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Issue No. 430 May 24, 2021

BOCC AUTHORIZES STAFF TO SUBMIT GRANT FOR MADA COMMERCIAL KITCHEN



Commissioners authorized staff to submit a REDI grant to DOLA on behalf of the Mexican American Development Association, above, for a commercial kitchen.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 19. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen and Vice Chair Keith Caddy were present; Commissioner Roger Rash was absent.

Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation. He thanked the Lord for a beautiful day, and for the county commissioners. "We ask for wisdom for them today, that you would just guide them in their discussion...give them the resources they need, give them discernment..."

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

[Continued pg 13](#)

'I DO NOT CONSENT'-- SENIOR OBJECTS TO BEING ASKED TO LEAVE UNIT WHILE UPDATES ARE MADE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As a former real estate professional and small business owner, Wooddora Eisenhauer understands the importance of feeling comfortable in your own home. Now, Eisenhauer's professional background is helping her to speak for herself and on behalf of other tenants in her building, the San Juan Apartments (1650 Church Street) in Montrose.

Eisenhauer has made her own unit at the San Juan Apartments a bright and welcoming space, with memorabilia and plenty of sparkle. She also has a lifetime's worth of belongings—belongings she is now expected to pack into boxes, although she has no plans to move. That's because the building, which is owned by the Monroe Group and which has seen building managers come and go in recent years, is being renovated—and while the updates are badly needed, tenants are being asked to pack up



The San Juan Apartments, above, house low-income seniors, who are now being asked to box up belongings and leave their apartments each day as renovations are made to their units.

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[Gail Marvel reports on
Re-1J -UVEA negotiations!](#)

[Council hears Project 7 Presentation; Bynum
asks City Manager to lead redistricting efforts](#)

[Letters to the Editor
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MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO MEET JUNE 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society will resume in-person meeting in June. June 2 will be the first general society meeting since September of 2020, at 7pm in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the county fairgrounds. The program will be presented by Jim Austin from Montrose County Health and Human Services. His remarks will center around the state of the county as to the pandemic, actions and recommendations taken as well as moving forward, and the long-term life expectancy of the virus. It is expected much of the discussion will include vaccinations as well as anticipated symptoms of the virus and its possible mutations as they are discovered.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 31. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices, operating from City Hall due to construction, will be closed, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open.

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, May 31, will instead be served on Tuesday, June 1, and Wednesday, June 2.

Monday customers located south of San Juan Avenue will be served Tuesday, June 1. Monday customers residing north of San Juan Avenue will be served Wednesday, June 2.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service Monday, May 31, will instead be served Friday, June 4.

For more information, contact City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Trash



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'I DO NOT CONSENT'-- SENIOR OBJECTS TO BEING ASKED TO LEAVE UNIT WHILE UPDATES ARE MADE From pg 1



Wooddora Eisenhower, 81, does not want to leave her apartment each day and pack up her belongings so that renovations can be made.

their things and leave their apartments from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day as their units are refurbished.

Tenants were informed of Monroe Group's plans by letter. "You've got to be educated to understand the verbiage," noted Eisenhower, who has since retained an attorney. "They said that if we do not contact them, they will assume our consent.

"I do not consent," she said.

Eva Veitch, director of community living services for the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, spoke to the Monroe Group's Regional Manager upon learning of the company's plans for the San Juan Apartments, which offer low-income housing to seniors.

"They are going to do five apartments at a time, and they are going to have the resi-

dents vacate the apartments from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Veitch said.

Desperately needed in the aging facility, the renovations will take place from June through December, she said. The company promised that recliners will be purchased for the common area, which has kitchen and bathroom facilities, and that accommodations will be made for pets. A

community meeting is planned for May 27.

"I told them that I am going to be keeping a very close eye on this," Veitch said.

For Wooddora Eisenhower, 81, no matter how needed, the renovations are intrusive and unwelcome. "I love to shoot pool," she said. "I play bridge! This is my time to play--let me play."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPT. WELCOMES 4 NEW OFFICERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department officially welcomed four new police officers to its ranks May 17, filling a number of vacant positions in the department. Officers Andrew Bradnock, Jason Bresett, Curtis Dunlap, and Wes Imhof were officially sworn in during a ceremony held in the City Council Chambers.

Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with Commanders Tim Cox and Matt Smith, welcomed the officers before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors and staff, and fellow Police Department officers. The ceremony was also broadcast live online for Police Department staff, friends, and family to attend virtually.

"This is one of my most favorite things to do as Police Chief," Hall said of the swearing-in ceremony.

The four new officers are recent graduates of the Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy, WCLA, at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction.

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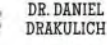


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE AREA BICYCLE ALLIANCE (MABA) BIKE TO WORK DAY A SUCCESS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Last week's Bike to Work Day on May 20 was a success, with 53 participants, organizers said. "This was a wonderful time and inspiring to see the bikers come out," MABA Board member Jeff Rice said.

Alpine Bank sponsored the discounted burritos from Buttered Biscuit and San Juan Brews sponsored the coffee. The next Bike to Work Day will be Thursday, June 17 from 7a-9a at San Juan Brews. Also pictured above are finished bike racks that MABA partnered with



MHS student welders to produce. MABA paid for the materials from donations acquired through the public. Home Depot donated the

paint. The racks are gifted to local businesses at no charge; donations are always welcome. www.montrosebicycle.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SIP ICED COFFEE DAY FOR A GOOD CAUSE MAY 26

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION/MONTROSE – Dunkin' invites Grand Junction/Montrose to enjoy a Dunkin' Iced Coffee while giving back to the community during this coming Iced Coffee Day. On Wednesday, May 26, \$0.50 from all Iced Coffees sold at participating Dunkin' restaurants throughout Grand Junction/Montrose will benefit the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation and its mission to bring joy to kids battling hunger or illness.

Since 2006, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation has granted more than \$30 million and will grant \$7 million this year. "There so much for Iced Coffee fans to celebrate next week with this special day benefitting a good cause at our Dunkin' restaurants throughout Grand Junction/Montrose," said Heather Morin, Field Marketing Manager, Dunkin'.

"A donation to the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation and the wonderful work they do for children is the perfect way to celebrate Iced Coffee Day, and we hope our guests will join in on the celebration on May 26 with their favorite iced coffee beverage." Guests can customize their Dunkin' Iced Coffee just the way they like it, with a variety of dairy and non-dairy, sweetener, and flavor options. Dunkin' is the market leader in the Iced Coffee category, delivering freshly brewed Iced Coffee to guests every day, with a smooth, delicious taste. To learn more about the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, visit



Courtesy graphic.

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NEIGHBORS SAY CITY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO FACTORY NOISE COMPLAINTS



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Despite ongoing improvements including paint and a local sewer cleanout by new owners of the Prairie Dog Treats factory, neighbors still struggle with issues of odor and noise associated with the 146 West Main facility, for which City Manager Bill Bell pushed in 2013 to change the zoning district designation from B2, Highway Commercial District, to B2A, regional commercial district. In recent weeks, nuisance smells have improved by around 30 percent, said Fernando Morales, whose family owns a home just across the alley from the factory. Still, there has so far been no response to noise complaints, Morales said. "Bill (Bell) has chosen not to enforce a large portion of codes and ordinances when it suits his needs, or pet projects," Morales said.

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DMEA REMAINS SILENT ON REASONS FOR BRONEC DEPARTURE



Former DMEA CEO Jasen Bronec. Courtesy image.

By Gail Marvel
MONTROSE-On Friday May 14, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors held a Special Meeting. After calling the meeting to order, the board went into Executive Session to discuss

“DMEA Internal Investigation and Personnel Matters”.

The DMEA Board of Directors consists of nine members. For this meeting board member Jock Fleming was absent and Board President Bill Patterson recused himself and did not participate.

Background: On March 12, 2021, DMEA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec, who has been with the co-op since 2014, took a leave of absence.

It was confirmed that an external investigation was underway; however, the DMEA Board and the board’s general counsel declined to comment on the investigation.

In the absence of Bronec, Chief of Operations Officer (COO) Virginia Harman was appointed acting CEO.

When asked for information on the Special Meeting and whether it pertained to the termination of Bronec, Board Vice President Kyle Martinez said, “Monday [May 17] was his last day. I can make no comment about the nature of the departure. The investigation was into business issues. We [the board] decided to make a change in leadership. The investigation did not involve any DMEA members, or any existing business partnerships.”

When asked if the investigation included or excluded DMEA staff or board members, Martinez said, “The investigation did not involve any DMEA members, or any existing business partnerships. That’s all I can say.”

Asked why Board President Bill Patterson recused himself, Martinez said, “Bill recused himself early on to make sure the investigation was objective.”

Asked if Patterson had a conflict of interest, Martinez said, “I can’t talk about the details of the investigation.”

DMEA policy allows the organization to hire outside investigators, which was ap-

parently done in this case.

When asked if the investigating entity gave the board a written report, or an in-person report during the Special Meeting, Martinez said that those who attended the Special Meeting would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Once the minutes are approved on May 25, they will become public record.

Asked if Bronec would be get a severance package Martinez said, “I can’t speak to that because we have not entered into any agreement with Jasen about his departure. I can’t share any details.”

When pressed to know when the board would meet with Bronec, Martinez said, “The investigation is complete and no further actions are planned.”

Information on the abrupt termination of Bronec is limited and the DMEA Board has not directed staff to issue a press release.

When the board exited from the Executive Session, they voted unanimously to approve a resolution to change leadership.

The search for a new CEO will begin in the near future.

All application submissions, including those from current DMEA employees, will be accepted.

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BOCC AUTHORIZES STAFF TO SUBMIT GRANT FOR MADA KITCHEN From pg 1

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had two changes to the meeting agenda; amending the date in Item D2 to June 2 and removing Item E1 from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners postponed Item D-1, "Shavano Valley Conservation District, Ken Lipton update on the merger with San Miguel Conservation District," as Lipton was not present.

County Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen presented and read a proclamation declaring Jun 2, 2021 as Tim Foster Day in Montrose County. The proclamation will be presented to Foster on June 2. BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy thanked Yergensen for reading the proclamation, "Well deserved recognition," Caddy said. "The man's been a mover and a shaker in this community for many, many years, and on the Western Slope as a whole."

Hansen noted the growth of Colorado Mesa University under Foster's leadership, "...It's gone from a little, small, community college to quite an institution in Grand Junction and also the campus here...I think this is a well-deserved honor and I wish we could do more."

Noting the number of CMU graduates in attendance, Caddy said that he would not have gone to college without Colorado Mesa University's Montrose campus. "It's great to have that campus here in Montrose."

County Manager Ken Norris said that he earned his first degree in associative science in math and engineering from Mesa State back when it was still Mesa College. "I was very well prepared when I later went to CSU in mechanical engineering," Norris said. "...I think we all owe a debt to Tim and to Colorado Mesa."

