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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People!

Issue No. 424 April 12 2021

HUGHES VOTES NO TO MURA SPENDING ON YURT CO INFRASTRUCTURE



Colorado Yurt Company has outgrown the current location at 28 W South 4th Street in Montrose.

Story and photos by Gail Marvel

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 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 the Dragoon's Mayfly Outdoors.

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

Continued pg 22

BOCC TAKES A STAND ON WOLF REINTRODUCTION; CELEBRATES APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH *'It's very important that our children do come first'*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 7. Commissioner Roger Rash was not present; BOCC Chair Sue Hansen and Vice Chair Keith Caddy were in attendance.

Hansen opened the session; "We just had a great meeting with the executive director of DOLA and his staff...talking about big ideas and what we can look forward to.

"After a year of dealing with COVID, I think we're ready for some new, big ideas and some new energy," Hansen said.

Also, Montrose County is celebrating National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Hansen said, and has moved to "Green" on Colorado's COVID-19 Dial. "...The Governor, the CDPHE did move us to Green today, which means the policy on masks will be changing," she said.

Pastor Karl Leuthauser delivered the invocation, reflecting on the topic of being misunderstood and trusting in God. "Father...I thank you for these commissioners, these leaders, for

Continued pg 7



in this
issue

*Reader Photo Spotlight with
Deb Reimann, B. Switzer!*

*Montrose City Council names
new Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem*

*Historian Bob Cox on the
WCTU in Montrose!*

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING ON HWY 92 FOLLOWS SHORT PURSUIT OF VEHICLE NEAR HOTCHKISS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-On April 9, 2021 at approximately 11:35 AM, a Delta County Sheriff's Office Deputy was involved in an officer involved shooting near the 29,000 block of Highway 92 near Hotchkiss, CO. The shooting took place following a short pursuit with a vehicle. The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Deputy involved was not injured in the incident and is currently on paid administrative leave pending the conclusion of the investigation. The 7th Judicial District Critical Incident team was activated at the request of Sheriff Taylor and is currently on scene conducting the investigation.

No further information is available at this time. -Mark Taylor, Delta County Sheriff

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado, to a readership of over 15,000 residents of Western Colorado.

Founder and Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Paul Arbogast

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY MOVES TO LEVEL GREEN ON COVID-19 DIAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County has officially moved to level green on the state's COVID-19 dial per the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The dial status of green includes the following metrics: seven-day incidence rate of 0-35 cases/100,000 people, no greater than 5 percent positivity, and sufficient local hospital bed capacity. More information on level green including face covering requirements and capacity restrictions is listed below.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are required only in the following settings. It is important to note that private businesses may still require face coverings.

- Preschool through grade 12 schools (including extracurricular activities), child-care centers and services, and indoor children's camps;
- Public areas of state government facilities, and areas in state government facilities where members of the public come into contact with state government employees;
- Congregate care facilities, including nursing facilities, assisted living residences, intermediate care facilities, and group homes;
- Prisons;
- Jails;
- Emergency medical and other healthcare settings (including hospitals, ambulance service centers, urgent care centers, non-ambulatory surgical structures, clinics, doctors' offices, and non-urgent care medical structures);
- Personal services; and
- Limited healthcare settings.

It is important to exercise personal responsibility, make good choices, social distance when appropriate, frequently wash hands, and stay home when sick to keep the community healthy.

CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS

Any business, activity, or gathering may fully operate with no capacity restrictions other than those resulting from 6 feet

distancing, except:

1. The following businesses and activities may operate at 50 percent of their pre-pandemic capacity not to exceed 500 people:
 - i. Bars
 - ii. Smoking lounges
 - iii. Unseated Indoor events
 - iv. Organized indoor recreational youth or adult league sports
 - v. Indoor Children's Day Camps, Residential Camps, Youth Sports Day Camps and Exempt Single Skill-Building Youth Camps

2. Seated Indoor Events may seat up to 10 people together including non-household members; however, if a seated Indoor Event will exceed 500 people, the event operator or organizer must consult with CDPHE.

For more information on COVID-19 in Montrose County including vaccination opportunities, please visit montrosecountyjic.com. You will also find the current public health order 20-36 and a 1-page chart summarizing the capacity limitations for businesses in all dial levels.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS, TRAFFIC HOLDS SCHEDULED FOR I-70 IN GLENWOOD CANYON DURING WEEK OF APRIL 12-19

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD CANYON— The Colorado Department of Transportation will oversee necessary helicopter operations in Glenwood Canyon next week, on Wednesday, April 14. The operations are required for replacing power poles in Glenwood Canyon. The poles were damaged by last year's Grizzly Creek Fire. Helicopter opera-

tions are also scheduled to take place during the following week as part of an ongoing rockfall fence project. The helicopter is scheduled, weather permitting, to fly on Wednesday, April 21. Helicopter operations will continue on Thursday, April 22 if work is not completed on Wednesday.

When the helicopter is airborne, traffic stops on Interstate 70 will be required for

eastbound and westbound traffic. These holds are expected to last 15 or 30 minutes, depending on the work taking place, before traffic is released. Please see further below for additional traffic impacts due to other safety-critical projects.

Rock Solid Solutions is the contractor on the rock fence project. Crews have been installing and repairing rockfall fencing that was also damaged during last year's Grizzly Creek Fire. Permanent and temporary rockfall barriers have been erected in several locations, to help protect against potential rockfall due to wildfire damage in the area. Work is weather dependent and has been ongoing since December 2020 and is expected to be complete early summer 2021.

TRAVEL IMPACTS DURING WEEK OF APRIL 12

-On Wednesday, April 14, fifteen minute traffic stops will take place to allow for four power poles to be installed. Motorists should expect four traffic stops, taking place between 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.

TRAVEL IMPACTS DURING WEEK OF APRIL 19

-On Wednesday, April 21, thirty minute traffic stops will take place throughout the day beginning at 9:00 a.m. The closures are for westbound traffic at Mile Point 123.95 east of the Hanging Lake Tunnel bore and a rolling stop will be in place for eastbound traffic. Thirty minute traffic stops may continue on Thursday, April 22, if necessary to complete work.

-Continuing project impacts Monday - Friday: a westbound right lane closure from MP 119-125 in place, west of the Hanging Lake Tunnel bore, for fence work on the slopes above the interstate.

PROJECT & TRAVEL INFO

For additional information about this project or to sign up for updates, contact the project team.

-Project hotline: 970-319-2516

-Project email: I70GWCrock-fall@gmail.com

-Project webpage: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70-glenwood-grizzlycreek-rockfallfence>

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BOCC TAKES STAND ON WOLVES; HONORS APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

From pg 1

these public servants in this whole room...I know they are trying their best to help this county, to help this area...I pray that you bless their work, that you give them the very best decisions...Lord there's just no way they can make everyone happy...when criticism comes against them Lord, when people misjudge their motives and misjudge them, I pray that you would protect them, that you would be a shield on their hearts... I pray for great grace over them... I pray for joy in their work." Caddy led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hansen said, "Thank you Pastor, those words were meaningful to me." She extended best wishes to Commissioner Rash and his family following Mrs. Rash's surgery. "I know it's a tough time."

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 unanimously, with Resolution No. 13-2021 assigned to Item 25.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Caddy presented Resolution 14-2021, concerning wolf reintroduction in Montrose County. The resolution notes that in the 2020 General Election, the voters of Montrose County voted against the reintroduction of wolves by a margin of 76.27 percent (18,414) to 23.73 percent (5,730). The Resolution also notes that in Montrose County 68 percent of land is public, the economy is highly dependent on agriculture in the form of cattle and sheep ranching, and that with large elk and mule deer herds, Montrose County is a destination for hunters and outfitters.

The Resolution declares Montrose County to be a Wolf Reintroduction Sanctuary County, allowing only for the natural migration and repopulation of Gray Wolves without the competition from artificially introduced wolves.

Commissioners voted to adopt Resolution 14-2-021. Read the full text here.

Commissioners approved a proclamation

presented by Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood, declaring April, 2021 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Sherwood said that this year has seen an upward trend in referrals for abuse or neglect in the first quarter of 2021. Referrals normally average around 1,000 annually with 300 referrals screened in, she said. The proclamation notes that in 2020, Montrose County received 946 reports of child abuse, neglect, or requests for services. Of that number, 292 were assigned for investigation or serviced as youth in conflict.

The County has a dedicated team that is diligent in preventing and providing services to mitigate child abuse and neglect, Sherwood said.

The most common referrals involve allegations of neglect, she said, and invited everyone to wear blue during the month of April to help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Sherwood read the proclamation into the record. Read the full text here. The statewide Child Abuse hotline number is 1-844-CO-4KIDS

Hansen thanked Sherwood, as well as Adult & Child Protective Services Manager Stephanie Holsinger, who was also present.

"We really appreciate what you and your team do in this arena, it's not easy work...just want to thank you," Hansen said, "and thanks Jennifer."

"I would like to thank Jen and Stephanie...for watching out for our children in this community," said Caddy, a career law enforcement professional. "It's a tough job. I been there with you; when I was in law enforcement, going out to these houses and these locations, and seeing the conditions some of these children are in,



County Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood read a proclamation declaring April, 2021 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

what they have been put in by their parents and by family, and by strangers also. "It's so important that we keep this up and keep this in the forefront of the people in this community," Caddy said. "It's very important that our children do come first."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

County Planner Tallmadge Richmond presented two items for consideration.

Commissioners voted to approve a proposed plat for road dedication known as "6720 Road Dedication," located at Trout Road and HWY 550.

Also approved was a Quit Claim Deed for an existing right-of-way that was granted to the public as part of a survey plat recorded in 1911.

Prior to adjournment, Hansen announced that Crystal of the Clerk & Recorder's Office had secured a grant of \$28,938. The grant acceptance, listed on the Consent Agenda, states that the funds are to be used to reimburse Montrose County for the expense of maintaining the County's recording software. The reimbursement will be applied to continue the funding of the Historical Indexing Project, which consists of importing and indexing historic document images of books into the live recording environment for on-line public access.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM COLORADO RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS TO MEET VIRTUALLY IN MAY

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— The Bureau of Land Management Northwest, Southwest and Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Councils will meet jointly and individually next month. All meetings will be held virtually on the Zoom platform in accordance with CDC guidelines.

The joint meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021. Individually the Southwest RAC will meet on May 25, the Northwest RAC will meet on May 26 and the Rocky Mountain RAC will meet on May 27. All meetings are open to the public, will begin at 10 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m.

"BLM Colorado's RACs represent a cross section of all the stakeholders we serve, offering vital perspectives for managing public lands throughout the state," said Colorado State Director Jamie Connell.

"Their feedback is critical in helping us make informed decisions and we are looking forward to having discussions with them."

Planned agenda items for joint RAC meeting include a discussion about last year's district boundaries realignment, a RAC overview, roles and responsibilities under the Recreation Enhancement Act, and ethics training. The individual RAC meetings will include field office updates, as well as presentations on permits, campgrounds, day-use areas and fees. The joint and individual RAC meeting agendas are available online at https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-04/co_coso_Joint_Individual_RAC_meeting_agendas.pdf.

Thirty-minute public comment periods

are scheduled at 11:30 a.m. for the Southwest RAC meeting, 1:30 p.m. for the Northwest RAC meeting and 1:00 p.m. for the Rocky Mountain RAC meetings. Depending on the number of people who wish to comment, the amount of time for comments may be limited.

For more information on registering for the joint meeting, please contact Jayson Barangan at 303-239-3681 or jbaranga@blm.gov or Kate Miyamoto at 303-239-3668 or kmiyamoto@blm.gov. For the Southwest RAC meeting, contact Shawn Reinhardt at 970-240-5339 or sreinhardt@blm.gov. For the Northwest RAC meeting, contact Chris Maestas at 970-826-5101 or cjmaestas@blm.gov. For the Rocky Mountain RAC meeting, contact Brant Porter at 970-901-9581 or reporter@blm.gov.

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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

By Jack Switzer, 17

MONTROSE-I traced the wooden window frame with my index finger, my eyes half open, and my mind fogged. I had been sitting next to my window for a few minutes, so I could allow the night breeze to flow across my face. I had just gotten done doing some lengthy schoolwork, so I wasn't really paying attention to anything besides my inner monologues. I sat up and rubbed my eyes, I was thinking about going to bed decently early since I didn't really have anything else to do.


But before I could consider the thought further, my ears were assaulted with an electrical buzz that you could only hear in TV shows or video games. I look to my left and stare out my window, only for my eyes to be met with a violent brightness, it was almost as though I was watching some kind of apocalyptic event right before my very eyes. However, before my mind could react my body jumped into action. Without any sort of thought I leaped out of bed and thrashed around

my cluttered desk drawer looking for my camera, I dashed down the stairs, leaving my door halfway open. Downstairs the dogs had gathered at the door, having also heard the magnificent blast of energy. My mother was peeking out the window, just as baffled as I was and searching for a conclusion. After we discussed, we both thought the most likely scenario was that the Bullock substation that lies just outside of our house had some sort of deadly malfunction, and exploded. I made my way outside, and sure enough I saw sparks and small flames bouncing to life from parts of the substation. Later we would come to learn that something called a lightning arrester had blown up and caused a massive electrical explosion. I lifted my cell phone and tried to call 911, however a moment later I realized my service was out, as well as most of the power in Montrose. Somehow, the power in our house was still available despite the explosion. My mother used the land line to phone the police, and in less than five



The source of the large explosion, by day.

minutes, patrol cars, the sheriff, and multiple fire trucks had pulled up on the side of the road prepared to deal with the situation if it were to get further out of control. Thanks to the lightning-fast response from law enforcement and emergency services, everything remained calm for the rest of the night and the situation was dealt with accordingly by DMEA workers. As of now I still have no explanation for what had happened to the lightening arrester to make it explode in such a spectacular way, although it makes me wonder if it could have been prevented.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA NOW ACCEPTING SELF-NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 BOARD ELECTIONS *Nominations accepted until Monday, May 3, 2021*

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL — The nomination period for DMEA's 2021 Board of Directors Elections opened earlier this month. Each year, DMEA members are responsible for electing three representatives to serve on the co-op's board of directors. This year, the District 1, District 2, and District 5 board seats are up for election. Eligible members who live in these districts may run for the DMEA Board of Direc-

tors. Currently, the following members hold these seats:

District 1: Bill Patterson

District 2: Kyle Martinez

District 5: Chris Hauck

Members interested in running for an open board seat should visit www.dmea.com/selfnomination to begin their nomination process. Eligible candidates must be members of DMEA and a resident in the district in which they


are seeking election. Additional requirements are available at www.dmea.com in DMEA's Bylaws, specifically Article 4 – Directors. Members can confirm in which district they live by calling 877-687-3632. The self-nomination period will close Monday, May 3, 2021, at 4 p.m. Key Dates:

Friday, April 2, 2021: Self-nomination packets become available online at www.dmea.com/selfnomination.

