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the Montrose Mirror

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© Issue No. 394 Sept. 14, 2020

RE-1J MOVES FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY WIFI HOT SPOTS



Montrose County School District RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus (foreground) presented an updated enrollment report at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Current district enrollment of 5,844 is 150 students less than budgeted for, although final numbers will not be available until the October count. The Board of education also thanked the Montrose Board of County Commissioners for a "very large" CARES donation grant.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education gathered in person for a regular meeting in the District Boardroom on Tuesday, Sept. 8. The session was open to the public with social distancing measures in place, and was livestreamed via Facebook Live as well. All directors were present, except District F Director Eric Kelley.

Board President Gayle Johnson called the meeting to order; all joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Johnson thanked the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). "We received a very large grant from the Montrose County Commissioners from their CARES donation," she said. "...It's allowed us to do some things we weren't sure we'd have the money to do, and we're really, really appreciative of that."

"We can't thank them enough

[Continued pg 17](#)

HISTORIC TIME CAPSULE ONE OF MANY IN MONTROSE, MUSEUM DIRECTOR SAYS

Mirror staff report

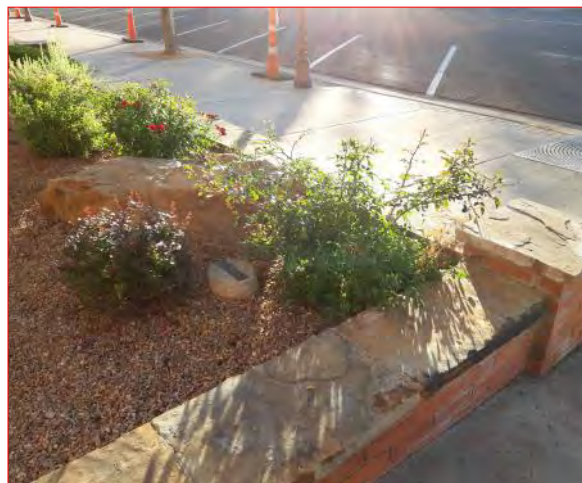
MONTROSE-In a flower bed outside of the Montrose City Hall building at 433 South First Street lies a simple stone marker with the words, "TIMECAPSULE open in the Year 2020."

Buried half a century ago, the capsule is one of a number placed around the Montrose Community in years past.

"We have more hidden time capsules throughout the City," Montrose County Historical Society & Museum Director Sally Johnson said. "For a time, they were a really big thing, and I would love to find them all."

Time capsules are located near the historic Masonic Building on Main Street, near the County Courthouse on South First Street, and near the Methodist Church, also on South First Street, she said. "I'm pretty

[Continued pg 3](#)



A time capsule buried on the grounds of the Montrose City Hall 50 years ago may be opened in October.

in this
issue

[Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey
Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

[Racing in the Rockies!
Photos by Jen McClanahan](#)

[Montrose Mouse attends
Annual Yesteryear Potato Dig!](#)

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: EVENTS

PIZZA & POLITICS RETURNS SEPT. 17

"PIZZA & POLITICS" (P&P) returns Sept 17 - "National Popular Vote" Ballot Issue. Registered Voters invited to hear if Colorado should retain the Electoral College or vote yes on National Popular Vote. *NEW LOCATION* "CIRCLE 3 COWBOY FELLOWSHIP", 62885 LaSalle Road, Montrose, CO. Doors open at 6 PM. Program: 6:30 - 8 pm. Q&A follows guest speakers. Pizza & Beverage - 2 slices & 1 beverage recommended per guest. P & P is Montrose County Republican Party program. Mask or social distancing with full and complete acceptance of the potential risks in attending such a public event during Covid-19. Thank You!

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

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HISTORIC TIME CAPSULE ONE OF MANY IN MONTROSE, MUSEUM DIRECTOR SAYS From pg 1



sure the high school has one too."

The City of Montrose is planning a ceremony around Oct. 6 to open the capsule located in the garden, Johnson said, though the Mirror has not yet been able to verify the date with the City's Historic Preservation Commission.

The City Hall Building at 433 South First Street dates to 1926, after a group of local women addressed the City Council in 1925. *Montrose: Take a Closer Look- A Walking Tour Guide* by Cathleen M. Norman and Marilyn S. Cox (Preservation Publishing 2006) states, "In 1925 a group of progressive Montrose women formed a committee and appeared before the City Council asking what steps the local women's clubs should take in order to initiate a project to erect a city hall and library building. Council authorized a \$30,000 bond issue approved by voters." The building was ready for occupancy by April of 1927, the authors note.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LAUREN BOEBERT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR DISTRICT 3 CONGRESSIONAL SEAT

Editor:

Lauren Boebert, running for the District 3 congressional seat in Colorado, seems to be a burr under the saddles of some folks who are not accustomed to dealing with an unconventional candidate so sincerely and openly committed to liberty and freedom. Additionally, since Lauren recently defeated a multi-term incumbent in the primary election, there are some who still may be coming to grips with her victory and with the true importance of this election to our district, our state, and our country. She could also be viewed, no doubt, as potential burr under the saddles of some politicians in Washington, D.C., who have been 'riding the fence' for far too long. It is obvious that Lauren, a mom of four boys and a restaurant owner, is a staunch advocate for the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and is willing to fight for the preservation of both in our country. If you have an opportunity, I urge you to attend one of Lauren's campaign rallies; you may be surprised that there are still people willing to strongly state their core beliefs and propose actual solutions for the difficulties that envelop our nation at this time. I also encourage you to visit her website (laurenforcolorado.com) or her Facebook page, where you will find additional information which may just convince you that Lauren IS the right choice for our District 3 congressional seat. It is time to stand up, stand strong, and be counted!

Rebecca D. Waugh, Montrose

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MIRROR IMAGES: CITY OF MONTROSE CLOSES SOUTH 1ST STREET



The City of Montrose's recently announced closure of South First Street will be enacted on Monday, Sept. 14. Mirror staff photos.



These days, photography is practiced by anyone with a smartphone, but it's mastered by few.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPT: INITIAL REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS UNDER 6000 FOR 2ND WEEK IN A ROW

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reports that 5,974 regular initial unemployment claims and 2,216 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims were filed the week ending September 5th. Additionally, 3,253 PUA initial claims were filed the week ending August 29th. Since mid-March, a total of 548,593 regular unemployment initial claims and 156,589 pandemic unemployment assistance claims have been filed.

The Department also announced revisions to PUA initial claims numbers for the weeks of July 18 - Aug. 22, due to the implementation of a new fraud trigger which removed fraudulent claims from weekly totals. Initial PUA claims for that period were revised down from 62,498 to 14,292 after removing fraudulent claims. Since mid-June, the Department has implemented 18 fraud detection triggers for PUA claims which have resulted in preventing an estimated \$750 million to over a billion dollars in fraudulent unemployment payments.

Nationally, the federally-funded Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which provides unemployment benefits to gig workers, independent contractors and those who would otherwise not qualify for regular UI, has been plagued with fraud. Criminals have targeted the PUA program with a variety of fraud schemes and all states have been forced to enhance their fraud detection and prevention efforts.

For the week ending August 29th, a combined total of 243,028 continued claims were filed, including 161,759 from regular UI, 64,676 from PUA, and 16,593 from Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation. **

The Department also announced it has paid over \$4.8 billion in unemployment benefits since March 29th. That amount includes regular unemployment benefits, those filing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and State Extended Benefits (SEB).



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Please contact Jane Marie Amundson for details:
JaneMarieAmundson@AlpineBank.com

*In order to be reimbursed you must have an existing account or open a new account with Alpine Bank and currently be employed as a teacher with Montrose or Delta County School Districts. Reimbursement will be made within two weeks of presentation of valid receipts dated between 8/1/2020 – 11/1/2020.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY REPORTS A COVID-19 OUTBREAK SITE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has informed Delta County Public Health of an outbreak site, Leroux Creek Foods. As a reminder, an outbreak is defined as 2 positive cases at the same location, within a 14-day period. A coordinated investigation team including Delta County Public Health and CDPHE worked to identify the positive cases, and immediately began contact tracing. According to CDPHE guidelines, outbreak resolution is defined as 28 days after the onset of symptoms of the last case. The Delta County Sheriff's Office outbreak was resolved as of August 30, 2020.

