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© Issue No. 395 Sept. 21, 2020

A LOCAL HERO RETIRES: CELEBRATING K9 OXX



On Sept. 19, DCSO Sgt. Keith Sanders and wife Sheila held an open-house retirement party for K-9 narcotics dog, Oxx. Oxx, has served a combined 10.5 years with the Montrose and Delta County Sheriff's offices. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

DELTA- Sgt. Keith Sanders of the Delta County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) and wife Sheila are sad to announce the retirement of K-9 narcotics dog, Oxx.

Sheila said, "About three or four weeks ago we discovered tumors on Oxx. The vet said they could be removed, but it is an aggressive form of cancer and the tumors will grow back. Oxx is comfortable and doesn't appear to be in any pain, so we decided to have a retirement party and celebrate his life with an open house."

Oxx, who will be 11-years-old next February, served Montrose County Sheriff Office (MCSO) for nine-years and has been with DCSO for a year-and-a-half.

A Belgian Malinois, Oxx takes his commands in German. He specializes in finding marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and

Continued pg 26

BOCC APPROVES TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT FOR MONTROSE FOREST PRODUCTS LLC

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In the absence of Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Keith Caddy, Vice Chair Roger Rash welcomed community members to the regular BOCC meeting of Wednesday, Sept. 16. "Good morning everyone and welcome," Rash said. "It's good to see a full house...it's good to have some citizens here with some input...appreciate you guys showing up."



Montrose Forest Products General Manager Mike Kusar spoke to the BOCC Sept. 16.

Pastor Mike Lundberg of Church on the Hill delivered the invocation, praying for blessings on the commissioners and citizens of Montrose County. "...It's been especially challenging for them to lead us during these days of COVID-19. As the policy-making body of our county they are entrusted with the wise use of the fiscal resources you have given them by the citizens of our county."

Vice Chair Rash and Commissioner Sue Hansen were present for the meeting.

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Wins Chamberlain Award!**

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Regional News Briefs!**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS TO CLOSE FOR RESURFACING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — A pair of downtown parking lots will close beginning Monday, Sept. 21 for resurfacing and repairs. The two city-owned lots are located on North First Street in the 300 and 500 blocks and are used for public downtown parking. The lots will undergo a cleaning and crack sealing process to strengthen the road surface before they are resurfaced and new parking spaces are striped. The lots are scheduled for reopening by the end of day Thursday, Oct. 8.

Alternate parking can be found in lots located at the corner of North Second Street and Cascade Avenue and South First Street next to Centennial Plaza. In addition, parking can also be found at the corner of North Selig Avenue and North First Street and in the 200 Block of North First Street behind Auto Zone.

The lot in the 300 block is part of the Block 93 Alley redevelopment project. The plan involves transforming the alley into a flexible event space and parking area for food trucks where power and outdoor seating will be provided. Art including murals and sculptures will also be part of the redevelopment. The lot located at Uncompahgre Avenue in the 500 block of North First Street serves as a general downtown parking lot. This lot is being improved as part of regular maintenance as well as to create economies of scale for the patching and resurfacing project. More information about these projects will be released once it becomes available.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HIGH DENSITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR THE WRONG LOCATION

Editor:

The 1890 Homestead Apartment Development project is proposed in the wrong place. High density housing should not be in single family areas.

This project, where proposed, will reduce property values and reduce the quality of life for all the residents of the area. Increased traffic, sewer demands, loss of views, etc. and the major cost to the city from infrastructure improvements and lost tax revenues should also help you decide to substantially reduce the size of the development and what it contains.

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Arleen Friedman, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCSO ACCEPTING CITIZENS' ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The application period is now open for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Academy. The academy starts Wednesday, Oct. 7, and will continue for 12 weeks with a graduation ceremony on Jan. 7, 2021.

"The academy offers an inside look into the world of law enforcement and the hard work that deputies and staff perform every day while serving and protecting our community," said Sergeant Steve Gustin. "Participants will gain knowledge of procedures, policies, and information on supporting agencies including both

dispatch and the posse."

The classes will be held for 12 weeks, every Wednesday, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Training will take place at the MCSO—1200 North Grand Avenue—in the conference room.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age to attend. The comprehensive instruction will cover a wide variety of law enforcement issues each week including the following: Sheriff's Posse, Traffic Stops, DUI Investigation, Response to Resistance, Investigations, Crime Scene and Evidence Collection, Less Lethal, Records & Civil Process, Reception, Victim Ser-

vices, Procurement, Peer Support, Drug Investigations, Recruitment and Hiring, Field Training Program, K9, SWAT, WestCo Dispatch, and Detentions.

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, class size is limited and applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early. Applications are available online at montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com or in person at the MCSO (1200 North Grand) during regular business hours.

For more information, please contact Sergeant Gustin at 970-252-4023 or sgustin@montrosecounty.net.

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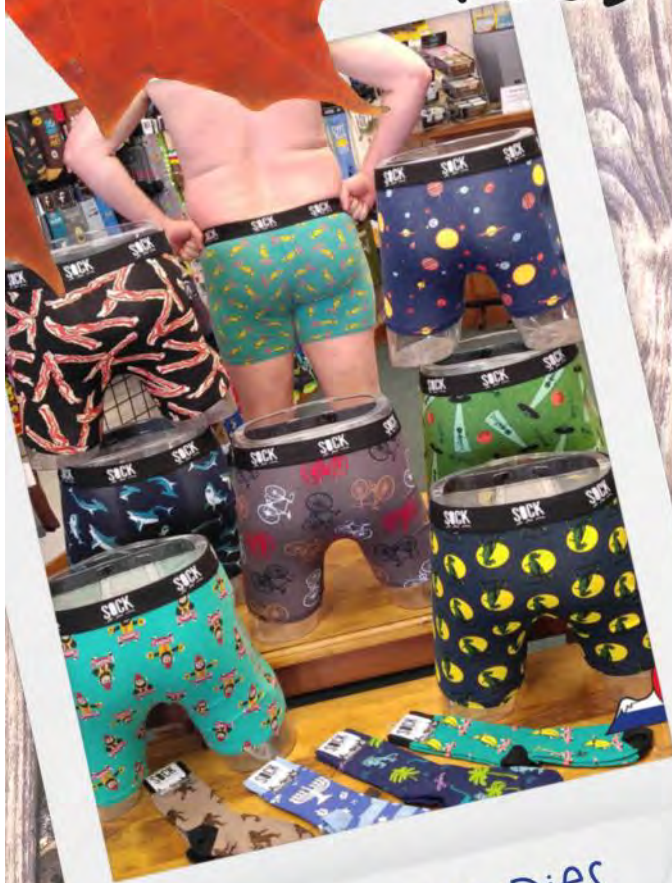
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DON'T LET GREED RUIN THIS QUIET CITY AND COMMUNITY

Editor:

There is absolutely nothing positive that could come from putting a housing project such as this next to a well established community such as Cobble Creek. possibly 1,000 or more people in such a small area. Where do you think these people will go to ride bikes, walk at all times of the day and nite, bored unruly juveniles roaming the neighborhood. Cobble Creek would be the first choice. The basically crime free

community would turn into a haven for thieves and possibly worse, praying on good tax paying people. Many, many people I have spoken with say that they will be leaving the community if this project goes thru. And how is it that the city is going to fund over 2 million dollars for someone else's project. Why can't you develop the area at Mayfly where (you city officials) have already wasted our taxpayers 8 million dollar plus for another

private entity scam.

Apparently someone has their hand in the cookie jar.

What industry is here in Montrose that can bring these people here?

Single family homes would be a better alternative if it needs to be developed. Don't let greed ruin this quiet city and community. Bad Bad Bad idea. Wake up for God's sake!!!

Brian Hershman, Montrose

EASTERNERS, POLITICIANS NEED REMINDER OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Editor:

I bet everyone is so proud to hear that a perfectly healthy, beautiful spruce tree is to be cut down in the Uncompahgre and

sent to Washington, DC to be our National Christmas Tree. Why don't we also send a dead tree, a pine beetle or burnt tree from one of our recent wildfires, to Wash-

ington too so easterners and politicians are reminded of what climate change looks like?

