non-partisan, grassroots organization that had a long history of finding Western Slope solutions for essential water, transportation, and public lands issues by building coalitions across the state that assisted our rural areas in being recognized partners with the urban corridors.

I miss the mutual respect, and the skillful, honest communication between many divergent approaches to issues where fundamentally we have much in common.

Where are our leaders who can start digging into the facts – not perceptions but

facts? What questions can be asked to identify the paths that can take us from vitriolic soundbites and entrenched positions to those difficult win-win policies and decisions that are in the best long-term interests of our community and our state? Why can't the rural leaders and urban leaders meet face-to-face to identify paths to support a cohesive and integrated Colorado? I am convinced that there is a 'radical middle' out there, and hope that we can reach for better Colorado-centric behavior and solutions as soon as possible. Colorado is too precious to want anything less.

Nancy Fishing, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE U LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Application process open Aug. 28 – Sept. 18, 2020

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Applications are now being accepted for Montrose U Leadership, a program designed to develop leadership skills and community knowledge among residents.

Anyone living or working in Montrose County with a strong desire to learn about our community and shape its future is eligible to apply. Applications are due by September 18, 2020.

The City of Montrose facilitates the Montrose U Leadership program with strong support from Montrose County. County Commissioner Sue Hansen has been instrumental in teaching class members leadership principles in years past and will be helping class members again this year. Her strong knowledge of personality styles and building constructive interaction with other leadership styles for the good of a community or an organization is a valuable component of this class.

Montrose U Leadership is a nine-month course that begins in October with a two-day retreat and ends in May with a graduation ceremony.

Class tuition is \$600 and includes access to the personality assessment, a tour of the state capitol to meet legislators, and opportunities to be introduced to and mentored by Montrose U alumni.

Classes will be held for a full day, once a month at locations throughout Montrose. Members will learn the history of the Uncompahgre Valley, including the leadership, vision, and innovations it took for Montrose to become what it is today. Attendees will discuss local challenges and accomplishments in education, healthcare, water rights, agriculture, manufacturing, and other industries.

Class members will meet local government leaders including Montrose City Council, Montrose County Commissioners, and their state representative and senator.

Learn more at CityofMontrose.org/Leadership



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY - The Town of Ridgway is now accepting applications from area youth for appointment to the newly established Town of Ridgway Youth Advisory Council. The Town is seeking five high school youth to fill the available positions on the Youth Advisory Council. The Town Council aims to appoint members after candidates complete an application and interview with the Town Council during the October 14th Town Council meeting.

The application materials, which include application submittal requirements and eligibility criteria, are available [HERE](#). Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2nd.

For questions, contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at 970-318-0081 or pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPT. WELCOMES 3 NEW OFFICERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department officially welcomed three new police officers to its ranks on Monday, Aug. 24. Officers Kaytlyn Alvarez, Alandraniane Baca, and Aaron Sheedy were officially sworn in following their completion of law enforcement academy training.

Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with Commanders Tim Cox and Matt Smith, hosted a swearing-in ceremony for the officers in Centennial Plaza early Monday morning. A large gathering of city staff and administration joined members of the City Council

and officers from the Montrose Police Department to welcome the new recruits.

Friends and family of the officers were also invited to attend while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

With the new recruits standing beside him, Chief Hall told the officers that 2020 has been "a challenging year for law enforcement."

"We've seen extreme violence in our cities, defunding police initiatives, and mistrust in law enforcement across our nation is at an all-time high," Hall said. "However, I want to start your careers in

this city with positivism. This city and the citizens that live here support you, and that is exemplified in who you have here in attendance today."

Hall said the department "has a bright future to look forward to" with the construction of a new Public Safety Complex to house the future Montrose Police Department offices along with the ongoing hiring of new police officers and civilian support staff to serve the community.

"We could not do any of it without the support of our citizens and the trust in our department," Hall said.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GARDNER FAILS ON HEALTH CARE IN PANDEMIC

Editor:

It is unthinkable in the midst of a pandemic with millions losing their job-based health insurance, that Gardner's answer is: repeal the Affordable Care Act. Ten years ago when asked what he would do to insure 800,000 Coloradans without health insurance: he had no plan. He currently supports a lawsuit repealing the entire ACA which will cause nearly 762,000 Coloradans to lose protections for pre-existing conditions, loss of coverage for 169,000 Coloradans enrolled in the ACA in 2019, and loss of enrollment of 407,000 citizens under the expansion of Medicaid.

Having vote over 13 times to repeal the ACA, his senate web site promotes allowing purchase of insurance across state lines and providing price transparency, basically back to 1950's solutions. Throughout his career in Colorado and Washington he consistently voted against the health of our people. He voted to dismantle Medicare changing it to voucher system. Voted to defund school based health clinics. Voted to defund Planned Parenthood which has 18 clinics across rural and urban Colorado, having served about 70,000 citizens in 2016. He voted against requiring health insurance to cover contraception, autism, or family planning for low-income women.

Lack of insurance coverage, a leading cause of bankruptcy, also causes people with symptoms of COVID-19 to delay seeking care, fearing the high cost. This increases the spread of disease. In the midst of this pandemic, Gardner still has no plan.

Scott S. Johnson, MD, Loveland

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PART 3 OF A SIX PART SERIES *by Dee Laird*



[Continued from last week]

PERFORMANCE BASED PAY POLICY

In 2014 Bell proposed the implementation of a Performance Based Pay Policy for city employees. On face value this seemed to be a prudent move to increase efficiency and productivity. What most taxpayers don't know is that the process involves using data from the Colorado Municipal League and the Mountain States Employers Council to determine the rates of supposedly "comparable" salaries.

In practice the city compares salaries from 18 different municipalities, seven of which are on the front range in an entirely different socio-economic class. Of the remaining 11 used as a "comparable" only seven are truly comparable to the city of Montrose.

In a 2019 study, I found the average salary of the front range city managers considered, was \$176,757, compared to the average western slope manager salary of \$143,255. The Montrose city manager salary was \$170,000, 24% higher than the western slope average, and more comparable to front range managers. On the other hand, the Montrose County

Manager salary was \$ 120,000, more in line with western slope averages.

In researching the cost of administration per employee [PE] based on number of employees I found: Mesa County- \$169 [PE], County of Montrose-\$320 [PE], Grand Junction- \$331 [PE], and the city of Montrose at a whopping \$1,030 [PE]. Frankly I'm not sure anyone on council has any idea off the importance of considering a comparative analysis of the management cost per employee. A benefit comparison between Montrose city and county manager showed a substantial difference: county manager \$17,902—city manager \$55,221. Many citizens ask why Montrose is paying a premium front range price for rural city management?

Bell's 2019 salary of \$170,000 and benefit package of \$ 55,221 is not all that accrues to his benefit. Early on in his employment he convinced council to provide a vehicle [Chevy Tahoe] for his work and personal use, eventually upgraded to a \$62,000+ vehicle, gas, and a credit card. A former Public Works employee indicated that employees driving city vehicles home, pay a per diem for the privilege. Citizens ask why Bell was treated differently?

It becomes rather obvious to me that the Performance Pay Policy has been used to artificially inflate city salaries, but more especially that of the city manager, by unwitting council members following Bell's faulty "comparables". One has to wonder if in proposing the Performance Base Pay Policy Bell had a self-serving motive?

2014 POWER PLAY- CITY CHARTER CHANGES

In the municipal election of 2014, Bell convinced city council to propose various changes to the City Charter, that again

highlighted, in my opinion, Bell's hidden agenda to accumulate additional authority and influence in his managerial position.

Many changes were proposed and most could be classified as "house keeping" changes. The major Charter change, however, involved making the chief of police totally responsible to the city manager instead of the five member city council.

I placed a CORA request with the city clerk, asking for the ballot language for the proposed Charter changes, and found that no where in the 15 lines of verbiage for voters to wade through, was there any mention of moving the police chief from under council authority to city manager authority. As a follow up to the city clerk, I asked why that critical change was not listed in the ballot language. The answer I got was, "Charter changes were prominently displayed on the website and discussed at city meetings".

The reality is that relatively few citizens attend council meetings and fewer still take the time to scour the city website for information. The additional reality is that the average voter, when reading the actual ballot, would consider the limited enumerated changes as innocuous and vote in favor.

In my opinion, the omission of that critical change in the ballot language was deliberate on the part of Bell, who obviously wanted the ability to control the MPD. The City Attorney was also at fault, I think, for allowing that to occur. City council at the time bears the full responsibility of not catching that glaring omission, that clearly deceived the public. One more incident of no accountability or transparency in our city government under Bell's administration.

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MONTROSE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



Photos by Paul Arbogast.



The Montrose League of Women Voters and local Conservative Women joined together to march and assemble on the historic Montrose County Courthouse steps in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RENZO DELPICCOLO, CPW MANAGER IN MONTROSE, HANGING UP HIS WILDLIFE OFFICER BADGE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Renzo DelPiccolo, the long-time area manager in Montrose for Colorado Parks and Wildlife is retiring from the agency on Aug. 31.

"You can't imagine that 33 years went by that quickly," DelPiccolo said. "But I have a lot of great memories that help remind me of all the great experiences I had and the top-notch people I had the good fortune to work with."

