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# the Montrose Mirror

Free News for Fresh People!

Issue No. 427 May 3, 2021

## GREATER MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPENS, BUSINESS SERVING BUSINESS

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-The Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) began its formation in June of 2019 when Tonya Maddox contacted the Colorado Chamber and asked about forming a new chamber. Montrose has been without a Chamber of Commerce for a few years, as the last one folded due to expenses that were well beyond income, mostly due to salaries. Tonya received a lot of support from the Colorado Chamber as well as the Grand Junction Chamber in getting things set up and rolling.

Last Thursday, April 29, the new Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) held its grand opening celebration at the Montrose County Event Center. Many chamber members

[Continued pg 8](#)



**Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce Founder Tonya Maddox, right, interviews Magic Circle Theatre Manager Lisa Rediger about how the players and volunteers made it through COVID and their next show Newsies, which opens May 7. Photo by Paul Arbogast.**

## DMEA AUTHORIZES AGREEMENT WITH RE-1J SCHOOLS ON CONSTRUCTION TO FACILITATE BROADBAND SERVICES, HARMAN CONTINUES AS ACTING CEO



**Delta Montrose Electric Association Director Chris Hauck (left) is attentive to the Redlands Mesa resident John Anderson during the Member Comments portion of the meeting that was held on April 27, 2021. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The April 27 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors in-person meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. Onsite COVID quick testing was available, social distancing was observed, and masks were not required.

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which is scheduled for 5 p.m.

During meetings the board of directors give verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities; however, neither the co-op membership nor the media have access to the written reports submitted to board approval.

All board members were present. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum and approval of the

[Continued pg 15](#)

in this issue

[May 3 deadline to submit petitions for DMEA Election!](#)

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)

[Historian Bob Cox: When radium was a good thing!](#)



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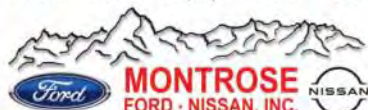
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### COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET MAY 5 - 6 FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON MEETING

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION-At its hybrid virtual/in-person meeting in Grand Junction, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will hear an update on wolf reintroduction planning, discuss final consideration of big game regulations, including adoption of all limited license numbers for black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn and moose for all game management units in the state that have limited licenses for these species for the 2021 big game season; adding properties to the State Trust Land Public Access Program; updating the requirements for the Centennial Pass to correspond with the requirements of other low-income licenses and passes offered by the Division; and review "Wildlife Properties" regulations. The commission will also discuss OHV trails grants funding approval, Eldorado Canyon State Park's Draft Management Plan, and a path forward on big game license allocation and preference points at a virtual meeting on Wed., May 5 and Thu., May 6. The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page here.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wed., May 5 and adjourn at 5 p.m. The commission will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thu., May 6 and adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GREEN THUMB GARDENING: PRUNE SMART: PRUNING LARGE TREES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Trees are a precious resource in the arid West. They shade our homes and yards, they provide habitat for birds and other animals, and trees increase property value. Pruning is essential to good tree health. Poor pruning cuts can cause damage and shorten the life of a tree.

Find out all about proper tree pruning from Colorado Master Gardener and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist Linda Corwine.

This presentation will cover useful information such as:

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- When and how to hire an arborist

Email Taylor at [tevens@montroselibrary.org](mailto:tevens@montroselibrary.org) to register for this virtual event on Thursday, June 10 at 6:30pm.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RECOGNIZES TEACHERS & STAFF

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Democratic Party recognizes the extraordinary circumstances our teachers and all of Montrose County School District support staff have encountered in the past 14 months.

The MCDP May Community Outreach Campaign 'Give A Cup Thank You', invites

you to show your appreciation to our teaching community by stopping by the MCDP office at 11 S. Townsend from 11 am to 3 pm Monday through Saturday, from May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup> to add your own personal note of 'Thank you' to our cards that we'll be distributing to as many teachers and staff as we can reach in the Montrose County School District.

Each 'Give A Cup Thank You' card is also good for one complimentary large beverage at Coffee Trader locations in Montrose. This is our very small way of recognizing and appreciating the efforts of our education community to adapt to unexpected conditions in the 2020/2021 school year.

Donations of any denomination in support of this campaign to help defray the costs, are most gratefully welcomed.

We hope you'll join us in sharing our gratitude with the teachers and support staff in the Montrose County School District for their adaptiveness and continued accountability during a difficult and challenging time. Despite these obstacles, they have still successfully risen to meet the challenges of their most important role, that of preparing our children for the future.

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### DUNKIN' OF MONTROSE HOSTS HAPPY HOUR DEAL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Dunkin' is giving Montrose, CO an excuse to fuel up mid-afternoon with an everyday happy hour offer. Beginning Wednesday, April 28, through Tuesday, June 22, the Dunkin' restaurant located at 1803 S Townsend Ave will be offering 50% off any beverage between 2 – 6 PM each day. On behalf of local Montrose Dunkin' franchisee, Juan Sanchez, Dunkin' is proud to keep Montrose running and provide a PM pick-me-up to guests.

Something fresh is always brewing at Dunkin' like the new Cold Brew with Sweet Cold Foam or Blueberry Matcha Latte - providing the perfect afternoon refresh. Dunkin's menu is full of great-tasting beverages that will get you going and keep you running throughout your busy day. Plus, they're always made to order—just the way you like. Dunkin's freshly crafted beverages such as hand-crafted espresso, coffee, teas, and more are served in a variety of delicious flavors iced, hot or frozen.

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# CITY TO APPOINT ONE TO OPEN COUNCIL SEAT; DISTRICT III CHOICES ARE CHARLI OSWALD AND J. DAVID REED



**Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 3 and for a regular meeting in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 4.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 3 and for a regular meeting in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 4. Council will open the in-person work session and meeting to members of the public and media for the first time in more than a year. Meetings are also broadcast live on the City web site and on loca Cable Channels 191 and 970.

## WORK SESSION

Council will select one of two District 3 candidates for the Council seat left open by Roy Anderson, who relocated less than a year after seeking re-election to Council. Candidates are Charlane (Charli) Oswald - and J. David Reed.

Discussion Items will include the CDOT Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program Application; a lease Agreement for 703 S. 9th St (former location of the Passage Charter School); a lease agreement for 514

S. 1st Street (Straw Hat Farm Store) and utility connection fee abatements for Montrose Ford.

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

May 17-Municipal Court Annual Report; Project 7 Presentation; Special Events Alcohol Permit for FUNC Fest; May 18-Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report for March 2021; Second Quarter Budget Review; Youth City Council Report to City Council; June 1-Fireworks Display Permit.

## REGULAR MEETING

Council will issue a proclamation in support of May as Mental Health Month.

Council will appoint either Charlane (Charli) Oswald or J. David Reed to the vacant District III seat on the Montrose City Council.

Council will consider approving a new Lodging and Entertainment liquor license at 21 N. Cascade Avenue for Mosaic LLC,

doing business as Lucky Tree Studio and Treefeather Creative, for consumption on the licensed premises.

Council will consider approving \$1,410,029.57 in expenditures for construction of public infrastructure associated with Phase II of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority project (Basecamp Apartments). This includes the award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$1,077,729.57, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$67,300.00, and dry utility expenditures totaling \$265,000.

Council will consider approving Resolution 2021-08, authorizing the filing of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Revitalizing Main Streets: Safety Infrastructure Grant Program application; providing a matching contribution of up to \$400,000 equal to 20 percent of the grant request; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract; and authorizing city staff to act on behalf of the grant agreement.

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2540 on second reading, updating Title 4 Chapter 4, Zoning Regulations of the City of Montrose: Amending Title 4 Chapter 4 Section 12 (4-4-12) regarding B-1 Central Business District.

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2541 on first reading, repealing and replacing Title 1 Chapter Two Section 4 (1-2-4) and Title 1 Chapter Nine Section Three (1-9-3) of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

Also to be considered are the Sunrise Creek II Filing No. 5 Preliminary Plat and a sole source agreement with Dairy Specialists for the not-to-exceed amount of \$70,000 for repairs to the Centrysis Centrifuge #1 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES FERC SETTLEMENT OFFER

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The Tri-State Board of Directors, which includes a representative from each of the power supply cooperative's utility members, approved a proposed settlement of its wholesale rate and contract filings made with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Under the terms of the settlement, which requires FERC approval, Tri-State will immediately reduce its wholesale power rates two percent, followed by another two percent wholesale rate reduction in 2022.

The board's action advances two goals identified in Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan including reducing wholesale rates for its utility members and ensuring each member has a voice in Tri-State's rate regulation by establishing FERC as its exclusive, independent wholesale rate regulator.

"Our Responsible Energy Plan makes Tri-State even more competitive for our members, with a cleaner power supply, more power supply options and lower

wholesale rates," said Tri-State CEO Duane Highley. "As we pursue ways to lower wholesale rates, all of our members across four states have had the opportunity to participate in the FERC's rate regulation process."

Tri-State's proposed settlement will be filed with the FERC and, if approved, will go into effect retroactively to March 1, 2021. The additional 2% wholesale rate decrease would go into effect in March 2022, and Tri-State would have a moratorium on any rate increases until May 31, 2023.

"Tri-State is deeply appreciative of the time and involvement of our members, FERC staff, and stakeholders in the settlement process," said Highley. "As a cooperative, we are committed to continuing to work with our members to consider other rate-related issues before our next FERC rate filing."

Over the past several years, Tri-State's members worked together in rate design and contract committees to develop rec-

ommendations that were accepted by the Tri-State board. In 2019 and 2020, Tri-State filed with FERC its wholesale rate, wholesale electric service contracts, and board policies related to the terms for wholesale power service to its utility members.

These filings were accepted by FERC, subject to refund, and were set for settlement and hearing procedures. The settlement, if approved by FERC, would avoid further hearings on nearly all of the issues designated for further proceedings.

*About Tri-State*

Tri-State is a wholesale power supply cooperative, operating on a not-for-profit basis, with 45 members, including 42 utility electric distribution cooperative and public power district members in four states that together deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West. For more information about Tri-State, visit [www.tristate.coop](http://www.tristate.coop).



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## ***NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPENS From pg 1***



***Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce members finish setup before their grand opening celebration at the Montrose County Events Center April 29. Photo by Paul Arbogast.***

set up booths, there was food and drink, and local band Neon Sky performed live.

The new chamber is taking a different approach than the old chamber. Its board and members take on all of the roles and work needed on a volunteer basis. The GMCC was formed in response to a growing belief among business owners that more small business solutions and advocacy were needed in Montrose.

In an article about the GMCC forming (Sept 2020, *Montrose Daily Press*), the city was asked about this new chamber. In response, former City Director of Business and Tourism Chelsea Rosty said that the city had no plan to financially support the new chamber because the city already offers similar services and support for local business, and that the city feels it has moved past needing a Chamber of Commerce.

At the grand opening of the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, opinions differed.

One chamber member commented that while the city talks about being partners and supporters of business, they typically make regulations that make running a business harder and more expensive.