Douglas Crawford, Montrose

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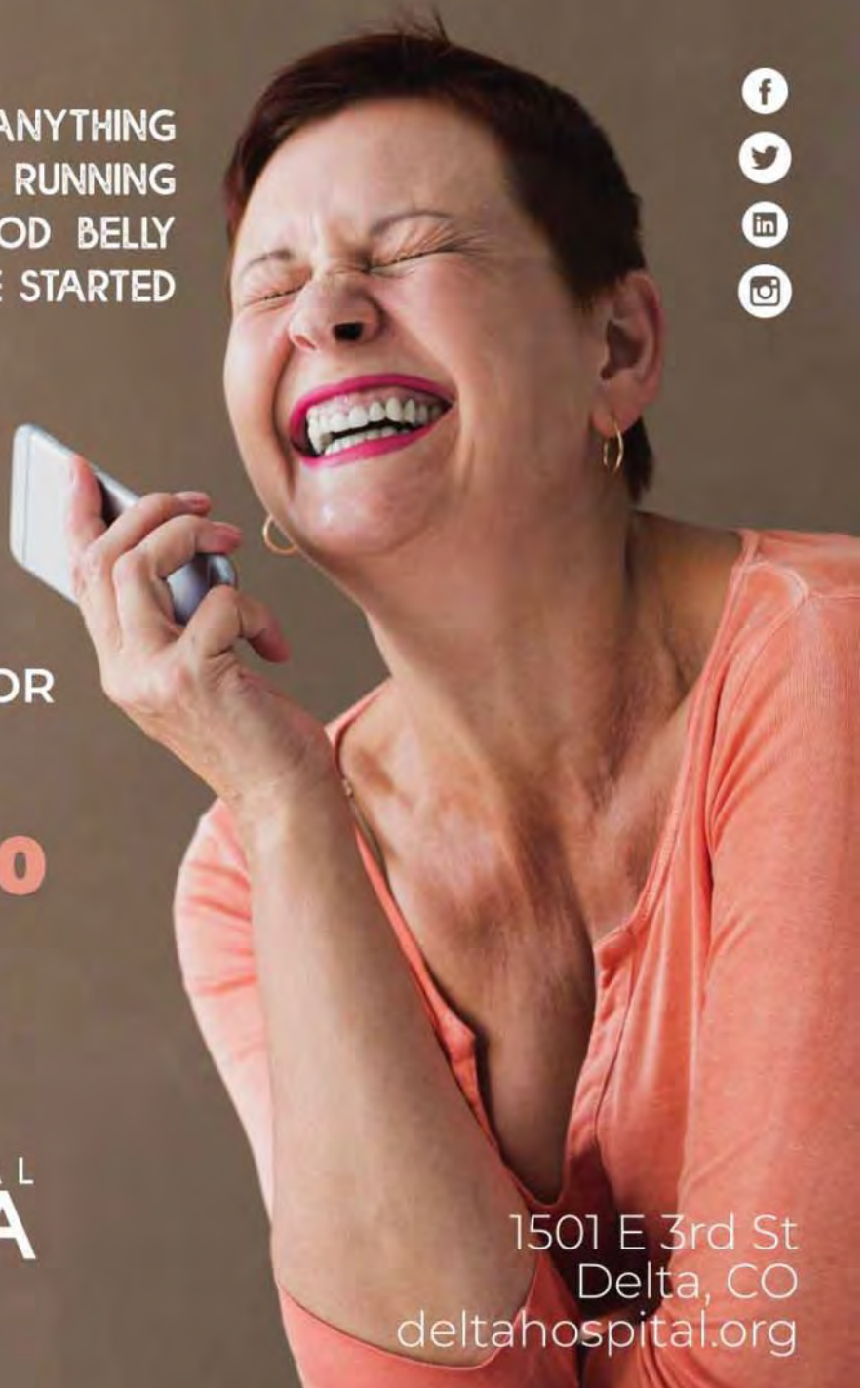
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY CITY COUNCIL NAMES FINALISTS FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

Special to the Mirror

OURAY – The City of Ouray is pleased to announce the following individuals as finalists for the position of City Administrator: Frank Bell, most recently Community Manager/CEO at the Sea Ranch Home-owners Association and Sea Ranch Water Company, located on the Sonoma Coast of Northern California. In his career, Mr. Bell served as town manager of Telluride,

town manager of Crested Butte, and police chief in Park City, Utah. He also helped to manage certain aspects of the Salt Lake City Olympics.

Silas Clarke, City Administrator, Hickman, Nebraska and formerly assistant grant administrator in the Office of Mayor, Omaha, Nebraska.

Eric Duthie, most recently town manager, Tusayan, Arizona with extensive city man-

agement and law enforcement experience in Arizona. The city will host these individuals for a series of interviews and a community reception in Ouray on Sept. 25.

The city received 41 applicants for the position, which has been facilitated by the executive search firm of KRW Associates, based in Colorado Springs. Please direct questions to Mayor Greg Nelson, nelson@cityofouray.com.

RE-1J PROCEEDS WITH HIGH SCHOOL FALL FOOTBALL


Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has issued a variance to the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) regarding high school sports, making it possible for Montrose County School District (MCSD) to proceed with a fall football season for the Olathe High School and Montrose High School football teams.

Initially, CHSAA postponed the 2020-2021 football season to spring. However, CHSAA has now approved a measure providing school districts "the local option to play field hockey, football and sideline spirits [cheer/dance] during the fall (Season A) season."

As such, MCSD is committed to competing this fall. District leadership, school principals, athletic directors, Montrose County Public Health, and local medical providers are finalizing a safe and healthy plan for high school football to return to play next week.

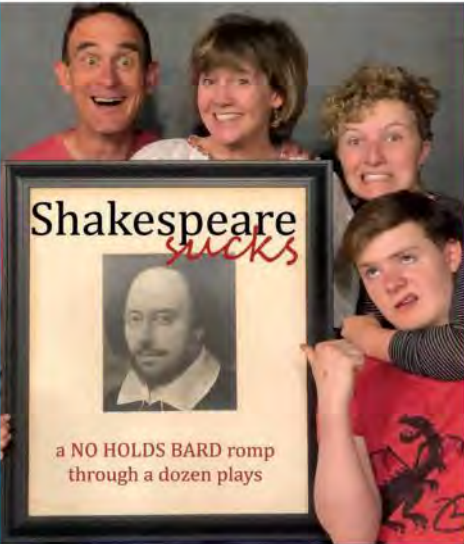
Answers to the myriad questions families and players have, along with information regarding practice and game schedules, mitigation strategies such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and social distancing, team and fan capacity restrictions, and comprehensive plan details are forthcoming.



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MIRROR IMAGES: SOUTH 1ST STREET CLOSURE



The City of Montrose continues to move forward with plans to close a section of South First Street for a Civic Campus seating area. Mirror staff photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM EYES DIRECT SALE OF 2 PUBLIC LAND PARCELS NEAR GUNNISON GORGE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering the sale of two small parcels of public land to resolve longstanding residential encroachments near the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

“The BLM is interested to hear from the public as we work with the owners of both parcels to provide an overall benefit to the public,” said Uncompahgre Field Manager Greg Larson.

Tract A contains approximately 0.7 acre located on the western edge of a 280-acre isolated parcel of public land in Montrose County. The 280-acre parcel is surrounded by private lands with no public or BLM access. A residence constructed on an adjacent private parcel in the late 1990s was determined to encroach approximately 6.5 feet onto BLM-administered lands. Tract B contains approximately 6.62 acres located adjacent to the National Conservation Area in the Peach Valley area of Delta County. A 2003 boundary survey of the new National Conservation Area identified several apparently inadvertent encroachments of private property onto public land, including Tract B.

The preparation of an environmental assessment is one of the early steps involved in processing a sale of public land. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposed direct sale, the following additional steps would occur:

- Conduct an appraisal to determine fair market value
- Publish a notice of realty action in the Federal Register and local newspapers
- Offer the parcel for purchase at the fair market value price.

Comments on the preliminary environmental assessment must be received or postmarked by October 7, 2020. Additional information and project documents are available on the BLM ePlanning website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2000347/510>. Please provide written comments through the ePlanning site or by mail to: BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: Jana Moe, 2465 South Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401.

Before including your address, phone

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MEAN-SPIRITED ACTIONS FRAY THE FABRIC OF COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

My spouse and I have lived in Montrose for 36 years, and our daughter grew up here and graduated from Montrose High School. Increasing polarization has us worried about the future of our community.

We recently purchased a Biden/Harris yard sign and put it up in our yard. Two days later it was stolen. Stealing political signs is considered theft, no matter the candidate or party.

What, pray tell, does whoever swiped our sign think they are accomplishing? My voice will not be silenced.

Because you messed with our sign, I will make a donation to the Biden/Harris campaign. Plus, I will double down in my support for their candidacy. So, by stealing our sign, you are supporting Biden/Harris 2020.

These mean-spirited actions will further fray the fabric of our community. Are we not better than this?

Then again, if stealing political signs keeps people off Facebook and Twitter for a while, which exploit our brains' attraction to divisiveness, perhaps there's a silver lining?

Kevin Williams, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS POSSIBLE DURING TRI-STATE UTILITY UPGRADE ACROSS THE DOLORES RIVER CANYON

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES— Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) is preparing to relocate a segment of transmission line across the Dolores River Canyon, with work expected to occur from September 28 through the end of October, including on BLM-administered public lands in the Tres Rios Field Office. To ensure public safety, Tri-State will control traffic ingress and egress through the area during the four-week construction period.