The proclamation was approved unanimously.

Commissioners authorized staff to submit a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). This application seeks \$32,956 in funding for renovation of



Development professional and MADA volunteer Bethany Maher spoke to the BOCC.

a commercial kitchen at the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) building. Speaking to Commissioners was MADA Volunteer Bethany Maher, who (along with BOCC Chair Sue Hansen and a dedicated group of neighborhood volunteers and MADA Board members) has played an essential role in the process of transforming the longtime community organization back into the neighborhood resource that it was created to be in the 1970's. MADA was founded in 1972 by a Catholic Priest, Father Walter Smigiel, who had been active in the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi, and who was sent to Montrose in 1972, where he worked to fulfill the needs of the local community.

Also approved was an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ouray County and Montrose County. Per this one-year agreement, Montrose County will apply magnesium chloride on seven miles of the Ouray County portion of the Dave Wood Road. Ouray County agrees to reimburse Montrose County for maintenance performed, with the estimated cost from \$28,000 to \$32,000.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Following a public hearing, Commissioners approved a request for Special Use Permit to create an RV Park at 62951 LaSalle Road, with the condition that developers provide a safe access area to the

Uncompahgre River.

Also approved after a public hearing were:

- a proposal by Daisy Bear Childcare and Preschool for a Special Use Permit to increase the number of children in the existing daycare to 12;
- a proposal by Bostwick Park Road Vacation Plat and Bostwick Acres Minor Subdivision to divide three lots from an 80.65 acre parcel and vacate a portion of Bostwick Park Road at Parcel 376914104001: Bostwick Park Road;
- a proposal for the HMC Commercial Rezone, to rezone from General Residential (R) to General Commercial (C) a parcel at 376501301001 HWY 50 and Jay Jay Road;
- a proposal by the Merrel-Williams Amended Plat to adjust the lot lines, vacate an easement, and create an easement at 294 Chipeta Road.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving a Special Event Permit for Montrose West Recreation to be held at the Nucla Rodeo Arena.

The event is not new, but the beer garden is a first-time request.

Commissioners returned to regular session as the Board of County Commissioners.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD HEARS STATUS UPDATES



David Dragoo giving presentation to MURA board about Flex building. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE—On Wednesday, May 19 the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board called their meeting to order at 2pm. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on questions from the last meeting, as well as bring in some of the developers to get a status update on their projects.

FLEX BUILDINGS

Colorado Outdoors Developer David Dragoo provided an update on the Flex buildings construction, which is due to be completed by the beginning of the fourth quarter of this year. They have a live construction camera focused on the building as it progresses ([here](#)).

Barbara Bynum asked about tenants in the building and was told that two thirds of the space is already pre-leased. Dragoo said there are a local restaurant and retailers, as well as light manufacturing currently going into the buildings.

WEDGE BRANDS

Wedge Brands is an outdoor product holding company, like an Amazon for outdoor gear, as was explained to the MURA board.

The current plan is the company would purchase the land and own the building.

BASECAMP APARTMENTS

Developer Kurt Soukup could not be present for the meeting, so City Engineer Scott Murphy provided the update.

While the original design/idea was modular units for the apartment building, the builder has shifted to a plan to use stick-built construction. Bynum asked if the assessment rate for the property would differ from modular to stick built, and Brad Hughes answered that there was no significant difference in such an assessment for property value.

Hughes did point out that because residential is assessed lower than commercial properties, that the Basecamp project would never pay for itself in terms of TIF funding, and that most of the payback for the investment made by MURA would come from the commercial parts of the Colorado Outdoors project.

Hughes also wondered if the rise in material costs would end up making leasing costs for the housing more than the market could support.

FAIRFIELD INN

Developer Jeff Lamont of Lamont Companies addressed the board. He showed images of other recent properties they had built, to give an idea of what this one would look like. The timeline to completion is 12 to 18 months, and the end date

depends on when the permit is pulled. Lamont said they were ready to pull a permit and hope to break ground next month.

The hotel would be four stories and have 90 guest rooms.

COLORADO YURT COMPANY

Owner John Gibson gave a presentation on the building and grounds they are planning. It will include an area where potential customers can 'try before you buy' and spend the night in one of their buildings. He also mentioned that they would be working with the city to build a public bathroom along the Connect Trail behind their building.

They are currently planning on a groundbreaking on July 15, which will involve all their employees, with their families invited to take part.

ANDERSON ANALYTICS FOLLOW UP

Anderson Analytics went over several of the slides they had shown at the last meeting, as well as some new projected revenues, both from TIF and predicted sales tax revenues from companies that will be doing business over the next few years.

No data that I saw at the last meeting had changed, and projections were made for both full buildout and worst-case scenario of not all the proposed projects happening.

SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS

Prior to adjourning the group discussed future meetings. The next scheduled meeting will be June 6 at 2pm; all meetings after that will be the Wednesday after the second City Council meeting of the month.

Hughes requested an addition to next month's meeting. He proposed they discuss putting on hold the approval of any horizontal improvement money for the Wedge Brands until they see the other projects have started.

The board agreed to discuss that next month.



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Colorado-ology

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM TRANSFERS RADIOS IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management Southwest District Fire is transferring 69 excess radios to five local fire protection districts within the Southwest District.

The radios will be transferred under the BLM's Rural Fire Readiness program, which provides essential equipment to local wildland firefighting partners at no cost. The fire protection districts that will be receiving donated equipment:

- Cedaredge Fire Protection District will receive eight radios.
- Cortez Fire Protection District will receive eleven radios.
- Gunnison Fire Protection District will receive thirty-three radios.
- Los Pinos Fire Protection District will receive nine radios.
- Upper Pine River Fire Protection District will receive eight radios.

"BLM Southwest Colorado Fire works to maintain strong partnerships with local communities in wildland fire management," stated Southwest District Fire Management Officer Brandon Lewis. "Being able to donate critical communication equipment such as these handheld and mobile radios assists in expanding wildland fire response capabilities and providing good communications throughout our area."

Such cooperative partnerships between the BLM, local, and rural fire departments are vital in providing effective wildfire response in remote areas on private, state, and federal lands affecting grazing, recreational, wildlife and other values important to local economies. The Rural Fire Readiness program is dedicated to enhancing the firefighting capabilities of our wildland firefighting partners, so we can continue to suppress wildland fires together safely

and efficiently. Rural fire departments bring valuable knowledge of local access routes into remote areas, along with a strong motivation to protect the land.

In order, to receive wildland firefighting vehicles, equipment, and supplies through the Rural Fire Readiness program, local fire departments and protection districts must:

- Have an existing cooperative fire response agreement with the BLM.
- Serve a rural community or area.
- Have wildland fire protection responsibilities.
- Be in close proximity to BLM-administered lands and respond to wildland fires in support of the BLM when available and as needed.

For more information on the Rural Fire Readiness program, contact Brandon Lewis, Southwest District Fire Management Officer at bclewis@blm.gov.

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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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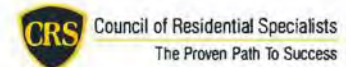
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIBBON CUTTING AT DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SCHEDULED

Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS- The Delta County Board of County Commissioners along with Western Slope Conservation Center and The Nature Connection will host a ribbon cutting ceremony, for the newly constructed Delta County Fairgrounds Boat Ramp and River Access, on Saturday, May 29, from Noon to -1pm.

The celebration will take place at the new shade structure near the Gunnison River at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. We invite anyone interested to come celebrate this tremendous addition to the fairgrounds, which will increase recreational access on the North Fork of the Gunnison River. This project was envisioned by the community in 2017 as part The Nature Connection's Generation Wild grant through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Construction of the boat ramp and parking area was completed in 2019-2020 by Delta County's District #3 team. A shade structure and boater safety information was installed in spring of 2021 by the Western Slope Conservation Center with support from from GOCO and an anonymous private foundation. The structure was constructed by local contractors; Ben Deleiris, Finnigan Carpentry, and Ira Houseweart Metalworks.

Free hamburgers will be provided thanks to a generous donation by Robbie LeVal-

ley, as well as Bank of Colorado's Hotchkiss Branch.

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CITY HEARS YOUTH COUNCIL END OF YEAR UPDATE



Young leader and outgoing Youth Council Mayor Harrison Hall was honored by City Council.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council gathered for an in-person, regular meeting at Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 18. Present were Mayor Doug Glaspell, Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank, and Councilors Barbara Bynum and J. David Reed.

Mayor Glaspell called the meeting to order; Youth Council Mayor Harrison Hall led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Presenting the end of year report to City Council were Youth Council Mayor Harrison Hall, as well as Youth Councilors Grace Hotsenpiller, Zach Oldroyd, and Gunnison Clamp.

"We really are trying to be the voices for our youth in our city, and we also want to

increase the community involvement with our youth as well, with different events," Hall said.

He reviewed the projects Youth Council has taken on this year, including burial of a new time capsule, a food drive, a drug awareness campaign, Youth Council recruitment efforts, and Earth Week events. Youth Council Mayor Pro tem Gunnison Clamp reviewed the time capsule project in greater detail. "Citizens in 2070...will be able to look back and see a community of Montrose that saw a bright future among the troubles that 2020 brought about."

Hotsenpiller discussed the food drive; "It was amazing to see how much the community contributed to the donations."

Oldroyd reviewed the drug awareness project. "The Youth City Council created drug awareness videos and posters; those were presented on social media," he said. A drug awareness presentation was given to youth council as well.

In March, the focus was on recruitment, Hotsenpiller said. "We all created videos...we posted those on all our social media and did presentations to the eighth

grade classes in Centennial and Columbine."

Alpine Bank gave youth council members a presentation on financial literacy, she said.

Hall discussed Earth Week activities, including a proclamation, a river cleanup, and street cleanup.

The Youth Council is currently promoting the outdoors and outdoor recreation, Oldroyd said, with a focus on highlighting places to hike, bike or run. "It's really just to encourage the youth to go outside," he said, "especially after this year we've had."

Montrose City Councilor Barbara Bynum said, "I'm so proud of you guys, You guys are awesome, you've done a great job...you really give us here at the City of Montrose a reason to be proud of our youth, and so hopeful...I think that you all will probably find yourselves engaged in your communities the rest of your lives...I want you to run for City Council sometime."

"...You're doing it right," Mayor Pro tem Dave Frank said. "And we just really love seeing that enthusiasm, that drive, and that real engagement in the community from our young people. I really just hope you guys get as much out of this as the community has gotten from you."

Mayor Glaspell said, "I think it's been great for us to have you folks sitting in our meetings each time...it's been a great opportunity for us to interface with you and have you give us occasionally some input back on what we are doing right or wrong."