Tonya Maddox said that while the GMCC was not looking for funding from the city,

being recognized as a good and helpful organization within the city is important. With a current membership of 37 businesses at the start and membership growing every day, it's clear that local businesses see the need and benefit of a business centric organization outside of government control.

As to the difference between government support of business vs a business centric public organization, Tonya said, "Their goals are different, everyone has different goals, and that's ok. But the goals of a small, locally owned, and operated small businesses is, one, to stay in business, to take care of their families, two to give back to their community and be a part of it."

Due to the variety of business owners already involved, the total years and wide array of experience, Maddox said, "Collectively we can help this little mom and pop (store) ... they are out there building widgets or supplying different things, and not getting bogged down with things that are not in their wheelhouse. That's where we want to help."

The inaugural board members (serving until Dec. 31, 2021) include someone from U.S. Bank, Rose Bowl Entertainment Center, Elderado Financial, Cherry Creek Me-

dia, TEI Rock Drills, Welcome Western Colorado, DMEA, Our Town matters, Sandoval Construction, Shelter Insurance, and Camelot Gardens.

Starting on May 27 the chamber will be hosting a Business After Hours every fourth Thursday of the month.

These events bring members of the business community together for networking and interaction and run from 5pm to 7pm.

The first one will be at the Our Town Matters Business Center at 1245 E. Main Street.

Tonya says that the GMCCC looks forward with positivity, "We are going to keep going, and if we continue with the vision that we have, and the leadership that we have, this chamber of commerce can do great things for the community here."

For more information about the GMCC and events, you can check out their website ([here](#)) and you can follow them on Facebook ([here](#)).

In addition, Tonya Maddox hosts a weekly live stream called Montrose Matters Live that features community members, and stories of interest to the Montrose area. It airs Fridays at 9 am and can be found on Facebook ([here](#)), YouTube ([here](#)), and Twitter ([here](#)).



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMS CRY 'VOTER SUPPRESSION' AS THEY PUSH FOR SOCIALISM

*Editor:*

The lieutenant governor of North Carolina, a black man, denounced Democrats' comparing various states modest voter integrity measures to "voter suppression". His words: "How absolutely preposterous. Am I to believe that black Americans who have overcome the atrocities of slavery .... cannot figure out how to get a free ID to vote?" "The notion that black people must be protected from a Free ID to vote is not just insane, it's insulting."

He also reminded us that these are the same Democrats who kept blacks from voting for decades with their Jim Crow laws and KKK. Democrats blatantly lie and attempt to paint as "voter suppression" all efforts by conservatives to reinstate some semblance of order to the chaos Dems created. I have some comments about a couple of those false talking points. Democrats' attitudes toward minorities

are both insulting and racist. They think blacks are weak, incapable folks in need of constant help from elitist whites in order to survive? Now that they no longer have Jim Crow laws, Dems use the "victim" lie to keep minorities dependent on big government --- to their detriment.

The Left's goal for all of America is total dependence on big government, similar to what they have created in Dem-controlled big cities and native American reservations.

The so-called "For The People Act" institutionalizes the election fraud Dems need to turn us into a one-party system. One example is the legalization of collecting and returning multiple ballots on behalf of others (vote harvesting). What could possibly go wrong? Maybe just the ballots for the favored candidate get returned? Or the collector "assists" in filling out the ballots to insure the correct boxes are

checked? Or the individual voter doesn't even see the ballot that is returned?

The bill would unconstitutionally strip the states of their ability to insure election legitimacy, including the states who had no allegations of election fraud and were able to count their votes in one day instead of weeks (with no "found" ballots as occurred in Democrat-run cities). Pardon me if I laugh when Democrats complain about the states controlling elections, while they openly try to destroy our two-party republic.

Fraudulent elections, supreme court packing, demonization of police, fomenting racial hatred, intentionally opening our borders to invasion, high taxes and unsustainable debt, second amendment infringement, etc. are not miscalculations, but carefully planned with one goal in mind: socialist tyranny.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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The kitchen boasts hidden gems beloved by any foodie, and the master suite has a lovely soaking tub with enormous surrounding windows and lush pebble draining floor. To top off the experience, if the luxurious bath surrounded by mountains didn't get you close enough to nature, the outdoor shower surely will. A huge over-sized 3-car garage complete with a CrossFit-style gym is ready for the fitness buff, or it can easily be outfitted for the car aficionado or tinkerer. There's an alcove dedicated to fine whiskeys and cigars, while a great room boasts a through-and-through fireplace with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves just begging the avid reader to curl up with a great book, a fine tea, and miles of mountain views to bathe your soul. Situated on the apex of a hill surrounded by 35 acres, you are assured that the huge open vistas cannot ever be blocked. With shares of irrigation water, a lush garden, orchards, or fields could be cultivated. To top off this expansive home with its large ensuite bedrooms, walk-in closets, and open floor plan, you will find the authentic 1800's cabin which has been painstakingly relocated to the property nearby. A gorgeous space for an artist retreat or mother-in-law studio. This serene and artfully appointed home is a rare find in one of the most desirable communities in Western Colorado, and is located just minutes from downtown Montrose. If you want all the beauty and joy of rural mountain living, with luxury and excellence to come home to, just a short drive from modern conveniences and surrounded by exclusive resort communities...then this is your home.



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## MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS @ MURA BOARD RETREAT

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-On Monday, April 26 the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board held a 'retreat' with Anderson Analytics (AA) to go over new numbers and estimates for the Colorado Outdoors project.

*Background-Back in February of 2020, MURA Chair Tad Rowan had asked AA to update their analysis. In the November 2020 MURA meeting, AA returned with some updated numbers and change in the phases of the project. At that meeting Brad Hughes (Montrose County assessor) stated, "I have a concern on your projections in all of Montrose since 2016. That seems like unrealistic projections."*

### DISCUSSION

The focus of the discussion at the April 26 retreat was the new Stage 2 development plan, which includes Colorado Yurt Company, Basecamp Apartments, a Fairfield Hotel, as well as two Flex buildings and a wedge brands building. All the projections are based on these being built and in full occupancy and operation by 2022.

If this were to occur, the AA projections show the TIF generating enough to repay the money the city has put into this project. Still, if any of the Stage 2 projects do not occur, or do not occur within the projected timeline, the TIF revenues will fall short.

"I have to see the slides again, but it is approximately \$4.7 million dollars that it will come short if a hotel is not completed in phase two," Hughes said. The response to his expressed concern referenced slides that were not in the presentation in the



*On Monday, April 26 the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board held a 'retreat' with Anderson Analytics (AA) to go over new numbers and estimates for the Colorado Outdoors project. Photo by Paul Arbogast.*

MURA meeting packet, showing a shortfall of about \$3 million.

Special Districts Representative Mark Plantz said, "The slide in 49 basically shows that without that Fairfield Hotel, the project will squeak by in 2042 if everything else holds, but there's not a whole lot of margin here."

Plantz later questioned the other board members, "How do we feel about the Stage 2 projects? ... My fear, my discussion point for the board is, Brad asked questions about the hotel, that needs to be addressed so we all feel comfortable with it. And now if you go to slide 25, we have got incentives that are coming to us at \$2.5 million, but wait a minute, on slide 20 those are already included on Stage 2. So, I kind of feel like we are getting wagged a little bit because we are saying Stage 2 is what we are basing these num-

bers off of."

In addition to questions about the hotel, there were questions on the Basecamp Apartments, because the cost of building materials has been skyrocketing lately.

Hughes said he needed time to take in the new estimates and numbers and go over them to see if they were better than previous numbers provided by AA. The board agreed to meet again on Wednesday, May 19 at 2pm. They hope to bring in Basecamp Apartment and Fairfield Hotel representatives to get more solid answers as to the feasibility of and commitment to those projects.

On the agenda for the May 4 Montrose City Council meeting is the consideration for the approval of \$1.4 million in expenditures for construction of public infrastructure associated with the Basecamp development.



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# MCF DIRECTOR: DMEA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS ARE MERIT-BASED, PROCESS IS VERY THOROUGH

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Scholarship awards to graduating high school seniors are not generally considered controversial, but a recent scholarship award by the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) generated questions. Among the three Montrose High School seniors who were given \$3,000 scholarships through DMEA this year was Kyler Bronec. Bronec happens to be the son of DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jason Bronec, who is currently on leave and subject to an independent investigation for unspecified reasons.

Since 2018, the Montrose Community Foundation has administered DMEA's scholarship fund, which is funded through DMEA's Unclaimed Capital Credit Balance Fund. After questions were raised about the scholarship award to Kyler Bronec, the *Mirror* spoke with Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) Executive Director Sara

Plumhoff.

Plumhoff said that the process of awarding DMEA scholarships is merit-based and very thorough. DMEA awards a number of different scholarships on an annual basis, she noted.

"This year we received 115 applications for the different scholarships that were offered: High School, Continuing Education, CMU, TCR, Lineman (new this year!), Guzman Character Award and Employee Dependent," Plumhoff said.

"We had about 50 high school scholarships which were split up between Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Paonia, Hotchkiss, Delta and non-traditional. We had about 20 (applications) that were MHS specific; three were awarded.

"The application process is managed online, and the students are asked to fill out the application and submit a resume,

letter of recommendation and transcript," she said. "They are asked about their intended major and college plans, school activities, community service/involvement, work experience, demonstrated leadership experience, and educational and career goals. And, they have to respond to an essay question. It's a lot!"

In addition, Plumhoff said that each application is reviewed and scored by three to four people, and the committee members represent all sectors of the community.

"We don't take our responsibility lightly when it comes to scholarships - it's so important for the kids and the community," she said.

DMEA's web site notes that applicants must have a current high school GPA of 3.75 or higher, be a dependent of a DMEA member or be a DMEA member; and be attending a high school or alternative high school within DMEA's service territory.



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## ***DMEA AUTHORIZES AGREEMENT WITH RE-1J SCHOOLS ON CONSTRUCTION TO FACILITATE BROADBAND SERVICES, HARMAN CONTINUES AS ACTING CEO From pg 1***

consent agenda (Membership Report and approval of Minutes from both the March Special meeting and March Regular Board Meeting).

### **Board Committee Items**

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

Harding said, “I’ll turn the first half over to Ken [Watson] to recap the last meeting.

Watson said, “It was a super important meeting to review the audit report. Most notable, our equity is well within covenants. We are on the same trajectory we’ve been on [since] our exit from Tri State. Auditors endorsed our treatment of that. They noted a few deficits. Overall DMEA was trending in 2020 the same as we were in 2019. There is some area for improvement and we can have staff address their findings. We came through the audit with flying colors. Policy 113 was reviewed.” Review of board policy (BP) 113, 206, 308, 108 and 201 included updates to a new style of formatting.

Policies on bad debt were reviewed which included a car hitting a pole (\$10,000); excavation problem (\$38,000 in damages); and a 2016 spike with bad debt associated with Arch Coal.

The board inquired about the bad debt associated with the Elk Mine. Chief Financial Officer Wade Pynes said, “We off-set capital credits toward bad debt. It can be off-set only against their own debt.” The audit was unanimously approved as presented.

Harding said, “We spent a fair amount of time on BP 206 (Internal Controls Policy).” Approved unanimously as presented.

