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# the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 393 Sept. 7, 2020

Have a safe and happy Labor Day Holiday!

## 'WE DIDN'T HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN,' BELL TELLS NEW COUNCILMAN AT MURA

*Councilman Dave Frank had requested redline copy of initial MURA financial plan*



*On Sept. 1 the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board met for a Zoom meeting. The board had not met for six-months and Board Executive Director, City Manager Bill Bell said, "This will serve as a re-cap meeting and get us back on track for monthly meetings." Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

**MONTROSE-Background:** The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism used to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the North and West Main on the South, is being developed by David Dragoo's May-fly Outdoors.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive

*Continued pg 23*

## INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION INVESTIGATES FORMER MAYOR DAVE BOWMAN

By Paul Arbogast

**MONTROSE-**When the news broke earlier this year that Montrose City Councilor Dave Bowman had insisted on receiving a portion of beer revenues from Divot's, the current liquor license holder at the City-owned Black Canyon Golf Course, it took more than a month for the City of Montrose to respond publicly. In an initial press release by Mayor Barbara Bynum, the city stated that it was a personal matter, but that they wanted it looked into and planned to set up a work session that included members of Colorado Liquor Enforcement.

Liquor Enforcement had already investigated the situation at that point, but the

City called on the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to look into the matter. According to an email response from CBI Communications Director Susan Medina, "The CBI did indeed look into the matter and learned that the State of Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division had already conducted an investigation of the incident and presented its findings to the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office for review. The DA's Office declined to file criminal charges in the incident based



*A matter referred to as "personal" by the Montrose City Council will be investigated by the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission.*

*Continued pg 21*

in this  
issue

*Montrose County  
Recognizes Staff!*

*COGYPSYFEST  
Comes to Montrose!*

*Egyptomania & Colorado  
Theaters by Bob Cox!*

*City Approves \$100K Business  
Incentives Package for 535 S. 1st!*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CHERRY CREEK MEDIA TO AWARD \$50K IN MARKETING GRANTS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - Cherry Creek Media in Montrose announced today that they will award \$ 50,000 in marketing grants to assist businesses in stimulating their customer base to return to shopping. Grant applications will be accepted between now and October 16, 2020.

The grants will be awarded by October 28, 2020 to locally owned businesses in any of the communities, cities, or counties within the listening area of any of their radio stations.

"Locally owned businesses make up the backbone of commerce and the economy in all of the communities we serve and they've been struggling these past several months", said Tony Driskill, Vice President and General Manager for Cherry Creek Media. "We're a part of these communities and are in a unique position to really help them stimulate their businesses. We've always promoted & encouraged people to shop local. Now we have an opportunity to not just promote this, but really help these local owners bring business back."

Marketing grants will be awarded to 15 locally owned businesses within their stations' listening areas in amounts of \$ 2,500 to \$ 5,000. There is no cash commitment for any business applying. To enter for a grant award, businesses only need to go to one of the websites of any of Cherry Creek Media's 3 radio stations - 94 Kix Country, 103-7 The River or Classic Hits KUBC GOLD.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HELP LOCATE TRESPASSER WHO ENTERED OCCUPIED RESIDENCES

#### Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the person(s) who trespassed onto a property in the 67000 Block of Sunnyside Road.

Between the dates of August 24, 2020 and August 30, 2020, an unknown male party reportedly entered occupied residences within the City Limits and the County of Montrose, Colorado. During these incidents, the victims described the male as having a slender build and average height.

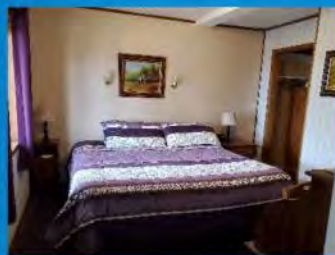
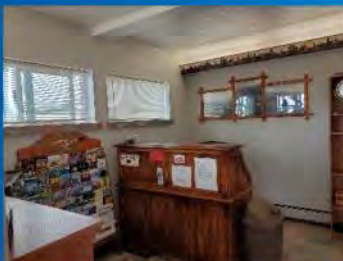
On Aug. 30, 2020, an unknown male was observed on a security camera walking around a property in the 67000 Block of Sunnyside Road. A witness described this male as approximately 5'9" tall with a thin face and a scraggly beard. The male party was estimated to weigh approximately 150 pounds and was seen wearing dark pants, dark sneakers, and a dark shirt. The male was also wearing a black backpack with the word NIKE written in larger white lettering. It is unknown if these incidents are connected but the public's help is appreciated in identifying this individual.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3Tips.com. Crimes Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers](https://www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers). Crime Prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

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

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\*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

### OLATHE MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL STAFF COHORT QUARANTINES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District (MCSD) reports that an Olathe Middle High School (OMHS) Staff Cohort will be in quarantine and working remotely as a result of a cohort member receiving a positive COVID-19 result.

We are actively working with Montrose County Public Health at this time to trace contacts and have determined that the extent of the exposure is within the single Staff Cohort.

At this point, anyone affected has already been contacted by Public Health and MCSD. All OMHS staff, students, and parents have received notification of the Staff Cohort quarantine and no student or other staff cohort members were exposed.

District Leadership is assigning in-person staff coverage for affected OMHS cohort members in quarantine, and we are glad to report that no student cohort will need to quarantine at this time. Due to the diligence of our families, staff, and students

at OMHS (and at all our campuses), in-person instruction may presently continue.

We remind everyone in the community to please wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), wash your hands often, stay home if you are sick, and maintain proper social distancing whenever possible.

These mitigation measures will allow us to contain closures to individual cohorts and not the entire school or district.

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## REMINDER: GUIDELINES FOR DISPLAYING THE AMERICAN FLAG



*A tattered and torn American flag, above, was replaced last week. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Kudos to the Montrose Black Canyon Motel who last week removed their tattered and torn American flag, which was ravaged by time and the ele-

ments, and replaced it with a new flag.

As a reminder to all who publicly display the American flag, when the flag is worn, or no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be retired and destroyed by cere-

monial burning. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers guidelines for displaying the American flag:

"Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow or windstorms unless it is an all-weather flag.

It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously."

In the month of September, a special holiday and occasion are Labor Day, Sept. 7 and Patriot Day, Sept. 11.



**T**hese days, photography is practiced by anyone with a smartphone, but it's mastered by few.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY AND REGION 10 TEAM UP TO PROVIDE GRANT RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Help is on the way for many small businesses within Montrose County. Earlier this week, the board of county commissioners approved an agreement with Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc., to administer \$300,000 of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars through grants to small businesses impacted by the pandemic. Grant awards are up to \$10,000 each.

"I am very concerned about the economic impact of the pandemic," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "The county has been working with Region 10 to monitor local economic conditions and create long-term projections. Several of our local small businesses have experienced a decrease in overall businesses and the board is committed to helping foster a thriving local economy."

"We're fortunate to have a partner like Region 10 that can help get these grants to businesses quickly," said Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch.

"We are pleased to work with the County to provide assistance to our small businesses which have been impacted by the shift in the economy due to the pandemic," said Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes. "Many of these businesses are the base of our Main Street communities and economies, and we want to have them remain a key contributor during and after this challenging time."

Businesses with less than 25 employees, less than \$2.5 million in annual gross revenue, whether or not they are publicly traded, whether an applicant business contributes towards the fulfillment of community economic development goals as defined by Region 10, and whether an applicant business has received funding through the Paycheck Protection Program administered by the Small Business Administration will receive additional consideration. Non-profit corporations are not eligible for grant awards. To apply for a grant, businesses may contact Region 10 at 970-765-3134 or 970-765-3126 or visit [www.Region10.net/business-resources](http://www.Region10.net/business-resources)



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY ANNOUNCES LABOR DAY CLOSURES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and the City Shop will all be closed.

Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open.

The City's Trash and Recycling collection schedule has been modified. For trash routes normally scheduled for Monday Sept. 7, residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, pickup will occur Tuesday, September 8.

For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, September 9. The recycling collection normally scheduled for Monday, September 7, pickup will occur on Friday, September 11.

For more information contact City Hall at 970.240.1400.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### INDEPENDENCE PASS CLOSURES FOR ROCKFALL MITIGATION WORK THROUGH OCTOBER

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin rockfall safety work after Labor Day on Independence Pass (CO 82), requiring a daytime lane closure with alternating traffic from mile posts 59 to 62. The closure is necessary for the motorists' safety as crews repair mitigation systems designed to prevent rockfall from impacting the highway.

There will be a few days of full closures for rockfall mitigation in late September and early to mid-October.

Schedule:

One lane will be closed with alternating traffic on the pass, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8 through Friday, Sept. 11. Daytime work will continue Monday through Friday over the month of September for the work.

A full closure of the pass is planned for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30 and possibly Thursday, Oct. 1 for hydromulching. This a water and wood based mulch that helps stabilize the slopes.

Full weekday closures are planned in early and mid October as a helicopter will be used to install rock netting.

The schedule is subject to change due to weather and other factors.

Motorists are urged to use alternate routes during single lane and full closures. Oversize and overweight vehicles are strictly prohibited from using the pass at any time due to narrow and winding roads and steep inclines. Absolutely no vehicles over 35 feet in length may use the pass at any time.

Motorists should plan for delays, drive with extra caution and do not speed. They should also watch for workers, avoid using mobile devices while driving, allow ample space behind the vehicle ahead and be patient. For the latest road condition information go to [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org).

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**Friday, Sept. 18th | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### MONTROSE DAILY PRESS STACKS THE DECK FOR CITY COUNCIL

*Editor:*

After last weeks' article on 'why the public should not fund the cleanup of private property so that it could be sold' I somehow just knew that the very thought of a 'free and open discussion' followed by a vote at city council was tantamount verifying something that had already been decided.

The decision was made, then the meeting was held and the vote reaffirmed a decision already made.

In my opinion is that the MDP seldom prints unfavorable coverage of the city and council after very little cursory investigation on their part. It good that now the citizens of Montrose can be sure of the stacked deck from their splendid local newspaper, the MDP. Its all Kumbayah.

Connecting the dots, the Rose Garden agenda determining who really harvests the benefits of these city give-aways is "Always the Question".

*Bill Ramsey, Montrose*

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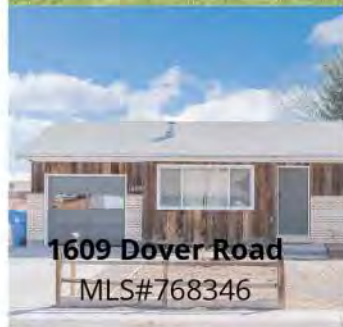
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### POTATO GROWERS BUILDING NOW ON STATE, NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTERS



*The Potato Growers Building, before and after new base flooring, fresh timbers and a new roof were installed in January. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Potato Growers Association building at 39 West Main Street, constructed in 1908, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is a listing of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation. Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are automatically placed on the Colorado State Register.