Like many dedicated wildlife professionals, DelPiccolo started and ended his 33-year career with the state agency. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in wildlife biology in 1987. That same year he was hired as a district wildlife manager and after training he was assigned in 1988 to his first duty station – the Rangely-Dinosaur district in northwest Colorado. In 1992, he transferred to the Collbran district located on the north side of the Grand Mesa.

He was promoted to Area Wildlife Manager in Montrose in 2006 where he supervised wildlife officers, property technicians and other staff. During many of those years he also served on the BLM's Resource Advisory Committee.

Throughout his career he participated in dozens of wildlife conservation projects. In 1986 and 1987, before joining CPW full time, he worked on the successful project that restored the peregrine falcon to Colorado. He is also credited for providing the

first official positive identification of the ruffed grouse in Colorado.

The work of a Colorado wildlife officer is filled with adventures, and DelPiccolo had his fair share.

He helped with the reintroduction of moose on the Grand Mesa, transplanted hundreds of wild turkeys, worked on transplant operations for desert bighorn sheep, rocky mountain big horn sheep and pronghorn throughout western Colorado. He also worked on many research projects involving deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, grouse, mountain lions, bears and aquatic species.

Along the way he also tracked down and convicted numerous wildlife criminals – more commonly known as poachers.

Habitat conservation was always a high priority for the Arvada, Colo., native who has watched Colorado's population boom. He was instrumental in establishing six new state wildlife areas, including: Jerry Creeks, Mogenson Ponds and White Hawk in Mesa County; Cerro Summit in Montrose County; and the Summer Camp and Elk Creek tracts at the Dan Noble/Miramonte complex in San Miguel County. One more property in San Miguel County is currently being approved and should open as a state wildlife area by next spring. "This career fit me like a glove. I was able to do all things wildlife-management related that I could've possibly dreamed of," DelPiccolo said. "I cannot



Renzo DelPiccolo, the long-time area manager in Montrose for Colorado Parks and Wildlife is retiring from the agency on Aug. 31. Courtesy Photo.

be more appreciative of the opportunity and the life that my wife, two children and I were able to live as a result of this agency hiring me. The education, management, law enforcement, biology and working with other agencies and private landowners was tremendously rewarding. But, I'm most grateful to my family and my comrades that I worked with. It's been a hell of a ride!" DelPiccolo and his wife, Lisa, plan to remain in the Montrose area.



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435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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SUPERINTENDENT EMPHASIZES OUTREACH, COMMUNICATIONS

From pg 1



Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird, above, checked Board of Education President Gayle Johnson's temperature prior to the school board meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 25.

2019-2020 Board Goals included the following:

- Support our schools, teachers and support staff;
- The standard of excellence applies to all schools and students; therefore, the percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the PARCC ELA And Math Assessments will increase by two percent. The percent of students not meeting expectations on the PARCC ELA and Math Assessments will decrease by two percent;
- The Board expects SAT/PSAT scores to be at or above state average;
- Schools will continue to maintain high participation rates in state testing;
- Continue to have a balanced budget;
- Prioritize a safe and healthy school environment.

Proposed goals for 2020-2021 include:

- Support our schools, teachers and support staff;
- The Board expects SAT/PSAT10 scores to be at or above state average;
- Schools will continue to maintain high participation rates in state testing;

- Continue to have a balanced budget;
- Prioritize a safe and healthy school environment.

Stephenson also discussed several optional inclusions for 2020-2021:

- The standard of excellence applies to all schools and students; therefore, the percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the PARCC ELA And Math Assessments will increase by two percent. The percent of students not meeting expectations on the PARCC ELA and Math Assessments will decrease by two percent;
- Students scoring below grade level in ELA and Math as measured by Galileo will decrease from Fall to Spring;
- District level and standardized assessments will be used to determine learning gaps due to COVID. MCSd will create an intervention plan to mediate learning gaps.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Long term goals will be determined through strategic planning, Stephenson said. She shared a quote by Author Lewis Carroll: "If you don't know where you are

going, any road will get you there."

Said Stephenson, "I think we need to know where we are going and what's most important."

She emphasized the importance of building relationships with the community, as well as the need for clear communication.

"Public schools should reflect the public," Stephenson said.

In addition to ensuring that every student receives an education to attain their goals, "We need to listen to the public and the community first."

Stephenson outlined a three-phase strategic planning process. Phase One will include community and staff engagement. Phase Two will involve strategic plan development, and Phase three will include implementation and measurement.

"We need to go out there and engage the community and ask what they want from their public school system." By listening to public feedback, the school district can develop areas of focus, she said.

By starting from the ground up, the plan will be more successful in achieving goals.

District B Director Jacob Suppes said that he has experienced the results of plans that come from the top down.

"I like your idea of planning from the ground up," Suppes said.

"It's not our plan, it's the community's plan," Johnson said.

Fishing acknowledged the difficulty of strategically planning in the current situation. District F Director Eric Kelly said emphasizing facts and specifics will be important.

"Feedback is important," Kelly said. "...I would like to steer away from feelings."

Following a discussion of committee appointments, Johnson gave an update on this year's Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) conference.

Directors who wish to attend this year must pay their own way. "Frankly, Money's tight," Johnson said. It is unlikely that the event would be held in person this year in any case, Fishing said.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: B. SWITZER



Old log cabin In the Cimarrons, by B. Switzer.



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APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

- \$600 for the 9-month course
- Personality assessment sessions (with County Commissioner Sue Hansen)
- State Legislative Trip

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE BUILDS NEW OBSERVATION DECK IN ILLIUM



Courtesy photo San Miguel County Parks & Open Space.

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-Outdoor enthusiasts in San Miguel County can now pause and observe nature from a new scenic wood deck in the Illium Valley, thanks to carpenter/builder Dave Bush of the San Miguel County Parks & Open Space department. "The purpose of the deck is to provide a respite area with scenic views

for hikers and cyclists utilizing the local trails," San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask said, noting that the deck was made of antique timbers (deemed "non-historic") from the old Rio Grande Southern Railroad Grade/Wye/Bridge. Steel railroad tracks were included with the timbers along with material from the bridge, which was removed in 2015.

"Since the timbers were removed from their original location, it was acceptable to use them for this purpose," Kask said. The historic beams were used to support the deck. Kask gives all the credit for this project to Bush, who not only built the deck, but came up with the idea and design for it--including the ADA-compliant hand-capped accessible ramp.

Said San Miguel County Commissioner Lance Waring, "I want to thank the Parks & Open Space Department and Master Craftsman Dave Bush for re-purposing the timbers, and for reducing, reusing and

recycling so San Miguel County can have another outdoor gathering place."

The County's Historical Commission is preparing interpretive panels, which will soon become part of the landscape as well, incorporating text and historic images to showcase local stories, including that of Vance Junction, where the historic Rio Grande Southern Railroad left the mainline to begin its 7.4 mile journey on to Telluride.

Illium was the site of an RGS Railroad Wye as well as the power plant. The hydroelectric plant was built in 1900 by attorney and mining executive Lucien L. Nunn as a backup facility for the Ames Power Plant, located five miles upstream at the Lake and Howard Forks of the San Miguel River.

For more information on the new observation deck, which is located opposite the Church Camp, please contact Janet Kask of San Miguel County Parks & Open Space at 970-369-5469.

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Your trash and recycle may be picked up at a different time than you are used to. Please be sure to have your bins at the curb by 6 am on your pickup day.

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\$485,000

MLS# 767906

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.

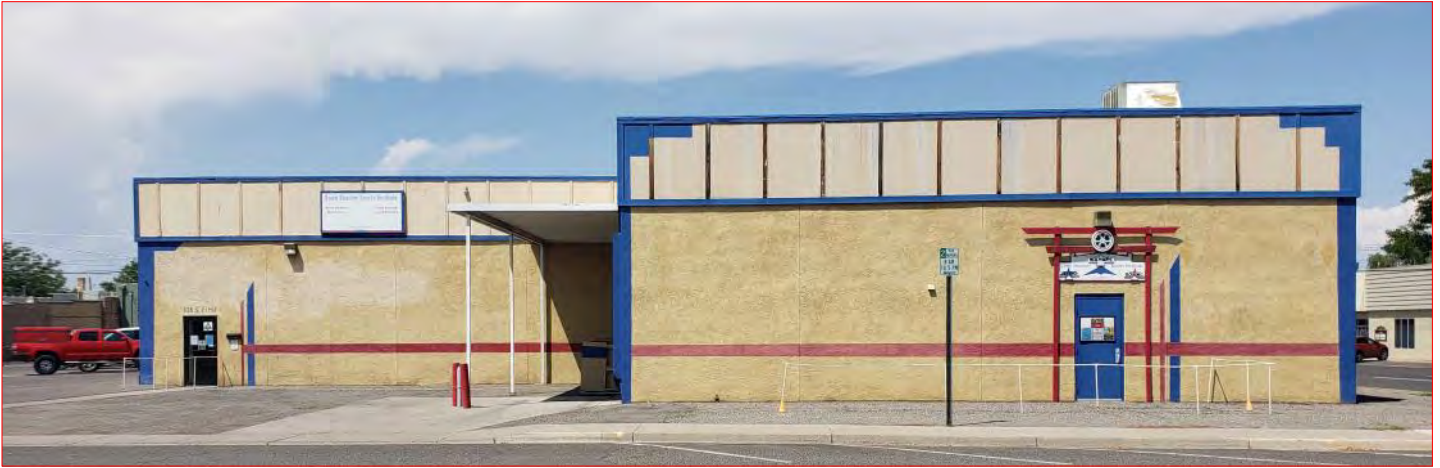
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 3.0 | 2,014 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1994

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CITY TO HEAR PRESENTATION BY LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT, TO VOTE ON \$100K FOR INK TANK REMOVAL, ASBESTOS @ 535 S. FIRST ST.