The New Policy 308 (Code of Ethics) was approved unanimously as presented.

Updates to Policy 108, 201 revisions were accepted and approved unanimously.

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

Hauck said, “No report.”

**Member Relations – Energy Services Committee** – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, “We did not meet in April. We will have a noon meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and we’ll probably talk about changes in

our scholarship program and the annual meeting.”

**Executive Committee** – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, “I do not have a report. We will leave anything to the legal report in executive session.”

**Safety and Occupational Health Report** – Kathy McKie, HR Director.

McKie said, “We had two near misses. One was metal roofing near lines and the other a sub-station mislabeled. There was one accident. An Elevate truck got struck and received a dent when it was pulled out.” In the area of training, classes were held in CPR, fiber, and forklift. McKie continued. “We hired six arborists, scanned records and had a fire drill.”

**Financial Report with Variance Report** – Wade Pynes, CFO.

Pynes said, “March was another strong month. Large loads have diminished...we keep an eye on co-ops in Colorado who have had a rate increase.” Pynes spoke about debt service coverage, DMEA equity compared to other co-ops, and controllable expenses. He said, “S & P has downgraded Tri State to triple B; DMEA has an A rating.”

Stacia Cannon said, “Cash flow dropped this month. A \$2.6 million drop on the Statement of Cash Flow. A bit of a change.”

Pynes did not immediately find the document Cannon was referring to on his laptop. He said, “I’ll look it up as the meeting progresses. We can move on [with the meeting].”

However, during the remainder of the meeting Pynes did not return to Cannon’s question on cash flow. The report was approved unanimously.

**CEO Report** – Virginia Harman, acting CEO.

**Background:** Delta Montrose Electric Association’s (DMEA) Chief Executive Officer Jasen Bronec, who has been with the co-op since 2014, took a leave of absence on Friday, March 12, 2021. It has been confirmed that an external investigation is underway; however, the co-op and the board’s general counsel have declined



*The in-person April 27, 2021 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, which was held in the large community room, began with the Pledge of Allegiance. It is anticipated that meetings will return to the boardroom in May. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

further comment on the investigation.

Due to CEO Jasen Bronec’s leave of absence, COO Virginia Harman is acting CEO.

Harman said, “You have my written report. Note a few differences, it’s confidential and deferred to executive session. With EV [Electric Vehicle] charging stations, Tesla and our Charge Point, Tesla is doing a little more.” No data was given on either charge station.

She continued, “FERC [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] and Trust are confidential. My actions as far as Economic Development are Region 10 and [using] broadband to attract people to move to the area. We can partner with them, but there is not a specific request yet. Developer Matt Miles has a lot of different subdivisions and we are working with him. There has been a lot of growth in the area.”

Harman reported on legislative issues, in particular meeting with Colorado Senators Chris Hanson and Don Coram at the League of Women Voters on [Senate Bill] SB 72. On the Federal legislation level, the talk is about broadband.

Approximately 15 years ago the Read warehouse was closed, but a new Read warehouse has been built and is now stocked.

Harman said, “Event requests are starting to come in where DMEA and Elevate can

*Continued next pg*

## ***DMEA AUTHORIZES AGREEMENT WITH RE-1J SCHOOLS ON CONSTRUCTION TO FACILITATE BROADBAND SERVICES, HARMAN CONTINUES AS ACTING CEO From previous pg***

participate.”

### **March 2021 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.**

Harman said, “It is going well. No major event day for March. Coming up on next month’s report will be the Bullock Plant outage.”

**Human Resources** - Kathy McKie, HR Director.

Although not on the agenda, McKie was called upon to give a report.

McKie said, “Records update is given each month. We are scanning documents into the records management program. Safety is updated with safety data sheets. There is research in easements for the North Mesa Project. We brought everyone back to the office the first of the month [COVID restrictions lifted]. We learned with the phone load there is a higher answer rate when they [Customer Service Reps] are home. We are rotating a lot of phone traffic and we’ll evaluate the high productivity rate.”

### **Legal Report (Non-Privileged Legal Report)** - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, “I’ll reserve my report for executive session.”

### **Representative Board Reports**

#### **WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association)** – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, “Our meeting is Thursday. We did give a 10 percent raise to the CEO. There was a 20 percent raise in October, but it is still below average.”

Damon Lockhart provided background. He said, “There was an agreement on how to phase this in when we brought him on.”

Fleming said, “They are making more money than they have ever made. Going great guns.”

Harman reminded the board of the plan to do an overview on DMEA’s relationship with WUES and to look at their contract in May. She said, “We are pushing that off until June.”

#### **CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association)** – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, “Legislative is the big piece with CREA. On SB 200 we’ve been asked by others to write a letter of support. It’s a very controversial subject. Greenhouse

gases roadmap stuff is an accelerated piece. Something that gives heartburn to a lot of co-ops. It speeds up the timeline that could have an impact on co-ops. CREA is opposing it. I abstained from voting. There is a lot of opposition and a lot of support. We are going to continue to monitor it. This is probably the most heated bill right now.”

Harman discussed other bills - SB 72 (RTO’s); SB 103; SB 200 (greenhouse reduction more aggressive than the governor’s proposal); HB 1131 (co-op governance); HB 1290 (Just Transitions, coal mining closings); and HB 1095 (call before you dig).

### **Informational item: Other Business**

#### **Review Director Education** – Amy Taylor, Executive Assistant.

Taylor reminded the board of classes, both online and in-person, that are available to the board.

#### **Review Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund Balance**

Harman said, “Our outreach has been set. Scholarships are \$52,000 and will be on next month’s report. We anticipate requests for funds.”

Martinez said, “For two or three years we’ve given to the Boys and Girls Club. We’ll add to the Business Grants [new program].”

### **Other Business**

A Retirement Resolution for Dennis Cramer, a 10-year DMEA employee who will retire in April, was approved unanimously.

**The next regular board meeting, which will be on May 25.** Staff noted that in order for the board to have time to review the Business Grant Applications, the May meeting will begin at 2 p.m., rather than the normal 3 p.m.

### **Member Comments:**

#### **Redlands Mesa resident John Anderson addressed the DMEA Board.**

Anderson said, “I have a very earnest relationship with the Lord and I felt I need to come here. I appreciate all of you. My concern is how much do we consider truth when we decide to do something. Precepts seem to be reality, but that is not

true.”

Anderson referenced the carbon footprint, being told that CO2 is destroying the planet, and that CO2 has been much higher in the past. He said, “What I’m talking about is I believe science, not CNN science. I’m all for building a better mousetrap. Frankly my personal opinion is we ought to be looking at nuclear [power]. Look at the evidence, the truth, the facts.”

Noting that he keeps abreast of DMEA decisions by reading reports and the newsletter, Anderson said, “I know we’re talking a lot about green energy. This will come back to bite the US. I’m worried about five grandkids. I’m asking you guys to consider if all this stuff is true and if it’s not true, we are going off the cliff with wind and solar. It’s just not smart. Just because Bill Gates can control what we hear doesn’t mean it’s true.”

### **Executive Session**

-Privileged Legal Report

-Power Supply Update

-Discuss Agreement with the Montrose County School District RE-1J re: Construction to Facilitate Broadband Services

-Internal Investigation Update

-2021 Audit Engagement

### **Executive Summary**

In a follow-up email about the Executive Session items and actions Executive Assistant Amy Taylor said, “President Patterson excused himself from the portion of executive session addressing the internal investigation. At 6:56 p.m., upon motion from Director Hauck, seconded by Director Watson, the board unanimously exited executive session.

Upon motion from Director Hauck, seconded by Director Lockhart, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Montrose County School District RE-1J regarding construction to facilitate broadband services. The board meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.”

**Note:** The ongoing investigation concerning CEO Jasen Bronec has been referred to as an “external, independent investigation”; however, most recently is referred to as an “internal investigation.” Details on



## ***DMEA AUTHORIZES AGREEMENT WITH RE-1J SCHOOLS ON CONSTRUCTION TO FACILITATE BROADBAND SERVICES, HARMAN CONTINUES AS ACTING CEO From previous pg***

the investigation have not been released to the co-op membership or to the public.

During Executive Sessions on both March 23 and April 27, Board President Bill Patterson excused himself from the Executive Session and did not participate in discussions on the investigation.

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, [bpatterson@montrose.net](mailto:bpatterson@montrose.net)

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, [kyle@touchofcarepcp.com](mailto:kyle@touchofcarepcp.com)

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, [bharding@firstcoloradobank.com](mailto:bharding@firstcoloradobank.com)

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [kennethrwatson@gmail.com](mailto:kennethrwatson@gmail.com)

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, [ich@haucks.cc](mailto:ich@haucks.cc)

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)

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

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Michelle Martinez  
[michelle@skytan.org](mailto:michelle@skytan.org)



Tami Distel  
[tami@skytan.org](mailto:tami@skytan.org)



Lisa Martinez  
[lmartinez@familywealth.us](mailto:lmartinez@familywealth.us)



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT LAUNCHES MASTER PLAN EFFORT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Recreation District is launching its new comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Planning process to give guidance on how to meet the demands for future recreation, programming, environmental, and maintenance needs, as well as to establish priorities for facility improvements, future park development, and land acquisitions. Montrose Recreation District residents are invited to join in the process, as the District seeks feedback from all ages in our community about Montrose parks and how residents would like to recreate in the future.

"Diverse and vibrant parks, trails, special events, and recreation offerings are essential parts of our thriving community to provide healthier lifestyles and connected community members," said Recreation District Board Vice-President Christina Files. "Montrose has become an increasingly attractive place for people to live, work and recreate. This Master Plan will give us the opportunity to create a shared vision for the benefit of us all."

The District has hired PROS Consulting, INC. a leader in parks and recreation con-

sulting nationwide and their Principal, Neelay Bhatt will be leading this project along with a team from Colorado-based Logan Simpson Landscape Architecture and ETC Institute from Kansas City. Bhatt states, "The Montrose Recreation District provides a richness of outdoor and indoor recreation opportunities for a growing number of people. This Strategic Master plan is a roadmap for the District's future and we will strive to engage the community in the most inclusive and innovative manner possible to ensure the community's values can shape the District's future."

To start, the District will conduct two virtual public input meetings to gather feedback from residents. These meetings will be open to the public and seek to engage the Montrose community while obtaining their input through live polling, Q&A, and public comments. The first two virtual meetings are: Wednesday, May 12 from 6-7pm, and Tuesday, May 18 from 6-7pm.

"We will introduce our community to the Strategic Master Plan during these meetings, and our online and in-person input gathering can provide the most excellent launch to the process. We look forward to Montrose community mem-

bers participating; it is YOUR Montrose, and we want your help to guide our efforts to improve the plan for the future of our parks and recreation services!" says Executive Director Mari Steinbach.