City Council presented special awards to outgoing Youth Council Mayor Hall, and to Oldroyd, who as a high school senior will be going to Mexico on a mission after graduating, and then on to college.

WATER/SEWER/CONNECTION FEE ABATEMENTS

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to approve water and sewer tap and connection fee abatements totaling \$14,200 for Montrose Ford Nissan.

Background-A memo prepared by City Manager Bill Bell for Council notes the

CITY HEARS YOUTH COUNCIL END OF YEAR UPDATE

From previous pg

abatements are part of an overall business expansion incentives request that includes: "Building Permit/Plan Check/Construction Use Fees Abatement \$18,533.89 (Pre-approved by City Manager); Water/Sewer Tap and Connection Fee Abatement of \$14,200 (Requires City Council Consideration) for a total Business Expansion Incentives Package of \$32,733.89... MFN anticipates an initial increase of \$30,000 in city tax revenue in the first year, with growth to \$60,000 annually in five years."

ORDINANCE 2541

Council adopted [Ordinance 2541](#) on second 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, which includes the designation of official posting places, allows Council to set official meeting times, removes a requirement to post meeting notices in a legal newspaper, and updates rules for informal City Council work sessions.

ORDINANCE 2542

Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2542 on first reading, designating Montrose Fire Department No. 1, 24 S. Uncompahgre Avenue, Montrose, Colorado, as a City of Montrose Historic Property. The building is the work of early Montrose architect

J.H. Antrobus and now serves as a City meeting room.

Background-A memo from Planner I William Reis to Council states, "On April 27, 2021, the City of Montrose Historic Preservation Commission considered an application for historic property designation of Montrose Fire Department No. 1 (Montrose City Hall Annex), located at 24 S Uncompahgre Ave, according to Section 4-15 of the Montrose Municipal Code. The commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council for approval as a historic property... The 1910 Montrose Fire Department No. 1 is important for its long-standing association with fire protection in the City...serving a critical need at the beginning of the 20th Century for Montrose's quickly expanding population, the building housed the fire department for the next seven decades, offering the community both fire protection and educational assistance..."

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Council voted to renew lease agreements between the City of Montrose and Montrose County School District RE-1J for property located at 703 S. 9th Street; and to extend by two years a commercial lease agreement between the City of Montrose and Straw Hat Farms LLC

for the building located at 514 S. First Street. Both lease agreements were discussed previously in work session.

STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use, and Excise Tax report and the First Quarter Budget Review. Both items are included in the [work session packet](#).

Youth Council Mayor Harrison Hall said, "This year has truly been an awesome and very successful year for our council despite COVID and the repercussions we have had to deal with.

"This is my last City Council meeting I will be attending as Mayor," Hall said, "and I'd like to say again, thank you all for having me. A special thank you to our youth council coordinators Mikayla and Kailey, and this has truly been an awesome year."

Frank said he attended the kickoff of the Montrose Recreation District's Master Plan process. "...It's a great opportunity for people have a chance to give input," Frank said.

Glaspell thanked the members of the youth council. "You guys have done a great job, and we really do appreciate that," he said.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY ROCK, GEM AND MINERAL SHOW WILL TAKE PLACE AT HEDDLES JUNE 5

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Rock, Gem and Mineral Show will be held on June 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Heddles Recreation Center, 531 N. Palmer St., Delta, Colorado. Feature items will include gold panning, bingo for children, and educational displays for children. There will also be door prizes, grab bags, a silent auction, and a wheel of rocks. Twenty-nine vendors will have gemstones, jewelry, mineral specimens, cabochons, slabs, fossils, and many other types of rocks for sale and on display. This event is free to the public, and children and adults of all ages are welcome. Come and enjoy the Annual Rock Show.

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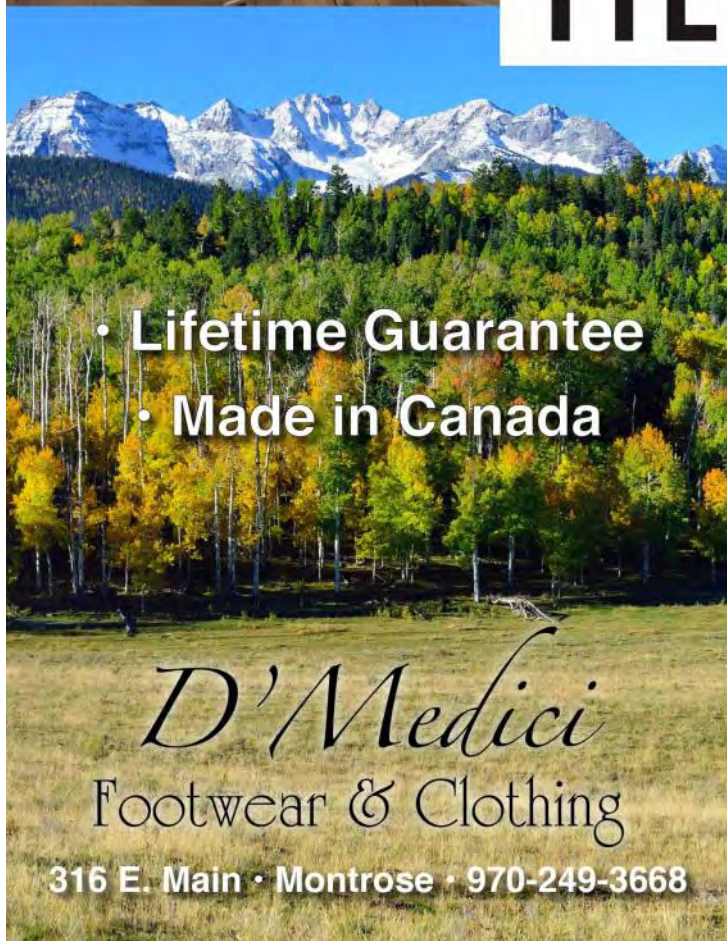
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS TO RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public nominations for its Northwest Colorado, Southwest Colorado, and Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) for existing and upcoming member vacancies in June 2021. All RACs consist of 15 citizens with diverse interests in public land management, including conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, and energy industry representatives. The councils provide advice to the BLM on public land issues.

"The advice given to the BLM by these citizen-based Resource Advisory Councils is a vital part of the BLM's collaborative approach to land management," said BLM Colorado State Director Jamie Connell. "Citizen input enhances our agency's ability to administer and conserve these lands for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations of Americans."

The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has RACs located across the West. The diverse membership of each RAC is aimed at achieving a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.

RACs are critical in assisting the BLM in continuing to be a good neighbor in communities served by the Bureau, providing advice and recommendations on issues including land use planning, fire management, off-highway vehicle use, recreation, oil and gas exploration, noxious weed management, grazing issues, and wild horse and burro herd management issues.

Nominations must be submitted by (30 days after Federal Register notice publishes). To access the nomination application, go to <http://ow.ly/iSks50EOMqr>. For more information about serving on the Northwest Colorado RAC, contact Chris Maestas at 970-826-5101 or cjmaestas@blm.gov. For the Southwest Colorado RAC, contact Shawn Reinhardt at 970-240-5339 or sreinhardt@blm.gov. For the Rocky Mountain RAC, contact Brant Porter at 970-901-9581 or breporter@blm.gov.

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CITY COUNCIL HEARS PROJECT 7 PRESENTATION; BYNUM ASKS CITY MANAGER TO LEAD RE-DISTRICTING EFFORTS



Four police officers were among the new City employees introduced to City Council at the work session on Monday, May 17. Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced the new officers and noted that the Montrose Police Department has international appeal, as Bradnock comes from Scotland and Imhof from the Netherlands. The department also has two officers from the United Kingdom.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council [convened for a work session](#) on Monday, May 17. All councilors were present for the session; the seat formerly held by Councilor Dave Bowman remained vacant. Council will appoint a replacement for Bowman in an upcoming session. The work session began several minutes late as the Zoom system was not working.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Seven new employees were welcomed at the work session, including:

Newly sworn-in Police Officers Andrew Bradnock, Jason Bresett, Curtis Dunlap, and Wes Imhof;

Competitive Sports Program Coordinator Ben Grant;

Accounts Payable & Special Projects Accountant Cheryl McKenrick;

Black Canyon Golf Course Grounds Superintendent Don DeSchepper.

Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced the

new officers and noted that the Montrose Police Department has international appeal, as Bradnock comes from Scotland and Imhof from the Netherlands. The department also has two officers from the United Kingdom.

A former officer in Aberdeen City, Scotland, "I am very proud and honored to be here," Bradnock said. "Policing is a passion of mine. It runs in the family."

Imhof previously worked as a K9 Handler in an anti-terrorism unit for the Dutch government.

"I am very much looking forward to serving the people of Montrose," Imhof said. Bresett is a military veteran, and a lifelong resident of Montrose. "I've wanted to do this for a long time," he said. "...Thank you for the opportunity."

Originally from Craig, Dunlap comes to Montrose after working in Alaska. His father is a Sergeant with the Colorado State patrol, and his grandfather is former

Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap. "I come from a long line of law enforcement in my family," Dunlap said. "I just look forward to carrying on this tradition. I hope I can make you all proud. I appreciate the opportunity."

Grant will take over the City's Competitive Sports Program. "I am excited to be here, excited to get back to where sports started at the youth level, make a difference in the community here, and make a difference in kids' lives," Grant said.

McKenrick said she is a new homeowner in Montrose and looks forward to a very long stay here with a healthy new mortgage. Her family is relocating to Montrose. DeSchepper comes from the Front range and has 30 years' experience as a golf course superintendent.

"I don't hike, I don't fish, I don't hunt, I grow grass. It gets me up in the morning...every season's different," DeSchepper said.

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY

Council heard a presentation by Project 7 officials regarding the Water Authority's plans to increase the resiliency and redundancy of the system. Project 7 treats water for seven municipal entities including the City of Montrose.

Background-A memo from Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler states, "For a number of years, Project 7 Water Authority has been planning to construct an additional water treatment plant to treat water from Ridgway Reservoir. Recently this has been called the Project 7 Resiliency Project due to the fact that this provides an alternate water source should there be issues with the current supply (limited water quantity or water quality). In late 2020, The Project 7 Water Authority Board approved a \$0.15 per 1,000 gallon increase (from \$1.00 to \$1.15 per 1,000 gallons) to their wholesale rate for the member entities. This rate increase was largely in preparation for the Project 7 Resiliency Project and the increased debt service that will likely be needed for the project. This \$0.15 increase will increase the City of Montrose

COUNCIL HEARS PROJECT 7 PRESENTATION; BYNUM ASKS CITY MANAGER TO LEAD RE-DISTRICTING EFFORTS From previous pg

treated water purchase budget of \$1,365,485 by approximately \$205,000 in 2021. It is anticipated that at least three additional annual increases similar to the 2021 increase, will be needed to fund the project. Many of the other entities have already passed this increased rate on to their customers as a \$0.15 per 1,000-gallon rate increase in their usage rates. A \$0.15 per 1,000-gallon increase would raise the monthly water charges for an average residential customer that uses 5,000 gallons per month by \$0.75."