Monday, May 3, 2021: Deadline to return and/or complete all steps of the self-nomination process.

Tuesday, May 25, 2021: Ballots, along with the candidate backgrounds, will be mailed to DMEA members.

Thursday, June 17, 2021: The DMEA Annual Meeting will once again be held virtually. Register in advance starting May 1, 2021, at www.dmea.com. The results of the 2021 election as well as DMEA's Powering Connection Business Grants will be announced during the meeting.




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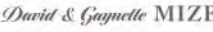

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT SEEMS THAT MURA BOARD MEMBERS WERE LACKING IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT FACTS AND ANSWERS TO UNKNOWNNS

Editor:

I listened to the MURA board meeting primarily about the Colorado Yurt expansion plans, building plans and lot development. I have to say the building and lot development visual presentation was impressive and would be an attribute to the overall project.

What absolutely stunned me was that the MURA board has not met in several months and was presented in my "opinion" a take it or leave on the spot proposal to fund the horizontal site (parking lot, landscaping, etc.) improvements for the for \$853,953. Normally, privately owned on-site improvements are the responsibility of the property owner to develop and finance be it commercial or residential. The update Anderson Analytical was brought up but had not been reviewed prior to the vote of the \$853,953 for horizontal site improvements but will be gone over in detail by city council members also serving as MURA board members in a retreat setting later this month. I believe that prudent persons obligating huge sums of money would not only want to review this report but challenge and verify its assumptions and statements line by line as would any prudent financial lending or authorizing body would do, especially when public money is being obligated. In short Anderson Analytical should be closely examined factually to ascertain who, what, where, and how their information was obtained. Also, Anderson Analytical should be required to determine and report to the board all conversations, statements of fact or guidance given by any city administrators, board member and those receiving or to receive funding directly and/or in directly from the project. To clarify, the report should be as requested fully sourced and noted as to who specifically (what person by name) stated or wanted what in the past report such as the

"horizontal funding request"?

Questions?

1. Have the short term and long-range assumptions as to property values remaining steady for a specific period been presented and discussed by the MURA board? What percentage of the total taxes collected are returned to the URA? Are these findings on the record?
2. Is it the MURA boards estimate that a loan of about \$853,953 would take about 10 to 15 years to pay back just the principal alone based on projected property values? If so, what are the bases for this or any assumption?
3. How is the interest paid back and has a "schedule of amortization" been presented to the MURA board for approval? What is the specific amount in interest to be paid back and in what future year?
4. Are there any property liens attached to the agreement to ensure payback of the loan and interest prior to any sale or foreclosure situation? Are there any time restrictions on how long these businesses must remain in Montrose prior to being sold or moved somewhere else?
5. Where questions concerning the overall debt that the Montrose Community taxpayers by project line ever discussed by the MURA board? How many PROMISSORY NOTES and WATER FUND dollars have been obligated to the project to date and in what amounts? Are the promissory notes backed by collateral?
6. MURA board: I believe one board member stated he did not like debt, another stated he would not vote for another horizontal land funding project and some others stated they in the general sense needed more information. At least one person had no questions at all yet voted for the huge funding amount. One board member that voted against the proposal presented very real and valid concerns that seemed to have no concern to the board in an extreme hurry to pass the vote. The ques-

tion to the board is why the hurry?

7. What horizontal site improvements were originally authorized for projects, and were cost calculations made and specifically presented to the MURA board for approval? What happens if the "Hotel" does not happen and what are in actual dollars would that loss of revenue mean to the Project overall? Has there been an in-depth "RISK ANALYSIS COMPLETED" and that has been validated in formal presentation to the MURA board?
8. Has the MURA board examined in detail all pending horizontal commitments and associated horizontal land expansion projects? What if any are the identified financial expansion commitments or expectations concerning apartment sites and any future industrial developments? In short where and when does this type of horizontal funding stop?
9. Successful and non-successful URA projects in Colorado: Mura board members need to know all successful and non-successful URA projects in Colorado that were based on "PROPERTY TAXES ALONE TO PAY OFF URA DEBT"? Also, specifically identified those URA projects that "DID NOT HAVE A SALES TAX BASE TO PAY OFF DEBT SUCH AS RETAIL TAXES, ETC"? Has this information been compiled and validated?
10. To paraphrase, what was the MURA board thinking when the owner of Colorado Yurt stated that if he did not get the funding for horizontal improvements, he would not go forward with the project and would consider other location options? How did the MURA board define this statement? Did this statement freeze the MURA board into a panicked instant vote and approval posture? If so, is this how the MURA board conducts business in Montrose?

It seems that board members were lacking in several important facts and answers to unknownns. There are millions of dollars

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS From previous pg

MURA BOARD MEMBERS WERE LACKING IMPORTANT FACTS

already invested in this project. Does this mean to the MURA board of directors that they must continue to make questionable decisions to gain a certain outcome to save face regardless of the risk and cost to the taxpayers? Opinion: Would any board member obligate their own financial resources and personal financial future on this type of project especially on the information available prior to the vote.

As reported, The Montrose taxpayers are hugely in obligated debt for other projects to an estimated amount of about \$100,000,000.

To build out this entire project as designed and in the number of lots yet to be developed one can only ask who is going to be around and in what year to see the end of this? Outside of one board member that asked very pertinent questions the question remains, who" IS PROTECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST"?

It is my opinion that businesses in general will take every dollar available. Sales pitches, with pressure attached are not uncommon When are these huge giveaways going to stop?

11. Strange happenings: Why did the MU-

RA board not question the passing of the funding by city council in the amount of \$852.953 for the Colorado Yurt project PRIOR to the MURA board voting in two parts for the approval of the project and the promissory note? Do the voting members of City Council have an arm's length of transaction conflict since some of them sit on the MURA board and vote for the funding as council members?

What the MURA board knows is important. What they "do not know" and need to yet find out is critical.

Jim Anderson, Montrose

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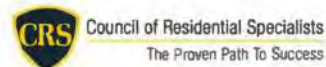


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY YOUTH VOLUNTEER AND CAREER FAIR WILL BE HELD APRIL 21

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Mark your calendars for the upcoming Ridgway Youth Volunteer and Career Fair. The deadline for registrations is Wed., April 14 at noon.

The 2021 Ridgway Youth Volunteer & Career Fair has the purpose of introducing middle and high school students to part-time work and volunteer opportunities in our community. At the Ridgway Secondary School, this one-hour event from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday, April 21, is a great chance for you to share information about your organization or company as well as volunteer openings, internships and temporary or long-term jobs.

The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that local business success is predicated on local talent, and our first priority talent pipeline should be our local students. We also support our nonprofits in achieving their missions to create positive impact in the community and the Ridgway School District in its goal of preparing students for careers through personal experience.

Get [more details](mailto:office@tanyaishikawa.com) and reserve a table for your business or organizations at the fair. There is a \$20 fee to offset fair organization expenses. The Ridgway Chamber as a co-sponsor of the event will pay the fee for chamber members. Contact Tanya at office@tanyaishikawa.com if you have questions.

Due to concerns about COVID-19, this year's Career and Volunteer Fair will take place outside on the front patio and lawn of the school. All participants (students, staff and visitors) will be required to follow public health protocol while at the Ridgway Secondary School, including wearing face masks, keeping group size at tables to a minimum, and avoiding physical contact.

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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS: PROFESSIONALS

HOME HEALTH OF WESTERN COLORADO NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Volunteers of America and Home Health of Western Colorado is pleased to announce Jamie Zarkis as the new Director of Clinical Services. Zarkis was previously a Registered Nurse with the agency and will assume the new duties effective immediately.

"Volunteers of America has always been on the cusp to make things better for residents, patients, participants and staff in our local community and across the country," Zarkis said. "I am excited to lead Home Health of Western Colorado as we deliver quality, compassionate skilled nursing care to our patients in their homes. We are accepting new patients and aim to meet the demand for services today and in the future in both Montrose and Delta Counties."

A 25-year employee of Volunteers of America, Zarkis began his nursing career with Valley Manor Care Center in 1995 as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) after graduating from the Delta-Montrose Vocational-Technical College in Delta. He transitioned to Home Health of Western Colorado for a period of three years and then returned to Valley Manor as the Unit Manager of Rehabilitation. In 2010, Zarkis completed his Registered Nurse (RN) degree. Since 2013, he has served as an RN for Home Health of Western Colorado with a wound care certification (WCC) and is highly sought after for his specialized skills in wound care.

"I believe in growing and mentoring our staff internally and Volunteers of America offers scholarships to employees who are looking to seek higher education in the field of nursing," Zarkis said. "I encourage anyone who is thinking about home health nursing as a career to contact me. This is a growth industry and we are looking to hire more nurses as we grow."

Home Health of Western Colorado is a Medicare/Medicaid-certified home health care agency – an experienced team of nurses, rehab therapists and home health aides dedicated to providing individualized health care needs with compassion and empathy.

The nursing team is specially trained in caring for older adults, and provide in-home, skilled clinical services that can be a lower-cost alternative to inpatient care, and can decrease the likelihood of a return to a hospital. Skilled clinical services include nursing, physical and occupational therapy, as well as a home health aide to assist with bathing needs. In collaboration with the patient and the patient's physician, the home health nurse develops a plan of care designed to help maintain patient independence.

Financing for home health care includes coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits, many private insurance companies and private pay.

The agency also provides a Family Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Services program to approximately 50 patients under the age of 21. When a child, grandchild, sibling or other Medicaid-qualified family member with special needs or chronic medical complications requires significant in-home assistance with activities of daily living like dressing, eating and toileting, it's possible, a family member or even a close friend to be hired as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) with the agency to provide daily care.

Purpose and making a difference in the



Volunteers of America and Home Health of Western Colorado have named Jamie Zarkis as Director of Clinical Services. Courtesy photo.

lives of others, is a guiding theme for Zarkis.

"VOA being a faith-based, non-profit is what keeps me loyal to the organization and its mission," he said. "We are here for the community and money earned here does go back to help others with whatever is needed. It takes a village and VOA is part of that village. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing you are part of something greater than yourself and that you can be a force for good in this world."

To learn more about Home Health of Western Colorado, visit www.homehealthco.org or contact the agency direct at 970-240-0139. To discover career opportunities with Volunteers of America National Services, visit www.careerswithvoa.org.

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER: CITY OF MONTROSE CONTINUES TO UNDER-FUND ESSENTIAL STREET MAINTENANCE

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-During the 4/5/2021 city council work session, city engineer Scott Murphy presented the street maintenance and capital plan ([here](#)). It is a 14-page document that covers street maintenance as well as capital improvements to some streets.

According to a study of the streets started in 2012, the streets were rated by what is known as a Pavement Condition Index (PCI). PCI is a numerical index between 0 (worst) and 100 (best). As of summer 2018 the city's average PCI was 68, but most roads in the original city plat rated poor (55) to serious (25).

The plan noted that while the overall PCI of 68 is due to newer subdivisions built in the 2000's, many of those roads are either approaching or just past the point that if maintenance is left unaddressed, their deterioration rate will accelerate and costs for repairs would increase exponentially. The city's engineering department and streets division performed time-based modeling that showed it would cost about

\$5.4 million annually to maintain the streets and raise the average PCI to the desired target of 70.

Murphy was clear to differentiate street maintenance and upkeep vs capital street projects (such as the Woodgate improvement about to begin). Capital projects are not included in the required 5.4 million that was proposed.

The 2021 City of Montrose budget shows \$750k is budgeted for 'Street Maintenance Improvements' ([here](#)). In comparison, MURA just approved about \$850k for improvements (sewage, drainage, curbs, parking, etc.) for Colorado Yurt's move to the Colorado Outdoors location.

When questioned about the disparity between the proposed 5.4 million needed and actual proposed \$750k, the answer from the city was 'budget limitations.'


No single division makes the budget, it is a group effort where they all come to the table and show what they need and why, and somewhere city management must decide what they feel the priorities are, build the budget and present it to coun-




City of Montrose courtesy graphic.

cil. Street maintenance is clearly a lesser priority for the city management team than other projects the city is currently spending millions on.

Infrastructure is a big issue, not just locally, but on a national level. The outcry about it from the citizens is clear, they want it taken care of, as that is part of what the government is supposed to do. With the small amount of money budgeted for maintenance this year, it is clear the PCI will continue to go down and this will increase costs to the taxpayer the longer maintenance is deferred.



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HUGHES VOTES NO TO MURA SPENDING ON YURT CO INFRASTRUCTURE

From pg 1

Hughes (Montrose County), Chair Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Gale Johnson (Montrose School District) and Mark Plantz (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency hold the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

The last MURA Board of Commissioners meeting was held on Nov. 9, 2020. Although the board was slated to have another meeting in 2-3 weeks, it has now been five months since they met for a regular meeting. The April 7, 2021 Zoom meeting was posted as a Special Meeting.

Board questions and concerns from the Nov. 9, 2020 meeting included the need for:

Accurate representation of projected revenues, decision on financing options, the uncertainty with growth rate and the need for a detailed market study of Montrose, the need to move forward with a conservative approach and the role of the MURA board, a better understanding of horizontal improvements, and a clear understanding of what MURA is going to offer prospective businesses.

