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Montrose Mirror

COPMOBA VOLUNTEERS BUILDING ELECTRIC HILLS TRAIL SYSTEM



Volunteers at the Aug. 16 COPMOBA Montrose Uncompangre Trails (MUT) trail building event for the Electric Hills Trail system. Courtesy photo Jeff Rice.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At a time when so much news seems to be bad, the latest buzz from the Montrose bicycling community can seem positively upbeat. From summer incentives for bike commuters, to improved trail networks around town, cyclists have had more reasons than ever to get out and ride. Now, a group of local volunteers are pitching in to create a new trail system in rural Montrose County, Electric Hills. One of those helping to make it happen is COPMOBA (Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association) volunteer Garry Baker, a longtime local bicycling enthusiast.

Save a tree, read the Mirror!

"Electric Hills will be a first for Montrose--a professionally designed, non-motorized trail system," Baker said. "It is like Buzzard Gulch, but with a much larger variety of trails, Continued pa 21

MARRIOTT HOTEL PROJECT MOVING FORWARD WITH GROUNDBREAKING IN AUGUST, BELL INFORMS MURA BOARD

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

Story and photo by Gail Marvel

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), Continued pg 14



Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board of Commissioners held their Aug. 18, meeting at the City of Montrose Centennial Meeting Room. Executive Director/City Council Manager Bill Bell (center left) confirmed the Marriott Hotel project is moving forward and there is an anticipated groundbreaking in August.

A Fresh Point of View...with Jack Switzer Letter to the Editor

City of Montrose

BOCC Approves Airport Hotel

City hears water resources outlook with Catlin, Berry

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A NEW WEB CAM COULD HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS ON SUNSET MESA

Editor:

We live on Sunset Mesa and we have always enjoyed the Montrose web cams. The one on Sunset Mesa has been gone for awhile now. I am sure that many of you are aware of the ongoing problems on Sunset Mesa. Every evening in the summer and, during school, every Friday afternoon and all day Saturday there are cars and pick up trucks with young drivers spinning doughnuts in the gravel of the ball park parking area. Now, in addition, there are many cars doing drag racing in the straightaway. We have also seen lots of night activity going to the cemetery for what?? (possible drug deals?). It is just a matter of time before another young person is killed or injured there. This should be a concern to all parents with their child driving, all law enforcement agencies, and the city trying to maintain that parking area. I would think that putting another webcam up pointing to the parking area and the road could help solve a lot of these problems. The webcam could be placed on that ugly monstrosity that is the new missile silo/water tower.

Thank you,

A concerned resident, Jeanne Adamson





The Montrose Mirror | August 23, 2021

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK ANNOUNCES NEW BRANCH MANAGER IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Jamie Saff will be the new manager of Alpine Bank Montrose.

A longstanding employee and former

A longstanding employee and former manager of the bank's Ouray County branches, Jamie recently celebrated her 20th anniversary with the organization.

"Jamie has been instrumental in the leadership of both the Ouray and Ridgway branches for Alpine Bank over the past two decades," says regional president Mike Burns. "She's a proven leader who is driven, focused, community-minded and strategic. She continually strives to provide great service to our valued customers. I'm confident Jamie will bring that same level of professionalism and community support to Montrose County, and we're delighted to welcome her."

Originally from a small town in Alaska, Jamie understands and appreciates the importance of community.

She is an avid runner and has participated in the Mt. Sneffels Half Marathon, the Imogene Pass Run and the Ouray Mountain Trail Run. Currently she volunteers with the Mount Sneffels Education Foundation.

"I feel blessed to be part of such a fantastic organization and team, and I'm excited about the opportunity to expand my leadership role at the bank," says Jamie. "I look forward to continuing the tradition of providing personalized service and giving back to the community."

Jamie may be reached for comments, questions or suggestions at 970-369-5409 or by email at jamiesaff@alpinebank.com.



Alpine Bank Montrose Manager Jamie Saff . Courtesy photo.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS 2ND CASE OF WEST NILE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- The Delta County Department of Health is reporting a second case of West Nile Virus; a female in her 60's from the Delta region of the county. Delta County has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as a hotspot for West Nile virus activity nationally.

As of August 19, 2021, there have been two (2) positive mosquito "pools" identified in north Delta region of the County. A mosquito pool is a sample of up to 60

mosquitos from a trap in the Delta County Mosquito Control District that has been submitted to the state laboratory for testing. Mosquito pools are not currently being collected from the Surface Creek area.

The public is encouraged to take preventative measures against the virus, particularly when outdoors. The following West Nile Virus 4D prevention tips are encouraged:

Drain standing water on property.

Dusk and Dawn- avoid being outdoors at this time when mosquito activity is high. DEET, Picaridin, and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus are effective ingredients in bug repellent.

Dress in long sleeves and pants during dusk and dawn and in areas where mosquitoes are active and open windows tightly screened.

August through September is when most human cases of West Nile virus have historically been reported in Delta County and in Colorado. Residents should also remember that the Delta variant for COVID-19 is currently increasing in our community and some symptoms (i.e. fever, headache) appear similar to West Nile virus.

Health officials say most people bitten by a West Nile virus-infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness; however, some people may develop symptoms 3 to15 days after being bit by an infected mosquito. About 1-in-5 infected persons will have mild illness with fever, and about 1-in-150 infected people will become severely ill. Physicians are urged to test patients for the West Nile virus if they show signs of fever, altered mental status, suspected meningitis or encephalitis, or sudden painless paralysis in the absence of stroke, in the summer months.

For more information: https://www.deltacounty.com/451/Animals-Insects or the Colorado Health Emergency Line for the Public (CO HELP): 1-877-462-2911. You can also visit the CDC West Nile Prevention Page: https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention/index.html



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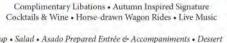
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

MINERAL/RIO GRANDE COUNTIES - The Colorado Department of Transportation will repair roadside slopes next week on US Highway 160, on the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, near the tunnel, mile points

The four-day road maintenance operations will take place Monday through Thursday (August 23 to 26), from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Traffic Impacts

Drivers will encounter brief stops and will proceed through a one-lane alternating traffic work zone guided by flagging per-

This is a high-volume road, so up to 20 minute delays are anticipated. A speed reduction of 40 MPH will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone. Motorists are urged to be aware of crews and heavy equipment.

Know Before You Go

Travelers are urged to "know before you go." Gather information about weather forecasts, anticipated travel impacts, and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

- -Road conditions and travel information: www.COtrip.org
- -Sign up for project or travel alerts: bit.ly/ **COalerts**
- -See scheduled lane closures: codot.gov/ travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html
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COVID-19 Vaccination Sites in Montrose County

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS TO MEET AT NEW LOCATION STARTING SEPT. 8



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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS welcomes adults who are new to Montrose or have been here awhile, who would enjoy learning more about the area and participate in social activities. 2021-22 meeting info. We will hold our first monthly meeting on Wednesday September 8 in our new location. All other meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month (October, November, and January – May). 10am-11:30am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd. enter through the side door on S. 3rd St. Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti 951-544-6289 if you have questions.

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM TO HOST PRESENTATION ON MORADA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society presents Chris Trujillo and Matt Lant explaining the history and significance of the Morada site in the Tortilla Flats neighborhood, northwest Montrose. 7 pm. Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, at Friendship Hall, Pioneer Room. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available.





REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BACK to SCHOOL

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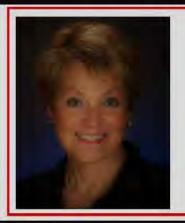
MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE INFORMATION RELEASE

Rick Fellabaum, Chief Medical Investigator Montrose County Coroner's Office MONTROSE-On Friday, Aug. 13, in the early evening a 62-year-old female was involved in a motor vehicle accident in the 12000 block of 6450 Road. She was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital and shortly after succumbed to her injuries. She was later identified as Graciela Vargas of Montrose, Colo. The case is currently under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation. The cause and manner of death are pending the results of an autopsy.



The Montrose Mirror | August 23, 2021

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE LEFT IS GOOD AT BLURRING SEMANTICS TO HIDE THE TRUTH

Editor:

I was a little confused by comments by Carrie Stephenson, Montrose County School District Superintendent regarding Critical Race Theory. She narrowly defined CRT as an advanced academic concept only taught in advanced college classes, and assured us that the MCSD doesn't teach it. She said there is a lot of incorrect information at the national level and that it is not necessary to pass laws to prevent teaching CRT, which seems to suggest that CRT is not being taught elsewhere.

It is important to not get caught up in semantics here. Parents want their children to be taught the truth about our country – the good, the bad, and the ugly, but they also want them to know we live in the least racist and most equitable nation in the world. Parents are justifiably concerned about their children being taught to hate their country and judge their classmates by the color of their skin, regardless of whether that is in a class actually titled "CRT". If one is suggesting

that those concepts are not being taught using a narrow academic definition of CRT, that is a bit disingenuous.

I have no reason to believe that those concepts are being taught in the MCSD, but it cannot be honestly denied that nationwide those concepts are rampant. CRT concepts are only the latest example of indoctrination in public schools. If it were a new phenomenon, we would not have generations of young people who believe socialism is cool, or who lack basic reading and writing skills.

Unfortunately for those who want you to think CRT concepts are not being taught anywhere in K-12 schools, the National Education Association, the nation's largest teacher union, just voted to promote Critical Race Theory in all fifty states, regardless of what state legislatures require or parents demand.

The left is good at blurring semantics to hide the truth. For example, ANTIFA stands for ant-fascist, so if you oppose them you are a fascist scumbag. The fact

that ANTIFA members are actually fascist anarchists shouldn't confuse you. Or Media Matters and FactCheck.org must be telling the truth, I mean just look at their names.

The fact that both are left-wing mouthpieces going after anything conservative shouldn't matter. Or the fact that Media Matters is funded by George Soros doesn't mean they are partisan, right? And "Social" Security is a good example of a successful "Socialist" big government program, right?

The fact that it is fast becoming insolvent due to decades of big government incompetence or that it is not a welfare program at all (financed by payroll deductions) shouldn't confuse things. And Biden's multi-trillion dollar tax, borrow, and spending spree is "fiscal responsibility," right? Don't be confused about the fact that it will be an unprecedented disaster for hardworking families and lower their standard of living significantly. Ed Henrie, Montrose

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MARRIOTT HOTEL PROJECT MOVING FORWARD WITH GROUNDBREAKING IN AUGUST, BELL INFORMS MURA BOARD <u>From pg 1</u>

City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Chair Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Gale Johnson (Montrose School District) and Mark Plantz (Special Districts Representative).

The six-member city constituency holds the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

Attendance for the Aug. 18 MURA meeting, held at the City of Montrose Centennial Meeting Room, was in-person and virtually via Zoom. With the exception of Mayor Doug Glaspell and Councilman Anthony Russo, all committee members were present.

Committee Chair Tad Rowan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Consideration of the minutes from the June 16, 2021 meeting. There was no Public Comment.

Project Financing Strategy Discussion – Executive Director, City Manager William Bell.

Bell said, "We talked in the past about different scenarios on how to finance a project. We used the Wedge Brand as an example. We'll get this [Comparison of Finance Options] to you after the meeting so you can review it and discuss it at the next meeting." The PowerPoint document included such items as total financing, length of financing and risk of financing.

The three options included MURA Promissory Notes (current financing mechanism), Developer Reimbursement (developer pays, is reimbursed and collects TIF) and Bond Issue (issuing bonds). Barbara Bynum said, "Can we mix and match [the options]?"

Bell said, "It's easier to do a hybrid approach with the Promissory Note and the Developer Reimbursement. It's not so easy with issuing Bonds."

Rowan said, "All we are now is a [MURA] Board of Commissioners with a lot of debt."

Bell said, "It's a combination of risk. The city would underwrite because MURA has no credit established yet."

Dave Frank said, "A bonding agency

would do an evaluation?"

Bell said, "Yes."

Brad Hughes said, "Will they do it on a building, or property and empty ground? With Development Reimbursement at \$250,000 a year in revenue, how is that allocated?"

Bell said, "The way we planned it from the beginning, the first priority was to build in the URA. That money goes back into the project. It's a legitimate question, "What is the priority of repayment?""

Bynum said, "The more we invest sooner, the more return we will have later." Bell noted that information pertaining to the financing scenarios would be emailed to the Board of Commissioners for their review.

Flex Building Project Discussion – David Dragoo, Mayfly Outdoors.

Dragoo began his presentation with a 10-minute video.

Dragoo said, "The Flex Project means it is flexible in use. Retail, restaurant, manufacturing.

Trucks can pull in the back, the back is more of an industrial look. We started in February and the core/shell completion is scheduled for October 11, 2021. Tenants can start moving in at the end of the year."