In 2018, the City of Montrose adopted a Historic Preservation ordinance that created the city's Register of Historic Places and outlined a process for buildings to be listed on the register. In 2019 Montrose City Council listed the Potato Growers Association Building on the city's Register of Historic Places, upon recommendation of the city's Historic Preservation Commis-

sion.

"The Potato Growers Association building was the first privately owned property to be listed on the city's Register of Historic Places and we are thrilled that the building owners pursued listing it on the State and National Registers as well. We are proud that this beautiful building is now officially recognized nationally as an important historic resource," said Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler.

The historic brick structure was built in 1908 after the original wooden structure burned earlier that same year. The building was a warehouse for the Montrose Fruit Growers Association, the Montrose Fruit and Produce Association, and later on for the Montrose Potato Growers Association. The building is significant for its association with the agricultural history of Montrose and the Western Slope. Historical records indicate that wool was stored in the warehouse throughout the 1940s and potatoes were stored in the building in the 1950s, according to David Fishing, a co-owner of the building. He said addi-

tional documents show the building was used for cold storage for local restaurants in the 1960s. "We are extremely excited that the nomination for the Montrose Fruit and Produce Association building (now known as the Potato Growers building) was accepted by the National Park Service," said Fishing. "We put a lot of work into researching the history of the building and its significance to the area, so we are glad it paid off. With our listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the building is now recognized at every level of government as having been historically significant, both as a commercial hub and architecturally.

Last year the Fishings began rehabilitating the inside of the Potato Growers building, which had been abandoned and open to the elements for decades. New base flooring with fresh timbers and a new roof were installed and completed in January. This necessary work elevated the building to a starting point for further rehabilitation without changing the original character of the structure.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PART 4 OF A SIX PART SERIES *by Dee Laird*



### THE REC CENTER INITIATIVE

The Montrose Recreation District covers an area of 500 square miles to serve a population of about 30,000+, including the City of Montrose and half of Montrose County. In 2013 Bell and council proposed a 10% sales tax increase as a means of funding a new Community Recreation Center [CRC]. Under that proposal, only city residents would have a vote on a tax increase applicable to all Rec District taxpayers shopping in the city.

In the 2014 election there were 10,252 registered voters in the city, and about the same number in the county area of the Rec District. Under Bell's and council's proposal for that 10% tax increase, that meant that 50% of Rec District taxpayers would be denied a voice in a sales tax increase.

In light of the blatant unfairness of this proposal, many taxpayers voiced opposition to the plan, suggesting that Rec District taxpayers in the county be allowed to vote on this one issue.

However, I think Bell and council realized the

probability of failure was greater if county taxpayers were allowed to vote their opinions on the issue. Showing no concern for those county Rec District voters, Bell and council moved forward with only city residents voting on a 10% tax increase to be levied on all. Opposition to this city scheme was strong, with the initiative passing by only 4.3%.

This issue of taxation without representation is one of the major reasons more and more voters have lost trust in Bell and city government.

### 2A-THE PSST

The 2019 2A initiative was like *deja vous*, in that the proposed 18% sales tax increase brought back memories of the CRC issue above, where county residents were precluded from voting on a tax to be levied on them.

With crime rates shown to be increasing over the previous few years and the Montrose Police Department in dire need of additional funding, Bell and council realized there was a strong possibility of selling still another tax increase to the public. In my opinion, the citizen "Blue Ribbon" committee was formed purely to provide cover for Bell and council being seen as pushing still another tax increase.

After reading the "Blue Ribbon" committee report on the immediate and long term needs of the MPD, it started to dawn on me that, again in my opinion, Bell, had craftily manipulated that committee to arrive at a predetermined conclusion of a "need" for a public safety sales tax.

A critical part of committee discussion should have been a comprehensive review of several years of MPD funding to determine first if adequate police funding had indeed been a priority. According to two committee members, Bell had directed attention to current funding only, denying any look at previous years funding history.

My extensive research into city financial docu-

ments last fall showed an entirely different picture of police funding than that sold the committee. Between 2011-18, according to city financial documents, the city budget grew at almost twice the rate of the police department. Between 2017-18 when crime rates were increasing rapidly, the city budget grew by \$15.8 million, while the MPD received only a \$47.6 thousand increase. None of actual funding history, points in any way to public safety funding having been a priority with Bell! Since the 2014 Charter change placing the Police Department totally under Bell's thumb, the Police Chief was severely limited in how hard he could push for the funding he absolutely needed. After all, his job and retirement was at stake if he pushed too hard!

Other research into city documents showed that between 2013-18, the city took in \$17.2 million in sales taxes in excess of what was budgeted, yet those excess monies were expended on projects deemed by Bell and council more important than public safety. So, it certainly seems to me that Bell and council had been derelict in their duty to make public safety a priority, and the public has had to pay the price for their failure.

If the "Blue Ribbon" committee had been privy to the above information, their recommendations for an 18% PSST may not have been made. In my opinion that committee was manipulated by Bell to arrive at the predetermined outcome of proposing the 2A PSST and an 18% tax increase.

As an example of the deception employed in fostering this exorbitant tax increase on a gullible public, a promise was made to assure no public safety funds would be transferred to other funds, but upon narrow passage of the PSST, Bell and council quickly transferred \$670K from public safety. So much for honesty, transparency, and accountability in city government!

*TO BE CONTINUED*

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*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# MONTROSE POLICE RECEIVE GRANT FOR VEHICLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department recently purchased an equipped vehicle for the department's mental health co-responder that was paid for by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

In 2019, the city applied for a Peace Officer Mental Health Grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in the amount of \$42,745 to purchase the vehicle.

The city has seen an increase in individuals dealing with mental health issues throughout the community. In April of 2018, the Montrose Police Department (MPD) partnered with the Center for Mental Health and adopted a mental health co-responder program.

The program allows a masters-level mental health clinician to be integrated with law enforcement officers, both in the police headquarters and on patrol.

The salary of the clinician is paid by the Center for Mental Health. The program is designed so the officer and clinician respond together to individuals in crisis to de-escalate and mitigate the crisis on-site.

The purchase of a designated vehicle for the mental health clinician will allow the clinician to respond autonomously, stay on scene to deliver patient services, and complete follow-up visits, while freeing up officers for additional calls for service. The responding police officer(s) will stay on scene if there is a safety need. The grant will also purchase a radio for the clinician's safety.



*The Montrose Police Department has purchased a designated vehicle for the mental health clinician using grant funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA.) City of Montrose courtesy photo.*

"This is a great step forward for our agency in providing better support to an at-risk population in our community, and we are thankful to DOLA for awarding us this grant," said Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall.

In addition to the vehicle, the Police Department is using a portion of the grant funds to train and certify five officers in peer support counseling.

The trained officers will be available to employees as peer support 24-hours a

day, 7-days a week.

Hall said peer support is a critical component of any modern law enforcement agency.

"Our officers see and experience things no one should see in a lifetime. Officers need access to trained law enforcement peer support specialists who understand the profession and can assist officers and their families when the job takes a toll on their mental health and wellbeing," Hall said.





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## INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION INVESTIGATES FORMER MAYOR DAVE BOWMAN From pg 1

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

Mayor Bynum then put out another press release stating that the CBI had declined to initiate a criminal investigation into the matter. In that release, the Mayor did not include the fact that the findings were passed on to the DA's office, and it was that office that declined to file charges. According to the city, that was the end of it.

Still, on July 6 Divot's Owner Janece Culver and the West Slope Advocate filed a formal complaint to have Colorado's Independent Ethics Commission review the situation for ethics violations. The IEC reviews submitted complaints, issues findings on complaints it accepts, and assesses penalties and sanctions where appropriate. Most complaints submitted are found to be frivolous. So far this year there have been 65 submissions to the IEC, and only three were found to be valid complaints warranting further investigation. On Friday, Aug. 28, Councilman Bowman received a letter from the Independent Ethics Commission of the State of Colorado (IEC), which he shared with fellow council members.

I had recently spoken to Mayor Bynum via email and she still states that it was a personal issue, though when reached for comment on the IEC accepting this complaint, said she has, "full faith and confidence in the system."

The complaint was submitted with a summary statement about the alleged ethics violation, as well as the contract between Divot's and the City of Montrose, articles from various news media, and the case report from the Liquor Enforcement Division (LED). Documents can be viewed at this link:

The Scope of Services from the Divot's contract states that Divot's is required to, "provide the City a 1 percent share of net profits." Depending if the contract is renewed and for how long, this can increase to 3 percent. This is normal business, the city owns the golf course, so must attempt to make it pay for itself. However, if Bowman required money per alcohol sale, that reduced net profit for Divot's, thus reducing revenue to the city.

According to the Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) case report, they received information that an unlawful financial interest possibly existed, which was reported to them by Culver on April 27. The LED spoke to all involved during the course of their investigation. In conclusion, the LED found both parties to be in violation of 44-3-301(3)(a) – Exercising the privileges of a liquor license and 44-3-901(1)(h) – To manufacture, sell or possess for sale unless licensed to do so.

Accordingly the case report states that on June 20, "Bowman was advised, via voice mail, the Montrose Summer Music Series, and him personally, sold alcohol without a liquor license when it shared in a percentage of the sale of alcohol beverages by Divot's."

The 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Robert T. Zentner was given a copy of the LED report on June 5. Nine days later the LED investigator received an

email stating that the District Attorney had reviewed the report and would not file charges on either party because his office, "does not believe there is a risk of continued noncompliance with liquor law."

Based on the question of illegal actions happening, the LED report is clear, they did occur. Prosecutorial discretion is an authority the DA's office holds, which was exercised in this case.

The City of Montrose did hold a work session on Monday, Aug. 31 at which two employees of the LED were present for about 30 minutes to talk about liquor law and responsibilities of local liquor control boards. They suggested if there was ever a question regarding legality of actions of local officials and private businesses with regard to liquor laws, they should be contacted to clarify before any action is taken. Had anyone from the city done so when Culver initially contacted the city with her complaint, the entire situation could have ended differently.

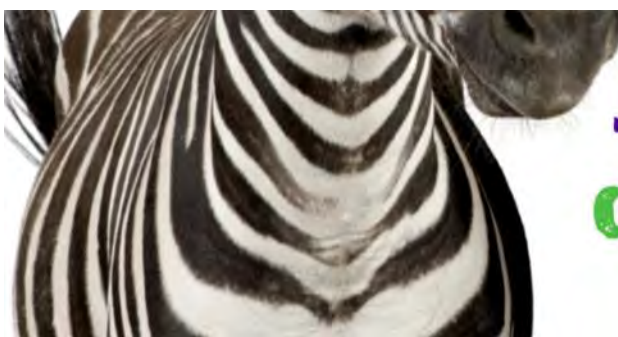
And if the city asked Liquor Enforcement about the situation years ago, when the same arrangement was in place with the previous liquor license holder on the golf course, none of this would ever have happened.