Background note of the Horizontal Site Improvement taken from the Mirror report on the Feb. 2, 2020 MURA board meeting: Paying for horizontal site improvements began in 2018 when Colorado Outdoors requested and received \$805,937 for the Mayfly parking lot. Since that time other horizontal site improvement requests include the Marriott (\$600,000), the apartment complex (\$1.6 M) and the combined projects of dermatology business expansion (\$250,000) and the Dragoo medical/commercial project (\$250,000).

Horizontal site improvements are not public infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, gutters) which the city already provides, but rather private improvements for the developer and new businesses (parking lots and landscaping) paid for by the MURA. There has not been public discussion as to whether the projects mentioned in the February 2020 report (Marriott, dermatology expansion, medical/commercial) have moved forward.

MURA Special Meeting, April 7, 2021

The Zoom meeting was held from 10 – 11 a.m. City Councilman Roy Anderson was absent and Montrose School District representative Gayle Johnson did not respond to the roll call; all other board members were present.

Old Business/Anderson Analytics – William Bell, Executive Director.

Bell, who was not present for the last MURA meeting, said, "I'm working with them [Anderson Analytics] from their report. It's lots of pages and a lot of data. I would like to set up a retreat for a couple of hours with Mike and Graham [Anderson]. We would treat it [the information] as an update to the Master Plan. Updating for the next 10 years, basing the future on the update."

Barbara Bynum said, "I'd like to do a deep dive on this."

Tad Rowan said, "What is the time frame for this? We keep kicking the can down the road, the update with Anderson. We keep being delayed with data. We need to do this sooner rather than later."

Bell said, "We would like to do this in April." Jumping ahead on the agenda Bell brought in the Colorado Yurt Company Business Expansion Project. He said, "This is our first large project. It pays for itself and then some. It doesn't put us in a bad position to move forward even without the data."

Dave Frank tried to contribute to the discussion; however, the sound was hindered because he, Mayor Doug Glaspell, City Engineer Scott Murphy and City Manager Bill Bell were all assembled in the city manager's office on separate laptops.

Bynum said, "There is no way we can consider more housing units until we do a deep dive. Commercial is different, but we get revenue."

Note: Housing project in the URA, which



(Top center) During the April 7 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Zoom meeting board member Brad Hughes, who is also the Montrose County Assessor, expressed concern that taxpayers could be left with a debt they cannot repay. Photo by Gail Marvel.

will not bring in needed sales tax revenue, are scheduled in three phases. Phase I Multi-Family Apartment (96 units); Phase II Townhomes; and Phase III Single Family Homes on the river.

Frank said, "Before we move forward with a lot of projects, we need Anderson Analytics information."

Bell said, "At the end of this meeting we will set a date for the retreat."

Colorado Yurt Company Business Expansion Project – John Gibson.

Note: The Colorado Yurt Company Business Expansion Project was presented in a city council work session prior to Gibson giving a formal PowerPoint presentation to Montrose City Council the previous evening. The project was approved by city council before it was presented to the MURA board. In the Colorado Outdoors Subdivision, Multi-Family Housing Phase I Apartments developer Kurt Soukup purchased his property at the same time he received approval for horizontal site improvements funding. However, in the case of the Colorado Yurt Company, the MURA board approved horizontal site improvement funding before any property is purchased.

Generally speaking, Colorado Yurt Company seeks to move their business from its current location at 28 W South 4th Street,

Continued next pg

HUGHES VOTES NO TO MURA SPENDING ON YURT CO INFRASTRUCTURE

From previous pg

to a larger space in Colorado Outdoors Subdivision located at 1227 Mayfly Drive.

Gibson gave the history of the business, current production data, and the vision for the company. He said, "The construction cost for the entire campus is \$6,875,000. We are not asking for job creation incentives. I believe that's my job." However, Gibson is asking the MURA for \$835,935 for horizontal site improvements associated with relocation.

Brad Hughes said, "Do you plan to purchase the land [from Colorado Outdoors]? How is that going to work?" Gibson said the plan was to purchase the land but give back the pond to Colorado Outdoors to manage and maintain.

Hughes said, "If the horizontal improvements are not approved by this board, will you go through with this?"

Gibson said, "No. I have other sites to consider, but if we don't get this site, I'm not sure we would even be in town."

Bell said, "They are ready to get moving in the next month and a half. The city will loan the money to the URA."

Rowan requested a copy of the report that was outlined at the previous night's council meeting. Property taxes are estimated to be \$105,000 a year; however, only \$70,000 of that would go into the URA coffers.

Bynum said, "Property tax is a huge revenue [for the city] on this project. We're not looking at much revenue on this project, not sales tax?" Gibson confirmed Colorado Yurt Company does not at this time generate sales tax revenue.

Bynum said, "We are investing in a local company that property tax pays back."

Hughes said, "I want the board to understand what our role is. We're spending \$8 to \$10 M to improve a piece of property

[in the URA]. Can property tax pay it back? Without the hotel [Marriott] in place, it's just property tax. [Horizontal site improvement costs for Yurt] \$853, 000 and at \$70,000 a year [return in property tax], it will be 2036 before it is paid back. Even then we add the site improvements, and it adds to the debt and we may not be able to repay. I don't want to leave taxpayers with a bill to pay. The owners of Colorado Outdoors [Dragoo] could lower the cost of their property. This board is adding debt upon debt without any repayment in place. I think it's premature to be adding in site improvement [financing]."

Bell noted that he and Hughes have a different philosophy on URAs. Bell said, "We don't put money into private buildings. Here in Montrose, we don't think that would be palatable to the community. I would encourage everyone to look at the endgame, 20 years down the road. I don't discount Brad's concerns."

Dave Bowman requested the city staff supply the board with case studies on successful URAs. Bell spoke in general about URAs, but Bowman said, "I want actual case studies. What a successful URA looks like."

Bell said, "We are the most successful URA in the State. We are seen as having Best Practices. Large shopping redevelopment [malls] is more difficult than having empty ground."

Frank said, "Like Brad, I'm debt adverse. I would hate for us to put Yurt off and then get the analytics that say, "Oh my gosh, that would have been a great business." I'd really like to support. I really hate debt, but I see a lot of value."

Rowan said, "Is the URA infrastructure-based, or incentive-based? Moving forward on future projects we must establish

what our role is."

Following a motion and a second, Hughes had further discussion. He said, "I want the board to understand that I'm not going to vote for this. It's [site improvement] not our responsibility and not our role. I support the Colorado Yurt project, but we are making a decision to loan \$850,000, or to give [\$850,000], for site improvement. All other developers are made to pay for their site development."

Bowman said, "I will support it, but I won't support another one until we know about the hotel [Marriott]. Colorado Yurt I will support, but I won't do it again!"

Five board members voted "yes", Hughes voted "no," Chair Tad Rowan chose not to vote unless there was a tie. The project was approved.

Addressing Hughes, Gibson said, "I understand your concerns."

Note: Since May 2017, the total amount of outstanding and committed MURA Promissory Notes made to the City of Montrose stands at \$11,051,148. This figure is the loan principal and does not include the millions of dollars that will be paid in interest on the loans.

Consideration of Tax Increment Financing Promissory Note – William Bell, Executive Director. Chair Rowan did not cast a vote, Hughes abstained, and all other board members voted to approve a loan in the amount of \$835,935.00 for construction of horizontal site improvements associated with the Colorado Yurt Company Headquarters at Colorado Outdoors.

Scheduled Retreat:

The MURA board tentatively scheduled an in-person, two-hour retreat for April 26, 10 a.m. to Noon; however, the retreat is based on the availability of Anderson Analytics representatives.



**The Mirror:
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT BEGINS PROJECT TO REDUCE ROCKFALL RISK ON CO 133 MCCLURE PASS

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON & PITKIN COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor Geovert will begin a project on Monday, April 19, to mitigate the risk of rockfall along Colorado Highway 133 between the McClure Pass summit and Carbondale. Work will take place at five separate sites and is scheduled for completion by mid-October 2021.

“Rockfall mitigation is one of the best ways to maintain safety on Colorado’s rural highways,” Executive Director Shoshana Lew said. “We are excited we can get critical work done on this busy local highway, which is popular with locals and tourists.”

The project will include rock scaling (bringing loose surface material down with pry bars or other equipment) and stabilization; rock excavation and blasting; rockfall wire mesh installation; and construction of a rockfall catchment structure.

This project also includes erosion control and localized highway repair at each of the five sites between Mile Points 48 and 60, which is located south of Carbondale. Crews will also grading at the Placita rock disposal site near the northern base of the pass (at MP 47). Travelers can expect full traffic stops of up to 20 minutes at one or two sites during most weekdays (delays will extend beyond the full stop, as queues are cleared in each direction). Please see further details below for maps of where work will take place.

“CO 133 over McClure Pass has been a priority for rockfall mitigation in the area,” Regional Transportation Director Mike Goolsby said. “We appreciate the patience of residents and visitors as CDOT completes this important work.”

Specifically, work and travel impacts will take place at the following sites:

-Placita Disposal Site, MP 47.1 - Trucks will be entering and exiting here, causing



Colorado 133 McClure Pass Rockfall site map. CDOT courtesy graphic.

intermittent traffic slowing and brief stops

-Hunter's Loop Cut, MP 48 - This site requires blasting of rock material; the work will involve drilling into rock, initially, followed by blasting, likely over a two- to three-day period in late August or early September.

There will be one to two periods of midday blasting each of those days, during which time motorists will be fully stopped in both directions for up to one hour, followed by clearing of traffic in each direction.

The public will be notified of these periods of extensive delays for blasting at least one week prior, including messages

on project signage. The hillside will be further stabilized with the installation of 25-foot-long rock bolts, heavy-gauge cable mesh and a lighter-gauge draped mesh (hung with the use of a crane).

-Firehouse, MP 52.6 - Work will involve rock scaling (bringing loose material down with pry bars and other equipment), additional excavation with a hammer excavator, and draped mesh.

-Penny Hot Springs MP 55.2 - Work here requires crews to build a gravity wall, a concrete-faced, gravel rock-filled wall, approximately 21-feet tall, 12-feet thick and 425-feet long, to contain rockfall material.

CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT, INCLUDING TOP OFFICIALS IN LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Barbara Bynum and members of the Montrose City Council gathered in chambers with staff for a regularly scheduled, masked work session on Monday, April 5. Although Montrose County's COVID-19 status was "blue" at the time and moved to "green" on April 7, the City Council has not yet re-opened its public meetings to members of the public or media.

Viewers who chose to watch the April 5 work session on Zoom enjoyed a relatively smooth broadcast. However, when this viewer attempted to view the session on Cable Channel 191, the meeting was inaudible.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Council took turns asking questions of Planning Commission applicants. Interviews were scheduled for the following individuals:

Laura Baker
Clifford F. Dodge III
Delphine Jadot
Christine Kersen
Kevin S. Kuns
Richard J. Rogers

Mayor Barbara Bynum noted that applicants would be interviewed in alphabetical order according to last name. Jadot and Dodge could not be present for the work session.

In her application, Laura Baker wrote, "I would like to help steer Montrose in a direction that is sustainable, just, hip and desirable." Baker said she appreciates the living in Downtown Montrose, where she can walk to government buildings and the Downtown Post Office. "I can just walk to Rotary meetings," she said.

When asked why she wanted to serve on the Planning Commission, "I live in Downtown Montrose," Baker said. "I'm looking at City Market right now from my window. I feel like I am here in Montrose for a reason; I'm here to do the best that I can for the people here while I'm here...I came here because of an AmeriCorps position and I am still very active with that commu-



Despite the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Montrose City Council has not allowed the public or media to attend in person work sessions or meetings in more than a year.

nity... I hope to keep a sense of community spirit that I have felt moving here."

Christine Kersen is a Montrose realtor, with an office on Main Street. Kersen acknowledged the need for affordable housing in Montrose, noting that Montrose currently has 70 active listings and 117 properties under contract, and that the average home sells for around \$350K. "We need more solutions for people who can't afford our current prices right now," she said.

Prior to moving to Montrose in 2013, Kersen spent 20 years in Ouray, where she managed a construction business and owned a retail store.

In her application, Kersen wrote, "My office is in Downtown Montrose, and I have seen many changes downtown in the last seven years. As a former business owner, I understand how hard it can be to own a small business. I believe Downtown Montrose can be a destination for families, tourists, and professionals to enjoy."

Kersen said she is familiar with the different uses allowed in each zone and believes that people and families who live in Downtown Montrose help to support downtown businesses. Her work as a realtor would not conflict with planning commission service, Kersen said. "I can keep them separate."

Kevin Kuns said he and his wife moved to Montrose six and half years ago. He grabbed the daily paper when he got here, Kuns said. "I wasn't sure Montrose had a plan for growth."

Kuns praised the work of the City's DART Committee and spoke of the need to bring clean businesses to Montrose.

In his application, Kuns wrote, "I feel my 40 years of managing Multimillion Dollar Budgets, overseeing the development and growth of Management teams of up to 25 and staffs of up to 300, positions me well in understanding the dynamics of a city planning commission. My background also consists of overseeing the buildout of 20 restaurants all over the country... I also have an extensive background in nonprofit leadership management serving as President, Vice President, Chair, and a member of seven Organizations, including four currently local."

In his application, Kuns also lists his job title as President of his own firm, Pro Management & Associates.

Still, attempts by reporters to verify the company's website or existence were unsuccessful.

Kuns, who also currently serves as Vice Chair of the Western Colorado Alliance for Democracy, as Chair of the Montrose County Democratic Party, and on the

Continued next pg

CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OPEN PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT From previous pg

Montrose County Citizens Advisory Committee, said that planning commission service would give him a voice in how Montrose will look over the next 20 years. Richard Rogers, who currently serves as a second vice chair of the Montrose County Democratic Party, said that he had applied for the planning commission because he has a sense of community service, "I feel you should invest in your community." He and his wife took part in the Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan workshops, and were impressed with the process and the work of planning staff. "For a town this size, that's an amazingly advanced planning system...I can see that the City is moving in a progressive manner towards empowerment of individuals and also balancing business with quality of life."

Housing and jobs are big issues in Montrose, Rogers said.