Project 7 Executive Director Adam Turner has been with the organization for more than 30 years. "It's very important that we have more than one bucket to get water out of," Turner said.

Project 7's existing water treatment facility was constructed in 1980 on the site of the original Montrose facility that was built in 1934. The new facility will be on 50 acres south of Colonna, with construction slated for the end of 2022 or in 2023.

MUNICIPAL COURT ANNUAL REPORT

Municipal Court Judge Charles Greenacre provided the annual report.

Highlights include:

- The Montrose Police Department and Community Development Code Enforcement Departments filed a total of 1,053 cases;
- At the direction of the City Attorney's Office, there is no longer a traffic diversion program and the Municipal Court no longer uses the Montrose Police Department's Driver's Education program... Deferred judgments are now offered solely through the City Attorney's Office at their discretion;
- The court allowed defendants to buy food for Sharing Ministries, animal food and supplies for the Animal Shelter, or credit for Animal Control at local veterinary clinics. The court had a total \$100 in food that was given to Sharing Ministries, a total of \$4,256.84 in donations to Chow Down for credit to the Animal Shelter and a total of \$410 in donations to Montrose County School District designated for the Connor Imus Memorial Scholarship fund. A grand total of \$4,766.84 was collected in lieu of Useful Public Service hours;
- Teen Court was temporarily suspended

due to the pandemic, but should resume in the fall...five juvenile defendants took part in Teen Court in the 2019/2020 school year;

- After sentencing, when a defendant continuously fails to pay their fine or fees the case is ordered to be turned over to Bushwood Capital Collection Agency. Over the course of 2020, the Municipal Court brought in \$2,280.48 through collections.

UPDATES TO CITY MUNICIPAL CODE

Council discussed updates to Municipal Code Title 4 Chapter 4 Section 8.1 (4-4-8.1) and Section 8.2 (4-4-8.2).

Background-A memo from Senior Planner Amy Sharp to Council states, "City staff have undertaken a review of the Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 8.1 (4-4-8.1) and Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 8.2 (4-4-8.2) in order to update the performance standards for minimum roof pitch in the R-5 Low Density/Manufactured Housing District and R-6 Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District."

DISCONNECTION FROM CITY LIMITS

Council discussed a request for disconnection from City limits for 6763/16765 6725 Road. The property is not served by City utilities. Councilor Barbara Bynum pointed out the property owners will no longer be able to vote in City elections.

Background-A memo to Council from Senior Planner Amy Sharp states, "The city recently received a letter dated April 26, 2021 from Keith and Melissa Morris requesting that this property be disconnected from the city limits of Montrose... This property is located at the eastern edge of city limits and disconnection would not result in the creation of a county island. The property is currently being served by Tri-County water, a septic system, and Bruin waste for trash services. This property was annexed into the Montrose city limits in 2005 as part of the Lake Addition..."

OTHER BUSINESS

Council also considered a special Events Alcohol Permit for FUNC Fest and fireworks Display Permit for July 4.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank announced that it was Mayor Doug Glaspell's birthday, and wished Glaspell a Happy Birth-

day. Staff provided cupcakes.

Bynum said some councilors had attended a recent webinar through Colorado Municipal League, and she asked about redistricting efforts following the release of Census data. "There's a lot that goes into it," Bynum said. "I'd like to know if we could do a redistricting committee or something under the City Manager's office...it's going to take a coordinated effort...is that something that the City Manager's office could coordinate?"

Bell said it would be a "team effort."

"Depending if you wanted to involve the community ...we could have a preliminary meeting...we have talked with a couple of people who are wanting to treat it similar to a comprehensive planning process...make sure that it's fair and equitable for all of our community members," Bell said. "So yeah, we'd love to do that."

Bynum said other municipalities hire outside consultants, but there is no need to do that in Montrose. "I don't think we need to do that," she said. "We have all the right people involved."

Redistricting can be done before or after the election, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said.

Bynum said there is no legal requirement to ensure that no councilors are "redistricted" out of their seat. "It is a more complicated process than just drawing some lines and approving it at the next council meeting, for example."

Mayor Glaspell said the start of baseball season went off perfectly and the singer who performed the National Anthem did an excellent job.

Said Bynum, "Speaking of kudos, our own William Woody had a photo above the fold on the Sunday *Denver Post* and I think that's pretty cool. If you see him tell him congrats for that work."

City Engineer Scott Murphy said that Cerro Reservoir is once again filling up. Fishing is now available; the reservoir is stocked with cutthroat trout. "The fishing's good...catch and release."

The deadline to apply for the vacant City Council seat was Thursday, May 20, and the next work session will be on Tuesday, June 1 due to the Memorial Day Holiday, City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CLICK IT OR TICKET BEGINS MONDAY AS TRAFFIC FATALITIES SURGE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Starting Monday, May 24, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Colorado State Patrol and 43 local law enforcement agencies throughout the state will begin the largest seat belt enforcement period of the year. The *Click It or Ticket* campaign will run through Sunday, June 6. The campaign comes in advance of the "100 deadly days of summer," which historically marks an increase in traffic fatalities between Memorial Day and Labor Day. To date in 2021, there have been 193 deaths on Colorado roadways, a 12% increase compared to this time last year.

In 2020, 612 people, including pedestrians, were killed on Colorado roads. Of those killed, 365 were in passenger vehicles and 203 or 56% were unbuckled at the time of the crash. This is a seven percent increase from 189 unbuckled fatalities in 2019.

The *Click It or Ticket* campaign encourages people to buckle up to avoid a citation but, more importantly, get home safely to their loved ones.

"This campaign reminds drivers and passengers to make safety their number one priority by buckling up every trip, no matter the distance," said Chief Matthew Packard, Colorado State Patrol. "We don't give warnings if we pull someone over without a seatbelt - our goal is to save lives. So if you choose not to take your safety very seriously as we do, we will issue you a ticket."

The counties with the most unbuckled traffic fatalities in 2020 were El Paso (25), Weld (23) and Arapahoe (20) counties. El Paso County had the highest increase from 15 deaths in 2019 to 25 deaths in 2020, a 66% increase.

Statewide, Colorado's seatbelt use is 86%, which is 4% lower than the national average of 90%. Seat belts reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash by 50%, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Without a seatbelt fastened, people can be ejected from a vehicle and killed.

"In 2020, traffic fatalities were up three percent despite far fewer people on the road," said CDOT Executive Director Sh-

shana Lew. "More than half of those lost on our roads were not wearing their seatbelts. We know that seatbelts save lives and we implore Coloradans to make the safe choice and buckle up."

This is the first *Click It or Ticket* enforce-

ment period of 2021. The next enforcement period is from July 31 to August 6. During the November 2020 *Click It or Ticket* enforcement period, 1,352 unrestrained drivers and passengers were issued citations across Colorado.

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Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization.

RE-1J, UVEA JOINT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED IN THREE-DAY PROCESS

By Gail Marvel

Background—The Montrose County School District RE-1J and Uncompahgre Education Association (UVEA) Joint Contract Negotiation is a yearly process. Once the school administration and the union come to agreement through negotiations, a joint communication is sent to UVEA members to ratify. Following UVEA ratification, the agreement is sent to the school board, which then has 15 days to ratify.

The 2021-2022 RE-1J and UVEA Joint Negotiations Teams met for more than 13 hours on May 12 and 13. Still, they failed to get through the agenda and were forced to schedule an additional day on May 17.

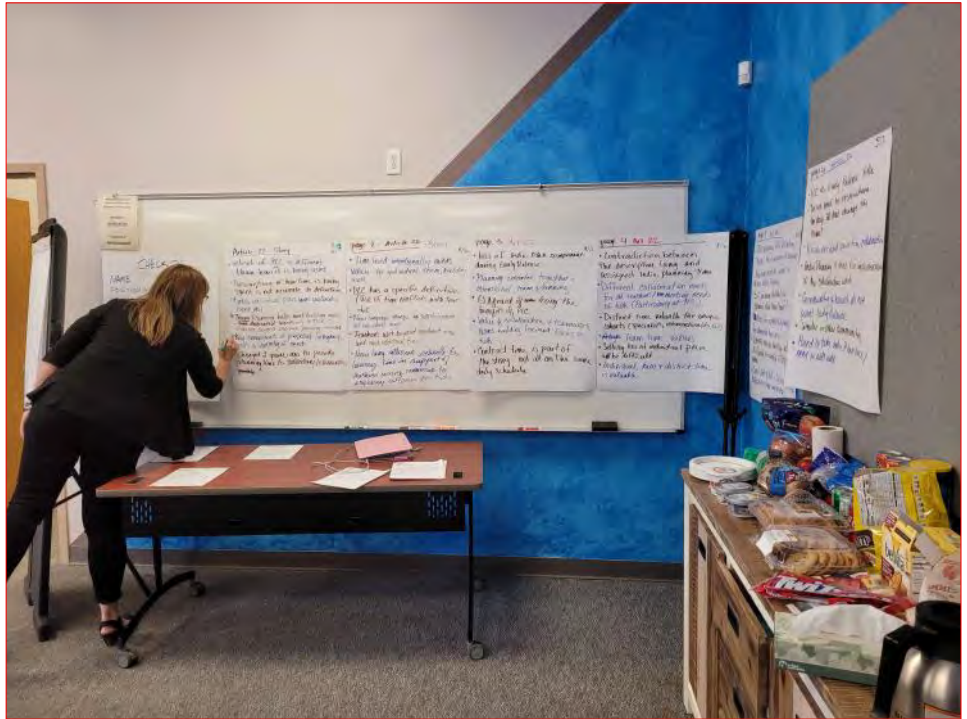
Facilitating the negotiations were Montrose High School Science Teacher Rusty George and Oak Grove Elementary School Principal Dana Carpenter.

Negotiation teams were made up of six administration members and seven union members. The assigned seating interspersed participants with one another. Participants included Human Resource Generalist (official recorder) Danice Kindall; Human Resource Director Michelle Pottorff; UVEA Secretary Allison Wofford; RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson; West Central Colorado UniServ Unit Director Steve Scroggins; UVEA Co-President Susan Arendsee; RE-1J Instructional Services Director Jessica Beller; UVEA Rep Donna Knauss; RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus; UVEA Area Director Nora Waldow; Pomona Elementary School Principal Chris Lehman; [UVEA Publicity Director Kyle Ayer](#); Peak Principal Sherri Drost-Chacon; and UVEA Co-President Kari Keller.

May 12- 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The meeting began with introductions and each participant talking about how they felt that day, their expectations for the meeting, identifying any elephants in the room and talking about their morning choice of drink, i.e., coffee.