“While the BLM, Forest Service, and Tri-State will make a reasonable effort to minimize disruption and maximize access

to public lands, public safety will remain our highest priority during construction activity,” noted BLM Tres Rios Field Manager Connie Clementson. Traffic may be intermittently halted or redirected to avoid hazardous conditions. In Feb. 2017, the BLM and U.S. Forest Service approved Tri-State’s proposal to rebuild the existing Montrose-Nucla-Cahone transmission line from 115 kilovolts to 230 kilovolts and to operate and maintain the new line and optical ground wire across Dolores, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. Tri-State will be rerouting the line across the Dolores River Canyon approximately one

mile west of its current location to ensure more stable footing on either side of the canyon for future line maintenance activities. Wire pulling and wreck-out of the line at the existing crossing will occur from 7:00 am through 7:00 pm daily, including Saturdays. Temporary barriers and signage will be in place and flaggers will be posted at strategic locations to direct traffic and manage recreational access. For information or questions related to construction activities, please call Tri-State’s Construction Hotline at 1-833-360-3393 and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

BEST OF ... WHERE? BEST OF THE VALLEY PULLS 'BEST BAR' 1ST PLACE VICTORY BECAUSE OF DELTA LOCATION

By Paul Arbogast

Every year for nearly two decades the *Montrose Daily Press* has run a special publication known as "Best of the Valley." It is a contest where the public nominates and votes for their favorite restaurants, shops, services, and more to determine who wins "Best of" for each category.

To most businesses it is a big deal to win, as it is the public naming them best of the category they won. This year one business was very happy to win, but the award was taken away.

My Place in Delta was nominated for Best Bar, and when initial results came out, showed as the winner.

"I got notification that I won for Best of the Valley," said owner Carmella Russo. She contacted MDP and was informed there was a problem with her businesses winning.

She was in Delta and "Best of the Valley"

was for Montrose businesses only. She was told they had a meeting and decided to pull the victory from My Place.

Carmella was disappointed, but she understood. What bothered her the most was how it was handled.

The nomination and voting listed as "My Place, Delta, CO," so it was visible to everyone, MDP included. So at any time they could have been pulled from the nomination or voting list, and Carmella said if that had happened she would have understood. It is the fact that her customers, from Delta and surrounding areas (including Montrose) cast their votes, and feel they were erased after winning.

This year Wick Communications ran a "Best of Delta County" for the first time, and it seems to perhaps be why this happened. According to MDP publisher Dennis Anderson, "Best of the Valley is for Montrose businesses and Best of Delta

County is for Delta County Businesses." Logically that makes perfect sense.

I asked Anderson if they planned to rename to "Best of Montrose County" to avoid confusion in the future and he said there were no such plans to rename it. What continues to bother many that voted for My Place is that there are businesses and locations outside of Montrose county that won and have not had their victories pulled from them, so the explanation of 'Montrose-only' seems like nothing more than an excuse, and a bad one at that.



Paul Arbogast.
Courtesy photo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHO JUDGES THE JUDGES SEEKING RETENTION, AND HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Editor:

Election time is rapidly approaching, and you will shortly be receiving those blue informational booklets which will include data on each member of the judiciary up for retention. The first paragraph will announce whether that particular judge **Meets Performance Standards**. The next paragraph will set forth various aspects of that particular judge's performance as determined by a consensus of the members of the 7th Judicial Performance Commission. The third paragraph will describe how those folks arrived at their conclusion and the fourth will provide a bit of history on that particular elected member of the judiciary.

This is one portion of the booklet that was often overlooked or ignored but now the majority of voters are utilizing this critical information. This article is intended to shed light on the entire process. The 7th Judicial District includes all of the County and District Courts in our six member counties. The 7th Judicial District Commission on Judicial Performance has 10 members, each appointed to a four-year term by the current or a past Governor, Chief Justice, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader or House Minority Leader. Four members are attorneys and six are non-attorneys, all being civic-minded uncompensated volunteers selected on a non-partisan basis. They are charged with the

responsibility of evaluating each judge seeking retention and those who are at the mid-point in their term. The mid-term evaluation is to assist each judge on improving their performance and the functioning of their particular court.

The attorney members have been educated in the law, are admitted to practice in Colorado and may or may not have appeared before each judge being reviewed. The non-attorney members have a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds. The justice being dispensed by every judge must be impartial, fair, and based upon the law, regardless of whether the individual party is represented by counsel or not. When there is a conflict of interest with a particular judge, the Commission member recuses themselves from participation in discussions on that particular judge.

The Commissioners participate in training before each election cycle to further hone their skills and learn of new developments and refinements in the evaluation process. Commissioners read and review several legal opinions from each judge. They consider how the statistics and evaluations of each compare to all District and County judges. They review comments from attorney and non-attorney participants following appearances before each judge. Six criteria are utilized to evaluate each trial judge:

Integrity, Legal Knowledge, Communica-

tions Skills, Judicial Temperament, Administrative Performance, and Service to the Legal Profession and the Public.

The commissioners, as a group, interviewed each judge as well as listened to comments from the Public Defender's office, The District Attorney's office and the Chief Judge of the District. They also consider each judge's Self-Evaluation and the statistics on that judge's court administration, i.e., how many cases are pending, timeliness of trials and case backlog. Finally, each commissioner observes the judges in action in their courtrooms. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic made that process much more difficult, sometimes observing by WebEx video and sometimes by telephone.

When you receive that blue bundle of joy come election time, please consider the content when it comes to evaluation of judges. The process is complex, time-consuming, and most of all, fair to both the public and the judges seeking retention. The evaluation process insures that we, the public, receive the fairest judicial treatment reasonably possible. Even a good judge may error in a difficult case but that is why we have appellate courts. The Commission's duty is to assure that we have the best judges reasonably possible. Every successful democracy requires a fair and equitable legal system available to every member of the public.

John W. Nelson, Lag Hill Mesa





Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet



Allowed

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



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



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



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.



NOT Allowed



The personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.

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



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

Agricultural burning is not allowed.



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

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



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PLANS FOR SOUTH 1ST STREET CLOSURE, ANOTHER DOWNTOWN SEATING AREA DRAW OUTRAGE FROM THE PUBLIC



Response from the public has been overwhelmingly negative as the City of Montrose closes South First Street in favor of a public seating area, above. Mirror staff photo.

Mirror Staff Editorial

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose has announced that they are closing South 1st Street as of Sept. 14 for work that would lead to a seating area on the road between City Hall and the Montrose Police Station. The stated purpose of the closure was to create outdoor seating areas in this location to provide residents and local business customers a safe, socially-distanced way to enjoy food, drinks, and local businesses in downtown Montrose.

The response from many citizens was swift. Concerns have ranged from limited and more difficult traffic patterns in that area to what many see as more wasteful spending by the city with zero input from the public. Citizens have questioned exactly how this would help local businesses, given the reality that there are more empty buildings in Downtown Montrose than ever.

Currently, if you want to take a load off

and just sit and rest Downtown, or even sit and eat a meal, options include Demoret Park, the Pocket Park, Centennial Plaza, as well as seating at several of the intersections. So it seems justified for the public to wonder about closing down a vital street—one that provides access to essential community buildings such as City Hall, the Historic County Courthouse, and the Downtown Post Office—for another 'seating area.'

The *Mirror* contacted Mayor Barbara Bynum to ask where we could find the discussion or decision to go forward with the closure of South First Street. The response was this was a DART (Development and Revitalization Team) project. On the city website section for DART the last information (packet/minutes/agenda) online was from more than a year ago, Sept. 3, 2019.

No discussion or decision to go forward with this project can be found online, re-

vealing a lack of transparency.

Another concern is that the city stated that the actual seating was to be funded by CARES Act money. The CARES Act provides emergency assistance in response to coronavirus, and under this act the relief funds are to cover expenses that, "(1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (COVID-19 emergency); (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020. "

All expenditures of CARES money must be reported, so if the City spends the money on seating it has to be on the report. Mayor Bynum was asked how the city justifies spending such funds on seating when so many businesses are still struggling because of restrictions imposed on them. There was no direct answer to the question.

In the most recent City Council work meeting, Council and staff held a discussion about CARES Act funds. According to Mayor Bynum the city was allocated a little more than \$1.1 Million, and to date has spent about \$300,000 of it. They need to spend the rest by the end of this year, and wanted to figure out how to do so.

A request to account for all spending of CARES Act money was put to the City of Montrose and an itemized list of where all money was spent has been returned.

The list totals \$143,000, not the \$300,000 claimed by the Mayor.