The total cost for the Flex Project is \$13,197,056. Public investment is \$1,100,000 (8%); the private investment is \$12,097,056 (92%)

Rather than disclosing the names of prospective tenants, the developer used "code names". Currently the developer has 10 signed leases and a list of six vetted prospects. Dragoo said, "A prospect is one who has not yet signed a lease. We do not have enough room [in the Flex Building] for everyone on the prospect list."

Hughes said, "2023 is the soonest we will see revenue from the building?"

Dragoo said, "Yes."

Dragoo thanked those who attended the Colorado Yurt Company groundbreaking.

General Discussion

Bell updated the board on the Marriott Hotel. He said, "Two days ago the Marriott

guys emailed us that they closed on the loan."

Dragoo said, "They are excited and want to get going." The anticipated hotel groundbreaking will be in August.

The first level of the Marriott Hotel will be a traditional build. However, the upper levels will be built off-site and stacked up one on top of the other, similar to building with Lego blocks.

City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy updated the board on the new sewer pipe installation associated with the Southern Multi-Family/Phase I Apartments Housing Projects. He said, "The foundation and excavation [by the developer] should start in the next couple of weeks."

With lease agreements tied to construction costs, Rowan wondered if the developers could foresee issues with tenants since the construction prices in Montrose have gone up almost 150 per cent.

City of Montrose grant writer Kendall Cramer presented the board with the opportunity for the MURA and/or city to apply for a Colorado Community Revitalization Grant. He said, "There is \$65 M for mixed-development and we can apply for up to \$5M for shovel-ready projects."

Cramer and Dragoo suggested that grant funds could be used to fill the \$2.3 M gap created by the construction cost increases for the Flex Project and Multi-Family Apartments Housing Project, which have increased 149 percent since 2020. There is an Oct. 1 application deadline.

Hughes questioned who would benefit from the grant funds. Dragoo explained it would be the tenants who benefited. Dragoo said, "We would have to go back and renegotiate leases because of [construction] cost increases. We could keep the viability of those tenants and keep their rates."

Speaking to Dragoo, Frank said, "The money is not going to you." Dragoo gave a head-nod indicating that was correct.

With board consensus Cramer and Dragoo are to pursue the possibility of a grant application.

Future Meetings - To Be Announced



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- Farmers Market, Commercial Retail, and Restaurant-direct veggie supplies
- Farmers Market options this year grown in the field. The general public may shop at our Farmers Market starting this fall, Tues. – Sat.
- We have a small variety of seedlings for sale, however due to construction delays it will be next year before we will have large inventory of vegetable plants available for retail or sales of 4-pack seedlings and mature vegetable plants for sale to the home gardener.
- There is a large variety of direct sown veggies in our massive garden.

- COVID-Safe OUTDOOR SHOPPING EXPERIENCE
- Large garden & Farmers market in the Fall
- email for additional information or to establish a commercial account



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CO 145 BETWEEN PLACERVILLE AND NORWOOD: CREWS TO PERFORM CHIP SEAL PAVING PROJECT NEXT WEEK

Special to the Mirror
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY — The Colorado
Department of Transportation will per-

form chip seal paving operations next week on CO Highway 145, between Placerville and Norwood, mile points 88101. The four-day road maintenance operations will take place Monday to Thursday (Aug. 23 to 26), from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Traffic Impacts

Motorists will be brought to a stop and allowed to proceed through the work zone via flagging operations and one-lane alternating traffic. Up to 20 minute delays are anticipated. A speed reduction of 40 MPH will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone. Motorists are urged to be aware of crews and heavy equipment. Motorists should also watch for bumps in the highway and drive slowly to avoid loose gravel being thrown up by tires.

Know Before You Go

Travelers are urged to "know before you go." Gather information about weather forecasts, anticipated travel impacts, and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

Road conditions and travel information: www.COtrip.org

Sign up for project or travel alerts: <u>bit.ly/</u>
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See scheduled lane closures: codot.gov/ travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html Connect on social media: Twitter @coloradodot and Facebook facebook.com/ coloradodot

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IN THE AREA: 8.23.21-REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Durango

The Durango City Council voted 4-1 in favor to move forward with helping the city purchase the Best Western Inn and Suites to convert to affordable housing.

Glenwood Springs

Hanging Lake trail is closed indefinitely due to a mudslide that destroyed the hiking trail to it. **Grand Junction**

On Thursday the Horizon Sunrise Rotary Club will launch The Grand Valley Ale Trail which is a \$20 app that unlocks buy one, get one free deals on beer and whiskey at 13 area businesses. The app also allows the user to select one of four charities to receive their portion of the

proceeds. The coupons are valid for 12 months from the date of activation. For more information, visit donortrail.com/gvat





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Western Slope

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATEMENT FROM COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE REGARDING AN OFFICIAL ORDER TO APPOINT SHEILA REINER AND AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE MESA COUNTY ELECTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- Last week, the Colorado Secretary of State's office <u>issued an Order</u> to appoint Mesa County Treasurer Sheila Reiner to supervise all conduct of the Mesa County elections and establish a threeperson advisory committee including Representative Janice Rich, Ouray Clerk and Recorder Michelle Nauer, and former Secretary of State Bernie Buescher to advise and assist Reiner in her duties.

"The people of Mesa County deserve safe and secure elections. I am confident that with these appointments, voters in Mesa will be able to exercise their constitutional right to have their voices heard in our democracy. As Secretary of State, my top priority is to ensure all election security protocols are followed and to safeguard Coloradans' right to vote and we will continue to conduct the business required of our office to provide oversight, to ensure the integrity of the state's elections," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "In light of the ongoing investigation into the chain-of-custody and election security protocol breach in Mesa County, the Colorado County Clerks Association supports the Colorado Secretary of State's designation of an interim election official to conduct and oversee elections in Mesa County until the investigation is complete. While unusual, this important step of placing a top-notch election expert in the office will ensure a safe and secure election is conducted for the citizens of Mesa County," said Matt Crane, Executive Director of the Colorado County Clerks Association.

While Department of State staff is continuing to conduct analysis and awaiting additional information, as well as the outcome of a criminal investigation, several facts have prompted substantial concern regarding the ability of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's office to execute an election in compliance with statute and rule. Of particular concern:

Mesa County authorized a non-employee,

Gerald Wood, to attend the May 25, 2021 trusted build, in clear violation of Election Rule 20.5.4. The Department has confirmed that this individual was present at the May 25, 2021 trusted build event. The Department has determined that Mesa County Clerk and Recorder employees Belinda Knisley and Sandra Brown participated in facilitating the improper presence of this non-employee during the trusted build event by misrepresenting the individual's employment status and role. Footage, both video and photos, was posted online showing the BIOS passwords for Mesa County's voting system.

The Department knows from the timestamp on the video and from other evidence that it is likely this sensitive information was filmed and collected during the limited access trusted build installation in Mesa County on May 25, 2021. This meeting was limited only to a minimal number of Department of State staff, voting equipment vendor staff, and three individuals approved to attend by Mesa County: Clerk Tina Peters, Sandra Brown, and Gerald Wood.

Video surveillance of the Mesa County voting equipment was not continuous and cannot confirm chain of custody of voting equipment. The evidence suggests that an individual in the Mesa County Clerk's office directed Mesa County staff to turn off video surveillance of the voting equipment prior to the May 25, 2021 trusted build. The video surveillance cameras were not turned back on until well after the trusted build had been completed, which is inconsistent with the Department's understanding of the normal course of business practice in Mesa County.

Two hard drive images from Mesa County election servers were released on the internet during the week of August 9, 2021. Analysis confirms that these images belong to Mesa County hard drives and were created before and after the May 25, 2021 trusted build. The only method to make

such copies is to physically access the machines.

One of the hard drive images is believed to have been taken on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The Department has confirmed that Clerk Peters, Sandra Brown, and Gerald Wood accessed the area where election equipment was stored outside of normal work hours on May 23.

At this time, it is clear that the facts uncovered in the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's office require that the Secretary of State exercise her authority as Colorado's chief election official pursuant to 1-1-107, C.R.S. to supervise all elections occurring under the authority of Title 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes in order ensure compliance with all election statutes and rules.

Effective immediately and until revoked by the Secretary of State through subsequent order, Sheila Reiner the Mesa County Treasurer and former Mesa County Clerk will supervise all conduct related to elections occurring under the authority of Title 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. The newly formed advisory committee will be responsible for advising and assisting Reiner and will include Representative Janice Rich, Ouray Clerk and Recorder Michelle Nauer, and former Secretary of State Bernie Buescher.

The committee will participate in weekly meetings with Ms. Reiner during the preparation for and execution of an election, unless Ms. Reiner and the committee decide upon another frequency. The committee shall also be permitted to participate in election functions as designated by Ms. Reiner. The Mesa County Clerk and Recorder and staff will take any and all lawful direction from Ms. Reiner and any other Secretary of State designee on any and all election matters.

Given the deadline to purchase, certify, and install trusted build on election equipment before Aug. 31, a swift appointment was required to ensure safe and secure elections in Mesa County

The Montrose Mirror | August 23, 2021

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES PRESENTED WITH SHERIFF'S COMMENDATION



Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Sheriff Mark Taylor and Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque presented patrol Deputies Eric Romisch and Devan Ruble each with Sheriff's Commendations at the Aug. 17, 2021 Delta County Board of County Commissioners Meeting. Deputies Romisch and Ruble were recognized for showing self-control, situational awareness and courage in the way they responded to and handled a call of a suicidal man having a mental health crisis in July 2021. Congratulations Deputies and thank you! Photo courtesy of DCSO.



S L D E

WHEN YOU'RE A PARENT

They jump out of trees. Sail their bikes over ramps. Slide down staircases. They're just being kids. But when it comes to their health, you want the best care possible.



COPMOBA VOLUNTEERS BUILDING ELECTRIC HILLS TRAIL SYSTEM From pg 1



Courtesy photo by Jeff Rice.

a fully-functional parking lot shared with the Rimrocker Trail, and a location along a main road (Highway 90)."

While optimized for mountain biking, the trails are on public land and open to foot travel, cycling, and equestrian use as well, Baker said. He noted that the Electric Hills trail system will be similar to other professionally designed trail systems such as the RAT trails near Ridgway, Mary's Loop trails near Fruita, and Hartman Rocks near Gunnison.

"This is a totally grass-roots effort," Baker said. The project began in 2014, inspired by the efforts of neighboring communities to increase opportunities for bicyclists, and is sustained by the growing numbers of people who see cycling as an essential part of a healthful lifestyle.

Electric Hills was intended to fill a big hole in what Montrose has to offer in terms of trails, Baker said, as Western Colorado residents and visitors have come to expect such amenities as trails for walking, running, bicycling, and equestrian use. Also, the trails are good for Main Street.

"Trails can be an economic driver, and Montrose didn't have that," Baker said. To date, dozens of volunteers have donated hundreds of hours into the project. "We have had six volunteer trail building events this summer, and always get at least 10 dedicated volunteers," he said. "So far, we have around three miles of the total 17 planned miles built, completely by volunteers. Next month I'll be applying for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant to allow the remaining mileage to be built by a professional trail builder."

Baker encourages anyone with an interest to join COPMOBA and become involved with trail building efforts.

"Build nights are really fun," he said. "You work as hard as you want to—there's definitely a social component as well."



Volunteers at the Aug. 16 trail building event. Courtesy photo by Jeff Rice.

Volunteering and sharing a love for cycling will benefit Montrose over the long term. Prior to the establishment of some bike trails, public lands that are now used by many had become dumping grounds. Organizers like longtime volunteer Bill Harris have helped to build momentum, Baker said. "Bill is an inspiration; we would not be here without him."

Also helping to promote bicycle use in Montrose is Jeff Rice, a former MABA board member who helped organize last summer's Bucks for Biking program. "Jeff has brought a huge amount of energy to the local bike scene," Baker said.

The Electric Hills trail system has also generated support from a number of community organizations, including Montrose County, which has assisted with BLM processes and paid for archeological surveys, and the Montrose Recreation District, which is providing a \$5K match for a grant opportunity.

Also, "The BLM has contributed environmental clearances and made this project a priority for the local office," Baker said. "They have a tough job with all the competing demands on public land and have been great partners."

Where enthusiasm for some recreational activities has waned post-pandemic,

America's passion for biking only continues to grow. Forbes Magazine notes that cycling enjoyed huge gains in popularity across the United States and much of the world as a result of the pandemic. A ranking of the nation's most bicycle friendly communities shows that a Colorado city--Fort Collins--ranked third after San Francisco, California and Portland, Oregon. As Montrose expands its trail systems and continues to draw new residents for the outdoor lifestyle and access to public lands, sustainability is built in. "We can turn an overlooked area into something the whole community can use," Baker said, "a place where people can go and

"And there is no dumping of trash—people police themselves."