Now, the Independent Ethics Commission will talk to all involved, collect statements, and review statutes to determine if there was an ethics violation.

Unlike the City of Montrose, it appears that the Commission does not view the matter as a "personal issue."

I have reached out to Bowman for comment and have received no response.

<https://iec.colorado.gov/sites/iec/files/documents/Complaint%2020-18.pdf>



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## ***'WE DIDN'T HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN,' BELL TELLS COUNCILMAN From pg 1***



***Promised development has not materialized at the Colorado Outdoors site, above.***

Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Gayle Johnson (Montrose School District) and Mark Plantz (Special Districts Representative). The MURA board, which had not met for six months, resumed their meetings on Sept. 1. All board members except Plantz attended the Zoom meeting. Also in attendance were City Engineer Scott Murphy, Kurt Soukup (Range Development), David Dragoo (Colorado Outdoors) and Deputy City Clerk Mikayla Unruh. Board Chair Tad Rowan called the meeting to order and opted to forgo the Pledge of Allegiance for the virtual meeting. There were no changes to the agenda; the board unanimously approved the minutes of the Feb. 2, 2020 meeting.

### **General Discussion on Current Development and Construction Activity** – City Manager William Bell, Executive Director.

Bell said, "This will serve as a re-cap meeting and get us back on track for monthly meetings. Development is booming in Montrose. The perception is that COVID slowed down development, but here in Montrose [building] permits are strong. It's so busy it's hard to find subcontractors. The building and planning departments are swamped."

Bell reported on several large develop-

ment projects (housing, business, and shopping mall) taking place in Montrose. He said, "There is a lot of activity and it's really exciting. We [City/MURA] have to be a little more conservative than before COVID. Unlike other communities we are not laying off people. We're sitting well compared to other Colorado communities."

### **MURA Southern Multi-Family Housing Project, Phase I Apartments Update** - Kurt Soukup, Range Development.

Soukup said, "At the beginning of February we had a contract with Georgetown [Colorado] for 72 apartment units. We had three buildings. We had the first one completed in a week, the second in three weeks and the third will be completed November 1<sup>st</sup>. We want to do it as quickly in Montrose also. I'm hoping we can get started immediately. The interest for people to get out of the city [metro area] is significant. Georgetown and Montrose are perfect pockets. Our apartments are three-story, with breezeways and no walk-through hallways."

Soukup continued, "Originally we were going to do modular, but I like the panelized structures. We can have employment coming from the Montrose area. It will be a benefit for all of us to bring economy to

town. As quickly as Scott [City Engineer Scott Murphy] can get the roads going we're ready to start. We can do it in conjunction."

Mayor Barbara Bynum said, "I thought you did modular."

Soukup said, "The panel system is just as quick and I can have local workers. Modular would delay the project."

Bell said, "The existing building permit deadline would need to be moved to springtime."

Soukup said, "I would pull the permit today if Scott were ready."

Bell said, "Scott and I will talk about getting site work done before winter, but everyone is so busy."

Murphy explained some of the delays on the part of the city, "Public infrastructure will be put out for bids. We were concerned we could get the first building done with COVID. The agreement with Del-Mont Consultants, good or bad, they too have been tied up."

Soukup also requested the land acreage for the three-phase project be increased to 9.1 acres. The land will be purchased from Colorado Outdoors.

Brad Hughes said, "When do you plan to close on the land?"

Soukup said, "Tomorrow the escrow money will be released to Dragoo."

Bell said, "We will extend this to April to come and pay for the permit. The legal team is comfortable with \$1.5 M in escrow."

Hughes said, "What will happen if the deadline is not met?"

Bell said, "It would be in default and we would pull back all of our contributions."

Bell reported that the Financing Plan was delayed because of COVID. The infrastructure build would come from the Utilities Budget. This financing is not for buildings, but rather the horizontal improvements — common parking area, lighting.

Bell said, "The SID [Special Improvement District Fund] will loan the MURA \$640,000. This is a 20-year project and it will be paid back through property tax. The water and sewer are city projects, \$600,000 will come from sewer and \$250,000 from water."

In order to get up to speed Councilman Dave Frank, who is new on city council,



## ***'WE DIDN'T HAVE A FINANCIAL PLAN,' BELL TELLS COUNCILMAN***

***From previous pg***

asked for a redline copy of the old financial plan so he could compare it to the new plan.

Bell said, "We didn't have a financial plan. We approved the project, with the financial plan to come later."

When the numbers didn't quite add up for Hughes he said, "Just so I'm clear on what the MURA board is funding and what the city is funding."

Bell explained the additional funds needed for the project would come from the city's General Capital Fund. Bell said, "From a financial standpoint, housing does not generate revenue. I'm trying to construct this so the MURA doesn't have to borrow money. So the city doesn't have to keep financing the project. Housing doesn't do it, but housing is a city priority."

The amendment to change the building permit deadline to April 1, 2021 and the increased land acreage were approved unanimously.

**Marriott Hotel Project Update** - City Manager William Bell, Executive Director.

Bell said, "Across the State lodging tax is down. It's 40 percent down for us. We're okay, but we're still not healthy. They [Marriott] say they are still excited about building in Colorado Outdoors. They are asking for a 12-month delay [permit deadline], we compromised for eight months. They are honestly concerned with the county's effort to move forward with a hotel [Hilton product]. It seems to be directly competing [with Marriott]. The county is looking at an empty lot, parking lot and land near the airport."

Bell continued, "I talked to them [county] and I don't think it's appropriate for the

city to provide incentives for that project. It does make them [Marriott] a little nervous."

Chair Tad Rowan said, "If the county project goes through will they [Marriott] pull out?"

Bell said, "They still want to build, but would like to be the only one. They seem committed to come here, but they would need to see how COVID turns out and what the county does."

Councilman Roy Anderson said, "Perhaps there is enough business for two hotels."

Bell said, "Both have about 100 units. Studies show we could use two hotels but building them out at the same time doesn't make the best sense."

Hughes said, "If they don't pull a building permit? Maybe we're not getting the full facts. The numbers are not adding up for me [Marriott incentives]. We have eight months until they pull a permit. We keep hearing about all the development, but nothing is happening."

Bell said, "If they don't meet the deadline, everything is off the table."

Frank said, "We keep doing it...?"

Bell said, "We don't keep doing it. We're dealing with public perception. If the county is giving land, estimated to be worth about \$2 M, it is a big incentive."

Murphy said, "The deadline is pulling the permits."

Anderson said, "We really have spent no money to date." The board voted unanimously to amend the building permit deadline to May 31, 2021.

**Update on the Connect Trail and River Restoration Project** - Scott Murphy, City Engineer.

Murphy used a PowerPoint to show the

continuing river restoration and the bank stabilization along the trail. He said, "Of the \$1.6 M for the project, \$784,000 is covered by grants."

Hughes said, "What are you doing about the homeless tents and camps out there?"

Murphy said, "That's turned over to PD. There have been some 20 camps down there. Between Main and North 9<sup>th</sup> Street. That's Dragoo land. It [request for PD] has to come from the landowner. It's being managed."

Bell said, "We do regular sweeps. Public Works is reactive and tears down camps. We put signs up telling them [homeless] where they can pick up their things. Graffiti is a problem on concrete sidewalks."

Murphy said, "We put on an anti-graffiti coating. It does work."

**Private Development Update** - David Dragoo, Colorado Outdoors.

Dragoo reported on Wedge Brands (Project Blizzard), a new 3<sup>rd</sup> party logistics facility to be built in Colorado Outdoors. Dragoo said, "It's like a mini-Amazon. Outdoor sporting goods and gear — skis and boards, bikes, lifestyle apparel. It's a big warehouse, 77,000 square feet. There will be 47 job creations, net new jobs."

Dragoo introduced a new four-minute Colorado Outdoors marketing video which was produced by City Public Information Officer William Woody, with commentary from Mayor Bynum. When the video could not be viewed because of sound difficulties, a link was sent to board members to be viewed later.

**Next Meeting**

The next monthly meeting of the MURA Board will be a Zoom meeting at 3 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2020.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSES OLATHE UNIT

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-After much deliberation and with a heavy heart, the Board of Directors and staff at the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club have decided to close its standing facility in Olathe. Parents and parties who work with the Olathe Unit directly have been notified. COVID-19 had a huge impact on this decision to close the Olathe Unit. The Club's biggest fundraiser, the Montrose Wine & Food Festival, had to be canceled in May in accordance with social distancing precautions related to COVID-19. Not having the Festival, which brings in annually one-fourth of the Club's annual operations funding, was a huge hit to the Club as a whole. Club is funded operationally solely on local fundraisers, grants, and monthly donations with no additional subsidization from other entities including Boys & Girls Club of America. Even with an online silent auction completed by the Montrose Wine &

Food Festival committee, with the help of generous business and individuals donating and purchasing items, the deficit of not having the Festival could not be overcome. "It was not economically feasible to keep the facility in Olathe and offering programming due to this economic loss. That is not to say in the future we will not look to offering programming again in Olathe, perhaps an on-site school program similar to how the Montrose Unit originated, but for 2020-2021 it was not possible" said Club Executive Director Bud Taylor.

The Montrose Unit has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 as well. In order to adhere to social distancing precautions, the Club is only able to assist 50 members for the 2020-2021 school session. The Montrose Unit typically sees up to 120 kids per day during the school year. Fees have also been modified to adjust to the amount of kids Club is able to assist

with scholarship options still available to those who qualify.

Taylor: "It has been a rough year for everyone. It is so hard to have to make such drastic changes but it is important to keep the Club running, even if not how it has been done in the past, at least for the time being. We are still looking to the future to build a permanent site in Montrose to stop the waiting list and looking to getting back to programming in Olathe. We appreciate the community's continued support and acknowledgment of the important role the Club fills for our local youth and hope to get back on track for our future goals."

For more information on the Club including the Olathe closure, the build of the permanent Montrose facility, etc. please contact Bud Taylor at [btaylor@bcbgc.org](mailto:btaylor@bcbgc.org).

You can also visit the Club's website at [www.bcbgc.org](http://www.bcbgc.org).



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# MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE STAFF, ANNOUNCE REGION 10 SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS



*At the Sept. 2 meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the first order of business was employee recognition, above.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All commissioners were present at the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Wednesday, Sept. 2. Pastor Buddy Cook of First Church of the Nazarene delivered the invocation, “...Heavenly Father we thank you today for this meeting...I thank you for these commissioners...in these days of difficult times, we pray for wisdom, we pray for guidance...”