When asked about the discrepancy, City Manager Bill Bell responded, "*The numbers given were a snapshot in time of year-to-date expenses. The Mayor at the meeting was presented a number of \$300,000 by staff as already obligated by the City...*"

What the other \$157,000 was already marked as spent on was left unsaid.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PART VI OF A VI PART SERIES *by Dee Laird*



[Continued from last week]

REVIEW

My decision to recap 9+ years of the Bell Administration was prompted by the Bowman / Divots / Bell scandal discussed in PART V. Bell's failure to take prompt corrective action

as city manager in June 2019, when the first formal complaint was made about Bowman's scheme, and the absolute silence from Bell since it became public, speaks volumes, I think, about his entire tenure as city manager. Readers who may not have paid as close attention to what goes on behind the veil of city government are certainly encouraged to begin to do so. After all, it's our tax dollars and our city's future at risk.

In developing this series, as stated in Part I, I relied on my personal experience with Bell, documents from the city web site, conversations with past council members, CORA requests, interviews with numerous individuals with first-hand knowledge of various issues, and documents I had saved over the years.

From my perspective it certainly seems that Bell has had a personal agenda since his hiring, that has far exceeded his job to manage city operations in a prudent manner. The mark of a good and fair manager is always reflected in the eyes of his employees. During my research I spoke with quite a few former city employees, and the comments from those that spoke freely were less than complimentary, for a variety of reasons. Two comments in par-

ticular stood out:

1- "We were told we had to make Bell look good" - If Bell was indeed a good manager, why would employees have to "make" him look good?

2- "We could not speak with council members without the city attorney present" - City employees are taxpayers and voters. Is there concern by Bell that employees might divulge something management wants to remain hidden?

Over the years Bell has accumulated a reputation for designing the demise of various community groups. In Part II I covered the Parks Advisory Board [PAB] and the Downtown Development Authority [DDA]. Other groups that prematurely passed out of existence under Bell's tenure were the Montrose Chamber of Commerce [where the city kept the \$250 K from the sale of the Chamber building], the Montrose Area Merchants Assoc [MAMA], and the Montrose Association of Commerce and Tourism [ACT]. The board of the new Chamber of Commerce being formed would be well advised to stay clear of Bell's influence.

Citizens who chose to step forward to serve on those various boards, did so out of a willingness to be of service to their community. During my research for this series, I had the opportunity to speak with individuals who had served on most of those boards mentioned above. Each in their own way had developed, by experience, the feeling that if Bell could not control the direction of their respective boards, he did all in his power to bring about the various board's decline. In my mind it seems clear that far too many of those good citizen board members were outmaneuvered by Bell's power of position and his manipulative skills.

As discussed in PART IV, with the Rec Center initiative and the more recent PSST initiative, Bell's administration has fostered a whopping 28 percent overall increase in sales tax on the Montrose community.

Bell's total compensation [salary + benefits] is \$225,200 for managing 165 bud-

get employees. Compared to the county with 374 budgeted employees, the County Manager's total compensation is \$137,900. That means that the county manages 209 more employees than the city at 61 percent of the city cost. The overall management cost per employee, [county-\$368 vs city- \$1,364] highlights the fact that Bell is vastly overpaid at taxpayer expense, thanks to councils that have been manipulated by Bell's faulty Performance Pay Policy noted in PART III. Maybe Bell should explain to the taxpayers why he is so valuable.

Slowly over the years Bell seems to have essentially taken control of city government, with elected councils seen as his rubber stamp. A former council member stated that, "He [Bell] initially claimed to be conservative, but his actions show he's one of the biggest purveyors of progressive policies and internal changes that we've seen in this town". Total control with directed outcomes seems to have been the hallmark of his agenda. My original strong confidence in and support of Bell, noted in PART I, was obviously rooted in shallow soil.

The city had implemented a program, in an attempt to appear transparent, called Ask The Manager. Probably a good idea if only the manager had actually answered the hard probing questions posed to him. Several letters printed publicly posed multiple, to the point, questions for Bell that deserved truthful answers, but our manager chose to remain silent on all questions. So much for asking the manager anything requiring a substantive answer! Bell's refusal to answer those valid citizen questions raised in the press, again highlights the city's proffered myth regarding transparency and accountability in city government.

Bell has gained the reputation of turning the city coffers into a cash cow for "selected" private businesses. Proximity Space pulled in over \$160 K, The Vine grabbed \$246 K, and the final number for Mayfly/Colorado Outdoors has yet to be reached, but that's in the millions!

Continued next pg

PART VI OF A VI PART SERIES by Dee Laird

From previous pg

Now comes the next best deal in Chow Down, which was just awarded \$100 K! The owners of record of the old Montrose Daily Press building under contract to Chow Down, are the Andrew Prescott family of Gilbert, AZ, and by rights they should be solely responsible for the ink tank and asbestos cleanup, not the Montrose taxpayers! Just one more example of Bell getting council to sign on to his select-ed pet projects.

The latest possible give away of your tax dollars is peeking over the horizon. On August 27 a memo was presented to council for a high density multi family development bounded by Cobble Drive and 64.50 Road. This project calls for \$2.3 million in our tax dollars, and will go before the City Planning Commission at a meeting in the near future. Watch for that date and plan to attend.

Last week in PART V, I covered a section on Bell's secret agreements that "don't exist". Since then I received another redacted copy of the city Release and Waiver Agreement, that, according to the answer I received from the City Clerk's office "doesn't exist". By signing that document, employees contesting termination agree not to sue the city after receiving

"economic consideration" [ie: tax dollars for their silence]. As part of that document, those employees have to agree to "keep the agreement confidential" and they can't divulge "the fact that "this Agreement exists". So, an agreement that "doesn't exist", really does exist, but the city doesn't want their dirty laundry aired before the tax paying public! One more shining example of no transparency from Bell or city government.

A recurring theme throughout the series has been transparency, or more appropriately, the lack thereof with the city and Bell. In my experience as noted in this series, even responses to CORA requests are questionable. By contrast, county government is decidedly more open and above board. If you have a question for the county manager, you get a straight answer you can rely on. The same goes for any county department, and you don't have to file a CORA request for information the taxpaying public has a right to obtain.

According to city documents, we have had 14 different members of council since 2011. Of those, few have served with entrepreneurial, managerial, or economic development experience, or have had to

meet a payroll. In my opinion, therein lies the answer to Bell's ability to subtly manipulate his councils to support his proffered projects. I think, various councils have abrogated their managerial oversight responsibilities, failing to see past Bell's veneer.

An Executive Director of the Colorado Municipal League stated that the average tenure for a city manager is between four and six years. With Bell's tenure now at nine+ years, and in view of his management history in Montrose, it certainly seems to me that a complete change in city management is well overdue.

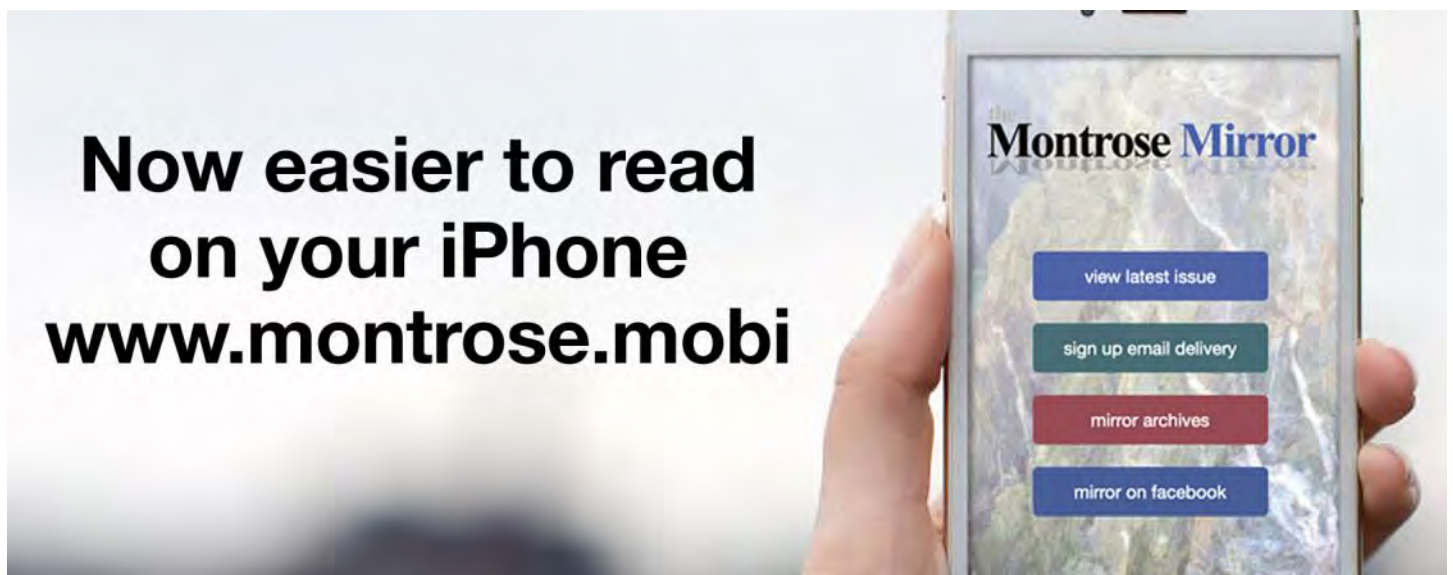
If this series has sparked concerns about city management or council actions, contact your council members and let them know. After all they are supposed to work for us all, and have no idea of any concerns you might have unless you contact them personally. The following link will take you to their emails and phone numbers:

<https://www.cityofmontrose.org/301/City-Council>

To review the entire series, see Mirror issues 390-395

Thanks for reading, and thanks to the Montrose Mirror for running the series!