The best prevention against COVID-19 remains washing your hands thoroughly and often, maintaining 6 ft. of physical distance between you and others, and wearing a mask. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive, contact your primary care physician or Delta County Health Department at 970-874-2172 to make an appointment.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NORWOOD RANGER DISTRICT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON TELLURIDE TRAIL PROJECTS

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests', Norwood Ranger District is seeking public input on proposals from the Telluride Mountain Club (TMC) and TSG Ski & Golf, LLC (TSG) to construct four new mountain bike trails in Telluride, Colorado.

The project aims to provide new single-track trail opportunities for mountain bikers and hikers recreating in Telluride. The new trails will help address safety concerns by alleviating trail congestion, reducing user conflicts and offering alternative routes to bypass popular trails.

TMC is proposing to add two new trails including the Eider Creek to Mill Creek Connector and the Mill Creek Bypass. The

Eider Creek to Mill Creek Connector Trail (1.75 miles) would accommodate intermediate and advanced mountain bikers as well as all abilities of hikers and trail runners. The trail would connect the existing Eider Creek Trail to the Mill Creek section of the Deep Creek Trail. The Mill Creek Bypass Trail (1.5 miles) would provide an alternative option to the Jud Wiebe trail for mountain bikers connecting to Telluride. TSG is proposing to build the Crystal Flow Trail and the Meridian cross-country trail. The Crystal Trail would be an intermediate mountain bike flow trail (1 mile) that would be added to the existing bike park at the Telluride Ski Resort. The Meridian Trail would be a multiuse cross-country mountain bike trail that would

provide users a new route to Prospect Basin. The trail would consist of approximately 1.3 miles of new trail construction connecting to approximately 1.5 miles of existing trail.

The project proposals, maps, and additional information are available on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58771>

Comments must be received by Sept. 30, 2020 and submitted as follows:

Mail or hand delivered to: Norwood Ranger District, Attn: Megan Eno, 1150 Forest Street, Norwood, CO 81423.

FAX 970-327-4854

Email: comments-rocky-mountain-gmug@usda.gov

Telephone: Megan Eno at 970-327-4261

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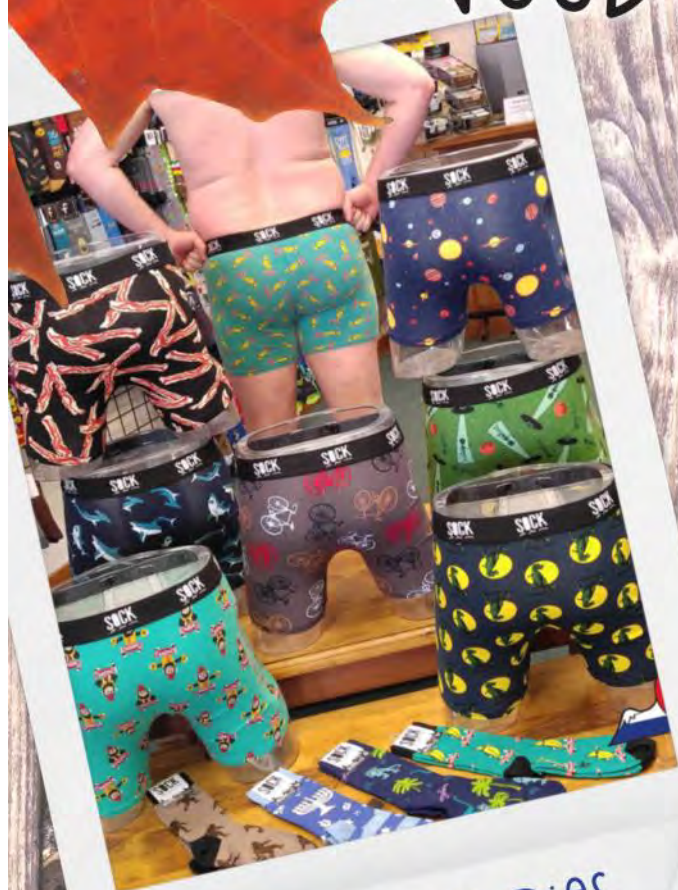
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DYING, OFF-COLOR PINE NEEDLES NORMAL IN AUTUMN

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— Although thousands of evergreen trees in Colorado's high country, foothills and communities are beginning to display dying yellow or brown needles, most are simply going through a natural shedding process — they are not being damaged by bark beetles or any specific tree insect or disease. Colorado evergreens shed their older, interior needles as part of an annual growth cycle. Needles on the lower portions of the crown or closest to the trunk are most commonly shed, but trees stressed due to drought or root damage may shed more needles to keep the tree in balance with its root system. Soon-to-be shed needles typically

yellow first; then, they turn a reddish-orange or brown color before dropping off. Trees can have varying levels of needle shed, even within the same property or general area. In Colorado, ponderosa and lodgepole pines, as well as some spruce and fir species, are the trees that are most commonly reported to be shedding needles in September and October. Evergreen trees that shed fall needles have a different appearance than trees infested by bark beetles. The needles on a beetle-infested tree typically change color throughout the entire tree (as opposed to only the older needles in healthy trees), initially starting with an off-shade of green and turning to reddish-orange by the fol-

lowing summer. In addition to changing needle color, bark beetle-infested trees will show other signs of attack, such as popcorn-shaped pitch tubes on the trunk, boring dust resembling fine sawdust collecting in bark crevices and at the base of the tree, and regular woodpecker activity.

This fall needle drop is frequently mislabeled as "needle cast," but the term actually refers to a fungal disease of spruce and fir trees. There is no need to spray or otherwise chemically treat pines and other evergreens exhibiting normal fall needle drop. For more information about tree and forest health, contact your local [CSFS field office](https://www.csfs.colostate.edu/field-office) or visit [csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/](https://www.csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/).

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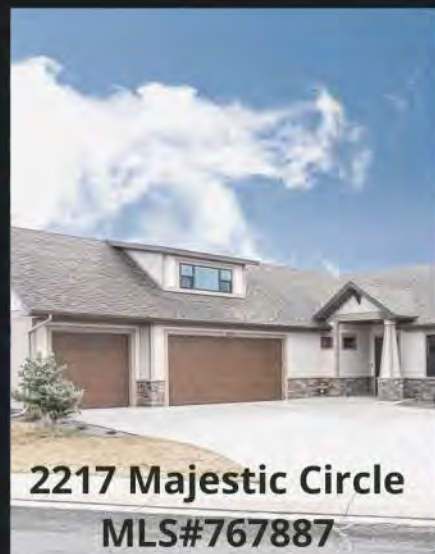


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RESOURCES FOR COLORADO REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE A DISABILITY

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Registered voters in Colorado who have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can vote an electronic ballot independently and privately from their own home or other location using the assistive technology with which they are most proficient. To take advantage of this system, voters with disabilities need a computer, smart phone, or tablet; an Internet connection; and a printer. While many voters with disabilities can privately and independently mark their printed mail ballots without difficulty, there are voters, including voters who are blind or print disabled, who cannot.

The Colorado Secretary of State's Accessible Voting page (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/accessibleVoting.html>) mentions the accessible online ballot marking system. This page refers voters to myballot.sos.colorado.gov Once on the website you will be guided through a step by step process to vote and return your ballot.

Blind voters can send emails to voting@nfbco.org or call for assistance at 303-778-1130, extension 219.