Council will consider approving a business incentives package totaling \$100,000 for ink tank removal and asbestos abatement at the new Chow Down Pet Supplies location at 535 S. First Street (Old Daily Press building). Photo by Gail Marvel.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council will host a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31 and a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The meetings will take place in a hybrid style, with Council and key staff members gathering in chambers and members of the public and the press viewing online.

WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kahGB4u0TKiNz8KUmXvohw. 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, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Given the recent citizen outrage over former Mayor Dave Bowman demanding a portion of beer sales from the liquor license holder at the City-owned Black Canyon Golf Course, Council will hear a 30-minute presentation by State of Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division Investigations Supervisor Brian Turner and Agent in Charge of Licensing and Complex Investigations Robert Darrow.

Montrose Community Foundation Executive Director Sara Plumhoff will present an update to Council.

Council will discuss the proposed 1890 Homestead Apartment Development Pro-

ject.

Also to be considered is the Lease Agreement for the Historic Montrose Depot Building, which has been occupied since the 1970's by the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum.

Council will consider a Gray and Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Resolution.

A contract award for the Woodgate Subdivision Sewer System Rehabilitation will be discussed.

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

Sept. 15-Fermented Malt Beverage License Application - Golden Gate Gas; Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report for July 2020; -

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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) update to City Council.

CITY COUNCIL 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_Cf0ixN17S62PX6-4jVY1tw."

ACTION ITEMS

Council will consider an application for a

new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 647 E. Main Street for Bonnie & Clyde's Ltd., doing business as Bonnie & Clyde's, for consumption on the licensed premises.

Council will consider adopting Resolution 2020-18 setting October 6, 2020 as the hearing date for the Unrein Addition II annexation.

Council will consider approving the Sinner Subdivision Final Plat.

Council will consider approving a business incentives package totaling \$100,000 for ink tank removal and asbestos abatement at the new Chow Down Pet Supplies location at 535 S. First Street (Old Daily Press building). Funding would be provided from Downtown Tax Increment Finance funds. Also to be considered will be approval of \$50,000 in funding for the DART 2021 Façade Grant Program.

Council will consider awarding a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$4,336,876.07 and an engineering support contract to Farnsworth Group in the amount of \$409,290 for the Sunset Mesa Tank and Booster Pump Station Project as presented. Council will consider awarding an architectural and engineering design services contract to Blythe Group and Co. for the proposed lump sum contract amount of \$764,198 plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$19,870.

Following staff reports Council will adjourn.

Just Listed



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\$375,000

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2087 Covington Way, Montrose, CO

Nestled on quiet cul-de-sac, this home has the feel of a park-like setting. It's been meticulously maintained and features a large, open-concept living area. It has a cathedral ceiling in the living room, tray ceiling in the owner's suite & beautiful wood flooring, doors & trim throughout. The kitchen & baths have updated fixtures, finishes & countertops. Enjoy the tranquility of the covered patio with mountain views & the convenience of RV/Boat parking. MLS# 773336

3 Bedrooms ~ 2 Baths ~ 1,923 sq. ft. on 1/3 acre ~ Year Built: 2005 ~ RV PKG!




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 Associate Broker
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Your Forever Agents




\$35,000 • MLS 770234 • Sd: 1 Bk: 2 • 1,47 Apx, Total Acres 59406 Lone Eagle Road • Offered by: Kerri Noonan-Inda




\$230,000 • MLS 768266 • Sd: 4 Bk: 1 • 1075 sq. ft. • 0.34 Apx, Total Acres 606 Spring Creek Road • Offered by: Betsy Fernandez




\$330,000 • MLS 762006 • Bdt: 5 Bk: 2 • 2489 sq. ft. • 0.3 Apx, Total Acres 100 Vista View • Offered by: Darrell Gilks




\$330,000 • MLS 769116 • Sd: 3 Bk: 2 • 1310 sq. ft. • 0.391 Apx, Total Acres 1721 Moonlight Drive • Offered by: Jamie Carver




\$349,900 • MLS 762789 • Bdt: 1 Bk: 2 • 7560 sq. ft. • 0.85 Apx, Total Acres 931 N Park Avenue • Offered by: Don Bailey




\$350,000 • MLS 770432 • Sd: 3 Bk: 2 • 1669 sq. ft. • 0.22 Apx, Total Acres 3024 Outlook Drive • Offered by: Linda Stell




\$475,000 • MLS 766782 • Bdt: 3 Bk: 2 • 3324 sq. ft. • 1.106 Apx, Total Acres 5392 West Court • Offered by: Jessamy Pressler & Jennifer Johnson




\$535,000 • MLS 757418 • Sd: 1 Bk: 2 • 1600 sq. ft. • 160 Apx, Total Acres 1802 County Road 22 • Offered by: Trena Unrein & Brian Unrein




\$567,000 • MLS 764724 • Bdt: 4 Bk: 4 • 3423 sq. ft. • 0.18 Apx, Total Acres 2141 Parked Wall Lane • Offered by: Jennifer Johnson & Jessamy Pressler




\$585,000 • MLS 767367 • Bdt: 2 Bk: 2 • 1600 sq. ft. • 20.86 Apx, Total Acres 24125 Horsely • Offered by: Elizabeth J Spitzer




\$849,990 • MLS 772116 • Bdt: 6 Bk: 5 • 5774 sq. ft. • 0.33 Apx, Total Acres 3331 Ivory Court • Offered by: Jeff L. Keeffuss




\$1,195,000 • MLS 767843 • Bdt: 5 Bk: 5 • 5624 sq. ft. • 0.919 Apx, Total Acres 442 Badger Trail South • Offered by: Priscilla M. Noyd



\$1,475,000 • MLS 771043 • Bdt: 5 Bk: 2 • 2220 sq. ft. • 230 Apx, Total Acres 37661 Highway 145 • Offered by: Autumn Barrett



\$1,599,000 • MLS 766500 • Bdt: 4 Bk: 3 • 5276 sq. ft. • 1.57 Apx, Total Acres 67437 Oak Leaf Drive • Offered by: Kase Christie & Jeff Keeffuss



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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE DELTA COUNTY IS NOW UP AND RUNNING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- One Delta County, a new economic alliance, had its inaugural board meeting on August 24, 2020 after a transition team was originally assembled in January to start the process of creating One Delta County.

The purpose of One Delta County is to: Strengthen and enhance Delta County's economic base including the towns and municipalities of Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, Orchard City and Paonia.

Increase the standard of living for all residents through retention and expansion of existing businesses.

Attract and develop new businesses and industries that pay a livable wage.

Encourage commercial capital investments. Promote workforce enhancement, agriculture and agriculture related enhancement, commercial and manufacturing enhancement, education and business development and collaboration.

Achieve economic diversification and resilience.

Increase private investment in promoting economic development.

A primary goal of One Delta County is to have a diverse representation of Delta County's communities and businesses. A big thank you to each of the individuals, businesses, and organizations that have helped make this happen.



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3708 Scarlet Court
Montrose, CO
Move in Ready

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



Tbd Cedar Road
Delta, CO
Prime Hemp Location

\$1,150,000 | MLS# 766932



14847 6175 Road
Montrose, CO
No Covenants!

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



Tbd Hwy 550
Montrose, CO
So many Possibilities

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



3700 Scarlet Court
Montrose, CO
Lock and Leave

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



19250 Highway 550
Montrose, CO
Cute home with mature Landscape

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



4225 Waterfall Drive
Montrose, CO

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



Tbd One Bradley Way
Montrose, CO

\$135,000 | MLS# 769032
Breathtaking views



59215 Spring Creek Road
Montrose, CO
Spring creek property!

\$109,000 | MLS# 766918



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Jeff Keehfuss

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MOVE IN READY!



*319 Bluegrass Court
Montrose, CO*

\$269,990 | MLS# 768648

Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.0
1,430 sq. ft.
Year Built: 2020

Live in a new Home without all the waiting! This brand new, custom build is expected to be completed 5/26/2020. This is the ideal home. Split floor plan provides privacy and functionality.



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MAYOR HOPEFUL FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY; FUTURE CONCERTS COULD BE PUT OUT FOR BID



**Montrose Mayor
Barbara Bynum.**
Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE- Ask any public official, and they will tell you that holding public meetings online is not easy. As Mayor of Montrose, Barbara Bynum is just one in a line of city leaders that stretches back to the community's

earliest days. Yet her experience is unlike that of past mayors, as months into her term, she has not yet had the opportunity to preside over a regular, in-person meeting. Though Bynum served as Mayor Pro Tem for a year prior to being named Mayor in April, becoming Mayor in the midst of a pandemic shutdown is difficult to prepare for.