Upcoming Trail Building sessions:

Link to Aug. 23 Monday night trailbuilding session (Facebook link):

https://fb.me/e/2r3TizcKf

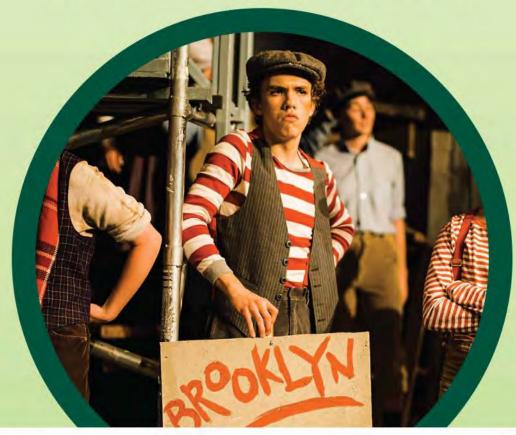
Link to Sept. 10-12 Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado trail building weekend (registration required): https://www.voc.ora/event?data-

https://www.voc.org/event?dataid=22155

feel safe.

Link to Oct. 2 Electric Hills celebration (Facebook link): https://fb.me/e/123qvKHjU

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REP. MARC CATLIN, TRI COUNTY WATER MANAGER MIKE BERRY JOIN MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL FOR WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK AT WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-City Councilors, department heads, and several guests were present for the regular <u>City Council work session</u> of Monday, Aug. 16. The work session began with Council welcoming new city employees.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Five new employees were introduced and welcomed at the start of the session, including:

Parks & Special Projects Worker Kody Bise:

Engineering Technician Russ Chameroy; Executive Assistant to the City Manager's Office Dawn Dovey;

Municipal Court Judge Chuck Greenacre Animal Shelter Technician Elizabeth Powers.

Bise, a streets division worker, started working with the city as a temporary parks worker. Originally from Las Vegas, he moved to Montrose with family in 2013, graduating from MHS in 2020. Bise appreciates working for the Streets Division. "They got a good crew and good teamwork and all that good stuff," he said. Chameroy will fill a new position, that of Engineering Technician and Public Improvements Inspector, City Engineer Scott Murphy said.

Said Chameroy, "I am glad to be working with Scott here, he's a real thorough department head. It's real refreshing to see the inspections and the wherewithal that he has on the job sites."

Chameroy previously worked 19 years for the Town of Winter Park and is happy to live in Montrose now and to be working in the field. "There's a lot of exciting things here in Montrose to see."

Dovey has 15 years of experience as an executive assistant. "I am excited to bring some help to this very busy team," she said. "...I just love the town of Montrose." Dovey has a sociology degree from Greeley and presently lives in Eckert with her husband, who grew up in Delta, as they look for a house in Montrose.

Mayor Glaspell said, "Did they mention to



Joining City Council and staff for a water resources outlook presentation during the Aug. 16 work session were (left to right) Representative Marc Catlin (R-3), and Tri County Water General Manager Mike Berry. Also pictured are City Engineer Scott Murphy (second from right) who serves on the West Slope Land and Water Committee with Berry, City Utilities Manager David Bries, right, and Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, back.

you that when you come from the Front Range over here that you have to bring your water shares with you?"

Dovey said that they had.

Municipal Court Judge Charles Greenacre was introduced, though he has been informally welcomed at previous council meetings.

"Mr. Mayor and members of the Council, good morning...you know I've been on the payroll now almost four months," Greenacre said. "And I've gone through some trainings before about being a department head, but I've been asked back to do some more. So I think I'm still in the process of learning what it means to be a department head and how we work in the City, so I appreciate that opportunity. But it's good to see you again. Thank you very much."

Originally from Granby, Powers comes to the City of Montrose Animal Shelter with prior experience as a shelter intern. "I have been working in the shelter about a week, it's a really great team, and I'm really happy to be working there."

WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK

City Engineer Scott Murphy introduced the water resources outlook. Joining City

staff for the discussion were State Representative Marc Catlin (R-3) and Tri County Water General Manager Mike Berry. Murphy gave an introduction with slides, providing an overview of the Colorado River watershed and storage. He also gave an overview of the local water system including the Project 7 Water Service Authority, which delivers water to seven local districts including the City of Montrose. Important points include that while upstream users do not use all of their allocations, we are still seeing shortages as downstream users get their water first and use more than allocated. The City of Montrose has water resources of 13,000 acre-feet per year and uses 4,200+ acrefeet per year.

Berry discussed the eventual conversion of agricultural land to other uses, and the need to be prepared. "How we do that and how we make that happen to preserve the rights that we have...in the Gunnison River into perpetuity, is very important." The diversion right is ultimately owned by the U.S. government, he said. "The fear around here is, if we don't use that water to a beneficial use or as smart as we can, we could possibly lose it into

REP. MARC CATLIN, TRI COUNTY WATER MANAGER MIKE BERRY JOIN MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL FOR WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK from previous pg

into the future, when Southern California is out of water or Lake Meade goes dry." A committee was originally formed in 2013 to explore water for the future. Murphy said that Water shortages are here to stay, and allocations can be political. "They say water flows uphill toward money...It's messy, we're in uncharted territory, and there's a lot to figure out." Catlin shared good news. He said the culture around water is changing, as people grow more aware. Local kids attend a water fair each year, and attendance at the Colorado River District's State of the River meetings has increased greatly in recent years. Catlin compared local reservoirs to a savings account. In this basin, the water is tied to the land and cannot be sold or leased separately. Those who set up the water system here had a great vision of the future, the only thing they could not foresee was the number of people. Piping of earthen canals to reduce seepage is ongoing and has generated savings. Catlin said efforts are underway to strengthen anti-speculation aspects of the Colorado constitution, as investors are attempting to find ways around restrictions. A Land and water Committee is looking at more ways to conserve. Still, "Right now California uses about a million acre-feet more than what they're allocated....one acre-foot of water will supply a family of five for a year...we do need more water there's no doubt." Catlin discussed demand management, which he said is a statewide discussion. "At those meetings is where we need you," he told City Council. "It's going to be community work...demand management needs to be voluntary, compensated...we cannot continue to do temporary fixes if the climate is changing permanently.

"...The time to talk about where are we going to put this saved water is now."

There is room for stored water in Lake Powell, Catlin said.

Still, "First thing my dad told me when I started irrigating for him was, don't let any water get off the hill. And that's kind

of how I feel about it, don't let any water get out of Colorado unless we know where it's at, who gets to benefit, and how it's going to be managed and that kind of thing."

Councilor J. David Reed congratulated Catlin on his appointment as Vice Chair of the State's Ag, Water and Natural Resources Committee.

Councilor Anthony Russo asked whether a study has been done on the water impacts when someone moves from an arid area to Colorado.

A study done 20 years ago by the Bureau of Reclamation predicted that the Intermountain West would be a growth area, Catlin said.

Berry thanked Murphy for being an active member of the land and water committee. "I think he's a key to the future of this group...I want to thank Scott for diving in and really helping the group."

Following the water outlook Council took a five-minute recess as lunch was served.

MCCRACKEN ADDITION ANNEXATION

Senior Planner Amy Sharp presented information on the McCracken Addition Annexation.

Background-A memo prepared by Sharp states, "The McCracken Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 2.295 acres in size. The parcel is located east of the Uncompahgre River, west of Hwy 50, south of Industrial Drive, and north of N. Grand Avenue. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. Annexation of this property will allow for future development of the property and connection to City utilities. An Annexation Agreement will be required."

PINON WAY RIGHT OF WAY VACATION ORDINANCE

Sharp presented the Pinon Way Right of Way Vacation Ordinance.

Background-A memo from Sharp to Council states, "The proposed vacation is located along a portion of Pinon Way. The neighboring property owner is requesting

the City vacate a portion of right-of-way along Pinon Way for future development of a four-plex for workforce housing. The southerly half of this ROW would be vacated to the adjacent landowner. The northerly half would not be vacated at this time and retained by the City for future potential use.

REVISIONS TO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 1 - PLANNING COM-MISSION

Also presented by Sharp were changes to the Municipal Code increasing compensation for members of the City Planning Commission; City Attorney Stephen Alcorn also discussed the proposed changes. Background-A memo from Sharp to Council states, "City staff have undertaken a review of the Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 2, Section 1 (2-2-1) in order to update the compensation of Planning Commission members. This modification changes the Planning Commission members' compensation from \$40/month to \$80/month and the Chairperson's compensation from \$60/month to \$100/month.

REVISIONS TO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4 - FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Background-A memo from Sharp to Council states, "City staff have undertaken a review of the Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 4, Sections 1-18 in order to add a definition for family childcare homes, update the definition for childcare facilities, and define where these uses are allowed. This Code amendment is in response to House Bill 21-1222... which was signed June 7, 2021. This House Bill expands opportunities to access childcare in family childcare homes. According to this House Bill, family childcare homes shall be treated as residential property use."

REVISIONS TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5-3, POLICE ALARM SYSTEMS

Alcorn presented information on the proposed revisions to Municipal Code Section 5-3, Police Alarm Systems. The City seeks to remove the requirement for alarm installers to be licensed.

REP. MARC CATLIN, TRI COUNTY WATER MANAGER MIKE BERRY JOIN MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL FOR WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK from previous pg

SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR DINNER ON MAIN STREET

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo presented a request for a Special Events Alcohol Permit for a Dinner on Main Street. The request will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting of Sept. 7.

Background-A memo from DelPiccolo to Council states, "Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club has applied for a Special Events Permit to sell and serve alcohol during the Dinner on Main Street event on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. As part of this event, Main Street will be closed from Townsend to Cascade Avenue. According to the Municipal Code and Regulations Manual, City Council approval is required for Special Events Permits in conjunction with a street closure.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

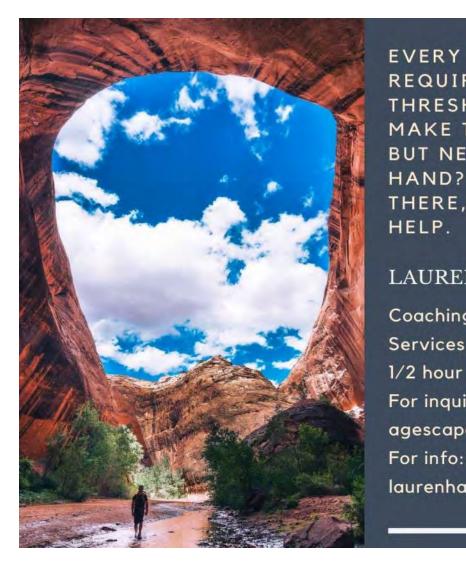
Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said, "...One of the hallmarks really of a good, efficient, well-run, system is not just the fact that it runs well, but cheerful comradery between the employees...I just wanted to say on the public record that I really like

the fact that we can laugh and joke and have fun at work sessions and not just be working. Thank you."

"I see no reason for us to give up our smiles and our humor when we step up on the dais," Reed said.

Glaspell said that Council's tent at the Montrose Farmers Market was "fairly successful."

"We had right around 20 individuals who came and spoke with us. Some were more humorous than others, but I think overall it was a good meeting," Glaspell said.



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GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT HOTEL AMONG ITEMS APPROVED AT BOCC MEETING

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 18. All items on the meeting agenda were approved. The Mirror will not have the usual first-person report, however, as we had planned to watch this session on the livestream. No audio or live stream was available due to technical difficulties.

CONSENT AGENDA

<u>Consent agenda items</u> were approved. **GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE**

General business items included:
-Dani Hulet extending appreciation for purchasing her Steer at the 2021 Montrose County Fair;

-An <u>Intergovernmental Agreement with</u> <u>the City of Montrose</u> that stipulates the party's participation, review, and processing of liquor licensing applications in unincorporated Montrose County;

-Consideration and possible action on a bid award <u>and contract</u> in the amount of \$84,980.87 to lowest responsive, responsible bidder Skip Huston Construction, Inc., for permitting and replacement of the Montrose County Justice Center South Driveway. The project is anticipated to start Aug. 23 and be completed by Dec. 15.

-Consideration and possible action on award of the replacement of the Uncompahgre River Bridge on Blossom Road to lowest responsible, responsive bidder Con-Sy, Inc. of Grand Junction in the total amount of \$1,406,335.75. Using a grant the County received for the bridge project, Montrose County will be reimbursed for \$952,000 and the County out-of-pocket cost of the bid amount will be \$454,335.75.