The National Federation of the Blind Colorado stands ready to offer any additional information that you need to increase understanding and knowledge about how Colorado's accessible online ballot marking system works. Their contact information is Scott C. LaBarre, President NFBCO, at slabarre@labarrelaw.com or Curtis Chong, Voting Outreach Coordinator at chong.curtis@gmail.com; Address: 2233 W. Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120 | 303-504-5979 | www.nfbco.org

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RE-1J MOVES FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY WIFI HOT SPOTS @ OHS, MHS From pg 1



RE-1J Technology Director Steve McEwin, foreground, spoke about efforts to close the “digital divide” for students and to bring needed wifi hot spots to local communities.

for being so generous to us,” Johnson said. District A Director Jeff Bachmann gave an update on the Olathe Middle/High School track. The project is coming along great, Bachman said. He shared photos of the project with the Board of Education. “All in all, it’s pretty much ready to go.”

Johnson discussed changes to the District’s Negotiations Committee. “To kind of expand the horizon for that committee, we’re including some people that are principals at the middle school and high school,” she said. “And then the Board becomes kind of the backup for everybody.”

“We can certainly attend those negotiation meetings,” Johnson said, “but we are no longer participants in the negotiation committees. That is going to be simply the people that are actually involved in it.”

Johnson asked for comments on the 2020/2021 Board of Education Goals; there were no comments. “We did the best we could do with the time we had,” Johnson said.

COMMUNITY INPUT

No comments were received from the community.

ENROLLMENT/FINANCE REPORT

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus present-

ed an updated enrollment report. Current enrollment of 5,844 is 150 students less than budgeted for. Imus presented information on investments as well as the quarterly financial report.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

RE-1J Technology Director Steve McEwin spoke about efforts to close the “digital divide” for students and to bring needed wifi hot spots to local communities. A wifi zone is already up and running at Olathe Middle/High School, and there will be one at Montrose High School as well. The zones came about after community outreach last spring showed connectivity challenges, McEwin said.

“The challenges are vast in the community,” he said. “Once you get out of the city and into the rural areas...if we can’t get the internet to them, we want to provide the opportunity for our community to come to us.”

Additional funding opportunities are being sought for future projects, he said.

Fiber is non-existent in certain areas, and cell phone coverage is hit or miss, McEwin said. Board Vice President Sarah Fishing asked about the percentage of students whose access to the Internet is limited; McEwin said that documented numbers

from last spring show that 40 percent of the community as a whole faced challenges with Internet access. Additional hot spot locations are under consideration, and some local businesses may be willing to allow student wifi use as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Fishing presented the following revised board policies on first reading:

JFBB, Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment - minor language clean up per CASB recommendation;

JICDD, Violent and Aggressive Behavior - minor language clean up per CASB recommendation;

JICEC, Student Distribution of Noncurricular Materials - minor language clean up per CASB recommendation;

LBD, Relations with District Charter Schools - minor language clean up per CASB recommendation

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next RE-1 Board of Education work session will take place on Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the district board room.



Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet



Allowed

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



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



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



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.



NOT Allowed



The personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.

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



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

Agricultural burning is not allowed.



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

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



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

CITY COUNCIL TO ISSUE 'DR. GARY RATCLIFF DAY' PROCLAMATION

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 14 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4FtUNLz2RzyyRXxXCOQDow. Additional meeting access details are available at the end of the agenda. The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website, www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

The Montrose City Council will welcome new employees. Joining the City team are Parks and Special Projects Worker Chris Randall; Human Resources Generalist Ashley Resh; Parks and Special Projects Worker Joaquin Rodrigues; as well as Police Officers Aaron Sheedy, Niane Baca, and Kay Alvarez.

Discussion items will include LaRaza Park Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements; the Woodgate Addition No. 4 Annexation; the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Cured in Place Pipe bid award recommendation; and consideration of the allocation of CARES Act funding to support the community.

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

- Oct. 5-Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Interviews;
- Oct. 6-Youth Council Applicant Interviews;
- Oct. 20-Youth Council Appointments, Historic Preservation Commission Ap-



Montrose City Council will meet for a 'hybrid' virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 14 and for a 'hybrid' virtual, regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Should the city once again open meetings to the public in the future, parking will no longer be available on the north side of the Elks Civic Building, above.

pointments, A new hotel and restaurant liquor license application for the Sidelines Sports Bar; and Nov. 3-2021 Budget Ordinance, First Reading.

REGULAR MEETING

Council will consider issuing a Dr. Gary Ratcliff Day Proclamation.

Action items will include:

- Approval of a new Fermented Malt Beverage license at 1426 Ogden Road for Golden Gate Petroleum of Nevada, LLC, doing business as Golden Gate Gas for consumption off of the licensed premises;
- Adoption of Resolution 2020-19, author-

izing the filing of a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant application for the Gray & Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program;

-Approval of a Commercial Lease Agreement between the City of Montrose and the Montrose County Historical Society for use of the Historic Depot building at 21 N. Rio Grande Avenue;

-Award of a contract to Haynes Excavation in the amount of \$972,050.75 for construction of the Woodgate Subdivision Sewer System Rehabilitation Project.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PART 5 OF A SIX PART SERIES *by Dee Laird*



[Continued from last week]

MAYFLY-COLORADO OUTDOORS-MURA

Like the proverbial Gordian Knot of legend, these entities are so closely intertwined that it is extremely difficult for the average citizen to begin to unravel the maze.

When Mayfly bought Ross Reels and began negotiations with the city, they ended up playing Bell and council like a banjo, threatening to go elsewhere unless certain “economic incentives” were met. At that time, I attempted to speak to council against what appeared to me to be a decidedly lopsided agreement in favor of Mayfly, but was ruled out of order by the then autocratic Mayor Nicholson. Other citizens attending that meeting walked out in disgust, with Bell and council refusing to address valid citizen concerns.

Despite the considered risk, council plunged blindly ahead. The initial city grant was to be \$325,000 plus a set of fees and services, seemingly exceeding normal practices for Montrose. To the detriment of Montrose taxpayers, Bell and council seemed to have predetermined yet another outcome, and the agreement went into effect in March 2016.

Mayfly/Colorado Outdoors is strongly tied to MURA [Montrose Urban Renewal Authority]. The overall project has cost taxpayers roughly \$8 to \$10 million so far in lost taxes to the special districts, not to mention promissory notes backed by the city. Specific details are sketchy at best

and certainly a big part of that Gordian Knot involving tax dollars.

If Bell and council had been truly interested in protecting exposure to tax dollars, they would have based the development on phased success in lieu of the 25 year obligation for tax payers and our special districts.

Comprised of 164.3 acres and about 38 taxable lots across from the Justice Center, Colorado Outdoors has only one building completed after four years. All parcels are assessed by the county, yet the principals of Colorado Outdoors had objected to paying those tax obligations to the highest state authority, all the while cheerfully accepting city handouts.

A CORA request was made July 10 by another individual, for the actual total amounts paid by the city to date, as well as any bonded debt, promissory notes, internal transfers, and future projected development costs. The answer from the city was to basically untangle the Colorado Outdoors/MURA Gordian Knot on your own! Others are beginning to trace those obscure lines of power and influence for future articles, to expose the extent of this costly boondoggle fostered on Montrose taxpayers by Bell and council.

A recent Montrose Daily Press article noted that The Uncompaghe River project involved a \$1.1 million promissory note from the city. The multi family housing project will involve borrowing through MURA [our tax dollars] \$1.2+ million, a loan of \$115,000 from city SID funds, and another \$525,000 from SID funds for infrastructure. And according to Bell, the housing project was originally approved with NO FINANCIAL PLAN !. That’s being pretty footloose with our tax dollars !

Bell serves MURA as Executive Director, which means he alone wields the baton directing his board members in his chosen direction for tax expenditures. In my opinion, this is one more example of Bell’s ability to subtly manipulate the expenditure of hard earned tax dollars!

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

With no real oversight by council, and total control over all city employees, Bell has proven to wield a big stick freely over the years in keeping internal problems and questionable actions quietly under wraps. It has been common knowledge in Montrose, that many city employees forced into retirement or terminated, are required to sign a gag order / non disclosure / separation agreement [call it what you will], stipulating their silence concerning any internal economic decisions between employee and management, that may have gone on behind council’s backs. Failure to comply, threatens legal action or loss of retirement pay. Those “economic decisions” simply mean taxpayer dollars have been utilized behind the scenes to keep a nasty squabble far from public scrutiny.