Still, Bynum seemed unphased when the *Mirror* checked in with her last week for a brief chat. She expressed enthusiasm de-

spite the present challenges. Though many local businesses have been weakened or even forced to close by COVID-19 closures, the City of Montrose is fortunate to be economically diverse, she said.

"While we will continue to try and help our small businesses weakened by the pandemic to recover, there are a lot of new projects going on in Montrose. It's really exciting," Bynum said.

Local arterials and highways have seen an increase in traffic this summer, particularly during the recent I-70 closures. Although nearby resort towns have cancelled many of the seasonal festivals that draw tourists, anecdotal evidence reveals that the arrival of second homeowners from crowded, urban areas has kept their populations at their normal summer peak even without those events. And while Montrose is not a resort town, "We continue to be the hub," Bynum said. "We benefit from the pass-through traffic as well.

"I think as a community we are really well positioned."

Montrose festivals have been cancelled

too, but with a new amphitheater planned at Cerise Park, local concerts and community events are expected to return, she noted.

When asked whether the City intends to diversify its summer concert offerings, Bynum noted that the Summer Music Series held at the City's Black Canyon Golf Course in past years was put on by a non-profit run by fellow City Councilor Dave Bowman. In the future, similar events could be put out for bid to other area promoters in a competitive process, Bynum said, in response to a *Mirror* question.

"I think that's a good idea. There is no reason there can't be other opportunities out there. We're starting from scratch with this facility (the new amphitheater)," she said.

As for re-opening City meetings to the public and press, that will be the next step, she said. "We're taking baby steps...I miss interactions with people."

Montrose City Council will meet this week; related preview article in this issue of the *Mirror*.



ANONYMOUS

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CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

Just Listed



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jeff@montrosecolorado.com
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\$279,990

MLS# 771355



1809 Moonlight | Montrose, CO

Want a new build without waiting. This Fantastic, Sandoval Built, custom home is less than a year old! It has been meticulously cared for! The entire Home has a welcoming charm. Don't wait to schedule your showing!

Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0

1,504 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2019

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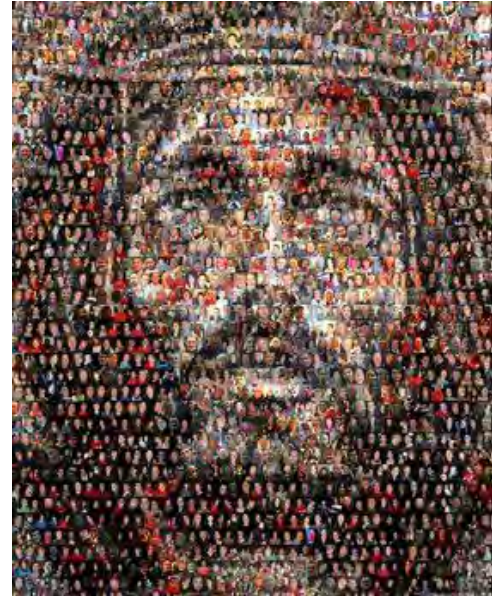
OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THE UNIVERSE SPEAKS IN ONE VOICE OF HOPE, NOT DIVISION

Editor:

Out of Many Voices, Comes One, That is the Voice of Compassion. That is the Voice of God, Jesus is Here, We Just have to Hear, Do Not Diminish God's Voice By Calling Everyone Names. "The Universe speaks in many languages, but only one voice. The language is not American, nor African, nor Asian, nor Russian, nor Australian. It speaks in the language of hope; It speaks in the language of trust; It speaks in the language of strength, and the language of compassion. It is the language of the heart and the language of the soul. But always, it is the same voice. It is the voice of our ancestors, speaking through us, And the voice of our inheritors, waiting to be born. It is the small, still voice that says: We are one. No matter the blood; No matter the skin; No matter the world; No matter the star; We are one. No matter the pain; No matter the darkness; No matter the loss; No matter the fear; We are one. Here, gathered together in common cause. we agree to recognize this singular truth, and this singular rule: That we must be kind to one another, because each voice enriches us and ennoble us, and each voice lost diminishes us. We are the voice of the Universe, the soul of creation, the fire that will light the way to a better future. We are one."

Timothy Storrs, Montrose



Submitted photo.



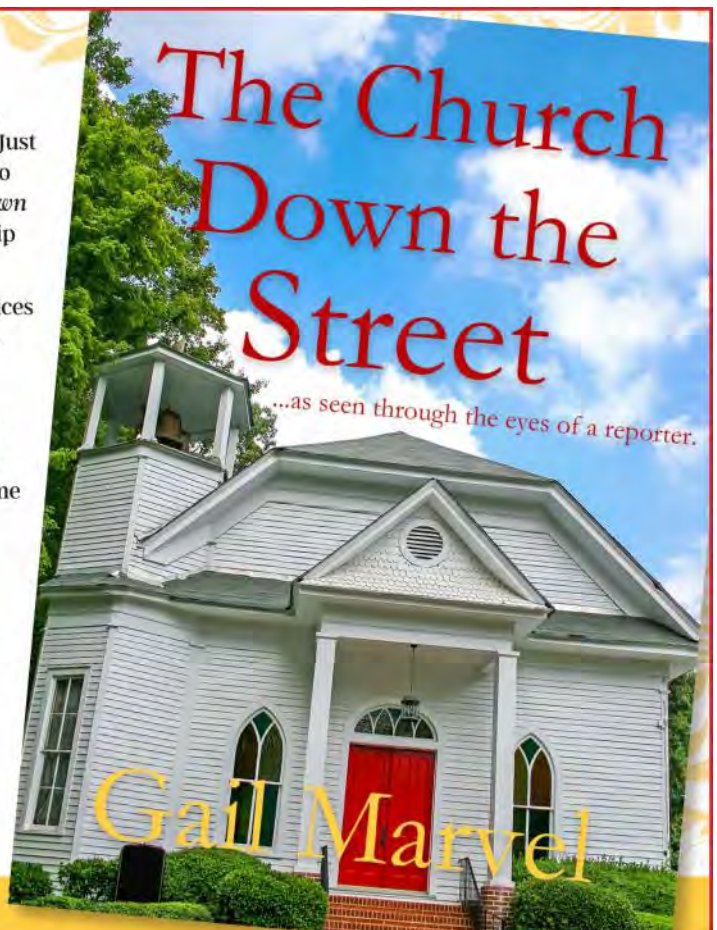
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



DMEA LOOKS @ LONG TERM FINANCIALS; CITY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT A MILESTONE FOR COOPERATION, ATTORNEY SAYS From pg 1

Board Committee Items

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

Long Term Financial Forecast

Harding said, “We had a meeting August 5th. In length it was just shy of three-hours. With the forecasts [Financial Forecast and Load Forecast] we’ve been in discussion for a couple of months. We discussed transmission asset changes, power from Tri State for transmission, also from WAPA [Western Area Power Association] on a year-to-year basis. We dove into equity, deferred revenue, grants to build out rural areas, and Capital Credits.”

Harding continued, “How do we handle the lease payment that Elevate pays to DMEA? It has [to this point] been interest only. How do we retire the credit to build out Elevate? How to replace battery back-ups with fiber in homes?”

Load Forecast

Harding said, “We looked at major changes that could be encountered. Mountain Coal could be lost. We looked at the good, the bad, and the ugly that could be there. Special Capital Credits that could be retired [closure of Russell Stover]. How can we protect our membership from the loss such as that of Stover? Staff will help research the issue.”

Future Implementation of Electric Vehicle Rate

DMEA will supply power for Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging stations such as Tesla and Charge Point. Harding said, “We discussed the large commercial rate for Tesla, then there’s the DMEA-owned Charge Point. How do we handle that entity [Charge Point]?”

Vote on Long Term Financial Forecast.

Approved unanimously.

Vote on Load Forecast. Approved unanimously.

Vote on Future Implementation of Electric Vehicle Rate [large commercial]. Approved unanimously.

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

Hauck said, “No meeting, no report.”

Member Relations – Energy Services

Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, “We did not have a meeting this month.”

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Referring to the South Canal Hydro facilities Patterson said, “We talked about the Drop 5 Power Purchase Agreement and the impact. The Water Users [Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association] payment will decrease \$100 to \$200 thousand. The committee recommended staff negotiate with the Water Users. How we can cooperate best with our own local water users, but also manage the co-op for our members. We would be looking at maintaining the contract as it exists.”

CEO Jasen Bronec said, “We are still waiting to go back to the Water Users to look at options. We will follow the contract as we know it. At this point we don’t have a resolution.”

Patterson said, “Drop 1 and Drop 3 would shut down [for the season]. There is no reason, no action to change the current process at this time. We revisited the EV usage; 400,000 kilowatt hours. We are not at the threshold of making budget changes. We just need to keep an eye on EV usage and report back.”

Enno Heuscher said, “You are going to see significant increases over time. I’m concerned the projected load is off about 300,000 kilowatts.”

Referencing the energy crisis Bronec said, “For several weeks California has experienced an energy crisis. The wholesale markets have escalated significantly. Guzman has performed well. It’s a positive to point at a power supply partner who can manage through these events.”

Patterson said, “There are economic development opportunities. We are going through and looking at what opportunities are out there.”

Safety and Occupational Health Report - Virginia Harman, COO.