-Consideration and possible action on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, Inc. and Montrose County. This will allow the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse to assume the responsibility as primary response team for search and rescue, wild land firefighting, and security operations in Montrose County under the direction of the Montrose County Sheriff.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development items included:

- <u>Ken Kirby Rezone [RZ21-004] proposal</u> to rezone from Light Industrial (I-L) to General Agricultural (A)at Parcel 426917200061.
- River Road Warehouse Adjacent Parcel Rezone [RZ21-008] proposal to rezone from General Agricultural (A) to Light Industrial (I-L) Parcel 349521300005 & Parcel 349528100018.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LI-CENSING AUTHORITY

Kendra Jenkins of the Clerk & Recorder's Office presented consideration and possible approval of the <u>Special Event Permit for Valley Food Partnership Harvest Feast</u> to be held at Storm King Mountain Ranch, 70777 Buckhorn Road, Montrose, CO 81401 on Sept. 12.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered executive session with the County Attorney for legal advice pertaining to Montrose Memorial Hospital and for legal advice pertaining to the airport.

OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINIS- TRATIVE ITEMS The BOCC approved the Ground Lease Agreement for a hotel at the Montrose Regional Airport.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS



August 19, 2021

CITY OF MONTROSE



Doug Glaspell, Mayor Dave Frank, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum, City Councilor J. David Reed, City Councilor Anthony Russo, City Councilor Phone: 970.240.1400

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO THE CITIZENS

As elected officials we very seldom, as a City Council, publicly express our umbrage to our citizens as it relates to criticisms of actions or decisions made by us or our appointed officials. We accept that, as public officials answerable to the citizens, we will from time to time be criticized for our actions or perceived inactions. That's understandable and we accept that as being a part of our commitment to public service, a responsibility we hold in high regard.

However, there are times that we, as a body, feel compelled to publicly respond to absolute untruths, innuendo, personal attacks and allegations of the commission of a crime. This is one of those times.

Specifically, we are referring to the editorial written by Mr. Paul Arbogast and published in the Montrose Mirror on August 16, 2021, regarding City Manager, Bill Bell.

We are appalled that Mr. Arbogast would publish such an unfounded personal attack on Mr. Bell, and in the process publicly accuse him of the commission of the crime of harassment. We believe that it crosses the line of decency and needs to be addressed publicly.

There are many statements in Mr. Arbogast's editorial with which we disagree. However, the primary purpose of this statement is not to take issue so much with those statements that we believe are laced with innuendo and untruths. The primary purpose of this statement is to express our concern over Mr. Arbogast's accusations that Mr. Bell has committed a crime. There is no evidence to support his claim. Mr. Arbogast's conduct is reprehensible and simply not supported by the facts.

Mr. Arbogast suggests that a sense of humor is inappropriate in a public setting by and between elected and appointed officials. He also suggests that as a government we are not a family. We take exception to and reject his suggestions.

Indeed, we are a family. We work together and support each other on a daily basis. Not unlike any other business we build lasting friendships and relationships with our co-workers, both elected and appointed. We believe this is a healthy thing and works to the benefit of our entire community. We promote, as does the community, a small-town feel.

To be sure, we take the citizens' work very seriously. We are committed to doing the very best we can in the service to all of our constituents. To suggest that we should take the smiles off of our faces and hide our sense of humor when publicly conducting the citizens' business is something we vehemently disagree with and will not do. We believe that we can act seriously in the conduct of our public business without losing our levity.

As the City Council, we support our City Manager, Mr. Bell and all of our department heads and employees. We believe, as does Chief Hall, that his comments were made in jest and we unequivocally disagree with the unfounded allegation that his conduct rises to the level of the crime of harassment.

We also take this opportunity to inform our constituents that we intend to continue to do our work for the benefit of all of our citizens, with a positive smile and a sense of humor. Notwithstanding Mr. Arbogast's protestations, we, and City staff, don't intend to check those at the door before being seated on the dais.

City of Montrose City Council

Doug Glaspell, Mayor Dave Frank, Mayor Pro Tem

Barbara Bynum

J. David Reed

Anthony Russo



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE POLICE CHIEF STATEMENT

STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE CHIEF

I was recently made aware of accusations made by Mr. Paul Arbogast against the City Manager and a response letter drafted by the Montrose City Council. I felt compelled to respond to add additional context to the comments made by Bill in a recent meeting:

I enjoy an awesome working relationship with City Manager Bill Bell and we are also friends outside of work. Through researching public safety building construction we were amazed at the things some police executives ask for in their offices. We joke about these things like couches, showers and fancy décor only because we believe these requests are outlandish and a poor use of public funds. I have at no time been harassed by or felt harassed by Bill. Mr. Arbogast's claims in The Mirror are ridiculous and uncalled for. These types of attacks need to stop. They are hurtful to our community and to those people who are dedicated to making Montrose a better place!

Blaine Hall, Chief of Police

CITY COUNCIL MISSED POINT OF OP/ED—AND THEY ARE GOVERNMENT, NOT A FAMILY

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE-As you have seen before you
got to this piece, the City of Montrose City
Council submitted a letter to the editor in
response to my op-ed last week. While I
rarely address letters to the editor, the
City Council, as our public servants, have
made the decision to go after me, so I figured that I would respond. They use a lot
of words and say many things to strike out
at me, while missing the point of the oped.

The main focus of their letter is that somehow, I alleged that the city manager committed a crime. Yes, I used the word harassment, and in modern society I understand that most people associate that term with 'criminal harassment' in terms of sexual harassment. Because of that I tried to find a different word that fit what I, and others in the community, saw. But there was not one that fit, and the definition in my mind was 'to annoy or irritate', much as siblings harass each other, but it's not criminal.

So what their letter is based upon is the Straw Man fallacy. A Straw Man fallacy is when someone (in this case the city) takes another person's argument and distorts or exaggerates it, then attacks that exaggeration. For those that can read and compre-

hend words, it is clear that I never suggested a crime was committed. Let's be honest, if I thought someone in government committed a crime, I would say so plainly, I am not a politician, so I don't have to be vague or talk around things. Just as if I think there is a conflict of interest or something that is unethical, I will use plain language to say it, as I did with the former council member and Divot's situation.

The letter repeats 'untruths' and 'innuendo' and 'personal attacks,' but does not point to where these are in my op-ed. I gave examples of something I saw, I showed how the charter changed, I said because of that boss/employee relationship that what I saw seemed inappropriate, and that the charter should be changed back so that we have a say in such decisions through those we elect. Would a boss making jokes at the expense of a subordinate be acceptable in the corporate world?

The city furthers the straw man by saying that I suggest 'that a sense of humor is inappropriate in a public setting.' Nope, what I said was that a boss joking about someone they can fire, with no approval from the council, is inappropriate. Humor, laughter, and taking things not so serious-

ly is much needed in this world as there seems to be a lack of it, because everyone is offended too easily. To be honest, after watching endless hours of council meetings, they could use more levity, because those meetings are pretty dry and boring.

Another thing they say is they take exception to and reject my statement that they are government, not a family. I said such familiarity breeds corruption, while not always the case, there are endless examples in government of it. For the sake of optics (there is that word again) it is best to avoid such familiarity if a government doesn't want their decisions questioned or seen as a conflict of interest.

They quite often tend to go back to this 'we are family' motif. I understand this concept of business/government as a family, it is old and worn, and not how government should function, in my opinion. That doesn't mean you cannot be friendly or go out for dinner or drinks.

There are many out there that have discussed this antiquated idea of operating like a family, and the reasons why it is unrealistic and a bad idea. Long ago it made sense, when someone was with a company (or government) for 40+ years, but that is not how things work in modern

COUNCIL MISSED POINT OF OP/ED-AND THEY ARE GOVERNMENT, NOT FAMILY From previous pg

times. You must let people go, employees understand their jobs are almost never forever jobs, you need to set performance standards and hold people to them, you need to be goal driven, and you need to inspire employees not be their buddy. Let's be honest, these are not things that 'families' do, heck most families are at least a bit dysfunctional.

An expert on branding and business issues, Denise Lee Yohn has said, "Today's business environment requires agility, flexibility, and creativity. You don't want family ties that bind. You need to unleash the potential of people's performance." This is true in government as well.

All that being said, I want to make it very clear, I do not dislike the City Council or city employees.

There are a lot of good, hard-working people employed by the city that do fan-

tastic work every day. If you follow what I write you know I just did a piece on the coming improvements to some of the mobile home parks in the city. I got to sit down with the Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler and talk to her about it, and I am thrilled with the work she has done to bring these improvements to town. We talked beyond the mobile home parks, about improving the city and the public view of city government, and she truly cares and wants to make things better. I have talked a lot to the City Engineer Scott Murphy on different projects the city has going on, explaining the how and why to me to help let the people know.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo has always been helpful in guiding me to documents or the right people to ask.

These and others are exceptional humans and city employees.

That there are maybe a handful of people

in local government that do not like me, honestly doesn't bother me.

I understand people in 'power' want only positive coverage, but sometimes their words and actions must be put out there for a public that is too busy putting food on their tables to sit around through endless meetings to know what is going on. If Councilors do not like that, well perhaps they should consider not doing or saying things that they don't want reported. So now you have my response to their letter.

When I saw it, I was honestly embarrassed for them, that they would spend the time (and thus money) to put out something so off base, and so fraught with the straw man fallacy.

But feel free to read my op-ed in last week's edition, their response, and now mine, and make up your own mind, we are still allowed to do that, for now.



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MONTROSEMIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

CITY APPROVES MURA CHANGE ORDER; HEARS 2ND QTR BUDGET REPORT



Citizen Ron Sobieck spoke during the time for public comment at the Aug. 17 Montrose City Council meeting.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council gathered for a <u>regular meeting</u> in Council Chambers on Tuesday, Aug. 17. All councilors were present; Mayor Doug Glaspell called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Glaspell had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Citizen Ron Sobieck was present and spoke to Council about the HUB project. He said he has researched commonalities among cities that have approved large apartment complexes of 100 or more units. Main concerns usually include proximity to amenities such as schools and parks, public safety and ease of access, and adequate infrastructure. Most municipalities allow this type of development only in areas served by four-lane roads or with a major four-lane road nearby, Sobieck said.

"I can understand why the developer wants to proceed with this project," he said. "Profit is a big motive. My question is why our city manager is pushing for and publicly advocating for a project that he knows or should know is in the wrong location. What is his motive?

Sobieck continued, "Furthermore, why would the City Manager propose \$2.35 million in fees be waived for such a project, when he knows or should know that the money would be needed to upgrade the infrastructure around the project?

"...why has our city council followed the city manager's recommendations without seeming to do even the most basic research?"

Mayor Glaspell objected and tried to interrupt Sobieck, who continued to speak.

Sobieck also questioned City Council's concern for the safety of the public. "Mayor Glaspell, you have said in numerous emails and comments that public safety is a major concern for approving development. We have also repeatedly heard that development should pay its own way. Neither of these statements seem to be taken seriously here. I submit that to even

consider this project at this location is not sound city management, it is city mismanagement."

MURA CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$94,668 to Mountain Valley Contracting's Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Phase II Public Infrastructure Construction Contract for piping of the Rice Ditch. City Engineer Scott Murphy noted that piping of the Rice Ditch was part of the original plan, and that the cost has not increased due to being added later.

ORDINANCES 2549, 2550, AND 2551

Planner I William Reis presented three ordinances for approval. Mayor Glaspell mispronounced Reis' name three times during the presentations. Councilor Barbara Bynum corrected Glaspell; Reis, who had corrected the mispronunciation after the first occurrence, declined to comment further.

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2549 on second reading, for the annexation of the Riverside Park Addition II; Ordinance 2550 on second reading, zoning the Riverside Park Addition II as a P, Public District; Ordinance 2551 on second reading for the annexation of the Riverside Park Addition III; and Ordinance 2552 on second reading, zoning the Riverside Park Addition III as a P, Public District.

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax report and Second Quarter Budget report via Zoom call.

During the budget report, Wittenberg noted that the Black Canyon Golf Course is one of the better performing funds at the moment. Still, "Keep in mind we added the restaurant in 2021 so those numbers were unbudgeted, they will come to you in a supplemental budget at the end of the year."

Councilor Anthony Russo asked whether the Golf Course restaurant is included on the expense side.

"It's included in those numbers," Wittenberg said. "But as we get closer to the end of the year, I think we'll see where the expenditures exceeded what we appropriated for that fund in 2021."

Bynum asked for an update on the composting toilet planned for Taviwach Park; Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that the composting toilet turned out not to be a good fit for the location. The money has been left in the capital fund, and a different type of restroom will likely be budgeted for Taviwach in future years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bynum thanked staff for providing a tour of the water treatment plant. "...It's really fascinating."