The consulting team has also developed an ADA-accessible, multilingual crowdsourcing website to guide this project at [www.MakeMyMontrose.com](http://www.MakeMyMontrose.com). "This site will serve as the one-stop shop to provide all plan updates, list meeting dates, host online surveys and provide the community opportunities to continue sharing their feedback throughout the planning process. Additionally, those who are unable to attend the virtual public meetings can also view the recordings of the meetings and share their feedback later," said Bhatt. Meetings with key City leaders and user groups will also take place along with the virtual public meetings, which will be followed by a statistically-valid survey mailed to a random sample of Montrose residents. Other in-person and intercept surveys and activities will occur throughout the summer. Registration for the Virtual Public Meetings and more project details are available at [www.MakeMyMontrose.com](http://www.MakeMyMontrose.com).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MARY E. CAMPING AREA TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SERVICES & FACILITIES

*Special to the Mirror*

NORWOOD- The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood Ranger District will begin changing its camping management strategy in the Mary E. camping area by shifting to a fee-based campground beginning June 25. The Mary E. camping area is located approximately 7 miles west of Telluride, Colorado. In recent years the rising popularity of dispersed camping and the increased visitation in the Telluride area has led to a marked increase in undesirable impacts. "Our goal is to maximize recreation opportunities while minimizing unwanted impacts moving us to a sustainable path going forward," said Norwood District Ranger, Megan Eno.

Facility and service improvements will include an road upgrades, toilet and trash services, fire rings, a campground host on-site, improvements to existing campsites (i.e., hardening/leveling parking areas, constructing tent pads, etc.), additional campsites, a campsite fee of \$14-\$15 per night, a day-use parking area and a day-use picnic area. The camping area will be managed by Recreation Resource Management of America.

Additionally, all dogs would be required to be on leash, quiet hours would be set from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and the maximum stay limit would be seven days in a 30-day period.

Visitors should expect to see implementation of the facility improvements June and July 2021.

With these changes, visitors need to plan for reduced capacity as sites fill up quickly. Visitors should also be prepared with a backup plan if their first choice is unavailable.

For further information, contact Norwood Ranger District Office at (970) 327-4261.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# BLUE MESA RESERVOIR LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 31

*Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament at Blue Mesa Reservoir is in full swing and anglers have plenty of time to fish for \$10,000 in prize money. The reservoir is located near Gunnison in western Colorado.

The tournament, sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, is free and no registration is required. The tournament continues through July 31 and everyone who participates has a chance to win cash prizes. The goal of the tournament is to maintain adequate kokanee fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout; and, in turn, to maintain quality kokanee fishing opportunities. Abundant kokanee are also the key to maintaining excellent lake trout growth and condition to support trophy lake trout opportunities at the reservoir.

The tournament started Feb. 1 and so far about 50 anglers have participated and about 900 lake trout heads have been turned in. One tagged fish has been caught in 2021 and the lucky angler will receive \$250. There are about 20 more tagged fish in the reservoir.

“Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to be our partners in helping to manage the renowned Blue Mesa Reservoir fishery,” said Dan Brauch, aquatic biologist for CPW in Gunnison. “We know we can have an excellent kokanee fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery, but we need to continue our work for both species and we need the help of Colorado’s anglers.”

Anglers are asked to harvest smaller lake trout; only heads from lake trout that are under 24 inches in length accepted in the tournament. Last year the 339 anglers who participated caught 4,055 of the target-sized lake trout.

Here’s how the tournament works: Anglers who catch and keep lake trout 24 inches or smaller will remove the heads

and place them in a plastic bag provided at one of three boat ramps at the reservoir: Iola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork. Heads can also be turned in at CPW’s offices in Gunnison (300 W. New York Ave.) or Montrose (2300 S. Townsend Ave., U.S. Highway 550).

Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories at the conclusion of the tournament:

- 1) Anglers catching the most fish: 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$500; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$250.
- 2) Anglers will be entered in a raffle for every lake trout head turned in. A total of 20 winners will be selected and each will receive \$200.
- 3) CPW has tagged about 20 fish in the reservoir but anglers won’t know if they’ve caught one. CPW will scan the heads later to check for tags; those who caught tagged fish will receive \$250 for each.

Winning anglers will be contacted in early August.

Unchecked lake-trout population growth caused significant declines in kokanee abundance in previous decades, Brauch said. Recently, the number of predatory lake trout has been reduced and kokanee abundance has improved. CPW research shows that smaller lake trout, those 24 inches and smaller, consume the most kokanee. Consequently, the tournament is focused on removing those fish.

“We appreciate angler participation in maintaining balance in the Blue Mesa fishery,” Brauch said. “Working together, we will continue to provide quality opportunities for both kokanee and trophy lake



*The lake trout tournament at Blue Mesa Reservoir continues through July 31 at Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison. CPW courtesy photo.*

trout.”

Maintaining abundant kokanee supports quality-fishing opportunities for kokanee and provides a source of kokanee eggs for restocking needs at up to 25 waters in Colorado. Abundant kokanee are also essential for maintaining continued growth of trophy lake trout at Blue Mesa Reservoir. For more information about fishing at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including how to catch lake trout, research studies and management planning go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BlueMesaReservoirFisheryManagement.aspx>.

You may also call the Gunnison CPW office at: 970-641-7060.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# FIRE MITIGATION, RELIABILITY PROJECTS TO BE BOLSTERED BY WHOLESALE POWER RATE DECREASE

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY—According to Colorado's 2021 Wildfire Outlook and Preparedness Plan, produced by Governor Polis and Colorado state fire agencies, the summer of 2021 is expected to be one of the most devastating drought seasons yet recorded. "This threat poses operational and financial risks," said Bill Mertz, Chief Financial Officer for San Miguel Power Association (SMPA). "I can't imagine better timing for the wholesale rate decrease, that we helped influence, at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rate review of wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State). Simply said, we need this to help with fire mitigation measures now and in the future."

SMPA is one of six other Tri-State member cooperatives that intervened in the "stated rate" case regarding Tri-State's filing of their wholesale electric rates. "Our voice was heard, respected and considered. We worked hard, and now the settlement has a proposed rate reduction of 4 percent," said Mertz.

Under the terms of the settlement, which is still pending FERC approval, Tri-State will immediately reduce its wholesale power rates by two percent, then follow with another two percent wholesale rate reduction in 2022. After that, Tri-State will switch to a FERC-regulated "Formulaic Rate" which will also be subject to review.

The settlement is good news for SMPA consumers, but it will not likely result in a retail rate reduction. Instead, the savings will be used to defray costs of a number of growing needs, the most urgent of which

is fire mitigation.

"Since 2016, our state has seen four of the five largest fires in recorded history," said Duane Oliver, Operations Manager for SMPA. "Lack of moisture, above-average temperatures, an increase in public visitation, and an abundance of tinder-dry vegetation are all contributing to these predictions." As caretaker of the local electric distribution grid, which crisscrosses the threatened areas, SMPA must make equipment adjustments and upgrades in order to double down on fire prevention and mitigation.

This challenge is made even tougher by the unprecedented rise in material costs that has followed the global pandemic. "Anyone paying attention to the price of lumber will tell you they've never seen increases like this," said Mike Therriault, SMPA Engineering Supervisor. Last year, material production came to a halt as lumber mills and manufacturing plants closed their doors. Then, demand went through the roof as quarantined consumers started construction projects at an unprecedented rate.

The result was a lumber price increase of over 230 percent. Last year, we could get a sheet of plywood for \$18," said Therriault. "Today, that same sheet costs over \$80." Other electrical supply materials and equipment are experiencing similar price increases. Distributors of steel, aluminum, copper, molded products, fiberglass and fittings are all raising prices and imposing surcharges for fuels and logistics. "Protecting our forests is vital," said Therriault, "...but it won't be cheap."

Another channel for wholesale power

savings will be the various reliability projects that SMPA has taken on in order to "harden" the electric grid and lessen the number and impact of power outages.

"Our next four-year work plan calls for the replacement of aging equipment and the installation of new protective equipment," said SMPA Engineering Manager, Jeremy Fox. In addition to the recent Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability project, and the ongoing Nucla / Naturita Reliability project, SMPA is preparing to undertake its largest infrastructure improvement project in its 82-year history. The Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project will see the re-construction the 16.2 mile-long 46kV transmission line that spans the notoriously rugged Red Mountain Pass and serves as a redundant power feed to the communities of Ouray County.

These projects, while unquestionably necessary, do not help bring in new revenue, the way that new construction typically does.

"It's a pretty heavy lift for a small cooperative like San Miguel," said Fox. "The wholesale savings from Tri-State will definitely help."

All told, the recent stated-rate settlement with Tri-State under FERC, is good news for the members of San Miguel Power.

Although it won't result in a retail rate decrease, it will help protect against damaging and dangerous forest fires, and it will help improve electric service reliability in a time of extreme weather challenges. As SMPA Operations Manager Oliver put it, "We can use some good news about now."



Just in thyme for spring ...

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### DURANGO WOMAN FOUND DEAD AFTER APPARENT BEAR ATTACK



**CPW wildlife officers and La Plata County Sheriff's deputies investigated the scene Saturday morning, Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TRIMBLE— A 39-year-old woman was found dead Friday night off U.S. Highway 550 near Trimble, north of Durango, after what Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officials believe was a bear attack.

An autopsy on the woman will be performed by the La Plata County coroner early next week. The coroner's office will identify the remains and determine the official cause of death.

The woman, a Durango resident, was believed to have gone walking with her two dogs earlier Friday, according to information provided to the La Plata County Sheriff's office by her boyfriend. The victim had last communicated with her boyfriend late in the morning.

The boyfriend, whose name has not been released, told the sheriff's office he returned home around 8:30 p.m. and discovered the two dogs outside of their home, but the woman was missing. He started searching for her and discovered her body around 9:30 p.m. He then called 911 to report the incident.

CPW wildlife officers responded and observed signs of consumption on the body and an abundance of bear scat and hair at the scene.

La Plata County Sheriff's deputies assisted in the investigation. CPW called in a dog

team from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to search the area.

The dog team quickly found a sow (female) black bear with two yearlings nearby. The bears were euthanized and are being taken to CPW's Wildlife Health Lab in Fort Collins for a necropsy. DNA evidence from the bears and the scene will be sent to Laramie for testing at the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic & Fish Health Laboratory.

"Bear attacks are extremely rare," said Cory Chick, CPW Southwest Region manager. "This is a tragic event and a sad reminder that bears are wild and potentially dangerous. Out of an abundance of caution, the bears were removed for public safety. We ask the public to report any encounter with an aggressive bear to CPW."

Chick asked the public to avoid the area as the CPW investigation with La Plata County continues. Wildlife officers worked throughout the night and into the morning to process the scene, looking for evidence to corroborate it was a wildlife attack.

An examination of the sow's teeth led wildlife officers to believe she over 10 years old.

CPW has received a few reports from the Durango area of bears becoming active this spring. The majority of these have been sighting reports. On April 19, a resident along the Animas River and La Plata County Road 250 captured a single bear on his game camera and reported that the bear tore down his bird feeder. On March 23, CPW received a report of a bear getting into trash east of Durango off Florida Road.

Bears are active statewide and it is important to be Bear Aware. To learn more

about how to be safe in bear country, visit the CPW website.

#### FATAL BEAR ATTACKS IN COLORADO

July 25, 1971: A honeymooning couple was attacked while tent camping near Grand Lake in Grand County. A large older bear entered the tent, injured the woman and pulled the 31-year-old man away from the campsite. The man was killed. The bear was later found and destroyed. Further examination of the black bear found that it had worn, abscessed teeth and a plastic bucket in its stomach.