County Deputy Manager Jon Waschbusch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was shared online on the county’s web site and was open to the public with social distancing measures in place. Though commissioners wore masks to the meeting, masks were removed in session to enable clear communication.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

## COUNTY MANAGER

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 41-2020 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 17, “...concerning the donation of surplus property consisting of two (2) light fleet vehicles that had been used by the Sheriff’s Office and that have previously been approved to be disposed per Resolution 15-

2020 at the BOCC meeting on April 1, 2020. The Montrose County Sheriff has requested these units be donated. Upon approval, the units listed in Exhibit A shall be donated to the Towns of Olathe and Nucla.”

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first order of business was **employee recognition**. Human Resources Learning and Development Coordinator Liz Esquibel presented several awards. The first to be honored was Human Resources Director Leslie Quon. Said Commissioner Sue Hansen, “I think it’s long overdue...when you look at people that work hard in the community and our organization, I think of you...you are a benchmark of how we would love to see employees and directors operate.”

The Human Resources team is engaged and excited about the tasks they are doing, Hansen said. “To me that exemplifies what we would like to see in every single department.”

Norris said that he meets with Quon every week. “It’s just amazing the amount and number of problems that have to be resolved, and when they boil over they end up on Leslie’s desk,” Norris said. “...Leslie, thank you very much. I really appreciate everything you do.”

Quon also received an award from her own staff. “She has grown each one of us

to where we are today,” Esquibel said.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore was recognized by RN Laura Lenihan for providing legal support to the Health Department during the COVID-19 crisis.

Case worker Kendra Sitton was recognized by Human Services staffers Stephanie Holsinger and Julie Miller for providing a very thorough and competent courtesy assessment for La Plata County. “It was a lot...she just did such an amazing job,” Miller said. “...we should be very, very proud.”

“Any time we can shine inter-county is really a great opportunity for us, and it’s a great opportunity for you to grow in your leadership skill set...so proud of you Kendra,” Commissioner Sue Hansen said. “...Thank you for representing the County so well.”

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented a **proposed agreement with the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc. (Region 10)**. Under the agreement Montrose County will provide Region 10 with \$300,000 of Coronavirus Relief Fund revenue to be used for grants in support of small businesses impacted by the pandemic. This agreement represents an unbudgeted expense of \$300,000; the county has been allocated unbudgeted revenue to offset this expense through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the agreement.

Waschbusch presented an **application to the Gray & Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program** administered by DOLA for the application period ending Sept. 30. The Montrose County Sheriff’s Office has used the annual grant funding for equipment and purchases that have been used for investigations and enforcement, with some high-profile seizures taking place in the past couple of weeks. “We’ve seen this equipment put to its intended use, and pay dividends for local and regional law enforcement,” Waschbusch said. To date the county has received around \$246K and change through the program. “We are uncertain at this point what the award based on the current allocation would be,” he said.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE STAFF From previous pg

BOCC Chair Keith said, "...Thank you so much for the hard work you put in... Jon, I do appreciate it." Caddy asked Undersheriff George Jackson about an illegal marijuana grow that was recently seized.

Jackson said that the action was taken by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and San Miguel County Sheriff's Office, "...in conjunction with Colorado Bureau of Investigation, basically a year-long investigation has gone into this...that included tracking vehicles, tracking movements of people, and photographs of the suspected areas." Agents applied for and received search warrants two weeks ago, Jackson said. Searches were executed on a location in Montrose County and on two locations in San Miguel County. Because one of the suspects had a previous homicide on record and because several employees were armed, "We chose to send our SWAT team to make the initial entry," he said. "...We were able to secure the area with absolutely no problem." Equipment used in the operation was obtained through the funds provided by previous gray and black market marijuana enforce-

ment grants, Jackson said. "Enforcement action was taken, and no one was hurt.

"Thanks to Mr. Waschbusch's efforts, we have the equipment to address these situations that can become volatile...with less risk to our people," he said, "Any time you are taking away someone's livelihood, illegal or not, a lot of times you get violence in response." Area law enforcement professionals are very well-equipped and very well trained, Caddy said. "...you don't have as many problems, you don't have as many people injured because of that."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash thanked sheriffs' officers for an outstanding job.

"...We are so blessed to have the people we have for our law enforcement," Rash said. "...It's just a privilege to sit here and be able to do stuff like this, to help fund the folks that actually uphold the laws and to help them do it in a safer manner.

"...You guys are my heroes," Rash said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the grant application.

County IT Director Don Varey asked the BOCC to **consider purchase of a County Phone System upgrade as part of the**

**CARES Act funding.** Total cost is \$99,559 and will be made in two payments to Tuck Communications. The present phone system has been in use for 11 years and is antiquated; the BOCC voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

Commissioners also voted to approve an **Amendment to the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations** as presented by Planning & Development Director Steve White.

### LIQUOR LICENSE/EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting unanimously to approve **the Sales Room application for the LaNoue/Dubois Winery on Trout Road.**

Reconvening as the BOCC, commissioners entered executive session to obtain legal advice pertaining to the County's zoning code and applicability to hemp processing. Due to attorney-client privilege the executive session was not recorded. No action was taken following the session.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



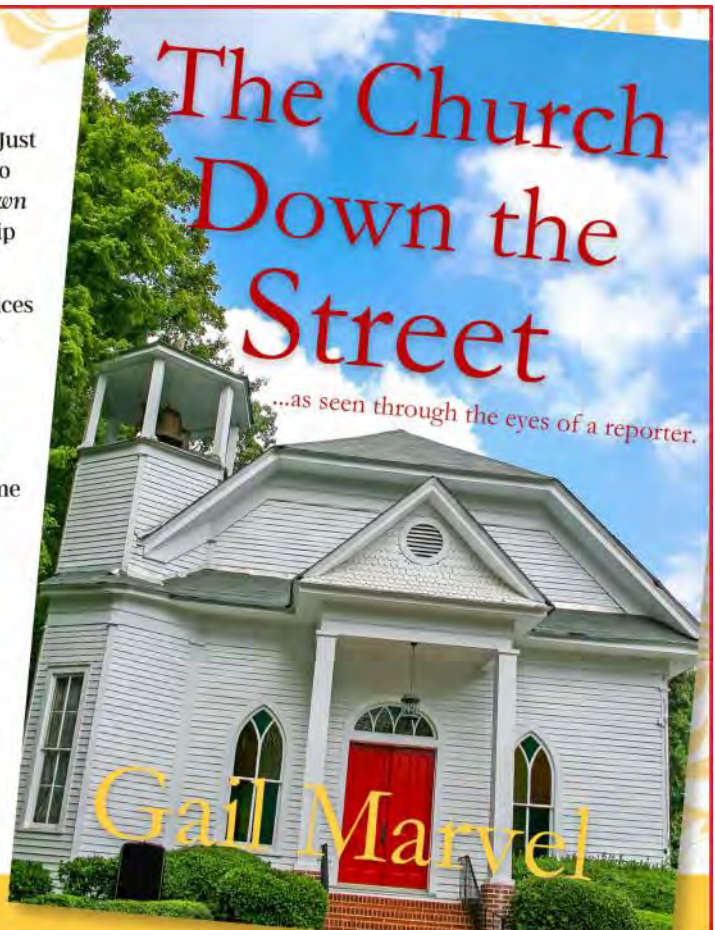
**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author  
& Reporter

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

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

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

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





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### 2020 ORIGINAL THINKERS FESTIVAL GOES VIRTUAL OCT. 1-11



*The 3rd annual Original Thinkers Festival will take place virtually this year on Oct. 1-11, 2020, from Telluride, Colorado. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE – The 3rd annual Original Thinkers Festival will take place virtually this year on Oct. 1-11, 2020, from Telluride, Colorado. Even though the festival will be undeniably different, its focus on some of our time's big ideas will still be at the core of this event.

As always, there will be ten highly curated individual shows with speakers, art, music, and film.

Original Thinker's 2020 programming, which will be announced in the coming weeks, examines some of the seismic issues of 2020 with a fresh perspective. As

Original Thinkers founder and ringleader, David Holbrooke states, "It is a confounding time for anyone who looks around and sees how troubled our present, much less our future is, which is why we believe original thinking is so damn important. The same old approach to ever more serious problems won't work, which is something we have seen with the inspirational Black Lives Matter movement."

The festival will continue to focus on the critical but often overlooked intersections between ideas and stories. "There are so many big ideas in our individual lives that can help us process this increasingly com-

plicated world. What we try to do at Original Thinkers is find those stories that will resonate deeply and stay with us long after we have taken them in, creating an indelible experience," says Holbrooke.

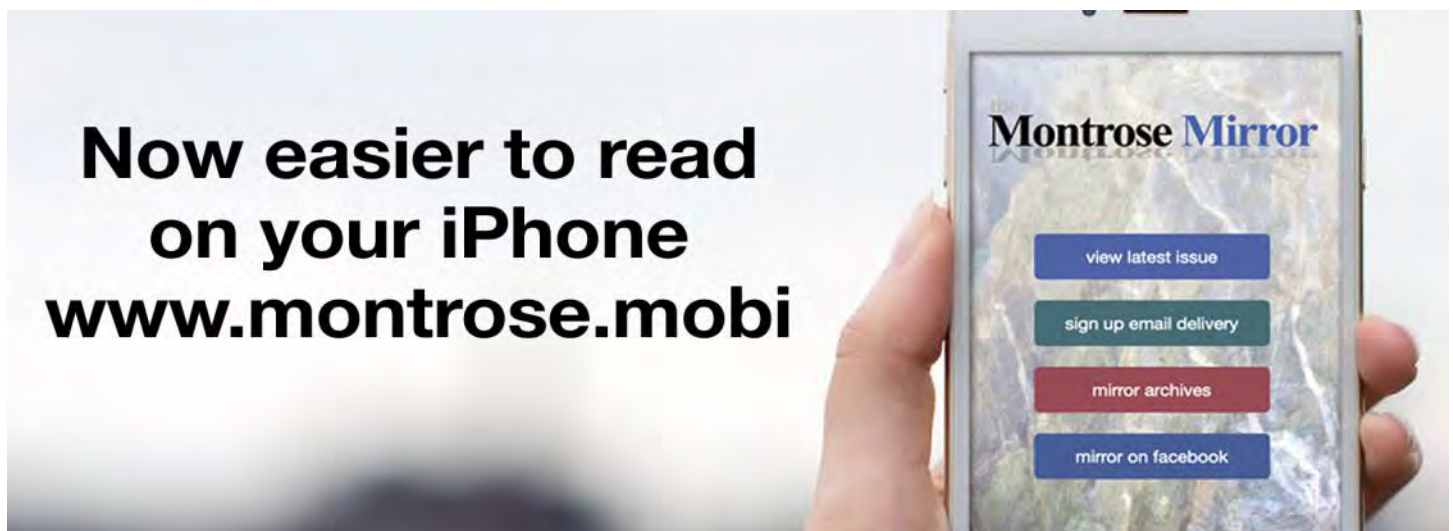
This will be the third year for Original Thinkers, which has tried to adapt as adeptly as possible. Holbrooke says that "Creating a new cultural entity is extremely challenging in any environment and especially so in the middle of a pandemic. That being said, as the world rapidly changes, original thinking is needed, now more than ever."