In the course of my research, one former Public Works employee, indicated to me that at one point Public Works employees were told they had to sign a Public Works policy agreement to not record any internal department meetings or conversations during working hours. Employees were apparently told that failure to execute that Policy agreement would result in no Christmas bonus.

Fortunately I was able to obtain a redacted copy of each of the above, and out of curiosity , put in a CORA request to see what kind of response I would get. One request was for a copy of the “ gag- separation agreement” as well the date such agreements went into effect, and by whose order. The second request was for a copy of the recording policy, the date it went into effect, and by whose order.

On July 14 I received a response from the city clerk’s office with the following responses:

Request #1- “no such policy exists” “no such information exists”

Request #2- “no such agreement exists” “no such information exists”

REALLY! Obviously the city did not know I had a copy of each with dates, and they

Continued next pg

PART 5 OF A SIX PART SERIES by Dee Laird

From previous pg

felt comfortable giving me an answer far from the truth! Now I have the greatest respect for city clerk personnel, but remember, they have a job position only at Bell's pleasure. Since the buck in city management stops with Bell, it seems certain to me that he surely ordered the misleading answers I received.

Another individual put in a CORA request for the specific separation agreements for two former managerial employees and the city attorney referenced the Colorado Revised Statutes as a reason for denial of releasing those agreements, that, contrary to the response I got, really do exist. How's that for honesty, transparency, and accountability in city government?

In reality, when an employee is terminated and the termination is contested for cause by the employee, the city uses tax dollars to buy their silence.

In my opinion, I think various councils have been totally oblivious to the depths of Bell's internal employee relations. The question then in my mind becomes, who really runs city government? Council or the city's highest paid employee?

THE BOWMAN-DIVOTS-BELL SCANDAL

The Bowman-Divots-Bell scandal, has been in the forefront of Montrose news since May 25th, and, in my opinion, has once again highlighted the corruption and absence of transparency and accountabil-

ity that exists with city government, at both the council and management level.

This sordid affair, initially broken by The Montrose Mirror, followed up by the Montrose Daily Press, and KKCO 11 in Grand Junction, highlighted interviews with both Bowman and Culver, owner of Divots, but failed to interview two of the three main culprits. Two complaints were made directly to Assistant City Manager Morgenthaler. Neither she nor City Manager Bell took any corrective action at the time, and both have remained totally silent since their actions became public. So much for accountability / transparency on their part.

According to council's formal statement, that was short on facts and long on spin trying to couch the scandal as a "private" matter, they "knew nothing" of the affair until the story broke May 25th. If that is actually true, then Bell and Morgenthaler certainly seem to have been further derelict in their duty by not informing council or the city attorney of the complaints at the time they were made. Additionally, Bowman was informed May 11 by The Liquor Enforcement Board that his scheme was illegal. If council truly "knew nothing" until May 25th, then it seems Bowman was also further derelict in not informing fellow council members of his illegal actions.

Since Bowman was informed May 11 that it was illegal for him to demand a portion of Culver's liquor proceeds, he has neither apologized to Culver, nor offered to repay his ill gotten gains. Both the Editor and Publisher of the Montrose Daily Press called for Bowman's resignation, but all we have seen from him is blatant arrogance!

After our DA declined to pursue a criminal investigation, without ever interviewing the victim, Bowman crowed vindication. But wait! On August 28 Bowman was informed by the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission [CIEC] that they were undertaking an ethics investigation of his scheme. If Bowman is found to have breached the public trust for private gain, he is liable for double the amount of financial benefits obtained by his actions. This action by CIEC guarantees this issue will be front and center in Montrose for months to come. When all is said and done, we'll see if Bowman's arrogance has worked out for him.

Aside from Bowman's actions in this, it certainly seems to highlight Bell failing in his responsibility to resolve the issue immediately, as well as manipulating questionable actions after the fact, and failing to be straightforward with either council or the public.

TO BE CONTINUED



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see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE SELECTED VIRTUALLY *Uncompahgre National Forest chosen as location*

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Each year, one of the nation's national forests provides the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, which graces the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. throughout the holiday season. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, in partnership with the Architect of the Capitol, announced that this year's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree will be harvested from the Uncompahgre Plateau on the Ouray Ranger District.

The perfect Capitol Christmas Tree must meet specific criteria. The selected Engelmann Spruce stands 55' tall and 25' wide and was chosen virtually from among 10 candidates. "The challenge in selecting a tree for the West Lawn is making sure it is symmetrical, full and in the perfect scale to gracefully adorn the U.S. Capitol. In a

normal year, we scour the forest for this special tree. Due to the pandemic, we used videos, pictures and measurements supplied by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests to identify a suitable Engelmann Spruce that all Coloradoans can be proud of," said Jim Kaufmann, Director of Capitol Grounds and Arboretum for the Architect of the Capitol.

The tree will be harvested in early November before making its journey to the East Coast, arriving at the U.S. Capitol in late November.

The Capitol Grounds and Arboretum team will secure and decorate the tree with thousands of handcrafted ornaments from the people of Colorful Colorado. The tree will be lit in early December 2020; the annual lighting of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is a time-honored tradition

of more than 50 years.

Choose Outdoors, Colorado Tourism and a host of other partners, sponsors, and volunteers are contributing funding and in-kind support of the project. GMUG Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart noted that it's been a true collaborative effort so far.

"This year's tree selection was a little non-conventional, but we are very excited to have the tree selected and look forward to the next phase of the project, planning the tree cutting ceremony," he said.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit our website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug>. To learn more about the history of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, please visit <https://www.aoc.gov/what-we-do/programs-ceremonies/capitol-christmas-tree>. Follow along at www.uscapitolchristmastree.com.



A large graphic for the Montrose Leadership Program. At the top center is a large dark blue 'U' with a blue ribbon banner across it that says 'MONTROSE LEADERSHIP'. Below this is an orange banner with the text 'CITYOFMONTROSE.ORG/LEADERSHIP'. Underneath is a dark blue banner with the text 'BE A LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY' in white. To the left of the orange banner is the Montrose Colorado logo (a red 'M' with 'MONTROSE • COLORADO' below it). To the right is the Montrose County Colorado logo (a circular seal with 'MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO' and 'EST. 1901'). Below the 'BE A LEADER...' banner is a circular orange badge with 'APPLY TODAY!' in white. To the right of the badge, the text 'APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020' is displayed. Below this, a list of benefits is shown: '\$600 for the 9-month course', 'Personality assessment sessions (with County Commissioner Sue Hansen)', and 'State Legislative Trip'.

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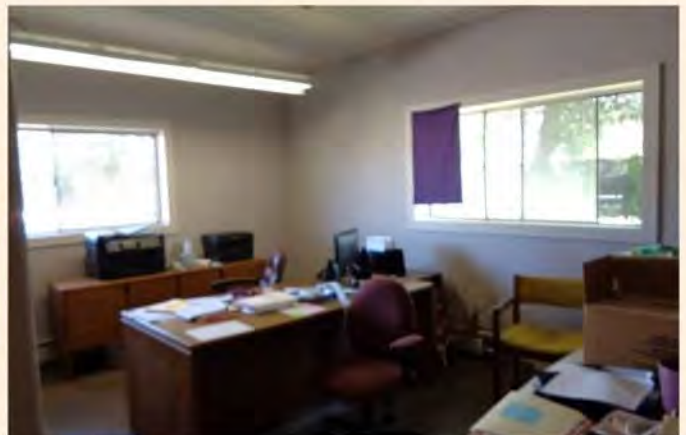
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0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

\$349,900
MLS# 762788

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YESTERYEAR POTATO DIG INCLUDES VISIT FROM MONTROSE MOUSE



Captain and Cotton's 2020 Potato Dig and "IT" Event, photos by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-For a fourth year Montrose Developer Matt Miles and his wife Marci invited 50 neighbors, friends, and community old-timers to their Captain and Cotton's 2020 Potato Dig & "IT" Event.

Marci said, "From a bygone era we use draft horses [Captain and Cotton] and antique farm machinery to dig potatoes. We've invited people bring a bucket and pick some up to take home."