Aug. 10, 1993: A 24-year-old Buena Vista man was attacked and killed after a male bear broke into a camper 20 miles north of Cotopaxi in Fremont County, presumably in a search for food. The camper tried to stop the attack by shooting at the bear, but it only injured the animal. The bear was injured by a bullet that grazed its rib cage, possibly increasing the intensity of the attack. A 250-pound, very aggressive male black bear with a fresh bullet wound to the rib cage was trapped and destroyed six days later. A necropsy on the bear revealed human remains in its digestive system.

Aug. 7, 2009: A 74-year-old woman was killed and partially eaten by a bear or bears at her home near Ouray, in Ouray County. As sheriff's deputies were investigating the scene, they were approached by a 250-pound, 5-year-old male black bear that exhibited aggressive behavior. Deputies shot and killed the bear after it approached them and showed no fear of people.

Results of the necropsy on that bear were inconclusive as to whether it was involved in the original incident.

Early the next morning, federal wildlife officers killed a 394-pound, mature male black bear that approached the home and exhibited aggressive behavior. A necropsy on the large older boar revealed human remains and remnants of clothing in its digestive system. A CPW investigation determined the victim illegally fed bears through a fence in her yard.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO-SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES AND MORE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Springtime is a beautiful time of year to get outdoors and visit the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests. The warm weather and melting snow are making travel routes more accessible. The GMUG encourages visitors to "Know Before You Go" and learn about the travel conditions and numerous opportunities available for exploration.

"Before you head out, know where you are going. Spring is a good time to remember we all have a responsibility to make conservation minded decisions when venturing out onto the Forest," said Chad Stewart, GMUG Forest Supervisor. "With warm weather setting in, people are excited to get outdoors to enjoy their public lands, but it is important to respect seasonal closures. Seasonal closures are in effect to protect road and trail surfaces as well as provide a seasonal refuge for wildlife."

It is important to understand the importance of observing seasonal closures. Critical wildlife areas have been designated as essential to the survival of wildlife. When people access closed areas, they cause animals using the area to become stressed or flee to new locations. This retreat requires animals to use energy they cannot spare. Further, it usually places them in areas less suitable for grazing and/or browsing, which can prevent them from gathering the energy they need to survive.

Until conditions are suitable for motorized travel, the Forest may have some temporary seasonal closures to prevent ruts and damage to roads and trails. The appearance of a wet road during the spring months can be deceiving to the eye. For roads that are open year-round, driving on soft road surfaces or where rutting has been observed should be avoided until drier conditions prevail. As the snow melts, runoff naturally chooses

the path of least resistance, which is typically the ditch line on either side of Forest Service roads. When there is still snow in the ditches, the water tends to flow down the road instead. Forest Service roads are designed to handle the additional moisture during this time, although the water saturating into the roadway causes soft roadbeds. Ongoing damage to roads can lead to a variety of negative outcomes

including erosion, wildlife habitat damage and a loss of access due to travel becoming too hazardous or rehabilitation closures. Protecting the road until it is dry enough to prevent damage is a primary reason for gate closures during April and May. During these closures we monitor the roadway regularly to ensure the gates are closed for the minimum amount of time needed.

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## MAY 3 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PETITIONS FOR UPCOMING DMEA ELECTION

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The election for the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors is rapidly approaching. Nomination petitions are available online for members interested in running for seats on the board, and the deadline to return nomination submissions is Monday, May 3.

Each year during the annual meeting, co-op members vote for individuals to serve on the board. This year seats in District 1, currently held by Bill Patterson; District 2, currently held by Kyle Martinez; and District 5, currently held by Chris Hauck, are up for election.

Ballots will be mailed to DMEA members on May 25 and mail-in ballots have a return deadline date of June 11. The DMEA Annual Meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on June 17.

On March 12, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec took a leave of absence; an independent investigation into his activities is now underway. In the interim, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Virginia Harman was appointed acting CEO.

Although ballots will be mailed to voters in less than a month, the current board, staff, and general counsel have not released information to co-op members on the status of the ongoing external, independent investigation. There is no information as to who is investigating, when the investigation will be complete, or if



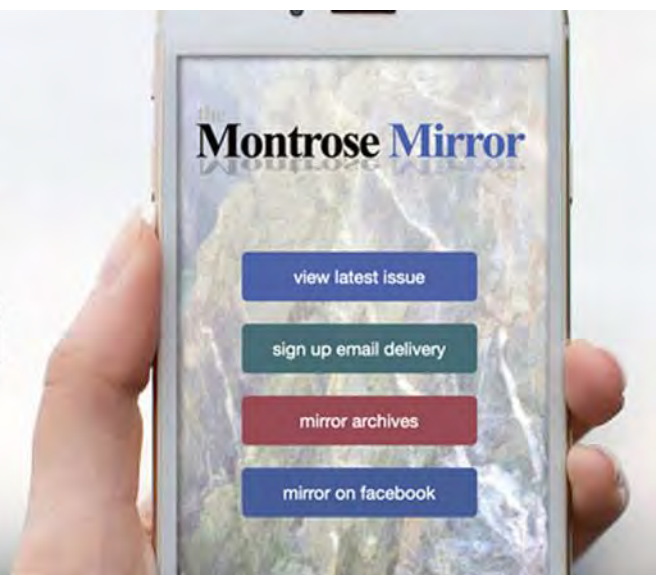
**Current Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors. (Front row - L to R) President Bill Patterson, Ken Watson, Brad Harding and Vice President Kyle Martinez. (Back row - L to R) Stacia Cannon, Damon Lockhart, Chris Hauck, Enno Heuscher and Jock Fleming. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

the investigation reaches into staff or the Board of Directors. Montrose Chief of Police Blaine Hall and Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard have both confirmed their organizations have not been asked to investigate.

During the April 27 regular DMEA Board of Directors meeting, agenda item "D.

Internal Investigation Update" was listed under the Executive Session agenda. Neither the public nor the media are privy to discussions held in Executive Session. However, co-op members need to know the scope and results of the investigation because it could impact how members vote in the election.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THE MAGIC AND MIRRORS OF GOVERNMENTAL BUDGETING

*Editor:*

I watched the President on TV last week. He is no exception at this, just a lot worse than most. He wants to raise taxes---but only on the rich. It is magic and mirrors especially for Americans few of whom understand percentages. So let us all review.

When the percentage (rate) of taxation is raised, the tax goes up.

When the amount on which the percentage (rate) applies goes up, so does the tax.

When you tax a businessman more, he just raises the price on his products.

When the value of your house goes up, so do your real estate taxes.

When real estate value goes up, so does your rent or your mortgage payment.

When you are taxed on groceries the price of eating goes up.

When your local government gives a business a tax break, your taxes go up to cover the 'gift'.

The question is, why do taxes always have to go up? Or in the case of the President's proposition that he tax the rich more and the poor less?

So let's take all the taxes off of the poor---completely lift the burden and put it all on Warren Buffet and his buddies. Who will pay for government? Well the rich will, of course. But where do they get their money from so that they can become rich? From those who buy their products and services, that is who. WHO DO YOU THINK THAT THOSE FOLKS ARE? They are you, that's who!

Taxes always go up naturally. Every time the price of a product or service increases the amount taken by the tax rate (a percentage) increases also. That is called inflation. So the government's 'take' goes up by the amount of inflation just naturally and AUTOMATICALLY! So a tax increase is an increase on an increase.

And to raise taxes is to take more on top of all of that! Where does it all stop and leave something for the taxpayer, the guy who really pays it all?

This is the MAGIC AND MIRRORS function of government taxation. Why don't we demand that the government get along on the taxes they already take plus the inflation that they automatically get and NOT INCREASE TAXES OR TAX RATES at all. Fair enough?

Every one of our elected officials must be able to answer the one question when raising taxes, "Why". And the answer is not because costs went up because that is taken care of by inflation. The inflation of the taxed property and the economy's inflation. It is because they add new programs, foster inefficiency and the refusal of these bureaucrats to manage what they have.

It's kinda like you do with your household budget "to make ends meet." Naw, it's easier for them just to raise taxes, and that is what they do. Is that not what you do?

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# CPW FINDS HUMAN REMAINS IN STOMACHS OF BEARS CAUGHT NEAR WOMAN'S BODY IN DURANGO

*Special to the Mirror*

FORT COLLINS— A Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) pathologist found human remains inside the stomachs of a sow and her yearling bear that CPW wildlife officers suspect of killing and eating a 39-year-old woman Friday north of Durango.

CPW's wildlife pathologist found the remains in the digestive systems of the black bears Saturday night as she conducted necropsies of three bears at a CPW health lab in Fort Collins. A necropsy is a scientific dissection and examination of an animal, similar to an autopsy of a human.

No human remains were found in the stomach of a second yearling euthanized with the other two.

The La Plata County coroner's office is expected to conduct an autopsy on the deceased woman Tuesday. The coroner will determine the official cause of death and identify the remains.

The three bears were discovered near the woman's mauled body after a search by CPW wildlife officers, which included a team of U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services trained tracking dogs.

CPW wildlife officers called in the dog team after the woman's body was found off U.S. Highway 550 in Trimble, north of Durango. Wildlife officers suspected a bear attack based on the trauma and obvious signs of consumption on the body and an abundance of bear scat and hair at the scene.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the boyfriend, family and friends of the woman we lost in this tragic event," said Cory Chick, CPW Southwest Region manager. "We cannot determine with exact certainty how or why this attack took place, but it is important for the public not to cast blame on this woman for the unfortunate and tragic event.

"There are inherent risks anyone takes when venturing outdoors. That could be from wildlife, the landscape, weather events or other circumstances one cannot

plan for."

Besides finding human remains in two of the bears, CPW's wildlife pathologist said she found nothing abnormal in the bears. All three appeared to be healthy. The sow (adult female) bear weighed 204 pounds while the yearlings weighed 58 and 66 pounds, respectively.

All three bears were in good body condition with adequate fat stores appropriate for the season (black bears typically lose between 20-27 percent of their body fat during hibernation).

Initial findings on the bears did not reveal any signs of disease or other abnormalities, but further histopathology and rabies testing will take up to two weeks to complete.

The La Plata County Sheriff's office alerted CPW on Friday evening of the woman's death because CPW is responsible for conserving and managing the wildlife in Colorado. Wildlife officers worked throughout the night and morning to locate the bears and to document all evidence on the victim and at the scene. The bears were euthanized in accordance with established CPW directives. Human health and safety is the agency's highest priority.

"Whenever an animal is euthanized, we receive many questions about why that action was necessary," said CPW Director Dan Prenzl. "Our responsibilities to the natural resources of the state are many, but we have no more important duty than to manage these resources in a manner that keeps Coloradans and our visitors safe. Euthanizing wildlife is never an action our officers take lightly, but we have an obligation to prevent additional avoidable harm."

Chick said it was very likely the bears would attack humans again.

"Once a bear injures or consumes humans, we will not risk the chance that this could happen to someone else," Chick said. "We humanely euthanize that bear because of the severity of the incident.