"I think that there are ways that City Council can address the jobs situation by enhancing the ability of entrepreneurs to come to this area and develop a business. You're not going to get a Fortune 500 company moving in probably," Rogers said, "but you can get entrepreneurs moving in creating five, six, seven, 10 jobs here, there...very often higher paying jobs than service industry or retail...I understand the planning commission has a limited scope, but those elements all fit together."

Asked his views on apartments and multi-family and affordable housing, Rogers said, "I feel you have to have an array of housing opportunities for individuals. As Kevin mentioned, there are ways to address multi-family housing beyond the big, ugly, block apartments, and those should be investigated...we do need to integrate housing in terms of income available to apply to housing.

"...I am now an advocate of a living wage, which is tied to the ability to afford the housing...it doesn't have to be considered big block apartments...I think the City of Montrose should be open to various approaches," Rogers said.

He spoke in support of bringing people into Downtown and getting people out of their cars. "It's also what helps create a

vibrant community...you need to bring job creators to Montrose."

Mayor Bynum thanked all of the applicants. "Our community is quite fortunate to have such a great caliber of applicants to the planning commission. You all are to be commended for throwing your hat in the ring and hearing that call for community service...thank you so much."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Montrose County for Signalization of US-550 and Chipeta Drive. Signalization is tied to volume levels, Murphy said, which have been met. Chipeta Drive is a county road, but City subdivisions account for 40 percent of traffic, he said. Murphy reviewed terms of the IGA. The cost will be no more than \$2M and will be apportioned on a 60/40 basis between County and City.

Once approved, the IGA will be approved in May, with construction substantially complete by May of 2023.

Murphy also presented the Woodgate Road Realignment Construction Contract. A memo from Murphy to Council notes that Council would be asked to approve \$1,692,083.17 in expenditures for construction of the project, including the award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$1,407,983.17, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$59,100, and Century Link utility relocation expenditures totaling \$225,000... the Woodgate Realignment Project was put out for bid on Feb. 25 and bids were publicly received on March 18 from four contractors.

On the previous Friday, the City had learned that the project would involve relocation of some "pretty significant communications cabinets," at a cost of \$225K to be paid to Century Link. "This is kind of a unique case where we do have to pay for relocation here," Murphy said. The cost of Asbestos removal for two houses was not known at the time of the original contract; consultants have now determined that it will cost around \$30K per house, Murphy said.

Also presented by Murphy were the Moving Montrose Forward 2021 Street Maintenance Bid Results and Potential Paths Forward.

Background-A memo from Murphy to Council states, "...Each year the City hires contractors to perform some of the larger-scale and specialized street maintenance construction...The City's street maintenance and capital plan is available on the City's MoveMo webpage and at <https://tinyurl.com/COMStreetPlan...> Contract administration, project management, and construction inspection will be performed by the City of Montrose engineering department.

Skip Huston Construction of Montrose is the low bidder for street patching at \$699,269.70 and A-1 Chipseal Co of Denver is low bidder for Slurry Seal at \$318,400.24. Work under these contracts is scheduled to begin in mid-April and extend into November 2021.

Street maintenance is difficult to keep up with financially, Murphy said. "It's a really big burden."

Councilor Dave Frank said that citizens hoping for a quick pothole fix can use the 'A better Montrose' App to report the problem.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid presented information on the award of a contract to Stripe a Lot of Montrose for pavement marking, in the Not-to-Exceed amount of \$135K. A memo from Scheid to Council notes, "The City's Pavement Marking contract expired earlier this year and was issued as an RFP to renew our contract and to allow for competition in the award process. The Streets Division received one bid." Approval was accelerated due to supply chain issues and potential delays.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Dave Frank said that the City would issue a proclamation honoring the 100-year anniversary of Montrose Rotary, "It's going to be a kickoff of a great 100-year celebration," Frank said. "We're a very active, social, public servant group in Montrose. It's going to be a great opportunity."

Glaspell said that the crosswalks on Main

CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OPEN PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT From previous pg

(where the City removed an existing traffic light several years ago) do not allow pedestrians to see whether the lights are flashing when they attempt to cross the busy intersection. "If you're actually standing where you're going to cross, I don't think you can see the flash, so you really don't know that the sign has gone on and it's safe to cross."

Murphy said that there are supposed to be flashing units on the back of the signs where pedestrians can see them. "We'll check to make sure...if they're missing it's cause they either fell off or somebody...we'll check it out."

City of Montrose Animal Control officer Mike Duncan has retired after 23 years, Frank said. "We're going to miss his dedication. We wish him the best of luck in retirement."

Bynum reminded of the city council meeting the following evening.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WITHOUT QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTIC REPORTS THERE IS NO WAY TO JUDGE WHETHER 2A HAS MADE MONTROSE SAFER



Photo by Paul Arbogast
MONTROSE-On Monday, April 5, the City of Montrose held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Safety Complex. Police Chief Blaine Hall and Mayor Barbara Bynum spoke, and other council members, designers, construction management and a few city staff grabbed shovels for the ceremony.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
 MONTROSE-On Monday, April 5th the city held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Safety Complex. Police Chief Hall and Mayor Bynum spoke to the crowd prior to grabbing shovels for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

A city news release for the event mentions that the funding for this project, as

well as additional police officers comes via the 2A ballot measure that was passed in 2019.

In 2019 Montrose voters approved ballot measure 2A by a slim margin (3,277 votes for, 3,208 against) of 65 votes. According to data received from the Montrose County Elections Supervisor, at the time of voting there were 13,309 voters eligible to vote on 2A. Numerically that is only 48 percent of eligible voters who voted for or against 2A. The city tax report for 2020 ([here](#)) shows that \$3.8 million was collected for the public safety fund, while only \$3.4 million was budgeted as expected revenue. The public safety fund is mostly funded by the additional tax imposed by the 2A ballot measure, as well as a part of the use tax, construction use tax, and auto use tax. An additional \$8 million was transferred from the general fund into the public safety fund.

The city has promoted a site for financial transparency ([here](#)) where you can look at budgeted vs actual of different funds, as well as a 'checkbook' of actual expenses. While there is probably delay in data

being entered into the ClearGove.com site, it shows that of \$11 million that was budgeted for public safety only \$9.4 million was spent.

Part of the intent of 2A was more funding for the police, from officers to support personnel and equipment to help improve policing in Montrose, with the goal being a safer Montrose with less crime.

According to Police Chief Hall, since the passage of 2A, they have, "hired one patrol officer, one detective, one school resource officer, a professional standards sergeant/police academy director, two CRT/customer service techs, one records tech, one crime analyst, and a public safety attorney."

Still, the public is not receiving any quarterly crime statistics data as used to be reported (the last report found was in May of 2019), so judging if 2A has helped make Montrose safer is not possible.

According to the 2021 budget ([here](#)) the \$15.9 million loan to build the new building will be paid off on 12/2/2049 with interest and principal bringing the total cost to taxpayers to \$26 million.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CLOSE PENDING ON FORMER RUSSELL STOVER PLANT? BETTER CHECK FOR ASBESTOS

Editor:

As reported in the MDP the pending sale of the former Russell Stover Plant is expected to close April 26, 2021. It is hoped that the reported buyer, Benezet Reality, LLC has fully inspected the building and is aware through full disclosure statements by all persons concerned of any and all building materials from the roof down to the ground that may not be potentially environmentally safe, such as any asbestos products, and has inspected for such materials, "if present", especially roof insulation, tile, etc.

It is hoped all goes well and the taxpayers of Montrose are not subsidizing the sale.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE "PARTNERS" WITH MURA TO FUND SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR COLORADO YURT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS @ COLORADO OUTDOORS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose, in partnership with the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA), announced Wednesday the approval of an \$853,935 loan from the MURA for permanent horizontal site improvements to make way for the new headquarters of the Colorado Yurt Company.

The loan will pay for non-building site improvements for the company's new 30,000 square-foot manufacturing facility and 3.4 acre campus to be located in Colorado Outdoors along the Uncompahgre River.

Owners John and Kelly Gibson of the Colorado Yurt Company are looking to break ground this coming summer. The estimated cost of construction for the entire campus is nearly \$6.9 million.

The Colorado Yurt Company is a Mont-

rose-based manufacturing company hand-crafting yurts, tipis, and rugged canvas-wall tents that are shipped to customers around the globe. The company is expecting to grow its workforce from 37 current employees to over 60 in the three years following construction and increasing the average salary of employees from approximately \$39,638 to \$50,000 by 2023.

According to the agreement, the MURA will provide up to \$853,935 towards horizontal site improvements to include horizontal site design and platting as well as horizontal site fill, curb, gutter, sidewalks, paving, lighting (parking lot only), drainage, fencing, striping, and landscaping construction. Payment will be made for the actual costs of the improvements, up to \$853,935 total, based on supporting invoices from contractors performing the

work on eligible improvements at mutually agreed upon unit prices. Expenses associated with vertical building construction (including utility service lines feeding the building) are not eligible for reimbursement, according to the agreement.

City Council voted unanimously to approve additional incentives for the project, which included waivers on building permit fees totaling \$105,000; \$30,000 in "Made in Montrose" marketing assistance, and water and sewer connection fee abatements estimated at \$29,065.

Construction of the new facility is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

"I see this as the spark of growth we have been waiting to see in the Colorado Outdoors area. Business, industrial, and housing (Basecamp development) will be a great addition to Montrose," Montrose Mayor Doug Glaspell said.

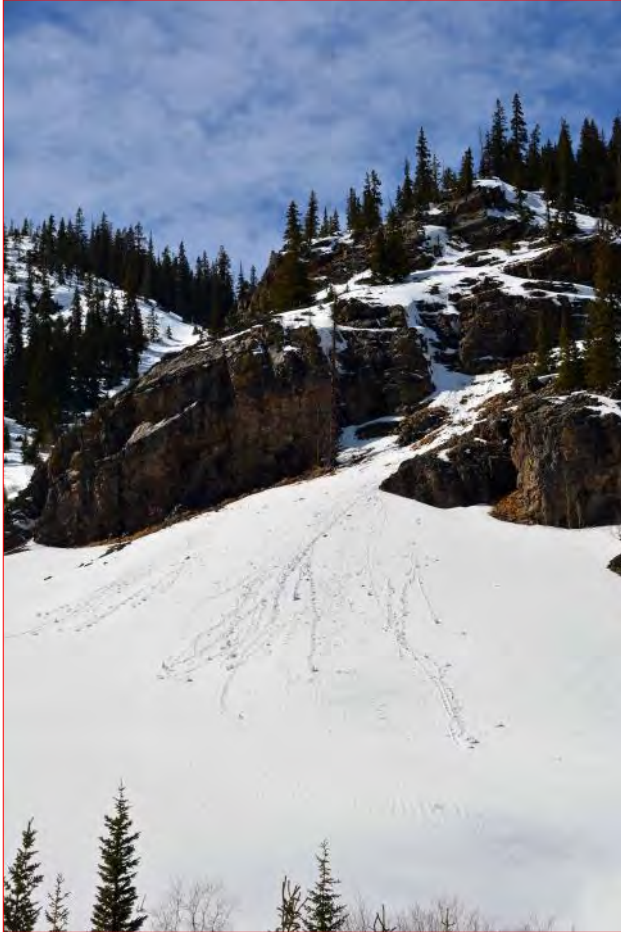
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DAY TRIPS!



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped the two photos above during a recent visit to Silverton. Pictured are (left) snow rollers and (right) Eureka.

Below, Photographer B. Switzer snapped these photos on a weekend trip to Utah's Hovenweep area.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP DATES CONFIRMED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will provide disposal and recycling services from a single collection point on April 30 and May 1. Bring cleanup items to the drop-off site located off the San Juan Bypass (U.S. Highway 50), directly across the street from the Sunshine Peak apartment complex. Signs will direct residents to the drop-off location that will be open each day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Items Accepted:

- Landscape materials (leaves, grass clippings, and limbs less than six inches in diameter)
- Scrap materials
- Electronics (without glass screens)
- Appliances

* A fee will be charged for appliances containing Freon (\$20 each)

Items Not Accepted:

- Routine household trash
- Hazardous materials
- Paint
- Electronics with glass screens
- Tires

The city will offer limited special collection services when personnel and equipment are available. Fees for this service begin at \$15, plus equipment and labor. Call 970.240.1480 to schedule or for

additional information.

Visit CityofMontrose.org/SpringCleanup for more information.



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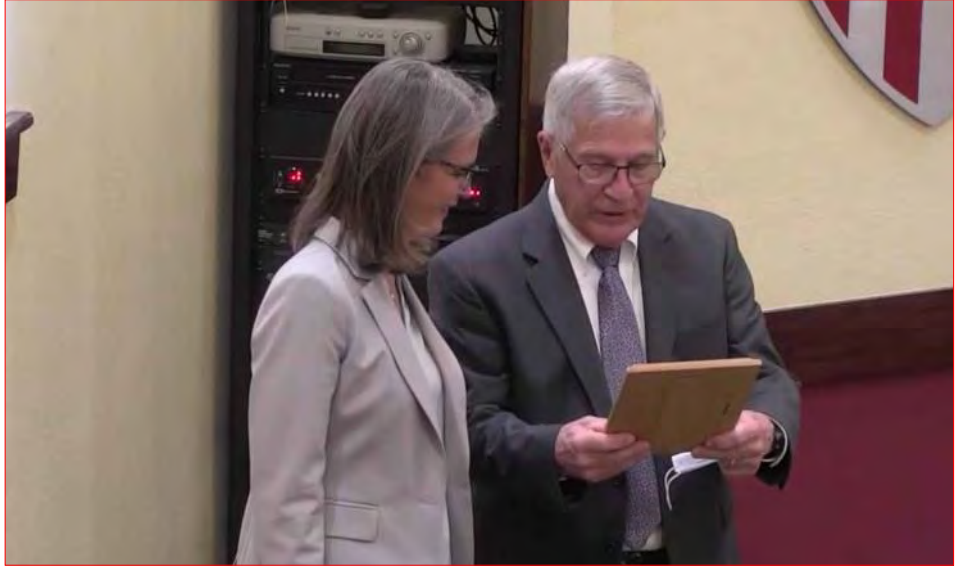
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COUNCIL APPROVES YURT CO EXPANSION INCENTIVES, CITY MANAGER PROMISES 'VERY LARGE DISTRIBUTION FULFILLMENT CENTER' AT COLORADO OUTDOORS



During the comments portion of the City Council meeting of April 6, City Manager Bill Bell, above, told Council that a very large distribution fulfillment center will be the City's next target for the Colorado Outdoors project.