Other folks added their talents to the neighborly event with a tamale making demonstration; cheese making and butter churning; wood carving; and copper kettle fried pork and pork rinds.

Draft horses and antique machinery were also used to demonstrate the labor-intensive corn harvesting of the past. Attendees, young and old alike, then formed shuck stacks in the field with the cut stalks.

However, not everything on display was from yesteryear. The Montrose Mouse, along with a Trump/Pence sign, added a touch of current political seasoning. Matt said, "My neighbors don't always get my sense of humor...but you've just got to laugh!"



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS RELEASES 2020 AVIATION SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

WATKINS – The Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics released the 2020 Colorado Aviation System Plan. It was unanimously adopted by the Colorado Aeronautical Board during their Aug. 26 meeting.

Colorado's Aviation System Plan identifies the needs of the state's 74 public-use airports and their performance and interaction with the state's aviation system.

The development of this year's CASP began in September 2018, with a project team consisting of Division staff, Kimley-Horn and Associates, EBP, KRAMER Aero-tek and a Project Advisory Committee comprised of CAB members, airport managers, the Colorado Airport Operators Association, the Federal Aviation Administration and CDOT planning staff.

CASP focuses on four overarching system goals, which were modeled in relation to

broader CDOT goals: Safety and Efficiency, Access and Mobility, Economic Sustainability, and System Viability.

Performance measures and system indicators were developed that relate to each goal. Those measures directly relate to assessing the system's performance in meeting the goals while system indicators provide informational analyses that inform and indirectly relate to the system's performance. The Division will also be integrating the newly developed system performance measures into its web-based Information Management System, allowing the Division to easily track and report the progress of system performance relative to its investments.

Facility and service objectives also were developed for airports and provides the minimum recommended guidelines by airport classification and offer specific guidance on how airports can improve

their abilities to serve constituents and enhance the statewide aviation system.

The performance measures, facility and service objectives, and airport Capital Improvement Plans help to determine the total system needs over a 20-year planning horizon (2018-2038). When considering all of these factors, the total system needs totaled \$9.1 billion in airport project needs, including CIP costs of Denver International Airport (DEN).

Excluding DEN's CIP costs resulted in an estimated 20-year system need of \$1.75 billion.

The final plan includes several deliverables available for download including the [CASP Technical Report](#), [Executive Summary](#), and [individual airport brochures](#) that highlight each airport's role in the Colorado Aviation System.

[2020 Colorado Aviation System Plan \(CDOT Website\)](#)

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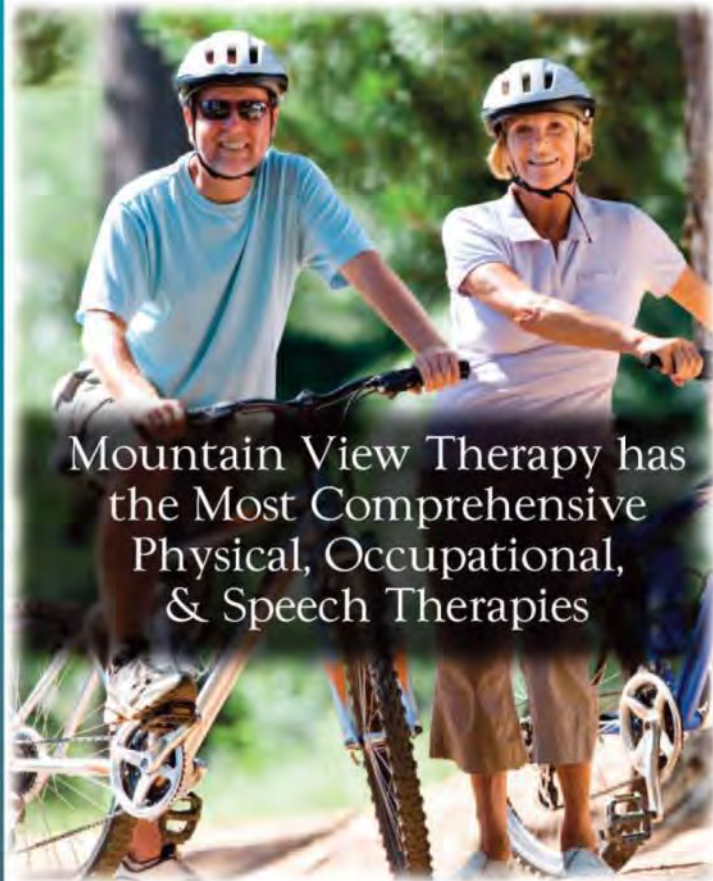
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL MAMMOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE ON QUALITY STANDARDS INSPECTION



The Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) Mammography Department recently passed the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) inspection with 100% compliance and zero citations. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) Mammography Department recently passed the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) inspection with 100% compliance and zero citations.

"I am extremely proud of our Mammog-

raphy Department and staff," said Jeffrey Richmond, Director of Radiology RIS/PACS Administrator at DCMH. "Receiving a perfect score on the MQSA is just another indication of the high quality of care that we provide to all of our patients."

Across the nation the MQSA requires

mammography facilities to meet uniform quality standards. It assures high-quality mammography imaging for early breast cancer detection, which can lead to early treatment, a variety of treatment options and an increased chance of survival.

Passed in 1992, the MQSA established national quality standards for mammography. During each inspection, the MQSA inspectors assess a facilities' compliance with MQSA quality standards.

"During the MQSA inspection, an inspector assesses equipment performance, quality assurance records, quality control records and tests, mammography equipment evaluations, personnel qualification records, medical records and more," said Rochelle Somers, Lead Mammography Tech at DCMH.

The Mammography Department at DCMH continues to strive for the highest level of imaging and has a compassionate and caring team who is willing to work with patients every step of the way to make their imaging experiences as pleasant and accurate as possible.

To schedule an appointment with the DCMH Mammography Department, visit deltahospital.org/diagnostic-imaging/ or call 970.874.2214.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TAKE CARE DEALING WITH STORM DAMAGED TREES



Tree damage in Alamosa. Courtesy photo Adam Moore.

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— This week, the cold front that brought high winds and wet, heavy snow to much of Colorado may have damaged trees.

Coloradans who are dealing with broken tree limbs after the late-summer snow-storm may be considering actions to protect and repair them.

Vince Urbina, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State For-

est Service, said that although the first impulse may be to start cutting when a tree is damaged, homeowners should first assess the situation to avoid hurting themselves or further damaging the tree.

Urbina and the CSFS offer the following tips for dealing with snow- and wind-damaged trees.

These tips were adapted from International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommendations:

- **Check for hazards.** Before approaching a tree, examine your surroundings to avoid making contact with downed utility lines or standing under broken, hanging branches. Contact your utility company if a tree is affecting power or other utility lines.
- **Contact city officials if necessary.** Trees between the street and a city sidewalk may be the responsibility of city crews.
- **Assess the damage.** If a tree is healthy overall and still possesses its leader (the main upward branch), most of its major limbs and 50 percent or more of its crown, the chance is good for a complete recovery.

- **Be careful knocking snow off branches.**

This may cause the branches to break. If you must remove snow, gently push up on branches from below to prevent adding additional stress.

- **Remove broken branches.** This minimizes the risk of decay and insects or diseases entering the wound. Prune at the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and be mindful of potential pent-up energy if the branch is twisted or bent.

- **Don't over-prune.** With the loss of some branches, a tree may look unbalanced, but most trees quickly grow new foliage that hides bare areas.

- **Don't try to do it all yourself.** If the job requires running a chainsaw overhead, sawing from a ladder or removing large branches or entire trees, contact an insured, certified arborist.