With the digital version of the festival, Original Thinkers is excited to reach entirely new audiences this year who may not have been able to make it to Telluride in the past for the terrestrial event. Passes for the entire festival will be on sale at [originalthinkers.com](http://originalthinkers.com) for \$50, and the dates of the event have expanded beyond the traditional four days to ten so that people can come and be part of Original Thinkers throughout this period.

"It's unnerving to embark on this, but we believe in the power of our program and think that people really need - and want - something that is smart, entertaining, and compelling that will give us some context and clarity to this critical juncture in history", says Holbrooke.

For additional information or to purchase festival passes, please visit [originalthinkers.com](http://originalthinkers.com).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# SMPA ADDRESSES COVID-19, POWER SUPPLY, INFRASTRUCTURE IN 'MESSAGE TO MEMBERS'



### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY—"The New Reality" is a phrase we've been hearing a lot these days," says San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board President, Rube Felicelli. It refers to a myriad of changes the rural electric cooperative has undergone in the last several months.

One major change was the cancellation of SMPA's Annual Meeting. This in-person event has been a staple of the co-op's outreach to its consumers for the majority of its eighty-year history. Due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the SMPA Board of Directors determined that cancelling would be best for the safety of staff and consumers alike. "Still," says Felicelli, "...we consider it vital to communicate to our members as we navigate a fragile economy, a rapidly changing industry, and unprecedented conditions--many of which are related to the global pandemic."

To this end, SMPA has released its Annual Report with a new element: The printed "Message to Members" has been interpreted as a dynamic video that covers topics that would have been addressed at the Annual Meeting. "Like every year, we share important messages in our printed and online Annual Report (available at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com))," says Alex Shelley, SMPA's Communications Executive. "But this year, we felt we needed to do something extra to make up for the fact that members (consumers) couldn't see our faces, like they would at an Annual

meeting."

The solution was a 6-minute, 21 second video, hosted on SMPA's YouTube Channel (accessible from [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)). In the video, Felicelli and SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski address the consumers on a variety of topics including the below:

#### **COVID-19 and Pandemic Response:**

"At the end of 2019, few were thinking that a global pandemic would threaten and transform our lives as it has over the past few months," said Zaporski. "Yet, SMPA was prepared. When the coronavirus arrived, we had an infectious disease response plan to guide our immediate actions." These actions included temporarily closing offices, separating work crews, and implementing new payment procedures.

#### **SMPA Power Supply:**

Those following the electric industry will know that major changes are under way. Recently, Colorado state legislation dictated that statewide greenhouse gas emissions were to be reduced by 26% in 2025, by 50% in 2030, and by 90% in 2050. This has had transformative effects on SMPA's wholesale power provider.

At least two years before the state mandate, SMPA was considering its power supply options.

"From time to time, our mission... demands that we evaluate our current course against other potentials," says Felicelli. "With this in mind, our board has determined that we need to understand the full value, and options, of our membership and contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission [SMPA's wholesale power provider]. We also need to further explore all power supply options to see if there is better way." To accomplish this, SMPA has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to potential power suppliers. The review process is currently underway. At their August 25<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting, the SMPA board of directors made preparations for a September

15<sup>th</sup> meeting, to be held in executive session, to consider proposals made in response to the power supply RFP. This meeting is part of the careful analysis the Board must carry out. No date has been set for a final decision.

#### **Infrastructure and Reliability Projects:**

"Although we live in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the nation, this landscape also presents us great challenges with regard to power delivery," says Zaporski. Another SMPA Board objective has been to improve system reliability, and SMPA has undertaken several major projects to reduce the impact of power outages due to natural events like rock falls, avalanches and lightning strikes.

"There's no greater example of challenged infrastructure than the power line that traverses Red Mountain," continues Zaporski, announcing the "Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project." This ambitious project aims to re-build a power delivery line that crosses the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre National Forest, the San Juan National Forest as well other private lands in the mountainous region. "This line serves as a backup feed for the communities of Ouray County. As the communities have been growing, we have known that we would eventually have to re-build it using modern materials and up-to-date design. Well," says Zaporski, "...the time has come."

The video, entitled "The New Reality" is, a solution, unique to the cooperative's current situation. "Although the channel may be different, the outreach is the same, says Shelley. "We're a democratic organization; reaching out to our members is a necessary part of our model. If a virus comes along and threatens that, we have to adapt... and we have."

View "The New Reality" and read the SMPA Annual Report at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com). To learn more, please visit [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) or call (970) 626-5549.



## CITY COUNCIL STEERS CLEAR OF DIVOT'S CONTROVERSY DURING WORK SESSION VISIT FROM LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a full agenda that kicked off with a visit from Colorado Liquor Enforcement officials, the Montrose City Council met for a "hybrid" virtual work session (Council and key staff convened in chambers, while the media and public were allowed to view online) on Monday, Aug. 31. All councilors were present for the work session.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Joining Council to provide an overview were Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division Investigations Supervisor Brian Turner and Agent in Charge of Licensing and Complex Investigations Robert Darrow.** Turner and Darrow gave an overview of the agency. If a complaint is received, it undergoes review on both an administrative and criminal basis. "We would conduct any type of investigation based on the information of record," Turner said. Darrow discussed various types of license holders, and informed Council that answers to many of their questions could be found in section 3 of the Colorado Liquor Code.

Though few cases of illegal distilling arise, the last moonshiner that the State encountered was found in the woods of Montrose County, Turner said.

Councilors asked a number of questions, though none asked directly about the concerns that were raised when the liquor license holder at the City-owned Black Canyon Golf Course complained that former Mayor Dave Bowman had been demanding a portion of beer sales during his non-profit summer music series in past years.

Councilor Bowman asked, "...What are we supposed to know about all of the rules regarding liquor in Colorado? There's been a discussion in our community, it involves me...I'm Dave Bowman and I made a mistake last summer, and entered into an agreement with a local establishment where that establishment provided a percentage of their sales to the Montrose Summer Music Series to help pay for the bands," he said. "For a concert series that



*Only Councilor Dave Bowman, center, accused of demanding a portion of beer sales from a liquor license holder, addressed the reason for the Aug. 31 work session presentation by state Liquor Enforcement. "Are councilors expected to know the liquor laws to that level?" Bowman asked Liquor Enforcement Division officials, who suggested asking first in future.*

we put on for free for the community. And it's been said as a City councilor I should have known that was breaking the rules.

"Are councilors expected to know the liquor laws to that level?" Bowman asked. "What are your expectations of city councilors across the state and our knowledge of the liquor laws?"

"That is a challenging one," Turner said.

"Because the liquor code is a very large code, but you are the local licensing authority, so you are the board that basically issues, denies, and revokes those licenses."

Local attorneys should provide the knowledge that City Councilors need, he said.

On the licensing side, Lisa DelPiccolo is an excellent liquor licensing clerk, Darrow said, and well versed in the regulations.

"If you are going to be doing something in conjunction with a license that you guys issue," Turner said, "I would suggest you give us a holler ahead of time, and we would go through any portion of what you are doing to make sure that you are accurate and that there was no violations associated with what you are trying to do with that licensing."

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn changed the subject, asking the officials to confirm that much of the State liquor code is not relevant to City councilors.

Council spent time talking about so-called

"entertainment districts," in which contiguous license holders merge for a specific event or purpose.

**Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) Executive Director Sara Plumhoff** presented a grants update to Council. She was accompanied by Montrose Community Foundation Board President Carol Friedrich.

Since the City and the Community Foundation joined forces in a formal partnership in 2013, \$160K in grants has been awarded, Plumhoff said.

The full report is included in the work session packet, and notes that in 2020 the City of Montrose donated \$30,000 to Montrose Community Foundation for the purpose of awarding grants;—In 2019 \$60,000 in community grants were given to 26 organizations;

During the last fiscal year, 2019-2020, MCF granted \$815K+ to local and regional organizations. The deadline to apply for the 2020-2021 grant cycle is Friday, Oct. 16.

Friedrich said that the Community Foundation provides a great opportunity to use grant funds to support people from birth through death in a variety of ways.

**Montrose Developer Matt Miles was present to talk about Phase I of the proposed 1890 Homestead Apartment Development Project**, a three-phase multi-family housing development near Cobble

## **CITY COUNCIL STEERS CLEAR OF DIVOT'S CONTROVERSY DURING WORK SESSION VISIT FROM LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT**

*From previous pg*

and Chipeta drives.

The City has been working on the project with Miles for quite a long time, City Manager Bill Bell said. "As I tell everybody, I think Matt has changed the entire face of the community for the better...we're talking market rate workforce housing; front-level workers will be able to live there."

The City could waive fees and invest in the infrastructure for the project, Bell said. The General Fund contribution would be around \$345K with the remainder coming from the water enterprise fund.

Housing is a huge issue in Montrose, Miles said, "These are very nice units...we're very confident that the project will be successful."

*Background:* A memo prepared by Bell for Council states, "Staff has met with the developer, reviewed the site plans, costs, and associated design necessary for the project...we have prepared the following incentives for your discussion and consideration: Permit and plan check fees: \$163,327 (waiver); City construction sales tax: \$403,650 (waiver); Construction water: \$3,840 (waiver); All tap fees:

\$1,075,047 (from 2021 general undesignated fund balance); Additional incentives toward water/sewer infrastructure \$700,000 (2021 water/sewer budgets); TOTAL \$2,345,864." A site plan is included in the [work session packet](#).

Also discussed was the **Lease Agreement for the Historic Montrose Depot Building** at 21 North Grand Avenue, which was restored and occupied since the 1970's by the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum. The term of the lease renewal is five years, which gives Council "flexibility" when dealing with a prime piece of real estate in a prime location, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. The rent has been increased to \$20 per year rather than \$1 per month as in the past.

*Background:* A memo prepared for Council by Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthau states, "...The City and the Historical Society entered into the current five-year lease in 2015, and it expires on September 15, 2020. Council is considering a five-year renewal of the existing lease, with minimal changes. If Council would like to pursue this renewal, staff will present the lease to

City Council at the September 15, 2020 City Council meeting."

In other discussions, Council considered a Resolution in support of the Gray and Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant and the award of a contract to Haynes Excavation in the amount of \$972,050.75 for construction of the Woodgate Subdivision Sewer System Rehabilitation Project.