"Bears will return to a food source over and over. A bear that loses its fear of humans is a dangerous animal. And this sow was teaching its yearlings that humans were a source of food, not something to fear and avoid."

Chick said the potential for danger is why CPW strongly urges the public to be "Bear Aware" when in bear country. Bear Aware principles stress securing all trash, removing attractants from yards such as bird feeders and pet food. It includes removing food from vehicles. Keeping garage doors closed to deny bears access to your homes and food items stored inside. It includes securing chicken coops and livestock.

Colorado has strong and sustainable bear populations, estimated to be between 17,000-20,000 black bears, and growing in many areas across the state. Over the last two years, CPW received 10,312 reports of bear sightings and conflicts statewide. Of those, 3,389 involved garbage, a major attractant and source of bear conflicts.

Another 879 bear conflict reports involved bears forcefully breaking into homes, dwellings or garages. That is a result of a bear's behavior dangerously escalating due to people's inability or unwillingness to secure food attractants, and ultimately leads to the unnecessary death of bears.

"Residents and visitors of bear habitat in Colorado need to be educated and informed to use the very best techniques and behaviors to minimize any bear access to human food sources," Chick said. "Food-conditioned bears, or habituated bears, looking for an easy handout such as your backyard bird feeder, can develop aggressive and dangerous behavior. For these bears, humans become an inconvenience when we are in the way of the food the bear is seeking. They are no longer fearful, and this is behavior we cannot allow." To learn more about living in bear country and how to avoid conflicts with wildlife, visit [CPW website](https://cpw.state.co.us).



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CONGRATULATIONS K9 JOCKO & DEPUTY SAVAGE



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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL IMPSON

March 30, 1978 – April 10, 2021

Christopher was born to Don and Ronda Impson, March 30, 1978 in Montrose, Colorado, the oldest of four children.

He was a fabrication welder and painter.

Chris grew up in Placerville, Paradox and Montrose, Colorado. He also lived in Bedieis, Roans Prairie, and Gun Barrel, Texas. Chris was an avid skateboarder he enjoyed snowboarding and archery.

He was instrumental in getting the skate park here in Montrose. He, his dad and a few friends held skate competitions, fundraisers & even were able to get Colorado Lottery funds to be matched by the City of Montrose, to fund the skate park.

Chris is survived, by a daughter Alyssa Rose Weatherford of Delta, his father Donald W Impson, mother Ronda Impson (Stout) of Montrose. Two sisters Summer Dawn Impson, of Austin, Texas, Amber Lunn Impson of Mabank, Texas, and one brother Donald R. Impson, of Montrose.

He is preceded in death by both sets of grandparents, Barbara and Clinton (Shorty) Impson, of Placerville, Robert and Deloris Stout of Naturita.

A Celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm, at River Bottom Park. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family.



*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### WILLIAM PRESCOTT (SCOTT) ALLEN III

*August 29, 1949- April 12, 2021*

WILLIAM PRESCOTT (SCOTT) ALLEN III, a lifetime Montrose resident, passed away Monday, April 12, 2021 at his daughter's home surrounded by family, nine years to the day after the love of his life. Scott was born in Montrose, CO on August 29, 1949 to William Prescott Jr and Grace Hanna (Dixon) Allen.

Scott had a memorable childhood growing up in Montrose. He had an adventurous spirit with a great sense of humor. He spent his time in tree houses, Cub Scouts, wrestling, flying remote control airplanes, participating in many different clubs, and riding motorcycles on Flat Top. Scott and many of his lifetime friends were known to be pranksters and sometimes firecrackers would be the topic of their conversations.

Upon graduation from Montrose High School in 1967, Scott attended Ft. Lewis college where he majored in Dentistry, and always joked that he "skied his way out of it." Following Ft. Lewis, Scott attended Mesa Junior college where he received his AA. Scott was then accepted into CU with a major in journalism-business. During his time at CU, he enlisted in the army and was stationed in Germany, where his occupation was Electronic Nuclear Weapons Specialist, in which he held the Crew Chief position. After being honorably discharged from the army, Scott returned to CU where he graduated in 1974 with a degree in journalism-business.

In 1974 Scott began his career working at the *Montrose Daily Press*. He held positions as circulation director, reporter, editing support, running the presses, photography, and assisted in the programming of the computer systems. Scott became the 3rd generation publisher of his family, and the 4th publisher of the *Montrose Daily Press*. Scott was a very active member in the community.

He was a lifetime Elks member, and served on dozens of committees, and spearheaded many community projects and area economic issues. Scott's credo was "pull all the strings you can and give the credit to someone else."

Scott met the love of his life, Carol, in 1975 and were married December 1, 1976. He felt blessed to become a Dad to the three children from a previous marriage. Scott and Carol later welcomed two additional children to their family. Together they all loved taking long distance road trips in the six-pack cab over camper and camping in the Cimarrons.

After becoming the publisher in 1986, Scott and Carol purchased what became known as Papa and Mama's cabin. Where winters were spent riding snowmobiles together, and later where Papa taught the grandkids how to shoot and drive the jeep "Willie".

Upon selling the *Daily Press* and retiring in 1997, Scott and Carol purchased a 5th wheel and began traveling together along with their dog Emma. Their favorite places to spend time were Moab Utah, Oregon and New Mexico. After discovering retirement was not for him, Scott started driving for Hertz and Mountain Limo which he loved, because he was known for loving his drives. He later was employed for 11 years at Safeway where he recently retired.

Those who knew Scott, knew of him by his generosity, kindnesses, thoughtfulness, his wittiness and his amazingly wonderful great big smile!

Scott is survived by his daughters, Lori (Rich) Webb, Michelle (Ken) DeJulio, Melissa (Mark) Perpar, all of Montrose; son Chad (Janette) Wold of Gilbert AZ;



Brad (Jackie) Rice of Montrose ;sister, Sandra Keller disposition unknown; grandsons, Josh (Yuni) Sandoval, Ryan (Danielle) Webb, Christopher DeJulio, Travis Rice, Jake Perpar, Carter Perpar, all of Montrose, Trevor (Madison) Wold of Mesa AZ., granddaughters, Sarah (Sean) Bowers, Shayla (Jose) Franco, Emily Rice and Caraline Perpar, all from Montrose, Taylor Nobles and Jorden (Michelle) Tinker of Gilbert AZ; great grandchildren, Jaydan, Giovanni, Gabriella Franco, Sofia Webb, Jameson Nobles, and Arilyn Wold. Scott was preceded in death by his wife Carol Allen, daughter Wendi Allen, sister Donna Grace, and parents.

We love you Papa!

Memorial contributions may be made to: Hope West Hospice, 725 S. 4th Street Montrose, CO. 81401. In memory of Scott Allen.



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ISSUE 314 MAY 3

# ART & SOL

## A CENTURY AGO, WHEN RADIUM WAS A GOOD THING

By Bob Cox

REGIONAL-In 1902 Madame Marie Curie and Andre-Louis Debierne were able to isolate radium into a pure metal. The discovery touched off an interest in radium that would seem to some today as being nothing but dangerous.

While the discovery of radium sources resulted in a new rush of sorts to mining, the extraction of radium from the earth required vast sums of investments that very few were inclined to make. World War I changed things.

Not long after the isolation process was made public, William Hammer mixed up a batch of paint that contained radium. Its intended use was the painting of various dials and indicators on scientific and military instruments. Applying the paint to watches, compasses and other aircraft instruments made them glow in the dark.

For a decade following the start of World War I government contracts created factories where hundreds of workers, mostly women, were employed applying Hammer's paint to watches and other surfaces. While those applications were important for the war effort, the interest in radium did not start then, nor go away when the war ended. Montrose County and much of Colorado jumped on a radium bandwagon and exploited the presence of radium within the earth.

In February of 1904 the *Avalanche Echo* in Glenwood Springs reported that radium had been found in the pitchblend deposit around that city and that, 'the famous hot



**The Radium Vapor Health Institute (now the Wiesbaden) in Ouray was owned by Dr. C. V. Bates. It has since changed owners and names several times, but remains a popular attraction. Photo courtesy of the Denver Library Western History digital collection.**

springs are filled with it.' That same article noted that prospectors were descending upon the Grand River and had 'deserted their hunt for gold.'

In the March 4, 1904 edition of the *Plainealer* the publishers documented one of the first indications that radium was likely to be a boon for Colorado, and especially Montrose County. The article read:

*No sooner did radium spring into world-wide prominence as a new wonder in med-*

*icine and the sciences, and the astounding information become known that it was worth several million dollars a pound, than, of course, Colorado found it. Colorado has everything that any other section on earth has, and more of it, and of a better kind, besides having lots of nice things that other sections don't have, such as woman suffrage and a climate wherein the snowball and the wild flower lie down together. Colorado always had radium, lots of radium, but she was not going to*

**Continued next pg**

## WHEN RADIUM WAS A GOOD THING From previous pg

*say much about it until the price got up to two or three millions of dollars a pound, Some place in the north part of state spoke up about it first, and then Montrose county got in line...*

In 1906 a settlement in southwestern Grand County was, at the suggestion of Harry S. Porter, named Radium. Potter could reportedly see the benefits, especially to himself. He owned the Radium Copper Mine nearby and, with the interest in radium being so strong he suggested that naming the settlement Radium would draw people to get off the newly constructed Denver and Salt Lake Railroad and spend some time taking advantage of the health benefits.

In early 1916 commercial prospects for exploiting the presence of radium without actually extracting it from the earth started becoming more common. The theory that radium deep within the earth heated water soon became a selling point for resorts and sanitariums. In the fall of 1916 the Placerville Radium Spring Company contracted with Lathrop Hardware for the installation of plumbing required to supply hot water to a bathhouse and a series of bathtubs. The *Montrose Daily Press* reported on their efforts in the Nov. 24, 1916 edition. It read, in part:

*Pete Louis and A. H. Eggleston, plumbers for the Lathrop Hardware Co., have returned from Placerville where they have concluded the installation of a complete set of plumbing and heating apparatus for the Placerville Radium Spring Company, costing about \$3,000. The plumbing consisted in putting in two hot water heating plants, one for each of the bathhouses and sanitarium. The sanitarium has 20 rooms. Plans are already on foot by this company to erect a sanitarium costing \$45,000 there next season and the radium springs are to be greatly improved and enlarged. The water comes out of the mountainside and a tunnel has now been driven in about 100 feet and water grows warmer as they get in further, it now being lukewarm and they are also going to build artificial cave baths.*

While Madame Curie was getting a lot of attention and at one point even contemplated visiting the radium ore processing

facility in the west end of Montrose County, entrepreneurs were developing the so-called health benefits of radium-heated water. One of the most aggressive was Dr. Charles Gilbert, a well-known Chicago physician who held both medical and law degrees, and was the founder of the Waunita Hot Springs Resort. A headline in the Aug. 29, 1921 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* proclaimed, 'Radium To Cure Ills of World Says Dr. Davis.' The accompanying article read, in part:

*Radium is to rescue humanity from its manifold ills, according to Chas. Gilbert Davis, M. D. LL. D., eminent Chicago physician and surgeon, founder of Waunita Hot Springs resort, who spoke in the Congregational Church Sunday evening on Radium. Altho (sic) civilization has been turned back 5,000 years by alcohol which has caused war and its hideous results, made mankind insane and plunged the world into vice, crime disease and attendant evils, radium will ultimately cure all and bring mankind to the golden Eutopia (sic).*

The article went on: *Dr. Davis said if he were called upon to discard radium or all other instrumentalities used in medicine, he would keep radium and throw all else away. This is a strong statement.*

While Dr. Davis extolled the benefits of radium, his talk to the crowd at the Congregational Church was largely a thinly veiled promotional speech for his development of the Waunita Hot Springs Resort. The resort was, according to most accounts, a big success. An article obtained from the *Gunnison Empire* appeared in the *Elk Mountain Pilot* on May 17, 1923 and revealed that success: **BIG CROWD COMING TO WAUNITA SPRINGS**

*Gunnison Empire. W. O. Redding, of Montrose, was a passenger through town last Saturday en route home from the east. He tells us that on June 30, Dr. Chas. Gilbert Davis will be out with three Pullman car loads of people for Waunita. This time they are coming over the Rock Island road and the excursion is the largest they have ever brought. The fame of Waunita is spreading rapidly now as they get action on the reports of previous visitors and guests. Another doctor, C. V. Bates, was*

also cashing in on the radium phenomenon early in the 20th century. Dr. Bates was the owner and practitioner at the Radium Vapor Institute (now the Wiesbaden) in Ouray. His advertisements proclaimed miraculous cures for a multitude of maladies. Bates also took over ownership of the Ouray hospital in August of 1920. In 1919, the City of Ouray officially changed the name of their hot springs park to Ouray Radium Springs Park. The swimming pool and fishponds, which still exist with a somewhat different look, sported a huge sign displaying the new name.

Newspaper ads that ran in several Colorado newspapers promoted the Hot Springs Hotel and Radium Hot Spring in Idaho Springs. The ad read in part: *Miraculous cures are often affected and immediate relief is almost invariably given to patients suffering from Rheumatisms, LUMBAGO, NEURITIS, SCIATICA, KIDNEY AND STOMACH AILMENTS, and the baths act as a tonic and restorative for tired and worn-out bodies.*

The promotional benefits that Harry S. Porter foresaw in 1906 were very apparent nearly 20 years later when the *Daily Times* in Longmont ran the following article on August 17, 1925:

**MANY VISIT LEFTHAND RADIUM SPRINGS**  
*The development of the new Radium Springs in Left Hand Canon has renewed an interest in the first home of Douglass Fairbanks at Jimtown, where "Doug" was born and raised. New owners who are developing the springs and establishing the new town of Radium ...*

*Water produced from the springs will be bottled and marketed in Denver starting this week. The radium content of the water is said to be the highest in the world.*

As the country slowly began to realize that even good things have a bad side, most of the Radium Hot Springs became known as 'Natural Hot Springs' or 'Hot Mineral Baths,' but, in many cases the locations remained and grew as attractions to those seeking the soothing hot water that bubbles from the earth.

Note: Bob Cox can be contacted at cox-bob@charter.net. He also maintains a YouTube channel, coxnotes.





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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### FISCHER PRIZE FINALIST JULIE E. BLOEMEKE SET TO READ AT MAY 4TH BARDIC TRAILS ZOOM POETRY SERIES

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE ... One of five outstanding finalists for the Fischer Prize in 2020, Julie E. Bloemeke of Georgia will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. Register by May 3rd on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to [telluridelibrary.org/](http://telluridelibrary.org/) events.

A production of the Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Bardic Trails is an a free event open to any who pre-register. Art Goodtimes, co-director of Talking Gourds, said that Bloemeke's poem, "After Rousseau's The Dream," was honored as a finalist by judge Claire Blotter in the 2020 Fischer Prize poetry contest.

Bloemeke's first full-length poetry collection, Slide to Unlock, debuted in 2020. A Bennington Writing Seminars graduate and a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, her poems have been widely anthologized, most recently in Mother Mary Comes to Me: A Popculture Poetry Anthology (2020).

Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals including Gulf Coast, Prairie Schooner, Poet Lore, Cortland Review and others. A freelance writer and editor, her interviews have been featured in AWP Writer's Chronicle and Poetry International. Her essay on poetry and spirituality is forthcoming in EcoTheo Review. Her website is [here](http://here).

Following Bloemeke, there will be a short Question and Answer session with co-hosts, Goodtimes and Rosemerry Wahtola

Trommer.

Future Bardic Trails Our future Bardic Trails dates are June 1 with Melissa Studdard of Texas ("Mountains"), July 6 with Partridge Boswell of Vermont ("Prey"), Aug. 3 with Jane Lunin Perel of Rhode Island ("Sky"), Sept. 7 with Anna Scotti of California ("Fuel"), Oct. 5 with Renee Podunovich of Cortez ("Tree"), Nov. 2 with Debby Brody of New Mexico ("The New"), and Dec. 7 with Al Zolynas of California ("Flesh").

Talking Gourds Poetry Club Meeting

Following Bardic Trails, we'll have our Talking Gourds club member meeting (for Club members and their invitees only). We will end the Bardic Trails Zoom gathering around 7:30 p.m, then start a new Zoom meeting for the Talking Gourds Poetry Club (all current members will receive the link separately by May 4th). The Poetry Club meeting won't officially start until 7:45, leaving time at the start for socializing as we used to do in our live meetings.

Talking Gourds Poetry Club Membership To participate in the private session, one can join the Poetry Club at the Talking Gourds [website](http://website). The membership page will ask them to email Galaxy Dancer notifying us of having paid their Club fees to ensure that they receive the Zoom info in time for the private meeting.



*Julie E. Bloemeke of Georgia will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. Courtesy photo.*

A one-time membership donation of \$25 (or more) places one on our mailing list permanently and makes one current for the calendar year in which the donation was made. Each following calendar year, there's a \$10 renewal fee to remain current – payable by check or online with plastic. For those who like writing prompts, the one for May 4 is "Birds." However, members and guests of members may read a poem or share thoughts on any topic they wish. Club members in good standing receive a monthly PDF copy of the handsome broadsides created by Daiva Chesonis for each featured reader. The PDFs can be printed for free at the Wilkinson. Chesonis will also have copies available for purchase at her Between the Covers Bookstore.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### RIDGWAY FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY ON FRIDAY, MAY 28

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Farmers Market will be opening for the 2021 season on Friday, May 28. Located in beautiful Hartwell Park, the market is held every Friday until Oct. 8 from 10AM - 3PM. The market will feature local fruits, vegetables, flowers, meats, dairy, eggs, and a diverse collection of artisan crafts, bodycare items, and specialty food products.

Market Manager Melissa Newell states that, "This year's market is going to be

larger with more variety than ever before. There will be many familiar favorite vendors present, but also a wide selection of new faces including a mushroom grower, a local tempeh producer, a lavender farm, a kombucha producer, and so much more!"

In addition to the 65 seasonal vendors that will be present, the market will include a rotating list of weekly vendors so there will always be something new and interesting for locals and visitors

alike. Newell adds, "We are a producer-only market meaning that everything sold at our market is hand-crafted or grown by the person selling the product.

Each interaction between the shopper and producer is a unique opportunity to cultivate a relationship and grow community."

To learn more about the market and to see a full list of this season's vendors, please visit:

[www.ridgwayfarmersmarket.com](http://www.ridgwayfarmersmarket.com).

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**Rio Bravo**  
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**Bonnie & Clydes**  
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**Lighthouse Eatery**  
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**Camp Robber**  
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**Stone House**  
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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

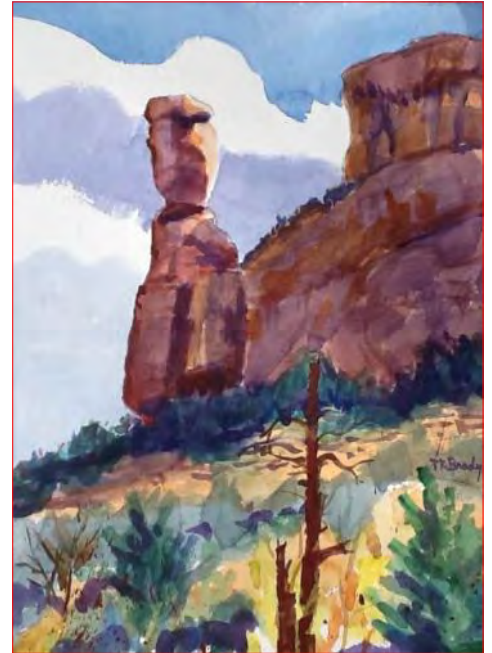
### MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS FEATURES ARTIST TIM BRADY



*Seaside, by Tim Brady. Courtesy image.*



*Arch, by Tim Brady. Courtesy image.*



*Landscape spire, by Tim Brady. Courtesy image.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

REGIONAL-Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) proudly presents featured artist Tim Brady, an award-winning watercolor artist from Grand Junction. A collection of Tim's bright and vivid watercolor paintings will be on display throughout the month of May in the Center's gallery. MCA will have a live reception featuring Brady's art on Friday, May 7 from 5-7pm. Complimentary wine and appetizers will be available. Unfortunately, Tim will be unable to attend Friday's reception, but he will be back in Montrose for a "meet and greet" reception at MCA Thursday, May 13, 5-6pm followed by a critique session 6-7:30 pm.

Tim practiced Chiropractic medicine for 31 years in Grand Junction before retiring in 2009. He remains active as an adjunct

professor at Colorado Christian University teaching anatomy and physiology, and biodiversity. He is also a very experienced artist and has painted in oils, acrylics and watercolors, but he greatly prefers watercolor. Tim has been the President of the Western Colorado Watercolor Society since 2015.

Tim has facilitated and taught both watercolor and studio classes. What he enjoys the most is painting and drawing quickly, working with live models, Plein Aire and photographs. He also enjoys working with students who want to learn how to improve their artwork.

Tim's critique session is open to all artists at no charge. Those in attendance can bring 2 watercolor paintings for Tim to critique and help fix, if needed. This wonderful opportunity will be held Thursday,

May 13, 6:00-7:30 pm at the Art Center.

We just changed ALL the artwork in the gallery, so be sure to drop by to view the new additions. Some new artists have also just joined the Art Center. Exciting times at Montrose Center for the Arts! Hope to see you there. Montrose Center for the Arts 11 South Park Avenue, Montrose 970-787-9428

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### PROVISIONS CAFÉ AT THE BARBERSHOP NAMED MAY 2021 RACC MEMBER OF THE MONTH



*Provisions Café. Courtesy image.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-Provisions Café at the Barbershop is the May 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.


Chef and businessowner Amie Minnick was raised in Napa Valley, California, where her food obsessions originated. She

graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in 1996, and hasn't left the food industry since.