George said, "Our job [as facilitators] is to keep us moving through the process. We don't want to debate or develop our



Facilitator Dana Carpenter, Principal at Oak Grove Elementary School, records conversation bullet points during the Montrose County School District (MCSD) and the Uncompahgre Education Association (UVEA) Joint Negotiations. Photo by Gail Marvel.

own interests. We want to keep a common message, not a bunch of messages. Focus on issues, not on people or positions. We don't want compromise; we want to reach consensus."

Following a group exercise in communication skills, the team began discussing Language Items in the Master Agreement, which included cleaning up language in Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). Under consideration for review were Article 8, Article 12 & 14, Article 22, Article 23 and Grievances.

The negotiations were structured to let each person in turn contribute to the topic, ask clarifying questions of one another, or pass if they had nothing to contribute to the conversation. As the need arose, each group would go to different areas to caucus and then return to report on their discussion.

Article 8

Generally speaking, the changes to the language in this article would lessen the

penalty applied to licensed staff for taking leave before or after a school vacation when it is specifically associated with attending a child's wedding, graduation, or to drop a child off at college.

Pottorff said, "Next year there will be a line-by-line cleanup. July 1st we will select committee members."

Keller said, "I've missed a lot of family stuff because of the school calendar."

Lehman said, "The intent of the penalty is to insure we have coverage for classes."

The group consensus was to move this from the MOU and enter it into a tentative agreement to be included in the Master Contract.

Articles 12 & 14

Generally speaking, the articles concerned a 10-day window for voluntary reassignments and/or in-district transfers. The MOUs, which were put in place for the 2020-2021 school year because of COVID and online learning, allowed the district to get the right people in the right

RE-1J, UVEA JOINT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED IN THREE-DAY PROCESS *From previous pg*



Dr. Carrie Stephenson, Montrose County School District Superintendent, stressed the importance of completing contract negotiations for district employees. Stephenson said, "People know that we are meeting and they are anxious to hear [our decisions]. People are waiting to see what we are going to do. They are trying to decide if they are going to jump ship." Photo by Gail Marvel.

building.

Superintendent Stephenson said, "COVID is not over, it is not gone. A lot depends on the governor. Parents are waiting for the governor's order [before making a decision to return to school]. The school district is in favor of carrying it over for one year."

Beller said, "Antidotally we're hearing over 200 want to do online learning."

Stephenson said, "We want to do everything we can to support online. Keeping our kids here is a priority."

Keller said, "The 10-day window was not for teachers, it was an administrative window. It came from the admin side."

Waldow said, "I was moved four days before a class [admin decision]. It was very stressful."

Pottorff said, "We recognize the challenges. We don't know what fall will look like. We really try to not move teachers. We recognize that every building will have separate challenges."

Wofford said, "COVID is not done. We need teachers in the buildings where kids are. Kids first."

Ayer said, "Impact is minimal, but I'm worried about the message they [teachers] will be receiving. What message

does it send if you leave the MOU in place for another year?"

Pottorff said, "We were forced to make the choices we made. We don't want to move teachers. It's a challenge."

Keller said, "I want to get rid of the MOU. To give them a sense of security and not move teachers within 10-days. I've had to talk other teachers off the ledge. I'm worried about them not coming back."

Ayer said, "We hear a lot of teachers are worried and scared. Give them back a sense of security, moving back to normal."

Stephenson said, "I don't want to be disingenuous. I don't

want the teachers to think we are flip-flopping. Keeping it through December gives the message that we are having a positive interest, we are looking at it."

Following a caucus Ayer reported, "In general, it is in the best interest of everyone [teachers] to dissolve the MOU now."

The team will work on joint messaging to eliminate the MOU. Still, there is an understanding that admin and teachers can come back together to work on what is in the best interests of teachers and students.

Article 22

Generally speaking, Professional Learning Communities (PLC) does not accurately describe Article 22 and the district-wide, early-release time schedule. Teacher's "Individual Time Planning" does not support the initial intent of early release time for "collaborative work".

Currently each Wednesday early release time is used on a rotating basis for (1) individual planning, (2) building level, (3) district, (4) team/collaborative time, and (5) building leadership team.

Imus said, "The current language is not accurate to what is being done."

Waldow said, "The extra individual plan time was valuable for special ed teachers."

Lehman said, "This [time] is above and beyond; [Article] 22-1 allows for individual planning. This expands on the 250 minutes we have for planning."

Ayer said, "This is a key component and has a broader impact on people doing their job."

Keller said, "This was changed two-years ago to accommodate, to get planning time back. Elementary needs more planning time. We saw more planning time was needed for teams and individuals."

Stephenson said, "Professional Learning Community is not how it is now used."

Scroggins said, "This new [recommended] language, this changes the purpose of what we decided two-years ago. This is changing the language and the intent."

Arendsee said, "I see teachers at the high school working late, six to seven to eight at night. There are teachers who have AP classes and to ask them to go that far... they need that time to complete their work."

Beller said, "The new language allows schools to leverage time in support of teachers using their resources to emphasize outcome for kids."

Drost-Chacon said, "Teachers want to collaborate within the building; there is importance in collaboration and teamwork." Keller said, "[With early release] schools are not all on Montrose High School time. We get out at different times."

Stephenson said, "Professional Learning Community and Performance Development are vastly different. PLC collaborative time and individual time; there is a contradiction in descriptive language."

Waldow said, "I love my team time. I so much value the team time."

Ayer said, "It's hard to sell people [teachers] on the loss of individual planned time. It will be difficult."

Stephenson said, "...The new language allows them to match the interests. It gives people more freedom." Scroggins said, "Three out of four [categories] of the new language is directed by someone else. I know what I need to do with my

RE-1J, UVEA JOINT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED IN THREE-DAY PROCESS *From previous pg*



During the Montrose County School District (MCSD) and the Uncompahgre Education Association (UVEA) Joint Negotiation, facilitator Rusty George (right) called for agreement on issues by asking participants vote thumbs-up or thumbs down. Photo by Gail Marvel.

time.”

Arendsee said, “In the library, when do we get that time? Everyone gets collaborative time. Can we get our collaborative time back? We need time to learn the new library system.”

Knauss said, “COVID interfered with our time in district and team time.”

After further discussion, Stephenson said, “There is a great majority [of parents] who would like us to get rid of early release. I’m willing to go out on a limb against the wishes of the community and the board if we use the time correctly.”

Ayer said, “Planning time is sacred to teachers. It’s really hard to pull that back. We have to be able to sell that to teachers.”

May 13, 2021, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Again, the day began with introductions and each participant talking about how they felt that day, their expectations for the meeting, identifying any elephants in the room and talking about the music they would listen to if they were cruising down

the road.

Facilitator Dana Carpenter looked for patterns in the previous day’s discussions. She said, “Thirteen times clarifying questions were asked and seven times there was a reference to kids.”

Pottorff announced that longtime RE-1J employee Lori Hernandez had passed away. The group took time for each person to memorialize and reflect on the passing of a fellow employee.

Referencing the previous day’s discussion Beller said, “Individual time came up, but it is not listed on the chart. Individual time is not on that list of words.”

Ayer said, “Make sure this is a sellable point to our members. Taking away individual planning time...Wednesday is that time.”

Stephenson responded to Ayer’s stated need that it should be sellable to teachers. She said, “It’s becoming the elephant in the room and it’s starting to grate on me.”

Ayer said, “This has lost value among teachers. We are making it one-sided for

the district. Going from one extreme to another. We’re trying to make a compromise, but we don’t want to have to give in so much that our members are angry.”

Pottorff said, “Four [Wednesday] work days are built into the calendar. October, January, and March have five. There are 32 hours of work time for teachers in the calendar.”

Keller said, “I heard they are not teacher work days. We decide what we are going to work on.”

Waldow said, “It’s our discretion on what we want to work on.”

When it was revealed that the previous evening Ayer had sent out what was referred to as a “simple survey” to the UVEA, Superintendent Stephenson protested. She said, “I feel this goes against the Vegas rule. A survey like this is against our norms.”

Ayer said, “There was an assumption on our part that we needed to know what members want. The survey showed 61 percent value independent time and 31 percent value team planning.”

Stephenson said, “The data is not valid because there was no participation from admin.”

Following a break to caucus, Waldow said, “We really do want to meet in the middle. We want assurances that work days are a personal choice. Teacher-driven, not principal-driven. Self-driven decisions.”

Beller said, “Board members and the community are pushing back on how this time is used.”

Pottorff said, “If they are open, they should be able to designate the needs for individual sessions. Leaving it more open allows them to make decisions.”

Keller said, “I don’t want it left open. I want it designated [as individual time]. I want to make sure that a work day on the calendar is for my work time and not taken up by meetings.”

The group called for a caucus and upon returning Keller reported, “We are a bit disappointed. You keep talking about positive interests leading to compromise. Kind

Continued next pg

RE-1J, UVEA JOINT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED IN THREE-DAY PROCESS *From previous pg*

of frustrating for us. We've lost ground. We're willing to move on, but the definition of a work day should not bog us down."

Article 23

Generally speaking this article is about student discipline and the language of restraint when a student is displaying "active wrongdoing".

Stephenson said, "It is troublesome to me the way it is written. We'll look at it next year and add back if needed."

Ayer said, "We are removing just 'a' [from the article]."

Scroggins said, "Follow State statutes, not just board policy."

Financial Update

To begin discussion on the Financial Update, District Controller Mike Madden joined the meeting.

Beller said, "Revenue is driven by the State. We are in a better position this year." A quick legislative update was given, as well as projections for revenue for 2021-2022. As of April, there were 5,499 students (less preschool) in chairs, which included in-person and online.

Imus said, "The recommendation from the Insurance Committee is we [incrementally] increase funding by \$1.3 M. The fund this year is projected to lose \$800,000. The committee recommends an increase of \$776,000 this year. The fund needs to be replenished."

It was noted that in 2017 the minimum wage started creeping up and the district started moving toward it in 2019. Colorado has one of the highest minimum wages in the nation and a Jan. 1 minimum wage increase to \$12.32 caught the district off-guard. Following a 45-minute lunch break, the group reconvened to discuss and comment. Stephenson said, "There is a clearer and brighter picture this year."

Beller said, "The Financial Update has improved our understanding."

Knauss said, "Para's get \$28,000 to \$31,000 a year."

Imus said, "We are in a better place this year. Funding balance is better. There are increased costs. Giving the best compensation we can." Waldow said, "There are currently \$7.3M in reserves."

Lehman said, "Building and department

operating budgets have been reduced two consecutive years. We need to get back to funding." Ayer said, "In the five years I've worked here a lot of staff work extra jobs, multiple jobs. They come in exhausted. Balancing so many aspects negatively impacts their teaching."