Council also toured the new amphitheater, which is on schedule to open this fall, she said, and walked the West Main neighborhood to look at improvements and visit with neighbors and business owners. "It's really neat to see what's going on," Bynum said. Glaspell said the city has received a \$2M grant for the upgrade of West Main. "It doesn't seem to matter where we go, where we visit, some of the greatest employees in the world gotta be working here in Montrose...they're always so knowledgeable, I know more about waste now than I ever did before." Russo and Bynum reminded the public not to put egg shells and coffee grounds down the garbage disposal. "They get skimmed out, they get put in trash cans, and they get taken to the dump," Bynum

"And flushable wipes aren't flushable," Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said. Tours of the wastewater treatment plant are available to interested citizens as well, Bynum said.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT AWARDS CITY OF MONTROSE \$2 MILLION FOR WEST MAIN STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose has been selected to receive \$2 million in funds from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to improve the safety, mobility, and economic development of Montrose's West Main Street corridor, from Cascade Avenue in downtown Montrose along Main Street to the West Main Trailhead at the Uncompander River.

The Colorado Department of Transportation awarded approximately \$22 million for sixteen transportation projects across the state under the Revitalizing Main Streets Program Larger Safety Infrastructure Grant opportunity. Main Street running west from the intersection at Townsend Avenue is officially known as Colorado Highway 90, and is under the jurisdiction of CDOT.

"This funding will be used for a monumental project that will transform the West Main Street corridor. It aims to improve safety for all users, expand accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists, and create a welcoming environment that will spur further economic revitalization efforts in downtown Montrose," said Ken-

dall Cramer, community program manager. "The City of Montrose extends our appreciation to the Colorado Department of Transportation for its investment in our community."

Improvements to the West Main Street corridor will include roadway conversion, ADA compliant sidewalks, and new bike lanes in both directions for the full length of the project area. Final design for the project will be developed through a public process and in coordination with CDOT. These improvements will be based on traffic studies and data collected throughout the West Main Street corridor.

City staff began working with local residents and consultants in summer 2020 to create a detailed vision of improvements to the West Main Street corridor, identifying the need for safe bike and pedestrian connections between the Uncompandere River and downtown.

The city's grant application stated that the project will add an exciting and necessary connection to a variety of Montrose neighborhoods and will improve the quality of life for a very diverse group of Montrose residents.

The existing street and sidewalk infra-

structures do not meet ADA standards and are not safe for citizens in wheelchairs or on foot. Due to wide double lanes heading east and west, motorists often exceed the posted speed limit through an area that lacks turn lanes.

Comments from the public highlight the difficulty of crossing these wide streets and the overemphasis on vehicle traffic that cause many to choose not to bike or travel by foot in this area. Additionally, the potential for future housing on the west side of town will likely increase traffic and further exacerbate these issues.

In 2012, a report titled "Montrose Downtown Plan of Development" highlighted these concerns and labeled the area a "priority for revitalization." Furthermore, the city's "Envision 2040" Comprehensive Plan, completed in 2020, underscored the need to prioritize multi-modal improvements along this corridor. The grant calls for a financial match of 20 percent, or \$400,000, from the city to complete the improvements. Aside from greatly improving safety and mobility for residents in the area, the city believes the project will provide a catalyst for more economic development in the West Main Street area.





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Friday, September 17, 2021

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Montrose Center for the Arts

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Concert, 7-8:30 pm, Montrose Methodist Church
19 S. Park Ave. (Next door to MCA)



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY ARE CITY COUNCIL, MANAGER SO THIN-SKINNED?

Editor:

I did not realize until just this week how thin skinned our city council is. A one-half page "Open Letter" in Saturday's Daily Press calling out Paul Arbogast for "attacking" City Manager Bill Bell? Really? How much did that cost taxpayers?

Mr. Arbogast was well within his rights to claim that Bell harassed our police chief with his immature jokes at a city council meeting.

Mr. Arbogast had no way of knowing Bell was joking. When a superior appears to publicly demean an employee that he can fire, the perception among most observers would be that the employee is indeed being harassed. That is what Mr. Arbogast believed he saw.

City council likes to throw around the word "attack" whenever someone criticizes them or their employees. I know this for a fact, since I was the victim of it at last Tuesday's council meeting. Mayor Glaspell rudely interrupted me when I questioned the actions and motivations of Bell, claiming that I was "attacking" Bell. Mr. Mayor, I pointed out, both during the meeting and in a subsequent email, that I was within my rights as a citizen to do so. You couldn't even respond or apologize.

Our city council may not like hard criticism, but if you're in the political realm you should expect it. In fact, there's an old saying that fits perfectly- if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!

Ron Sobieck, Montrose

ARE WE CITIZENS OF MONTROSE OR MERELY ADVERSARIES OF THE CITY COUNCIL?

Editor:

Are we citizens of Montrose or merely adversaries of the city council?

Certainly when one reviews the behavior of the council and the City Manager (a city employee) Bill Bell toward citizens who speak out publicly about various issues, the city council feels that any vocal citizen is their adversary. It matters little whether the issue is taxes, streets in dire need of resurfacing after years of the financial neglect or the citizen opposition to subsidizing every fly-by-night cockamamie idea of the manager. All the stories about Montrose and the Montrose city council being an easy mark just waiting to be taken for a ride are well known. Just repeat

the 'throw-away' lines and 'whiz-bang' there goes another million or three. Can't blame the contractors who take the money, wouldn't you? Does anyone who has just read this paragraph think that this is not real?

Just ask the 'west-siders' at the HUB meetings, the downtown business owners, past DDA members and the ordinary citizens that have had less than desirable runins with what has been described as "the city intimidators." Or those that write regularly in opposition of city ventures. Go to a city council meeting, get your three minutes and the self-imposed blank stares from city council members and the no comment that follows your

statement.

How about the silence from city council when it was suggested that an open forum between them and the public at the Event Center where there is plenty of space and the three-minute rule, the 'no response' rule and the gavel would hold no sway. Just courteous open dialog where the council could dazzle the public with what they know about the issues (questions) at hand.

There are only two simple questions that need to be asked in a city-wide survey. 1). What do you think of city council performance? 2). What do you think of the city manager's conduct and behavior? *Bill Bennett, Montrose*



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANKS TO BIDEN, THE TALIBAN NOW HAS OUR WEAPONS AND CAN SHARE WITH THEIR RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FRIENDS

Letter to the Editor:

We have now seen the effects of a mentally challenged man whose only purpose was to do the opposite of anything than his predecessor did. Joe Biden is the worst President we have had and has proven so in less than seven months. He is way worse than Obama or Carter have ever been, unless Obama is still calling the shots. He has made decisions contrary to his military leaders and thousands of Americans and others from around the world are at the will of the Taliban who have rarely restrained themselves from violence.

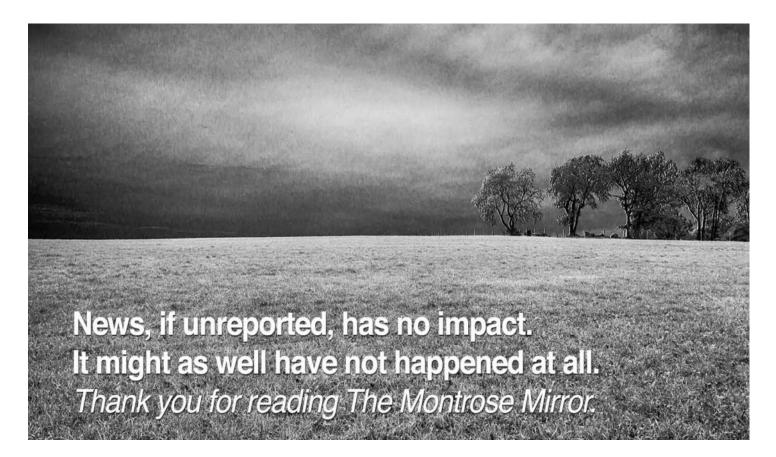
The Taliban now has our weapons and can share with their Russian and Chinese friends. This is a disaster that may last for eternity. Biden left from his vacation only long enough to make a speech, take no questions and return to his vacation at Camp David. He blames many but says the buck stops with him. What a phony. When he finally returns to Washington, DC he has a speech about Covid with not a word about the disaster he has created in Afghanistan.

This was to be expected when when Bob Gates (who was in the Obama Administration with Joe Biden) said that Biden has been on the wrong side nearly every foreign policy issue for 40 years. He was against taking out Osama bin Laden, but claims it as one of has triumphs. The US had a small force left in Afghanistan and no deaths in a year and a half. Is Biden going to pull troops out of Korea, Japan and Germany next?

It's not bad enough that inflation and the national debt are out of control, with the Progressive wish list only starting. That Biden who has fought American oil and gas is asking OPEC to produce more. That he stopped the Keystone pipeline that would safely bring oil from Canada but pulled sanctions on the Russian Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Germany and Europe. The southern border is being overran with unknown people crossing the border with a near 20% Covid infection rate and over 200,000 illegals a month. Not a thing is being done to the mobs of millions that ransacked and burned our cities in the 2020 riots.

The only thing scarier is that the line of progression to the Presidency includes worse people than Biden. God help us all. What is one positive action in his seven months in office?

Ed Moreland, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THOSE WHO CHERISH OUR HOMELAND MUST TAKE A VERY, VERY FIRM STAND NOW

Editor;

"We have therefore to resolve to conquer or die: Our won Country's Honor, all call upon us for vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world."--- George Washington (1776). America now could certainly use some of that manly exertion, but sadly that is lacking from the Democrat party who now have a catastrophic headlock on America's future.

The despicable failure of Joe Biden and his comrades has now skyrocketed America's national security risks in the world. America will now be known to her allies and her enemies as an unreliable and bankrupt exworld power. Thank you Joe Biden for pulling our military out of Afghanistan without consent from our allies and abandoning thousands of Americans in Afghanistan to the Taliban. Former Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, described Biden's foreign policy decisions as "chronic malfeasance" and stated he has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades! Any amateur understands that you evacuate civilians before withdrawing the military. But no problem, according to Democrat advisor Jake Sullivan, "The Taliban have informed us that they are prepared to provide the safe passage of civilians to the airport, and we intend to hold them to that commitment." Yeah, right! And Biden stupidly said he is confident the Taliban will not align itself with terrorists! What? Someone needs to inform him the Taliban are the terrorists!! Now Biden is shipping more than 80,000 Afghans directly into the U.S. without vetting and they will be seeking asylum in the U.S. And Biden won't turn anyone away because of the precedent he set at the southern border allowing more than a million invaders cross our southern border just in the last six months. It's estimated it will be 2 million by the end of the year. He of course needs all of these foreign voters to get reelected. Of course hard working American

families will be paying the bills for all the free goodies and health care they will all be getting in return for their votes as noncitizens through voter fraud.

Biden has sent a loud and clear message to the world of his weakness and worthlessness, particularly to Iran, Iraq, Russia, China, N. Korea and many other countries who hate America. Worst of all to our many allies who now know they cannot depend on America. Taiwan and Hong Kong are now not sleeping well. Rob O'Neill, who killed Osama in 2011 had it right when he said, "Everything Democrats touch turns to ****". He said his friends died for no reason, our borders are wide open, China's biological weapon is surging, we closed our pipeline, but opened Russia's, the Taliban is back in charge, we are defunding our police, and people with penises are women and can legally use women's restrooms! Biden overturned and cancelled everything President Trump accomplished for America. What else could go wrong?

Meanwhile, back home, Biden is fully focused on what he and Pelosi claim to be the real threat to America, those Trump supporters! He labels them insurrectionists because they protested the voter fraud that Biden admitted to on camera just days before the 2020 election. Yes, there are Al Qaeda attacks coming to a community near you, but the Biden regime and the Dept. of Homeland Security has recently issued a warning the most dangerous terrorists to fear are, antimaskers, lockdown resisters, Trump supporters, and those who think there was fraud in the 2020 election (even though Biden admitted on camera he had the most sophisticated system for voter fraud there is). NBC news reported that a "National Terrorism Alert" has been issued by the DHS for those people!

There is research that reveals there is preparation for government "false flag" events. That's when government agencies carry out a terroristic attacks and then

blame innocent patriots. (Remember Jan. 6th?) The Democrat choke hold on American citizens is still holding people in jail without being charged or convicted of a crime! That is Unconstitutional, but the Constitution is nothing but a pesky piece of paper to Biden and his Democrat comrades

Now Congress is considering a new law banning anyone from flying to and from the U.S. without the "jab". But the government is flying and busing invaders all over America and dumping them secretly into unsuspecting neighborhoods with the knowledge that a high percentage of them are infected with Covid and numerous other unknown diseases; plus many are members of gangs. So Americans have to mask up, lock up, get jabbed up, pay all the illegals' bills and wait for emergency surgery while illegals are filling the hospitals. Why is Biden intentionally exposing Americans with viruses and crime? Why is he allowing Americans to be captives of terrorists?