Harman said, “There were no employee injuries in July. There were a couple of near misses. One was a fuse blowing out; there was no known cause. The other was

a lineman changing out a transformer. A line crossed a roof and a little fire was put out. The cause was the lineman rushing. We had a pole with a cable TV attachment that lacked visibility. The cable was not securely attached. In the future we will be checking on quality of work issues with other entities. We’ve had trainings and reviewed accidents that have occurred across the State. We have four insurance claims open; two are ongoing with Workman’s Comp. We had no claims in July.”

Financial Report with Variance Report - Wade Pynes, CFO.

Pynes said, “Because of the West Elk Mine roof fall [in July] we expected a decline of usage in August. We amended an error on the Tri State transfer bill. The charge is \$200,000 over budget. There are some legal bills. There is a Meta-Switch in the Elevate budget which could be written off or sold.”

DMEA received \$2.4 M from the COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Pynes said, “The Loan Forgiveness Portal had to be shut down, but we will make a loan forgiveness application.”

Jock Fleming said, “Income is higher than budgeted. So far, we are getting through COVID. We seem to be making our budget.”

Pynes said, “The governor suspended late fees, so our write-offs will tick-up a little, but it is good news to see.”

CEO Report - Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec said, “I want to circle back on an earlier discussion on the EV Rate to make sure I am clear and to get clear direction.”

Chief Power Supply Officer Jim Heneghan said, “The EV charging rate that would apply to Tesla, or any other entity, is not for the consumer. To have a new rate of large commercial we will have to schedule a rate hearing.”

Bronec said, “I apologize for the confusion. What the board is proposing is the staff move forward to a rate hearing.”

The suggested three-part rate increase consists of \$150 a month, \$2 a month demand per month per kilowatt, and 17 cents per kilowatt hour.

DMEA LOOKS @ LONG TERM FINANCIALS; CITY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT A MILESTONE FOR COOPERATION, ATTORNEY SAYS From previous pg

Enno Heuscher said, "Have you looked at other energy companies and what they are charging?"

Heneghan said, "Yes. We spanned West Coast to East Coast. This is the best we could do with the most sustainable rate we could find. What other utilities have adopted are all over the map." Heneghan explained that over time the \$2 fee will offset some of the fixed costs. He said, "It's a common way to recover the cost on this type of use."

To set up a rate hearing, a replacement motion was made. Bronec reiterated that this is a proposed rate and the board will only consider it after public comment. He said, "This will move it to the rate hearing process. Typically, EV owners will charge their vehicle at their home, which is under the residential rate." Rate Hearing - Approved unanimously.

Bronec returned to his CEO report, "The month of August was busy. The EV charging station discussions, Charge Point project is active again and the MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] with the City of Montrose. Tesla has re-engaged for a Super Charger Site. It's exciting to see that take place. [We completed] the City of Montrose franchise agreement ballot language for a vote in the upcoming November election. The [State] Clean Energy Plan is moving forward. We are discussing submitting a voluntary plan."

DMEA continues to focus on operations and fire danger. Bronec said, "With vegetation management we've trimmed 439 trees, removed 226 trees, and cleared 63 square feet of brush. In building, there is lots of construction and lots of activity. We've had 74 new system design projects."

In the area of marketing Bronec said, "We're starting to see joint PR campaigns to introduce Guzman to our members.

There are opportunities to promote and showcase our partnership with our new power supplier. The Read office continues to be temporarily closed." Bronec cautioned about the increased activity in cyber security known as phishing. He said, "It's everywhere, not only email, but also in texts. Be cautious about clicking links."

July 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.

Bronec said, "We've had some outages May through June. If we stay in the fire prevention mode, when an outage occurs, it takes more time to get restarted."

Legal Report - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "The city franchise agreement is a milestone for cooperation. It's also a reminder for us to move forward with franchise agreements with other municipalities and make sure we have them in place for the next 20 years. We have all pole attachment agreements in place [i.e. CenturyLink]. We're working on standard easement issues across the service area. There are minor clean-up issues with Tri State. I'll save the rest of my report for Executive Session."

Representative Board Reports

WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association) - Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "We're not having a meeting until tomorrow."

CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association) - Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "No meeting this month. The audit has been finished and approved with no exceptions. I'll have a budget meeting on August 28th. I suspect a bit of return on our dues. We have no meeting in September, but an in-person meeting is scheduled for October."

Future Meetings

The next Regular DMEA meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sept. 22nd. Monthly DMEA meetings will continue to be virtual meetings. Members who wish

to attend the Zoom meeting can contact Amy Taylor via e-mail at amy.taylor@dmea.com for meeting log in.

Move to Executive Session

The regular board meeting ended at 4:11 p.m., at which time the board went into Executive Session.

Executive Session:

- General Counsel Legal Update
- Drop 5 PPA Matters (Drops 5 refers to the South Canal Hydro facilities).
- Power Supply Update/Review

Member Comments

At 5 p.m. the board exited Executive Session and returned to regular session to afford members an opportunity to speak during Member Comments. There were no member comments.

In a follow-up email Taylor wrote, "The board went back into executive session at 5:09 p.m. and exited executive session at 6:09 p.m. The topics in executive session did not deviate from what was noted on the agenda and there were no additional discussions or actions taken after leaving executive session. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m."

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, ken-nethrwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, lch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

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

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

EXPECTED REVISIONS TO COLORADO NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-First quarter 2020 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) results indicate Colorado total nonfarm payroll jobs estimates will be revised up for this period with the release of benchmarked estimates in March 2021. March 2020 estimates are expected to be revised up by about 1,000 nonfarm payroll jobs, while January and February 2020 estimates are expected to be revised up by 3,500 and 500, respectively.

Applying these results through July 2020 brings estimated total nonfarm payroll jobs in July to 2,606,300. This change brings over the year payroll job growth estimates through July 2020 to -185,200

or -6.6 percent. The final March 2021 benchmarked series are expected to vary from these estimates due to new seasonal adjustment factors and new estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs not covered by the unemployment insurance program.

Industry sectors expected to undergo an upward revision to payroll jobs estimates in the 1st quarter¹ include leisure and hospitality (~4,600), trade, transportation, and utilities (~4,300), information (~2,100), and construction (~1,300). Manufacturing, education and health services, and other services may also be revised up.

The industry sectors expected to undergo a downward revision to payroll jobs estimates are professional and business ser-

vices (~6,300), government (~3,100), mining and logging (~1,300), and financial activities (~1,300).

Payroll jobs estimates for the Greeley (~1,700) and Pueblo (~1,200) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised up in the 1st quarter¹.

Payroll jobs estimates for the Boulder Metropolitan Statistical Area may also be revised upward. Total nonfarm payroll job estimates for the Denver (~3,900) and Fort Collins (~1,500) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised down in the 1st quarter.

Estimates for the Colorado Springs and Grand Junction Metropolitan Statistical Areas may also be revised downward.

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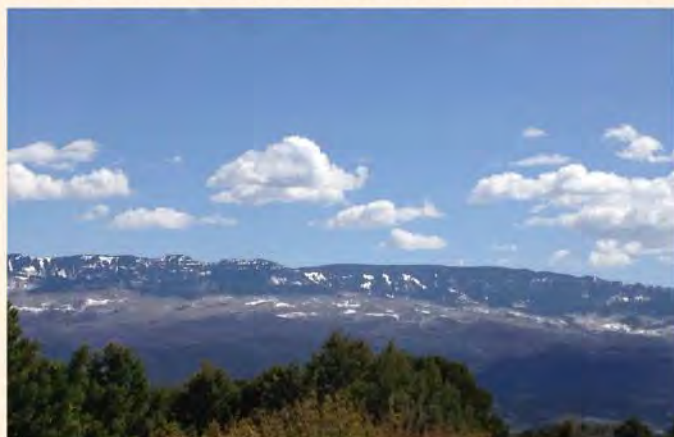
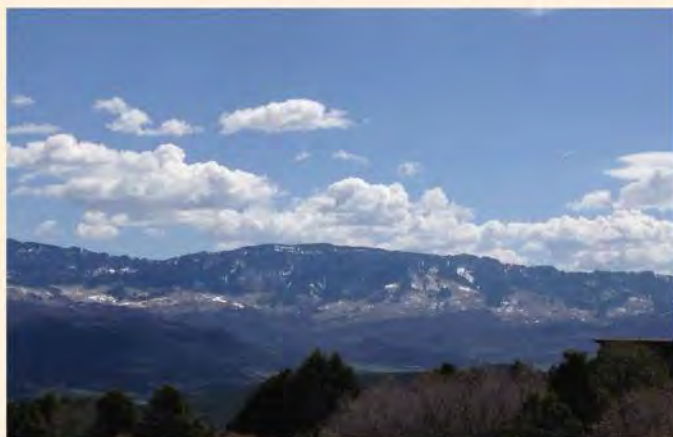
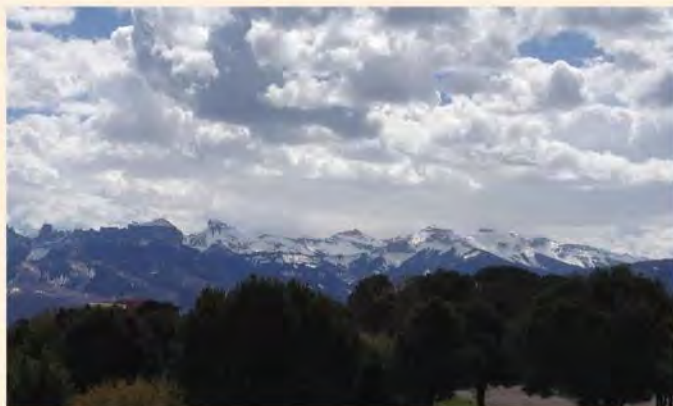
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BEAR HURT IN FOREST FIRE NEAR DURANGO RELEASED BACK TO WILD



A bear injured in a forest fire in June near Durango was released back into the wild on Monday. Images below show the bears feet when it was found and with bandages applied at CPW's Frisco Creek facility.