Drost-Chacon said, "The group has worked together in the past. The last couple of years there have been budget cuts."

The group spent considerable time discussing different possibilities for additional State funding, along with the strings that are attached to such funding; i.e., ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) Funds that cannot be used for salaries and benefits. It was noted that the school district is the largest employer in Montrose County and their sustainability depends on ongoing revenue rather than one-time funds.

Ayer said, "Twenty-five percent of the teachers in the State are considering moving to a new career."

Keller said, "Affordable housing is a draw of the Eastern Slope, they offer a better compensation."

Pottorff said, "The cost of living in Colorado has outgrown salaries."

Waldow said, "The last two years we have overbudgeted and underspent."

Ayer said, "We need to maintain a balanced budget."

Waldow said, "All teachers should get a \$1,500 stipend for hazard pay."

Unable to get through the agenda, some wanted to schedule a meeting later the following week. However, Superintendent Stephenson stressed the importance of sooner rather than later for all concerned (teachers, students and administrative). Stephenson said, "People know that we are meeting and they are anxious to hear [our decisions]. People are waiting to see what we are going to do. They are trying to decide if they are going to jump ship."

May 17, 2021, 9 a.m.

The day began with introductions and each participant talked about how they felt that day, their expectations for the meeting, identifying any elephants in the room and talking about what they, as a child, experienced on the elementary

school yard.

Keller said, "... I want to remind everyone not to take things personally. All voices are equal. No one should be able to remove any options [recorded on the charts]."

Knauss asked a clarifying question, "The wages we are discussing, they are not just for teachers and paras, but for admin. For everyone across the board."

As an organizational starting point, Finance Director Emily Imus presented four compensation package options. She noted, "Nothing is finalized until October when we get our student count."

Each option was explained and the elements were then dissected and evaluated by the group. Numbers and percentages were easily plugged into the financial program displayed on the screen, which allowed participants to get an immediate response to their questions and suggestions.

Items discussed in the compensation package of each of the four options were minimum wage, salary steps, educational lanes, cost of living adjustments (COLA), clock hours, cost sharing for health insurance, recruitment and retention.

On three occasions the UVEA stopped the group discussions and requested time to caucus. Following the third caucus, the UVEA group reported on their general conversation, but did not mention any specific sticking points derived from their discussion. Members from both MCSD and UVEA gravitated toward compensation package "Option 1a" and a temperature check was taken to see if there was agreement. After going through Option 1a line-by-line, Facilitator Rusty George said that all were in agreement and the item was put up for a vote and approved unanimously.

The vote stood valid, and following the lunch break the teams worked to write a joint statement on the final contract package agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.

It should be noted that throughout the school year members of the MCSD and the UVEA meet twice a month in committees to work on concerns, issues and language items in the Master Agreement.

MIRROR IMAGES...CLASS OF 2021!

Below left, Montrose High School students line up before graduation on Sunday, May 23 and run onto the football field. Below right, Vista Charter School graduate Ruby played her own song, "Sunshine in the rain," during Saturday's Vista graduation ceremony. MHS Photos by B. Switzer.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

FAITH I. HECKMAN

1958-May 4, 2001

Delta resident, FAITH HECKMAN, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at her home. She was 63 years of age.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, September 24, 2021 at the Cedaredge Park Pavilion at 2pm to coincide with a family reunion.

Born in Dayton Ohio in 1958 to Chuck and Betty Worley, Faith moved to Cedar Mesa with her family at the age of two. She graduated from Cedaredge High School with the Class of 1976.

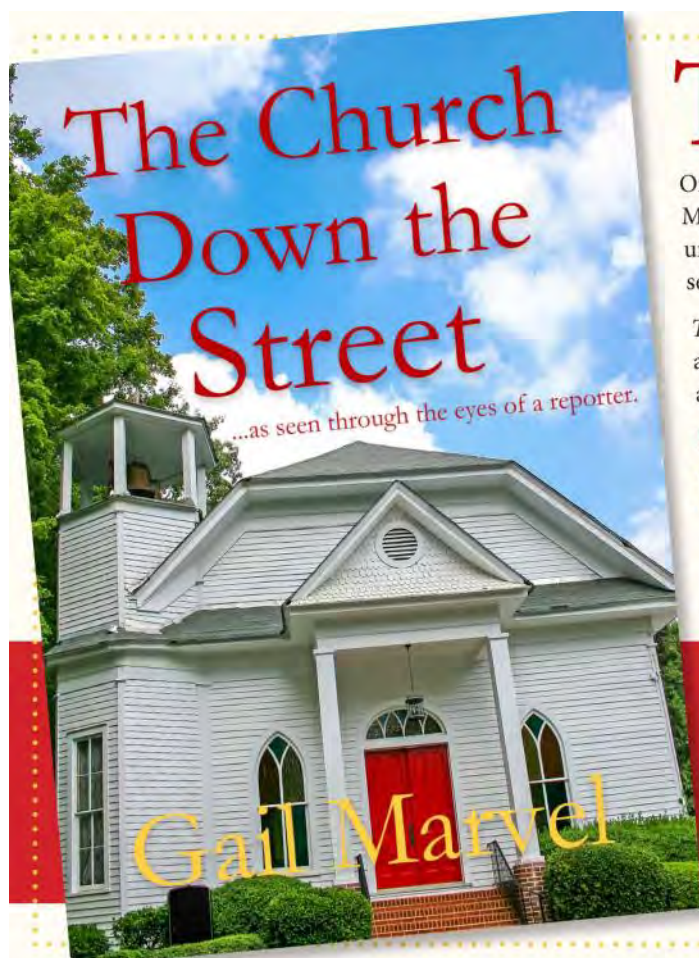
Faith is survived and deeply missed by:

her loving husband John Heckman (m. 1978); sons Alan and Steve; step-children Ken and Michelle; grandkids Mia, Dani, Evan, Marti, Oliver, Ellie, and Ada; and four siblings: Ross Worley of Durango, Susan Worley of Omaha, Hank Worley of Colorado Springs, and Tim Worley of Claremont, California.

Faith was a great cook and master pie baker. She had a happy, loving, and generous soul, and loved sewing, crossword puzzles and the color blue. She was a member of the Cedar Mesa Club.

Faith was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Dawn Worley.

In lieu of flowers, or to make a memorial donation, please consider Hopewest Hospice at PO Box 24, Delta CO 81416 or hopewestco.org



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE LEFT DESTROYS WHAT OTHERS HAVE BUILT

Editor:

We became accustomed to Democrat lies during the Obama/Biden administration, and during the years of leftist lies about Trump. The Biden administration has taken their lies to a whole new level: absurdity. Per Webster: "Absurd- so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be laughable or ridiculous." Trump built the border wall, ended Obama's "kids in cages" policy, and returned our immigration system to one consistent with American law and humane policies. Biden did away with all of that and told ICE to cease enforcing the law. The result has been an overwhelming flood of illegals. Here's the absurd part: Biden's press secretary said the influx is "something that began during and was something that was exacerbated by the Trump administration." Kamala Harris claimed the invasion was due to "climate

change."

One definition of insanity is "out of touch with reality," but this administration's immigration policies are not insane. They are stone-cold calculations to import as many voters as possible. Biden is putting illegals on buses to towns across America as fast as possible, where they will disappear and reappear as Democrat voting government dependents. Meanwhile, all Biden has to do is give the media his talking points and continue to lie and deflect. As seen by Biden's open lies about the Georgia election integrity law, his abetting the vicious lie that there is an epidemic of police violence against blacks, his obvious lie that the virus vaccine wasn't available until he was president, his lies about why he (irrationally) shut down the Keystone pipeline, his lies about son Hunter's Ukraine/China corruption, his ongoing lies

about not taxing the middle class, and on and on --- Biden has committed his administration to an alternate reality where the truth is whatever he says it is. He isn't even trying to make his lies believable because he thinks Democrats now have the power to force their agenda down Americans' throats and turn us into social-ist one-party tyranny.

The Left does one thing well, and that is to destroy what others have built. All the terrible problems Democrats go on and on about happen almost exclusively in Democrat-run cities. Riots, poverty, failed schools, murder, and mayhem all seem to find a home in Democrat-run cities. This is what the Left wants for the rest of the country.

Power is their only consideration, not you or I. Truth is not even in the equation.

Chanda Ouimet, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL STOPPED LISTENING TO CITIZENS LONG AGO

Editor:

Why is a demanding word. When I was a kid I always asked 'why' especially when I was told to do something that I did not want to do. Parents and teachers almost unanimously would provide three different answers before using the most ubiquitous replay---"BECAUSE I SAID SO".

Well, in Montrose when asking the 'simple six' WHY we don't even get the courtesy of the first three answers before whatever we are asking about 'IS JUST DONE'. Council meetings let a citizen have three minutes to make a statement or ask questions but seldom, if ever, provide an answer so the WHY question persists.

Besides, chances are, the decision has already been made! And council persons never answer; they pass it off to staff who just burp the party line.

Kinda like MURA. When the state law says a URA is to be used to 'to provide a means to clean up blighted areas to prevent 'disease or crime' but is being used by Montrose City Council to foster development of clean vacant land.

WHY?

There are several junk yards in town where I am sure rats and other vermin proliferate that should have been MURA'd before the acres of sagebrush. WHY?

And then to accept the MURA failure for four years to provide even a modicum results as promised and then to provide more money to them. WHY?

Like when a former mayor got the council to approve a large loan to rejuvenate a downtown building so their spouse and pards could rent two stores and three apartments. WHY?

Or when the Montrose Daily Press was given a large city grant in order to clean up the ecological mess in their unoccupied press building so that they could sell it AT A PROFIT TO THE MDP, not the public. WHY?

So the city manager writes an article bragging about the city's solvency and claims that the golf course makes money. Maybe not. How much. WHY?

The city operates a municipal golf course when there are two other courses in town. WHY?

The city council fails to accept that the best industry for Montrose is to cater to a retired population. WHY?

Our city council wants to give almost \$2.4 million to a developer to put up market priced (supposedly affordable) housing. WHY?

Montrose has deteriorating streets galore but we accept the lies of the Simple Six

that the city has plenty of money. WHY?

While wasting millions fostering bringing businesses to Montrose, your city council, in looking out for your interests, purchased the latest vehicle fleet replacement vehicles from a dealer on the East Slope? WHY?

And the city council pays 150% the market rate for its city manager's salary and perks, the very person who guides them into these asinine decisions and wasteful expenditures. WHY?