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BOCC APPROVES TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT FOR MONTROSE FOREST PRODUCTS

From pg 1

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 agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with Resolution No. 42-2020 assigned to Item 7, "concerning the Amendment to the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations: Section 3.33 Impact Fees, Section 3.45 West End Planning Advisory Committee Review, Appendix B – Standard Plat Note for Engineered Foundation, Appendix B – Standard Plat Note for Further Subdivision on a Collector or Arterial Road, Appendix C – West End Planning Area, Appendix D – Site Characteristics Analysis."

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve a Business Personal Property Tax Credit Agreement with Montrose Forest Products, LLC that stipulates the terms of a refund of business personal property tax owed to the county for a ten-year period.

The credit agreement is limited to the equipment associated with the new planer mill constructed by the company. The initial annual amount of the credit is estimated at \$91,870.18 for the 2021 county fiscal year. This amount will reduce annually as the value of the property depreciates through the term of the agreement.

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented information. "...One of the authorities that the board of County Commissioners does have is the ability to provide a tax credit for business/personal property at a newly established business facility.

"In this case, Montrose Forest Products has invested approximately \$20,000,000 in a new planer mill."

The new planer mill expands the variety of products that can be produced at the mill, while allowing the use of different timber species. Montrose Forest Products has 92 full-time employees and an annual direct payroll of \$4M, Waschbusch said.

"As a basic manufacturer, the company draws money from outside the community...bringing significant revenue and investment from across the state and nation into the county."

Activities at the mill indirectly support another 170 jobs as well, he said.

"The importance of maintaining this sort of economic infrastructure associated with proven manufacturers is more evident than ever," Waschbusch said, "...in this instance the County has the ability to lessen some of the tax expense of the new planer mill through this credit agreement."

The refund affects only the portion of the tax owed to the County; other taxing entities will not be affected.

Montrose Forest Products General Manager Mike Kusar said that the new mill will allow the company to cut green as well as dead wood and remain in Montrose for the long term.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "Really appreciate that high level jobs are coming here to this area, and really appreciate the contribution that you make to our community. Glad to have you here."

Lumber prices are up, as people flee cities for rural communities like Montrose, Kusar said.

Rash thanked Montrose Forest Products for their role in clearing dead timber from local forests as well, helping to mitigate the danger of forest fires.

Also approved was an agreement with Ultimate Software for the purchase of a Time & Attendance, Payroll, HCM & Benefit administration system, at a one-time cost of \$55,000 and an annual recurring cost of \$125,258.

A Request for Proposals generated six responses; the list was narrowed to two vendors.

The software will bring greater efficiencies to the county, IT Director Don Varey said, noting that a large selection committee did extensive research on the purchase and spoke with customers of both vendors. "I am glad that we are finally moving into the 21st century here," Com-

missioner Hansen said.

"The Employee self-service capabilities are incredible," Varey said. "...We would be going live April 1."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners approved a proposal by Larry Ruggles to Rezone from General Residential to General Agricultural (RZ-20-0042) at 17860 6650 Road.

Next, County Planner Talmadge Richmond presented a proposal to vacate E20 road right-of-way situated to the south of the G & T MINOR SUBD Lot 1 S: 7 T: 50 R: 10 for Applicants Gale and Theresa Longwell, 5215 5700 Road in Olathe.

Commissioners opened a public hearing on the proposal and took comments; following some discussion the public hearing was closed and the matter was continued until the meeting of Oct. 7 to allow County Attorney Marti Whitmore time for review.

Richmond also presented information on the following, which were approved by commissioners:

A proposal to divide a 6.292-acre lot into two lots at 60037 Dalia Road;

A proposal to divide a 2.040-acre lot into two lots at 69056 Ursa Road;

A proposal to divide a 34.809-acre lot into two lots at 3769-141-05-002;

A proposal to divide a 16.47-acre lot into two lots at 80685 E. 81 Road.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The BOCC reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Equalization, to hear Personal Property Appeals for the 2020 Tax Year. Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes said, "We've been actively working with Williams Construction and Mr. Ward Priestley now for several months to get an accurate listing of their business personal property...we have a recommended value for you to establish as 2020 personal property value...the existing valuation as it sits today is \$1,210,100, and...the adjusted value would be \$855,790. The Board of Equalization voted to accept the adjusted valuation.

The Board reconvened as the BOCC; with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

A LOCAL HERO RETIRES: CELEBRATING K9 OXX

From pg 1

ecstasy. Sgt. Sanders described Oxx's duties while working in Montrose, "We had permission to show up at the schools unannounced. When we first started Oxx would hit on 20 student lockers, then it slowed to maybe five to six. We also searched around cars parked in the parking lot and we could go into classrooms and check backpacks." Oxx and his handler Sgt. Sanders are on duty 24-7. Their ser-

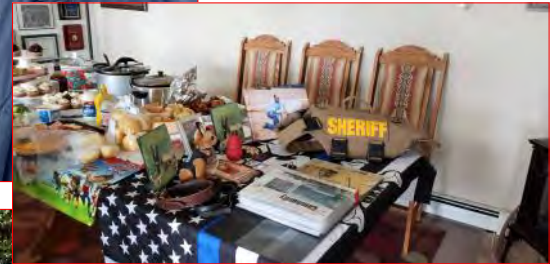
vice includes narcotics searches, criminal apprehension, area searches, tracking, and finding lost children and adults with dementia. Sanders said, "In an apprehension the offender has three chances to surrender...after that they're fair game. We will send in the dog and he will bite!"

The sergeant clarified adding, "...but we never send in a dog to fight by himself." The cost of a fully trained dog is \$10,000-

\$14,000 and the cost of his well-trained handler is an 80-hour course and continuing education. Although Oxx is retiring, his replacement, a two-year-old German Shepherd named Teg, is ready to go to work. When asked if the two narcotics dogs got along well together Sheila laughed and said, "Well, not at first. Teg was a pup and just wanted to play with everyone. Oxx didn't want to play."

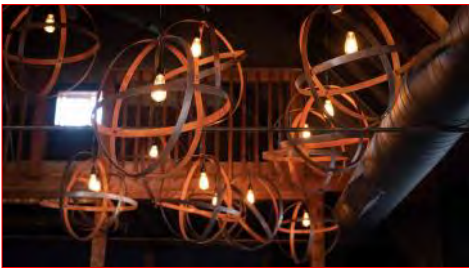


Oxx, the Delta County Sheriff's Office K-9 narcotics dog, seemed to enjoy the civilian guests at his retirement party...that is until uniformed deputies arrived. It was then that Oxx appeared to mentally put on his own uniform and look intently to his fellow officers for directions. Photos by Gail Marvel.



Delta County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) K-9 narcotics dog Teg, which is short for Integrity, hails from Slovakia. Teg's handler, Sgt. Keith Sanders, said, "He's two-years-old today [Sept. 19, 2020]. He was trained at Right Hand Canine in Ogden, Utah and we've had him about five months." A German Shepherd, Teg is fully trained, certified for full service and he will replace the retiring Oxx. Sanders said, "Just like with Oxx, we'll be taking Teg into the schools." Photo by Gail Marvel.

BONNIE & CLYDE'S TO OPEN SEPT 22



A taste of the interior with their handmade lighting. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-This week David and Kate Green will be bringing something new to Montrose. Located at 647 E. Main Street, Bonnie & Clyde's will be opening Tuesday, September 22nd, with live local musicians playing on the deck this weekend.

Manager McKenna Mager says they plan to start opening for brunches as well, in about a month.

The entire staff has been busy working on the building, almost everything was hand made, from the new deck and tables to the bar and lighting. And the idea of



Apple Pecan Chicken Salad. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

craftsmanship runs beyond the physical building to the food and drinks.

Bonnie & Clyde's will be offering an up-scale American Fusion menu. All food is fresh, locally sourced where available, and the wine list is filled by wines from small local wineries.

I stopped in while they were busy with last minute work for a friends and family night, to test out all operations. The space is



Head Chef Teresa Zapata with her kitchen team. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

amazing, you can see hard work put into all the details, and everyone was nice and welcoming. I am looking forward to sitting down and enjoying it when they open.