For more information about tree care and protection, visit the Colorado State Forest Service website at csfs.colostate.edu. To find an ISA-certified arborist, visit www.isa-arbor.com.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY LEADERS DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE LONG-TERM INTEREST OF MONTROSE AT HEART

Editor:

By now most of us have heard or read about Montrose Urban Renewal authority (MURA). For those of you that would like to drive by and look at five years of progress it is located on about 158 acres on Grand Ave starting across from the Justice Center and county jail. Promises of a high-end hotel were empty. Still are empty. Citizens should examine the promised project which was a pipedream when originated and is little more now. What is interesting is that it was designed and promised to be developed before a functional business or financial plan was written. Just a lot of empty hype by the 'Colorado Outdoors' dreamers to be built out whenever it happened to be convenient. Despite promises the land has laid empty for as long as MURA has existed, except for the Dragoo building.

WAITING FOR THE Marriot being built there! Well now it's a Fairfield. Yeah, right! Right across the street from the county jail and behind the Ford dealership. MURA will be lucky to attract a Motel 6 to house inmates' visitors.

The best as can be determined about 8 to 10 million dollars have been spent developing the infrastructure (sewers, power, etc) with millions of your money to follow from various city funds including promissory notes and tapping the general fund if necessary.

What is disturbing is that City Manager, Bill Bell, goes to MURA meetings promising to move untold sums of money around from various city resources and funds without impunity. While the Council has a seat on the MURA board, the board has

enough outside members to do with MURA what they wish without a veto power by those who 'own' the money, which is the city---US! In other words, Mr. Bell by creating MURA has taken the control of the city purse away from the City Council--our elected officials. Council person Dave Franks began to ask some pertinent questions at the last MURA meeting concerning a non-existent original financial plan that the City Manager admitted did not exist. He stopped short of asking for answers. Why?

No legitimate commercial, financial, or legitimate governmental institution does business like the city manager and city council of Montrose does. There is no critical thinking evident by MURA members. There are NO experienced businesspeople on city council and none for sure that sincerely represent the taxpayers of Montrose.

We deserve to see the study that proves we need more MARKET PRICED housing AT TAXPAYERS EXPENSE and how this pipe dream of Colorado Outdoors fits that bill.

Welcome to the City of Montrose good ole persons social club where not one of our elected city council has the education, training, ability, or desire to ever question in a professional manner what the heck is going on here. No business plan, no financial plan, no real potential clients for Colorado Outdoors (for the last five years) to even start to build out the project. No 'cost/benefit analysis'.

What is evident is that the taxpayers and special districts such as the fire district and the library district have given up money

taxed to the citizens for their stated purposes and they have given some of it away for other purposes. And they have given up their right to collect taxes from Colorado Outdoors for their purposes for forty years to come! Just who will pick up the shortfall? Certainly not the dreamers that created this Albatross that has no viable plan or foundation.

You, me and all the other residents and businesses in the city who will be taxed proportionally more by those special districts! This was not theirs to give away. Taxes for special districts are for that purpose only, not funds to be given up by their operators to support the City Manager's whims. But that misappropriation is a subject for another time.

Perhaps we should take a serious look at the directors of those 'donor' special districts to see if they have overstepped their legal authority.

Do the library and fire districts extend outside the city? If so why are county residents donating funds to city projects without their approval?

Why are the City Manager and his five puppets always VERY EXCITED about blowing the city's money on unplanned projects?

None of our city 'leaders' have the long term interest of Montrose at heart. They will all be gone in five years and we will be left holding the bag. Why is it that those of us who see ourselves paying this extravagance are not VERY EXCITED?

It is time to raise Cain at the city meetings before raising Cain will not mend the harm that this bunch is doing.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DESERVES GRATITUDE AND RESPECT

Editor:

It is the custom today to thank servicemen for their service in the Armed Forces. I am grateful for that. When I returned from Vietnam not many people were turning out to thank me, many just threw chicken blood or spat. But complimenting folks for a job well done, even though it is thanks for them doing their job, is a great idea. It is like saying please and thank you at the dinner table when someone passes you the gravy without spilling it. It is certainly the correct thing to do, BUT DO WE DO IT?

It is too often that way with our policemen and women; in our Police Department and our Sheriff's Department. I used to know a lot of these guys because I was on the posse, we worked together searching for lost folks, we fired the pistol range together and we caught bad guys (and girls) together. When I lived in Newark N.J. I knew the cops that walked the beat on the street where I lived. I don't know that many any more. Well, maybe the

ones I go to church with. Oh I know the Chief and the Sheriff, not well but more than a handshake's worth. Those are two great men. Fine leaders. Real professionals and I believe they are doing a great job.

I spent a few years in the Marine Corps. In that outfit a good job was expected. Compliments were not. I passed 'thank you' and 'please' out freely. Seemed to work better than barking instructions. I was never disobeyed! It works. From the time I was old enough to talk my father expected me to address my seniors with 'sir' or 'mam' and it never hurt one bit. I testify to you, especially the young among us, that using those words get you a long way in life and it doesn't hurt one damned bit to say them. They are often the ticket to a good resolution of what could become a vulgar brawl.

Our city police officers and our county sheriff's are the finest, or they are on their way to being the finest.

We owe them a 'thank you' whenever we see them. We should seek them out. They stand watch over our city and county in all weather, in tourist season and at nights, weekends and holidays. They are here for us. They have come to my home in the middle of the night and solved a problem. They are here for us and we should and must be here for them. I make it a point to thank them whenever I see them and I would suggest that every one of you do the same. That uniform does not deflect bullets and it should not deflect compliments from you. Bridge the gap and say "Hello officer, I thank you for your service to me and to my family." Just their existence solves many problems we all would rather not have.

If you cannot or will not do that simple act of kindness, maybe you are the problem and not the solution.

OFFICERS AND DEPUTIES, I THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



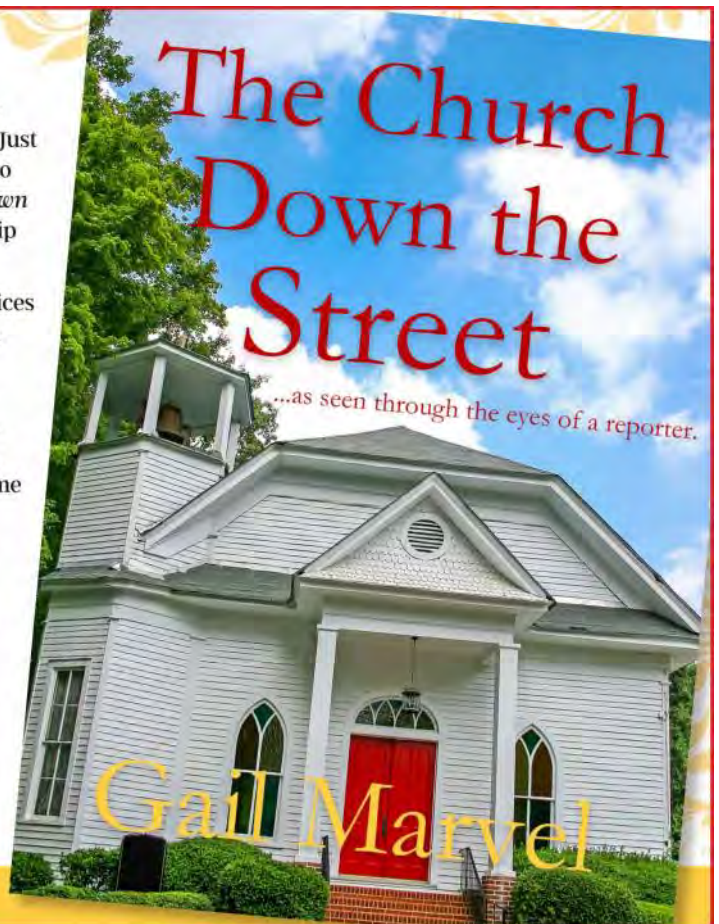
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



ISSUE 280 Sept. 14, 2020

ART & SOL

SCOUTS CAMP ALONG THE SHORES OF BEAR LAKE



Camp Hunt, a scout camp located in Garden City, Utah, was open this year for one week only. Courtesy photo.