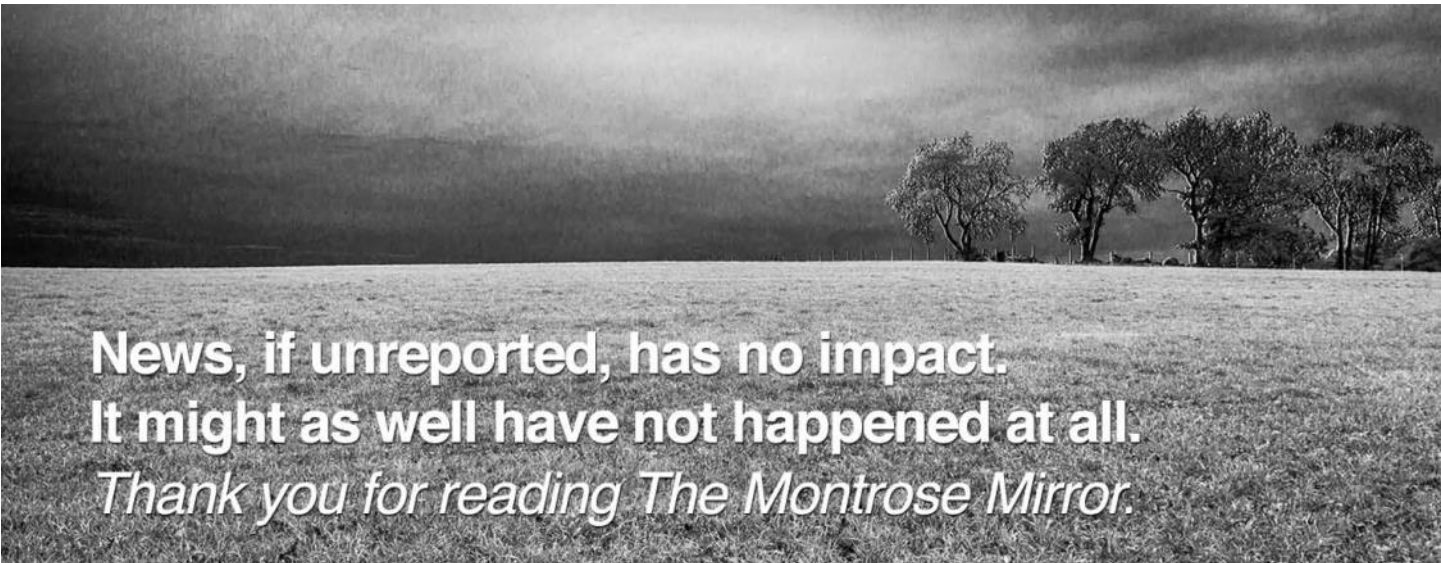
My question is WHY. WHY would any community such as Montrose permit such 'termites' to stay in office in order that they might eat at the very fabric of our town? I could say that the simple six spend our money like it was their own. But even they are not that backwards.

They save their money and waste yours. Prolifically indeed. Our citizens must love it, since they put up with it--- year in and year out! Are the working stiffs making such generous salaries that they just do not care?

It is long past time to throw the BUGGERS out.

All five of them with their expensive city manager right along with them. The City of Montrose badly needs a fresh start.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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

ISSUE 317 MAY 24

ART & SOL

MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT WANTS YOUR INPUT

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

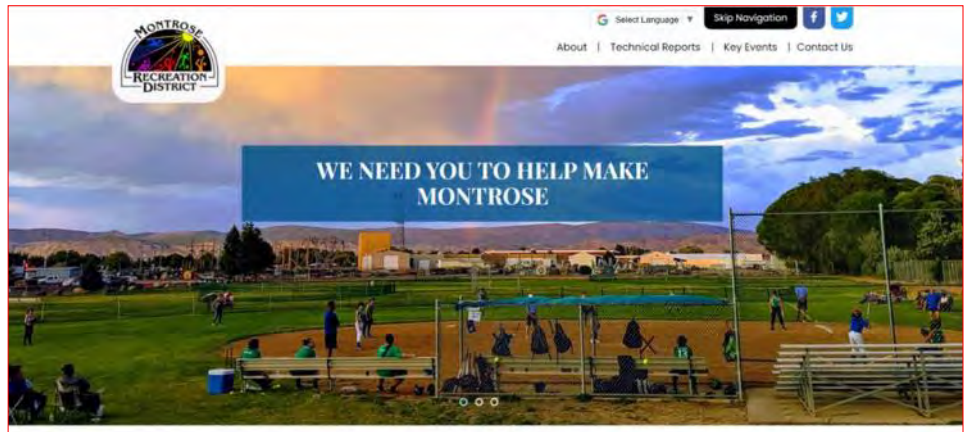
MONTROSE-The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) is working on a new Comprehensive Master Plan. To help with this they have hired PROS Consulting, which has done work for the Parks departments in Boulder, Durango, and Windsor.

The process in building the master plan will take about 12 months, but the MRD is in the initial phases.

They have held many in-person presentations (with about 100 participants), as well as two online sessions, where PROS representatives ask those in attendance a few questions to start the framework for the master plan.

The three basic questions they asked were: 1) What are the strengths you see with the MRD now? 2) What opportunities should MRD look at and capture in the future as Montrose grows? 3) What outcome would you like to see at the end of this planning process?

The session I attended included MRD employees, an MRD board member, parents with young children, seniors, and other members of the community who support the MRD by using their trails and facilities. A broad spectrum of the citizens of Montrose have attended and given their input so far.



The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) is working on a new Comprehensive Master Plan. For access to surveys and other information visit <http://www.makemymontrose.com/>.

Possible future items that were suggested by citizens while I was there included: expansion of trails, more pickleball courts, supporting community efforts to expand bicycling in town, ensure there is enough space for various sport teams to practice, possibly expanding rec center or adding new locations with more space, targeting citizens in town who are not currently participating in the recreation options offered in Montrose, and numerous other items.

What Jeremy Master (MRD recreation manager) and Mary Steinbach (MRD executive director) really stressed, was that

MRD was for the people, and they wanted as much input as possible. Because of that they have launched <http://www.makemymontrose.com/> with access to surveys for you to fill out, as well as status updates as the master plan is developed.

Please visit the site and when the surveys are online, fill them out, as every person's input is important in the process.

They are currently developing an app that will allow real time feedback, due to be released next month. When released you will be able to find a link to it on the new site.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: OUTDOORS

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEARNING GARDEN IS A WINNER!

By Anne Janik

MONTROSE—"Who likes pickles?" asked Jan Congour, second grade teacher at Northside Elementary. Her students gathered around the raised garden bed, each nibbling on a sprig of dill freshly emerged from the soil. This was the scene at morning recess, as the students learned about what herbs they like, and how to grow some of the things they like to eat in the 14 raised beds at the Northside Elementary Learning Garden.

The school's garden project and outdoor classroom just got a \$5,000 award to expand its outdoor learning space from Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN), a non-profit that promotes, supports, and facilitates opportunities for youth and their families to go outside, explore and embrace nature, and experience new activities in the outdoors. Funding of this award is partially from the El Pomar Foundation San Juan Regional Council and donations from supporters of FOYAN. El Pomar Foundation and FOYAN donors believe in the value, particularly now, of having access to experiences in our outdoor spaces that contribute to our youth's well-being.

The funding has been used to purchase and install a shed; so tools and supplies can be close to the garden area, hoop structures to extend the garden's growing season, and materials to build compost bins.

The funding has also been used to purchase shade sails, white boards, and seating for outdoor classroom areas. Student teams submitted designs for the outdoor classrooms to the school's Garden Team for selection. The students were given a STEM challenge to design and help build compost bins. As part of the STEM challenge, the students researched the

proper mix of greens and browns to put in the right stuff for a healthy, pest proof compost they will eventually work into the soil.

The Learning Garden is a school-wide effort and has had four successful growing seasons. Each grade plants and maintains at least one garden bed with two to three vegetable varieties.

Northside families, students, staff, and volunteers care for the garden in the summer. Each fall, the school hosts a harvest celebration where students and their families pick vegetables and learn more about the garden project. They also get to taste some of their rewards made into smoothies, juices, sautéed vegetables and snacks. This spring, Second Grade classes sold seed packets as a fundraiser to assist with the purchase of garden supplies. The seed packets were filled with seeds the second graders had harvested from the garden this past October.

The Learning Garden provides an opportunity for the Northside teachers to incorporate conservation concepts such as helping students understand where the valley's water supply comes from and watershed related issues. The students also learn about nutrition, recycling, composting, and how to minimize their carbon footprint.

Congour believes that "kids can learn many intangible lessons from working in the garden such as cooperation, nurturing, problem solving, sustainability and stewardship of the Earth."

One component of FOYAN's mission is to promote healthy lifestyles. "The Northside school garden project is an excellent fit with FOYAN's mission, particularly with the incorporation of the Live Well resources through Montrose Valley Food Partnership and nutrition lessons through



Jan Congour, Second Grade Teacher at Northside Elementary shares some fresh picked dill from the school's Learning Garden with her students. Photo courtesy - Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN).

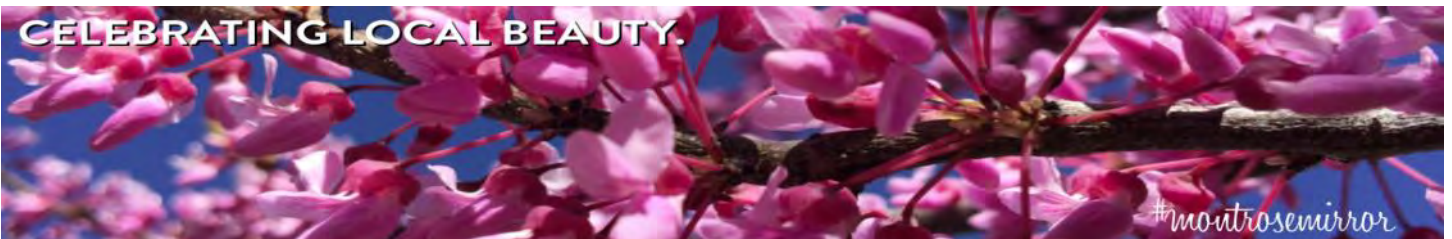
the Denver Urban Garden Curriculum," explained Anne Janik, FOYAN board member.

Many community members are helping to make this garden project a success including seed donations from High Country Gardens and Valley Food Partnership and individual donations to FOYAN that are returned to the donor's local community. Still, the key to the Learning Garden success is the hard work of the Northside teachers, Garden Team, students, and families!

Growing delicious food has already made an impact on these second graders! When the students were asked what their favorite vegetables were in the garden?

"Cilantro – tomatoes – chilis" were the winners!

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CALL TO PROFESSIONAL & AMATEUR INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2021 RIDGWAY INDEPENDENT FILM FEST

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The 2021 Ridgway Independent Film Festival will once again bring an exciting selection of some of the best short films from around the world, and is open to all filmmakers working in all categories of film.

Film submissions must be 20 minutes or less.