For more information, check them out on Facebook at @bonnieclydes81401, and make sure to get out and check them out. As always, please support local business.

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CITY AWARDS WOODGATE SEWER SYSTEM CONTRACT; CERRO RESERVOIR FILLING AGAIN AFTER REPAIRS



The dam at Cerro is now refilling, City Engineer Scott Murphy told Montrose City Council at the meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 15. The reservoir was drained for repairs over the summer of 2018, above. City of Montrose courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call at the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 15, Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum declared Sept 15, 2020 to be Dr. Gary Ratcliff Day, in honor of the recently retired head of Colorado Mesa University (CMU)'s Montrose Campus. All Councilors were present for the meeting, which was held in "hybrid" fashion with Council and key staff in chambers, and the public and media allowed to view online.

"Unfortunately, he's out of town, enjoying some vacation time after his retirement," Bynum said of Ratcliff. "But he wanted me to pass on his sincere thanks to the City of Montrose...he very much appreciates the recognition."

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell had no changes to the meeting agenda; there were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items. Council voted to approve minutes of the Sept. 1, 2020 special City Council meeting and the Sept. 1, 2020 regular City Council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Following a brief but thorough presenta-

tion and public hearing, Council voted unanimously to approve a new fermented malt beverage license at 1426 Ogden Road for Golden Gate Petroleum of Nevada, LLC, doing business as Golden Gate Gas for consumption off the licensed premises.

Also approved unanimously was Resolution 2020-19, authorizing the filing of a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant application for the Gray & Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program, as presented by City Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer and discussed previously in work session.

Council approved a five-year updated lease for the historic Montrose Depot building, which is home to the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum. A memo to Council from Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler notes, "One notable change is the increased rent of \$20/year as compared to the existing rent of \$1/month."

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on a contract award to Haynes Excavation in the amount of \$972,050.75, for construction of the Woodgate Subdivision Sewer System Re-

habilitation Project. The City received three bids for the work, Murphy said, and Haynes Excavation was the low bidder. Council voted unanimously to approve the contract award.

Background-The Woodgate Subdivision was developed under county regulations in the 1970's, with a lagoon system that ultimately was abandoned. In the 1990's Woodgate Subdivision was annexed to the City of Montrose and connected to the City's sewer system. A memo prepared by Murphy for City Council states that the project "will perform a general rehabilitation of the sewer system to improve line durability, efficiency, reliability, and accessibility. Work will include spot repairs where failures of the pipe have occurred, insertion of new manholes and cleanout basins, and utilization of trenchless technologies to replace or line existing pipes. This includes pipe bursting and Ultraviolet Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining systems."

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the most recent Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Repairs to the dam at Cerro are now complete and the reservoir is filling, Murphy said. At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell, Murphy gave a brief history of the Cerro project.

The primary purpose of the reservoir is to provide backup water for the City of Montrose and all of Project 7 Water Authority. In an exchange with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) three years ago, the City traded ownership of Chipeta Lake for the Cerro Reservoir. Both bodies of water are stocked by CPW.

Mayor Bynum spoke to the public, "Thank you if you joined us by Zoom. We continue to try and make these hybrid meetings work...if you came to the meeting tonight and you wanted to make comment and you weren't able please let us know...as always City Council is available by email..."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEIMAN ENTERPRISES TO ACQUIRE INTERFOR CORPORATION'S GILCHRIST, OR SAWMILL

Special to the Mirror

WYOMING-Neiman Enterprises, Inc. of Hulett, Wyoming is pleased to announce it has entered into an agreement to purchase Interfor Corporation's specialty sawmill located in Gilchrist, Oregon.

Completion of the transaction is expected to be completed early in the fourth quarter of 2020.

"This transaction represents a significant step for the Neiman group of companies," said Jim Neiman, President and CEO of Neiman Enterprises, Inc. "We anticipate restarting the mill in short order. Interfor's continued support of their employees throughout this transition should be commended and we look forward to partnering with the employees and community to ensure the long-term success of this historic operation."

Neiman Enterprises, Inc. is a leading producer of Ponderosa Pine boards, pattern and industrial (shop) lumber at facilities in the Black Hills; Devil's Tower Forest Products in Hulett, Wyoming, Rushmore Forest Products in Hill City, South Dakota and Spearfish Forest Products in Spearfish, South Dakota. Neiman Enterprises, Inc. also operates a premium stud sawmill in Montrose, CO.

Neiman said the Gilchrist location will complement his existing sawmills and allow them to further expand their customer base for high quality Ponderosa Pine lumber products.



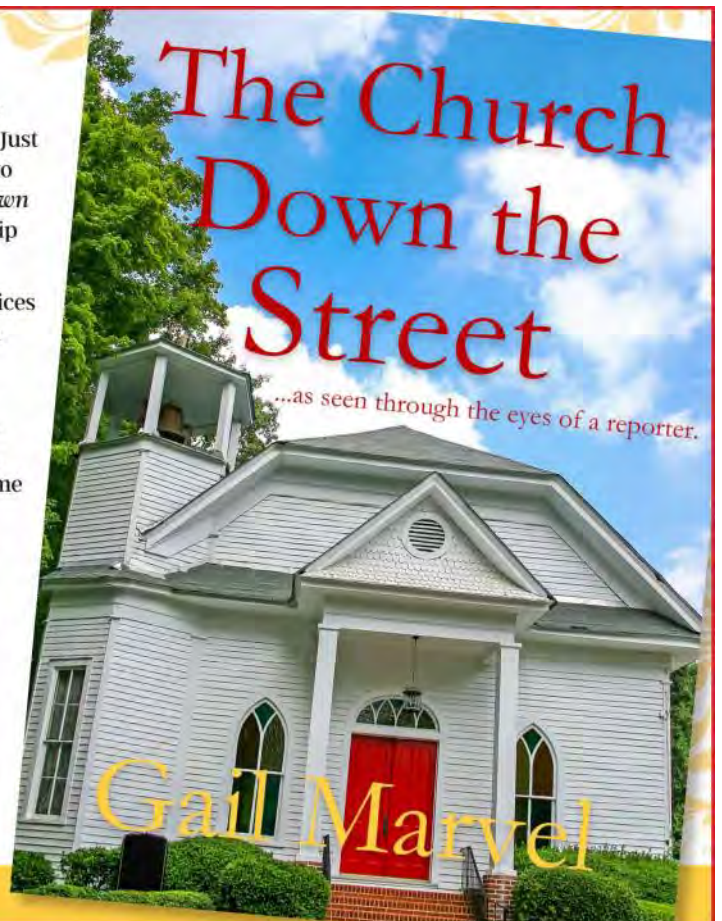
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



Available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [WingedPublications.com](https://www.WingedPublications.com)

COUNCILOR FRANK ASKS CITY TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT NORTH NINTH, NORTH FOURTH

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a “hybrid” virtual work session on Monday, Sept. 14, with Council and key staff in chambers and the public and media permitted to watch online. Though a television broadcast is normally available, the Channel 191 feed began late, and was plagued by visual and audio problems throughout. All councilors were present for the work session.

NEW EMPLOYEES INTRODUCED

Joining City staff are Parks and Special Projects Worker Chris Randall; Human Resources Generalist Ashley Resh; Parks and Special Projects Worker Joaquin Rodriguez; as well as Police Officers Aaron Sheedy, Niane Baca, and Kay Alvarez. Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced the new officers, all of whom are post certified.

Originally from New York, Baca grew up in Lakewood. She gave Council a thumbs up, “Yes!”

Sheedy comes to Montrose from Black Hawk where he was a sergeant, bringing 18 years of law enforcement experience, five years of Army service, “some college, and a lot of life experience...looking forward to serving the City.”

Alvarez comes to Montrose from Grand Junction, where she graduated from Colorado Mesa University (CMU) and the Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy. “I am excited to be here...to do community policing and to work with the community to further Montrose,” she said. Parks Supervisor Jackie Bubenik introduced Randall and Rodriguez.

Born and raised in California, Randall spent the past five years on the Front Range. “Just moved here two months ago...can’t wait to better Montrose through the park service.”

Rodriguez was born and raised here in Montrose. “Lived here, retired already once, and going back to work again,” she said. “Working with the guys has been enjoyable.”

Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox introduced Ashley Resh. Originally from North Carolina, Resh has been in Colorado for 11 years. She worked for Vail Resorts



Montrose City Council met for a “hybrid” virtual work session on Monday, Sept. 14. Mirror staff photo.

and Beaver Creek, as well as for the Park Service. “I really love this area,” she said. “I am really looking forward to warmer winters over on this side of Cerro Summit.”

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Barbara Bynum introduced a discussion of **improvements to the La Raza Park neighborhood**. City Manager Bill Bell gave a brief history of efforts to proactively address issues and engage with the community near LaRaza Park. “We’re excited to now bring some ideas before City Council...the idea of today to talk is about everything available to us, all the options, and see which ones kind of stick and then we can move those forward at Council’s discretion.”