By Paul Gifford

MONTROSE-In 2020 a newly chartered Scout Troop 478 and Venturing Crew 478 in Montrose, CO started up with our charter being the Montrose Hellfighters wild-fire fighting business. Lawrence and Jalita Sanderson, owner of Montrose Hellfighters, know the value of scouting as both of

their boys earned the rank of Eagle Scout. They eagerly signed up when the area lost four scout units due to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints no longer chartering scouting units. We started the year with a great start and enthusiasm. We met downtown in Montrose and participated in the Klondike camping trip at

the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in February and did a biking trip in Moab, Utah with a hike to Delicate Arch in March just before everything shut down due to CoVid-19.

We had many options at the beginning of the year for scout camp. We narrowed down the list and had our top picks when Coronavirus hit. Soon after, scout camp after scout camp was forced to remain closed for the Summer. Eventually we did find a camp that remained open this Summer on a much smaller scale than previous years.

On August 2nd, three adults and four scouts from Troop & Crew 478 travelled nine hours to attend one of only 10 scout camps that were operational in 2020 with Scouts, BSA. (The trip should have been eight hours but because of traffic delays due to a rollover accident in Spanish Fork Canyon we were delayed another hour with temps hovering around 100 degrees). Due to the pandemic, many scout camps across the nation were forced to remain closed this year. Camp Hunt located in Garden City, Utah was open this year for one week only. Originally planned to open in June, camp was pushed off until the first week of August for the camp to prepare with extra safety protocols.

In the weeks leading up to camp, in order to help with the budget, Camp Hunt

Continued next pg

SCOUTS CAMP ALONG THE SHORES OF BEAR LAKE From previous pg

opened to the general public for general camping, similar to KOA. Once scout camp began, camp was then closed to the public and filled with scouts. All troop camp sites were booked for the week.

In order to help with maintaining the safety of the staff and scouts, all groups heading to camp were to check their temperatures prior to leaving camp and any scout showing signs of illness were asked to remain home. Once we got to camp we were asked to submit our health physicals and had our temperatures checked once again prior to being allowed into camp. We busied ourselves for the next few hours setting up camp and preparing for opening day on Monday, August 3rd.

Monday morning our troop prepared for the kickoff to camp by getting to know the camp. Swim checks were conducted and after having lunch, merit badge classes began. Throughout the week we had four scouts that earned three merit badges each. One or more scouts in our group earned First Aid, Canoeing, Kayaking, Forestry, Mammal Study, Nature, Wilderness Survival, Environmental Science and sports. Due to social distancing those that took the swimming and lifesaving merit badge classes came home with partial merit badges and will have to complete their badges once they are able to work on things like rescuing another scout. Although not a merit badge, one scout, Aidan Jakeman, even took time in the open swim to earn a mile swim by doing laps in the swim area.

Masks were worn while at camp during merit badge classes, on the trails, morning and evening flag ceremonies and at camp fire programs. The only time scouts weren't required to wear masks were when they were at their campsite and while at the waterfront. The waterfront was a very popular location throughout the week at camp. In order to maintain smaller groups we were assigned a window of time to spend at the waterfront. To be on the water, scouts follow the buddy system and are supposed to remain close to their buddy. Buddy checks were done periodically. During waterfront time we could spend time in the free swim area, the snorkeling roped off area or in the boating

area where scouts and leaders could take out kayaks, paddleboards or canoes.

Scout camp days are long. Scouts usually rise around 6:30 am and go to bed around 10 pm. On Thursday morning our group went to the waterfront at 6:30 am in order to participate in the polar bear plunge.

We waited at the water's edge on the sandy beach until the sun rise and then headed into the water. The polar bear plunge is an activity where the scouts wade out into water out to the docks to waist deep water and then all kneel down to have the water up to our necks. Water temperatures in Bear Lake in June are much cooler than they were for us in August. To help with the fun of the polar bear plunge, staff brought out a cooler full of ice cubes and tossed them around the scouts. Once we were all in the water and up to our necks, we all held out our right arm in a 90-degree position and with the scout sign (three fingered salute with the thumb holding down the little finger). We repeated the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Scout Oath is "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the **Scout Law**; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." And the Scout Law is "A **Scout** is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." Once we completed the law, we were able to get up out of the water and head for shore.

This year camp staff consisted of a traveling staff of scouters that had worked the previous two weeks at Camp Loll near the Grand Tetons / Yellowstone area. They were great and had a positive attitude. "Scout camp was fun!" said, Alex Burrows. The camp staff knew many songs and skits



Scouts took part in a polar bear plunge at Bear Lake. Courtesy photo.

and were able to entertain us at the flag ceremonies and campfire programs.

We returned home on August 8th. This years' scout camp is now over. In order to be part of this great adventure, we are working with the Denver Area Council along with the local scouting district, Majestic Mountains to boost our enrollment numbers. Youth aged 11 – 17 can join a Scouts, BSA Troop and youth 14 – 20 can join the co-ed Venturing Crew. Contact information can be found at beascout.scouting.org. Just type in your zip code.

Our scout unit currently has scouts from Montrose and Olathe. We're open to having a girls unit in the Troop but it will require female adults.

If you were a scout and would like to re-live scouting again or perhaps you never were a scout but would like to learn, please reach out as we are recruiting youth and especially adults that would like to volunteer.

We have many positions open. Some positions require very little time such as a merit badge counselor and other positions as the leaders of the Troop and Crew will require more time to be spent.

Scouts, BSA has many training materials, videos and workshops you can attend to increase your knowledge.

Youth and adults are encouraged to join in the scouting movement.

Please learn more by going to beascout.scouting.org.



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Western Colorado Properties



JUST SOLD!

68392 Tyler Lane

\$2,000,000

Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 5
4585 sq. ft. on 6 acres
Year Built: 2013

This property is a rare find, an architectural masterpiece so rich in detail you have to see it in person to believe it...One of THE nicest homes in all of Montrose. Picture a peaceful river setting, manicured 6+ acre lawn with main home, a fully appointed guest house with all the comforts of home, overlooking a fountain & stocked fish pond...Where does one begin painting a picture that will adequately describe such an amazing property?



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western
Colorado Properties

Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

970-209-3825

Jeff@MontroseColorado.com

www.MontroseColorado.com

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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TAKE-OUT? HOW ABOUT ITALIAN?

MONTROSE – Well, Michael and I are sticking with take-out right now. Seems a bit too dicey to actually eat in a restaurant. But wanting to patronize our local restaurants – in hopes of keeping them open during this ridiculous pandemic – we decided the other night that Italian just plain sounded good.

Now, you can get some Italian dishes at several Montrose places. But why not go to the source? We looked up Trattoria Di Sofia's number and menu and ordered our dinner for that night.

Michael had Spaghetti Alla Bolognese (spaghetti pasta with homemade meat sauce, \$12.99) and I opted for the vegetarian Penne Primavera (penne pasta with grilled zucchini sautéed garlic and sun dried tomatoes, \$10.99). For an appetizer don't miss Bruscheta Con Pomodor (grilled bread served with a topping of tomatoes, basil, garlic, capers, and extra virgin olive oil, \$4.95). When you get this appetizer for take-out, they wisely package the bread and topping separately so nothing gets soggy.

I'm not going to blow wind up your skirt by saying Trattoria Di Sofia is the best Italian I've ever had around the Montrose area. No, that award goes to [the Bon Ton](#) in Ouray (which is plain fabulous). But for Italian near home Trattoria Di Sofia is a really good bet. Our dishes arrived pipping hot with an extra side of grated Parmesan cheese for topping, and there was enough

for another meal, where we switched entrees. The appetizer was delicious with a little Merlot wine we had at home.

A side of the restaurant's homemade bread came along with our order, so we took a page from their playbook and sopped up some extra virgin olive oil we had at home, with a sprinkling of freshly ground pepper on top. Yum!

One little tip for Trattoria Di Sofia – you might want to add a little bit more sauce on your take-out orders, as they can become a little dry if reheated. It's just not the same as sitting down to the steaming entre when served at the restaurant. With that addition I would pronounce the meals very good. But as served and with take-out the two entrees just weren't saucy enough to our taste.