City Manager Bill Bell said that Council will discuss la Raza Park improvements at the Sept. 14 work session.

"In general there's a lot of development headed our way," Bell said. "...Montrose hasn't really seen much of a slowdown...in fact it's picked up on the construction side of things...we just met with (developer) David Coker this morning about some other housing developments...it's an exciting time.

"It's just difficult to make sure that we plan that growth responsibly and maintain accurate resources to make sure everything gets done, not just growth," Bell said. "Maintenance is important as well as growth."

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ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
CRIME STOPPERS**



## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW LIQUOR LICENSE FOR BONNIE & CLYDE'S; \$100K FOR HAZARD ABATEMENT @ 535 SOUTH FIRST STREET



*Though other local entities now allow the public to attend public meetings with social distancing measures and masks in place, the Montrose City Council continues to keep members of the public and media from attending official meetings and work sessions in person.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With all City Councilors present in chambers with key staff, Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 1 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Despite social distancing and the session not being open to the public, Council and staff wore masks throughout.

### PROCLAMATION- LISSENCEPHALY AWARENESS DAY

Council issued a Proclamation in support of Sept. 8 as Lissencephaly Awareness Day. The proclamation states that "an estimated 1 in 100,000 people are born with lissencephaly, a rare gene-linked brain malformation causing the brain to have less or no ridges and folds making it appear smooth."

The full proclamation is included in the work session packet.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 regular City Council meeting as presented.

### HOTEL & RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council considered a new Hotel and Res-

taurant liquor license at 647 E. Main Street for Bonnie & Clyde's Ltd., doing business as Bonnie & Clyde's, for consumption on the licensed premises. Owner David Green was present via Zoom. City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said that 128 signatures in support of the petition were received, with 77 comments in favor of the new liquor license. He asked Green to discuss the proposed restaurant.

"I was a contractor for about 15 years, and we moved to Colorado about three years ago and started a restaurant in Ouray," Green said, adding that the Ouray restaurant was now closed due to the impacts of COVID-19. "This restaurant is going to be more geared toward fine dining...it's going to be a small menu that changes frequently...it's going to be a really nice restaurant."

Bonnie & Clyde's is fully staffed and will open in coming weeks. Green said he has added a new deck to the space for outdoor dining.

Following a brief public hearing, Council voted unanimously to approve the new Hotel and restaurant liquor license for Bonnie & Clyde's.

### PLANNING ITEMS

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to adopt Resolution 2020-18 setting Oct. 6 as the hearing date for

the Unrein Addition II annexation. Council voted also to approve the Sinner Subdivision Final Plat.

### BUSINESS INCENTIVES FOR CHOW DOWN PET SUPPLIES

City Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty presented a business incentives package totaling \$100,000 for ink tank removal and asbestos abatement, as was discussed extensively in work session. The new location of Chow Down Pet Supplies at 535 South First Street will allow "a wonderful Downtown business" to remain Downtown while providing better parking for superior customer service, Rosty said. The move will allow the business to access increased revenue by adding space, extending puppy classes, and providing additional services such as doggy daycare for working professionals. The building itself (the former home of the *Montrose Daily Press*, and which has housed Snow Shadow Gym since the Press facility was relocated) has been a little bit blighted and somewhat underutilized, Rosty said. "It is really central to our new campus improvements that we're doing near City Hall."

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell raised concerns over impacts to existing public parking, and the need for hazard abatement. "There's a concern there could be some shortage of parking...we're taking on quite a burden, when I look at \$100,000 for abatement on this building," he said. "We've kind of focused in the past on Main Street...this really isn't on Main Street. You really don't see it from Main Street."

Said Mayor Barbara Bynum, "It definitely falls in our Downtown Core though...here's an opportunity to refurbish and make that a thriving piece of our Downtown as opposed to what's currently there."

Renovation will increase the property value, Councilor Dave Bowman said. "I think it can be a real economic generator...I'm not one that likes business incentives very much but this one really makes sense to me."

*Continued next pg*

## ***CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW LIQUOR LICENSE FOR BONNIE & CLYDE'S, \$100K FOR HAZARD ABATEMENT @ 535 SOUTH FIRST STREET***

***From previous pg***

Glaspell asked whether unloading trucks will tie up traffic, including emergency vehicles; most receiving will take place in the alley, Rosty said.

"In order to retain them in the Downtown core this is really the only option," she said.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "We're closing South First Street in its entirety from the parking lot headed west."

The project is a perfect use of the TIF monies from the former Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Bell said.

"...There was sales tax increment created...to the tune of about \$800,000...now that the Downtown Development Authority has been dissolved...those monies didn't go away. They're sitting in an account, in a fund."

The previous owner responsible for the contamination sometimes does not exist, he said, and in other cases may be concerned over liabilities that arise from

cleanup. "There's a lot of things that come up with hazard mitigation...for a lot of reasons, it's a perfect project. I'm really excited about it." Bigger cities buy properties with their TIF monies, rehabilitate them, and sell them to private parties or lease out the premises, Bell said.

"That sounds a little speculative," Bynum said.

"We're not real estate flippers," Glaspell said, and asked several questions about the ink tank. The tank has proven to be a barrier to past prospective buyers, Rosty said.

"I like the fact that we're not spending general funds for this effort," Anderson said. "...That's good fiscal action."

Bowman moved to approve the business incentives package; Council voted unanimously to approve.

### **DART FAÇADE PROGRAM**

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to approve \$50,000 in fund-

ing for the DART 2021 Façade Grant Program.

### **CONTRACT AWARDS**

Also discussed extensively in work session, Council voted to award 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; and to award 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 for the Public Safety Complex construction project.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Bell reminded Council that it is budget season; the public budget open house will take place online this year.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



The graphic features a large stylized 'U' with a blue banner across it that reads 'MONTROSE LEADERSHIP'. Below this is an orange banner with the website 'CITYOFMONTROSE.ORG/LEADERSHIP'. At the bottom is a blue banner with the text 'BE A LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY'. To the left is a circular orange button with 'APPLY TODAY!'. To the right is a list of benefits for the program.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MINE RECLAMATION CONFERENCE ADAPTS TO THE TIMES WITH LIGHT-HEARTED VIRTUAL PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-For the past nine years, watershed groups around the San Juan Mountains have found common ground with company leaders and contractors who regularly attended the San Juan Mining and Reclamation Conference. Stakeholders from around mining communities, who share in the benefits of innovations and collaborations resulting from the annual event, will return once again for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Sept. 21, 22 and 23.

"This conference is a catalyst for innovative ideas and important collaborations between scientists, regulators and citizens in mining communities. When we had to pivot to a virtual platform this year, we realized we had to keep the heart of the conference intact, and create an online gathering that continued to spark the creativity and camaraderie of our diverse audience," said Mountain Studies Institute Executive Director Marcie Bidwell, a member of the conference committee.

Reflecting the 2020 conference theme, "Adaptive Capacity in Uncertain Times," the program is pared down to two action-packed, virtual morning sessions, two in-person field tours, and one fun, online happy hour. The conference sessions can be attended from offices and homes anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

A popular emcee at watershed events around the state, Anthony Poconi will keep the program moving smoothly and

undoubtedly add many laughs, as he moderates all online events this year. Known as a "funnyman and watershed science geek," Poconi will keep the atmosphere light as well as challenge conference goers with mine reclamation trivia with correct guesses winning prizes.

Briana Greer of Solid Solution Geoscience is a regular conference attendee who consults on mining geochemistry, water quality sampling and modeling, and mine permitting in the San Juan Mountains and beyond. Greer decided to volunteer with the conference committee this year, to help ensure the conference experience remains valuable to her colleagues.

"I'm excited about the keynote talk by Chris Caskey of Delta Brick & Climate. The company is a great example of entrepreneurship and rethinking the value of waste. He's also a fun guy who is passionate about his work and sharing ideas," she said.

Caskey will give his keynote on Monday, Sept. 21 at the Welcome Happy Hour. The late afternoon event will also include games and music by You Knew Me When, a musical duo from Ouray who just released an album entitled "Songs of the San Juans."

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 morning, three short presentations and one panel discussion will focus on adaptive capacity, with thought-provoking discussions of how the mining and reclamation community can plan for success in an uncertain world.

Presenters and panelists will share experiences and insights about approaches to adaptive management and risk assessment. They will give real-world examples of how to respond to changing conditions, pivot to take advantage of trends, and adapt effectively to disruptions in dynamic times, marked by shifting global markets, pandemics and climate change.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 morning, three more short presentations and another panel discussion will focus on changing water quality regulations.

Both mornings will include more games, music and interviews with companies involved in mining, reclamation and water studies in the San Juan Mountains.

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, in-person field tours will be offered to conference registrants who are in the Ouray-Telluride area. Newmont Mining will host both guided tours, one at the Idarado Mine Bulkhead in Telluride and the other at the Idarado historic site on Red Mountain Pass.

The San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference is organized by Mountain Studies Institute, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, and Headwaters Alliance.

This year's event is sponsored by CDM Smith, Heritage Environmental Services, Ouray Silver Mines, and SLR, as well as ACZ Laboratories, HDR and Linkan Engineering. For information and to register, go to <http://www.mountainstudies.org/sjmrc>.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is accepting applications for three seats on the Historic Preservation Commission. Each appointee will serve a three-year term, expiring on Oct. 16, 2023. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28, 2020.

The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply. At least two of the three appointees must reside within city limits and at least one of the three appointees must have previous experience in a preservation-related discipline.

The Historic Preservation Commission serves as the evaluative body for historic properties within the city, providing recommendations to City Council on historic property designations, assisting with public education regarding municipal history and historic preservation, and reviewing best practices for designation standards and preservation efforts throughout the community.

Historic Preservation Commissioners are appointed by the City Council. At least 60 percent of the Commission's members are residents of the city, and at least 40 percent of them are professionals or individuals with extensive expertise in a preservation-related discipline, including but not limited to: history, architecture, landscape architecture, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, planning or archaeology.

To learn more about the Commission, please visit [www.cityofmontrose.org/History](http://www.cityofmontrose.org/History).

Applications are available at City Hall, 433 S. First Street, at [www.CityofMontrose.org/History](http://www.CityofMontrose.org/History), or by calling 970.240.1430.

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# Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet



## Allowed

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



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



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



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.



## NOT Allowed



The personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.

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



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

Agricultural burning is not allowed.



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

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



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### INSTALLATION OF AVALANCHE CONTROL EQUIPMENT CONTINUES ON CO 145 Motorists will encounter periodic delays through next week

*Special to the Mirror*

**SOUTHWEST COLORADO** — Motorists will encounter delays on CO Highway 145 just north of Rico this week and through the end of next week, Friday, Sept. 11. Periodic full traffic closures will be required to facilitate rock scaling and helicopter operations. Drivers should allow themselves extra travel time as traffic stops could last 15-30 minutes.