While all of Biden's despicable actions go unchallenged by his media buddies, we now learn the CDC has released plans for what they call "Green Zones." Hold on to your pants now! These are re-location camps for those who have refused the jab and are considered "high risk individuals." According to the CDC document, those individuals would be temporarily relocated to safe or "green zones" established at the household, neighborhood, camp/sector, or community level. They would have minimal contact with family members and other low-risk residents. People can be "forcibly" removed from their homes and placed in these "green zone" camps and held for a minimum of six months----or unless they take the jab! Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has already signed Executive Order 83 for similar action.

Meanwhile the American Medical Association has passed a resolution to lobby for the removal of sex designation from birth certificates. And Biden's White House just

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS from previous pg

THOSE WHO CHERISH OUR HOMELAND MUST TAKE A VERY, VERY FIRM STAND NOW

announced the first Muslim American nominated to be the US ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom. How will that work out for Christians?

Those who cherish our homeland must take a very, very firm stand now. Afghanistan must be the final and unshakable line in the sand. Take your final stand at every ballot box opportunity until all socialist Democrats are out of power and we have rid our land of their evil intent.

This is the time to remember 2nd Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind." America and the world could certainly benefit right now from the power and love of a sound mind!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose





The Mirror

Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.

A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

IT NEVER HURTS TO PRACTICE PATIENCE AND KINDNESS



Poised at the peak of adulthood, the view can intimidate. Above, a summer hike with my brother.

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-Sometimes I like to sit in my window and look up towards the sky. I'll

observe the leaves whispering in the trees, cats coming and going, doing as they please.

But as I look upon this gentle scenery, I realize none of it has anything to do with me. That I'm sitting in my room observing everything with a glass window being the divider between me, and the world outside.

I went through all three stages of school, elementary, middle, and high. And throughout all of it I wasn't too worried or stressed about how I was doing until I neared the end, when I realized that even though my and I friends put in all this work to make it to the end, to sprout into adults and live on past the days of sitting at a desk, it's not guaranteed that we're going to have a good life afterwards. Even if we try our hardest, things might not go our way.

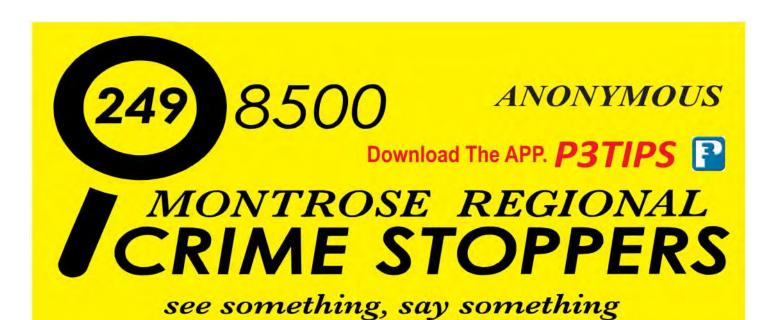
And that's all I've been hearing from people the same age. I've been thinking about it too. Thinking about how frustrating it is that even if we give it our all it probably won't be enough. What if I don't make

enough money? What if I get hurt in an accident while I'm getting started and medical bills push me to homelessness? What if I make a mistake and I have to move back home and try again?

We have all these worries and it just feels like some adults around us just put us down for not having everything down to a routine like they've had for years. A weight on my heart keeps me from wanting to go out into this massive world and try to survive. It's ironic that in an era where survival should be guaranteed, it isn't. And people being good to you isn't guaranteed either.

I have friends who work fast food jobs, restaurant jobs, and retail jobs. More often than not, I hear about how awful they get treated by the people they're trying to help.

I know graduates and high schoolers aren't the only ones struggling right now, but it never hurts to practice patience and kindness towards someone else when they make a mistake or have to ask a question twice.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RUTHELLEN GORDON Feb. 14, 1925-July 30, 2021



Heaven has welcomed a special angel. Ruthellen Gordon passed away peacefully in her home, July 30th, 2021, surrounded by her loving family and her caregiver Liz.

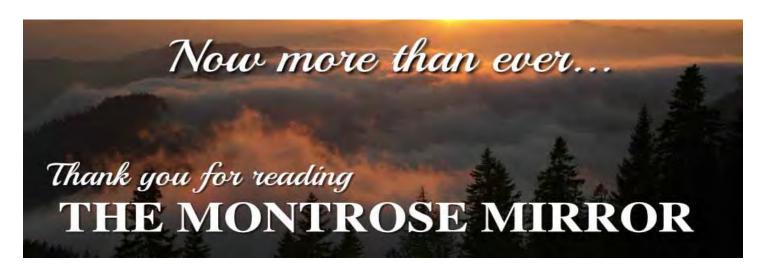
Ruthellen was born to Frank & Della Green Feb. 14th, 1925, in Greeley, CO. When she was four years old, she and her mother moved to Montrose where her mother met Roy Bever who became her beloved stepfather. In 1942 she graduated from Montrose High School where she had many friends and activities, in-

cluding being one of the first MHS Cheerleaders. After graduation she attended Secretary School in Craig, CO, then moved to Denver to pursue her career as an Executive Secretary. While in Denver, she met the love of her life, Donald Gordon. They were married August 3rd, 1948. Soon after, they moved to Don's hometown of Columbia Falls, MT where their first daughter Nancy was born. They returned to Montrose in 1950 to plant their roots and their second daughter, Jeanne, blessed their happy home. Besides enjoying being a wife and mother, Ruthellen continued her professional career working first at the Montrose County Abstract, then as a loan officer at Pioneer/Columbia Savings & Loan where she spent the rest of her career. She paved the way for many other professional women. As her and Don began to think of their retirement years, they built a family cabin in Big Cimmaron. They enjoyed many years making memories with family and friends at the cabin. While in retirement, Ruthie stepped into a new role of being a grandma. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy and watching them grow up and spend time with them kept her young at heart. Ruthie was a very vibrant and happy lady who was full of passion and laughter. She al-

ways had a tune in her heart and a pep in her step.

Ruthellen was preceded in death by her parents, her stepfather, her loving husband of 63 years, her daughter Nancy, and her great granddaughter Lily Day. She is survived by daughter Jeanne (Jim) Bridges, Montrose CO., son-in-law Rich Jakino, Montrose, CO., Grandchildren Jeff (Liz) Cooper, Colorado Springs, CO., Candi (Tony) Amaya, Montrose, CO., Laurie (James) Scott, Bellevue, WA., Jackie (Dusty) Day, Montrose, CO., Tony Jakino, Montrose, CO., Angie O'neill, Montrose, CO., Great Grandchildren Ashley Cooper, Kahmal (Ashlee) Amaya, Jamie Cooper, Tyra Amaya, Chuy Amaya, Jared Scott, Dietrich Kurtzhals, MaKenna Maestas, Madelyn Day, Dexter Day, Jack Scott, Brookie Maestas, Katie Jakino, Delilah Day, Kara Jakino and Great-Great Granddaughter Kwinn Amaya. Her family is grateful she was able to pass away in her home of 60 years, as that was her wish. Memorial Service will be held at The Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, August 28th, 2021, at 11 am.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to Hope West Hospice, 725 S. 8th St., Montrose, Co in Ruthellen Gordon's name.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

GARY C. WENANDE February 24, 1939- August 5, 2021

Gary was born on February 24, 1939, in Mitchell, South Dakota to John P. and Ann Wenande. He graduated from the University of South Dakota and proudly served in the United States Army and the Minnesota National Guard. He had a successful career as a CPA in public and private accounting in the Minneapolis, Minnesota area. He retired after twenty years with Klein Bancorporation, Inc. in Chaska, Minnesota.

Gary is survived by his loving wife of sixty years, Virginia Wenande, his four children Bradley Scott Wenande (wife Laurie) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jeff Wenande (wife Angie) of Bloomington, Minnesota, Jennifer Everett of Kansas City, Missouri, and Angie Weber (husband Eric) of Ridgway, Colorado, and his brother John Wenande of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He will be greatly missed by his eight grandchildren Kelsie, Katie, Brandon, Benjamin, Brianna, Brook, Ian and Reese.

Besides spending time with his family and friends, Gary enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, golfing, and boating. He enjoyed the warm sunshine of their home in Arizona during the winter months. Gary C. Wenande died peacefully on August 5, 2021, at Colorow Hospice Nursing Facility in Olathe, Colorado. He was surrounded by his wife and children. Gary was 82 years old.

Gary touched so many lives with his infectious smile and loved telling "Ole and Lena" jokes. Funeral Mass was at St, Daniels Catholic Church in Ouray, Colorado with a Christian burial at Cedar Hills Cemetery Ridgway, Colorado. Funeral arrangements made by Crippin Funeral Home. The Family would like to thank the staff at Colorow Hospice Facility for their wonderful care and compassion.



HEATHER CHRISTINE WASHINGTON June 18, 1967- August 17, 2021

HEATHER CHRISTINE WASHINGTON of Montrose passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at the Hope West Hospice facility in Grand Junction.

Friends and family visited often and she had her loving husband by her side. Heather died peacefully surrounded by the thoughts and prayers of so many that loved her.

She was born in Denver on June 18, 1967 to David and Carole Grove of Granby. Her childhood was spent with her family and she graduated from Middle Park High School with Panther pride.

In 1995, Heather married Paul Washington and in 1997 had a son, Zackery Paul. They lived in Tacoma Washington for many years amongst family and friends and then moved to Montrose in 1998.

Heather enjoyed crocheting and learning new patterns. She was always creating beautiful blankets, rugs, pillows, decorations and kitchen scrubbers for anyone and everyone. One year she crocheted little tea cups as Christmas presents. Hallmark movies and cooking shows held a special place for Heather especially if family and friends would watch with her. She was a very generous and forgiving soul. Heather never held a grudge.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Carole and two brothers, Daniel Milton and David Forrest. She is survived by her husband, Paul; son, Zackery Paul; father, David Grove; two sisters, Shani (Joe) and Kari as well as three nieces (Grace, Lucy and Savannah) and two nephews (Cashten and Daniel).

Heather will be missed by so many that loved her.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Heathers family. A memorial service is being planned.



ALPEN CONFECTIONS — ARTISANAL CHOCOLATE IN MONTROSE



Alpen Confections now has Dino packs for kids. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE-If you are a fan of artisanal chocolate, you are in luck. I visited Alpen Confections (8 S. Grand Ave.) and spoke to owners Mike Shafer and Lin McKay. Alpen opened its doors in Montrose just prior to Valentine's Day this year.

Originally starting in North Carolina, life events lead to Shafer and McKay landing in Montrose and after a bit of time, getting back to the work they love. Both Mike and Lin are trained confectioners



All confections are hand made with all natural ingredients. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

(traditional French) and pastry chefs, having attended Callebaut Chocolate Academy in both Montreal and Chicago.

While chocolate is not a local crop, these culinary artisans try to incorporate as many locally-sourced ingredients in their confections as possible.

Some examples are ganache made with a coffee blend from Cimarron Coffee Roasters, Montanya Rum from Crested Butte, as well as locally-produced honey. They also have a Truffle that uses Storm King Bourbon Whiskey.

There is no fancy machinery or assembly line here, all of the confections are hand made with all natural ingredients, no preservatives, no artificial flavorings, or ex-

tracts. Most of the chocolate they use is single origin, meaning it comes from only one plantation in the world. While the coloring gives a hint to the flavor, the shapes are inspired by the shapes in nature around us.

They have just started little packs for kids, their Dino Nest. The dinosaurs are Satilla milk chocolate with dark chocolate crisp pearls, and the Dino eggs are filled with pop rocks.

Admittedly I do not have the most sophisticated pallet, but I tried a few of their offerings, and they are simply amazing. I have been in Europe and tasted some of the world's best confections, and Mike and Lin have hit that level with their work. While starting out with chocolates, Alpen Confections hopes to expand into more offerings with their confections as well as pastries. I look forward to seeing what they offer down the road, and highly recommend visiting them and experiencing their delicious art.

You can follow them on FB @alpenconfections, contact them via phone @ 970-648-0609 or visit their website @ https://alpenconfections.com/.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FPC VOLUNTEERS TAKE SEWING LESSONS TO CHINLE, ARIZONA







Sewing lessons at Chinle Community Church. FPC Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – FPC (First Presbyterian
Church) songer Chiple a Navaio recor

Church) serves Chinle, a Navajo reservation in Chinle, Ariz. again. This time to help teach them sewing lessons so that they may make their own clothes.