Noting that her Montrose resume does not include "housekeeping," New Mayor Doug Glaspell honored outgoing Mayor Barbara Bynum.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met in Council Chambers for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 6. Members of the public and media were not able to attend in person, but could watch online or view the meeting on local Cable channels 191 and 970. All councilors were present for the meeting, along with Youth Council Representative Zack Oldroyd.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Barbara Bynum explained that the time for public comment on non-agenda items was for those who wished to comment on non-agenda items. No comments were heard from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 special City Council meeting, the March 15, 2021 special City Council meeting, and the March 16, 2021 regular City Council meeting as presented.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNCILOR ANDERSON

Council took time to acknowledge the service of Councilor Roy Anderson, who is relocating to a lower elevation with his wife less than a year after winning reelection to his seat. Anderson said that Bynum has been an amazing mayor.

"We're making lots of strides in Montrose...I am very proud of all the things we have accomplished," Anderson said.

"I am so honored to be able to thank you for your service to the City of Montrose," Mayor Bynum said.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

Council voted to select the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the 2021-2022 mayoral term. Chosen unanimously to serve as Mayor was Councilor Doug Glaspell; chosen to serve as Mayor Pro Tem was Councilor Dave Frank. Bynum and Glaspell switched seats.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR

Mayor Glaspell acknowledged Bynum for her contributions as Mayor of the City of Montrose from April 2020 to April 2021. Glaspell said, "I was amazed when I did a little research, Barbara has been helping this community ever since she got here. I made a little list of things. Housekeeping wasn't one of them. She's been on the State Land Board, she's been vice president of the school district, City Council and Mayor, she was a major force in getting the recreation district approved, and she's also on the Colorado Municipal

League Board.

"She has spent most of her since living here doing a great job for this community and really moving it along...this last year has been a roller coaster, and she never fell off the tram not one time."

He thanked Bynum for her service to the community. "Let's give her a great round of applause," Glaspell said, before moving briskly through the meeting agenda.

COLORADO YURT COMPANY BUSINESS EXPANSION INCENTIVES & DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Council approved a business expansion incentives and development agreement between the City of Montrose and The Secret Creek Group, LLC d/b/a Colorado Yurt Company, to include permit fee and utility abatements, Office of Business & Tourism Made in Montrose marketing assistance, and horizontal site/infrastructure improvements.

Colorado Yurt Company Owner John Gibson reviewed the company's expansion plans in detail; the matter was also discussed previously in work session.

The company will have an outdoor display village by the river, he said, as well as "try before you buy" rentals. The address

Continued next pg

COUNCIL APPROVES YURT CO EXPANSION INCENTIVES, CITY MANAGER PROMISES ‘VERY LARGE DISTRIBUTION FULFILLMENT CENTER’ From previous pg

for Colorado Yurt Company's new 30,000 sq facility will be 1227 Mayfly Drive.

At one point during the discussion the sound portion of the broadcast briefly cut out, returning with an echo that continued throughout the meeting. City Manager Bill Bell said, "We've only been doing this COVID stuff for a year...it's always something." Bell said that the City would loan the money for the Yurt Company Business Expansion Incentives project from an undesignated fund to the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA).

Background-The Statement of work in the Council packet states, "The City will abate \$105,000 toward the building permit and \$29,065 toward the utility connection for the project. Total abatement will not exceed \$134,065. Abatement will occur at the time of building permit issuance. The City will also assist in the actual costs for installation of horizontal site infrastructure improvements in the form of a loan to the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) in the amount not to exceed \$853,935 to be repaid by MURA in the form of Tax Increment Financing revenues."

NEW TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE - WILD HORSE WINE & WHISKEY, LLC

After holding a liquor license hearing, Council approved a new Tavern liquor license for Wild Horse Wine & Whiskey, LLC, doing business as Wild Horse Wine & Whiskey, LLC, for consumption on the licensed premises.

Wild Horse Wine & Whiskey will be located in the 439 East Main Street space formerly occupied by Tiffany Etc. Scott Mijares, who owns Wild Horse Wine & Whiskey with his wife Juli, was virtually present to answer questions.

"We purchased the building here in November of 2020...we'd like to specialize in an upscale type of offering of local wines and local whiskeys that are distilled here in the area," Mijares said. Also offered will be salads, local cheese from Olathe, jellies and preserves from Palisade, and local bread from Norwood. Hours will be from 4

to 9 p.m. at the very latest. It will not be the cheapest place in town and children will be discouraged. The historic Montrose building will be showcased with a Western theme.

NEW LODGING AND ENTERTAINMENT LIQUOR LICENSE-PRECEDENCE PRODUCTIONS

Council also approved a new Lodging & Entertainment liquor license at 511 E. Main Street for Precedence Productions, doing business as Precedence Productions, for consumption on the licensed premises. With two large rooms, the venue will be open for events and music. Finger foods, with appetizer plates and desserts, will also be offered. Owner Jordan Carls was virtually present to answer questions during the liquor license hearing.

Said Councilor Dave Bowman, "When I came on Council five years ago, providing jobs for kids who grew up here was really a big priority.

"Jordan, the rest of you may not know, grew up here," Bowman said. "He's one of us!"

Bowman praised Carls for hosting musical events. "He's done a fantastic job of getting the...most beautiful music room in this town filled with great music...it's a true gem in this community that has really been abandoned for 20-30 years. And it was brought back several years ago...Jordan I just want to congratulate you on what is going to be a fantastic music venue for this community. Congratulations guy! You've worked really hard!"

ORDINANCES 2530 & 2531-SECOND READING

Council approved ordinances 2530 and 2531 on second reading, vacating three rights-of-way within the City of Montrose and amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to I-1 Light Industrial District and Lot 2 and Lot 3 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to B-2 Highway Commercial District.

VALLEY RANCH ADDITION NORTH ANNEXATION

Following a hearing on the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition North, Council approved Resolution 2021-05, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition North; and Ordinance 2532 on first reading, for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition North. Council approved Ordinance 2533 on first reading, zoning the Valley Ranch Addition North as R-3A Medium High-Density District and R-2 Low Density District.

VALLEY RANCH ADDITION SOUTH ANNEXATION

Following a hearing on the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition South, Council approved Resolution 2021-06, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition South, and Ordinance 2534 on first reading, for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition South. Council approved Ordinance 2535 on first reading, zoning the Valley Ranch Addition South as R-1 Very Low-Density District.

HIGHWAY 50 ADDITION ANNEXATION

Following a hearing on the annexation of the Highway 50 Addition, Council approved Resolution 2021-07, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Highway 50 Addition; Ordinance 2536 on first reading, for the annexation of the Highway 50 Addition; and Ordinance 2537 on first reading, zoning the Highway 50 Addition as B-2 Highway Commercial District.

ORDINANCE 2538 -FIRST READING

Council approved ordinance 2538 on First Reading, regarding a proposal is to rezone Lot 1 of the Cedar View East Minor Subdivision from R-6 Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District to B-3 General Commercial District for expansion of Turner Automotive, Inc.

ORDINANCE 2539-FIRST READING

Council approved Ordinance 2539 on first reading, vacating a right-of-way along North 2nd Street within the City of Montrose, as discussed previously in work session.

CONTRACT

Continued next pg

COUNCIL APPROVES YURT CO EXPANSION INCENTIVES

From previous pg

AWARD-ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

Council voted unanimously to award of a contract in the amount of \$83,202.72, with an owners' contingency of \$12,480, to Acumen Environmental Services for asbestos abatement at 931 N. Park Avenue, which was recently purchased by the City.

ADDENDUM-PAVEMENT MARKING CONTRACT APPROVAL

In other business, Council voted to award a contract for pavement marking to Stripe a Lot, of Montrose, Colorado, for the not-to-exceed amount of \$135,000.

STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid gave information on the City's annual Spring Cleanup event, set for April 30 and May 1, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. "We will be accepting items as we normally would have every other year," Scheid said.

Green waste and electronics without glass are welcome; no residential trash is allowed. There is a \$20 charge for items with freon.

Police Chief Blaine Hall gave a brief update on construction of the Montrose Public Safety Complex, which broke ground April 5. He thanked Council and the public for attending the groundbreaking. He thanked Office of Business & Tourism staff for organizing and recording the event on Facebook Live.

Construction mobilization will begin Monday, April 12, with construction fence going up and demolition starting April 14.

Youth Councilor Zack Oldroyd thanked

Councilor Anderson for his work with the youth council. Youth Council finished an outreach project to encourage new members. "This April we will be working on Earth Week," Oldroyd said.

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said that he and Bynum presented a lunch proclamation earlier in the day in celebration of April 6 as Montrose Rotary Day, and Montrose Rotary's 100-year anniversary in the Montrose area. "It was a great time, a great party, and we were treated very well at Rotary Club as always...it's an honor to be associated with a group of people that are that dedicated to the public wealth," Frank said.

"I couldn't have said it better myself," Bynum said. "That Rotary Club has had a tremendous influence on our community for the last 100 years. The club itself and the individuals who make up that club."

Anderson said it had been a pleasure working with Council and he will miss them very much. Mayor Glaspell asked if Anderson would be welcoming guests to his new residence. "Roy, knowing where you're going, do you accept company?" "Sure. We'll have a guest room, and anybody who wants to stop in and use the facility and party with me is just great," Anderson said.

Glaspell said there was a chili cookoff at public works. There was a groundbreaking ceremony at the MURA location earlier in the day, he said.

"We were really excited," City Manager Bill Bell said. "It's timely...we were able to

have groundbreaking ceremonies on a flex building project out at the Colorado Outdoors URA area today."

The flex building project is a 30,000+ sf commercial facility that will have spaces for outdoor manufacturers or clothing tenants, Bell said. A building permit has been pulled for the foundation.

Colorado Yurt gave a walkthrough of their area, he said.

"We had a meet and greet with just a few people," Bell continued, "with some representatives of Wedge Brands, which is the next phase of the Colorado Outdoors project. That one is the distribution warehouse I've been talking about for the past several months when we've had our URA discussions.....the very large distribution fulfillment center here in our community.

A Marriott Hotel is still on track to pull a permit by May, Bell said. "I talked to Jeff LaMont in the last few days."

"...Hopefully a year from now we'll see a lot of buildings and a lot of new employees in the Colorado outdoors areas...it's actually on the fast track. We're really proud of the efforts that all of us have put in," Bell said.

Glaspell said, "I think it's fantastic...the number of people who are using our riverwalk areas and Riverbottom and Cerise parks...we're seeing the same kind of outpouring at the golf course...people are beginning to enjoy the outdoors and move around."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



ANONYMOUS

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KELLY DEAN BOLING

January 28 1943 - March 25 2021



KELLY D. BOLING peacefully passed on March 25, at his home in Montrose, Colorado.

Kelly was a kind man with a gentle soul.

He was loved by many people in his life and was always willing to lend a hand to others while asking nothing in return. Despite being abandoned by his own father at a very young age, he became an incredible father who gave his son all the things in life that he never had.

He was an extraordinary man who will be sorely missed by all that knew him.

Kelly is survived by his son Brian (Sabrina) Boling of Broomfield, Colorado; sisters Ann (Hershel) Harrison of Salem, Indiana and Sally (Gaylord) Plaster of Canon City, Colorado; stepson Mike (Heidi) Trevithick of Denver, Colorado; and step-daughter Melissa (Quinn) Bailey of Centennial, Colorado; along with step- grandchildren David, Daniel, Reece and Avery.

LARRY GARRISON

October 24, 1955- April 1, 2021

LARRY GARRISON 65, of Montrose passed away April 1, 2021 in Weatherford Texas. Larry was born October 24, 1955 in Montrose, Colorado to Jack and Coleen Garrison. Larry graduated from Montrose High School in 1974.

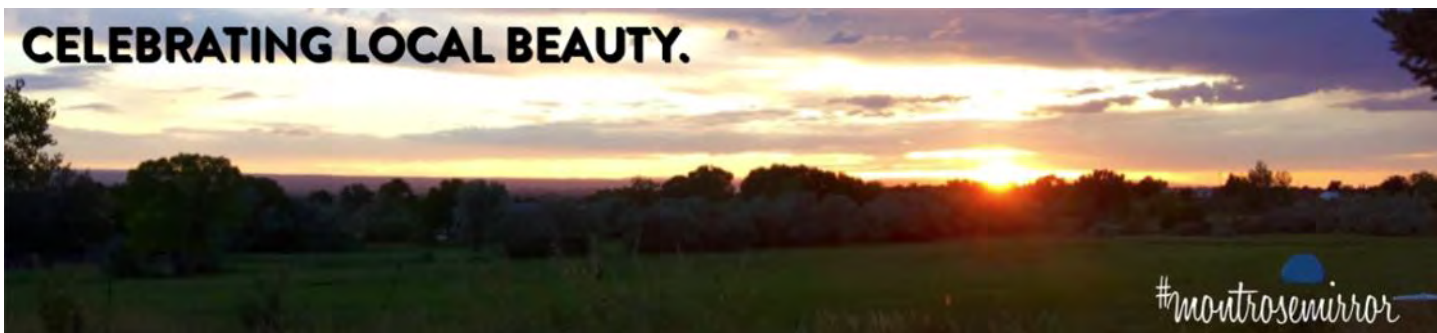
Larry loved spending time with his four grand kids, fishing, team roping, and wrestling. In 1972 and 1973 Larry won his State Champion titles for Montrose High, coached by Jon Thompson. Starting at age 18 Larry got into the car business and worked 45 years selling and managing car dealerships. Larry also ranched raising sheep with his wife and family.

Larry was preceded in death by his mother Coleen Garrison; sister Linda Gerk; father in law Con Roberts; brother in law Miland Roberts; sister in law Shauna Cannon along with several cousins.