Now, there are plenty of good choices at this Italian restaurant, along with a nice wine selection and scrumptious desserts. We had our own dessert at home so didn't indulge. For appetizers at Trattoria there are some excellent choices from \$4.99 (our bruschetta) to \$13.99 (for green mussels with tomatoes, basil, garlic, white wine and marinara sauce). If you feel like having an antipasto, their Antipasto Misto is \$5.99 per person and is a nice spread of Italian cold cuts, pickled vegetables and house specialties.

Salads here run from \$7.99 for a mixed green salad topped with carrots, kalamata olives, red onions, cucumbers, and apples,

or chose from 3 others from \$8.50 - \$8.95. (Dressings include Italian, balsamic vinaigrette, citrus vinaigrette, blue cheese, ranch, and Cesar.

Soups are all \$3.99, including Minestra I Verdura, Stracciatella, or Zuppa del Giorno.

Now, the Trattoria really shines with its homemade pastas, priced from \$10.50 - \$18.50 (for Fettuccine Mare with shrimp, scallops, calamari, capers, tomatoes and garlic white wine sauce). If you like ravioli, there are 3 choices from \$12.50-13.99.

You can also find gnocchi and tortellini. Risotto on your mind? Three choices here that will set you back \$13.99. And they do all the tedious stirring for you.

Entrees include:

Scallopini, \$19.99 - \$21.99 (I'm sure it's delicious, but you couldn't get me to eat veal at gun-point.)

Flat Iron Steak, \$19.95.

Also, plenty of pollo (chicken dishes) to select from, \$13.99 – 14.50.

Scampi, fresh fish of the day and a fresh meat of the day rounds out the menu from \$14.50 – house price.

For dessert you won't be disappointed if you select chocolate cake, cheesecake, tiramisu or creme brulee. (\$5.99-6.99)

Trattoria Di Sofia is located at 110 N. Townsend Ave.

For take-out call 970-249-0433. Open Monday – Friday (11-3 & 5-9) and Saturday (4-9).

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



LUXURY COLLECTION



Come see this very well maintained, custom-built home in the Preserve Subdivision! Located just east of the Bridges Golf Course with no membership fees, this premier lot is overlooking the pond and open space. With a highly motivated seller, this beautiful 4-bedroom, 2.5 bath home is a must see! Stone and wood accents, crown molding, granite counter-tops, surround-sound, a well-appointed master bath, not to mention a peaceful setting...what more could you ask for?

Under Contract!

**2919 Outlook Road
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\$514,990

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 3.0

2,765 sq. ft.

Year Built: 2007

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF WESTERN COLORADO TO HOST FALL VIRTUAL 5K

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Girls on the Run of Western Colorado's Fall Virtual 5K event is Oct. 7-11th.

Girls on the Run Western Colorado is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in 3rd - 8th grade. During the program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

Participation in the Fall Virtual 5K is open to the public and all proceeds from the

event will benefit Girls on the Run of Western Colorado.

The Fall Virtual 5K is in lieu of the THREE in-person 5Ks hosted every fall across Western Colorado. We will miss the energy in Durango, Frisco, and Steamboat Springs, but we're excited to experience another season of remote connectedness! Rest assured that we are still working hard to do EVERYTHING in our power to serve our girls and teams!

However, we still have a need, and due to our current projected deficit, we will be forced to take an organizational pause until we are able to re-group and re-open. We are optimistic that our Girls on the

Run community and supporters will rally with us, and that together we will keep GOTR running.

The cost for the Fall Virtual 5K is \$50 for a family of 4, \$15 for an individual and \$10 for a canine.

Enter your canine in our best dressed dog contest for a chance to win a dog friendly gift basket from Chow Down! A finisher's certificate will be emailed to all registered participants after October 11.

To sign up or for more information please visit www.gotrwesterncolorado.org

Thank you to our program sponsor Alpine Bank and to our canine companion sponsor Chow Down Pet Supplies.

Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-4424

Horsefly Brewing
Full Menu & Growlers to Go
970-249-6889

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215



Camp Robber
970-240-1590

Rio Bravo
970-964-4477

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Cold Stone Creamery
970-252-8014

Stone House
970-240-8899

Rib City
970-249-7427

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

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

**Dunkin'® Donuts -
Baskin Robbins**
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Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

DineOutMontrose.com

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\$439,990

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Brand New Home that has all of the upgrades this builder has to offer! Come check it out and see for yourself how the granite counter tops flow throughout the home, along with hardwood flooring and the gorgeous Master Bath!

Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0
1,746 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2019



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MIRROR IMAGES: RACING IN THE ROCKIES

Photos by Jen McClanahan

At right, Julie Wedhorn, Parachute, Colorado.



The lovely weather this weekend made for a great time for all who came to check out Racing In The Rockies, a producer of barrel races on the Western Slope of Colorado. Our own Montrose County Fairgrounds & Event Center hosted this exciting event. Beautiful horses, passionate horsemanship, and very supportive spectators were among some of the sights. The time, work, love, and real dedication these horse owners display is truly an art form and something to tip your hat to indeed. -Jen McClanahan, Montrose, Colorado .



Riders in silhouette.

Below, Tony Lewis. Olathe Colorado .



Above, Brian Dickerson, Olathe, Colorado.





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Western Colorado Properties

UNDER CONTRACT!



*319 Bluegrass Court
Montrose, CO*

\$269,990 | MLS# 768648

Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.0
1,430 sq. ft.
Year Built: 2020

Live in a new Home without all the waiting! This brand new, custom build is complete! This is the ideal home. Split floor plan provides privacy and functionality.



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Western Colorado Properties
Jeff Keehfuss
Broker Owner
970-209-3825
jeff@montrosecolorado.com



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Every Wednesday beginning Sept. 2, 2020, through April, 2021 - Community Bible Study live virtual meetings mornings and evenings: gospel of John. Classes for women and children. Call 720-635-0091 for more information or to register.

EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH OCTOBER-Ridgway Railroad Museum – free rides on RGS Motor 1 (Galloping Goose prototype) 9 am – noon. 200 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway.

THE MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more, on Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm, May 9 – Oct. 31 at Centennial Plaza, 433 S 1st St. in Montrose.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Hampton Inn conference room at Noon.

MONTHLY-

Sept. 17- "Pizza & Politics" (P&P) returns Sept 17 - "National Popular Vote" Ballot Issue. Registered Voters invited to hear if Colorado should retain the Electoral College or vote yes on National Popular Vote. *NEW LOCATION* "CIRCLE 3 COWBOY FELLOWSHIP", 62885 LaSalle Road, Montrose, CO. Doors open at 6 PM. Program: 6:30 - 8 pm. Q&A follows guest speakers. Pizza & Beverage - 2 slices & 1 beverage recommended per guest. P & P is Montrose County Republican Party program. Mask or social distancing with full and complete acceptance of the potential risks in attending such a public event during Covid-19.

Sept. 21-24-Tenth annual San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference. Location: Online with local, state, national and international guests. Details: An interactive mix of networking happy hours, short presentations, and expert panels (1.5 to 3 hours daily over four days) bringing key stakeholders together to advance the science and policy of mining and mine lands remediation, as it relates to reducing non-point source pollution and addressing water quality impairments. Organized by Mountain Studies Institute, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and Headwaters Alliance.

Cost: \$55 per person (scholarships and sponsorships with benefits available) Information & Registration: <http://www.mountainstudies.org/sjmrc> Contact: Kelly Northcutt, kelly@mountainstudies.org, 970.387.5161

Oct. 1-11-The 3rd annual Original Thinkers Festival will take place virtually this year on Oct. 1-11, 2020, from Telluride, Colorado. With the digital version of the festival, Original Thinkers is excited to reach entirely new audiences this year who may not have been able to make it to Telluride in the past for the terrestrial event. Passes for the entire festival will be on sale at originalthinkers.com for \$50, and the dates of the event have expanded beyond the traditional four days to ten so that people can come and be part of Original Thinkers throughout this period. For additional information or to purchase festival passes, please visit originalthinkers.com.



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Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this photo during a recent visit to the Olathe Reservoir.

A black bear is sitting on a wooden log, holding a tablet computer with its paws. The bear is looking at the screen. In the background, there is a scenic mountain landscape with green slopes and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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