CPW Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO — A bear injured in a fire west of Durango in June has healed and was released back to the wild on Monday (Aug. 24) by officers with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The bear was taken to a remote location not far from where it was found. The bear hesitated for about a minute while it sniffed its new surroundings. Then it jumped from the container in the back of a CPW pick-up truck and dashed into the thick cover of the aspen forest. "Now he's got food, he's got water, he's

got everything he needs," said Wildlife Officer Steve McClung, "And I hope I never see him again."

On June 16, firefighters at the East Canyon fire reported to the CPW Durango office that they saw a bear that appeared to be injured. Wildlife officers responded and when found the bear in a boggy area. It did not move when approached which indicated it was in a lot of pain. The bear, a male, was tranquilized and taken to CPW's Frisco Creek wildlife rehabilitation facility in Del Norte.

The two-year-old bear weighed just 43 pounds and its feet were badly burned. At Frisco Creek, CPW's wildlife technician cleaned the bear's paws, applied salves to treat the burns and wrapped its feet.

The bear was kept in a pen with concrete floors to assure the wounds would stay clean.

Fortunately, the bear did not tear off the bandages as a bear rescued from a fire two years ago had done.

"He was a good patient," said Michael Sirochman, veterinary technician and manager of the Frisco Creek facility.

The bear's bandages were changed 16 times from mid-June to mid-July.

When the paws were healed it was placed in a regular pen that provides trees to climb on and places to hide.

Sirochman said the bear now weighs 110 pounds and its paws are toughened up.

"He's now about the weight he should be for a two-year-old bear and is in good shape for going into the fall," Sirochman said.

As a two-year old, the bear has well-developed instincts to survive in the wild. No tracking devices have been placed on the bear and it is now on its own.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DIVISION OF SECURITIES WARNS INVESTORS OF SPOOF WEBSITES AND POP-UP SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Division of Securities, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), is warning the public that there has been an increase in pop-up scams involving securities accounts in 2020. A “pop-up” is a window that pops up suddenly over another window on a computer. Pop-up scams often include a “spoof” or hoax website that the scammers created to look legitimate. When an unsuspecting consumer visits the website, the site triggers a pop-up that directs the consumer to the scam.

Be on alert if you see a pop-up while you are on a website. The website may look like it is from your bank or brokerage firm, but it may be a “spoof” website that triggered the pop-up. The pop-up may say your accounts are frozen or present some other warning that lures you into contacting the scammers so they can attempt to gain money or confidential information from you. Pop-up scams are a tool that cyber criminals have used to steal millions of dollars a year from unsuspecting account holders. Here are ways to spot a scam and ways to protect your securities investments. Scammers use pop-ups and spoof websites to tell a story to trick you into responding to them and connecting with them. The pop-up or website may:

- say you have a security problem that they need to fix,

- say they’ve noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts,
- claim there’s a problem with your account or payment information,
- say you must confirm some personal information,
- include a fake invoice,
- say you’re eligible to register for a government refund, or
- offer a coupon for free stuff.

Scam pop-ups and websites always have an “ask.” Once scammers get your attention, they will ask you for something: they may ask you to call them, and when you do, they will try to get money or sensitive information from you; they may ask you to give them remote access to your computer and then they will have access to everything on the computer; they may direct you to liquidate your securities accounts and to transfer funds to them; they may ask you to click on a link or attachment that will install malware on your computer or click on a link to a form for you to fill in personal, confidential information; they may ask you directly for personal confidential information.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A WEBSITE SPOOF AND POP-UP SCAM

Close the pop-up and close the website. If you can’t close the pop-up, shutdown

your computer and restart.

Don’t do anything the pop-up asks. Don’t call them at the number they provide.

If you do call them, don’t provide any personal information, don’t allow them remote access to your computer, and don’t transfer securities or funds to them. You should also contact the real company through a phone number or website you know is legitimate. Ask the real company about the pop-ups and about their real website address.

Being online is part of the way we live, but scammers are online with us too. When it comes to your investments, take the extra steps to verify websites and protect yourself against pop-ups.

If you think you have fallen victim to an investment scam or you want to report one, contact the Colorado Division of Securities for help. Email [do-
ra_SecuritiesWebsite@state.co.us](mailto:do-
ra_SecuritiesWebsite@state.co.us) or call 303-894-2320.

For resources and more information, check out the Colorado Division of Securities website by clicking [here](#). DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to protecting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission. Visit [do-
ra.colorado.gov](http://do-
ra.colorado.gov) for more information or call 303-894-7855 / toll free 1-800-886-7675.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MDP CLEANUP: WOULD YOU DO IT WITH YOUR MONEY?

Editor:

In short, the Montrose Daily Press wants to shed itself of its old press building and all of their liability to go with it. And their way to do that is to sell it after the city finds the money to pay for the environmental cleanup. You see every year the MDP owes taxes on that building; if they have to pay to fix it will cost them \$100,000+. Probably over the years they have depreciated the property to almost zero so every cent they have in it is pure profit. If the taxpayer does not pay to have the pollution removed, \$100,000+ will be taken from that profit. So, when you look at the last two items mentioned it means that when the city gives them \$100,000 to remove the pollution, they are giving them \$100,000 of your money that will go directly into the MDP owners pockets. You have got to ask yourselves why we have to pay that family \$100,000 out of the taxpayers bank account. Would you do it with your money? I don't want

to. I already gave them their fair profit with all the newspapers I bought from them over the years. They provide me with nothing now and therefore they rate no profit.

Now the good folks over at Chow Down supposedly want to expand their store, I guess to be big like Pet Smart. I dunno but that might be good business. But it might not be so good either. So if they want to do that let them take the risk--- why should the city cover \$100,000 front money for a possible failure? If it is a good venture why cannot one of our banks that are here for the purpose of lending money for businesses do the business and make a profit? I buy from Chow Down, that is where their money to expand should come from, profit from customers not from our taxes.

From driving around town I see lots, lots LOTS of store fronts empty. I also see lots of large warehouse type buildings available. Why cannot those properties serve

Chow Down as well? Because someone at the city hall wants to get to be a 'big cheese'. Well this 'big cheese stinks like Limburger on a hot radiator'.

Has this proposition been put forward because similar cockamamie ideas have been funded by the city council in the past?

I think that it is totally inappropriate for the 'Free Press' to take money from a governmental agency from which it takes money. How can someone who cannot subsidize the MDP get similar treatment?

From start to finish this idea, proposition or deal has surrounding it a particularly horrendous, terrible, odoriferous, putrid stench about it.

And finally the article I read sounded like this was a 'done deal'. Why? But more importantly why does the public find out about these things right after the decision is made? Secret meetings? Or just running into each other on the street?

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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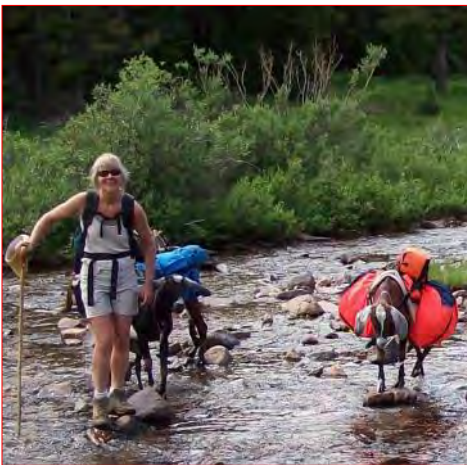
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ISSUE 278 Aug. 31, 2020

ART & SOL

WALKING WITH GOATS, LOCAL AUTHOR UNLEASHES CREATIVITY



*The author walking with her goats.
Courtesy photo.*

By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell

PAONIA-In crazy times like these, it is important to know what your passions are, and to act on those passions whenever possible. If that means yielding to the urges of a mid-life crisis, then so be it. Take, for instance. I left Southern California for the wilds of Colorado at the age of 39, and never looked back. I believe that move saved my life, made me the person I am now, and informed the author I have become.

Don't get me wrong, I had an awesome childhood and once upon a time San Diego was a nice, quaint city. From the inland

areas heading to the coast you passed farmer's fields where golf courses and shopping malls now reside. A familiar story, and not at all unique in this country. But the changes were disturbing to me, and a little at a time, I grew to feel a need to migrate somewhere a little more sane. An urge to leave the noise, pollution, and crime behind began to consume me. At 38, when my purse was stolen from the trunk of a locked vehicle while doing biological field work, I made my decision. Time to go. But where? Somewhere that I could farm and have animals, for sure.