Larry is survived by his wife of 47 years, Gail Garrison; Father Jack Garrison; Sister Cindy (Ben) Wood; Brother Jack Garrison; Daughter Shawnda (Justin) Madie, Rylan Richmann; Son Larry Jr. (Ashley) Preston Garrison; Son Bret (Jaelynn) Trent Garrison, Alice Roberts mother in law. As well as many other family members.



CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID FRANKLIN DOUGHERTY

March 6, 1946- March 30, 2021



DAVID FRANKLIN DOUGHERTY was born March 6, 1946, in Cedar Rapids Iowa. He passed away March 30, 2021 at his brother's home in Montrose. David's family moved to Denver in 1956, where he lived until retirement in 2002 then to Montrose. Dave was an avid outdoorsman for most of his life, hunting, fishing, snow and water skiing. He enjoyed NASCAR races and classic muscle cars. Anyone who knew Dave would tell you he was always there to lend a hand. Dave always had a dog, mostly Border Collies and he really enjoyed going to the sheepdog trials especially in Meeker, CO.

Dave was a lifelong auto and diesel mechanic he spent the bulk of his career working at Colorado Kenworth for over 30 years. He was preceded in death by both parents and older brother Gary. Dave was cremated and will join them in Denver. Dave is survived by his younger brother Bruce, nephew David W. (Melissa) Dougherty, niece Patricia Dougherty, Great Nephew Bruce R. (Ally) Dougherty and great niece Karen Williams. There will be no service in Montrose.

If you wish to you may donate to Hopewest Hospice in Dave's honor. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

LLOYD L. SCHMIDT

November 4, 1931- April 2, 2021

LLOYD L. SCHMIDT died peacefully at home on April 2, 2021, surrounded by his Colorado family. He was born to a farming family in Payne, Ohio on November 4, 1931. He earned a BS in business from Bowling Green University and an MBA from the University of Michigan. His early career was in market research, but later in life he followed a dream and was self-employed repairing and restoring pianos.

Lloyd and his wife Joanie met at the Ullr ski club in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They enjoyed alpine skiing together most of their lives. They married April 30, 1960 and lived in Highland Park, IL before settling down on the western shore of Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, where they raised their three children. Lloyd loved the outdoors and involved the whole family in camping, canoeing, sailing, biking and hiking.

Lloyd and Joanie moved to Montrose, Colorado in 1990. Lloyd enjoyed driving his jeep throughout the West. When he could no longer drive, he was often spotted zip-ping around town on his scooter. He loved to sing and play the piano.

Lloyd leaves behind his wife, Joan, sisters, Theresa Grutsch, Darlene (Chuck) Boettler, and daughters Deanne, Karla (Philip) and son, David (Cathy), seven grandchildren (Benjamin, Jacob, Sara, Quentin, Piper, Kristin, and Sydney), and five great-grandchildren (Riley, Emily, Dylan, Cecelia, and Gustav). He was preceded in death by his parents, Alvie and Luella Schmidt and brothers, Lewis and Delane.

Service will be held at St Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, CO at 10:00 a.m., April 30, 2021. Burial to follow at the Cedaredge cemetery. Memorials may be made to HopeWest.





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THE HOMESTEAD AT MONTROSE

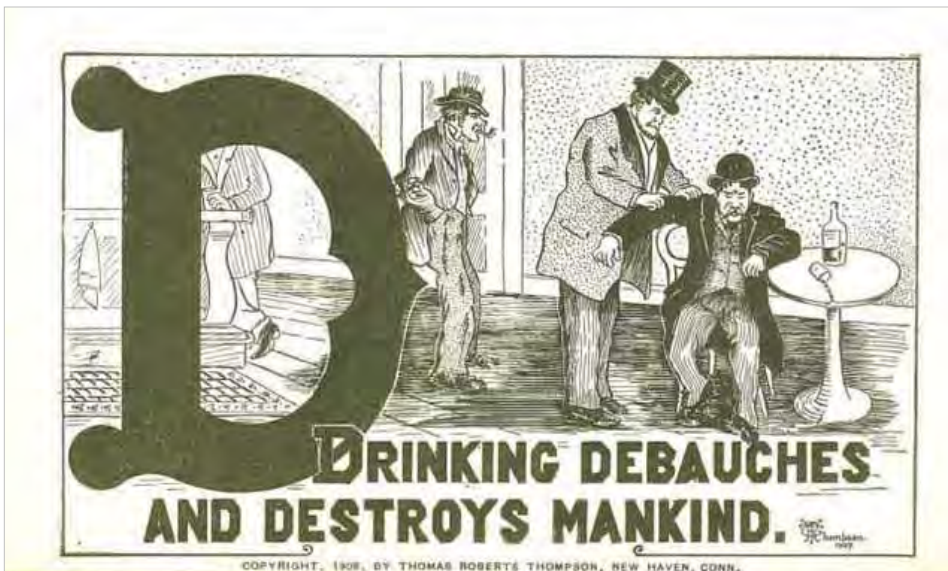
A Volunteers of America Senior Living and Care Community
1819 Pavilion Dr Montrose, CO 81401
homesteadatmontrose.org



ISSUE 312 April 12

ART & SOL

THE LADIES SPOKE, AND THEY WERE HEARD



A page from The National Temperance Alphabet published by Thomas R. Thompson in 1906. Courtesy of the National Archives.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was founded in 1874 and became one of the most influential groups leading into the 20th century. While they were vocal on such matters as labor laws, prison reform, and suffrage, they are probably best known for their stance on the use of liquor.

Colorado is considered a leader in woman's suffrage and the WCTU was certainly a loud voice heard throughout the state; the Montrose area was no exception. In

1907 the anti-liquor campaigns of the WCTU and the Anti-Saloon League led to a state 'local option' law for prohibition, allowing cities to vote on whether to go dry. The WCTU in Montrose and Delta counties was very active at the time.

Ironically, while the women of the WCTU were on the forefront of women's rights and recognition, few of the newspapers of the time ever mentioned the given names of those involved. Many of these women were married to influential men and were only referred to in the context of those



The Montrose County Courthouse was completed in 1923. Mrs. Anna Stevens, district president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union that raised funds for a fountain dedicated it and presented it to the county. In the late 1960s the fountain was removed and destined to become rip rap in a wash near Rotary Park. Lavonne Nichols intervened and arranged for the fountain to be placed on her property on the corner of South 11th and Fairview, where it remains today. Photo by Bob Cox.

Continued next pg

THE LADIES SPOKE, AND THEY WERE HEARD

From previous pg

marriages.

A prime example is the report on the meeting of the WCTU 11th District in the *Delta Independent* on June 29, 1906 whereby the elected officers were listed as follows: President, Mrs. Fairbanks of Montrose; Vice President, Mrs. Osborne of Montrose; Cor. Secretary, Mrs. Conklin of Delta; Treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Corey of Olathe. Mrs. Fairbanks was considered one of the top leaders of the organization, having been an organizer of the Greeley WCTU in 1879. The Greeley chapter was one of the first local chapters in Colorado. Following the critical election of 1907, and the establishment of the local option, the political parties sparred regularly over the liquor issue. The *Montrose Press* expressed some concern about how the issue was being addressed. In the September 18, 1908 edition an article read, in part:

DIFFERENCE IN PLATFORMS. The PRESS calls particular attention to the attitude of the two great political parties of Montrose County on the question of the local option passed by the last legislature. The Democratic convention met Saturday and passed a long series of resolutions bemoaning the plank concerning local option was conspicuous by its absence. Two days later the Republicans held their county convention. Did they forget it? No. This is what they said: "We endorse the state legislature in passing a law for local option on the question of saloons and pledge our representative in the next legislature to use his energies toward strengthening this wise law..."

At the time, the only licensed saloons in Montrose County were those within the City of Montrose. The Republican dominated board of county commissioners rejected licensing in their jurisdiction.

Not surprisingly, the more stringent the rules became regarding the regulation of liquor sales, the more popular bootlegging became. There are numerous references in all the local papers regarding the arrest of those found dispensing beer and liquor

outside the legal realm. One of the most circulated articles appeared in the *Black Diamond World*, a small newspaper in Louisville, Colorado. The article was based on information from both Grand Junction and Montrose and referred to a well-known bootlegger that was active in both cities. The article, published in the July 3, 1909 edition read as follows:

Denver - A Republican special from Grand Junction says: The trial of "Doc" Powell, a well-known character of the valley since 1879, ended in the verdict of guilty of bootlegging. The trial was sensational, the most striking revelation being Powell's testimony that since the city went dry a cache had been established near a former saloon, where anyone might deposit a dollar, go away for a few minutes, and on returning find a pint of whiskey in place of the coin. In this manner, Powell declared, he got the whisky produced in court and which the state's witnesses swore they bought from him.

Some of the bootleggers were evidently blatant in their disregard of the law. In the September 26, 1909 edition of *The Montrose Enterprise* it was reported: *DAWSON GIVEN ANOTHER - Digs up Another \$100 Because of Bootlegging. F. M. Dawson, who contributed \$100 to the county Monday morning for violating the local option law, was haled(sic) before Police Judge Howe again Tuesday morning on a city warrant for selling liquor without a license. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$100 and costs. He paid the fine. This makes \$220, which it has cost Dawson for bootlegging.*

The article goes on to explain that Dawson was simply standing in front of his place and selling liquor to anyone who came by. Two Montrose aldermen and another man, all of whom witnessed the activity reported his actions.

For several years it appears the standard fine for bootlegging was \$100. In June of 1913 an especially poignant trial was held in Montrose. Frank Trone, who was evi-

dently the co-owner of a business known as the Little Red Lunch Car, was charged with illegally selling alcohol from that premises. John Booker was arrested for being drunk and told the arresting officers he had purchased the liquor from Trone at the Little Red Lunch Car. The trial included the testimony of Booker's wife and her statement in court was repeated word-for-word in the June 27, 1913 edition of *The Montrose Daily Press*:

You people can never know how I have suffered from the effects of the selling of liquor to my husband—not only myself, but my little girl. Both of us have been deprived of the necessities of life, and it has been pretty hard for us to bear. I have gone to that car and taken my husband from there time and again and I have passed by and seen him loafing around there. He was there to get drink, and he got it there, spending the money that belonged to his family. I have stood this thing just as long as it is possible for me to do. I have kept still rather than suffer the disgrace of making my troubles public, but I cannot remain silent any longer whatever may be the consequences."

Trone was found guilty and fined \$100 and costs.

Even the small town of Olathe had a large representation in the WCTU, but was not exempt from the bootlegging problems. On January 12, 1914 *The Montrose Enterprise* opined:

NEED OF A HOUSE CLEANING - Bootlegging Seems to be Rampant at Olathe. Judging from recent articles in the Olathe Criterion, bootlegging must be rampant at Olathe and that thrifty burg is in need of a cleaning up. It looks as though Olathe needs an official like Montrose's former mayor, J. F. Kyle, to show the whiskey selling lawbreakers a thing or two. A community doesn't have to put up with the bootlegging fraternity if they don't want to. However, it seems that the law breaking has to get to certain stage before public sentiment is sufficiently aroused to rise up and put a quietus on it. It would seem that

THE LADIES SPOKE, AND THEY WERE HEARD

From previous pg

that the time is about ripe for the better element of Olathe to exert herself in a way that will stop the liquor traffic in that community.

On Jan. 1, 1916 a new Colorado law went into effect, prohibiting the sale of alcohol. A statewide prohibition was on the ballot several times before the 1914 vote that allowed for the 1916 law. Alexander Nisbet, the Commissioner of Safety for the City and County of Denver issued a statement that was looked upon with some skepticism, but left little doubt as to his stance on the new law. It was printed in several Colorado newspapers, including the March 30, 1916 issue of *The Montrose Enterprise*. Nisbet claimed that since Denver went dry they had not had a murder,

fewer suicides and had not had a 'man rolled,' nor a 'drunk and his money fleeced from him by those who got him drunk.'

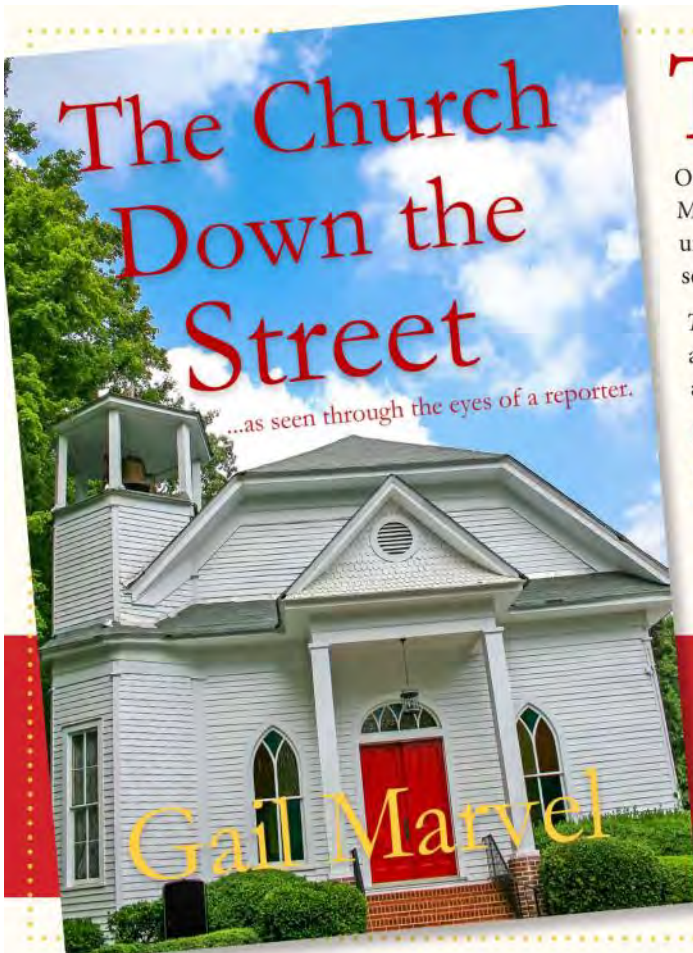
By the end of 1916, 19 states, including Colorado were considered prohibition states. The WCTU bragged that states and territories where women had full suffrage included Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Montana, California and Alaska. They announced that saloons in 18 of the largest cities in the United States had closed their doors and 'more than 65,000,000 people live in territory where the brain poison alcohol is an outlaw.'