City Engineer Scott Murphy began a discussion on sidewalk elements and street right of way work.

Councilor Dave Bowman asked about traffic in the area, and the impacts to the neighborhood associated with a railroad right-of-way parcel recently leased for mag chloride storage.

“I’m curious. My understanding is the County uses those tanks, CDOT uses those

tanks, maybe the Feds and I’m not sure what other counties,” Bowman said. “Have there been any discussions with the people that are dipping out of those tanks to help pay for improvements in the neighborhood?”

He asked Bell about efforts to find out who uses the mag chloride stored in the tanks. “It’s not wonderful for the neighborhood. And my understanding is, it’s basically government that put it there, so what’s government gonna do to help this neighborhood?”

Bell said that while the city had attempted to ascertain who the mag chloride customers are, “...We haven’t talked to any of their customers about providing beautification or improvement of the neighborhood. It would be pretty hard to do that...” Bowman said, “...I would think that these other government entities that have helped cause these tanks to be there would like to help beautify the area.

“It’s hard for me to believe that we haven’t asked the question yet...what have you learned from the County?” he asked Bell.

“We don’t traditionally ask a business’s customers to donate to the City,” Bell said.

Continued next pg

SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT NORTH 9TH, 4TH From previous pg

We're here to talk about sidewalks," Councilor Dave Frank said. "Could we maybe focus on that for a moment and let Scott finish what he's talking about?"

Murphy discussed options and the phasing of possible improvements. Following further discussion, Mayor Bynum suggested that Council continue the discussion during a walk-through of the neighborhood sidewalks with staff and interested members of the public.

City Public Works Manager Jim Scheid spoke about improvements to the park itself and suggested that the basketball court would be a good place to begin. The project would take two to three months.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said she spoke with Union Pacific officials earlier this year about the railroad crossing at North Fourth Street, to which the railroad recently made temporary improvements. "...Among other things, we asked Union Pacific about additional improvements to the track there...they indicated they would upgrade to a concrete crossing there...with a 50-50 cost share with the City...we also talked about straightening out the road if we were going to make other improvements...at this time they would not support straightening out that road because of the infrastructure."

Planner Amy Sharp and Murphy discussed the **Woodgate Addition No. 4 Annexation**. *Background-A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The Woodgate Addition No. 4 is a proposed annexation approximately 0.49 acres in size. The parcel is located east of S. Townsend Avenue, west of Woodgate Road, and in between Oak Grove Road and Odelle Road. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. Annexation of this property will clean-up an orphaned parcel of land surrounded by existing City parcels. The City of Montrose is applying for this annexation on behalf of the landowner in support of the upcoming Woodgate Road realignment project."*

City Utilities Manager David Bries discussed the **2020 Sanitary Sewer Cured in Place Pipe bid** and a recommended bid award to Insituform Technologies, LLC in

the amount not to exceed \$200,000 for cured in place lining of sanitary sewers.

Background-A memo prepared by Bries for Council states, "The City of Montrose originally contracted with Granite Inliner for this project with a renewable contract in 2018. Once this year's list for Cured in Place Pipe project (CIPP) were identified, Granite Inliner verbally agreed to perform the work. After discussion on the Aug. 3, 2020 Work Session, they informed us that they would not be able to complete the work this year as their schedule was full. Upon this information Staff prepared a formal bid request. As a part of the City of Montrose routine sewer line inspections, the City utility crews identify critical sewers that are candidates for CIPP to restore their structural integrity. The lines for this year's project are mostly concrete and Vitrified Clay Pipes (VCP) that have deteriorated and have higher maintenance costs due to the condition of the line segments. On the overall sanitary sewer system the average maintenance cost is \$1.30 per foot per year. On these lines the average is \$3.34 per foot per year. CIPP is a process of installing a new pipe within a pipe using the existing pipe as the form, thus restoring the structural integrity of the pipe."

Morgenthaler spoke to the allocation of CARES Act funding, and asked Council to provide guidance. Funds must be spent by Dec. 30, 2020. Permanent infrastructure projects intended to support economic development are not eligible.

Background-A memo from Morgenthaler to Council states, "On June 16, 2020, City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montrose County to apply to the Department of Local Affairs for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CVRF), established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act... the City of Montrose was allocated a total of \$1,100, 419.83. By accepting the funding, the City agreed to spend the funds for expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency...To date, the City has spent approximately \$300,000 directly responding to the emergency, including purchasing additional cleaning supplies and computer equipment as well as in staff time that was substantially dedicated to responding

to the emergency. Staff estimates that an additional \$100,000 may be needed between now and year-end for direct City expenses related to the COVID-19 response."

Mayor Bynum said that staff is doing their best to balance all of Council's interests as well as fund community needs.

After some discussion it was agreed that staff will explore the options and report back to Council; a supplemental budget may be required at year's end due to the size of the expenditures involved, Bell said. "I can only spend up to \$50,000 without Council's approval."

During the general discussion portion of the work session, Councilor Dave Frank said, "...I would like to see us continue to pursue that hopefully beneficial relationship with the railroad. I would like to continue to explore the idea of getting those pedestrian crossings in place across both Ninth and Fourth..."

Glaspell praised City staff for doing a tremendous job under difficult conditions and for coming up with good ideas for spending money that will become available. Councilor Roy Anderson encouraged residents of La Raza Park neighborhood to watch for and participate in an upcoming neighborhood meeting. "We'd love to hear from each of you. Please watch for that and join us."

Montrose's sister City in Ecuador has requested money for their library, Bynum said. "I just don't know Council's current feeling on spending money in Ecuador versus spending money in Montrose. It's not CARES Act eligible." Glaspell said that he was not comfortable spending funds outside of the country at this time; Frank said that he agreed with Glaspell. Bynum said she would decline the request.

Bynum reminded Council of the upcoming Colorado Municipal League District 10 meeting, and noted that there will be a public open house at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 21 at the Montrose County Event Center to share information on CDOT's proposed improvements to the Little Blue Creek Canyon. Bell said that Council has taken a position on the proposed improvements in the past; Bynum asked that he provide a copy of the position statement to Council for review.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO TO IMPLEMENT BALLOT TRACKING FOR NOVEMBER'S ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold today announced that for the first time, voters in all 64 counties will be able to track the status of their individual mail ballots for the 2020 General Election. Voters will be able to receive notifications by phone, email, or text about the status of their mail ballots, from the time their County Clerk and Recorder mails the outgoing ballot packet, to when their voted ballot is received and accepted for counting.

"I'm happy to announce that for the first time, every Colorado voter will have access to ballot tracking, to be able to see when ballots are sent to when they are processed," said Secretary Griswold. "This new program is one of the many ways that Colorado continually innovates to ensure our elections are the best in the nation."

The Colorado Secretary of State's Office is offering the BallotTrax ballot tracking and messaging system to all counties. Twelve counties implemented this system in past elections, and voters in those counties will not notice any changes to the content, format or timing of the ballot status messages they receive. The City and County of Denver developed and will continue to operate a separate but similar system. The effect of the Secretary of State's initiative makes the BallotTrax system available to voters in the 51 counties that never before had access to ballot tracking.

Beginning today, voters in counties that are adding ballot tracking will receive a notification that they have been enrolled in the service if their registration record contains an email address.

Those who don't receive an auto-enrollment notification can sign up them-

selves at <https://colorado.ballottrax.net>. Voters can opt out of BallotTrax at any time.

Voters in counties with preexisting ballot tracking capabilities, including Denver's BallotTrace, will not need to re-enroll and will be able to continue to have their ballots tracked without interruption.

"The ability for voters to get text, email, or phone messages with our ballot tracking service has been in place since it was first introduced in 2015 and has only grown in popularity with each passing year," said Boulder County Clerk and Recorder Molly Fitzpatrick. "It provides a measure of reassurance to voters that their ballots have arrived back to our offices safely and securely and are now ready to be counted."

For more information, please visit www.GoVoteColorado.gov.



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GOODTIMES HONORED WITH KAREN CHAMBERLAIN AWARD

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON ... Art Goodtimes was awarded the 2020 Karen Chamberlain Award for lifetime achievement for his contribution to Colorado poetry at the Mountain Words Literary Festival at the Center for the Arts in Crested Butte on Aug. 29th.

"I'm deeply honored," said Goodtimes. "We have a wonderful community of poets on the Western Slope, and I'm proud to be among them." Previous winners include Reg Saner of Boulder, the late Jack Mueller of Log Hill Village outside Ridgeway, Bruce Berger of Aspen, Mark Todd of Gunnison, Veronica Patterson of Loveland, and the late Chris Ransick—former Denver Poet Laureate who had moved to Oregon.