After the Grace Fellowship Community Church in Chinle had been closed for 13 months, their doors finally opened in May. FPC members were able to travel to

Chinle in June bringing supplies to sew with them.

"It was a wonderful reunion and Sandy Longmore went with me," said FPC member Sue Sharman.

They made big grocery bags using a design that Melody Maskus of Friendship Quilters had created, as well as a bowl for thread, pins, etc.

In July Sharman was able to travel to

Chinle again, this time for three days of sewing with kids.

"We only had five students because of last minute planning. No matter, we enjoyed every minute of it," said Sharman. The kids made pillowcases, did some hand sewing and made the bowl that had been made with the adults the month before.

Sharman hopes these to be just a few of many trips in 2021, with her next trip planned for Aug. 30-31. In 2020 Sharman and her husband Don made eight trips to Chinle. She said they enjoy helping the Chinle nation in many ways, two of which include sewing and food deliveries. Often, they make day trips and travel 540 miles a day. "I am so looking forward to it," said Sharman.

FPC loves helping serve the Chinle nation and hopes to do so for many years to come. They have many opportunities if you would like to serve within a mission, for more information please call 970-249-4732.



EXPLORING LEISURE, RECREATION, EXERCISE IN NATURE...



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

Greetings Mirrorites,

August has been an interesting month for me so far. Lots of developments, including an episode of breakthrough coronavirus right after a minor surgery. That plus -Mood this dang heat has really put a crimp in my time with nature. I have been able to get out with goats about four days a week. I prefer six mornings a week, but hey, life happens.

In order to stay sane and still provide you the very best in scientific revelations about the beneficial effects on the brain of nature more) time spent in nature, I will be submitting two articles per month on various riveting topics for the next year (see, I'm not a commitment-phobe).

So that you know what to expect and can even ask questions in advance that can be incorporated into the article, below is the topic list for the coming months, not necessarily in the order presented, except for the first one on the list. It will be the next article for sure.

So here it is...the effects of leisure, recreation, and exercise in nature on...

-Cognition - BDNF hormones and path-

- -Physical Balance
- -Blood Pressure
- -Self-control/self-regulation
- -Sense of self/self esteem
- -Self-actualization
- -Creativity
- -Electronics (cell phones bad, nature

good).

- -Time management (to help you get out in
- -Relationships bonding people
- -Relationships bonding pets
- -Five senses Five different posts
- -Humor
- -Communication
- -Spirituality
- -Anxiety
- -Loneliness
- -Social skills
- -Stress and weight gain
- -Sleep
- -Depression
- -Coping with Covid

And probably others I haven't yet thought of or seen the research on.

To ask questions about these topics, please submit them to

agescapesnow@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest in this stuff, and for your loyal patronage of The Mir-

Be well and get outside (when it's cool enough).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

JOIN MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS) THIS SEPTEMBER!

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE – FPC (First Presbyterian
Church) of Montrose gets ready to host
MOPS starting Sept.14.

MOPS started in 1973 and is a group of moms that gather to support each other. They believe in the simple but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together. MOPS partners with churches and organizations worldwide to encourage moms in more than 68 countries.

"We couldn't be happier that you've found us on this crazy beautiful journey called motherhood. Every mama nurtures and parents her kiddos differently, and it's in those differences that we learn from each other. We

ences that we learn from each other. We are better together!" said one of MOPS founders.

The MOPS of Montrose meet at EPC the

The MOPS of Montrose meet at FPC the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9-11 a.m. starting in September and goes through May.

If you are interested in joining this amazing group of women they will be hosting an open registration at FPC on Aug. 24 from 9-11 a.m. or you can contact their coordinators Camrie Jensen at cam-jensen137@gmail.com or Megan Allen at meganallen85@gmail.com





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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose

CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

Contact Information: 970-249-4732,

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United

Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO.

81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Information: 970-249-3716,

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose,

CO 81401

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information: Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org email: office@rosemontbaptist.org emailto: off

Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

inform@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

In Transition-Currently:

Howard Davidson Paul Parsons Merle Bierma

Worship Service times:

9:30AM,

office@montroseumc.org, montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Lisa Petty Worship service times: 9:30 a.m. Casu-

al Contemporary Worship & 11:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship

10:30 - Social/Devotional Time

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

We are a multigenerational church from

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no Student Worship at 6PM

We strive to encourage, challenge and support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our com-

munity, country, and world.

We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries

inclusive, loving and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with and without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come and discover hope, joy, peace and purpose.

matter what stage of life they are in.

Children's services: We have a fun Sunday
School for children from four years old
through youth. We provide Children's
Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old
through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.

We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent

Interfaith

Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm,

Home Office - 970-252-0908

Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Mac-

donald, 970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org, www.spiritaware.org

Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister; Rev. Catharine Gates, Associate Minister. Spiritual counseling available.

Worship service times: Unity Service at 11 a.m., Adult Discussion at 9:30 a.m., Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m.

The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO

81403

Office hours: Varies Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email ad-

dress: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: John De-Sario

Worship service times: 9 AM for Sunday Worship, Monday Night Bible Study 6:30-

Worship, Monday Night Bible Study 6:30-8pm
Summit Church Montrose preaches the

Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord.

Summit Church is a group of diverse peo-

ple, (widows, retired couples, families with adult children, families with young and school aged children, and recent high school and college graduates).

Our services are in English, but many in our congregation also speak Spanish, as we partner with Verdad Y Vida (a Spanish congregation meeting in the same building). We have a children's area we call "Base Camp" for children ages birth to Kindergarten during the Sunday Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent

Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Mont-

rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services in-

clude childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory.

If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following information to the

Montrose Mirror: Name of church Denomination affiliation

Address

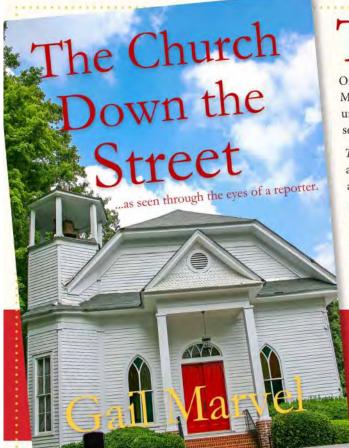
Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor Worship service times Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Please give a one or two sentence description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

> GAIL MARVEL Montrose Author & Reporter



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DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



By Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp. Courtesy photo.

We are all equal-Right?
I cite two documents as proof:
Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them."

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident: that all Men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with *inherent and** [certain] inalienable rights." So wrote Thomas Jefferson (the words in italics were in one of his initial drafts but they helped me understand even further his mindset.)

So that is that. It's all nice and neat needing no further discussion. I like things like that: Right v Wrong/ On v Off! Binary decisions – Yes!

My teaching also included equality at the starting line, not necessarily at the finish line. That would be equity. And that's where the discussion blossoms.

Equity and equality share the same ultimate Latin root, but they split the meaning down the middle (so to speak), carving two distinct nouns that nevertheless do have some overlap in meaning.

The root word that they share is *aequus* (pronounced \EYE-kwus\), meaning "even" or "fair" or "equal." That word led to the direct antecedents of our English words: *equity* is from the Latin *aequitas*, and *equality* is from *aequalitas*.

Further inspection suggests this is at best an amorphous subject. As I try to build this discussion about equality/equity I don't find clear boundaries. This might be like a kitten pawing at a ball of yarn. Each

MAKING SENSE OF THE EQUITY/EQUALITY DISCUSSION?

piece of yarn reveals another and then another. The problem with this analogy is we might not come to a definite conclusion.

So maybe this isn't so "cut and dried." We are created equal, but we are all created different. I have blue eyes and you have green ones. There are tall people and short people and

big people and small people. There are many physical options. God made us that way.

God also made us with different mind sets. Some have scientific minds while others tend to philosophy. He also made us with different physical abilities. The Olympics this month showcases the world's premier athletes. Our uniqueness doesn't make us less equal but it does make the finish line different for each of us.

Equality at the starting line is a precise picture. The starting line suggests each of us is entered in the exact same race. That can't be so. My race (walk/journey) is as unique as my make-up. So, how do we determine equality.

The language has to change if we are to proceed further in this quest.

A Jameison/Foust/Brown Commentary declared "All people are morally equal before the throne of God facing the law and His mercy. We all have equal responsibility to use what we have (our uniqueness) to His glory.

Equality research leads to the subject of equity. Caitlin Nobes writes, "Human equity is about looking at a person as a whole-not their physical features, cultural background and work experience, but how all the elements of their personality work together. How is this individual greater than the sum total of their parts?" Lots of really smart people wrote lots of awesome articles about this equality/equity subject. One such nugget comes from Tony Williams," Equity involves try-

ing to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice. Can we have equality and equity together? Maybe.

We can think of equity in financial terms. It means "ownership." Equity in your home, for example, is how much of your home's value you actually own, free and clear of what you owe.

A pre-condition of having ownership in a home is having access to it. "Access" is a social justice concept that all progressives can stand behind. At the same time, having access means having the opportunity to do something with that access. "Opportunity" is a concept that all conservatives can stand behind. In this "both/and" framework, "equity" means equality of access. If you choose to take advantage of the access you've got, then you'll own the outcome. Nobody has given you the outcome, you've earned it. But if you turn your back on the access you've got, then that's your choice and your responsibility. You own the outcome. So I'm still not comfortable with where this is going. There are too many unasked and unanswered questions. This was supposed to be simple. The initially quoted documents lead me to think so. I'll take a page from my diaconal training and ask God for some resolution.

The *Bible* addresses both equity and equality as aspects of true justice.

Psalm 99:4 – The King in his might loves justice. You have established *equity*, you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

2 Samuel 8:15 reads -- So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and *equality* to all his people.

The main Hebrew word for *equity* conveys ideas like uprightness, straightness, levelness, fairness, truth, order, and integrity. Such definitions are very broad but

DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP From previous pg

they capture the underlying core principles of justice and how God would judge a situation.

M.O. Evans defines *equity* as "the spirit of the law behind the letter, justice is the application of the spirit of equity."
Biblical *equity* doesn't necessarily entail *equality* of outcome but places greater emphasis on equal and equitable treatment.

The judgment, equity, equality thing continues along an amorphous trail.

Equity is linked to the law. How do Christians deal with equality/equity or lawful

outcomes? Once again, it isn't binary. If we judge our fellow humans, we judge our fellow equals, for we are all made in God's image (Gen 1:26-27). At the same time, we can't know the details and circumstances of other people's lives, and their heart. (1 Corinthians 2:11). (We sometimes don't know our own hearts! (Jeremiah 17:9)).

I would never want to judge for a living. I am imperfect and finite. My judging/ prejudices are imperfect. Instead of equity and equality working perfectly together as it does with God, I struggle between the

two trying to find balance.

We approximate His standards thru diligence, study and prayer. God still calls us to pursue justice on earth thru both biblical equity and equality (Genesis 9:6; Proverbs 2: 9, 20:10).

God's word is very clear in telling us that all men are created equal and every single person is a child of God, receiving the full inheritance of heaven.

We look to the *Bible* to learn how to love and serve everyone equally no matter their age, color, ethnicity, gender, or nationality.

CHANGES COME TO RE-1J SCHOOLS AS STUDENTS RETURN



As students across the Montrose County RE-1J School District return to the classroom (and in the case of some, the parking lot, below) the District's new outdoor learning center (at left) is taking shape on land beside the District Offices, and will soon provide a fresh alternative for teachers and students. Another change will be made to the longtime MHS mascot, the Montrose Indians, in accordance with a recently passed Colorado State law that forbids the use of Native American mascots in schools.





COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RMEF, PARTNERS DOLE OUT \$1.3 MILLION FOR COLORADO ELK HABITAT, RESEARCH

Special to the Mirror

MISSOULA, Mont. — The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and its partners allocated \$1,311,336 of grant funding in Colorado to benefit wildlife habitat and scientific research. RMEF contributed \$167,562 and leveraged an additional \$1,143,774 in partner dollars.

Ten projects will benefit Clear Creek, Costilla, Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Jackson, Las Animas, Mesa, Moffat, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Grande, Routt, San Miguel and Saguache Counties.

"We appreciate our state, federal and other partners who join us in seeing the importance of aspen restoration, invasive weed treatment, the installation of new wildlife water resources and other habitat enhancement work," said Blake Henning, RMEF chief conservation officer. "There are also various important studies that will assist wildlife managers to learn more and better manage elk herds."