By the time Amendment XVIII (18th) of the Constitution of The United States was ratified on Jan. 16, 1919, Colorado had

been considered a dry state for four years and the state was often referred to as an example. That changed when, in the early 1930s Colorado was a leader in proposing to repeal Amendment XVIII.

On Dec. 5, 1933 the ratification of Amendment XXI (21) put an end to prohibition. The vote in Colorado was relatively light, but very few counties voted against the repeal. Delta County was one of the counties that preferred to remain dry. The final vote count showed 126,554 Coloradans voted for repeal and only 58,854 voted against.

Note: Bob can be contacted at cox-bob@charter.net See his latest YouTube: The Bill of Rights with Judge Castello on coxnotes channel



The *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

The Church Down the Street contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





REAL TEX-MEX IN THE HEART OF MONTROSE

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Now these guys aren't kidding. Real Tex-Mex in the spot the Harvest Bread Co used to occupy. Montrose is getting some new and very delicious spots!

These days, with my friend Michael in rehab due to a nasty stroke, I'm eating on my own. Not as much fun, but I'm getting to discover all the new places in town.

Doesn't it just make you happy thinking there are entrepreneurs who are willing to take a chance that the really tough times are behind us and they've jumped on the opportunity?

But still, you know me; I'm vaccinated, but, yah, just not ready to sit down to a meal inside a restaurant, so take out it is.

So far Double Barrell Taco Company gets the prize for making takeout ordering more than simple! Just pick what you want on their super simple web site, place the order and tell them if you want to pickup or have your dinner delivered. Give them the color and make of your vehicle and drive up for curbside delivery. A snap! Not only that, but when I pulled up to the curb a cheerful young man came up to my window and asked if I was Carole. He had my food right there and through the window handed me my tacos and street corn to go AND, one of the best margaritas I've had in town! Yummmmm. Trusted me to take it home and enjoy there, which of course I did.

Not a large menu, they stick mostly to tacos. But they do an excellent job in a true Tex-Mex style. I ordered the Jailbird smoked chicken with a small street corn side, total tab, including amazing margarita -- \$15.52. Tacos run from \$3.50-\$5.



You'll want to order more than 1, trust me. BTW, they have an All The Tacos for \$36. Ummm, party!

Tacos

Down South Sawed Off: Blackened Shrimp, Spinach, Sawed Street Corn, Queso Fresco, Pico; Jailbird Smoked Chicken, Shredded Lettuce, Shredded Cheddar, Tomatillo Avocado Cream, Pico de Gallo; Notorious P.I.G.: Pork Carnitas, Smoked Bacon, Cabbage, Chipotle Red, Cilantro Ranch; Red Rider Ground Beef, Shredded Lettuce, Shredded Cheese, Ranch; Lettuce Shoot Romaine Leaves instead of Tortilla, Awesome Veggies, Queso Fresco, Pico de Gallo, Tomatillo Avocado Cream; TxAf: Open Faced Taco w/ Smoked Sausage, Jalapeno Poppers, Charro Beans, Beef Queso, Tobacco Onion Crumble; Baja Gangster: Fried Fish, Cabbage, Radish, Lime Crema, Pico; Bootstrap Pistol: Chicken, Shredded Romaine, Parm, Caesar Dressing; Double Barrel Smoked Brisket, Creamy Slaw, Shredded Cheddar, Tabaco Onion Crumble.

Appetizers (from \$5 or chips and salsa free)

Chips and Queso; Chips and Salsa

Sides (from \$2-3.50)

Borracho Beans; Tortilla Soup Bowl; Street Corn.

Drinks (\$2.50-\$4)

Long-Barrel Lemonade; House made Lemonade; Bottled Soda

Items (here's where things get interesting, from \$4-6)

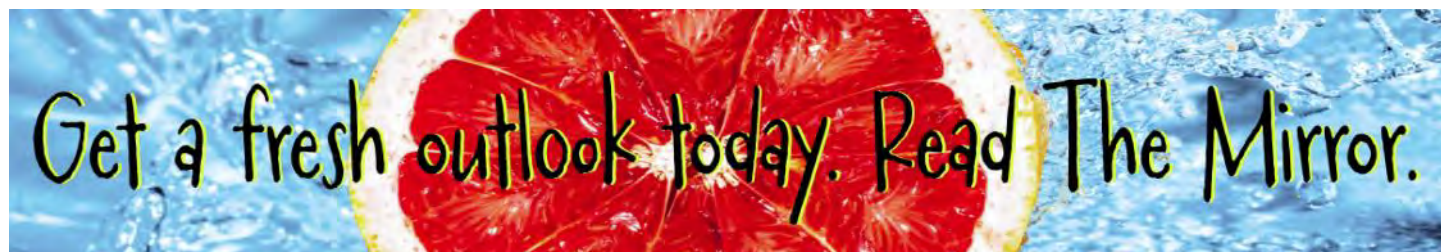
Mossberg Mojito; Loaded Lemonade; Magnum Margherita; Cerveza.

Double Barrell Taco Company is located at 345 E. Main Street, Montrose, CO 81401.

(970) 417-4340 or go to their web site to order online.

New Rocky Mountain Cravings feature:

We are blessed with many local artisans in the food world near Montrose. I'm adding in a few little tidbits from my culinary wanderings when I run into something amazing. If you find yourself in Paonia or Olathe there are two things you want to bring back as souvenirs, so to speak. (Or look for them in your local store). Paonia Bread Works makes a mean whole wheat sourdough bread. And in Olathe you will want to visit the Rocking W for out of this world cheese. Try the pale cheddar. Amazing. Especially on the Paonia bread!



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO INITIATIVE PROCESS HAS BECOME A TOOL FOR WEALTHY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS TO BYPASS OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Editor:

The Colorado Initiative process may have at one time been appropriate for citizens addressing statewide issues. Unfortunately, the process has become a tool for "special interest" groups with tons of cash, to bypass our legislative process. Once Initiative language is approved, proponents hire people all across the state to secure petition signatures. Right here in Montrose you have surely see these petition gatherers at the Post Office and Walmart, plying their spiel to induce the uninformed voter to sign up. Since petition gathers are paid by the signature, most are anything but honest in detailing the true facts and consequences of the petition. The common come on is, "This is just to get it on the ballot". Sadly, far too many uninformed voters blindly succumb to the sales pitch. Once sufficient signatures are obtained, an all out media blitz is funded to promote the ballot issue, focusing on only the proponents side of the question. Only the Colorado Blue Book details the pros and cons of the question.

The Colorado wolf reintroduction initiative was just the latest in a multi-state campaign by self styled environmental groups like Wild Earth Guardians, The Center For Biological Diversity, The Rocky Mountain Action Fund, the Wolf Action Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, and The Sier-

ra Club. All presupposing they have more knowledge in wildlife management than college trained professionals. Ballot box forced wolf introduction in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, proved detrimental to the livestock industry as well as wildlife populations, with the taxpayer footing the bill for livestock depredations by wolves.

Here in Colorado wildlife professionals warned us about the consequences of forced wolf introduction. In November the issue passed by the slimmest of margins [1.8%]. Only 12 of Colorado's 64 counties voted for wolf introduction. Not surprisingly, seven of those were heavily populated Front Range liberal counties. Surprisingly, five Western Slope counties opted for the question, all of those with populous liberal cities. Even more surprisingly, even though Montrose County overwhelmingly rejected the Initiative, 5730 individuals here apparently were ignorant of the potential consequences for our wildlife herds or our livestock industry. Thanks to our Montrose BOCC for passing the above Resolution declaring Montrose County a Wolf Reintroduction Sanctuary County!

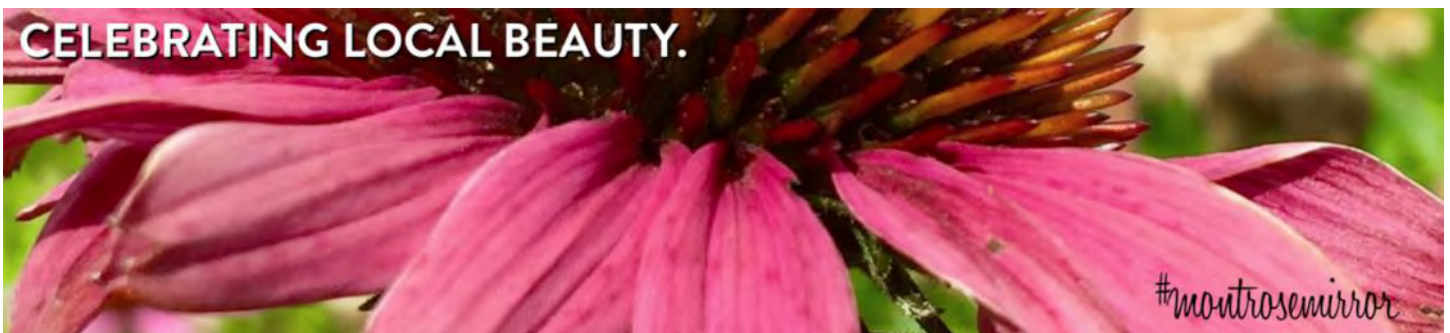
Now comes another dangerous ill-conceived initiative we have to confront over the next year. The PAUSE Initiative 16, "Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation" is the hair

brain scheme of another far left Front Range group, headed up by Alexander Sage of Broomfield. and Brent Johannes of Boulder. Under the guise of protecting animals, the initiative would criminalize accepted normal practices in the livestock industry, the veterinary field and in animal care. If passed the unintended consequences would adversely affect meat prices for all Colorado consumers. One example of how misinformed the proponents are is noted in their desire to change the definition of animal in the statutes. Currently "animal" is defined as "any living dumb creature". In their ignorance, they propose changing that to "any living non-human creature". Obviously the term "dumb" offends their delicate sensibilities, but equally obvious is the fact that "dumb" in this context refers to the inability of animals to speak, and not a reference to their ignorance. Read the entire text of proposed changes at- <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/filings/2021-2022/16OriginalFinal.pdf>

If you want to let Sage and Johannes have the benefit of your thoughts, they both can be reached by mail at PO BOX 81, BROOMFIELD, CO 80038. So, when petitioners for Initiative 16 show up in Montrose to entice your signature, don't just say "NO", say "HELL NO!"

Dee Laird, Montrose

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO, REAFFIRMING MONTROSE COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO THE REINTRODUCTION OF WOLVES GENERALLY, AND SPECIFICALLY ESTABLISHING MONTROSE COUNTY AS A WOLF REINTRODUCTION SANCTUARY COUNTY

WHEREAS, in the November 3rd, 2020 Colorado election, Proposition 114, the ballot measure to require the artificial introduction of Canadian Gray Wolves into the State, the voters of Colorado narrowly approved the measure by a vote of 1,590,299 for and 1,533,313 against; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Montrose County voted against the reintroduction of wolves by a margin of 76.27 percent (18,414) to 23.73% (5,730); and

WHEREAS, the economy of Montrose County is highly dependent on agriculture, in the form of cattle and sheep ranching, and on big game, with both hunting and outfitting; and

WHEREAS, Montrose County is home to both large elk and mule deer herds; and

WHEREAS, wolf reintroductions in other states have caused significant reductions in big game herd numbers requiring reduced opportunities for hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, wolf reintroductions in other states have included a provision for "fair compensation" for livestock losses due to wolf predation, however, in practical application, this has proven difficult to unattainable for affected livestock producers; and

WHEREAS, gray wolves have naturally returned to the State over the last decade with confirmed sightings of both individuals and packs in Jackson, Routt, Rio Blanco, and Moffat counties; and

WHEREAS, given the biology and social habits of wolf populations, it is reasonable to assume migration by Canadian gray wolves will continue into the northern portion of Colorado and Mexican gray wolves will continue into the southern portion of the state; and

WHEREAS, given the nature of wolf behavior, the presence of artificially introduced wolf populations will reduce or eliminate the recolonization by natural migration; and

WHEREAS, 68% of Montrose County is Federal Land, including US Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management property; and

WHEREAS, the ecological benefits of re-established wolf populations can be achieved by natural migration and reproduction; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose Wolf Sanctuary County

1. Montrose County is declared to be a Wolf Reintroduction Sanctuary County, allowing only for the natural migration and repopulation of Gray Wolves without the competition from artificially introduced wolves:
2. "Designated Lands", for artificial reintroduction of wolves as defined in the ballot Proposition, must not include Montrose County or any other County in the State that adopts the Sanctuary County Designation.
3. This decision is predicated on the following: a) A rapid artificial repopulation of wolves into Montrose County would cause significant economic harm to certain sectors of the local and regional economy.
- b) A slow, extensively monitored and managed, natural restoration of wolves would facilitate a fuller understanding of regional and localized wolf behavior and of social impacts and will allow for increased temporal directed adaptive management.
- c) Adaptive management strategies must include take as an appropriate tool as warranted.
- d) Wolves should be artificially reintroduced only in those Colorado Counties that received an affirmative vote on Proposition 114 in the 2020 election. This will allow for comparative study of impacts, both positive and negative, of different reintroduction strategies. In other Counties, including Montrose County, wolves should be allowed to naturally repopulate through migration and reproduction only.
- e) Individual wolves or packs that migrate from the original release counties must be removed from the Sanctuary County so as not to compete with or displace natural reestablishment. Funding should be robust enough to closely monitor both naturally occurring and reintroduced wolves and the detailed effects on prey animals.

Funding should be limited to the State General Fund as to not effect already limited Game Cash Funds and not encumber Sportsmen's dollars to this effort.

In that a high percentage of land within the County is Federally owned, planning and management of the wolves should be closely coordinated with the Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management.

4. The above listed approach, in large part, follows the recommendations of the Colorado Wolf Management Plan established by the working group in December 2004



Mental Illness and the CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

People with mental illness deserve help, not handcuffs. Yet people with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons. We need to reduce criminal justice system involvement and increase investments in mental health care.

About **2 million** times each year, people with serious mental illness are booked into jails.