I became interested in animals of all kinds as a child at the San Diego Zoo. Many family members were longtime zoo employees and so it was natural for me to be at the zoo before, during, and after zoo hours most summer days. As a teen I became very involved in horses and hiking. I was later able to combine these two passions with a degree in Parks and Recreation Management and a minor in Zoology. While studying for this degree I worked in the children's zoo section of the San Diego Zoo as a keeper and educator. The zoo's snakes, goats, and raptors were my favorites.

Following graduation with a Master's in conservation, I worked as an endangered species biologist and environmental plan-

ner in California for several years. But the commute, the demanding work and obligations of single parenting became too much. Migraine headaches were a weekly occurrence, and other psychosomatic ailments associated with stress seemed to rule my life. Despite being a biologist, I didn't have nearly enough access to nature as I needed, as I craved. And my life was way too crazy for pets. I felt I was circling the drain. So, on advice from a friend, I moved to Paonia.

That was over two decades ago. In that time I mastered many techniques in sustainable agriculture, ran two community supported agriculture enterprises, and raised goats. Goats are the loves of my life, and a passion that keeps on giving. In these bizarre times, walking with my goats at dawn every morning has kept me safe and sane. There was no way that I could have known when I left southern California that I would end up a now-retired professor of natural resources with a herd of pack goats that make the isolated days and nights of these COVID times bearable. I guess now I'm taking a dose of my own medicine, since my academic expertise is the importance of nature and animals in human thriving.

In retirement, I am getting to do the creative writing I missed for so many years.

Continued next pg

WALKING WITH GOATS, LOCAL AUTHOR UNLEASHES CREATIVITY

From previous pg

And I am writing what I know best! Farming, goats, and small Colorado towns, wrapped up in a series of cozy mysteries. Book One, *A Small Matter of Ethics*, takes place in the not so imaginary town of Peony Creek. And yeah, goats are involved since they discover the body of the victim. *A dead eco-warrior. A gas developer suspect. An autistic farm worker. Life has gotten a little derailed for Laurelyn McNamara, owner of Bad Aspen Farm in the picturesque mountain town of Peony Creek. When a farm intern turns up dead on a mountain trail, Laurelyn happens to be first on the scene. She suspects foul play, and she isn't wrong. But she is sure that the police have the wrong guy. With the help of her best friend, an undercover agent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and their mutual pal, a local vintner and wife of a local cop, Laurelyn untangles a web of passions, intrigue, and social justice, while still running her farm and learning to love again. With cowboy, rancher, and mystery man George Trojan at her*

side, Laurelyn finds the courage to take risks, follow her instincts, listen to intuition once again, and find joy in unexpected ways, people, and places.

If, like me, you are a Coloradophile and enjoy a good read that includes the places and cultures here we have grown to love, then perhaps this book will tickle your fancy.

<https://www.amazon.com/Small-Matter-Ethics-Peony-Mysteries-ebook/dp/B08965JNRK>

For questions about me and my writing process, or to find out more about how animals and nature are helpful for mental wellness in these weird times, I can be reached at:

plantgoatpress@gmail.com

Best to you from Colorado lover Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell

<https://www.laurenhallruddell.com/>

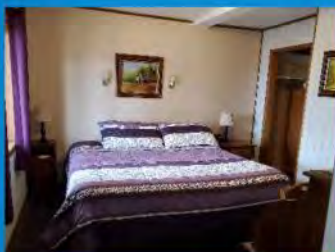
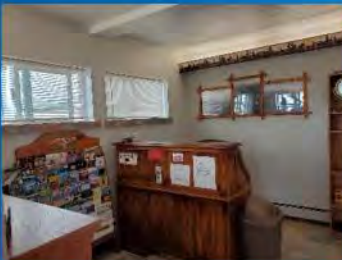
Stay safe and sane out there!

Retired Professor of Natural Resources and local Author Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell with one of her goats. Courtesy photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: RECOGNITION

DR. GAYLE FRAZZETTA PRESENTED HUMANITARIAN AWARD



(From left to right) Dr. Gayle Frazzetta receiving her plaque from a COPIC representative. Dr. Frazzetta chose the San Juan Healthcare Foundation to receive the award's \$10,000 donation to support health services in the Montrose schools. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Gayle Frazzetta, MD, FAAFP, CCD is being recognized as the recipient of this year's COPIC Humanitarian Award. The annual award recognizes a physician in Colorado who has gone above the scope of their practice to volunteer and make a difference in their community. Dr. Frazzetta was presented her award at COPIC's annual dinner in Denver.

The prestigious recognition includes a \$10,000 award to be given to the health-related nonprofit of the recipient's choice. Dr. Frazzetta chose the San Juan

Healthcare Foundation to receive the award's \$10,000 donation to support health services in the Montrose schools.

The nomination notes Dr. Frazzetta's involvement in multiple efforts important to the health of the community the past 20 years. Early in her time in Montrose, Dr. Frazzetta was involved with the Montrose County School District – creating a medical advisory board for the school district. This board helped initiate changes including improving the school lunch program, improving access to milk in the cafeteria, complying with state mandated nutrition guidelines, and implementing a recess before the lunch program to improve consumption and decrease waste. Her background in Nutrition Sciences has helped her improve nutrition and address childhood obesity.

Dr. Frazzetta also played an instrumental role in the Montrose County School District's sexuality education for the past two decades. Recognizing the importance of puberty education and seeing a need, she was able to pull together key players in the community and the district to improve education in this area. Additionally, she serves an important role in contraception education – not just at the schools, but also in the community with her free community lectures on puberty, sexuality and contraception. She has also been consulted by the Delta County School District for leadership on guiding their implementation of state guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education.

Approximately ten years ago, Dr. Frazzetta successfully championed the school district's concussion protocol –

now a standard part of the district's athletic policy. She is the medical supervisor for the districts athletic training who oversees all school-related concussions and their return to play.

As a lifelong learner and passionate educator of her peers and community, Dr. Frazzetta has given lectures in Montrose, Telluride, Delta, Grand Junction and Lake City – her most recent community talk attended by over 100 participants. She has been a leader in medical education in Western Colorado, spearheading and improving the rural track for medical students, and serves as an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Dr. Frazzetta has also served in a leadership role in local youth activities – including as a coach and also as booster club president, and has served on multiple hospital and community boards. She is active with the Curecanti Medical Society, fostering their local scholarship program that donates for \$5,000 annually to local students pursuing healthcare related studies.

About COPIC

COPIC is a medical professional liability insurance provider recognized as a leader in patient safety and risk management. Founded in 1981 by Colorado physicians, the company embraced ideals to ensure a stable medical liability environment, utilize a physician-directed approach, and put the interests of improving health care first.

Information about the COPIC Humanitarian Award can be found at <https://www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award>

**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

WATERCOLOR ART EXHIBIT AT THE ART CENTER

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Western Colorado Watercolor Society invites you to view their members exhibit at the **Montrose Art Center at 11 S. Park Avenue**. The show will hang from September 1 to 26th. The **Opening Reception is Friday, Sept. 4 at 5 to 7 p.m.** Because of the pandemic, we ask attendees to please wear masks and practice social distancing as much as is possible. Members from the Western Slope are included in the exhibit. Our judge for awards is Connie Henricks from Marble, CO. Henricks is both a two dimension and a three dimension artist. She lives in the right place since she sculpts in marble. WCWS has a website, www.wcwsociety.net where you can view the past years' National Show images. Rockies West National is a juried show that is at the Art Center in Grand Junction each March. The local entries from Montrose to Grand Junction to Aspen are many but also many from all over the United States.



Western Colorado Watercolor Society invites you to view their members exhibit at the **Montrose Art Center at 11 S. Park Avenue**. The show will hang from September 1 to 26th. The **Opening Reception is Friday, September 4 at 5 to 7 p.m.**