Entry fee is \$10 US

Submission deadline: Oct. 1st. For more info, and to submit your film, visit:

<https://filmfreeway.com/RidgwayIndependentShortFilmFest>

Festival show time is Nov. 12 & 13, from 6-9pm

The venue is the historic Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, Colorado, USA.

Awards and Prizes

There will be five cash pro juror awards selected by these professionals in the arts:

CRAIG CHILDS, TAYLOR REES, RENAN OZTURK, PETER O'FALLON & MICHAEL STIPE

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COMMUNITY NEWS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ADULTS 55+ FIND REWARDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE REGION 10 RSVP

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Your spare time can have a positive IMPACT on the lives of older adults in your community. If you deliver a meal to the homebound you may be the only human being that person sees today; it's more than a meal. When you replace the smoke detector battery you may be saving a life.

When you give the caregiver a two-hour break you allow her to have lunch with a friend. When you install the grab bars, you keep someone from falling in the bathtub. When you take someone to lunch you made their day! YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT---WILL YOU?

The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program provides grants to organizations like Region 10 to engage adults 55 years and older in volunteer service to meet critical community needs and to provide a high-quality experience for the volunteers. Region 10 serves as the Area Agency on Aging and is aware of the challenges that older adults encounter in the region, especially older adults with lower incomes. One of the overarching aspirations of the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging is keeping older adults safely in their own homes. Partnering with like-minded organizations with compatible values allows for more efficient and productive use of available

resources.

Collaborations are already underway for RSVP volunteers to assist in delivering meals to homebound seniors and to help seniors with small home repairs and safety-related maintenance that could otherwise go unattended. Such repairs and maintenance can include installing grab bars in bathrooms, changing batteries in carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, changing furnace filters, replacing light bulbs and larger jobs, such as building wheelchair ramps for low-income seniors.

Volunteers in the Region 10 RSVP program will not be limited to just a few volunteer opportunities. In the coming months, many new and interesting volunteer opportunities will become available as more partnerships are formed and more community needs can be addressed. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities will help ensure that anyone age 55 or greater will be able to join RSVP and find a rewarding and enjoyable means to give back and have an impact in their community.

Volunteers may qualify for mileage reimbursement, meal allowance, supplemental automobile and liability insurance, and participation in annual volunteer recognition events. Volunteers also often experience an increase in their well-being.

AmeriCorps Seniors reports that volunteers experience decreased anxiety, depression, and loneliness with 84 percent of volunteers reporting stable or improving health after one year of service.

The Region 10 RSVP is looking for several community-level coordinators throughout areas in Montrose, Delta, Hinsdale, and Gunnison Counties. These RSVP community coordinators will help part-time and serve as the "boots on the ground" in each of their respective communities. These will be individuals who know their communities well and have connections within their community. They will reach-out to local organizations regarding partnerships and help recruit volunteers.

Becoming a volunteer allows a person to share their experience, skills, hobbies, or other interests for the betterment of others.

Anyone interested in making a positive impact in another person's life or in their communities through volunteering is encouraged to join Region 10 RSVP today. Those interested in learning more about the local coordination roles, volunteering, or establishing non-profit partnerships should contact Joe Walker, Community Living Services (CLS) Programs Coordinator, at jwalker@region10.net or by phone at 970-765-3147.

249 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TWO FROM MONTROSE ON SNHU WINTER 2021 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Special to Art & Sol

MANCHESTER, NH-It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2021 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

-Grant Northey of Montrose

-Erica Jiron of Montrose

DEDICATION OF NEW PEACE POLE KICKS OFF UTE INDIAN MUSEUM FESTIVAL

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The new peace pole located in Ute Indian Park will be dedicated at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 29, to kick off the Ute Indian Museum Community Festival. The pole is replacing the original peace pole planted in 2007.

The Friends of the Ute Indian Museum are sponsoring the new pole. With the purchase of the new Peace Pole, ten trees will be planted on the African continent. "May peace prevail on earth," in the eight languages on the original will also be on the new one. The languages represent the Utes and other people who came to this valley and the four corners of the globe. The phrase in Braille has been added. The time capsule buried beneath the original peace pole will remain in the ground until

2057.

There are over 240,000 peace poles standing in silent vigil for peace in over 190 countries in the world. Dr. Masahisa Goi, the great philosopher of Japan, originated the peace pole idea in 1955 to raise awareness of peace for humanity. The first peace pole in the United States was planted in 1986. Peace poles have been dedicated by community and world leaders, including Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul, and the Dalai Lama.

Peace poles stand in diverse locations including Ground Zero in the United States; the pyramids in Egypt; Bethlehem, Machu Pichu, Mt. Everest, the Pentagon, in forests, mountains, gardens, schools, universities, churches, temples, museums, libraries, on public lands, and along city

and county trails. Peace poles in our area stand at Pomona School in Montrose, the Dennis Weaver Park in Ridgway, and the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. There are over 25 peace poles already planted on the Western Slope and two in Nepal, in the 100 Peace Pole Project.

The Festival will offer activities, garden tours, a silent auction, films, a tipi demonstration, Native American vendors, and a community project to help decorate one of the new tipis replacing the ones that were destroyed in a recent windstorm. Everyone is invited to this fun, family festival, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ute Indian Museum.

The Peace Pole dedication will take place in Ute Indian Park, across the street from the museum at 9 a.m.



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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. 9th 2021

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Registration now open for Sept 2021 - Apr 2022 COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY, an international non-denominational Bible study. Studying Revelation Sep 2021-Jan 2022 and Christian Living (1,2,3 John, Jude & Philemon) Feb-Apr 2022. In person for women and children of all ages on Wednesday mornings 9-11. Virtual/Zoom for women Thursday evenings 6-7:15. Contact 720-635-0091 to register or for more information. Or come to our first meeting Wed., Sep. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1840 E. Niagara St., Montrose, at 9AM.

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 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 Visitor Center, across from Citizens Bank on Highway 62, will open on Friday, May 28, in time to greet guests coming to the area for Memorial Day Weekend. The Visitor Center hours for 2021 will be Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

May 29-The new peace pole located in Ute Indian Park will be dedicated at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 29, to kick off the Ute Indian Museum Community Festival. The pole is replacing the original peace pole planted in 2007. The Friends of the Ute Indian Museum are sponsoring the new pole. The Festival will offer activities, garden tours, a silent auction, films, a tipi demonstration, Native American vendors, and a community project to help decorate one of the new tipis replacing the ones that were destroyed in a recent windstorm. Everyone is invited to this fun, family festival, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ute Indian Museum. The Peace Pole dedication will take place in Ute Indian Park, across the street from the museum at 9 a.m.

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/>

June 5-San Juan Healthcare Foundation Boot Stomp, 5 to 10 p.m. Antler Ridge. Barn dance, BBQ & Live Auction. Tickets \$60 at www.montrosebootstomp.com.

June 5-The Delta County Rock, Gem and Mineral Show will be held on June 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Heddles Recreation Center, 531 N. Palmer St., Delta, Colorado. Admission is free to the public, and children and adults of all ages are welcome.

June 5-July 2-Spectrum, an exhibition of art from photography to painting will be hosted by the Wright Opera House and the Ouray County Arts Association from Saturday, June 5 to July 2nd. An Opening Reception will be held at the Wright's Tavern, 472 Main Street, Ouray, on Saturday, June 5 from 4-6pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. Current Covid protocols will be followed. Closing reception, June 30, 4-6pm.

Aug. 28-The Montrose High School Class of 1976 will be holding a 45th class reunion on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021. Festivities will start at 2pm in the Backyard of the Montrose Elks Lodge, 801 S. Hillcrest Dr. Dinner will be at 5pm by Serving Grace-Catering. Dinner reservations will be \$25 per person. We invite members of other MHS classes, former faculty and staff members to join us. Contact LeAnna Edmonson Spadafora 970-209-3374 or Tracy Allies Harrison 970-249-1418 or check out our FB page "76" for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY VISITOR CENTER OPENS MAY 28 FOR 2021 SEASON

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Visitor Center, across from Citizens Bank on Highway 62, will open on Friday, May 28, in time to greet guests coming to the area for Memorial Day Weekend. The Visitor Center hours for 2021 will be Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We are trying to be available during the center's traditionally busiest times of day, after breakfast and through the lunch hour," said Ridgway Visitor Center Manager Jeanne Robertson. "The center is staffed by volunteers. To expand the center's hours of operation, more volunteers would need to come forward to help. Volunteering to provide information to Ridgway's visitors is a fun way to meet people and share your love for the Uncompahgre Valley, San Juan Mountains, and all the amazing natural resources and unique small businesses that we have here."

Summer visitors are invited to the Visitor Center to get their questions answered by staff by phone and in person, pick up brochures and guides, use the restroom and free wifi, and enjoy picnic tables outside. On Saturdays and by appointment, True Grit Walking Tours will depart from the Visitor Center for the hour-long program. For information and registration details

for tours, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/things-to-do/history-heritage/true-grit-walking-tours>.

The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has made several modifications to the Visitor Center at 150 Racecourse Road, Ridgway, Colorado, to protect visitor and volunteer health as the pandemic wanes. Visitors and center staff will be separated by a plexiglass barrier inside the center, and doors will be kept open for good air flow. During some shifts, visitors will be served through the top window of a new Dutch door at the center's entrance. The bathroom has a separate entrance on the side of the building. Some modifications were funded by CARES Act funding through the Town of Ridgway.

The town owns the building and contracts with the chamber to operate the center. A new master plan was designed for the Visitor Center and the property next to it at Heritage Park, and the partners have been collaborating on improvements such as new landscaping and irrigation that is going in this spring and early summer. In the future, new buildings, kids park features, signage and other amenities including a handicap accessible bathroom will be added to the site.

The Ridgway Railroad Museum (<http://>

ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org/), which has been located at the center for many years, transitioned to 200 N. Railroad Street over the past couple years. The former museum room has now been renovated into a conference room for future use by chamber members once the pandemic subsides. Outdoor railroad displays can be visited everyday, all day, in the pasture north of the Ouray County Ranch History Museum (<https://www.ocrhm.org/>), and the indoor exhibits are open during museum hours. The Railroad Museum staff are offering rides on the Motor No. 1 every Saturday morning this summer.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Visitor Center can email info@ridgwaycolorado.com. Visitors can learn more about Ridgway and access a Visitors Guide at <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/plan-your-trip>. The chamber also offers tips on enjoying the Ridgway area safely and responsibly at <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/plan-your-trip/responsible-travel>. In May and June, this web page will be updated with even more insider's advice on making the most out of Ridgway vacations by avoiding crowds, finding the most convenient routes, and discovering other ways to travel successfully locally.





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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO!



Cactus flowers by Steve Neumann.



The West Elk Mountains provided a stunning backdrop to this peaceful scene of a herd of cows on Redlands Mesa. Photo by Deb Reimann.

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