About **2 in 5** people who are incarcerated have a **history of mental illness** (37% in state and federal prisons and 44% held in local jails).

66% of women in prison reported having a history of mental illness, **almost twice the percentage of men** in prison.



Nearly **1 in 4** people shot and killed by police officers between 2015–2020 had a mental health condition.

Suicide is the **leading cause of death** for people held in local jails.



An estimated **4,000 people** with serious mental illness are held in solitary confinement inside U.S. prisons.

COMMUNITIES



YOUTH

70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition.

Youth in detention are **10x more likely** to suffer from psychosis than youth in the community.

About **50,000 veterans** are held in local jails — 55% report experiencing mental illness.



VETERANS



PEOPLE OF COLOR

Among incarcerated people with a mental health condition, **non-white individuals** are more likely to be held in solitary confinement, be injured and **stay longer in jail**.

ACCESS TO CARE

About **3 in 5 people** (63%) with a history of mental illness do not receive mental health treatment while incarcerated in state and federal prisons.



45%

Less than half of people with a history of mental illness **receive mental health treatment** while held in local jails.

People who **have health care coverage** upon release from incarceration are more likely to **engage in services that reduce recidivism**.



Data from the U.S. Department of Justice and other select sources. Find citations for this resource at nami.org/mhstats

NAMI HelpLine
800-950-NAMI (6264)

f NAMI

@NAMIAdvocacy

@NAMICommunicate

www.nami.org

nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PARK NURSERY GARDEN CENTER & ASPEN TREE SERVICE SELECTED AS APRIL 2021 RACC MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Above, Plants at the Park Nursery and Garden Center in Ridgway. At right, Aspen Tree Service. Courtesy photos.



*By Tanya Ishikawa
Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-Park Nursery Garden Center managed by Aspen Tree Service is the April 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. The RACC Member of the Month Program is in its third year as an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations. Aspen Tree Service acquired the Park Nursery Garden Center in Ridgway in 2019, when the former owner passed away, because “we felt that this business was so important to the community that we wanted to help carry on the legacy that had been created. We also felt Park Nursery Garden Center was a good complement to our tree maintenance ser-

vices, which is the core of our business,” said Stephanie Appel of Aspen Tree Service, based in Carbondale, Colo. The company has a team of arborists and plant professionals led by Certified Arborist Jon Elliot. Elliot holds a degree in horticulture and has been in the tree care industry in Colorado since 1985. “We strive to provide plants and products that are well suited to the local conditions, and offer a knowledgeable and courteous staff to help you make educated decisions. We are also beginning to produce many of our own plants in Ridgway this season, which will result in better acclimated and hardy material,” Appel explained. “The value of trees in our communities is often overlooked. If cared for properly, trees can

thrive even in the stressful environments of Ridgway and Telluride.” Park Nursery is offering a 10 percent discount in April to anyone who mentions the Chamber Member of the Month promotion. To check out Park Nursery Garden Center and Aspen Tree Service, go online to <https://parknurserygarden.com>, call 970-626-5029, or email office@parknurserygarden.com. You can find the garden center in Ridgway at 121 Liddell Drive (just south of Alpine Bank). To read the full interview about the Ridgway garden center and landscaping service, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/park-nursery-aspen-tree-service-march-2021-racc-member-of-the-month>.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PADDLEBOARDERS URGED TO WEAR TO WEAR PFDS



Paddleboarders are urged to wear PFDS when they are on the water. CPW Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY— As stand-up paddleboards become more and more popular, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds paddlers to wear personal floatation devices (PFDs) when using this watercraft.

Over the last several years at Colorado state parks, more and more people have been falling off their boards and some have drowned. In all those cases people were not wearing PFDs.

"So many people see paddle boards as low risk; but if you fall off your board into cold water you can get into trouble very

quickly," said Kirstin Copeland, manager at Ridgway State Park.

On rivers or reservoirs, if a paddleboarder falls off there is no guarantee that the board will remain within reach. In rivers, the board can be pulled away by the current. In lakes, a board can be pushed away quickly by the wind.

The danger is amplified on reservoirs and ponds in the afternoons in Colorado when winds pick-up or fast-moving storms stir up waves. Water temperature is also a factor. Even though the weather has been warm, the spring run-off is just starting

and water in rivers and reservoirs is only about 50 degrees or lower. Cold water quickly impairs swimming ability and can cause hypothermia.

According to CPW regulations, on any watercraft the number of life jackets on board must match the number of passengers. Anyone 13 years or younger must wear a life jacket at all times. Every kind of craft is subject to the regulations, including powerboats, paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, sailboats and sailboards.

In the last two years at Ridgway reservoir, four adults who were not wearing PFDs had to be rescued by park rangers after falling off their boards. In addition, two youngsters who were wearing adult-sized life jackets also had to be rescued. The ill-fitting PFDs did not support them in the water properly. Children must be fitted with properly sized PFDs.

"Anything can happen at any time on the water. So we urge people to be cautious and consider their own safety and their loved one's safety while they're enjoying the water," Copeland said. "Please, wear your PFD."

For more information about safe boating, go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BoatingSafety.aspx>. Listen to CPW's POD-CAST on boating safety:

<https://art19.com/shows/colorado-outdoors/episodes/ec80b994-4eb8-4484-abea-b2b86a747c0b>



8500

ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



RISING ALLSTAR

2021 GYMKHANA

BUCKLE SERIES



WHERE: CIRCLE 3 COWBOY FELLOWSHIP
62885 LASALLE RD, MONTROSE

APRIL 24TH, MAY 8TH, MAY 22ND,
JUNE 12TH, AUGUST 14TH

ENTRIES CLOSE 9:45 A.M. GYMKHANA STARTS 10:00 A.M.
PRE ENTRIES ARE WELCOME:

LEADLINE TEXT 970-901-8519 OR 970-901-8521

6 & UNDER	\$6 PER EVENT	BARRELS
7-10	OR	POLES
11-14	\$25 FOR ALL FIVE	FLAGS
15-18	AGE AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2021	GOATS
ADULT	FUN EVENT WILL BE DISCLOSED	FUN EVENT
50 & OVER	AT TIME OF ENTRY	

MORE INFORMATION : AMBER 970-901-8521, LACEY 254-679-1072,
TINA 970-901-8519

ALL-AROUND PRIZES AND RIBBONS WILL BE GIVEN AT EACH GYMKHANA.
MUST ATTEND 4 OF THE 5 GYMKHANA'S TO QUALIFY FOR SERIES PRIZES.

MARK YOUR CALANDER FOR THE 2021 JUNIOR RODEO JULY 10TH



TEAM ROPING TO FOLLOW
GYMKHANAS WATCH FOR MORE
INFORMATION FROM CIRCLE 3
COWBOY FELLOWSHIP.



J&M
ENTERTAINMENT
PRESENTS

70% PAYBACK
RACE AT 7:00PM
4D OPEN
\$30 ENTRY
14 AND UNDER 2D
\$25 ENTRY
1/2 SEC SPLITS
BUCKLE SERIES

\$5 TIME ONLYS @ 6:30PM
BOOKS OPEN ON SUNDAYS
CLOSE @ 6:00PM DAY OF
TEXT OR FACEBOOK MSG
JOHNATHAN GOODMAN
970-985-8684

BARREL MONDAY'S

March 15, 22, 29
April 12, 19, 26
May 3, 10, 17, 24

CIRCLE 3 COWBOY FELLOWSHIP
62885 LASALLE RD
MONTROSE CO

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the PIC Place 5:30-7pm. Please call Kathy at 520-282-9060 for more information.

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Alternate Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm—every other weekend starting Jan. 9th 2021

Location: Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompahgre Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

Cost: Free to attend. Curbside service is still available in the winter season!

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.

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

April 15-Join the Montrose Regional Library for this virtual cooking event with Colorado Boy Pizzeria & Brewery! This authentic pizzeria and brewery has been very popular ever since it opened its' doors in 2013. Chef Chad will show us their amazing dough-making process. Email Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org to sign up for this event on Thursday, April 15, at Noon. This will no longer be a live event. It will be recorded, and posted on the library's Facebook page and Youtube channel on Friday, April 16

April 15-Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance "Bike to Dinner Night" at San Juan Brews. There will be two food trucks and anyone that bikes to the brewery from 5:30p-8p will receive \$5 off their food truck meal. Participants are not required to eat at the brewery and can go to a nearby park if they choose. For those who stick around the brewery, there will be a bike film festival playing inside at no charge on the TV.

April 21-2021 Ridgway Youth Volunteer & Career Fair. 11 a.m. to Noon at the Ridgway Secondary School. Admission \$20; free to Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce members. Registration deadline is April 14. Get [more details](#).

May 3-The Giving Club will meet at the Bridges at 5:30 p.m. After four years and one quarter, The Giving Club has given to local nonprofits a total of \$217,000. To donate on May 3 please bring \$100 per person.

May 4-The San Juan Nonprofit Council announces a workshop, "Deconstructing Equity," taking place via zoom on Tuesday, May 4, from 9-11 a.m. Presenting will be Dr. Nita Mosby-Tyler, founder of The Equity Project in Denver. Registration is \$25 and attendance will be limited, so we encourage early registration. If you wish to register, email marvo@cfigv.org and she will send you the registration link.

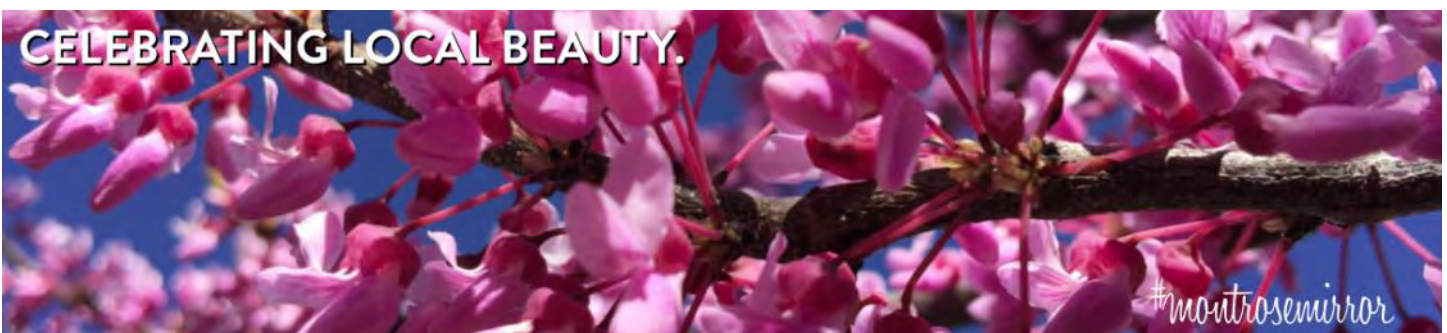
May 6-Virtual QPR Suicide Prevention, Thursday, May 6, 2021, Noon to 1:30 pm. This class covers the three steps (question, persuade, refer) that anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. It is based on the QPR Institute's industry-leading approach to suicide prevention. Trainees receive a QPR booklet and wallet card as a review and resource tool that includes local referral resources within one hour before training via email.

Limited to 20 people. Register at: <https://www.centermh.org/classes/>

May 14-FAB Conference & Awards. For, about, and by women. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Montrose. Call 970-765-0913 for more information. Hello@ourtownmatters.net

May 21-The Montrose High School Baccalaureate will be Friday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m., at Grace Community Church in Montrose (16731 Woodgate Road).

June 3- Virtual QPR Suicide Prevention Noon to 1: 30 p.m. This class covers the three steps (question, persuade, refer) that anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. It is based on the QPR Institute's industry-leading approach to suicide prevention. Trainees receive a QPR booklet and wallet card as a review and resource tool that includes local referral resources within one hour before training via email. Limited to 20 people. Register at: <https://www.centermh.org/classes/>



Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

MIRROR IMAGES: WEEKEND ADVENTURES



Clockwise from top left, Reader B. Switzer took this photo of Harry Switzer at Hovenweep Saturday...Mirror staff took these photos of the burned out lightning arrester at the Bullock power station Saturday morning, and the first response to the explosion and resulting fire Friday night. Thank you DMEA crews for working through a cold night to fix the problem and the resulting power outages!



THE STARS HAVE ALIGNED...FOR BUSINESS SELLERS, BUYERS & LENDERS!

Federal Relief Expected to Re-Ignite Urgency and Demand

The CARES Act Debt Relief Program, which allows business buyers to take advantage of an SBA loan, has been extended under the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Keep reading to learn why this extension is great news for entrepreneurs looking to buy or sell a business.

Prospective buyers have even more leverage with an SBA loan:

- ★ **6 months of SBA loan payment forgiveness** for loans closed after February 1, 2021. This includes principal and interest up to a maximum of \$9,000 per month.
- ★ **The SBA is waiving the guaranty fee charged to lenders** and passed on to borrowers. This fee is typically around 3% and is now zero for loans closed after February 1, 2021.
- ★ **The SBA is increasing the loan guarantee to lenders** from 75% to 90%, which decreases risk to lenders. Along with new wording allowing lenders to adjust for temporary COVID-19 downturns, lenders should be able to take on additional risk. It is important to note the minimum buyer down payment of 10% remains unchanged.

Business owners considering selling their business benefit from the current market conditions:

- ★ **There are many more buyers than sellers.** Buyer activity is at record levels, according to BizBuySell's Insight Report, while supply is limited. With this dynamic, businesses are selling at record prices, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- ★ **SBA-financed buyers are able to take advantage** of significant benefits and are likely to outbid cash buyers seeking discounted prices.
- ★ **Further guidance** for PPP loan forgiveness and tax reporting has been released so the seller does not need to worry about a PPP loan liability. The loan forgiveness process for first draw and second draw PPP loans less than \$150,000 is greatly simplified and provides full tax deductibility of business expenses on forgiven PPP loans.

In addition to the benefits for business buyers and sellers, the stars have also aligned for SBA lenders!

**Info gathered from bizbuysell.com*

★ **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL**



QUESTIONS? Contact Shane • 970-417-1516 • scopeland@sunbeltnetwork.com • www.sunbeltnetwork.com/grand-jujction-co/