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MONTROSE AREA BICYCLE ALLIANCE (MABA) PUTS THE COMMUNITY ON WHEELS



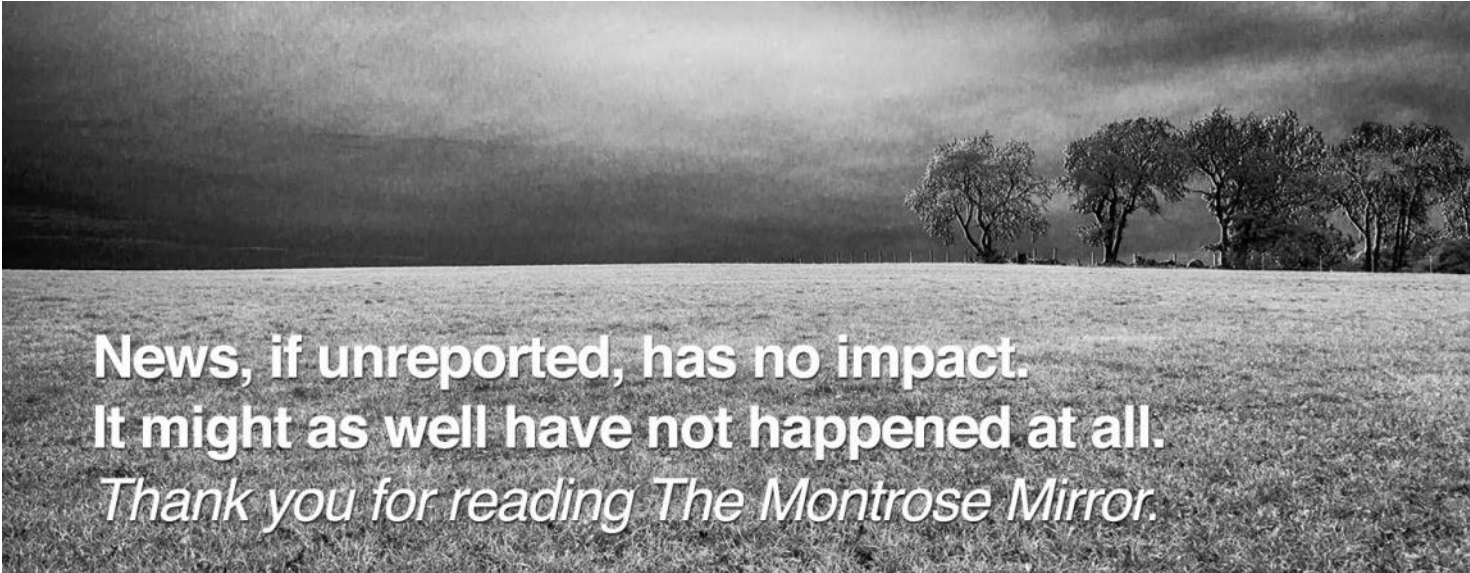
By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-The Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance (MABA) is a local non-profit that has done a lot for bicyclists in Montrose, from events for awareness and safety to promoting cycling in the city. They recently added a Bike Match program.

Through donations from members of the community as well as local businesses, they have been able to match used bikes with those in Montrose who are in need of some reliable wheels.

On Thursday, Aug. 27, they matched four more people with bikes provided by community members and Papa Wheelies, also providing new bike locks from RockyMounts. A local Montrose Police officer was present to give a quick lesson on bike laws and safety to the new owners.

For more information on MABA or to donate a bike you no longer use, contact them through their website: <http://montrosebicycle.org>.



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



Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet



Allowed

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



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



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



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.



NOT Allowed



The personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.

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



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

Agricultural burning is not allowed.



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

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



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

A FRESH POINT OF VIEW: WITH JACK SWITZER

A work of random pandemic fiction...

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-James "Jim" Sanderson sat alone in his truck at 7 pm on a Friday night. The Friday before this one was the day his wife had left him for an accountant with much deeper pockets. Tonight, Jim had large dark bags sinking under his eyes and a lonely ache in his heart.

He had barely had the strength to get in the truck an hour before, and now he was telling himself it was impossible to get out. All he wanted to do was sit in the backseat and think about how things could have been different if he just had put in a little more effort.

Still, in the end he was able to lift his frail fingers to the door handle, and meekly made his exit to see the bar before him.

The bright neon sign and the turned over patio furniture seemed to stare back at him, almost as if they were mocking him for coming three days in a row. He threw open the double doors to the bar and felt the heat and smells come rushing into him. Booze, attitude, and rebellion.

Admitting a sigh of defeat, Jim ordered a shot of peanut butter whiskey, same as he had ordered last night. When the glass arrived in front of his forlorn face, he saw

his reflection swirling around, looking less like him with every ripple that passed over the surface of his drink. He lost himself in those ripples for what felt like a very long time.

Then the sound of those same double entrance doors clattered him out of his trance of despair. He turned around to see the newcomer, only to be blinded by a glorious light, a light with more warmth than a childhood blanket.

Standing before him was a woman, she looked like a model, or something out of a fantasy, with long, curled red hair, and lips any red-blooded man could find himself lost in.

She glanced around the bar, but eventually sat next to Jim, whose palms were sweating, and it was suddenly way too hot to be wearing his winter coat.

His throat was dry and he hadn't brushed his teeth this morning, but he kept thinking to himself: "If I don't speak up, it could get awkward, she could move! I can't let that happen. I have to roll the dice!"

So he summoned every ounce of strength in himself, "Hey, um, my names Jim!" He said probably a touch too loud.

"Hey Jim, what's up?" She snapped back.

"Oh uh, I was just thinking about how I haven't seen you here before," He said, trying his best not to shake.

"Well I'm quite hungry," said the woman.

"I figured I could grab a bite and a drink here, probably same as you." She looked almost confused.

Now profusely sweating, Jim responded, "Well miss, I have a Snickers here, I got it from a bud at

work today. They don't serve food here, so it might be the best you've got."

The voracious woman ripped the Snickers from Jim's hands, and began to tear off the wrapper.

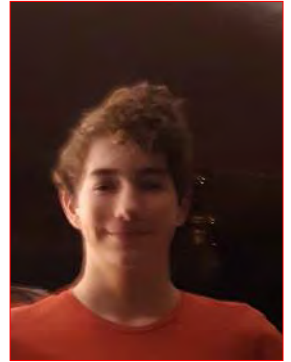
"Wow, thank you so much!" She said, her white teeth gleaming. "I'm just not myself when I'm hungry."

So enchanted was Jim that he barely noticed as the glow that once surrounded this mysterious woman began to fade.

And on the barstool next to Jim now was a trucker, with a greasy shirt, half shaved stubble, and a mullet that kissed the floor.

"Thanks bud!" He growled, and turned to leave, his backside offering a truly memorable view of cleavage that sadly, appeared to be wasted on Jim.

(with appreciation for the inspiration, to Snickers!)



Jack Switzer, 17.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

REC DISTRICT ANNOUNCES OPENING OF HOLLY PARK



Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum, above left, cut the ribbon on Aug. 25, as the Montrose Rec District and City of Montrose celebrated the official opening of both Riverbottom Drive and Holly Park. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) is pleased to announce the re-opening of Holly Park, following its summer-long renovation project. On Aug. 25, the MRD and City of Montrose held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening of both Riverbottom Drive and Holly Park. This joint project serves as a shining example of the strong partnership between the District and the City, using shared grants and other resources to ensure the very best in access to outdoor recreation services to the community. Riverbottom Drive, built and maintained by the City, reopened to public use in April. All construction components on both projects have now been fully completed.

Holly Park serves as the entry to the Baldridge Regional Park Complex, a joint ownership and management effort of the City and the District. Holly Park was acquired and developed beginning in 1973 and now includes a beautiful, brightly-colored and fun multi-story playground, natural play area and zip line; refreshed handball court and children's play courts; paved and landscaped, 77-vehicle parking

lots; bicycle parking and repair station; refreshed and brightly covered shade shelters and new picnic tables; new irrigation; wide sidewalks; landscape and drainage improvements; and freshly-leveled, improved ball field with new sports lighting, dugouts and bleachers. It further incorporates the Montrose wayfinding signs, finishing the park entrance with a polished look. Riverbottom Drive now serves as the primary access drive to and from Holly Park, Ute Park and McNeil Sports Fields, the MRD park maintenance shop, the historic farmhouse and former District offices, and Riverbottom Park. With its widened roadway, the drive now boasts parallel parking along both inbound and outbound lanes, beautiful new sentry trees, widened sidewalk and Connect Trail access, as well as improved drainage and landscaping.

The playgrounds, parking lot, bike racks, handball and play courts, sidewalks, and shelters are open and available for use within the park, and will prove a popular destination along the Connect Trail. The MRD asks that everyone kindly stay out of and off the fenced ballfield to allow the new turf to fully establish and thrive so that

play can begin there in the spring of 2021.

Project funding came from both the City and MRD, The State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Great Outdoors CO (GOCO), Gates Family Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, Alpine Bank, Montrose Rotary Club, Montrose County School District, Valley Food Partnership, River Valley Health. Additional support and funding was given from DMEA, Western Area Power Authority and Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Montrose County, and Western Colorado Conservation Corps. Much of this funding was made possible only through the steadfast help by the Montrose Recreation Foundation (MRF), working arm-in-arm with the MRD toward making Montrose a leading community in Colorado for recreational opportunities.

Amy Warthen, MRD Board member and MRF Chair, notes: "The Montrose Recreation Foundation is delighted to have had the opportunity to be a partner in this project! The completion of Holly Park signifies that during difficult times, Montrose is able to rally as a community to bring change and great things to our community. I am excited for the community of Montrose to enjoy this part of our park system! A once "oldie" has been rejuvenated and can now be referenced with coin term it deserves 'an oldie but a goodie'!" Further, the MRD expresses gratitude and appreciation for the project team of Design Concepts - the award-winning landscape architecture, planning and design firm, and general contractor Stryker and Company, Inc., which built this park with such care, commitment, and conscientiousness that brought the project to successful completion, and the park that we all will be proud of and serve the needs of the community for decades to come. The Montrose Recreation District staff and Board of Directors thanks the public for their patience and support during construction and beyond, and looks forward to continuing our service to the Montrose community for all your recreational needs.

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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-

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, 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, unwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 Information: <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

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

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

Nov. 2--Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

A welcome backyard visitor, this beautiful and vocal Clark's Nutcracker was happily feasting on and caching pine nuts when she snapped his picture, Photographer Deb Reimann said. "Can Fall be far behind?"

A large black bear is shown from the chest up, holding a tablet computer with its right paw. The bear is looking towards the camera. The background is a scenic mountain landscape with green slopes, evergreen trees, and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

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