CDOT is installing remotely controlled avalanche mitigation equipment above CO 145 Lizard Head Pass, about 1 mile north of Rico (MP 48.5 - 49.5). Construction efforts will consist of installing five towers on the mountain and ridgeline above the highway. The towers will be used for the preventative, controlled triggering of avalanches at known snow slide paths in this area.

**WORK SCHEDULE & TRAVEL IMPACTS**  
Regular work hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some week-end work is anticipated.  
Generally, motorists should expect mini-

mal traffic impacts since most work will take place off of the highway. Periodic full traffic closures will be required and will last for no more than 20-minute intervals, to facilitate rock scaling and helicopter operations. Otherwise, CO 145 will remain open as normal.

A speed reduction of 40 mph will be enforced through the project work zone. The project is expected to end in mid-September, weather dependent.

**CDOT AVALANCHE MITIGATION PROGRAM**

Every winter, CDOT and its sister agency, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, regularly monitor and control some 278 of 522 known avalanche paths located above Colorado highways. The monitoring and mitigation help prevent natural avalanches from impacting public travel. When there is a high risk of avalanche danger, CDOT will close highways at the location of the avalanche path in order to conduct avalanche control operations. While the road is safely closed to any



*CDOT courtesy graphic.*

traffic, avalanches are triggered. Maintenance crews with heavy equipment then clear the highway of any snow and debris that reached the road. The highway can then be re-opened for safer public travel.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

For additional information about this project, call CDOT's communication office: 970-385-1428  
visit the project website: [www.codot.gov/projects/co145lizardheadavalanche](http://www.codot.gov/projects/co145lizardheadavalanche)



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THE LAW APPARENTLY DOES NOT APPLY TO PEOPLE WHO WIN PUBLIC OFFICE

*Editor:*

Now our city council wants us to believe that they are the VICTIM in the Bowman Blunder?

"Ignorance of the law is no excuse," Hmmm! But not if you are the mayor and tell a contractor to break the liquor law. Something expressly forbidden in the county's contract with Culver. A law that being the mayor he was in charge of enforcing. She may not have known the law that she should not have broken but she darned well knew he was the mayor who interviewed her for her liquor license and who would hold sway over its renewal come time to do so.

We are told that his responsibilities were so burdensome he could not make that simple phone call to the city attorney or liquor board authorities. He was just too overworked. In fact he was so overworked that he books bands into city venues. I'd take bets that he made money and that Culver suffered financially off this debacle.

The law apparently does not apply to people who win public office---at least not in Montrose. Apparently the DA did not even interview the aggrieved---the ex-mayor's victim in the matter---being satisfied hearing only one side of the story. If they had done an interview of Culver, instead of relying on the interviews of others, they may have just found something that would have tipped the scales in Culver's favor. And certainly would have looked over the city contract and the council's actions regarding Federal and State Law violations. But they did not.

Instead, the city council now insinuates that they are the victim. Balderdash! It is just one big cover-up of Bowman's misbehavior. What else is this 'committee of seven' (the council) covering up? Their stonewalling the electorate worked for a while making this look like the delay in the complaint is because of Culver. Not so. She reported the misbehavior to Morganthaler as soon as she felt Bowman's

behavior was out of line. The report should have permeated the city manager's office and the city council immediately because it reflected behavior specifically forbidden by the county's contract with Culver. If it did not, that behavior was in violation of the contract as well as the law on the CITY'S PART. Our city's behavior in this matter is reprehensible.

Our DA refused to prosecute. Not a strong enough case, they said. Bowman confessed to his law breaking on TV. What more is needed for a slam-dunk case. He admitted that he committed two crimes. He should have been instantly suspended by council from his duties until he cleared up the situation, and then been fired or reinstated as appropriate. He was not suspended and the smoke has not cleared. Just when is someone from our city government going to be held accountable for their misbehavior, inactions, malfeasance or misfeasance? Probably never as I see it.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



ISSUE 279 Sept. 7, 2020

## ART &amp; SOL

## EGYPTOMANIA AND COLORADO THEATERS



**Egyptian with inset: The Egyptian Theater in Delta is a classic. Designed by Montana Fallis, the front facade resembles the classic cornices of the Temple of Kom Ombo (inset) in Egypt. Photo by Bob Cox. Inset provided by royalty free Shutterstock.com**

By Bob Cox

REGIONAL-For a good part of the 19th century Egyptian influence began to prevail in western art and culture. Indeed, even today, Amazon, Pinterest, EBay and others promote Egyptian decor items.

The so called Egyptian Revival was popular through the entire 19th century, but the discovery of the intact mummified remains of King Tutankhamen in 1922 spurred an interesting obsession of sorts with Egyptian architecture, and in Colorado it was most obvious in the building of theaters.

Moving pictures, as they were then called, were sweeping America by storm. Theaters were being built in nearly every



**Fox Theater and the Mosque of Tulan (side by side): While other designs by Montana Fallis hinted at Egyptian structures, the Fox Theater in Montrose almost exactly depicts the Mosque of Tulan. Fox photo by Bob Cox. Mosque photo courtesy Bing.com**

town, and if they had an Egyptian theme, they seemed to be even more popular.

Among the goddesses of Egyptian mythology was Isis, daughter of the earth god Geb and the wife of the underworld god, Osiris. Isis was the goddess of magic and fertility. She also became a goddess of the picture show houses when the movies were silent, but the piano music was loud and patrons eagerly put down their nickels to see Lillian Gish, Buster Keaton, Lon Chaney, and Rudolph Valentino.

At least nine Colorado towns bore the name of Isis: Leadville, Aspen, Denver, Alamosa, Fort Morgan, Ouray, Trinidad, Longmont and Victor. The Isis name also graced theaters in Texas, Nebraska, North Carolina and Indiana.

The Victor, Colorado theater still stands, but with only a hint of the Egyptian motif on the facade. It has long since ceased



operation.

In fact, only one of the Isis theaters remains in operation; the Metropolitan Isis in Aspen, and it has no outward Egyptian influence and has been renovated numerous times. It was the venue for several high school graduation ceremonies in the 1940s, and now boasts digital projection, stadium seating, select recliner seating and luxury rockers. It also has a bar and restaurant.

On April 25, 1918, the Isis in Ouray announced that they would show "the first million dollar picture," *A Dog's Life*, starring the famous Charlie Chaplin.

About one year later the same theater was advertising *Lest We Forget*, a war picture written by Leonce Parrot that depicted the European war from the German invasion to the sinking of the Lusitania.

For good measure

**Continued next pg**

## EGYPTOMANIA AND COLORADO THEATERS *From previous pg*

Parrot wrote in the romantic adventures of a French woman. Theater manager A. A. Kelly was admired in the local newspapers for showing the film. The *Montrose Daily Press* commented, "He (Kelly) is certainly to be congratulated upon his endeavor to show pictures of such high moral stamina and education value."

The Egyptian influence did not fade quickly. While sound synchronized with film was possible long before the technology became affordable, it was Warner Brothers who invested enough to bring sound and film together in their production of *Don Juan*, but it was only the sound effects of sword clashing. Warner Bros. then brought Al Jolson to the screen and claimed the first actual voice in a film. By the time "talkies" hit the market newer more opulent theaters were being built in what has been referred to as the Art Deco Era.

Three of those late 1920s theaters stand out in Colorado History: The Mayan in Denver, the Egyptian in Delta and the Fox in Montrose. Montana Fallis designed all three of those structures. The Egyptian became well known after Fox regional manager, Charles Yeager, came up with the idea of "Bank Night." The concept involved a random drawing of names of the night's patrons and the winner received a cash prize. The promotion became a mainstay of many theaters that were suffering the effects of depression. Several theater

managers openly opined that, if it were not for the crowd attracted on Bank Night, the theaters would have closed their doors.

Fallis was associated with other architectural firms, but formed his own company in 1914. He not only designed the theaters with Egyptian motif, he literally copied the outward appearance of several Egyptian structures.

The front of the Mayan was given opulent reviews and referred to as having "unique architectural features," and while the outward appearance was intended to look more like that of the Mayan culture in Mexico, the design has a definite Egyptian influence.

The Egyptian Theater in Delta opened in 1928 and displayed Fallis' talent of copying certain Egyptian patterns in some very subtle ways, but there is no doubt the design is one of those unique efforts that ultimately joined the Egyptian theme with the popular Art Deco movement. The theater was remodeled several times and lost some of its charm. In 1993 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, leading up to a completely restored building that created a true Egyptian Revival, at least in Delta.

On October 29, 1929 the stock market crashed, sending the United States and much of the world into a major depression. Just two days later the Fox Theater in Montrose opened its doors, offering an

optimistic 789 seats that allowed the citizens of Montrose a venue like was never seen before. The interior floor of the theater lobby was covered with rugs of oriental design.

The October 29, 1929 special edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* was not dedicated to the stock market, it was dedicated to the Fox Theater. The headline read, *OUR FONDEST DREAM COMES TRUE*. The front page picture was captioned, *New Theatre a Temple to the Arts*.

A temple it surely was. Montana Fallis, not only designed a building that resembled Egyptian architecture, he practically copied the outward appearance of the Mosque of Tulan.

The Fox in Montrose, the Egyptian in Delta and Mayan in Denver are all still operating today and, while there have been many remodels and technical advancements, the feel of going to a historic theater to escape from reality for just an hour or so, is possibly best described in a quote from Ingmar Bergman, when asked why he made movies: *When we experience a film we consciously prime ourselves for illusion, putting aside will and intellect, we make way for it in our imagination. The sequence of images plays directly on our feelings without touching on the intellect.*

Note: To contact Bob Cox with comments or suggestions please email him: [cox-bob@charter.net](mailto:cox-bob@charter.net) and include Mirror in the subject line.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### UPSTART RETURNS TO AREA STAGES

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

REGIONAL-The pandemic has shuttered theaters all over the world, but in this tiny corner of Colorado, one professional theater company is still finding a way to play. "We all miss live theater," said UpstART artistic director Kate Kissingford, "so we decided to write something we could perform within our little family group."

"SHAKESPEARE sucks" is the result. It depicts a teenager, played by Nate Kissingford, and his attitude toward the Bard. "The play is ridiculously fun," Nate said, "with all sorts of crazy characters and songs and surprises... people are going to love it."