"It's important to highlight that our volunteers spend a lot of time and are devoted to raising these funds by hosting banquets, membership drives and other activities. We are grateful for all they do," said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO. There are more than 16,000 members and 30 chapters in Colorado.

Dating back to 1987, RMEF and its partners completed 807 conservation and hunting heritage outreach projects in Col-

orado with a combined value of more than \$183 million. These projects protected or enhanced 471,699 acres of habitat and opened or improved public access to 122,107 acres.

Below is a sampling of Colorado's 2021 project, listed by county.

Delta County

Treat 100 acres of over-mature aspen habitat in the Paonia Ranger District on the Gunnison National Forest to encourage root suckering and stand regeneration. Elk, moose, mule deer and other wildlife favor aspen stands for forage (also benefits Gunnison County).

Ouray County

Use prescribed fire and mechanical mastication treatments across 4,459 acres on Uncompany National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and private lands in the Baldy Mountain area to enhance wild-life habitat and reduce fuel loads and the risk of large-scale wildfires. The project also includes development of a spring to feed wildlife water resources.

Rio Grande County

Remove encroaching pinyon-juniper across 560 acres in the Wolf Mountain area on the Rio Grande National Forest that serves as important winter range for elk and mule deer as well as prime habitat for wild turkey, moose, black bears and mountain lions. The habitat work takes place 20 years after initial treatment, also with RMEF funding assistance, to maintain

a healthy grass, forb and shrub vegetation component.

Routt County

Provide funding to continue studies assessing the health of elk herds, estimating calf survival and evaluating the influence of human recreation on elk (also benefits Costilla Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Jackson, Las Animas, Mesa, Moffat, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin and San Miguel Counties).

Go <u>here</u> to view a full listing of Colorado's 2021 projects.

Project partners include the Arapaho & Roosevelt, and Grand Mesa, Uncompany and Gunnison, and Rio Grande National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and other federal, state and conservation agencies and groups.

RMEF plans to allocate additional project funding later in the year.

About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation:

Founded more than 37 years ago, fueled by hunters and a membership of more than 231,000 strong, RMEF has conserved more than 8.1 million acres for elk and other wildlife. RMEF also works to open and improve public access, fund and advocate for science-based resource management, and ensure the future of America's hunting heritage. Discover why "Hunting Is Conservation™" at rmef.org or 800-CALL ELK.

Gavnelle and David Mize



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LIVE MUSIC ROUNDUP-WEEK OF AUG. 23

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center, Cedaredge:

- Friday, Aug. 27, 4 7 PM Dean Bonzani **Horsefly Brewery:**
- Wednesday, Aug. 25, 5:30 PM Open Mic Night with Donny Morales

Mesa Theater, Grand Junction:

- Thursday, Aug. 26, 7 PM Chad Cooke Band
- Friday, Aug. 27, 6 PM Framing the Red
- Sunday, Aug. 29, 5 PM Steely Dead Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Fruita:
- Friday, Aug. 27, 6 PM The Williams

Brothers Band, 7:30 PM - The Samples

- Saturday, Aug. 28, 11 AM – Tim & Richard, 2 PM – Lincoln Pants Band, 4 PM – Union of None, 5:30 PM – Float Like a Buffalo, 7:30 PM – Freddy Jones Band

Monumental Beer Works, Grand Junction:

- Friday, Aug. 27, 6:30 PM Sturtz
- Saturday, Aug. 28, 6:30 PM Still House String Band

Sherbino, Ridgway:

- Thursday, Aug. 16, 9 PM Seth Walker
- Friday, Aug. 27, 5:30 PM D-J Calvin **Sidelines Sports Bar:**
- Saturday, Aug. 28, 9 PM Haven Effect

Storm King Distillery:

- Thursday, Aug. 26, 6 PM Rusty Wouters **Two Rivers Tavern, Grand Junction:**
- Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 PM The Tyler Rust Band w/ Hugh Phillips

Upstairs at Precedence:

- Friday, Aug. 20, 4 PM Swing City Express
- Saturday, Aug. 21, 7 PM Little Giant Warehouse 25sixty-five, Grand Junction:
- Thursday, Aug. 26, 7 PM Casey Donahew
- Friday, Aug. 27, 7 PM Ned Ledoux Saturday, Aug. 28,
- 7 PM Jon Wolfe



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Camp Robber 970-240-1590

Crash Burger 970-249-0825

Rib City 970-249-7427

Cold Stone Creamery 970-252-8014

> Mimo's 970-249-0616

Pahgre's 970-249-6442

DineOutMontrose.com

Stone House 970-240-8899

Heidi's Brooklyn Deli 970-240-1605

> Coffee Trader 970-249-6295 970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer 970-964-4448

Sidelines Sports Bar 970-765-0129

Trattoria de Sofia 970-249-0433



Remington's at the Bridges 970-252-1119

Horsefly Brewing 970-249-6889

Lighthouse Eatery 970-964-4424

Busy Corner White Kitchen 970-323-6215

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ 970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara 970-249-2460

San Juan Brews 970-901-8594

Tacos El Gordo 970-964-4022

Home Delivery Emilee Express 970-615-1726

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN



Above (L-R) Victoria Schmalz, Misty Gemmell, Michael Gemmell and John Boughton. At right, (L-R) Les Williams, Misty Gemmell, Mike Gemmell, Joe Kusar, John Boughton, Victoria Schmalz and Dave Vergamini. Photos by Paul Arbogast.



Special to Art &Sol

MONTROSE – Something good happened this week when a military veteran ran into something bad. The American Legion Riders (ALR) teamed up with Western Implement-Montrose and provided a hand up for Michael Gemmell on Monday, Aug. 16. Gemmell's chainsaws and work vehicle went missing last week and he had a number of jobs lined up that needed immediate attention. The US Marine Corps veteran, who owns Hummingbird Tree Care, needed a saw—quickly.

Another local veteran, Paul Kilgore, saw the plea for help on Facebook and notified his fellow American Legion Riders. One member loaned a chainsaw to Gemmell to get him back at work, but what he really needed was a specialty saw used for tree climbing.

The ALR contacted Western Implement, and Stihl technician Victoria Schmalz got to work. She located the saw in inventory then passed on a request for a discount to Tyler Coleman and Carl Cassel. Western Implement came through with a generous discount and ALR came up with the money for the saw.

John Boughton, ALR Montrose president, presented the saw to Gemmell and his wife Misty at the Western Implement store on north Townsend. He thanked Kilgore for bringing the need to ALR's attention, and also thanked Les Williams, another ALR rider, who worked with Schmalz on the purchase and discount at Western Implement.

"Michael proudly served his country as a marine," Boughton said, "and he now serves his community as an arborist.

"This is why we exist—to help the community, its members and local military. When we find someone in need, the American Legion steps in to make a difference, along with the community." Gemmell said he was humbled by the

support of the community of veterans and the community of Montrose.

"I'm so thankful for this," Gemmell said,
"I have eight elms and a whole slew of
aspens to take down this week.

"It's amazing that if someone needs a hand up and you just reach out, this community is there."

Schmalz was happy Western Implement could help out.

"We are very proud to support the veterans – all military serving past and present," she said, "We are also happy to be in a small town that is so supportive." For more information about Gemmell's Hummingbird Tree Care call (970) 986-9733. For information on Stihl parts and service contact Western Implement at (970) 252-1311 in Montrose or (970) 242-7960 in Grand Junction. To learn more about American Legion Riders Montrose chapter contact John Boughton at montrosealr73@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS welcomes adults who are new to Montrose or have been here awhile, who would enjoy learning more about the area and participate in social activities. <u>2021-22 meeting info</u>. We will hold our first monthly meeting on Wednesday September 8 in our <u>new location</u>. All other meetings <u>will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month</u> (October, November, and January – May). 10am-11:30am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd. enter through the side door on S. 3rd St. Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti 951-544-6289 if you have questions.

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research."

(The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

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 -Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm.. Location: Montrose Centennial Plaza . 81401 Cost: Free to attend.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Registration now open for Sept 2021 - Apr 2022 COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY, an international nondenominational 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 of 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

Aug. 24-11 a.m. to11 p.m. The Community Tap Night fundraising event for the League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley will be at Horsefly Brewing Company in Montrose from opening until closing on Tuesday, Aug. 24, when \$1 will be donated to us for every beverage ordered. Come enjoy drinks (non-alcoholic too!) on the large outdoor patio. A coupon is needed to be used when ordering to track fundraising dollars. Register Now

Aug. 26-Saturday, Aug. 26. 9 am-2 pm. Plein Air Painting with Barbara Kendrick. There is a fee. Register online at mc4arts.com (under events) or call 970-787-9428.

Aug. 26-Potluck Program – Potluck-Earlier this month Sasha Jacobo, a Food Security Coordinator with the Valley Food Partnership, taught us about simple and creative ways to incorporate vegan cooking into everyday life. You will have an opportunity to practice those skills at this potluck. Share a healthy vegan dish you've prepared, and sample other peoples' meals, at this event! It will take place at MADA on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 7pm. Email Taylor, at tevans@montroselibrary.org, for more information.

Aug.28-NEWCOMERS and NEIGHBORS group Get Together and Potluck. We are a local Montrose group who welcomes adults who have recently moved here or have been here awhile and would like to learn more about the area and participate in social activities. We are initiating our 2021-22 season with our first in person potluck event at Lions Park Clubhouse. Come at 11:30 and contact Kathy at (303-919-8741) to let her know what side dish you would like to bring. Chicken, tea, lemonade, and water provided.

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 facility 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.

Aug. 28-Saturday. 9 am -5 pm. Plein Air Painting with Barbara Kendrick. At Montrose Center for the Arts.

Link for Register Online: https://mc4arts.com/product/08-28-21-class-kendrick-plein-air-paint/

Aug. 29-6th Annual Log Hill Hustle 5K/10K Walk/Run, Aug. 29, 2021 8am. Fundraiser to benefit Ridgway Area Students. For details and to register for the race go to fortunatierra.com

Aug. 31-Tuesday. 1-4 pm. "Let It Flow, Intuitive Alcohol Ink Painting." With Jana Adams. At Montrose Center for the Arts.

Link for Register Online: https://mc4arts.com/product/08-31-21-class-adams-let-it-flow-alcohol-ink-painting/

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Sept. 1-Montrose County Historical Society presents Chris Trujillo and Matt Lant explaining the history and significance of the Morada site in the Tortilla Flats neighborhood, northwest Montrose. 7 pm. Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, at Friendship Hall, Pioneer Room. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available.

Sept. 4-The 2021 Montrose Wine & Food Festival, presented by Alpine Bank, is back! Join us Saturday Sept. 4 from 1-4 p.m. at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 N. 7th St.) All proceeds from the event benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC). Tickets and sponsorships are available online at wine.blackcanyontickets.com. Tickets are \$65 and include an event glass. For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org. For more information on the Festival, visit www.montrosewinefestival.com

Sept. 11-Praise Him ministries is proud to announce Grammy® winner, Chris Tomlin will headline Rise Up on September 11th.

Rise Up, hosted by Praise Him Ministries is bringing together some of the most popular Christian Bands: Chris Tomlin, Danny Gokey, & Jordan Feliz for a night of praise and worship on the Western Slope. The event will be held at the Amphitheater as Las Colonias Park in Grand Junction. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. with the event starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are now on sale to the public. phmtickets.com.

Sept. 12-Valley Food Partnership Harvest Feast at Storm King Mountain Ranch. For more information or to buy tickets call 970-249-0705 or visit www.valleyfoodpartnership.org.

Sept. 17-7-8:30 pm. Piano Concert with Deb Barr. Montrose Methodist Church. TICKETS \$20.

Sept. 17-Friday, Sept. 17, 5-7 pm. VIP Reception at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose CO. mc4arts.com. 970-787-942. Sept. 17-Friday, Sept. 17, 7-8:30 pm MCA Fundraiser Concert at Montrose Methodist Church. 19 S. Park Ave., Montrose CO. mc4arts.com

Sept. 18-Your life matters-Connect- -NAMI Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please join us for an uplifting and supporting event. Black Canyon Car Club, Music by Dave's Fault, BBQ by Garey Martinez, Butterfly release, Memorial Wall. Vendors and mental health providers. 11am-4 pm Montrose Elks Lodge 801 S. Hillcrest

MONTROSEM I R R O R

Contact the Montrose Mirror: 970-275-0646 <u>Editor@montrosemirror.com</u>

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Along with the joy of our mountain views is the delight at finding a beautiful and quiet bloom like this daisy, photo by Deb Reimann.



The US Basin of Red Mountain, photo by Deb Reimann. Deb Said, "Such beauty on this high mountain top view reminded me of John Muir's words: 'You are not in the mountains...the mountains are in you.'"