"After I moved to Ridgway in 2010, I spent many joyous hours in my kitchen at home cooking for basically anyone who was willing to eat it. Dinner parties in my backyard were almost a weekly affair," Minnick explained. "I had googly eyes for the old Barber Shop building from the moment I moved to Ridgway, and when Antonio Marra approached me in 2015 about potentially opening a food-based business at the Barber Shop I jumped on the opportunity! The interior of Provisions was built from the bottom up. She said it's a reflection of my wacky mind but she also knew she wanted people to feel really, really good in the space. The cocktail and coffee menu is her secret obsession with wanting to be "one of those hipster mixologist barista badasses."

The restaurant's to-go and "provisions pantry" items, developed during the pandemic, were such hot successes that they will continue into the future. "Our online store and our loyal customers saved us 100% during the pandemic! It brings tears to my eyes....Thank you, Ridgway! We're so looking forward to hopefully seeing some of your pearly whites this summer!" she said. Provisions offers Thursday Locals Night with Cocktail and Taco Night Specials. In May, anyone who mentions "Members of the Month" will get a 15% discount on purchases of \$50 or more.

For information, location and menu for Provisions Cafe at the Barbershop, go online to <https://www.provisionsatthebarbershop.com>, call 970-626-9861, or email [provisionschef@gmail.com](mailto:provisionschef@gmail.com). You can find the restaurant in Ridgway at 616 Clinton Street.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: OUTDOORS

## A NATURE WIN OVER SCREEN TIME



Courtesy photo FOYAN.

By Michele Hart and Anne Janik, *Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN)*

REGIONAL-A few weeks ago I was asked to watch my niece and nephew for the afternoon. I was thrilled and had big plans to take them for hikes, jump on the trampoline, order takeout, and other fun things only the “Cool Aunt” could provide. But what I was quickly reminded of was that I would have to compete against the Almighty Screen in order to get to play with my niece and nephew. After a mild effort, I was ready to throw in the towel and just be okay with making spaghetti and watching the kiddos “game” on their virtual devices. Their tablets were pointed at the ceiling broadcasting voices of neighborhood children simultaneously plugged into the game and subsequently checked out of the present moment. Then, a small opportunity presented itself – the tablet-encased voices were shouting, “We have to go and eat dinner!” This meant I might have some leverage to persuade my niece

and nephew to play with me, a non-digital entity. I quickly suggested a walk in the sunshine, which was ignored. Then I suggested riding bikes, which got me a “maybe.” When I brought up the idea of a scavenger hunt, I finally got a reaction! My nephew leapt off the couch and, ran upstairs to put on his adventure vest which was full of pockets and made him look like he could have been Steve Irwin’s assistant. My niece, who rarely wears shoes, was off the couch looking for her flip-flops. Although not true adventure wear, I wasn’t going to stop our forward progress into the outdoors.

One point for the Cool Aunt!

We ran around the front yard looking for clues and quickly putting them in a pocket of the adventure vest. We climbed over bridges, stormed through gates, looked under rocks, and absorbed a good hour’s worth of Vitamin D. For our next go around, my niece suggested a version of a scavenger hunt that would let us all play at the same time and more importantly would expand our adventure beyond the familiarity of the front yard. As we made our way around the block my nephew asked, “Can we go as far as we want?” I gleefully said “Yes,” and the memories of trying to get him off the couch just a few hours earlier quickly faded from all of our minds. Later, I would hear things like, “I like looking closely at the tree bark because it is so interesting,” and, “we may need flashlights because I don’t want to quit!”

Another point for the Cool Aunt.

The Cool Aunt A-Z scavenger hunt:

Create a list with all letters of the alphabet with a checkbox next to each.

Work as a team and have one team member check the boxes and write in the object that begins with each letter: A, annoying fishing line; B, ball; C, charcoal; etc. If the item is collectible (dinner wrapper, fish bobber, etc.) - you can have them collect it in a bag –this works great for

trash. Kids can also sketch items they can’t find (make sure to have extra paper or small notebooks and pencils on hand). If you have a few teams playing, whoever completes their list first wins and gets an extra dessert or some other treat.

You can also just list some items they need to locate and observe in the area. Here are a few ideas to get you started: tree bark, lizard/frog/bird, moss/lichen/crypto-biotic soil, mushroom/wildflower, pine cone/acorn, animal scat, animal print, squirrel/chipmunk/marmot, snake-skin, bird nest, natural object colored blue, four different shades of green, a heart-shaped rock, a piece of litter (pick it up and carry it out!), something made by humans.

Rules (designed from a 10-year-old’s perspective)

You can’t use the same item twice. (I was busted because I tried to use dirt for ‘D’ and also for earth or ‘E’.)

You can use adjectives if you need to for letters X, Z, and Q such as zany-shaped tree leaf.

As Michele Hart – the “cool aunt” discovered with the right enticement, - you too can get those kids off the couch and their screens. From close-to-home forays to summer-long hunts, an outdoor scavenger hunt introduces a healthy dose of competition while giving kids a chance to be free to explore and learn to observe!

There are all kinds of ways to set up a scavenger hunt for younger and older youth. Here are some additional ideas: Clue and Route-based Teamwork: When you want to take a team-based approach, you can hide a list of clues or riddles, one leading to the next, with a prize waiting at the end. The kids work together to solve the clues; for example, “This tree has strips of bark that peel off and burn easily making it an excellent fire starter. Go here for your next clue!” (Destination: juniper tree.) And the next clue: “Now that you’ve found the juniper, look for the home of

*Continued next pg*

## A NATURE WIN OVER SCREEN TIME From previous pg

earthworms, vegetable scraps, and grass clippings." (Destination: compost pile.). Tailor your clues to your kids' age group and interests—and get creative with your prizes: s'more fixings, fishing gear, or just simple bragging rights.

Season-Long Treasure Hunts: These are the granddaddies of all outdoors scavenger hunts: the season-long activity accomplishment checklists! These involve visiting a string of locations and/or accomplishing a certain set of activities within a season (summer vacation, for example) or beyond. Items might include: spend the night out under the stars, catch and release a fish, go canoeing, reach the top of a mountain, build a shelter out of natural

materials, spend the night in a canyon, etc. There are over 100 things every kid absolutely has to do before they are 12! For instance, have you peeked under a rock in a creek to see what's underneath, walked a tight-rope on a log, dug for worms, danced in the rain, waded in a stream or spotted the big dipper? These are just a few of those 100 things. Need the list? You can download it from Generation Wild – The List. Most of these things you can do in a park, or in your backyard. You don't have to go far to have fun outside - you just need to go!

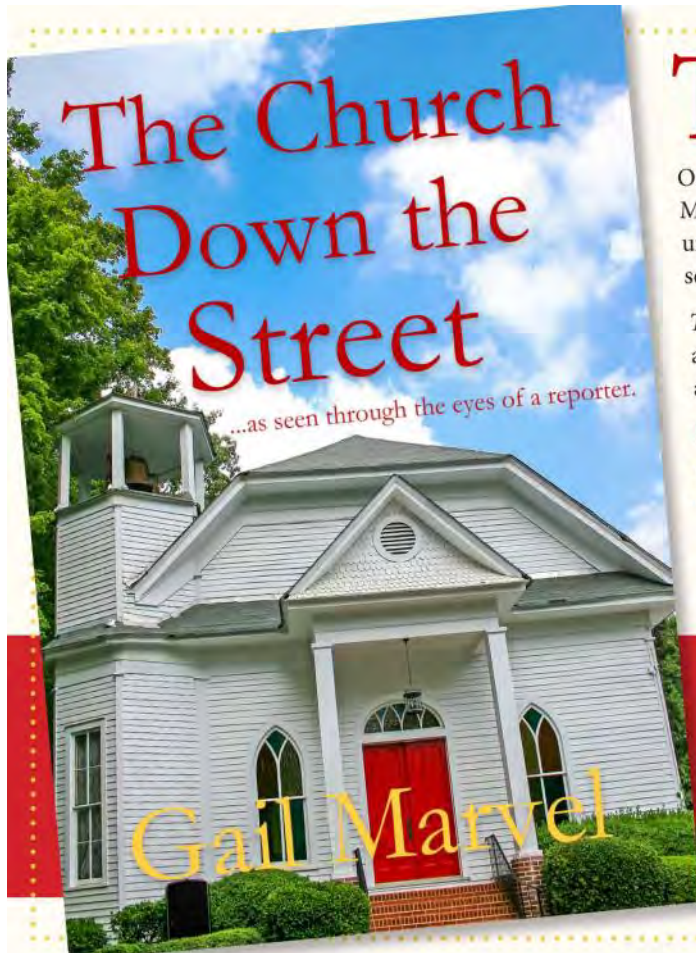
Start a summer tradition with your family - simple quests for the littles and more complicated hints possibly riddles for the

older kids - or have teams composed of multiple age groups for even more comradery. After all, no matter what your age, who doesn't love a scavenger hunt?

Byline: To see the results of the A-Z scavenger hunt visit the FOYAN Facebook page.

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. For some great hip pocket trail games and other ideas to get your kids outside, follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Visit:

[www.friendsof youthandnature.org](http://www.friendsof youthandnature.org)



**T**he 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:

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

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# 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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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

**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 3**-The Montrose County Historical Society Museum will open Monday, May 3 to visitors and local citizens. While the pandemic seems to be easing with vaccinations, caution will be observed as people visit the museum. Social distancing, hand sanitizer, and masks will continue to be encouraged and available. The entire museum displays will be open. The door opens daily at 10 am and close at 5 pm. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. Admission is \$8 adult, \$4 students, and military. Society monthly meetings will return as well, as Covid protocols allow larger groups to meet with social distancing and mask regulations dictate. Meetings will return to Friendship Hall, the Pioneer Room the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.

**May 4**-One of five outstanding finalists for the Fischer Prize in 2020, Julie E. Bloemeke of Georgia will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, May 4th at 7 p.m. Register by May 3rd on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to [telluridelibrary.org/events](https://telluridelibrary.org/events).

**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 [maryo@cfgv.org](mailto:maryo@cfgv.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](mailto:Hello@ourtownmatters.net)

**May 20-Bike to Work Day**- Bike into San Juan Brews on Thursday, May 20, between 7a and 9a to receive a free drip coffee (sponsored by San Juan Brews) and a free breakfast burrito (sponsored by Alpine Bank).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/477885790067864>

**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).

**May 26-Full Moon Cruiser Ride**- Join MABA at Rotary Park (by Columbine Middle School) for an evening cruiser ride beginning at 6:30p. We will embark on a ride around town and then return to the park where individuals over the age of 21 are able to enjoy non-glass container beverages of choice. The theme is Mustache Ride. <https://www.facebook.com/events/486435319068648>

**May 28**-The Ridgway Farmers Market will be opening for the 2021 season on Friday, May 28. Located in beautiful Hartwell Park, the market is held every Friday until Oct. 8 from 10AM - 3PM. To learn more about the market and to see a full list of this season's vendors, please visit: [www.ridgwayfarmersmarket.com](http://www.ridgwayfarmersmarket.com).

**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](mailto:Editor@montrosemirror.com)

[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

## MIRROR IMAGES...RAILROAD CROSSING UPGRADE

*City of Montrose crews spent some time last week making improvements to the Railroad Crossing at South Third Street and Rio Grande.*



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