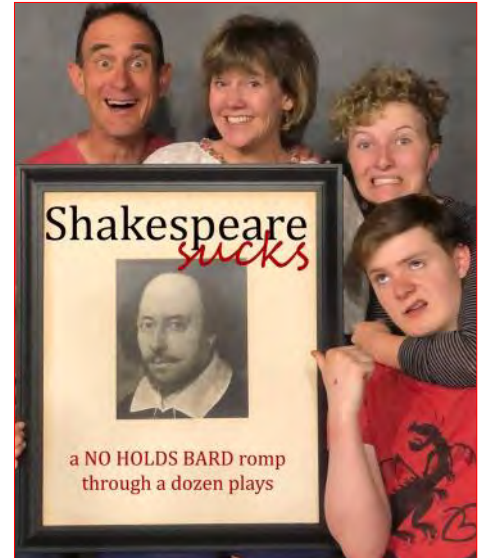
Health precautions make a return to theater complicated for audiences and venues, too, so UpstART has designed the show flexibly. They will present it in the Sherbino's outdoor space behind Ridgway's old firehouse, with pods of distanced audi-

ence members, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 9 and 10.

Then the show moves inside, to the Wright Opera House stage, for performances Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, with more intensive precautions. "The audience will be distanced and masked for the indoor performances," said UpstART co-founder John Kissingford, "and any actor that comes close to the audience will also be masked."

Magic Circle Players will host "SHAKESPEARE sucks" at Centennial Plaza in Montrose over the last weekend of September.

"SHAKESPEARE sucks" is the second UpstART production of 2020. The Amish Project by Jessica Dickey has been postponed to November at the Wright, and as it is a one-woman show, it will be relatively simple to stage while respecting covid protocols.



*"Shakespeare Sucks" features Elizabeth Mueller and John, Kate and Nate Kissingford. Courtesy photo.*

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# KIDS IN THE GARDEN, OH YEA!



*Students from Lincoln Elementary in Delta setting up their school garden. Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.*

By Lynea Schultz-Ela,  
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Friends of Youth and Nature is all about getting kids outdoors, and the experience of growing a garden is one of the best outdoor adventures kids can have close to home.

In this heat and smoke from recent nearby fires, and with the current pandemic, it's easy for the outdoor spirit to be diminished. But, it's only momentary; time will clear our air, bring us the fall temperate climate, and eventually we'll get in front of COVID! Meanwhile, there is gardening. Time in the garden is rewarding, meditative, and oh so productive. For young people it's a way to engage deeply with Mother Nature—and by deeply, we mean deep in the soil. In Delta, Montrose and Mesa counties there are several programs that get kids outdoors and into the soil to learn and experience nature's wonders. From schools to community gardens to libraries, programs are in motion and kids are involved.

The Delta County School district has an incredible Farm to School program with a



*Child in the garden. Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.*

garden at each of the eight elementary schools. The program director is Angela Flores (also an advanced math educator) who provides the energy, vision, knowledge and enthusiasm to create a successful and fun program. It's a comprehensive program that addresses the health benefits of growing a garden and also food insecurity within the school district. The kids learn to grow their own food and can bring those skills home to add to the food on the table. They learn where food comes from, how to grow it on their own, and how working in the soil can contribute to healthy bodies and minds. Kids learn to be soil stewards through these experiences in the garden. During the school year the kids come to the outdoor garden to learn soil science, composting, pollinators and pollination, seed saving, plant life cycles, insect life cycles, and about water sources and soil erosion. Whew—that's a lot, but it creates so much knowledge and thoughtfulness in the real life experience of the school gardens. In the summer the Garden Club program meets once a week for a few hours at five of the district schools. The students spend their time maintaining the garden, getting a gardening lesson and conducting experiments. For example, they might do some soil testing and discuss natural amendments to add to soil to better support plant health. As the garden starts producing, the club members learn how to market and sell their produce at a local farmer's market, creating a full circle of knowledge around the necessities of life. Since COVID prevented the club from



*Lincoln Elementary School students working in the garden. Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.*

meeting regularly this summer, seed and soil kits were given to the members to take home. They grew radishes, lettuce and sweet peas, which are all plants that grow and grow again when cut. This was productive, educational, and placed the kids in the dirt out of doors.

In 2019 the Colorado Health Foundation provided a grant to the Delta County Farm to School program, supporting the entire endeavor and the Western Colorado Community Foundation and Friends of Youth and Nature helped fund the Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and Compost program. This is learning in action as the kids learn about life cycles and ecosystems! Angela discovered quickly how these lessons can grow outside the classroom when a couple of kids said they wouldn't go to their favorite restaurant anymore because the restaurant did not use recyclable or compostable take away boxes. Being brave kids, they went ahead and met with the restaurant owner to give them their ideas. The very best thing happened when the restaurant changed to recyclable to-go boxes. Once again, it was a full circle of learning, creating thought provoking actions, and long-term land stewardship thinking.

To learn more about Delta's Farm to School program visit [sites.google.com/deltaschools.com/farmtoschool](https://sites.google.com/deltaschools.com/farmtoschool) or go to Facebook at Delta County Farm to School

## ***KIDS IN THE GARDEN, OH YEA! From previous pg***

Project. Young people don't automatically love putting their hands or feet into the soil. They may even hate getting dirty—but the natural world includes dirt. Once they experience putting their feet into the soil, or looking at soil through a magnifying glass, or holding a worm they found coming up out of the soil, they begin to understand the fun of it all. Once they start actually looking for things in soil, and understand it's more than "dirt," they LOVE it. As one child said "I played in the soil and it was SO MUCH FUN!"

In Montrose County, The Valley Food Partnership has supported community and school gardens since 2013 and helped develop five community gardens and six school gardens in the county. Take a peek at the awesome resources and lesson plans on their website

([valleyfoodpartnership.org/gardens](http://valleyfoodpartnership.org/gardens)) such as "schoolyard salsa," and "how big is a foot?" Get some great ideas on how to plant the seeds of knowledge and engage youth about the wonders of gardening, plant science and more ([valleyfoodpartnership.org/gardens](http://valleyfoodpartnership.org/gardens)). Don't forget to check out the children's garden and the story walk at the Montrose Botanical Garden!

The Mesa County library has developed a discovery garden for families at the 5th and Chipeta Avenue location. Take a tour of the garden with your children and start plans for next spring's garden projects. The library is hosting special fall garden events with topics that may include fall bulb planting! Check their website event calendar ([mesacountylibraries.org](http://mesacountylibraries.org)). You can also check out a pass to visit the

butterfly exhibit at the Grand Junction Botanical Garden and learn how important pollinators are to successful gardens. It takes adults as well as children to bring these great ideas to life. If you love digging in the dirt, and enjoying the fruits of your labor, consider sharing the experience of gardening with your communities youth.

Not only will you be joining Friends of Youth in Nature in the effort to get kids outdoors, YOU will get outdoors too and benefit from the surprising wonders in our own backyard.

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. To learn more, visit:

[www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org)

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## CELEBRATE FAVORITE AUTHORS WITH THE COLORADO AUTHORS' HALL OF FAME

### Special to Art & Sol

DENVER-Do you have an author that made an impact in your life or community? One that inspired you? Helped you solve problems? Entertained you? Now's your chance to celebrate those authors with the Second Colorado Authors' Hall of Fame. Nominations are now open to the public until the end of February next year, and any and all authors that have lived or even passed through Colorado are eligible for nomination. The induction ceremony will be held in September 18 of 2021 at the Renaissance Central Park in Denver, Colorado.

Information about the upcoming induction event, donations, events, board members and future inductees can all be found at [www.ColoradoAuthorsHallofFame.org](http://www.ColoradoAuthorsHallofFame.org).

The criteria for the nominations for the Hall of Fame are simple:

- The author was born in Colorado, currently live in Colorado, or created one of his or her published works in Colorado. They write about Colorado or include a location or event in Colorado as part of their published work.

- Made significant and enduring contributions to their fields of work.

- Helped open new frontiers for writing styles, ideas and concepts.

- Inspired others by the breadth of their writing and work.

- Advanced the status of authors.

Up to 12 authors will be nominated for the 2021 Hall of Fame before nominations close at the end of February 2021, with the next Hall of Fame being conducted in 2023. The first Hall of Fame, held in 2019, was a resounding success and featured a wide variety of authors both living and passed, national and local. From interna-

tional bestsellers Clive Cussler and Stephen King, to smaller but influential authors Rex Burns and Kris Tualla, to national icons Madeline Albright and Marilyn Van Derbur, the authors celebrated reflected the wide breadth and depth of expression that Colorado has to offer. The induction ceremony had Jerry Jenkins give out sagely advice to fledgling writers, sci-fi author Dom Testa as the funny and charming emcee, and author John Dunning sharing his writing journey to all that attended. Founder Judith Briles encourages readers to nominate favorite authors. "What impact has the author you nominate had on you? Tell us about it and about your nominee. Many of the nominees last year were not known to me. What came forward was an amazing group of authors who have entertained and educated readers for decades."

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## UNDER CONTRACT!

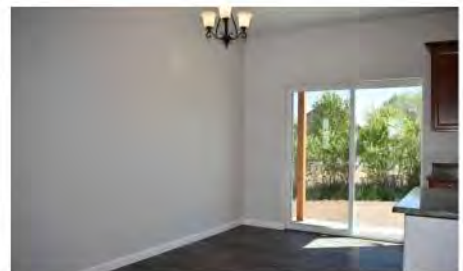


*319 Bluegrass Court  
Montrose, CO*

**\$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 complete! This is the ideal home. Split floor plan provides privacy and functionality.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Western Colorado Properties  
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435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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# SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

## ONGOING-

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

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

**THE MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET** is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more, on Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm, May 9 – Oct. 31 at Centennial Plaza, 433 S 1st St. in Montrose.

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

## MONTHLY-

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

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

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

**Oct. 1-11**-The 3rd annual Original Thinkers Festival will take place virtually this year on Oct. 1-11, 2020, from Telluride, Colorado. With the digital version of the festival, Original Thinkers is excited to reach entirely new audiences this year who may not have been able to make it to Telluride in the past for the terrestrial event. Passes for the entire festival will be on sale at [originalthinkers.com](http://originalthinkers.com) for \$50, and the dates of the event have expanded beyond the traditional four days to ten so that people can come and be part of Original Thinkers throughout this period. For additional information or to purchase festival passes, please visit [originalthinkers.com](http://originalthinkers.com).



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Contact the Montrose Mirror:  
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*Mirror staff photo  
MONTROSE-Tierra  
works with her horse at  
the Montrose County  
Fairgrounds Event Cen-  
ter during the 2020  
Colorado Gypsy Fest on  
Saturday, Sept. 5. Turn-  
out for the Colorado  
Gypsy Fest was strong  
despite being limited to  
participants only.  
Though not open to the  
public this year, the  
popular event is ex-  
pected to return in  
2021. According to the  
group's Facebook site,  
the Colorado Gypsy Fest  
is an event where horse  
lovers can gather to-  
gether and display their  
beautiful Gypsy Horses.*

## MIRROR IMAGES...COGYPSYFEST!



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Read the Mirror!*

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