As part of the virtual program at this year's literary festival, Crested Butte's David J. Rothman presented the award to Goodtimes, and the two of them engaged in an hour-long dialogue about poetry.

Goodtimes has recovered from his throat cancer after six months of treatment at St. Mary's Cancer Center in Grand Junction. He has taken back the reins of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds program. The deadline for the Fischer/Cantor Prize has closed, and initial judging of the 200+ entries has begun. Final winners will be announced in October, although no award service is scheduled for this year, due to Covid-19. The Mycolicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show, produced by Art Goodtimes and John Michelotti with assistance from Sarah Schwab, was a great success and is availa-



Courtesy images Talking Gourds.

ble as part of this year's virtual Telluride Mushroom Festival online. **Background**

Inspired by the late Way of the Mountain climber, skier, and deep ecologist Dolores LaChapelle, **Talking Gourds** is a poetry program sponsored by the Telluride Institute <www.tellurideinstitute.org>. Art Goodtimes of Wrights Mesa and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer of Placerville are co-directors, and Galaxy Dancer is our administrative assistant. Brooke Shifrin is our poster artist. The Talking Gourds poetry program includes a number of projects where it acts as lead sponsor or as collaborative partner with Between the Covers Bookstore, the Wilkinson Public Library, Ah Haa School for the Arts, the Telluride Arts District, the Telluride Mushroom Festival, Lithic Bookstore & Gallery, the Gunnison Literary Arts Festival, the Telluride Mountain School, and others. Our projects include: A national Fischer Prize and a state Cantor Award in poetry.

Talking Gourds is indebted to generous



contributions past and present from the Cantor Family of North Carolina, the late Elaine Cantor Fischer and her many friends Peter Waldor, Audrey Marnoy, Joan Shapiro, Eduardo Brummel, Terry Tice, Daiva Chesonis, Elissa Dickson, Laura Colbert, Jess Newens, Judy Kohin, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Danny Rosen, Kyle Harvey, Kate Jones, Molly Daniel, Elodie Jacobson, Brooke Einbender, Elle Metrick, John & Maggie Metrick, Mar Boyd, Buff Hooper, Kyra Kopestonsky, Lee & Billi Taylor, Allyson Snyder, Kathy Green, Amy Levek, David Oyster, Michael Olschewsky & Ruth Duffy, Rick & Marty Holinbeck, Vicki Phelps, Dean Rolley, Brooke Harless MacMillan, David J. Rothman, Chris Zieve and our many friends and members.

For more info, visit www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

YOUTHS AND ADULTS GROW TOGETHER THROUGH SCOUTING

By Wayne Quade

MONTROSE-Fellowship, ideals, and service are foremost in the Order of the Arrow (OA), an exemplary service fraternity of the BSA (Scouting in the U.S.). Earlier this month around three dozen Scouts from many nearby communities gathered at "Common Ground" near Montrose for their annual Fall Fellowship. This site, offered by local developer Matt Miles, was a good site offering adequate space for camping, ceremonies, and other friendship activities.

Both youths and their leaders are selected for honor in this fraternity within Scouting by their non-member peers. This added dimension of Scouting, honoring traditions of the American Indians and known for its emphasis of friendly service, gives both youths and adults an opportunity to grow together, find fellowship, and practice skills.

The event was sponsored by the local chapter of the OA which is currently Skyping its monthly meetings between Montrose and Gunnison. Its youth leader, Chapter Chief Reece Wolfe, is a Senior at Montrose High School, and the Chapter Advisor is former long-time Scoutmaster at the Montrose Elks Lodge, Troop 491, John Reiher.

The event honored about 6 new Ordeal inductees, 3 Brotherhood members, and 3 special Vigil Honor members. Chapter Chief, Eagle Scout Reece Wolfe, was one of those honored as a new Vigil Honor member.

More information on the Scouting program can be obtained locally [(970) 417-7962].

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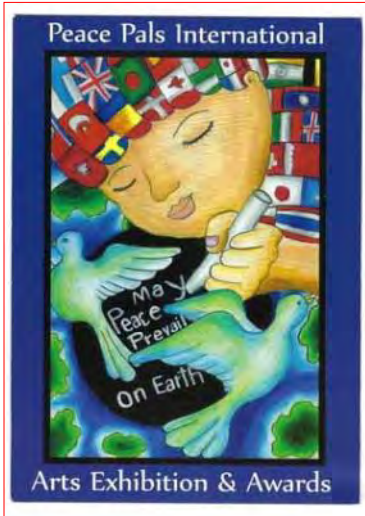
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PEACE PALS INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose Center for the Arts is sponsoring THE AMBASSADOR OF PEACE Collection, featuring the artwork of youth from 110 countries, ages four - 18. We are proud to feature these precious pieces representing the various cultures and traditions of the world. Peace Pals International Art Exhibition started in 1997 inviting children around the world to submit artwork in the spirit of the Universal Message of Peace, **May Peace Prevail on Earth**. A big Thanks to Arlyn Mac Donald for bringing this show to Montrose, and to the Art Center.

View the show at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 South Park Ave., Montrose, Sept. 21 - 26, from 10 - 4pm. *At left, courtesy image.*

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



HEATHER FREDRICK GRADUATES FROM COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Special to Art & Sol

HAMILTON, NY- Heather Fredrick, of Montrose, CO (81403), is a graduate of Colgate University in the Class of 2020. Fredrick, a graduate of Montrose High School, majored in International Relations at Colgate.

Fredrick received a Bachelor of Arts degree Magna Cum Laude at Colgate's 199th Commencement, which was held virtually on May 17 this year.

Colgate is a leading American university for students who want classes with rigor, faculty with passion, and confidence in knowing they will learn how to thrive in work and life. Colgate offers 56 majors and supports 25 Division I athletic teams on a campus of about 3,000 students in central New York. Learn more at colgate.edu.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

17TH ANNUAL OURAY COUNTY RAILROAD DAYS SEPT. 26 & 27

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The weekend of September 26 and 27 will provide plenty of opportunity to experience the railroad heritage of the San Juan Mountains as the Ridgway Railroad Museum presents the seventeenth annual Ouray County Railroad Days.

Saturday and Sunday the Museum hosts a free open house from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at its railyard at 200 N. Railroad Street with free rides on Galloping Goose 4 from Telluride, RGS Motor No. 1 and Inspection Car No. 1. There will also be a free lecture on Saturday night at 7 pm at the Ouray Elks lodge by museum president Karl Schaeffer. Schaeffer's topic will be "Steam Returns to Ridgway" and will describe progress on the new steam locomotive now under construction.

For more information about Ouray County Railroad Days, call 970-626-4239 or 970-626-4373.

MONTROSE ELKS LODGE AWARDS ELK MEDAL OF VALOR



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose Elks Lodge recognized Montrose, Colorado's finest Law Enforcement and 1st Responders by presenting "The Elk Medal of Valor" awards commemorating and memorializing their respective contributions to our communities. The medals represent the Elks collective admiration for the dedication and self-sacrifice our recipients have shown to make Montrose County and our Nation a superior place in which to live and work. Courtesy photo.



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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. 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.

Sept. 21-25- RIDGWAY RAILROAD MUSEUM WORK WEEK: 8:30 am – 2 pm each day. Help with restoration projects including passenger coach 252. Painting, carpentry, lots of possibilities. Lunches provided. Meet at the railyard on Railroad Street across from the fire station. 970-318-0322 for information.

Sept. 21-26-Montrose Center for the Arts is sponsoring THE AMBASSADOR OF PEACE Collection, featuring the artwork of youth from 110 countries, ages four - 18. View the show at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 South Park Ave., Montrose, Sept. 21 - 26, from 10 - 4pm.

Sept. 21-CDOT open house, 10 a.m. at the Montrose County Event Center on CDOT's proposed improvements to the Little Blue Creek Canyon.

Sept. 25-27-Magic Circle Players and UpstartART present Shakespeare Sucks, showings are 6 p.m. Sept. 25 and 26, 2 p.m. Sept. 27. For tickets (\$15) visit www.magiccircleplayers.com or the theater box office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Sept. 26-27-OURAY COUNTY RAILROAD DAYS: Ridgway Railroad Museum, 200 N. Railroad Street. Free rides on Galloping Goose 4, RGS Motor 1 and Inspection Car 1; free tours 9 am – 4 pm each day. Saturday evening lecture at 7 pm at the Ouray Elks lodge, Karl Schaeffer's topic will be "Steam Returns to Ridgway. 970-318-0322 or 970-626-4239 for information.

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

Oct. 6-City of Montrose City Hall 50-year time capsule opening, 11 a.m.

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



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FALL PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: **BY DEB REIMANN & HARRY SWITZER**



*Red Mountain in Fall colors,
left, by Deb Reimann.*

*At right, The Montrose High
School Football team at prac-
tice Sept. 16, by Harry Switzer.*



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